

SPRING 2024

VEGGING OUT
Vegan fast food
in SW1

STYLE ICONS
Art and fashion
collide at Tate

FEELING GOOD
Guilt-free gifts
from local shops

Victoria

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SPRING



4 News

All the latest happenings from Victoria

6 What's on

Things to see and do this spring, from theatre to art

8 Easter events

Celebrate Easter with these eggcellent activities

11 Things to do

From boutique bowling to karaoke, try something new

14 Gift guide

Gorgeous gifts that are great for the planet

16 Sustainability

Protecting London's green spaces

18 Food news

Meat-free treats and a new Japanese restaurant

22 Food

Where to wine and dine in Whitehall

24 Victoria BID

The local youth council that is looking for leaders

27 History

Seven fascinating facts about Victoria Station

30 Ghosts

Spooky spectres and terrifying tales from the streets of SW1

32 Lifestyle

Why Orchard Place is such a sought-after spot

34 Insider's guide

Vivek Singh from the Cinnamon Club on his favourite local places

Cover: The view from Orchard Place
Top: Monsoon Joelle jumper
Below: Biscuiteers



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All change

Nickie Aiken, the Conservative MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, has announced that she will stand down at the next election. She will be leaving the UK with her husband, Alex Aiken, who will be taking up the role of communications adviser at the United Arab Emirates' ministry of foreign affairs.



Holocaust memorial plans to go ahead

The much-debated Holocaust memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens is set to go ahead after the king's speech contained a pledge to move forward with the plans. The king said: "My government is committed to tackling antisemitism and ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten." The scheme, which has a budget of £139 million, has attracted criticism from some neighbourhood groups including the Save the Victoria Tower Gardens campaign, which criticised the loss of recreational green space and likely increase in security measures.



New beginnings

The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace will be getting a new name this year. The gallery stands on the site of what was once Queen Victoria's private chapel, and was redeveloped into an art venue at the suggestion of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 1962. This year, the gallery will be renamed the King's Gallery to mark the accession of King Charles III. The Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse will also be renamed.





New beginnings

The Orange on Pimlico Road has now reopened. First built in 1800 as a brewery, this historic pub now has a whole new menu of pub classics with a Mediterranean twist created by chef and author Ben Tish. Local designers have been used to create the interiors, including objects from Nina Campbell's flagship Pimlico store and lampshades and fabrics from neighbouring Fermoie.

37 Pimlico Road



The latest happenings in Victoria

BY ALICE CAIRNS



A helping hand

Every Christmas, the Sir Simon Milton Foundation collaborates with London Heritage Quarter to donate hampers to Westminster's older, vulnerable and isolated residents, as well as those with support and care needs. In 2023, 800 of these hampers were delivered by local volunteers, ensuring that every member of the community received some festive cheer. If you'd like to volunteer with Westminster Connects, visit westminster.gov.uk to find out more.



A night to remember

A 15th anniversary reunion concert of the original West End production of *Spring Awakening* will be taking place at Victoria Palace Theatre on June 2. Many of the original London cast will be returning for a one-night-only revival of this beloved tale of adolescent anarchy, with proceeds from the show raising money for Imogen Kinchin, one of the show's original producers who was recently diagnosed with stage four bowel cancer.



BEST DRESSED

This exhibition of more than 60 paintings by John Singer Sargent explores his relationship with fashion. Sargent often masterminded the outfits worn by his subjects, manipulating and styling their clothes to express qualities such as power, sensuality or elegance. In this exciting exhibition, you'll also be able to see several period garments displayed next to the portraits they were worn in.

Until July 7, Tate Britain, Millbank



MRS HUGH HAMMERSLEY, 1892, JOHN SINGER SARGENT
IMAGE: THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART/ART RESOURCE/SCALA FLORENCE

FIT FOR A KING

Jenny Tiramani, principal of the School of Historical Dress, will be delivering a fascinating talk on the clothes of Henry VIII and his court. She will share many interesting insights, including how she used Holbein portraits as source material when dressing Jude Law for the film *Firebrand*. Visitors will be able to look around the Holbein exhibition in the Queen's Gallery, and tickets will include a one-year pass to an unlimited number of current and future exhibitions.

March 14, the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace



Spring events

Fill your diary with a new season of fun activities, from ballet on the big screen to Coldplay by candlelight

BY ALICE CAIRNS

SWAN SONG

One of the most iconic ballets of all time will be shown on the big screen at Curzon Victoria. The Royal Ballet's production of *Swan Lake* features sumptuous costumes, breathtaking performances and Tchaikovsky's soaring score. Enjoy it from the comfort of your cinema seat, accompanied by a menu of cocktails and tasty snacks.

April 24, Curzon Victoria, 58 Victoria Street





DOMESTIC DARKNESS

Billed as “the play to end domestic violence”, *You Won’t Help Me* is a raw and emotional production based on the real experiences of its writer. You’ll follow a couple trapped in an abusive relationship, as well as watching the repercussions of that relationship on friends, family and the community. March 26-31, the Other Palace Theatre, 12 Palace Street



IT WAS ALL YELLOW

Visit Central Hall for an evening of music by the light of hundreds of softly flickering candles. This candlelit concert is a tribute to the music of Coldplay, with a 60-minute programme featuring the band’s biggest and best-loved hits. It promises to be an atmospheric, multi-sensory evening that will leave you feeling zen. March 23, Central Hall Westminster

VINYL VISIONS

The vinyl revival is in full swing (thanks Taylor Swift!) which makes this the perfect time for the Big UK Record Fair to return to Victoria. Vinyl lovers can browse through the stacks of records to find everything from prog rock to Britpop, as well as music memorabilia and CDs. Early-bird tickets cost £10 for entry from 10am, while entry from 12pm is £5. April 27, Lindley Hall, 80 Vincent Square

Easter events



Cracking community eggs

London Heritage Quarter is bringing six giant Easter eggs to Eccleston Yards as part of a local community competition.

Four local schools and youth clubs have designed the eye-catching eggs, which will be on display in Eccleston Yards from March 26 to April 1.

Visitors can vote for their favourite and the winning egg will receive £500 worth of Amazon vouchers to put towards school or club equipment.

The participating schools and clubs include Burdett-Coutts & Townshend Foundation Primary School, St Peter's Eaton Square Primary School, St Andrew's Youth Club and Westminster City School.



Easter evensong

The choir of Westminster Abbey will sing a traditional service of evening prayer and Easter hymns, drawing from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*.

March 31, Westminster Abbey



Spring snacks

Head to Biscuiteers' School of Icing to learn how to make a range of Easter-themed iced biscuits. You'll receive a biscuit tin to take your creations home in, and a complimentary tea or coffee to keep you going.

March 23, Biscuiteers Belgravia, 14-15 Eccleston Yards

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Painting Workshop
Chelsea/London,
July 18-July 24, 2024



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*Must be booked in advance, subject to availability.
Management reserves the right to remove this offer at any time.

For more information, check out
flightclubdarts.com/events

What's new

With the arrival of a boutique bowling destination on Victoria Street, we discover some brand new ways to have fun in Victoria

BY ALICE CAIRNS

Best for... bowling

Victoria's newest entertainment destination has arrived! Lane7 is known for its 10 unique bowling lanes, which come with neon lights, glittering disco balls and bold artwork. It also boasts two mini golf courses, beer pong and darts, as well as a more risqué adults-only arcade hall concealed in the basement. There's an on-site Patty & Bun serving up tasty burgers and monthly specials, and a tempting cocktail menu including hard slushies and frozen margaritas.

70 Victoria Street

Best for... music lovers

An exciting new jazz night is launching at Sabin Speakeasy at Great Scotland Yard Hotel. Hidden behind a bookcase, this whisky bar is the perfect location for a night of London's finest live jazz. Every Thursday and Friday from 8.30pm to 11pm, you can sip on one of 170 varieties of whisky while listening to renowned artists such as Deirdre Cartwright, Pete Whittaker, Chris Hodgkins, Faye Patton and Filomena Campus.

3-5 Great Scotland Yard

Best for... fledgling performers

Luxury Parisian karaoke brand BAM is opening its first UK branch in Victoria this spring. Set to be the largest karaoke bar in Europe, it will feature 22 themed karaoke rooms, a DJ booth, a live music stage, an outdoor terrace and the Bam Bam bar, where you can cool off with a cocktail and some gourmet snacks.



Best for... party animals

The Alchemist has opened a new venue in the heart of Victoria. An entry tunnel leads you into a celestial-inspired central bar, where you can listen to music from emerging DJs and sip on inventive cocktails. Choose from a menu of creative drinks, including a vodka cocktail that changes colour as you drink it, a margarita that comes with a hip flask you can keep, and a gin and blueberry concoction that foams and bubbles in your glass.

52 Grosvenor Gardens

Best for... nature lovers

The latest attraction at virtual reality destination Otherworld is the David Attenborough immersive anthology. Enter a pod to be guided by the voice of Attenborough as you take an awe-inspiring tour of our planet, taking in everything from carnivorous flytraps to scorpions, fungi, ant colonies and hummingbirds.

You'll feel wings beating and the earth moving in this totally immersive experience. Your journey will take about 70 minutes, including a 15-minute interval to grab refreshments.

85 Buckingham Palace Road



Best for... gym buffs

Gymbox Victoria has launched a new exercise class known as "the world's easiest workout". After some gentle stretching and meditative breathing, you'll step into a sauna blanket, where all you have to do is lie still and engage in some gentle body scanning.

The blanket reaches temperatures of up to 70C, helping you burn between 400 and 600 calories while lying totally still.

123 Victoria Street



Dressed Assured

Making it easy for men to dress well, Charles Tyrwhitt is smartening up Victoria this spring. Store Manager, Mark Halliday, tells us more.

For those who aren't familiar with Charles Tyrwhitt, how would you describe the brand?

At its core, our philosophy is simple – we want to help men look good and feel good. Whether that's in the office, for a destination wedding, or a beach holiday, we've got the clothing for every dress code this season. Our store at Cardinal Place is the dream location for all kinds of local businessmen – they can pop in for a casual shirt or get measured up for a razor-sharp suit.



Can local businesses benefit from your Victoria store?

We've got a huge range of local connections, and we offer exclusive discounts to our corporate friends regularly. Keeping it simple, it's normally just a code businessmen can use online or quote in-store for extra convenience. In particular, we help dress men who need to wear a uniform to work. Whether it's local restaurants, hotels, or front of house staff, we can supply shirts and ties for security teams for instance, and we can throw in a special offer while we're at it.

What other things do you do to help local businesses?

The quality of our clothing speaks for itself, but we love to shout about our experts in-store! Our teams on the shopfloor are all trained up on tailoring, measuring and style advice, so customers can come in for one-on-one appointments or just have their general questions answered. We'll help with everything from a new work wardrobe to nailing that summer wedding look. Shopping online is easy and convenient, but sometimes, nothing beats an in-person chat.

What's the next best step for a local business owner reading this?

Reach out to us, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with us at ukshop.Victoria@ctshirts.co.uk or pop into the store to speak to a member of the team about setting your company up as a corporate client.

**CHARLES
TYRWHITT**
JERMYN STREET LONDON

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Ground Floor,
Cardinal Place, SW1E 5JD

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ukshop.Victoria@ctshirts.co.uk

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appointment today



SWEATY BETTY

Kind to the environment and kind to your body, the Flow yoga mat in wave green, £45, is made of TPE fabric, created using non-toxic recyclable plastics.

90 VICTORIA STREET

MONSOON

A zero-waste collaboration between Making for Change and Stitches in Time helps to upskill workers from disadvantaged communities, upcycling surplus stock with hand-embroidery. It includes this Joelle jumper, £75.

UNIT 32, VICTORIA STATION

MORENA

The Frank and Green original reusable cup, £25, is made from fully recyclable co-polymer. It can be put in the dishwasher and even has a clever one-handed push open and close button for ease of use on the go.

10-11 ECCLESTON YARDS

ADEM LONDON

Using hazelnuts grown on his family's farm in Turkey, Adem Oygur's beauty brand, Adem London, offers sustainable luxury, with packaging made of 14 per cent recycled plastic and 86 per cent wood. It includes the pure hazelnut oil, £52.

61 EBURY STREET

RUINART

Ruinart rosé, £87, comes with "second skin" packaging sourced in a sustainable way from eco-managed forests. The bottled-shaped paper is one ninth of the weight of previous gift boxes.

**JEROBOAMS,
50-52 ELIZABETH STREET**





ZAN ARTEFACTS

The Triangles basket with lid, £50, is woven in the style of ancient Iranian art and kapu weaving. These baskets ensure the women in Iran are paid fairly to support families and communities while keeping the craft alive.

WILD BY TART

3-4 ECCLESTON YARDS



DIMPLE AMANI

Made of sustainably sourced beechwood, the lymph body tool, £85, is the next level to body brushing. The contoured wood drains excess fluid and toxins, increases blood circulation and sculpts. Team with the ayurvedic vegan, organic body and navel oil, £85, for more efficacy.

42 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD

Conscious choices

Surprise someone with a guilt-free gift

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS



RONHILL

The Air-Lite split cap, £20, is made with recycled polyester fabric from post-consumer plastic bottles. The reflective detail and breathable design make this a great cap for running day or night in any season.

RUN AND BECOME

4A ECCLESTON STREET



CHANGE PLEASE

The coffee company aims to use social enterprise to end homelessness through coffee, using 100 per cent of profits and donations to train homeless people into baristas. Its merch pieces include T-shirts in black and oat, £23, which are well worth giving as a gift.

4A CARDINAL PLACE



OLIVER BONAS

Made from clear recycled glass, these highball gin tumblers, £19.50 for two, have a contemporary shape and subtle line markings.

UNIT 48-49, VICTORIA STATION



The London Wildlife Trust has a new base in Victoria.
CEO David Mooney tells us more.

Green and pleasant

Tell us about your new Victoria base?

Our new space is in Fivefields in Grosvenor Gardens. It's a charity hub that we share with other like-minded organisations, particularly those with a youth focus. One of our biggest aims is to build a youth movement to try and save the planet, so being able to cross over, collaborate and share that mission is really important to us. We're really excited about being in Victoria as part of this charitable community.

What does the London Wildlife Trust do?

We are all about nature recovery in London. We want to bring nature back into our lives: wildlife from our windows, wildlife on our doorstep. We want to recover people's lost connection with the natural world, restoring our hope and inspiration for wildlife to thrive in London. As part of that, we've established 36 nature

reserves around London, and we do lots of participative, empowering community engagement work, volunteering and education. At the moment we're working with Grosvenor to reimagine what Grosvenor Square looks like.

How do you create your nature reserves?

We look for under-utilised brownfield sites or existing parks, working with the landowners to change how the habitats are managed, how planting is done and how we can let things become a bit wilder. It requires us to interpret the natural world and engage in a bit of biomimicry, helping people to think of London as one step wilder.



TOP: BLUEBELLS IN GUTTERIDGE WOOD
IMAGE: MATHEW FRITH

DAVID MOONEY
IMAGE: LOIS DONEGAN



PRACTICAL CONSERVATION IN A WOODLAND
IMAGE: ARNHOLD DE SIERRA
ABOVE: SMALL BLUE BUTTERFLY
IMAGE: DANIEL GREENWOOD

Why is your work so important?

If we don't connect with nature, we don't understand nature. And if we don't understand it, then we don't know how important it is. There will be no one to protect it and save it for future generations. It's the old adage: you don't know what you've got till it's gone. But it's more than just nostalgia; this is survival, it's preventing our ecosystem from total collapse.

How can we help?

I know there are lots of businesses based here in Victoria. If you work for a business, you could encourage your company to consider doing some wild workdays with us, helping at one of our nature reserves. We're also always looking for members - for the price of a cup of coffee a month, you can support our work.

Any other tips?

If you have a small city garden or outdoor space, my number one tip would be to put a pond in it. It doesn't have to be big - just an upside down wash basin or an old sink. Where there is water, there is life, and wildlife can flourish in even the smallest spaces. Just take a small container, sink it into the ground, fill it with water and put an aquatic plant in it. You will not believe what life thrives from that.

DAVID BEAUMONT, HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR LONDON HQ, TELLS US ABOUT SOME EXCITING LOCAL INITIATIVES:

"There's so much happening around sustainability across London HQ. It's a very exciting time! We're currently starting up a project to create a strategy and action plan towards Net Zero. Our aim is to be part of a city that's net zero in 2040. We're also working on The Arc, which is a project to create a green walking route between Storey's Gate and Cardinal Place. That's something we're very excited about.

"It really feels as though sustainability is a priority for everyone right now. We have so many amazing theatres across our London HQ footprint. There is an organisation called SOLT: the Society of London Theatres, and they have created something called the Green Theatre Book, which is a guide to creating sustainable productions. There was also a report published in January that provides a direction or pathway for higher education establishments to adapt in order to become Net Zero. We have King's College and the London School of Economics in our footprint, so this document is something we're looking at to inform our own net zero strategy.



Something I would recommend to all readers is a visit to the green space created by florist Jens Jakobsen behind City Hall. It's an amazing urban garden with over 150 species of plants and trees, and just shows what can be achieved in even the smallest of spaces."



Meat-free treats

Neat Burger is changing direction, rebranding as Neat. The new menu will continue to showcase delicious meat-free burgers, but will also feature a range of healthy everyday choices, including superfood salads, organic ciabattas and light bites. The brand's beloved burgers will now be made with a new and improved patty that is healthier and higher in protein. The Victoria branch of Neat will also be one of the first branches to showcase a new store design, emphasising a light and bright feel.

36 Buckingham Palace Road

Quick bites

From healthy burgers to decadent cheesecakes, we bring you the latest foodie news

BY ALICE CAIRNS



Taste of Japan

Japanese chef Endo Kazutoshi is set to launch Kioku by Endo at The OWO this spring. This unique rooftop restaurant will fuse Japanese cuisine with Mediterranean influences, and will boast a 55-seat main dining room, an outdoor terrace, an eight-seat chef's table and an eight-seat private dining room inside one of the building's turrets. The bar has been modelled on traditional Japanese listening bars, with a bespoke record player spinning a mix of tracks selected by guests.

7 Horse Guards Avenue



Cheesecake heaven

Whipped London has arrived at Market Halls Victoria. This destination for dessert lovers is known for its luxurious baked cheesecakes, which take artisan bakers 10 hours to prepare. If your sweet tooth still isn't sated, you can also get your hands on frozen soft-serve cheesecake and tasty cookies.

191 Victoria Street

Eat & drink Directory out & in



THE PARLOUR AT GREAT SCOTLAND YARD

Indulge in the exquisite fusion of taste and tribute with the new Afternoon Tea at Great Scotland Yard Hotel. This tea celebrates the multifaceted essence of womanhood, perfectly timed for International Women's Day and Mother's Day. Created in collaboration with Royal warrant holder and perfumier Floris London, it offers a sensory journey inspired by the delicate Lily of The Valley perfume. With a portion of proceeds supporting Breast Cancer UK, the pastries symbolize stories of courage and beauty, depicting a golden scar reminiscent of Kintsugi, the Japanese art that values beauty in broken pottery restored with golden glue.

The Parlour at Great Scotland Yard
3-5 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HN
Direct Line: +44 (0)207 9254760
www.greatscotlandyard.com

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Chopstix is a lean, mean wokking machine and you'll love the sheer simplicity of our menu. Nourishing noodles, wholesome chicken, beautiful beef, and perfect prawns, cooked with fresh vegetables and superb sauces make us the 'go to guys' for boxed fresh flavours.

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Victoria Place Shopping Centre,
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Opening times: 11am – 8:30pm
www.chopstixnoodles.co.uk/stores/london-victoria



THE JONES FAMILY KITCHEN

The award-winning Jones Family Kitchen is one of London's leading steakhouses, serving grass fed dry-aged steak from Yorkshire alongside that from its own farm in Devon. The large menu doesn't just cater to the steak lover however, with fish arriving daily from Cornwall and the South Coast from small day boats. Situated in lovely Eccleston Yards, its large and peaceful outdoor terrace is the perfect place to while away a spring / summer afternoon. Jones also serves breakfast 5 days a week and runs a pre-theatre set menu till 6pm.

The Jones Family Kitchen
Restaurant & Bar
7-8 Eccleston Yards
London
SW1W 9AZ
020 3929 6000
www.jonesfamilykitchen.co.uk

INTRODUCING INFINITEA AT THE ORCHARD

Set within the elegant tea room at Conrad London St. James, the newly launched afternoon tea may be the only experience in London that offers completely free-flowing, unlimited delights; from finger sandwiches and cakes, to freshly baked scones and bottomless champagne. A must-visit for experiencing the epitome of indulgence, where teacups and plates are never left wanting.

020 3301 8080
opentable.co.uk/r/the-orchard-room-london
The Orchard Room,
Conrad London St. James, 22-28 Broadway,
London SW1H 0BH



Parisian pastries

A new French-inspired afternoon tea is being served at Westminster Abbey, to coincide with the touring immersive exhibition Notre Dame de Paris. Served at the Cellarium cafe, within the abbey's medieval cloisters, the tea includes sweet and savoury treats inspired by the French capital – from a mini quiche lorraine to a creme patisserie tart served with fresh fruit. *Westminster Abbey*



Bonjour!

A brand new French patisserie has opened on Victoria Street. Maison Gigi is a family business serving up pastries, sandwiches, snacks and salads, with an open kitchen so that you can watch your food being made fresh every day. Maison Gigi is also available to cater events. *143 Victoria Street*



Farm to fork

Farmer J, known for its bold and delicious dishes that showcase healthy, seasonal ingredients, is proving a popular addition to Orchard Place. It serves breakfast, lunch and dinner made from scratch, along with the famous “fieldtrays”, which allow diners to fill up a tray with their choice of mains, sides and sauces. The restaurant also serves coffee from the independent speciality coffee house Nostos Coffee, which is also based in Orchard Place. In July it will be hosting live screenings of Wimbledon final week along with table tennis, street food and cocktails. *8-9 Orchard Place*

Eat & drink Directory out & in



WESLEY'S

Located on the lower ground of Central Hall Westminster, this bright and airy independent café is the perfect location to catch up with friends, meet with colleagues, relax and unwind. The dedicated team of chefs work hard to provide exciting offerings to entertain your taste buds, whilst being mindful of sustainability. They serve a range of hot breakfast and lunch options, fresh soups, salads and sandwiches, as well as sweet treats made by their in-house baker.

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - 4pm.

Victoria Magazine readers receive a meal and hot drink for just £12, when they quote 'Victoria 12' at the till!

www.c-h-w.com/wesleys-cafe/

www.instagram.com/wesleyscafeln/

Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate,
London, SW1H 9NH

CASA DO FRANGO

Set over two sun-soaked floors with abundant greenery, expansive windows, and high ceilings Casa do Frango Victoria brings the taste of the Algarve to SW1.

Casa Victoria is in the heart of the buzzing Nova development – just across from Victoria Station and London's Theatreland, and moments from Buckingham Palace. Dining on the ground floor offers views of the open kitchen where chefs grill piri-piri chicken over a charcoal grill and prepare traditional and contemporary Portuguese dishes. Upstairs is a spacious mezzanine with its own bar, perfect for group dining. There is also a wraparound terrace, popular for alfresco dining in the summer.

Casa do Frango

2 Sir Simon Milton Square, London, SW1E 5DJ

Tel: 020 3943 7777

casadofrango.co.uk

Groups & event enquiries: events@casadofrango.co.uk



UNI RESTAURANT

UNI Restaurant, nestled in Belgravia's Tophams Hotel, boasts a vibrant and modern atmosphere, ideal for social outings, dates, or meetings. Its elegant, welcoming interior complements the impressive Japanese-Peruvian fusion cuisine. Customers love the tantalising sushi and dishes like ceviche, tiraditos, and miso black cod. With friendly staff, a comprehensive wine list, and various cocktails, UNI provides a distinctive dining experience in Belgravia.

T: 020 7730 9267

E: reservations@restaurantuni.com

www.restaurantuni.com & www.thetophamshotel.com



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CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY

MAURO COLAGRECO AT RAFFLES LONDON AT THE OWO

Don't miss: the cheese trolley with cheese sommelier

Raffles London at The OWO is spoilt for culinary choice, with nine restaurants and three bars. Mauro Colagreco, the chef behind three-Michelin-starred Mirazur on the Côte d'Azur, is responsible for three of the hotel's dining experiences, including his signature restaurant. A showcase for his culinary innovation and commitment to sustainability through local, seasonal ingredients, it traces a path through the English countryside with a menu featuring more than 70 varieties of vegetables and fruit. A five-course tasting menu (£165) includes dishes such as red oak lettuce with smoked fish and vermouth sauce, while the set lunch (£60) comprises options such as squash with yellow curry sauce and roasted chicken breast.

57 Whitehall

From fine dining in one of the most historic addresses in London to an award-winning pizza joint, here are some of the best places to eat in Whitehall

BY JONATHAN WHILEY

Let's eat

DICKENS' DRINKING DEN

THE RED LION

Perfect pour: Oliver's Island golden ale

A young Charles Dickens approved of the Red Lion, then his local pub, so much that he featured it in his novels, praising the "admiring and compassionate landlady". With a rich history dating back to 1434, the pub, now run by Fuller's, was also once a favourite of Winston Churchill. The menu is not your average pub fare – snacks include Marmite roast potatoes and Laverstoke Park Farm "buffalomi" fries with sriracha. The pie selection includes a slow-braised beef and ale option to share, vegan curry pie and a tasting board that pairs three mini pies with three samples of beer.

48 Parliament Street

SCANDI STYLE

EKSTEDT AT THE YARD

Signature dish: oyster flambadou

The first restaurant outside of Stockholm from the Michelin-starred chef Niklas Ekstedt celebrates Nordic wood-fire cooking. Dishes on the tasting menu include juniper-smoked turbot with bronze fennel, hay-smoked wing rib with morels and a dessert of wood-oven baked alaska with lingonberries and elderflower ice cream. Part of Great Scotland Yard hotel, diners can expect daily churned butter, freshly baked bread, the kitchen's very own pickles and a pioneering natural wine list. The six-course tasting menu (£115) is available alongside a three-course set menu (£85) and a new chef's table nine-course experience.

3-5 Great Scotland Yard



BEST OF BRITISH

KERRIDGE'S BAR & GRILL

Signature dish: haddock and chips with pease pudding

Located within the five-star hotel Corinthia London, Tom Kerridge's sleek restaurant opened in September 2018. The kitchen is run by Nick Beardshaw, previously at the Hand and Flowers and the Coach in Marlow – also owned by Kerridge – and the menu features refined British comfort food. Signature dishes include deep-fried line-caught haddock and chips with pease pudding, tartare and spiced Matson sauce, and mushroom "risotto" with deep-fried hen's egg and aged parmesan. A menu du jour is priced £39.50 for two courses and £47.50 for three courses, and the cocktail list is inspired by a British art exhibition in the restaurant.

10 Northumberland Avenue

PIZZA PERFECTION



50 KALÒ

Signature slice: margherita – a classic

This unassuming spot is frequently named as one of London's best pizzerias. Established in Naples in 2014, the London outpost of 50 Kalò – meaning "good dough ball" – opened in 2018. Ciro Salvo is the man behind the Neapolitan-style pizza; the third generation of master pizza makers, his research on dough has seen him nicknamed the King of Dough. Only the best varieties of organic tomatoes are used and the menu is extensive, including a range of classic combinations alongside more unusual, vegetable-led creations such as zucca e funghi, made with creamed squash and sautéed king oyster mushrooms. For dessert, try to resist the homemade tiramisu.

7 Northumberland Avenue



JOIN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



London Heritage Quarter (Victoria, Victoria Westminster, Whitehall and The Northbank Business Improvement Districts) are currently looking for new members to join their Youth Leadership Council. This is a great opportunity for those who wish to learn more about the businesses across Westminster and have a say in the future projects that will shape their area.

The group will cover projects across our core themes CSR, Destination, Security, Placemaking and Operations.

The meetings will run quarterly at different venues across Westminster.

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- ✓ 16-24 Years Old
- ✓ Living, Studying or Working in Westminster

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Your local community needs you! London Heritage Quarter is on the hunt for new members to join its Youth Leadership Council. You'll be part of a team of like-minded young people between the ages of 16 and 24, discussing projects that will affect your local area, including big topics such as security, placemaking and

corporate social responsibility. You'll also have access to a host of opportunities including networking and CV development – not to mention free food at every meeting! To join, scan the QR code and fill in a short application describing what you'd hope to achieve with the Youth Leadership Council. Meetings will run quarterly at venues across Westminster.

The street with two names...

Believe it or not, King's Scholars' Passage has become a destination for sightseers and bloggers who love to spot grammatical errors in London street signs. The passage boasts not one but two signs, each with different apostrophe placements. The older sign is in fact correct: the passage was named after King's Scholars' Pond, where pupils at Westminster School used to swim. Fun fact: King's Scholars' Passage is also the only street sign in London to contain two apostrophes.





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terms and conditions.

London Victoria Station has undergone a £30 million renovation, including the creation of 33 new ticket gates, a spacious new thoroughfare and an expanded concourse area. With the new and improved station due to be unveiled this spring, we discover seven fun facts you might not have known about Victoria's travel hub...

BY ALICE CAIRNS



1. TWO STATIONS IN ONE

Victoria Station was originally two separate (but adjacent) stations run by two competing railway companies. The western station, designed by Robert Jacomb-Hood, opened in 1860, and the eastern station, designed by John Fowler, opened two years later. The stations were combined in 1923, when Southern Rail acquired both railway companies and opened up archways between the stations' dividing walls.

A historic hub

2. TIME FLIES

Little Ben, the miniature clock tower situated outside Victoria Station, was created so that travellers who had lost sight of Big Ben could still read the time as they rushed for their trains. It was unveiled in 1892 and was originally painted in three shades of green, although today it has been restored and re-erected in black, red and gold.

3. HEROIC JOURNEYS

During the First World War, Victoria Station was used by soldiers departing for the front line, as well as those returning home on furlough. The unknown soldier – the body of an unidentified serviceman who represents the British empire's unknown fallen soldiers – was brought to Victoria Station in 1920 en route to his final resting place at Westminster Abbey.

4. ROYAL SAVIOUR

In 1940 a German bomber crashed into Victoria Station after being brought down by Sergeant Ray Holmes. Buckingham Palace, where the royal family were in residence, had become a target for the Luftwaffe, and Holmes was widely celebrated for his heroism in ramming the bomber out of the sky before it could reach its probable target. Luckily there were no casualties at Victoria Station.

5. A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Victoria Station used to have its very own cinema, which opened in 1933 near to present-day platform 13 and which could seat up to 240 people. It showed a continuous programme of newsreels, short films and cartoons for travellers who were waiting at the station. Arrival and departure times were shown on a small illuminated board beside the big screen, and the cinema clock was kept running five minutes fast to ensure that no one missed their train. The cinema closed in 1981.

6. LITERARY LINKS

Victoria Station is mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes story *The Final Problem*, when Holmes boards a train to avoid Moriarty and his murderous henchmen. Arthur Conan Doyle was a regular guest at next-door hotel The Grosvenor, now The Clermont, which was built for railway travellers. The station also plays an important role in Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*: our hero reveals that in his infancy, he was discovered in a handbag in the cloakroom. He hastens to clarify that he was found in the more prosperous and upmarket of Victoria's two stations.

7. ILLUSTRIOUS GUESTS

Victoria Station is a favourite with royalty, receiving more visits from monarchs and heads of state than any other London station. During the funeral of King Edward VII, it saw the arrival of seven kings, more than 20 princes and five archdukes.

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Brace yourself for ghostly goings on in Victoria...

BY CORRIE BOND-FRENCH

Midnight. Not a sound from the pavement, but inside Andrew Lloyd Webber's study the sound of a neat-freak poltergeist sifting paperwork into tidy piles, to place in obscure rooms, may have carried into, ahem, the music of the night.

The composer and musical impresario clearly knows a thing or two about phantoms and has joked that he too is still haunted by memories of *Cats* (the movie). But he recently revealed that poltergeist activities at his Eaton Square home became a tad too troublesome.

So, who was he gonna call? Well, a local priest, and it seemed to do the trick; after the priest performed a blessing, the nocturnal re-organisation ceased. So far, so *Ghostbusters*, yet tales of the paranormal around Westminster's environs have long endured, the historic streets and buildings providing rich pickings for spectral visitations.

There are tales of haunted theatres, haunted pubs, monks on the Underground, a signal worker there being slapped in the face by a ghostly figure, his colleague witnessing him flinch in reaction but seeing no one there. There is the statue of Queen Anne that is said to move, sightings of a veiled woman, a murdered monk at Westminster Abbey, and countless echoes and visitations in flats and houses.

Some, of course, were rumbled. Back in 1874 a labourer named Grimmond was bound over to be of good behaviour for six months after impersonating a ghost in the churchyard of Christchurch, Broadway, now Christchurch Gardens, where he leapt out from behind gravestones in a white sheet and terrified Victorian ladies.

Haunting tales

After the First World War, interest in spiritualism and communicating with the other side soared, championed by the Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle. His beliefs took him on lengthy global lecture tours, and led to public fallings out with magicians including Harry Houdini and John Nevil Maskelyne, who were both committed to exposing the charlatans and fraudsters Sir Arthur wanted to believe in.

Determined to advance his cause, in February 1925 Sir Arthur opened his psychic bookshop, library and museum at Abbey House, 2 Victoria Street. Managed by his older daughter Mary, a contemporary advertisement noted: "This central depot for knowledge was established to meet the fact that psychic literature, the most important literature in the world, found hardly any place upon the shelves of the ordinary book seller." Spiritualist advice was offered free, and the telegram address was registered as "Ectoplasm, Sowest, London".

The shop only survived a short while after Sir Arthur's death in 1930. In his biography of his friend, the Rev John Lamond wrote: "It was a bold venture, and in later years caused the founder considerable anxiety." Sir Arthur had been paying the £750 annual rent from his own pocket.

It would be interesting to know what Sir Arthur made of the strange case of Mrs Milman's ghost, a story that attracted public interest in 1899. Mr Milman was a clerk in the House of Commons, and the family resided there. Many people saw Mrs Milman's double in and around the buildings, while she was not only still living and breathing, but also busy elsewhere. The second Mrs Milman never spoke or answered people, but her footsteps were heard.

The real Mrs Milman told the *London Evening Standard*: "It has been going for years. People are constantly telling me that they have seen me in places where I have certainly not been at the time they mention."

Asked whether she was nervous about having such a peculiar visitor, she laughed. "Not a bit. It doesn't make the least difference to me. I have got used to it. In fact, I have often tried to waylay the stranger, waiting for footsteps to come along!

"I have never seen my double myself, I have heard it. One night when I had just retired to my

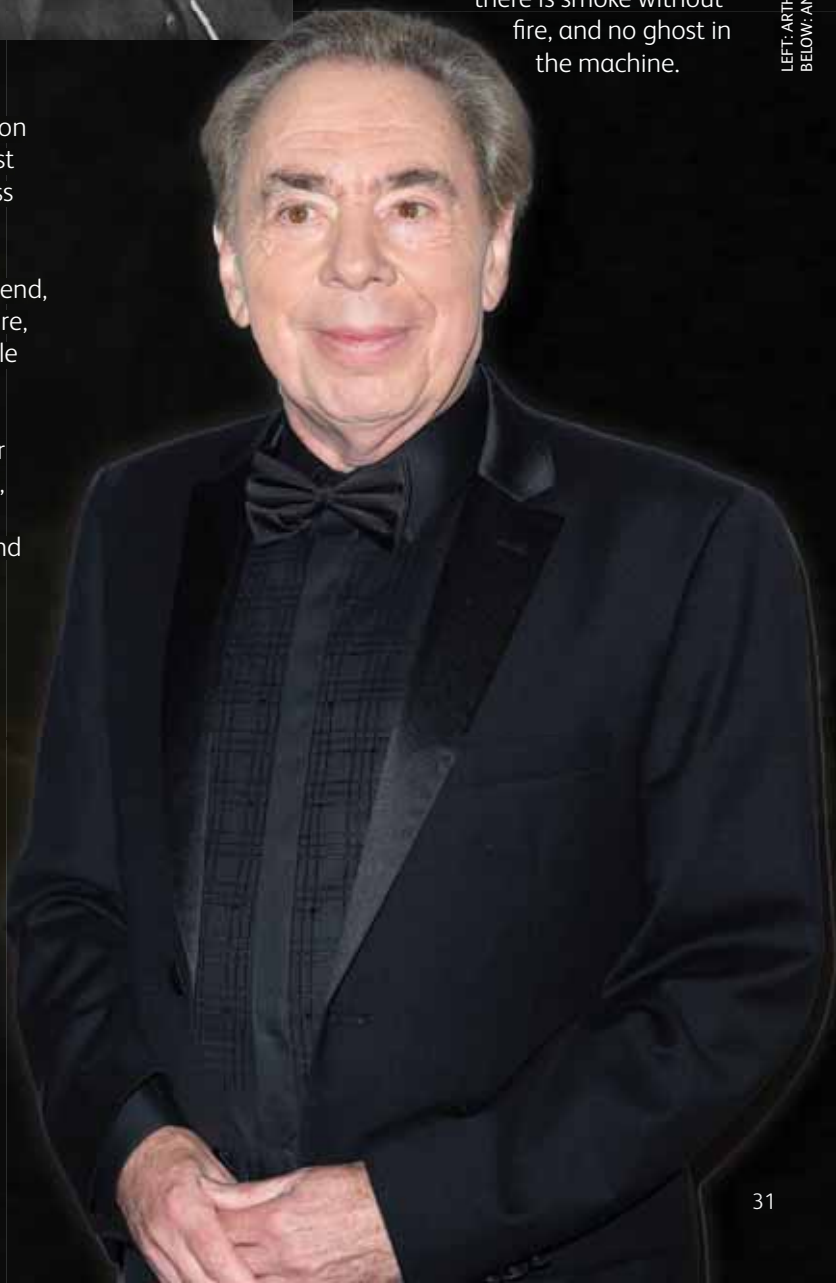


bedroom, I heard a noise outside the door. I went out and found all the doors on the landing open.

"One of my governesses some time ago left me simply because of meeting this strange sight so often. Only last Thursday a young lady who is staying in the house told me she had seen me somewhere where I had not been."

A similar tale of an MP seen looking ill in the house by colleagues before disappearing, when he was said to be gravely ill elsewhere, was reported in 1905. It eventually transpired that reported timings were confused. The Right Hon had in fact been in the chamber at that time and had simply left. Sometimes,

there is smoke without fire, and no ghost in the machine.



LEFT: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
BELOW: ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

A lifestyle destination that incorporates everything from luxury urban living equipped with its own leisure complex to offices, restaurants, beauty and wellness is blooming in Victoria

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS



Apple of our eye

Orchard Place at the Broadway, created by Northacre, is a unique ecosystem, designed to allow the community to flourish.

It gets its name as it sits on a former orchard, once part of the grounds of Westminster Abbey.

Amy Wardell, the head of marketing at Northacre, meets me on a rainy afternoon in Orchard Place at one of its most recent retail units, the coffee shop Nostos.

Nostos is just one example of what Northacre is hoping to achieve with the development, with a separate bar for special coffee extraction methods, from an origami dripper to a freeze-distilled flat white.

"It's not your standard coffee offering," Amy explains, "and I think they're going to start doing workshops in the evenings."

Although completion happened in August 2022, it has taken a while for retail offerings to open up; the north side of the street, however, is now complete with Nostos, Açai Berry, Farmer J and Adam Grooming Atelier.

Esat Kolege, the co-founder of Adam Grooming Atelier, says: "The location fits in perfectly with the area and is especially appealing to those who want more from a haircut than an in-and-out trim on their local high street.

"It's one of our largest spaces to date, with a lot of potential to add more value to the customer experience."

In terms of placemaking, last year Orchard Place put on Wimbledon screens, a coronation party and a Christmas market, and with the Olympics coming up this year, there will be sporting events including table tennis.

It recently ran a successful collaboration with the spin school Psycle, not charging but asking for donations that were given to local charities, including homelessness charity the Passage.

Amy adds: "We try to give back as much as we can. Homelessness is really quite rife in the area so it's good to support the charity."

"We always choose causes that are local to the area – we've also worked with Caxton Youth Organisation."

The remaining seven retail units have attracted much attention, from fitness offerings to restaurants, with a plan to be in place by the end of the year.

For now, the pop-up gallery space has been an extraordinary success.

"The artist Adam Ball, in our pop-up Shake Gallery, said it's one of the most successful galleries in terms of brand awareness," says Amy.

Art runs throughout the complex, with Nick Hornby's public art sculpture, *Power Over Others is Weakness Disguised as Strength*, taking centre stage on the walkway.

The large work is made of 165 pieces of corten steel. From one angle it is Richard the Lionheart, from another it's a squiggle and from another, a endoplasmic reticulum.



Up above, the first, second and third floors are offices, and with some 600 people in the space, Amy is happy about how much footfall and buzz it has brought.

"It's fascinating how many people walk down this street a day – two to three thousand a day," she says. "When we built and designed this site we wanted to encourage people to come through the street."

The residential arm starts with the diamond windows on the fourth floor, which are inspired by 1920s jewellery. Available to buy and rent, some of the properties, designed by Squire and Partners, feature 360-degree views of London.

The buildings are connected below with a huge spa, 25-metre pool, gym, games room, treatment room and a cinema room, which are all available for residents to use.

"The former site of New Scotland Yard used to be here. The monolith building was 19 storeys high, so we can only build to 19 storeys," explains Amy.

"We get loads of filming requests; the view corridors are protected so nothing can ever go up in front of them – a big driver for the people who buy."

"We've got nationalities from all over the world, we've got people that live locally – they live opposite and have watched the project come up."

Creating a sense of community is important. "We're trying to create a community – we still have a weekly run club on a Tuesday night operated by a company called One Track, with around 10 to 15 people," Amy says.

"We would like to build it as it's something we offer for free – you don't have to live or work in the building, you can live in the local area."

"We're really proud of what we've created. Of course it takes time, the street is still in its infancy really. It doesn't happen overnight and it's been hard work, but it's coming together slowly."



You've been in Victoria for 23 years...

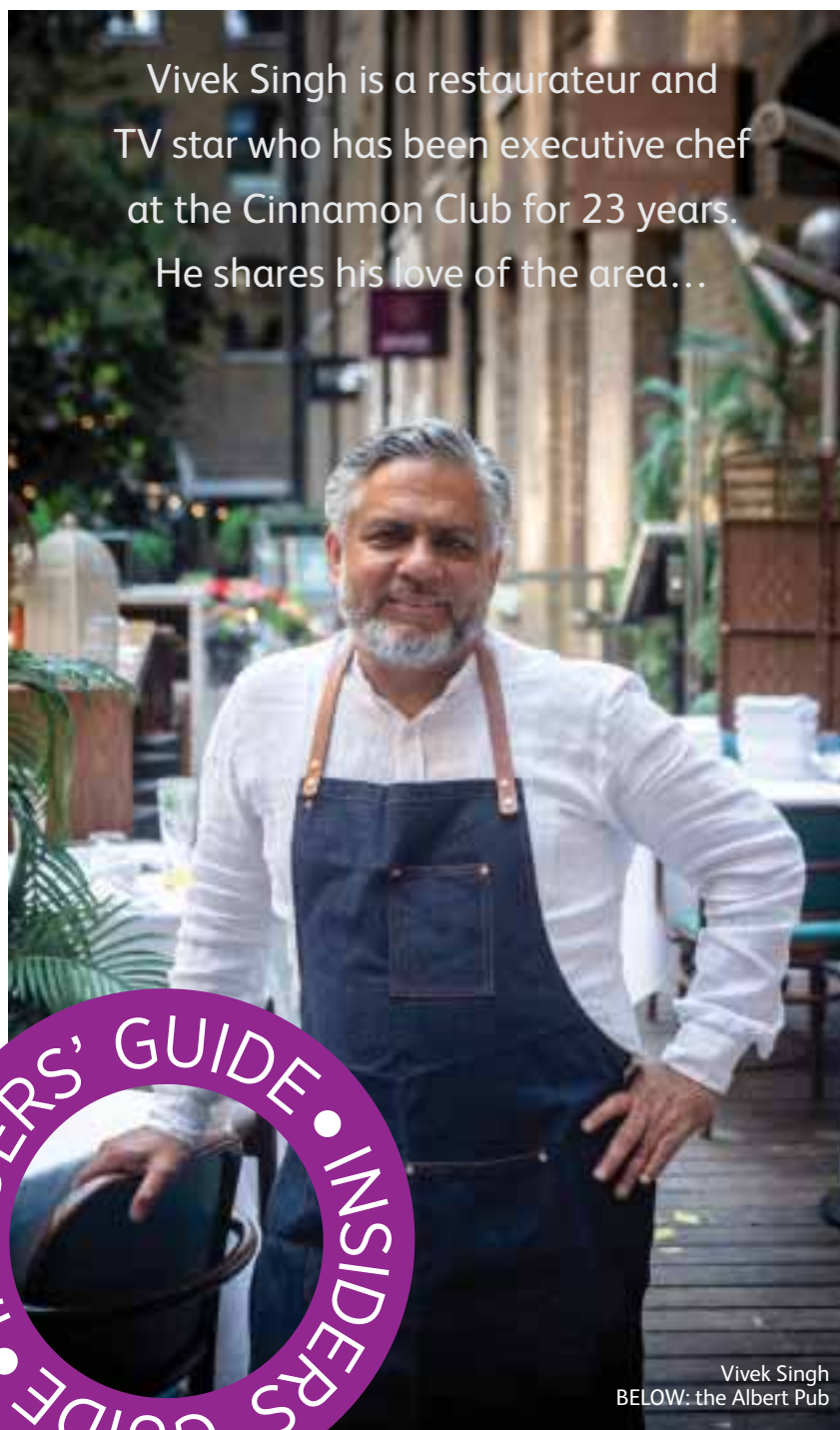
We opened in March of 2001, and we're still going strong! I remember that when we first opened, anyone who knew anything about restaurant commerciality and footfall and things like that said not to touch this area with a bargepole! But we saw the potential in this place – probably because we were total novices.

How has the area changed since you first opened?

It's a totally different area. In the past, this place was seen by many as a restaurant desert, where nothing survived. Now, with the development of the train station and the streets and shops, that has changed. It's a tremendously vibrant area, and we're lucky that we were able to survive long enough to see it thrive – and hopefully to become a kind of institution ourselves.

How do you account for your enduring success?

We love juxtaposition. You enter this quintessential English gentleman's club, located in an old library, and then you get served really surprising Indian food that you've never had anywhere else, which also has accents of game and hunting – so we're bringing together Indian cooking and British society culture. We're very ambitious about changing people's perceptions of Indian food, and it wouldn't have been possible to do that without this amazing location.



What do you love about Victoria?

What I really love is that this area is world-facing – probably more so than most Londoners realise. When people from anywhere in the world come to London, the landmarks they're coming to see are all in the Victoria area, even though they may not immediately realise that. I think it's the perfect fit for the Cinnamon Club, which is also

world-facing, and also a bit of a hidden gem.

What's your favourite place to spend time locally?

The Albert pub. I absolutely love it. I have very vivid memories of taking my team there every Sunday in the early days of the Cinnamon Club. I'm really pleased that despite all the exciting newness that occupies Victoria Street, the Albert still occupies a place of pride.

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