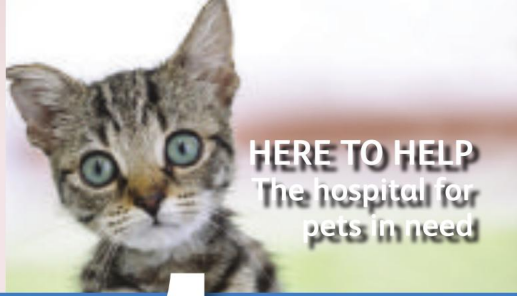


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Going, going, scone

# Victoria

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**TOWER POWER**  
The remarkable restoration of Big Ben



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# SPRING

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**▶ A rarely seen wartime portrait of Winston Churchill** is on display at the Churchill War Rooms until April 24. The *Freedom* portrait by Frank Owen Salisbury is the only portrait Churchill formally sat for during World War Two, and was described by the man himself as “a remarkable likeness”. The oil study is on display in the map room, where Churchill and his cabinet made top secret decisions that shaped the course of the war.  
*Churchill War Rooms, Clive Steps, King Charles Street*



**◀ A new eco-friendly bike company** has launched, with its UK headquarters in Eccleston Square. Coco-Matbike offers a collection of 11 handcrafted wooden bikes and e-bikes, made with sustainable wood sourced from certified renewable forests. The brand is zero-emissions and carbon positive – meaning that for every bike purchased, Coco-Matbike will plant a tree in the UK.  
*coco-mat.bike*

**All the local happenings, including a rare portrait of Churchill and cocktails a-plenty**

**BY ALICE CAIRNS**

**▶ Northacre has unveiled the first show apartment** at The Broadway at Orchard Place, a new cultural and wellness destination that will be home to commercial and retail spaces as well as 258 one- to five-bedroom apartments and penthouses. The stunning show apartment was designed by Natalia Miyar Atelier, and features triple-aspect panoramic views towards the capital’s most treasured monuments and parks.





The Cinnamon Club

◀ **The Cinnamon Club in Westminster** has opened a “secret” underground cocktail bar, which infuses traditional tipples with Indian spices – don’t miss the club bellini, made with ginger vodka, apricot purée, spiced rose and a prosecco spumante. Meanwhile, Chez Antoinette in Victoria has a new happy hour, with cocktails for £7 on weekdays from 4.30 to 6.30pm. *The Cinnamon Club, Great Smith Street; Chez Antoinette, 64 Buckingham Gate*



▶ **Bill Kenwright has bought The Other Palace** from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s LW Theatres. It’s currently home to *Heathers*, a pitch black comedy musical about murder and mean girls, which runs until May 1. The Other Naughty Piglet, the theatre’s on-site restaurant, has also reopened. The menu includes the likes of maple-glazed aubergine in almond butter, and there’s also a great selection of natural wines. *The Other Palace, 12 Palace Street*



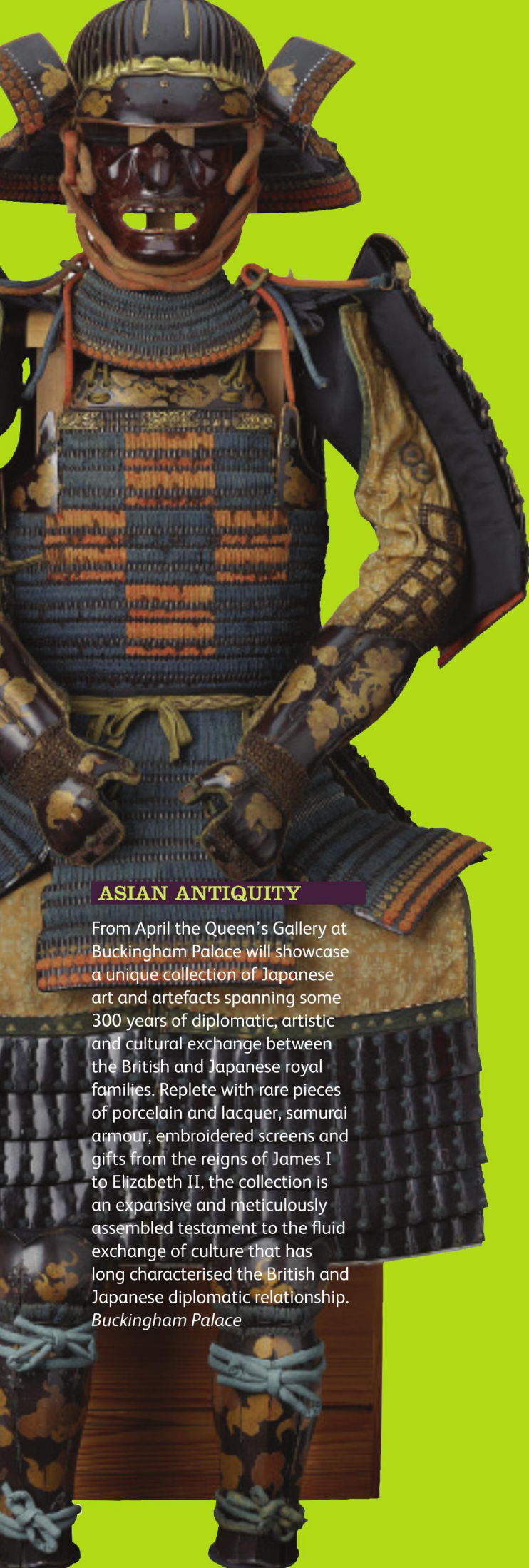
Heathers at The Other Palace Photo: Pamela Raith Photography

◀ **The Blue Boar in Westminster** was voted “one to watch” in Estrella Damm’s annual list of the UK’s top 50 gastropubs. It’s a modern take on the classic pub, and boasts a menu by celebrated chef Sally Abé – who has recently been chosen to represent the central region on the BBC’s *Great British Menu 2022*. *The Blue Boar, 45 Tothill Street*

Sally Abé



▶ **Victoria Taps in Westminster** has reopened thanks to a £285,000 investment. The traditional corner pub has a new menu of pub classics, Sunday roasts, small plates and veggie dishes. Cocktail enthusiasts will enjoy quirky options including the Dune Bug, which is infused with banana and melon. *Victoria Taps, 27 Gillingham Street*



# Spring events

From retrospectives to record fairs, here are the events you do not want to miss

## ASIAN ANTIQUITY

From April the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace will showcase a unique collection of Japanese art and artefacts spanning some 300 years of diplomatic, artistic and cultural exchange between the British and Japanese royal families. Replete with rare pieces of porcelain and lacquer, samurai armour, embroidered screens and gifts from the reigns of James I to Elizabeth II, the collection is an expansive and meticulously assembled testament to the fluid exchange of culture that has long characterised the British and Japanese diplomatic relationship. *Buckingham Palace*

## A NIGHT AT THE PICTURES



Why not visit Curzon cinema in Victoria to see Kenneth Branagh's *Belfast*.

Despite being something of a national treasure, the actor and filmmaker grew up in a working-class protestant family in Tiger's Bay, northern Belfast, during the Troubles. Those experiences are etched into his latest film, *Belfast*, a black and white memory piece told from the perspective of an eight-year-old boy (Jude Hill), who navigates the pitfalls of childhood in a strange and fractured country. Jamie Dornan, Judi Dench and Caitriona Balfe also star in Branagh's deeply personal ode to his native city, which is gaining momentum as an awards frontrunner.

*58 Victoria Street*



## A MAN OF INFLUENCE



In the first major retrospective of his work in over 60 years, a bold new exhibition at Tate Britain that opens on April 28 examines the artistic and social influences that shaped the vision of the revered British artist Walter Sickert, widely regarded as one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

From personal sketches and collected news photography to his portraits of urban depravity, Sickert's formative contribution to 20th century avant-garde art is thoroughly examined, as is the indelible legacy he left behind.

*Millbank*

## SONGS OF PRAISE

What better way to celebrate Easter than by heading to Westminster Abbey on April 17 for a traditional service of evening prayer according to the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, with Easter hymns sung by the choir of Westminster Abbey and a sermon reflecting on the resurrection of Christ.  
*Dean's Yard*



## FOR THE RECORD

London's busiest record fair returns on April 30.

The capital's largest pop-up record shop, the renowned fair at the Lindley Hall is a music lover's paradise and is jam-packed full of vinyl, CDs and music memorabilia.

With a collection that runs the gamut from prog rock, punk rock and Brit pop to jazz, soul and hip-hop, this one-of-a-kind event is a must visit for music fans.

*The Lindley Hall, 80 Vincent Square*



**FINE DINING**

The Roux family will be overseeing the menus at The Escoffier Room on the week commencing May 9. Located within Westminster Kingsway College's Victoria Centre, The Escoffier Room is a space where students can showcase their fine dining skills to local guests. For a week, members of the Roux family will coach students and share exciting new recipes as they serve up a menu inspired by Michel and Alain Roux.  
*76 Vincent Square*

**JUBILEE JOY!**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated from 2-6 June, marking 70 years since her accession to the throne in 1952. To mark the occasion, the Victoria BID are planning an exciting series of events, street parties and celebrations across Victoria and Westminster. *Be sure to keep an eye on*

*victoriabid.co.uk  
for more  
details.*



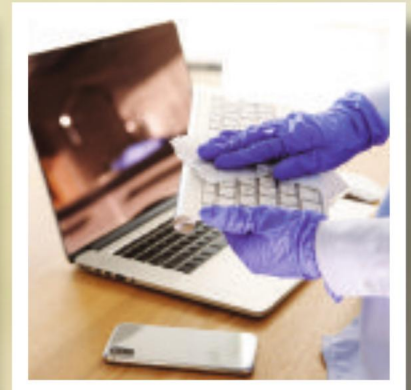
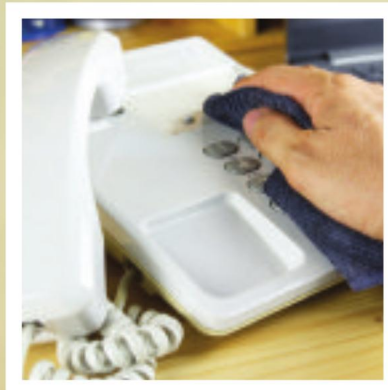
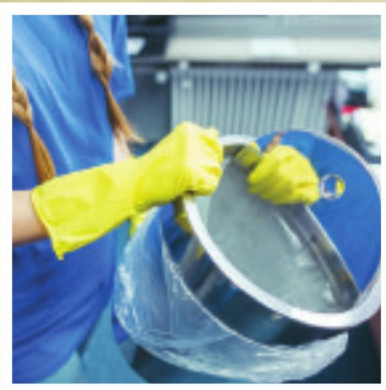
**ART ATTACK**

Get creative in a beginner-friendly coached class at Master Peace. On April 5, you can try a mindful painting experience at the studio, paid for on a donation-only basis. You'll create your own work of art in a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere, with advice from the studio's team of professional artists. No need to bring anything – all art supplies (including biodegradable gowns to protect your clothes) are provided.  
*12 Eccleston Yards*



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# Big Ben's back

As the five-year restoration of parliament's Elizabeth Tower nears completion, the painstakingly restored clock and bells will soon be fully operational once again

BY CORRIE BOND-FRENCH

**W**ith the time fast-approaching when Big Ben's chimes will be unmuffled after a near five-year hiatus, the countdown is underway for the Elizabeth Tower, the clock tower home to the 13.7 tonne bell, to be fully unveiled following a historic restoration.

As scaffolding is removed level by level, the top-to-toe renovation of the tower will be revealed from the orb and restored lead tiled roof down. And while the 162-year-old pinnacle of Westminster's Unesco world heritage site has been modernised to now include a new interior lift, most of the work has been a source of pride for teams of skilled master craftsmen using traditional craftsmanship and conservation skills to restore the iconic tower to the splendour originally envisaged by Victorian architects Augustus Pugin and Charles Barry.

The refurbishment of the Elizabeth Tower – renamed in 2012 to honour the Queen's diamond jubilee – was originally estimated to cost £61 million, and is the most ambitious work to be done on the tower since its original construction, despite bomb damage in World War Two and the detrimental effect of pollution.

The clock itself was designed by Edmund Beckett Denison and installed by Edward John Dent in 1859, with the aim of creating the most accurate public clock in the world. Removing the clock to protect it from the dust and debris created by work on the Elizabeth Tower provided the ideal opportunity for it to undergo the biggest repair and conservation project in its history. The mechanism was removed in its entirety from the 96-metre-high tower and taken north to the workshop of historic turret clock specialist the Cumbria Clock Company in the Lake District. The team assessed and repaired every wheel and pinion – no easy task without access to plans or drawings of the original mechanism.

Traditional techniques employed when the clock tower was built in the 1850s, including stonework, gilding, glass-making, horology and plastering, have been combined with modern conservation techniques. In the absence of thorough documentation or records and, of course, no colour photography in 1859, architects and conservationists overseeing the restoration have taken a forensic investigative approach.

Fascinating discoveries have been made along the way. Not only have workmen found charming notes in the tower's structure left by Victorian workmen, wishing them luck, but the reinstatement of the Prussian blue paint on the clock numerals on all four faces was achieved only after painstaking analysis of the layers of paint coloured black for as long as anyone can remember. ▶

Architects opted not to restore the original clock hands, which had to be replaced swiftly in 1859 following concerns over their weight. Using the paint analysis and additional references including Charles Barry's original design watercolour, archival photographs and contemporary illustration, the original, vibrant colour scheme has now been faithfully recreated, ensuring that all four clock faces are as visually striking as was originally intended, before the years of smog and pollution took their toll.

In addition to the Prussian blue and gold dials and clock hands, adjacent areas feature the vibrant red, white and blue colours of the Union flag, as well as the detail colours used for the heraldic shield for each part of the United Kingdom.

The rows of six shields that hang above each dial have been repainted to display the St George's coat of arms in red and white, marking the first time the colour has been seen there since the 1930s, when the pollution discolouration and practical difficulties with maintenance prompted the decision to paint them black. Additional colours are also revealed in four floral emblems representing the four parts of the United Kingdom – the rose, thistle, shamrock and leek.

After revealing the intricate conservation work that has taken place, New Year's Eve 2021 also marked the last time that Big Ben will be struck using the temporary mechanism to mark important events such as Remembrance Sunday. From now, Big Ben itself, and the four quarter bells, return to duty, sounding out the famous "Westminster Quarters" melody for the first time since restoration began in 2017.

This restoration has clearly been a labour of love. Ian Westworth, one of parliament's team of clock mechanics, says completion will be bittersweet.

"It's probably the world's most famous clock, and to have had our hands on every single nut and bolt is a huge privilege. It's going to be quite emotional when it's all over – there will be sadness that the project has finished, but happiness that we have got it back and everything's up and running again."

Workmen found charming notes in the tower's structure left by Victorian workmen, wishing them luck



# Spring offers have sprung!



# 1

**All Bar One**  
25 % off total  
bill until 4pm

# 2

**Uber Boat  
by Thames  
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# 4

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**The  
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# 6

**The Vincent  
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To receive your free Victoria Privilege Card, or to provide promotional offers through your business, visit  
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# Spring leaves

**Alison Strachan**  
Bindery director,  
Shepherds Bookbinders

**Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons**

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read, with the plucky urban heroine tackling life among the rural characters of Cold Comfort Farm. Every character is a joy and it made me laugh out loud on several occasions, particularly the mystery of Ada Doom's sight of 'something nasty in the woodshed'.



**Batavia by Peter FitzSimons**

A fascinating account of the true story of the maiden voyage to Australia in 1629 of a Dutch East India ship, the Batavia, which brings to life the adversity of such an arduous journey. The resulting shipwreck and mutiny is both terrifying, shocking and exciting.



**Middlemarch by George Eliot**

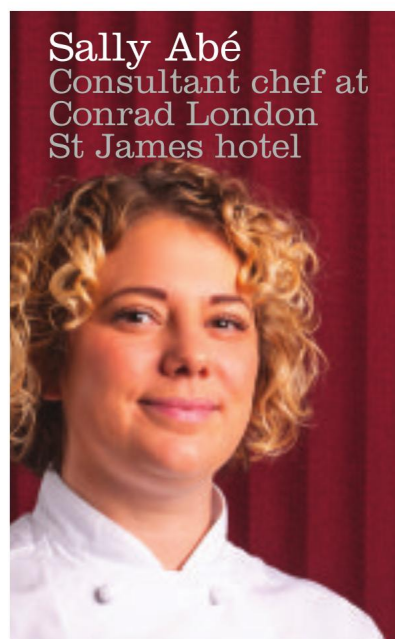
This book sang to me as a young student – perhaps because Dorothea is finding her way in life as an independent thinking woman – but Eliot's portrayal of society, and how we interweave and influence each other's lives, is timeless.



76 Rochester Row

Hot on the heels of World Book Day we asked six local people to share their favourite reads

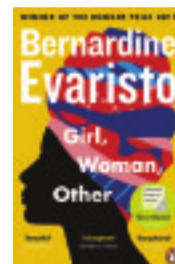
BY JONATHAN WHILEY



**Sally Abé**  
Consultant chef at  
Conrad London  
St James hotel

**Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo**

I found it really amazing the way the characters are all separate yet so intertwined, and it has such a raw account of racial and women's issues.



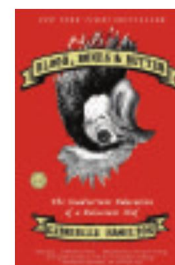
**Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl**

Ruth is a former *New York Times* restaurant reviewer, and this is such a fantastic account of what it is like to be a restaurant critic and the different ways she is treated depending on who she is with and if they know it's her. She shows great insight, and it's also very funny in parts.



**Blood, Bones & Butter by Gabrielle Hamilton**

I adore Gabrielle Hamilton; for me she's a real rock and roll chef success story who made it against all the odds and never forgot where she came from. This was a really inspirational book for me as a young female chef trying to make it in London.



22-28 Broadway





**Ross Hoey**  
Bookseller at Waterstones  
Victoria

***Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion**

This is a collection of savage and precise reportage of America in the 60s. Featuring everything from gritty accounts of Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco at the height of the hippie movement to love letters for John Wayne and Joan Baez, it is a thought-provoking and enlightening selection of writing. I particularly recommend 'On Self-Respect' and 'On Keeping a Notebook' – revelatory pieces.



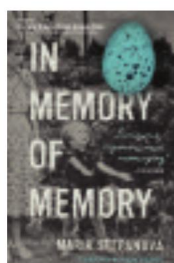
***Night Sky with Exit Wounds* by Ocean Vuong**

A lyrical, expansive and provocative book of poetry. Moving, richly meditative yet urgent, this covers a range of painful and important subjects. Beautiful writing from a rising star who has been described as "the Walt Whitman of Vietnamese American literature". Sublime.



***In Memory of Memory* by Maria Stepanova**

Shortlisted for the International Booker prize 2021, Stepanova chronicles her Russian-Jewish family's turbulent course throughout the 20th century. Deeply ruminative, intellectual and philosophical, this book is a wonderful and powerful piece of writing and a fantastic example of literature in translation. A daring exploration of memory, both cultural and personal.

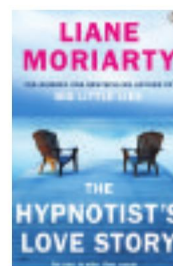


88 Victoria Street

**Angela Hay**  
Local resident

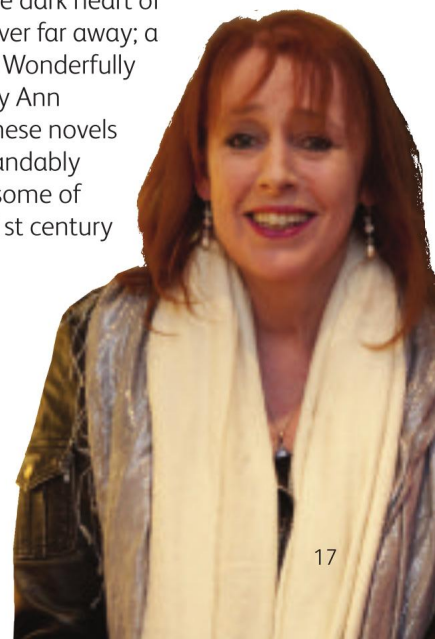
***The Hypnotist's Love Story* by Liane Moriarty**

The bestselling writer of *Big Little Lies* is always a favourite. All her novels have the ability to make you realise that life is never straightforward and people can often be not what they seem. This is a complex story of a stalker and the new girlfriend. She writes in a very filmic way, using her words in a sparing fashion, drawing you into the characters and their lives in a clever and compelling way.



***The Neapolitan Quartet* by Elena Ferrante**

The hermit writer, who allows no one to know her real identity, is one of the most elegant writers in the world today. Her four books, which are really one book divided into four, tell the story of a relationship between two friends. As young girls they start their lives in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. Naples and its atmosphere follows them throughout with its furious politics, divisive loyalties, strong passions and undercurrents of violence and love. The dark heart of Naples is never far away; a city I adore. Wonderfully translated by Ann Goldstein, these novels are understandably considered some of the finest 21st century literature.

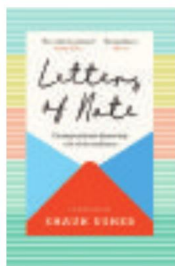


## Edna Hunter

Owner, Hunter Estates

### **Letters of Note** compiled by Shaun Usher

An eclectic collection of letters, there is a surprise with the turn of every page. Letters of historical importance, letters from the famous and not so famous. There's a letter from Clementine Churchill to Winston in 1940 in which she writes, 'My Darling... you are not so kind as you used to be', and heartfelt advice on love and marriage from Ronald Reagan to his 26-year-old son on the eve of his marriage.



### **English Passengers** by Matthew Kneale

A broad historical swashbuckler and a masterclass in dramatic irony. Humour, tragedy, history and rich characters written with a lightness of touch. Quirky passengers on a trip across the world and back in the mid-19th century in search of the Garden of Eden in Tasmania.



### **Gift from the Sea** by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

A small, beautiful book I give to family and friends. Short, sweet, timeless, it's a series of essays written on holiday by the sea, drawing inspiration from the shells on the beach.

The need for moments of solitude still resonates today. The writing is poignant and beautiful.



50 Rochester Row



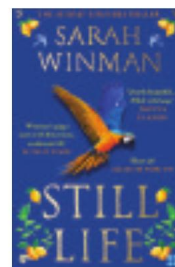
## Andy Barr

Manager, Belgravia Books

### **Still Life** by Sarah Winman

*Still Life* traces the intertwined lives of Ulysses Temper and Evelyn Skinner. From their first meeting in 1940s Tuscany, when he is a young British soldier and she a sexagenarian art historian, to London and Florence, Winman has created a wonderful novel about love, family, fate, but mostly an enduring, life-changing friendship.

Published in paperback in March



### **Lean on Me** by Serge Joncour

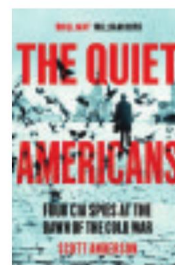
Aurore is trapped in an unhappy marriage and desperately trying to save her fashion business; Ludovic is lost in grief and struggling with the ethics of his job. Winner of the 2018 Prix Interallié, *Lean on Me* explores the realities of unlikely love, and how connection and intimacy offer us an escape from all that is harsh and cold in our modern-day lives.

Published in paperback in March



### **The Quiet Americans** by Scott Anderson

An unassuming epic that chronicles the rise and perceived fall of the CIA and the acceleration of the Cold War. Its direct narrative makes highly readable work of a convoluted history that takes in the US's secret intelligence operations in World War Two all the way through to its involvement in Vietnam and the politics – both national and personal – that mired the period.



12 Eccleston Street





# STAY AHEAD OF THE CROWD

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# The Pimlico poisoning



Adelaide Bartlett

When Adelaide Bartlett was accused of murdering her husband, the sensational – and scandalous – court case that followed gripped the nation

BY CORRIE BOND-FRENCH

**W**hen the beautiful Adelaide Bartlett strode elegantly out of the Old Bailey in her widow's weeds in April 1886, she had either succeeded in getting away with a murder that flummoxed the greatest medical minds of the Victorian era, or narrowly escaped the gallows after her husband poisoned himself.

On her acquittal, and to the contempt of the judge, cheers and applause erupted inside and outside the courtroom, where extra railings had been hastily erected to cater for crowds fascinated by the salacious details of the case known nationally as "the Pimlico poison mystery".

Public opinion had dramatically turned in Adelaide's favour over the six-day trial, and no one, to this day, can explain how wealthy grocer Thomas Edwin Bartlett, 41, her husband of 11 years and 11 years her senior, came to have a substantial quantity of chloroform in his stomach that no trace could be found of in his mouth or larynx. Eminent surgeon of the day Sir James Paget quipped: "Now that she has been acquitted for murder and cannot be tried again, she should tell us in the interest of science how she did it!"

The case featured many lurid and unconventional factors, including Edwin's outspoken views about having two wives for different purposes, and a ménage à trois with Methodist minister Reverend George Dyson, who admitted to kissing Adelaide in front of Edwin. He would go on to purchase four small bottles of poison from four different chemists – apparently without thinking that it looked suspicious.

Edwin also claimed he was being hypnotised. He had previously blocked any doctor attending Adelaide during her only labour, which resulted in a tragic stillbirth. There was also the mystery of Adelaide's high-ranking but shadowy biological father who, it was later confirmed, engaged leading QC Sir Edward Clarke to defend her and had paid Edwin a dowry on their marriage. Small wonder the Old Bailey's capacity was breached.

In the early hours of New Year's Day, 1886, Edwin died at 85 Claverton Street, Pimlico. Adelaide attempted to revive him

with brandy after waking as she slept at his feet. She had nursed him through his recent ailments of painful tooth removal and stomach complaints. His doctor, Alfred Leach, was called immediately and the landlord woken.

Edwin's father was also sent for. He immediately suspected Adelaide. He'd previously accused her of adultery with his younger son, Frederick, but later signed a formal statement of apology. He pushed for an inquest.

At the trial's start, attorney general Sir Charles Russell dramatically dropped all charges against the Rev George Dyson, who would now be the prosecution's main witness. According to the laws of the day, Adelaide couldn't give evidence.

On December 30, Dr Leach told Edwin he was nearly well, and needed no further medical help. The following day, the couple and Dr Leach visited Edwin's dentist. The couple were affectionate, saying they wished they were unmarried, so "they might have the pleasure of marrying each other again".

After a hearty supper of jugged hare, Edwin asked landlady Mrs Doggett to serve him a large haddock for his breakfast tomorrow, saying "he should get up an hour earlier at the thought of having it".

George testified that the three of them were close, producing loving letters from Edwin thanking him for his attention to Adelaide. He claimed Adelaide told him Edwin was dying and would die within a year. The three of them had an understanding that he would marry Adelaide on Edwin's death.

The housemaid confirmed walking in on Adelaide and George in intimate positions at the house, where he kept his own slippers and housecoat. Edwin had also made George executor of his will. Initially he left his entire estate to Adelaide on condition that she did not remarry but redrew it four months before his death with the condition removed.

George claimed Adelaide asked him to buy a bottle of chloroform on December 27, to help Edwin sleep. She couldn't get it from Dr Leach because "he did not know that she was skilled in drugs and medicines, and not



knowing that he would not entrust her with it”.

Dr Leach, who considered Adelaide a devoted, loving wife to her mildly hypochondriac husband, and an excellent nurse, testified she confided that she'd wanted the chloroform to wave in Edwin's face, to stop him pursuing her sexually. She claimed that they had a platonic relationship and that her pregnancy was the result of one singular act, but he was now showing interest.

Adelaide had said: “He requested us, in his presence, to kiss, and he seemed to enjoy it. He had given me to Mr Dyson.” She claimed she told Edwin of her intention to stop his advances, it was their last conversation and they didn't argue. She admitted disposing of the chloroform.

Adelaide's midwife confirmed Edwin wouldn't allow a doctor to attend Adelaide's labour, but her understanding was that the pregnancy occurred after one single act of “unprotected coitus”. We can only imagine the outraged gasps later when it was revealed that no fewer than six condoms were found in Edwin's coat pocket and a copy of a sex guide, of sorts for the time, was discovered in his possessions.

No expert could explain how the chloroform entered Edwin's stomach

without any signs of a struggle or burning. Forensic chemist and toxicologist Sir Thomas Stevenson, who confirmed chloroform was the only poison present, believed it could only have been self-administered. The jury were quick to acquit Adelaide.

Had Edwin gulped chloroform down quickly with intention, by accident, or under hypnosis? Or did noisy New Year's Eve revellers and brandy cover the crime? Was Edwin a willing cuckold, did he believe he was dying? Were there other sexual relationships at play? Was Edwin homosexual? Was George as naive as he appeared?

Most criminologists point the finger at Adelaide, but she faded into obscurity, never answering Sir James Paget's question, and the Pimlico poison mystery remains just that.

**“Now that she has been acquitted for murder and cannot be tried again, she should tell us in the interest of science how she did it!”**

*Sir James Paget*



Contemporary newspaper account of the trial

## Separating divorce facts from fiction: Prenups are not worth the paper they are written on.

**A prenuptial agreement is an agreement that a couple can enter into before they marry, which sets out what will happen with their financial affairs, should the marriage ever break down.**

You may have formed your own view of prenuptial agreements ('prenups') from the accounts in the press of celebrities and wealthy couples going through a divorce. Reference to agreements in such cases are certainly more prevalent than ever before.

Many people think that prenuptial agreements are not worth the paper they are written on. This is certainly not the case.

This belief stems from the very correct assumption that, at this point in time, prenups are not automatically legally binding. This means that the judge will ultimately have

the final say in relation to how assets are distributed between the parties on divorce. That being said, a prenup into which two consenting people have entered, and which is fair, will be a persuasive factor to a court in determining the asset split. The court will have regard to the terms of the prenup, unless it would be unfair to do so.

Of course, there are some safeguards which the court will expect to have been followed. A 'prenup' written on the back of an envelope the morning of the wedding will be far less persuasive to a judge than a document negotiated between the parties with the assistance of their lawyers and signed a few weeks before the nuptials.

If you want to avoid the prenup not being worth the paper it's written on, it is

essential that it makes provision for the needs of both parties to the marriage. A prenup which says that one spouse will keep their multi-millions and the other will receive nothing is likely to be worthless. This is especially the case if there are children involved. However, provided a prenup considers the needs of all involved and makes appropriate provision (this does not need to be generous), then it can be an important financial planning tool.

Well-drafted prenups can save a considerable amount of time and expense in the event of divorce. They are very much worth the paper they are written on, provided they are well prepared and proper protocols are followed.

**Alex Davies**  
Head of Family, London  
+44 (0)20 7591 3314  
[alex.davies@crippspg.co.uk](mailto:alex.davies@crippspg.co.uk)

**If you are considering a pre or post-nuptial agreement, or need advice on any aspect of family law, contact us for discreet and independent advice.**

**Find out more at [www.crippspg.co.uk](http://www.crippspg.co.uk)**



Scan the QR code to download a copy of our free eBook on divorce myths.

**cripps pemberton greenish**

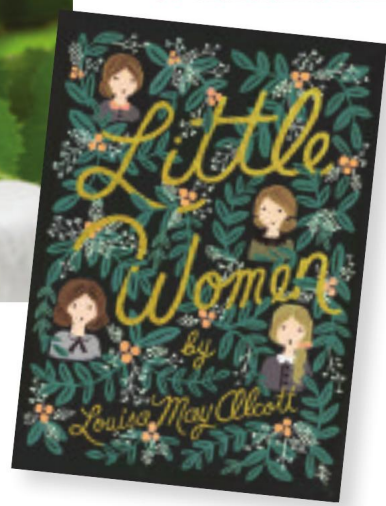


### Buckingham Palace dry gin

Gift your mum a tippie that's fit for royalty with this small-batch dry gin, made from botanicals hand-picked in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. **£40, BUCKINGHAM PALACE SHOP, 7 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD**

### Little Women

Opt for this beautiful hardback edition of Louisa May Alcott's timeless classic, featuring one of literature's most beloved mothers. **£9.99, WATERSTONES, 88 VICTORIA STREET**



### Hannah Turner trinket dish

Whether your mum is a dog person or a cat person, she'll love one of these whimsical trinket dishes – a staple for any bedside table. **£14, PIMLICO TROVE, 20 UPPER TACHBROOK STREET**

# Make mother's day

Victoria and Westminster have everything you need

BY ALICE CAIRNS



### Cashmere stripe throw

This super soft cashmere throw can be worn as a scarf, a wrap or even a travel blanket. **£250, ME+EM, 45 ELIZABETH STREET**



### Mother's Day sleekster

If your mum's a chocoholic, she'll love these 27 chocolates in spring-inspired flavours, including a creamy Eton mess. **£23.50, HOTEL CHOCOLAT, 133 VICTORIA STREET**



## Handle mirror

This sustainably crafted handheld mirror is made from discarded beauty products that have been diverted from landfill.

£58, **SPACE NK, 4 CATHEDRAL WALK**



## Joyeux Osmanthe eau de parfum

This creamy floral concoction has notes of honeysuckle, osmanthus blossom and apricot, fading to a musky base of amber and wood.

£87.50,  
**LES SENTEURS,  
71 ELIZABETH  
STREET**



## Curzon cinemas membership

There are several different packages available – the biggest (and best?) includes five free cinema tickets every week alongside a host of discounts.

£65-£285 PER YEAR,  
**CURZON VICTORIA,  
58 VICTORIA  
STREET**



## Mama mug

Serve your mum her morning cuppa in this ceramic mug, complete with a dappled reactive glaze finish.

£12, **OLIVER BONAS,  
UNIT 49, VICTORIA STATION**

## Blue skies bubble bar

Crumble this bar into your tub to create masses of cloudy white bubbles, delicately scented with patchouli and frankincense.

£6.50, **LUSH, UNIT 42B,  
VICTORIA STATION**



## Mother's Day picnic tin

This tin of hand-iced biscuits is a spring picnic in miniature, and (unlike the real thing) can be enjoyed whatever the weather.

£38, **BISCUITEERS,  
14-15 ECCLESTON YARDS**



## Taste of Nepal

Mark Mother's Day this year with a modern Nepalese afternoon tea at the Cinnamon Club.

*MasterChef: The Professionals* finalist Santosh Shah has created a unique array of savoury and sweet dishes inspired by the food and heritage of Nepal.

It begins with a variety of chutneys and pickles, paired with Nepalese and Indian street food-inspired bites such as fried momo (chicken dumplings), pulled lamb masala and plantain doughnuts. Desserts include orange and polenta cake.

Available on March 27 at 12.30pm or 4pm, from £60 per person.

*Great Smith Street*



# Quick bites

From lunch with sporting stars to Mother's Day tea with a twist, we round up the latest food news

BY JONATHAN WHILEY

## Slice, slice baby

Neapolitan-style pizza is the name of the game at a new Italian restaurant in Victoria. Happy Face Pizza in Eccleston Yards creates its pizzas using 72-hour fermented dough and a host of toppings, with options including sweet Nutella. Diners can also choose from

classic sides such as calamari and burrata. Italian executive chef Mario Mastrangelo (formerly head chef at Radio Alice) is at the helm and there are curated music lists and a compact drinks menu (think knockout negronis).

*23 Eccleston Place*



## Banquets beckon

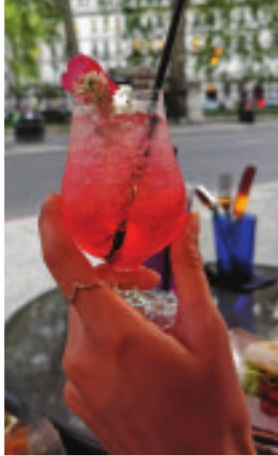
A Wong, Victoria's two-Michelin-star restaurant on Wilton Road, has launched a new evening menu to honour the history and cultural pastime of ancient imperial banqueting.

It's inspired by founder and head chef Andrew Wong's ongoing research with food anthropologist Dr Mukta Das. Based on the Confucian ritual of grouping in fives, the menu is presented in five courses.

Guests experience a variety of Chinese cuisine by sharing multiple dishes, including seared black lamb with chilli and peanuts and cherry-smoked memories of Peking duck (a vegetarian version is also available). The menu sits alongside the existing Taste of China menu and costs £135 per person, for a minimum of two guests.

*70 Wilton Road*

Eat & drink  
**Directory**  
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**BERRY'S BAR**

Berry's Bar originated out of the need to revive the casual charm of gin tipples, unpretentious wines, and delicious cocktails paired with lip-smacking food. Our fusion-inspired Indian bar-food is as important to us as our drinks.

We are set in the heart of Victoria, cast in the electrifying spirit of Buckingham Palace Road, a stone's throw from Belgravia. Step into our iconic building, feel the experience of novelty meeting casual chic.

Come find a quiet corner, dine alfresco on a bustling street corner, or opt for our private hire spaces for events you will remember and cherish.

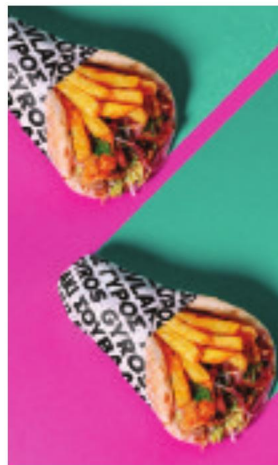
**Berry's Bar**  
**50-52 Buckingham Palace Road**  
**Westminster**  
**London SW1W 0RN**  
**W: [www.berrysbar.co.uk](http://www.berrysbar.co.uk)**



**STICKS 'N' SUSHI**

One of Denmark's favourite restaurants, Sticks'n'Sushi combines their owners Danish and Japanese heritage with mouthwatering results. Serving sushi and yakitori sticks from the grill, this mix of culinary cultures have proved an award-winning combination.

**84 Eccleston Square,**  
**Pimlico, London**  
**SW1V 1PX**  
**[www.sticksnsushi.com](http://www.sticksnsushi.com)**



**THE ATHENIAN**

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Our little owl has flown since 2014; growing from a humble market stall to a small network of locations in next to no time. Highly Commended for Best Visual Identity at the Restaurant Marketer & Innovator Awards 2022. Deliveroo Restaurant of the Year 2020.

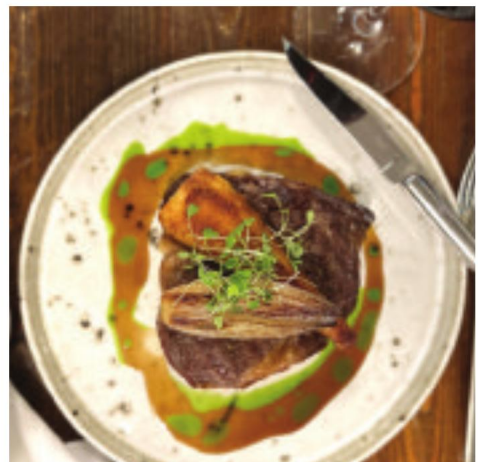
**OUR FOOD**  
 Nothing but the best ingredients, freshly made to order right there in front of you, for a big hit of taste and flavour. Souvlaki, gyros and plant based alternatives. We source everything from our partners in Greece and here in the UK, so we know where every single ingredient comes from. No cut corners, no compromises.

**Find us in Victoria, next to the Coach station.**  
**15A Elizabeth Street, SW1W 9RP**  
**Open Every Day**

**CAXTON GRILL**

Caxton Grill located at St. Ermin's Hotel is a local neighbourhood restaurant serving seasonal food in a relaxed informal environment. Inspired by their rooftop garden, their menu highlights the best of Jospier Grill cooking. It features a range of seasonal meat, fish and vegetable dishes that are grilled and smoked to perfection. The restaurant is open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Privilege Card holders can enjoy 20% off the lunch a la carte menu.

**Caxton Grill, 2 Caxton Street,**  
**London SW1H 0QW**  
**[www.caxtongrill.co.uk](http://www.caxtongrill.co.uk)**



## Home sweet home

Mathura, Atul Kochhar's new restaurant based in the old Westminster fire station, has launched "Mathura at Home" so diners can get his much-loved dishes delivered to their door. Choose from the

à la carte menu available at the Greycoat Place restaurant with signature dishes such as murg tikka pie or prawn malai.

Set menus are available for two or more; the Mathura bundle and Mathura vegetarian bundle cost £80 for two people, or try Atul Kochhar's bundle, an abundant feast priced at £110 for two. Order from [mathurarestaurant.co.uk](http://mathurarestaurant.co.uk)



## Right on cue

M Victoria is offering guests the chance to enjoy lunch in the company of a snooker world champion this month.

Former world number one Steve Davis will discuss the glory days of *Pot Black*, *Snooker Loopy* and all his triumphs and rivals over a three-course lunch with beers and wines on March 30.

There will even be a pool table out for Steve to showcase some of his best trick shots.

Not a snooker fan? The restaurant also plays host to a lunch with rugby legend Jason Robinson on March 15 and cricketing star Mark Butcher on April 19.  
74 Victoria Street



## Around the world

A new restaurant has opened at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences.

TH@51 – named in reference to its location and the Treehouse, a rooftop bar at the Taj Dubai – offers "global food with a creative spin".

Signature dishes include burrata and kale chaat, desi scotch egg – made with crispy Mumbai-spiced lamb mince – and paneer wellington.

The restaurant is designed by Conran and Partners with a glass dining room and soft colour palette with an open kitchen, chef's table and bar serving experimental cocktails.  
51 Buckingham Gate

Eat & drink  
**Directory**  
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**ROSA'S THAI CAFE**

Rosa's Thai Cafe is born out of our founder Saiphin's passion for authentic Thai food served in a no-frill and relaxed atmosphere. We put genuine hospitality and great recipes at the heart of everything that we do and are proud to have been born in Thailand and raised in England. Rosa's Victoria is situated in the middle of the ever-busy Pimlico neighbourhood. We offer delivery and takeaway 7 days a week, bringing a modern twist on authentic Thai cuisine to the hungry fans of Thai food in the area.

**25 Gillingham Street, Victoria, London SW1V 1HN 020 3813 6773**

**To order delivery or click n' collect, please visit:**

**[www.rosasthaicafe.com/locations/victoria](http://www.rosasthaicafe.com/locations/victoria)**



**LA MAISON DU CHAT**

We are a small, independent, cosy cat cafe in the heart of Pimlico's beautiful grid. Patrons can enjoy a hot drink, cake or a bite of lunch in the company of our purrfect rescue cats; we also take bookings for brunches and afternoon teas. All the cats are up for adoption and we stock a range of pet foods for both dog and cat owners alike. Weekly 'Yoga with Cats' classes are set to begin in our newly opened basement, which is also available for private hire and Christmas parties too!

**55 Moreton Street, SW1  
 Tel: 07748 652 697  
[lamaisonduchat.co.uk](http://lamaisonduchat.co.uk)**



**THE HEDGEROW BAR**

Introducing the exciting, new cocktail bar at the Conrad London St James hotel. If you're looking for an elegant spot for pre-dinner drinks, or a night of cocktails, you simply must pay it a visit. The marbled bar and soft interior shades of green and pink pearl work in harmony to create a darling, Instagram-worthy space.

Cocktails are based on botanicals and fruits, inspired by the English countryside - all crafted by renowned mixologist, Gregorio Soriente. You'll find the Hedgerow ideally located next door to the hotel's stylish tea room - The Orchard, and the award-winning Pem Restaurant by Chef Sally Abe.

**Conrad London St James  
 22-28 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH  
 @thehedgerowbar**

**We publish 25,000 copies of *Victoria* magazine every issue.**

A very conservative estimate is that between four and eight people will look at each magazine.

**To be a part of the Food & Drink Directory please email [Julie@pubbiz.com](mailto:Julie@pubbiz.com)**



Whether it's a quick cup of earl grey with an old friend or a lengthy afternoon feast to mark Mother's Day, there's nothing quite like enjoying an afternoon tea in Victoria

BY WILL MOFFITT

# Time for tea



**TOAST THE QUEEN'S REIGN AT TAJ 51**  
Looking to celebrate the Queen's enduring reign in regal style? Look no further than the Taj 51 hotel. To mark this historic occasion the Taj has launched the platinum jubilee afternoon tea, a delicious offering served at its in-house restaurant, Kona. Traditional royal favourites come in the form of frangipane peach and apple tart, strawberry and chocolate dessert and gallons of earl grey tea. There are some unexpected flourishes too, such as an earl grey and orange chocolate mousse and the Balmoral tart, featuring venison, fresh chargrilled yellow peppers and summer blooms. Scones are served the Cornish way – jam first – to honour the royals' historic ties to the south west.  
*51 Buckingham Gate*



**TREAT YOURSELF TO TEA AT THE PARLOUR**

If you're looking to enjoy an afternoon tea with a twist look no further than the Parlour at Great Scotland Yard Hotel. Specially created in collaboration with the iconic perfumery Floris London – the only appointed perfumery to the Queen – this multisensory afternoon tea experience is inspired by the notes of the historical British perfumer's luxury fragrance "A Rose For...". The scent is reflected through an assortment of seasonal cakes and patisseries that are designed to complement the keynotes of the fragrance: rose and vanilla.  
*3-5 Great Scotland Yard*

**AN AFTERNOON AT THE GORING**

With its rich regal history and inconspicuous location on a quiet, leafy street, the Goring hotel is an ideal location for an afternoon pick-me-up. A favourite of the Queen Mother and the only hotel to hold a royal warrant from Queen Elizabeth II, it's no surprise that the hotel is celebrating the upcoming royal milestone with a jubilee afternoon tea available from April 19. Inspired by British favourites and topped off with a glass of champagne, the menu features an array of delights, including delicate coronation Cotswold chicken finger sandwiches and pork sausage rolls.  
*15 Beeston Place*



**TREAT YOUR MOTHER TO  
TEA AT ST ERMIN'S**

For those looking to do something special for Mother's Day, a sumptuous afternoon tea in the stylish surroundings of the St Ermin's Hotel near St James's Park is a great place to start. With an irresistible array of treats including freshly baked plain and fruit scones with homemade jam and clotted cream and classic finger sandwiches, alongside confections prepared by the hotel's patissier and a choice of teas from the Tea Makers of London, afternoon tea at St Ermin's is the perfect way to mark a special day.

*2 Caxton Street*



**CELEBRATE IN STYLE AT THE CLERMONT**

Designed by James Thomas Knowles and opened in 1862, Victoria Station's Grade-II-listed Clermont hotel has reopened its doors to the delight of local tea lovers. Alongside its close links to Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament, the Clermont takes great pride in its tea lounge, where a variety of staple classics are on offer, including Eton mess, Victoria sponge and a cream tea option, making it the perfect place to venture into and escape the mid-afternoon rush. It also boasts an intriguing selection of alcoholic tea cocktails to add a little punch to the proceedings.

*101 Buckingham Palace Road*



**GET REGAL AT RUBENS**

Located just opposite the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace – the entrance used by the royal family – the Rubens at the Palace is a fitting place to enjoy a quintessentially British afternoon tea. With a six-course experience inspired by the Queen's known favourites – including the hotel's twist on her beloved jam penny, an assortment of honey and white chocolate scones and a mouthwatering Victoria strawberry cheesecake – the Rubens' signature blend of palatial interiors, attentive service and proximity to Buckingham Palace make it a venue fit for a queen.

*39 Buckingham Palace Road*

# Directory

## BOOKSHOPS

### BELGRAVIA BOOKS

#### Belgravia Books

Belgravia Books is an independent bookshop, stocking a range of new releases and backlist titles, including fiction, nonfiction and children's books, as well as a range of greeting cards and giftwrap. We also sell, and redeem, National Book Tokens.  
12 Eccleston Street, London SW1W 9LT  
020 7259 9336  
belgraviabooks.com/bb

## CARDS & GIFTS

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www.bigjimstrims.com

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### BELGRAVIA DENTAL CARE

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#### Belgravia Dental Care

Belgravia Dental Specialist Centre is conveniently located in Central London, just a few minutes' walk from Victoria Station. We've been treating patients since 1998.

Our aim at Belgravia is making your dental treatment a pleasant experience, which is reflected in our special interest of treating dental-phobic patients, both with and without the use of anaesthetic assisted sedation techniques. So, if you're nervous about visiting the dentist, speak to us about your options.

We offer a range of general, complex and cosmetic dental care with dentists specialising in orthodontics, dental implants, endodontics, oral surgery, prosthodontics, restorative and cosmetic dentistry.  
Belgravia Dental Care  
2 Eccleston Street, SW1W 9LN  
www.bupa.co.uk 020 7730 4948

#### LondonCryo

Specialises in sports rehabilitation and recovery for all ages.

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15c Eccleston Place, London SW1W 9NF.  
www.londoncryo.com 020 3371 8900

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3 Motcomb Street, SW1 020 7235 6531

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING



### Victoria Dental Centre

#### Victoria Dental Centre

We are a well-established, modern, friendly dental practice in Victoria right opposite Victoria Station offering all your dental needs under one roof.

We offer a wide range of treatments both routine and specialist treatments such as Teeth Whitening, Invisalign, Orthodontics, Implants, Periodontal Treatment, Hygiene and Airflow.

We offer complimentary consultations for Invisalign and Teeth whitening.

0% Finance is available to help you spread the cost of your treatments. We look forward to welcoming you at the practice.

330, Vauxhall Bridge Road. London SW1V 1AA  
www.victoriadental.biz 020 7834 6161  
info@victoriadental.biz

Please email [julie@pubbiz.com](mailto:julie@pubbiz.com)  
if you would like to appear in  
The Directory

## HOME MAINTENANCE

#### SW1 Home & Garden

Ongoing Premium Home Maintenance, Handyman Service, Plants, Gardens & Topiary.  
Specialising in the upkeep and improvement of prime properties in and around SW1  
SW1homeandgarden.co.uk 020 7523 5800

## OFFICE CLEANING



#### Sparkling Cleaning Services - from Hillcrest

Hillcrest Cleaning Contractors is a long established family-run commercial cleaning firm with a strong client base across London including Belgravia and Victoria. We offer a full range of cleaning services to offices, schools, studios, churches and all other commercial establishments. Call us in for a full anti-viral COVID 19 deep clean, after-builders or sparkle-clean, carpet shampoo, or a full daily cleaning programme for your school or office. All our operatives are cleaning professionals - experienced, English-speaking and fully DBS checked.  
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telephone: 07939 526132



### What do you like about the area?

We moved here last May when many people were still working from home. Despite this, the location is brilliant for transport, cafes and restaurants and there is a real buzz around.

### How important is Victoria/Westminster to your business?

It marks the next step in our firm's growth strategy. We continue to grow our teams across private wealth, real estate and corporate, to provide an integrated service to successful business owners and entrepreneurs, those with substantial property portfolios and HNW families and individuals seeking advice on their business or personal legal affairs. The flexibility of our new office and the building's green credentials also resonate strongly with how we're working as a modern law firm.

### What services do you offer?

We are lawyers for business and life. Whether acting for a private individual, real estate investor or a fast-growing business, we can provide a full, integrated service covering all aspects of business and private law. Our approach is to make our clients' objectives our own, and getting them to where they need to be at a pace they set.



New friend

Royal Artisan Bakery

### What charitable work do you do?

We typically work with a different charity partner each year and over the last year we have been supporting Myeloma UK. We also take direct action in the community; supporting food banks or planting trees. Every member of staff is able to spend a day each year volunteering for a charitable project of their choice.

### Quick-fire: favourite bar?

The Buckingham Arms in Petty France – real old-school and lovely staff.

### Best place for coffee?

Royal Artisan Bakery [in Petty France].

### Best restaurant for a business lunch?

Aster in the Nova building.

# Mover and shaker

Jeremy Curtis is partner – head of London at law firm Cripps Pemberton Greenish, which is based at 80 Victoria Street

BY JONATHAN WHILEY



Aster



# Spreading smiles

Dr Charlie Attariani is owner of Ego Dental, an award-winning practice that's become a staple of Strutton Ground

BY ALICE CAIRNS

## Why Victoria and Westminster?

We have clients from all over London and beyond, so what better place than Victoria! We are in the heart of London – within walking distance of the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Victoria Station, St James's Park and Green Park. We're also easily accessible from Chelsea, Belgravia and the West End.

## What do you love about the area?

It is full of life. It's one of the most visited areas in London, so you regularly come across people from all over the world. Also, I love that we have a great food market just outside the clinic at Strutton Ground, which is open every weekday during lunchtime, bringing lots of people into our street.

## What services do you offer?

We offer all kinds of dental and facial treatments, including both general and cosmetic dentistry. What makes us different from lots of other dental clinics is that we focus on quality rather than quantity. We offer a very high standard of care in a very high-tech clinic, meaning that we use the latest up-to-date materials and equipment, such as state-of-the-art lasers, digital x-ray machines and digital scanners. To be environmentally friendly, the clinic is fully digitised, meaning we are paperless and use scanners and digital equipment instead

of traditional impression materials, making treatment outcomes much more precise and environmentally friendly.

## What is your proudest achievement?

It has to be winning multiple awards, including Best New Practice 2018 – UK at the Private Dentistry Awards, and Practice of the Year – National Winner at the Dental Awards 2020. I was also so proud for my wife, Dr Golnar Hassirian, when she achieved Diamond Provider status for Invisalign, which is the highest ranking given to Invisalign providers. She works at Ego Dental too!



## Quick fire:

### Favourite place to eat?

My local lunch spot is Urban Greens, which is an amazing salad bar just next to St James's Park station, and the Ivy on Victoria Street.

### Favourite place to shop?

It has to be Cardinal Place. It has everything you need!





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 to join in



### Zara

Feel the flower power with this abstract floral print shirt, £29.99, to be worn with jeans and smart trousers.

82 VICTORIA STREET



### Hugo

Keep the floral aesthetic extending all the way down to your feet with a pair of organic cotton blend socks with cyber bug artwork, £11.

HOUSE OF FRASER,  
101 VICTORIA STREET



### Mango

Made in sustainable cotton fabric, this printed short-sleeved shirt, £39.99, is the perfect spring/summer floral short sleeve.

76 VICTORIA STREET



### Clarks

The Wallabee floral print boot, £105, will add a touch of luxury to your footwear with its navy velvet and vintage-inspired floral print.

149 VICTORIA STREET

# In bloom

Sail into spring on a floral boat

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS



### New Look

Get into the 70s spirit with these retro floral flare trousers, £19.99. Great for festival wear, or even teamed with a simple shirt and heels for a spring statement outfit.

**VICTORIA PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE, 115 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD**



### Oliver Bonas

Carry your belongings around town with the floral backpack, £49.50. It is large enough to transport work essentials and even yoga wear.

**UNIT 49, VICTORIA STATION**

### Monsoon

The Emmy scarf print midi dress in green, £75, will be the most versatile dress in your wardrobe this spring and is able to be worn with sandals or trainers.

**17 CARDINAL PLACE, VICTORIA STREET**



### M&S

When the weather warms up your nightwear needs to accommodate, and the Collection Emilia satin cami set, £25, is ideal for spring nights.

**CARDINAL PLACE, VICTORIA STREET**



# Men of the cloth

Historic family business Watts & Co has been crafting exquisite ecclesiastical garments since 1874

BY ALICE CAIRNS

**Y**ou may not have heard of Watts & Co, but you've almost certainly seen its work. You might have spotted it at the Queen's coronation, or at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Perhaps you've encountered it on a visit to the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, or during a trip to the V&A. Travel back in time, and its handiwork (exquisitely hand-crafted using traditional techniques) was visible at the crowning of King Edward VII, and at Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee.

That's because Watts & Co is one of the world's finest ecclesiastical outfitters – a kind of Savile Row for priests, selling tailored vestments, processional banners and hand-stitched altar linens to an international clientele.

The company was established in 1874 by three of the 19th century's most important architects – George Frederick Bodley, Thomas Garner and George Gilbert Scott Junior – who took their inspiration from the Gothic revival and enjoyed friendly competition with William Morris. Unlike Morris & Co, however, Watts & Co remains in family hands nearly 150 years after it was founded.

Today, Watts & Co has its workshop and showroom on Tufton Street, a stone's throw from Westminster Abbey, where many of its textiles are on display. Managing director Robert Hoare is a fifth-generation descendent of the founders.





**“The gold thread we use in our embroidery is provided by a Japanese company that only supplies two places: Watts & Co and the emperor of Japan”**

“What’s particularly special about Watts & Co is that we keep traditional techniques and crafts alive,” Robert explains. “We use the very finest materials, including exclusive silk damasks that are woven in a traditional English mill and dyed for us in colours chosen by our founders. The gold thread we use in our embroidery is provided by a Japanese company that only supplies two places: Watts & Co and the emperor of Japan.”

The Tufton Street workshop is actually a converted theatre, with the backstage area transformed into design studios, and the prop cupboards now crammed with rolls of rich silks. In many ways, this theatrical setting provides the perfect backdrop for Watts & Co’s creations, which are designed to stand out on the stage of the world’s largest cathedrals, and are crafted in the bold reds, purples, greens and whites of the liturgical calendar.

Despite its grounding in tradition, the Watts & Co workforce is surprisingly young (with an average age of under 35) and drawn from a high fashion background, boasting the same sharp tailoring skills you’d expect from any prestigious atelier or fashion house. “When someone orders a bespoke piece from us, that’s the beginning of a very close working relationship,” says Robert.

“If they’re based abroad – and many of our clients are in the US, Australia and Rome – then we’ll often fly out to take detailed measurements. We’ll study the way our clients walk, the way they stand, and then we’ll design their piece to reflect and enhance that.”

Watts & Co weaves silks, damasks and brocades to its own historic designs. The team will provide samples, suggest fabrics and eventually send a digital mock-up of the design for client approval before beginning to construct the piece. Thanks to their training at the Royal School of Needlework, the Watts & Co sewing team can create exquisitely intricate embroidered designs, often incorporating symbols drawn from the client’s church or donor.

And Watts & Co doesn’t stop at textiles: it also manufactures bespoke metalware (such as chalices, communion sets and bishops’ croziers), and runs a repair and restoration service designed to bring a new lease of life to antique pieces. Despite the fact that it serves a niche community, it’s clear that its ethos – craftsmanship, care and longevity – is utterly in tune with the times, reflecting our new interest in slow fashion and sustainability.

“The idea is that the pieces we make should last a lifetime,” Robert says. “Everything is of the very highest quality, made with the utmost care and attention to detail. It’s designed to last, and to be passed down for generations to come.”



# Neighbourhood

The Victoria  
Neighbourhood Forum is  
seeking new members

BY ALICE CAIRNS

**H**ave you heard of the Victoria Neighbourhood Forum? It's a space where members can come together to share ideas, solve problems and make decisions about their local area, ultimately shaping the future of Victoria. You don't need any special credentials to join – in fact, the forum is open to any resident, local councillor or individual who works in the area and would like to make a difference.

Back in 2011, a study by Westminster City Council identified Victoria as lacking a “coherent sense of place and of urban quality”. As a result, it became the focus of an exciting transformation, and in 2015, the Victoria Neighbourhood Forum was founded to give a voice to the very people most affected by these developments.

Today, anyone who lives or works in the Victoria Neighbourhood Area (which includes Victoria Station, Westminster Cathedral and Victoria Street) is eligible to join the forum. Currently, members are in the process of putting together a neighbourhood plan, which, when approved, will form part of Westminster City Council's planning framework for the area. Currently, the Forum can nominate projects

“This place is the heart of London, which in turn means it's the heart of the UK! It has such a rich culture and history, so to be able to influence the way it develops is amazing”

Kevin

McGinley





# watch

up to the value of 15 per cent of the Community Infrastructure Levy (which stands at £800,000). Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been produced and approved, that will increase to 25 per cent. It's a unique opportunity to shape this very special part of London, influencing decisions about green space, public art, air quality and more.

"We're looking at improvements that will have a big impact on the people who live and work in the area, but which may not be a priority for big developers and property companies," explains Kevin McGinley, chair of the Victoria Neighbourhood Forum. "This place is the heart of London, which in turn means it's the heart of the UK! It has such a rich culture and history, so to be able to influence the way it develops is amazing."

Kevin works as a principal development manager for Network Rail, and was inspired to join the forum by his work with Victoria Station.

"I wanted to understand how the station works for the people who live around it. I know that it's not just a place where people go to commute – it's also part of a community, and a place where locals might go to eat, shop and grab a coffee. So that's why I joined the forum, because I wanted to find out a bit more about the people of Victoria and Westminster."

Currently, Kevin and the other members of the forum's steering group (which is divided on a 50:50 basis between residents and representatives from local businesses) are looking to encourage new members to join up and share their unique perspective on the area.

"One of the key things we're doing is to try to increase the diversity of the forum," he says. "We have a really good nucleus of people who care deeply about the area, but we always need new voices – people from different age groups, different backgrounds – so that we can truly represent everyone."

It's a sentiment that's echoed by Graeme Cottam, vice-chair of the forum. He has lived in the area on and off since 1978, and is passionate about making it the best it can be for residents and visitors alike.

"A lot of people who live here do tend to live here a long time – they love this place!" he says. "There's so much history here, and so much hiding in plain sight. To have Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St James's Park, the palace, the theatres, all on your doorstep... why would you want to live anywhere else?"

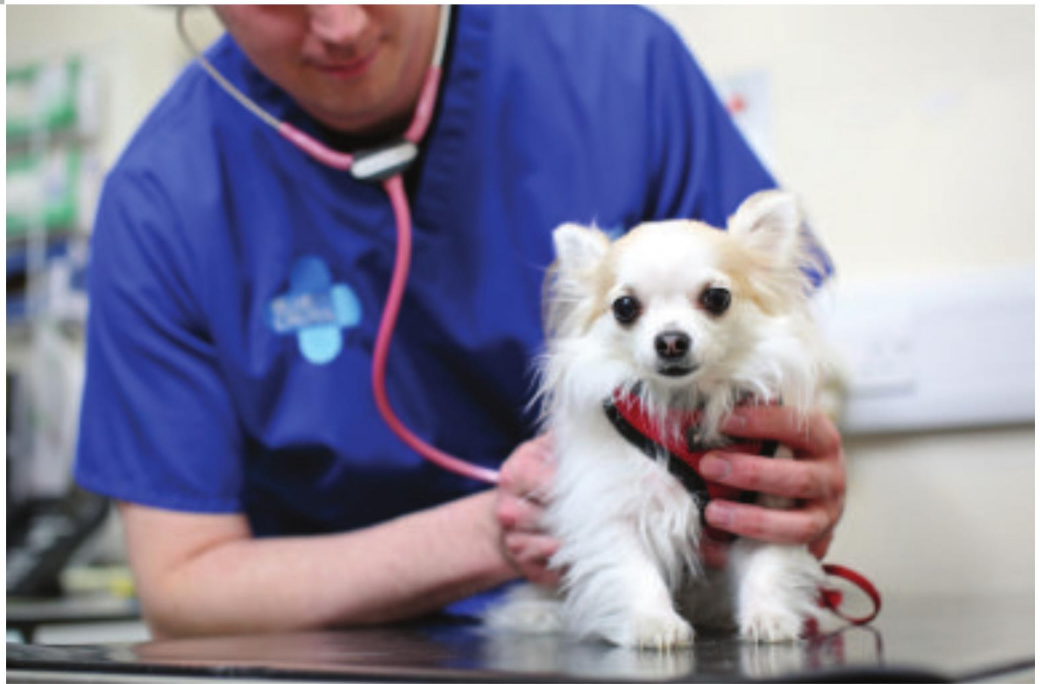
*If you would like to join, please sign up at [yourvictoria.co.uk/join.html](http://yourvictoria.co.uk/join.html)*

Graeme Cottam is a keen advocate for the Victoria Neighbourhood Forum and its mission to improve the area.

"It's a place where business and residents come together to speak about their shared interests in the area and their shared concerns. Some of the things we're talking about include adding trees to busy streets and – my personal pet project – making the local underground stations more accessible. The neighbourhood plan we're working on will have a real impact, enabling the community to make improvements to the area.

"The most important thing is that we need more people – not just for numbers, but because we're looking for people who have totally different ways of thinking about the area! I know that somebody living in Buckingham Gate is going to have a different point of view to somebody working in Victoria Street, because they experience this place differently. So what we're trying to do is to bring all those ideas together, to make our community work for everyone."





This year marks the 125th anniversary of Blue Cross, a charity known to animal lovers everywhere for promoting the welfare of sick, injured and abandoned pets. For 116 of those 125 years, Blue Cross has run a 24-hour animal A&E just a stone's throw from Victoria Station (at 5 Hugh Street, on the site of what was once – quite fittingly – the Duke of Westminster's stables).

Opened in 1906 by Our Dumb Friends League – later Blue Cross – the Victoria Animal Hospital provided veterinary treatment for animals whose owners couldn't afford private care. During World War One, it provided a temporary home for the pets of soldiers who were fighting abroad, including dogs, cats, monkeys and donkeys.

The hospital continued to help local animals when a massive slum clearance programme in 1934 resulted in hundreds of strays, and was vital during the Blitz, when hospital staff would rescue animals from bombed-out wreckage before providing emergency treatment, often by candlelight. Throughout the war, local people would leave their pets in the hospital while they slept in bomb shelters, and staff oversaw the evacuation of many of the capital's strays to new homes in the countryside.

Since those war-torn days, the hospital has been rebuilt (on the same site), expanded, reopened by the Queen, and fitted out with state-of-the-art equipment and ambulances. Today, it remains a lifeline for local people who struggle to meet the costs of veterinary care for their beloved pets, and for animals injured on London's busy roads.

"The pandemic was a struggle," admits Alison Thomas, head of veterinary services at Blue Cross. "We worked hard to keep our doors open the whole time, and to carry on seeing those patients who needed to be seen. The hospital has certainly weathered hard times before in its long history, so we knew it was important to adapt."

And adapt it did. Locals looking out of their windows during the height of the pandemic may have noticed a steady stream of bicycles leaving the hospital, carrying essential supplies to addresses across Victoria and Westminster. "Rather than our clients coming here to collect





# Paws for thought

Meet the Blue Cross Victoria Animal Hospital, a lifeline for Londoners and their pets

BY ALICE CAIRNS

their medication, we had volunteers and some of our own team cycling around delivering medications all day,” Alison explains.

With the help of its tireless staff, the animal hospital has continued to treat thousands of pets every year either free of charge or at a reduced cost (depending on the means of the animal’s owner). It is equipped with everything from cosy kennels to state-of-the-art operating theatres, allowing it to offer the highest quality of care.

If you’d like to support the Victoria Animal Hospital, there are a number of ways to help. “We’re funded almost entirely by donations – we don’t receive any lottery funding or government grants – so it’s down to the people who donate their money to our services,” Alison explains.

“There are a lot of volunteering options here too – we have volunteers working in reception, stocking shelves, preparing surgical kits,

answering queries and helping the animals. We are also always looking for foster carers, as we receive a lot of strays and unwanted litters.”

The key thing, according to Alison, is for locals to recognise the importance of the animal hospital and its contribution to the community. “There will of course be some people who don’t feel that animals are all that important in the scheme of things. But what we have to remember is that the people who rely on the animal hospital are often very, very vulnerable, and their pet is often their reason for living.

“That’s certainly true for a lot of our clients – and even more so during the pandemic, when having pets around became a defence against isolation. So yes, we’re treating animals, but we’re also looking after the welfare of some of the most disadvantaged people in our community – and I think that’s so important.”

**AND RELAX...**

The Spa in Dolphin Square offers an authentic Moroccan experience. Its interior pays homage to the rich textures found in traditional Morocco, while Dolphin Square's mineral-rich water is drawn from the only working artesian well in Westminster. The Arabian Ceremony treatment is for the mind and body. It starts with a foot cleansing ritual, before a full body exfoliation to prepare the skin for a hydrating massage, and ends with a relaxing scalp massage. *Dolphin Square, Chichester Street, £170 for one hour 55 minutes*



# Spring refresh

From manicures to massage, these local beauty treatments are guaranteed to put a spring in your step

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS



**TIMELESS TRESSES**

Goldie Hawn, Imran Khan and Pixie Lott have all taken a seat at Hair by Dar. "I feel the trend with most of my clients [this spring] is to embrace their longer style hair – to exude femininity and glamour," says Dar. "It's not really about dramatic changes, but just feeling like the best version of themselves, especially as it's been such an unsettling time over the past two years. I created a special signature design to my cuts which softly sculpts to enhance the beauty in each person. This cut moves beyond a 'trend' as it really is timeless, whether it's for long, short or medium hair lengths." *Courtyard, 54 Buckingham Gate, £POA*

### **BROW WOW WOW**

Brow bar BBM London offers treatments for cutting-edge brows as well as lash treatments to accentuate your features and transform your face. For spring, co-founder Yana Gushchina says: "I would recommend brow lamination as the hottest new trend in eyebrows because it creates a look of full, fluffy brows in one simple appointment by realigning the directional hair growth, enhancing the brow shape."

*20-21 Eccleston Yards, from £47*



### **SPA HEAVEN**

A refreshing aromatic body bath, scrub and wrap prepared with fresh fruits, Indian herbs, sea salts and pure essential oils, the Vishuddi treatment at Jiva Spa is ideal for a spring detox. You will emerge radiant, purified, glowing and cleansed.

*51 Buckingham Gate, £100 for 70 minutes*



### **NAILING IT**

Founded in 2015, London Grace transformed the traditional salon experience, combining nails with a fun cocktail bar setting. It has even formulated its own no-nasties products, with all of its nail polishes made with a vegan and 10-free formula. For spring, director Lauren Williams suggests a white nail: "Kathryn is a classic, crisp white hue that will pop against any skin tone."

*147 Ebury Street, £12*

As the Cleveland Clinic welcomes its first patients, CEO Dr Brian Donley explains how providing world-class care is paramount at the state-of-the-art private hospital

BY ALEX BRIAND



# The best of health



ABOVE: the Cleveland Clinic at 33 Grosvenor Place

There's no question that healthcare has taken on a new significance in all our lives in recent years. That's why we've been keeping such a close eye on the development of a new, multidisciplinary medical centre less than 10 minutes' walk from Victoria Station, which will open this month (March) and promises to bring a new level of care to the area.

The Cleveland Clinic London, situated at 33 Grosvenor Place, is a 325,000 sq ft, 184-bed centre whose windows look out over Buckingham Palace's garden. Assisting

those 184 inpatients will be a total of 1,250 caregivers (its term for all staff), including 270 doctors and 450 nurses.

Ensuring that the focus never slips from patient care is the fact that every penny of surplus goes back into the clinic. It will not make a profit. "That allows us to bring the patient perspective into the centre of all decision-making," says CEO Dr Brian Donley. "It's been a really important part of our culture, which focuses on patients first."

This thinking can be traced back 100 years, to the founding of the first Cleveland Clinic by four doctors after they returned to Cleveland, Ohio from the First World War. Their experiences applying care to soldiers in combat inspired them to start a practice that brought the same level of consideration. It now comprises almost

70,000 caregivers in 19 hospitals, from Las Vegas to Abu Dhabi. In the US it has been the number one provider of cardiac surgery and cardiology for 27 years and was named the number two healthcare system in the world by *Newsweek*.

Another factor that makes the clinic's decision-making unique is its "doctor-led" model. All of the top brass, including Brian himself, are experienced doctors. The decisions here and at its operations across the world are made by people with a first-hand knowledge of what it means to care for a patient. It puts care demonstrably above financial concerns.

"When we were working on the hospital building, we didn't think there was enough natural light coming in," says Brian. "So we took out four beds. From a personal-interest standpoint, that means we removed a little over two per cent of the revenue, but we made that decision because we know that it's best for the whole experience of care to have more natural light. It's always about how to best deliver empathy to people in their time of need."

Brian, who lives in Belgravia, worked as an orthopaedic surgeon in Cleveland for 15

years before moving on to lead community hospitals in the city. He then went to study at Harvard Business School before returning to run Cleveland Clinic's clinical operations across North America. Now in the UK, he believes his medical past to be crucial in his running of the London operation: "I can draw on my personal experiences both with caregivers and with patients."

A century on from its founding, although the focus remains, those four wartime medics would scarcely recognise even the simplest procedure at the London clinic. According to Brian, it will be one of the most digital hospitals in the UK. Eschewing paper, it will use all-electronic medical records. Every medication will be packaged as a single dose, with an electronic sensor that will be scanned and checked against the patient's record. If a CAT or MRI scan is required, as soon as the results are ready for the doctor, they will also be accessible by the patient via an app.

Healthcare has never been more important and, as our attention turns to the future of care, the people of Victoria may be among the first to experience it.



## Dr Brian Donley on...

### ...HEALTHCARE IN THE PANDEMIC ERA

"What we've seen in the past 18 months is not only a re-energised focus on an individual's health but also on a society's health, with society defined as broadly as you can. This pandemic has made us realise that the health of each person depends on the health of everyone."

### ...THE NHS

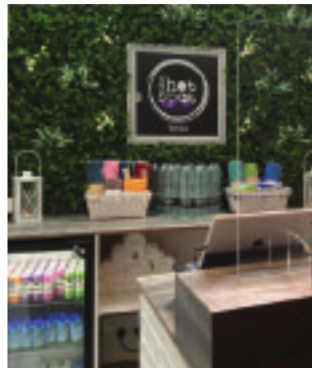
"We have great respect for the NHS. We do have great confidence in our outcomes and what we have achieved for our patients, but we come with humility and curiosity to work together with the UK healthcare ecosystem."

### ...THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

"It's critical to continue to innovate and develop the future of healthcare. We are developing relationships with the leading research institutions in the UK so that we can integrate our 100-year legacy with the best of UK healthcare."







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Florist Jens Jakobsen has worked on floral construction projects across SW1, including his Soul Garden, a quirky gem at 5 Seaforth Place

BY ALICE CAIRNS

**What is the Soul Garden?**

It is a peaceful and safe space where people can “de-stress” themselves, contemplate, meditate and take part in some gardening with us. It is also a place where we can see more smiles and hear laughter. I am trying new ideas in this garden. It is evolving constantly.

**What was it like moving to London from Denmark?**

Not so difficult, because I am a Viking!

**What’s your favourite restaurant?**

I like Gustoso Ristorante & Enoteca on Willow Place. It is cosy and homey. Of course they also serve delicious Italian food and wines.

**Your favourite local pub?**

The Windsor Castle on Francis Street. I like the decor and atmosphere there.

**Your favourite coffee shop?**

Flat Cap Coffee at 5 Seaforth Place. It is not only a nice place for a coffee break in the daily routine, but it’s also the place where flower and plant lovers meet each other, and where you can support the sustainable economy and community by buying plants and flower bouquets from us.

**Your favourite green space or park in the area?**

St James’s Park is just next door, which makes it convenient, but it is also truly a beautiful and amazing location.

**What do you love about the area?**

It is a big melting pot of different cultures and importantly, people are friendly and kind. Many people pass by the Soul Garden and greet me with smiles. With some, I don’t know their names, but I know their faces. What I love about this area is that everyone is a friendly face.

[jensjakobsen.co.uk](http://jensjakobsen.co.uk)





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