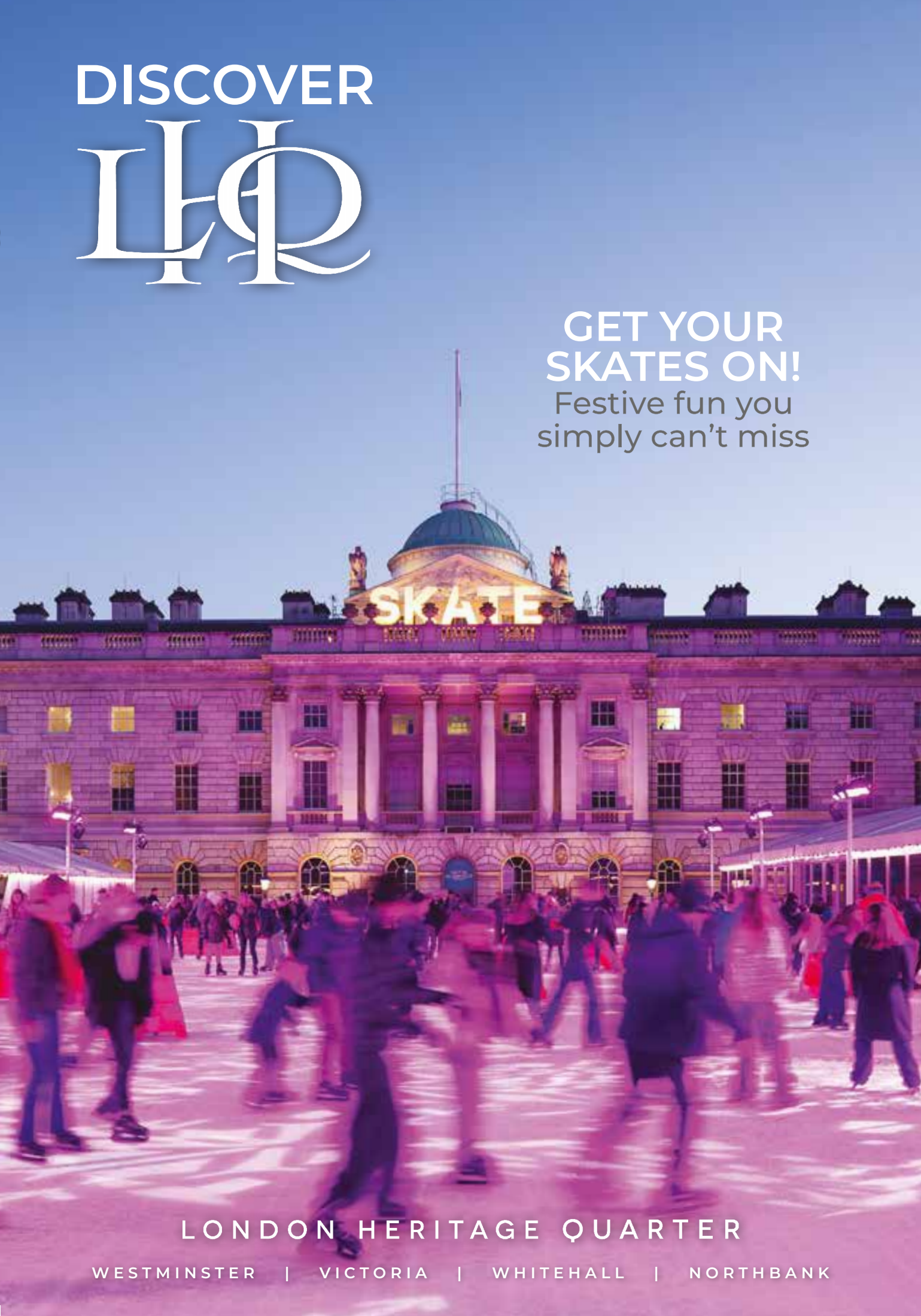
DISCOVER LHQ

GET YOUR SKATES ON!

Festive fun you simply can't miss



LONDON HERITAGE QUARTER

WESTMINSTER | VICTORIA | WHITEHALL | NORTHBANK



A FRENCH RIVIERA STATE OF MIND







LE CAFÉ LPM

AT THE LANESBOROUGH

DISCOVER LHQ magazine is produced on behalf of London Heritage Quarter by:

Publishing Business
3 Queen Street
Mayfair
London
W1J 5PA
020 7259 1053
www.pubbiz.com

Editor Alice Cairns
020 7259 1058
alice@pubbiz.com

Editor at large
Jonathan Whiley
020 7259 1057
jonathan@pubbiz.com

Writer Sophia Charalambous

Sub-editor Kate White

Designer Katie Stafford

Circulation manager
Julie Ward

Commercial manager
Katie Holcroft
katie.holcroft@pubbiz.com
020 7881 8094

Advertisement managers
Bridget Rodricks
bridget@pubbiz.com
020 7259 1059

Richard Taylor
richard@pubbiz.com
020 7259 1051

Publisher Adrian Day
day@pubbiz.com
020 7259 1053

Printed in the UK
© Publishing Business Ltd 2026
LONDON HERITAGE QUARTER
54 Wilton Road
London
SW1V 1DE
020 3872 7183
www.london-hq.co.uk

COVER:
Skate at Somerset House
IMAGE: ELLIOT POTTS

This product is made of material from well-managed FSC®-certified forests and from recycled materials.

All inks vegetable based. Our printers are certified to ISO 14001 Environmental Management.

FSC® www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C006518

This magazine is fully recyclable. When you have finished reading it please put it in your paper recycling bin.

Publishing Business is a member of the Professional Publishers' Association and observes the PPA Code of Publishing Practice.

PPA member

DISCOVER LHQ

4 News
The latest local happenings

6 News
Rules is gifted to the National Trust

8 History
Brunel's Old Duke Street home office

10 What's on
Things to do on your doorstep

14 What's on
Festive fun to add to your diary

16 Gift guide
Christmas presents and stocking fillers

20 Restoration
York Watergate is transformed

22 Food
All the city's culinary news

30 Health & wellness
Beauty resolutions to keep in 2027

34 Insider's guide
Matt Powder on Trafalgar Square





IMAGE: JOHAN PERSSON

WINTER







IMAGE: OWEN HARVEY

Season of giving

London Heritage Quarter will be partnering with St Vincent's Family Project for the festive season. For families struggling with fuel bills, Christmas can feel more like a challenge than a joy. The team at St Vincent's has put together a package of free, fun activities for Westminster families with children under 5, including pantomimes, concerts and a Santa's grotto. Make a donation today at *svfp.org.uk*. If you're looking for other ways to give back, you can also volunteer to deliver Christmas hampers in Westminster, in collaboration with London Heritage Quarter and the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, bringing some Christmas cheer to vulnerable residents. *london-hq.co.uk*





IMAGES: MICKEY LF LEE

Discover what's new in London Heritage Quarter

BY ALICE CAIRNS





IMAGES: MICKEY LF LEE

London's pride

London Heritage Quarter recently hosted Pride in the Quarter: a free sculpture trail of 17 colourful lions that formed a self-guided walking route. Each lion was beautifully designed by an artist, taking inspiration from the surrounding area – whether that's the geometric architecture of The Broadway, St Ermin's Hotel's history of espionage, or flowers and roots in Whitehall Gardens. Fittingly, Harry Redknapp and former Lioness Fara Williams unveiled Trafalgar Square's lion, which celebrated England's football victories. Twelve of the sculptures were then sold at auction, with money raised donated to The Passage and other charitable partners.



New developments

A £600m redevelopment of 10-20 Victoria Street has been given the green light by Westminster City Council. The two existing buildings will be combined into a new 12-storey office building, with retail and restaurant space at street level. The complex will be completed in sympathetic materials, such as natural limestone and green granite, with outdoor terraces, sweeping views and bike parking spaces.
meadowpartners.com



The show must go on

Are you 55+ and curious about acting? The Class Act programme at The Lyceum Theatre is a weekly acting course crammed with all kinds of theatre skills, including improvisation, character work and playwriting. No experience is needed – it's open to anyone over 55 who'd like to try something new or reignite an old passion.
21 Wellington Street

IT'S SHOWTIME!

There's a festive theatre experience to suit every taste this christmas...



IMAGE: © JOHAN PERSSON

BEST FOR... ADULTS ONLY
CINDERELLA: BUTTONS UNDONE
November 21 - January 9
A panto that's strictly for grownups, this retelling of *Cinderella* at a seaside resort is full of laugh-out-loud moments.
Charing Cross Theatre, The Arches, Villiers Street



IMAGE: © JOHAN PERSSON

BEST FOR... FESTIVE FAMILIES
THE SNOWMAN
November 21 - January 3
A brand-new production of the Christmas classic, using award-winning puppet design and choreography to bring the magic to life.
The Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street



BEST FOR... MUSICAL MAYHEM
A HOMO ALONE 2
Inspired by the sell-out success of *Homo Alone*, this all-singing, all-dancing sequel is a parody of everyone's favourite 1990s Christmas caper.
The Other Palace, 12 Palace Street

REIGN SUPREME

Rules, a storied royal haunt and London's oldest restaurant has been gifted to the National Trust

BY ALICE CAIRNS

IN 1798, Thomas Rule began selling oysters on Maiden Lane. Now, 228 years later, Rules has become London's oldest surviving restaurant, and has been donated to the National Trust by owner J-P Mayhew. The gift means that the building and its historical art and memorabilia collections will be protected for future generations, preserving a vital piece of the capital's cultural heritage.



J-P MAYHEW
IMAGE: NATIONAL TRUST / JAMES DOBSON

Hilary McGrady, director-general of the National Trust, notes: "This place is an outstanding piece of living history, with its corners where kings dined and writers and politicians plotted, and the traditions it kept alive through wars and upheaval. It has defied the odds to be standing here today, doors still open and treacle sponge still on the menu."

The restaurant has seen 45 prime ministers, two world wars and ten monarchs in its 228 years. King Edward VII had his own private dining room, which he would use for assignations



PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND CARICATURES ADORN THE RESTAURANT'S WALLS
IMAGES: NATIONAL TRUST / MEGAN TAYLOR



THE WINTER GARDEN

"The [National] Trust will protect this place in a way that no one else could, safeguarding its bricks and mortar, its famous interior and its invisible atmosphere too."



COCKTAIL BAR

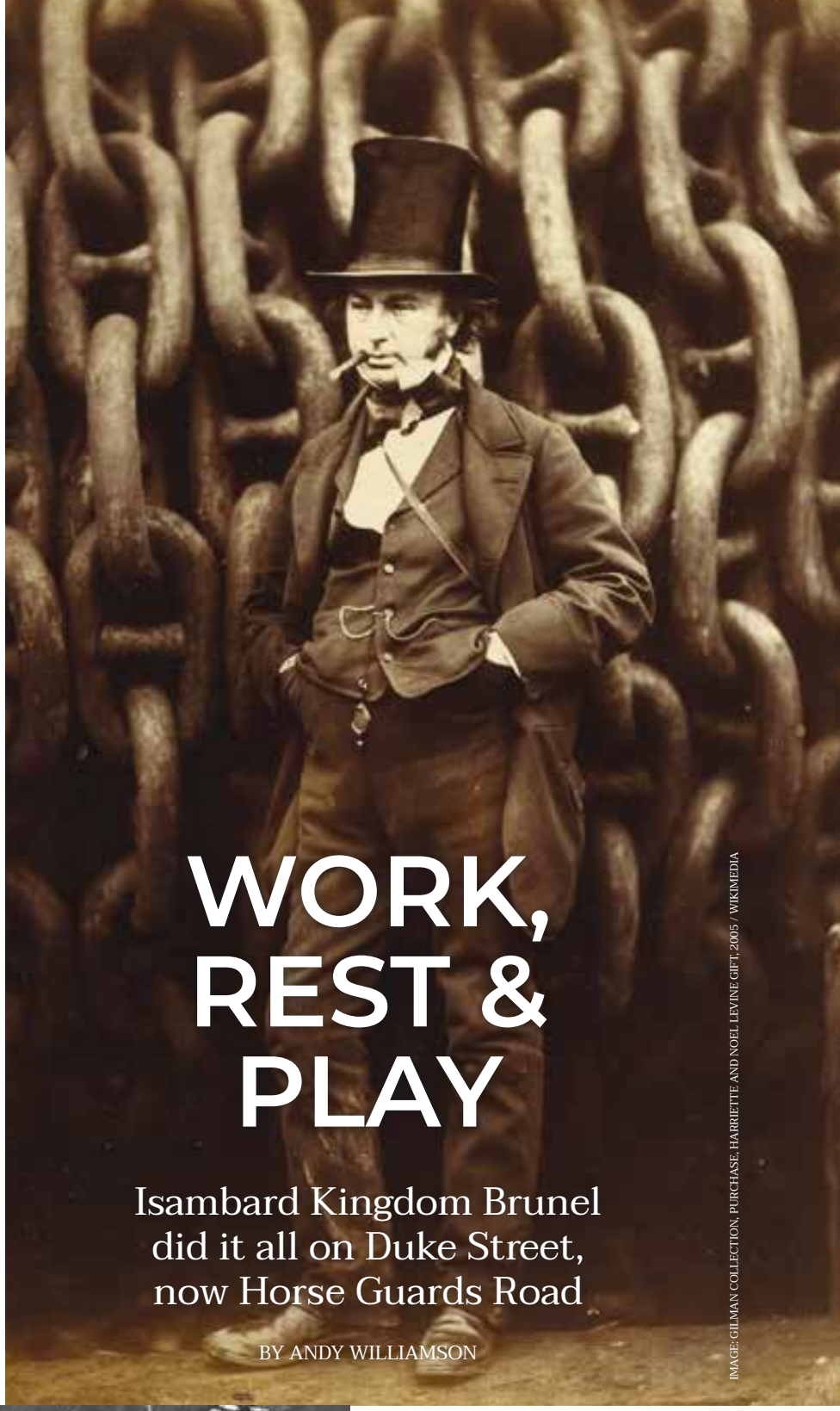
with his mistress, the actress Lillie Langtry. The restaurant managed to keep its doors open throughout the second world war, in spite of heavy rationing and the threat of the Blitz. Thankfully for Rules, wild-caught game wasn't rationed, so the chefs could serve up sumptuous delicacies, such as grouse, pheasant and rabbit, for a five-shilling fee.

Rules has always attracted a who's who of famous diners, from Charles Dickens and HG Wells to Laurence Olivier and Charlie Chaplin. Writer Graham Greene ate there every year on his birthday and memorialised it in *The End of the Affair*. Poet laureate John Betjeman was such a devotee of Rules that he successfully campaigned to save it when it was threatened with demolition by the Greater London Council. In more recent years, Rules has welcomed starry guests like Harrison Ford, David Bowie and Madonna.

J-P Mayhew elaborates: "When John Betjeman defended Rules from the GLC's plans to turn the Strand into a dual carriageway in 1971, he spoke not only of the paintings, sculptures, stained glass and red plush seats, but of its 'invisible atmosphere.'

"My gift to the National Trust is in answer to that appeal. The trust will protect this place in a way that no one else could, safeguarding its bricks and mortar, its famous interior and its invisible atmosphere too. I'm grateful to them for believing in this idea and for protecting this building and two centuries' worth of stories for people to enjoy forever."

34-35 Maiden Lane



WORK, REST & PLAY

Isambard Kingdom Brunel did it all on Duke Street, now Horse Guards Road

BY ANDY WILLIAMSON

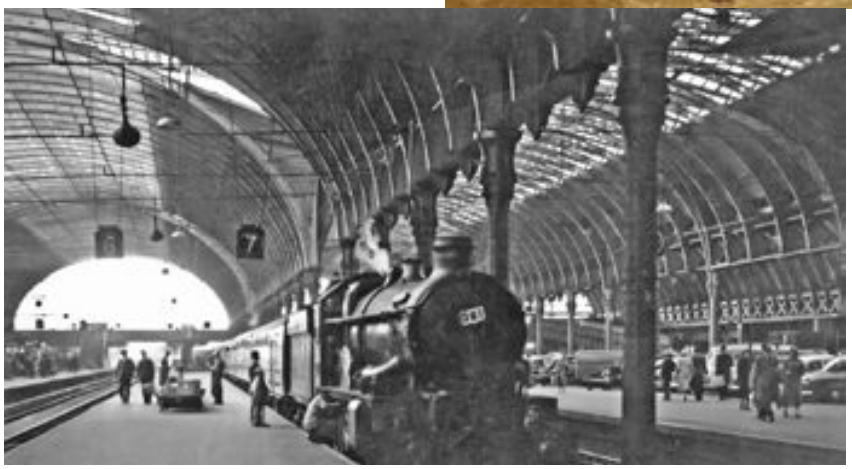
IMAGE: GILMAN COLLECTION, PURCHASE, HARRIETTE AND NOEL LEVINE GIFT, 2005 / WIKIMEDIA

NO COMMUTE, more time with the family and flexibility to tick off those daily chores: working from home has many advantages and has boomed since the Covid-19 lockdown. Technology has made connecting remotely to colleagues and the office possible. But 200 years ago there were no Teams calls. Instead the only way to work from home was to 'live above the shop.'

Throughout history, there are plenty of examples of high-profile individuals combining both aspects of their daily life in a single building: architect John Soane, shopkeeper John Sainsbury and, of course, the prime minister at 10 Downing Street.

However, when it came to combining hearth and headquarters, no one did it quite like Isambard Kingdom Brunel. This engineering titan – whose ground-breaking work included the Great Western Railway (GWR) and Paddington Station, ocean-going vessels, integrated infrastructure and monumental bridges and tunnels – lived and designed in Duke Street during his most prolific years. Here, for almost 25 years, Brunel would work, rest and play surrounded by his growing family, wide-ranging friendship group and industrious staff.

In 1835 Brunel bought 18 Duke Street, a house overlooking London's St James's Park that was strategically chosen for its proximity to the decision-makers of Whitehall – the site is now occupied by the Treasury and the Churchill War Rooms. The 29 year old's career was flying. He'd won the competition to build a bridge across the Avon Gorge in Bristol, been elected a Fellow of



PADDINGTON STATION
IMAGE: BEN BROOKSBANK / LOOKING OUTWARD AT PADDINGTON STATION / CC BY-SA 2.0/ WIKIMEDIA

the Royal Society and appointed chief engineer of the GWR.

Brunel was one of the greatest engineers in an age of great engineers and yet, realising he needed the support of others, he gathered in his Duke Street office a group of talented assistants, including clerks, draughtsmen and fellow engineers – about 30 people at its peak. But he wasn't an easy person to work for. Brunel was demanding and controlling in equal measures. He viewed his team as an extension of himself, there to carry out his orders and turn his ideas into reality.

Poor at delegation, he was a notorious workaholic who routinely clocked 18-hour days. He would often fall asleep on a couch in his Duke Street office, surrounded by plans, models and his trademark cigars. With Brunel the boundaries between business and family were always blurred.

He was known as a hard, unsympathetic taskmaster, demanding unquestioning obedience and liable to fire underlings for minor infringements. In 1841, he wrote to a former staff member's grandparents: 'I was compelled to dismiss him as his excessive idleness not only rendered him useless but infected others.'

William Gravatt, who surveyed the railway from Bristol to Exeter with skill and efficiency, then supervised its construction, fell foul of Brunel's mercurial temperament in an 1840 letter. 'It appears that you entertain views and opinions differing very much from my own on important engineering questions. That I should hear of it now for the first time and indirectly is extraordinary. Is this the conduct of a friend, of a gentleman, of a subordinate trusted and confided in by the man above him?'

Family came into firm focus on 5 July 1836 when Brunel married Mary Horsley. The couple had three children, all of whom were born at home. With his business and household expanding, Brunel bought 17 Duke Street in 1848 and renovated it to create one combined space. While the downstairs spaces were given over to Brunel's engineering concerns, the upstairs included family bedrooms, quarters for the domestic staff, a school room for the children and, in number 17, the dining room. To decorate this grand space, Brunel commissioned Shakespearean-themed paintings from prominent contemporary artists including Edwin Landseer, Clarkson Stanfield and Augustus Egg. Here he entertained clients, political allies and close friends, including the German composer Felix Mendelssohn.

While for the transport pioneer, work came first, he was also an affectionate and fun-loving father. He liked entertaining his children with magic tricks, although in 1843 one almost ended in disaster. He accidentally swallowed a half-sovereign and it became trapped in his bronchus. Doctors were unable to retrieve it or prevent his violent coughing fits. Brunel therefore designed his own centrifugal-force board. When he was strapped in and spun around, it dislodged the coin.

Brunel's home office was the scene of many of his greatest triumphs, including mapping out the GWR, breaking new ground with the SS *Great Britain*, designing pre-fabricated modular military hospitals for the Crimean War and doing the calculations for the Royal Albert Bridge. But overwork and smoking caught up with him and, following a severe stroke, he died in his Duke Street home on 15 September 1859 at the age of 53. Brunel may have been ahead of the curve in working from home, but his 18-hour days suggest he had a lot to learn about work-life balance.



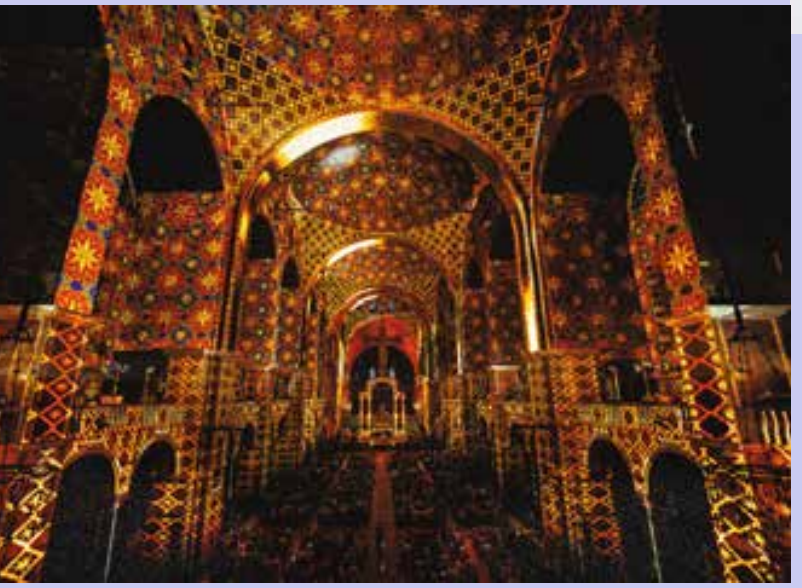
CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE, BRISTOL
IMAGE: NIC TROTT/ WIKIMEDIA

"He was known as a hard, unsympathetic taskmaster, demanding unquestioning obedience and liable to fire underlings for minor infringements"

Merry and bright

Luminiscence is extending its stay in London until the start of the new year. This immersive experience uses 360-degree video projectors to flood the cavernous interior of Westminster Cathedral with sound, colour and light, combined with a voiceover by actor Hugh Bonneville. The show will have a festive twist for the remainder of its run, with Christmas music and swirling seasonal scenes to get you into the holiday spirit. And what's more, every Saturday, the immersive experience is accompanied by a 14-piece orchestra and live choir.

Until January 2





A day on the tiles

Looking for a fun new hobby? Join the Canton Blue tea lounge's weekly Mahjong Mondays club, where you'll play using bespoke mahjong sets made using recycled wood with jade-green tiles. Mahjong is a wildly popular game of strategy that originated in China during the 19th century, played in groups of two to four. Running from 12pm to 9pm, each session costs £30, including a bowl of hand-pulled noodles and an apricot gin martini. If you'd like to brush up on your skills, you can even engage a private mahjong tutor for £100 per person.

Every Monday, Canton Blue at The Peninsula, 1 Grosvenor Place

Whether you want to delve into art history or brush up on your game play, there's something for everyone this winter...

BY ALICE CAIRNS



VANESSA BELL, *INTERIOR WITH THE ARTIST'S DAUGHTER*, 1935-36
IMAGE: 2026 ESTATE OF VANESSA BELL



DUNCAN GRANT, *SELF-PORTRAIT*, 1920
IMAGE: ESTATE OF DUNCAN GRANT

Creative couple

Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant were core members of the Bloomsbury Group, that famous collective of creatives, bohemians and free-thinkers who gathered in London during the 1930s. The Inside Bloomsbury exhibition explores the pair's enduring relationship and art, from their complicated open marriage to a flourishing creative partnership which lasted until their deaths.

Until April 11, Tate Britain, Millbank


Please Scan
The QR Code
BEYOND EXPECTATIONS
BEYOND WORDS
Awarded One Michelin Key, D Maris Bay is set on the Datça Peninsula, where the Aegean meets the Mediterranean. Exceptional gastronomy, effortless sophistication and the beauty of crystal-clear waters come together in a destination defined by nature and moments beyond words.
dmarisbay
D MARIS BAY
dmarisbay.com



MII DÁHPÁHUVVA DÁPPE, 2026
IMAGE: JEAN-BAPTISTE BÉRANGER © 2026 ACCELERATOR, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

New perspectives

Through Our Eyes is a group exhibition celebrating the work of the Sámi, Europe's only recognised indigenous people. The Sámi's traditional land spans parts of Russia, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and their way of life relies on reindeer herding – a practice which is now under threat. The work on show here explores heavy subjects, like environmental destruction, indigenous rights and colonialism, but does so with a lot of humour, creativity and hope.

Until February 7, Somerset House, The Strand



Lord knows

Former MP Michael Heseltine will deliver a lecture on the state of British politics today and his vision of hope for the country's long-term future. A staunch pro-European who served under three prime ministers, including the Iron Lady herself, Lord Heseltine's insights are bound to be worth hearing.

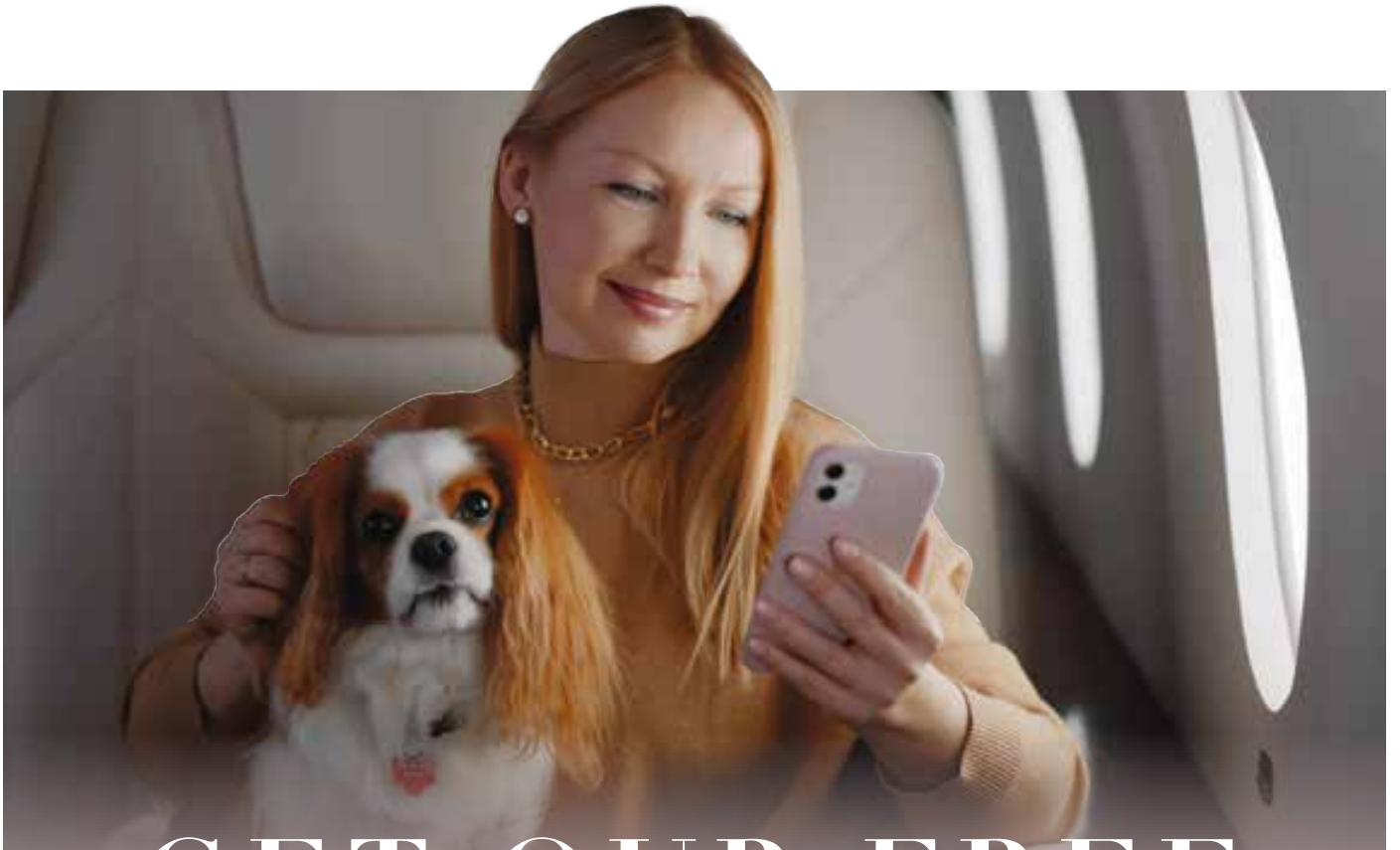
November 23, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square



Jingle all the way

Bam Karaoke's Naughty or Nice Nutcracker brunch package comes complete with drag queens, live DJs and a soundtrack of your favourite Christmas songs. Enjoy bottomless potato tots and plenty of prosecco, before finishing up with two hours of private karaoke for you and your friends.

November 21, 74 Victoria Street



GET OUR FREE NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN THE WEST END

From Chelsea to Fitzrovia, Belgravia to Soho, Knightsbridge to St James's.

We've got it covered.

Sign up here:
eepurl.com/gtkJbz

Follow us on Instagram
@Mayfair.Times


mayfair times

Bringing the best of London together

Lifetime achievement
Gavin Rankin, the owner of Bellamy's, has spent 40 years in the hospitality business, starting his career with Caviar Kaspia before moving on to Annabel's, where he spent 11 years as managing director. Always impeccably dressed, he has been running Bellamy's, one of Mayfair's most-loved restaurants, for over 20 years. Read more

Mayfair crowned top super-prime market in 2025
Mayfair saw the highest proportion of £5 million-plus sales in 2025, according to newly released data from Savills. Narrowly beating Chelsea and Kensington with 12 per cent of sales in the segment it is the first time that Mayfair has outperformed other London neighbourhoods since Savills records began. Read more


mayfair times

Bringing the best of London together

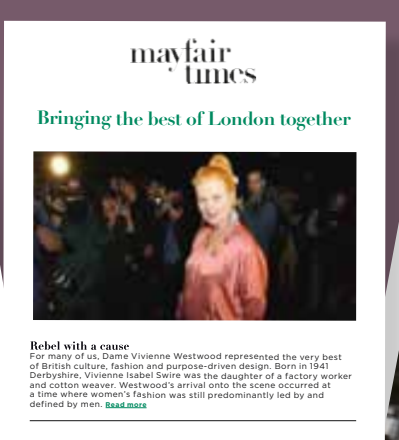
Philanthropy
Patricia Caring is busy. She has four children with husband Richard Caring, chairman of Caprice Holdings (Sexy Fish, The Ivy, Scott's) and The Birley Group (Annabel's, Mark's Club, Harry's Bar). At Annabel's alone this year there will be a five-month chef residency with Nishi master Endo Kazutoshi and events for lunar new year. Read more

The West End
Golden Globe winner and Oscar-nominated Rosamund Pike reprises her critically acclaimed role as Jessica Parks in a gripping legal drama written by Australian playwright Suzie Miller. It will transfer to the West End this spring following a sold-out run at the National Theatre and takes a searing look at motherhood and modern masculinity... Read more


mayfair times

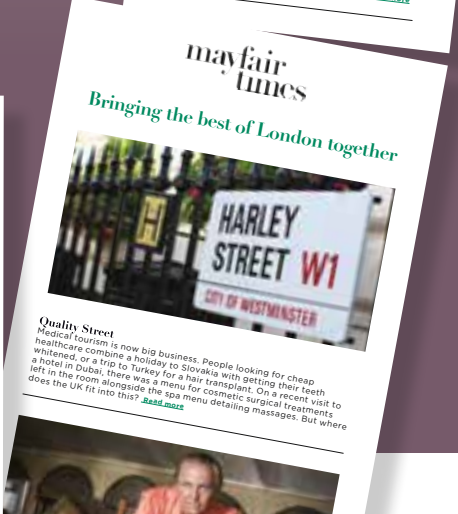
Bringing the best of London together

Man of mystery
When the demolition ball took to a row of houses in Pimlico in the 1960s to make way for new school buildings, number 26 St George's Square crumpled into dust. A fitting ending, perhaps, to the house where Bram Stoker, author of Dracula, had breathed his last. Read more


mayfair times

Bringing the best of London together

Rebel with a cause
For many of us, Dame Vivienne Westwood represented the very best of British culture, fashion and purpose-driven design. Born in 1941 Derbyshire, Vivienne Isabel Swire was the daughter of a factory worker and cotton weaver. Westwood's arrival onto the scene occurred at a time where women's fashion was still predominantly led by and defined by men. Read more


mayfair times

Bringing the best of London together

Quality Street
Medical tourism is now big business. People looking for cheap healthcare combine a holiday to Slovakia with getting their teeth whitened, or a trip to Turkey for a hair transplant. On a recent visit to a hotel in Dubai, there was a menu for cosmetic surgical treatments left in the room alongside the spa menu detailing massages. But where does the UK fit into this? Read more



IMAGE: MICKEY LF LEE

A touch of magic

Don't miss the beautiful Christmas lights on the Strand and Villiers Street, with illuminated fairies flying through the air and leaving glowing trails behind them. The lights pay homage to Sir Joseph Swan, who created the first-ever fairy lights in 1882 for the Savoy Theatre's production of *Iolanthe*. The display is made up of more than 96,000 LEDs, which have been chosen due to their low-energy consumption, paired with recycled aluminium frames to create a sustainable Christmas display.

Fill your diary with festive events this Christmas season

BY ALICE CAIRNS



IMAGE: MICKEY LF LEE

Dancing on ice

Go ice skating in the 18th century courtyard of Somerset House, where you'll find a twinkling 40ft Christmas tree, festive food and drink and plenty of seasonal shopping. On November 23, you can skate along to a K-Pop Party featuring tracks from Blackpink and BTS, and on selected dates from November 12 onwards, you can visit the rink after 8pm to enjoy an Aperol spritz and a line-up of contemporary DJs. Wheelchair users are welcome to skate at Somerset House, and are entitled to a free companion ticket.

From November 11, Somerset House, The Strand

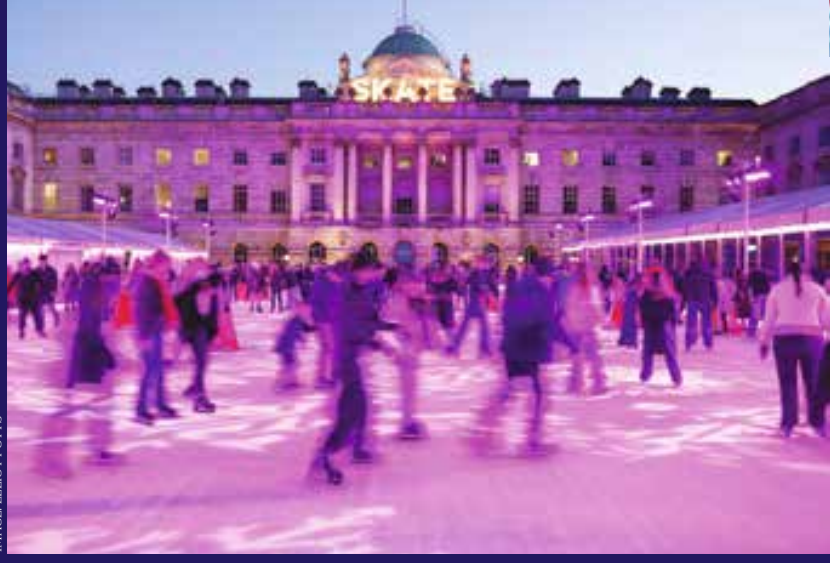


IMAGE: ELLIOT POTTS

The countdown begins...

The London Heritage Quarter website will host an online advent calendar from December 1-24. Every day you'll have the opportunity to enter an exciting prize draw, with lucky winners receiving prizes like two tickets to *Hamilton*, a tasting menu for two at Conrad London St James, afternoon tea at The Rubens at The Palace, and a £100 voucher for Brother Marcus. Don't miss out!

London-hq.co.uk

Branching out

Visit Victoria Station to see a spectacular 20ft Christmas tree in collaboration with Hornby®. Around the base of the tree you'll find miniature models of local landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and Big Ben, as well as a Hornby® model train running on a track. You'll also find beautiful Christmas trees in Westminster Cathedral Piazza, Whitehall Tower Gardens and Christchurch Gardens, with a switching-on ceremony hosted by London Heritage Quarter and Westminster City Council, featuring carols from local school children, mince pies and hot chocolate on November 25, from 3.30-5pm. In Trafalgar Square, the magnificent spruce tree will be supplied by the city of Oslo, a continued gesture of gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during the second world war.



IMAGE: JEFF OLIVER

Check the stalls

Where better to seek out stocking fillers and artisan presents than at a wintry Christmas market? From November 6 - January 3, you can buy hand-crafted gifts and festive snacks from charming wooden chalets on Trafalgar Square, while on December 10 from 11am to 8pm you can visit a pop-up Christmas market on The Strand. And on December 5, RSA House will host a festive event with live music, creative workshops, house tours and plenty of one-of-a-kind gifts for sale from independent craftspeople.
RSA House, 8 John Adam Street



Scout's out and about

Everyone's favourite Scout Elf is staging a London takeover this Christmas. The Elf on the Shelf® festive trail is made up of 12 playful sculptures of Santa's famous Scout Elves positioned across London Heritage Quarter, in locations such as Victoria Station, St James's Park and Nova Place. Follow the trail to discover every elf, using the QR codes to help you find out more.
Take part from November 16 - December 29. For more information, visit london-hq.co.uk

LUMISTELLA, SANTAVERSE and all associated brands, characters, concepts, designs are ®/TM/© 2026 CCA and B, LLC d/b/a The Lumistella Company in the US and other countries. All Rights Reserved.



ACCESSORIZE
Prepare for party season with these glittering espresso martini drop earrings.
£10, 92 Victoria Street and 443 Strand



LUSH
Soak up the festive spirit with this Grinch bath bomb, scented with sour apple.
£7, Victoria Station



PRESENT AND CORRECT

Your christmas shopping, sorted

BY ALICE CAIRNS

OLIVER BONAS
Fluffy mittens in trendy leopard print are perfect for wintery walks.
£29.50, Victoria Station

VUORI
A classic cap in a seasonal deep-cherry shade.
£35, 25 Long Acre



SUPER STOCKING FILLERS
THOUGHTFUL GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK



THE ROYAL MEWS CHRISTMAS SHOP
A smart pair of milk- and white-chocolate Buckingham Palace guards, housed in a beautifully illustrated box.
£12, 7 Buckingham Palace Road



TWININGS
Discerning tea lovers will appreciate this tiny teabag tin, small enough to slip into a handbag or pocket.
£3.79, 216 Strand



FESTIVE FASHIONISTAS GIFTS WITH SERIOUS STYLE AND FLAIR



GANNI
Sashay through the city's puddles in these rather glamorous Hunter wellies.
£210, 15 Floral Street



REISS
A super-soft wool-blend ribbed scarf in a versatile taupe.
£78, 3 Cathedral Walk



REFORMATION
A deep-blue velvet bag created in collaboration with Alexa Chung
£298, 27-28 King Street



ZARA
Who said socks should be plain? This limited-edition, sequin-trimmed pair will make a real statement with some simple heels
£25.99, 82 Victoria Street



NEW LOOK
Ballet pumps are back! This pair will add a splash of colour to any outfit.
£23.99, Victoria Place shopping centre



SWEATY BETTY
This soft sherpa jacket in a rich red-wine shade will keep you feeling toasty.
£250, 90 Victoria Street



RAIL HOUSE CAFE
Treat a loved one to a lavish brunch with this gift card. Don't miss the green-tea waffles and the famed 'burgerdict', a cross between a burger and eggs Benedict.
From £29, 8 Sir Simon Milton Square

GOURMET GIFTS FOR THE FOODIE WHO'S TRIED EVERYTHING



THE SAVOY
Learn how to make the hotel's iconic cocktail menu, with recipes from renowned bartenders like Ada Coleman and Harry Craddock.
£17, Strand

FROG BY ADAM HANDLING
Treat your favourite gourmand to Ahrelia Caviar, served with a caviar key and elegant mother-of-pearl spoon.
From £34.57, 34-35 Southampton Street





VAGABOND
Made at Vagabond's urban winery, the crisp, dry English Ortega wine has notes of white blossom and stone fruits.
£25, 77 Buckingham Palace Road



SCANDIKITCHEN
Sample Nordic baked goods this Christmas – these festive crispbreads are perfect accompaniments for pickled herring or cheese.
£6.99, 42 Buckingham Palace Road



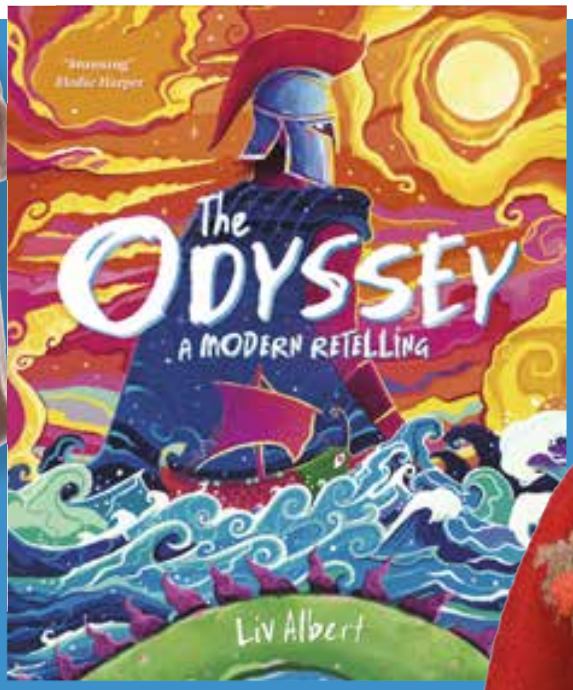
REDEMPTION ROASTERS
With the Roasters Roulette coffee subscription, you'll receive a mystery bag of seasonal single-origin coffee beans every one, two or four weeks.
From £11.61 per delivery, Victoria Station



STOCKING FILLERS
PERFECT PRESENTS FOR KIDS



HOTEL CHOCOLAT
A sweet little penguin made from creamy 40% milk chocolate.
£9.95, Victoria Station



WATERSTONES
Liv Albert's beautifully illustrated modern retelling of *The Odyssey* is designed to introduce young readers to the world of Ancient Greece.
£18.99, 88 Victoria Street and The Grand Building Trafalgar Square



M&S
Could it get any cuter than this miniature festive robin jumper?
£14-16, Cardinal Place



THE MOOMIN SHOP
Accessorise school bags or jackets with this iron-on moomin patch.
£6.99, 43 Covent Garden Market



BIRKENSTOCK
Bostons have become a must-have shoe for adults - but what about kids? This miniature version of the classic is designed for children's feet.
£70, 48 Neal Street

JELLYCAT
This cuddly moose makes for a lovely Christmas companion.
£45, available from Scribbler, 11 Long Acre

GATEWAY TO THE PAST

The historic 400-year old York Watergate has undergone a transformation

BY ALICE CAIRNS

TUCKED AWAY in Embankment Gardens is a mystery - a 400-year-old decorative stone gate, intended for boats, that's marooned on dry land.

Before the construction of the embankment in the 1860s, this gate would have been used for river access to York House, one of eleven palatial residences owned by the Duke of Buckingham. With the creation of the Victoria Embankment, the river was moved more than 100 metres away, leaving the York Watergate stranded.

To celebrate its 400th anniversary, the Heritage of London Trust, together with Westminster City Council and London Heritage Quarter, embarked on an ambitious restoration project to return York Watergate to its former glory. Dr Nicola Stacey, (*below*), director of the Heritage of London Trust, tells us more...



IMAGE: HERITAGE OF LONDON

Why is York Watergate so important?

It's a window into the lost world of grand palaces that once lined the north bank of the Strand. Known as 'The Golden Mile', there were once eleven magnificent houses along here, belonging to the country's noble families. The grandeur and Italianate design of the Watergate, as a sort of triumphal arch, reflects George Villiers's [the Duke of Buckingham, who commissioned the gate] political and social ambitions. Visitors arriving by boat from the Thames and alighting at its stone steps would be no doubt of his power, wealth and status.

The Watergate is one of the earliest surviving classically inspired structures in England, a fantastic example of a monumental central archway flanked symmetrically by two smaller arched openings, similar to the Arch of Constantine in Rome. Rusticated columns became very fashionable in the 17th century. As well as conveying strength and drama, the type of rustication here imitates the texture of coral, so were perfect for its riverside setting.

The Watergate is also an important marker of one of the most significant public projects in the history of London, the embankment of the Thames between 1864 and 1870. It now stands marooned 130 metres from the water, but is a reminder of the breadth of the Thames before its embankment and also its use as the artery of London. Travelling by boat was the most practical, and pleasant, way of moving across London before the 19th century. It reminds us too that before the 18th century there was only one road bridge across the Thames, Old London Bridge. The Thames was bustling with activity.





Finally, the Watergate is a symbol of heritage protection. It was the first historic site restored by the London County Council for its public significance alone which is why it became our logo when Heritage of London Trust was founded in 1980. We're especially pleased to be able to restore it.



What kind of restoration did it require?

The Watergate was last restored in the 1960s, in some ways well with new carved stone to replace where it was badly decayed, but as so often in the 1960s, cement mortar was used instead of lime mortar, which is very damaging. Much of the Portland stone was in a very fragile state as a result. Also acidic London soot had collected in all its grooves which breaks down stone over time – that needed to be removed. Some of the Watergate is damaged and eroded but we haven't replaced it as it's still historic material. For example, we've restored the coat of arms and the Villiers motto but have just conserved the lions, which still read as lions, even though their faces are eroded. In 50 years' time we may need some new lions. Overall, the conservators from the London Stone Conservation did an excellent job.

Why is it so important to preserve monuments and historic sites like York Watergate?

The Watergate, marooned in a park, is an intriguing puzzle and in many ways a gateway to London's past. So many passers-by are curious about it, but as often with London's historic sites, haven't access to its history. Part of this project will be new information boards. We also run a youth engagement programme called Proud Places, bringing 224 young people - and counting - to visit the stonemasons at work, giving a chance to ask questions and get behind-the-scenes. Since 2020 we've worked with over 13,000 children across London through the programme. It's a key part of what we do as a charity, and this site has been hugely popular.

What should we look out for?

The overall brightness and clarity of the monument has been improved massively - it's a highlight of the park. Take a moment to look at the beautiful details in the coat of arms which were previously difficult to see, the lions, the anchors, the scallop shell and the Latin frieze. It's so easy to walk through London without noticing the incredible craftsmanship of many of its buildings. We hope people stop and look properly.

heritageoflondon.org





IMAGE: JUSTIN DE SOUZA

A Wonky-worthy experience

The Adam Handling chocolate shop in Covent Garden now offers masterclasses. Whether you want to create your own truffles, hand paint your own bonbons or invent a bespoke chocolate bar, these classes would make a great gift for a sweet-toothed foodie. We particularly like the sound of the Lunch & Lesson package (£400), which combines an immersive day of chocolate tasting and making with a Michelin-starred lunch at Frog by Adam Handling.
17 Maiden Lane

CITY BITES

From bubble tea to Michelin-starred menus, here's all of the latest foodie news

BY ALICE CAIRNS



Freshly baked

Visit newly opened spot Heidi Bakery for handmade pastries and fresh coffee. We urge you to try the hazelnut meringue cruffin: laminated croissant dough that's shaped like a muffin, filled with rich ganache and praline, and topped with toasted meringue. You'll understand why it won the coveted 3-star Great Taste award!
Unit 18, Main Concourse, Victoria Station



Mind the stack

The London Transport Museum's cafe now offers The Pancake Line, a new pancake menu created in collaboration with Benugo. Options include the Piccadilly mess – golden syrup pancakes served with crushed meringues and blueberry compote – and the Brunel brownie stack, topped with rich chocolate sauce and fudgy brownie bites.
39 Wellington Street, Covent Garden

Eat & drink Directory out & in


IMAGE: LIZ ISLES PHOTOGRAPHY

CHURCH HOUSE CAFÉ
Westminster's New Favourite Meeting Place
From expertly crafted barista coffee and freshly baked pastries to seasonal breakfasts, vibrant salads, sandwiches, including signature toasties,and delicious home bakes, Church House Café is the perfect place to pause in Westminster.
New: now available for exclusive evening private hire, the café offers a light, stylish setting for networking events, team celebrations and informal drinks for up to 50 guests, with curated food, wines and exceptional service.
Download the LHQ Hub app and receive 10% off your café bill.
Open Monday to Friday from 8am.
Enquire about private hire online
https://churchhouseconf.co.uk/

CHRISTMAS AT CELLARIUM CAFÉ & TERRACE, WESTMINSTER ABBEY
Celebrate the festive season in the historic surroundings of Westminster Abbey's medieval undercroft. Enjoy a festive lunch from £33 per person or indulge in a Festive Afternoon Tea from £42 per person, featuring seasonal sweet and savoury treats. Perfect for festive gatherings with friends, family, and colleagues. Available throughout November and December. Book your table today.
Cellarium Café and Terrace at Westminster Abbey
Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey,
London,
SW1P 3PA
www.cellariumcafe.com


IMAGE: TIMOFEI ZHBANOV / TIMMYFOODUK



LAO CAFÉ
Lao Café brings the bold, punchy flavours of Laos to the heart of London. Think fiery papaya salad, smoky chargrilled meats and sticky rice, or fragrant curries with fresh herbs and punchy sauces. All served to be shared.
Whether you're stopping by for a flavour-packed lunch or settling in for a relaxed pre-theatre dinner, expect authentic Lao cooking with plenty of character.
60 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4HG
020 3740 4748
laocafe.co.uk/

ROKA ALDWYCH
Located in the heart of London's vibrant theatre district, ROKA Aldwych brings contemporary Japanese robatayaki dining to the capital's cultural hub. At the heart of ROKA is the signature robata grill, where the finest ingredients are expertly prepared over open flames. Discover a selection of contemporary Japanese dishes, from signature robata creations to fresh sushi and sashimi, complemented by innovative cocktails and a carefully curated selection of sake. Whether joining for a business lunch, pre-theatre dining or an evening with friends, ROKA Aldwych offers a lively yet sophisticated atmosphere, perfect for any occasion.
71 Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN
www.rokarestaurant.com
+44 20 7294 7636


IMAGE: RUSNE DRAZ



All tea, no shake

Chinese brand The Whale Tea, which specialises in creative and colourful bubble teas, has now opened a store in Victoria. Each delicious bubble tea is free from preservatives or chemical ingredients – sample the brown-sugar boba topped with avocado cream, or the sour plum juice with golden jelly pieces.
7 Victoria Buildings, Terminus Place



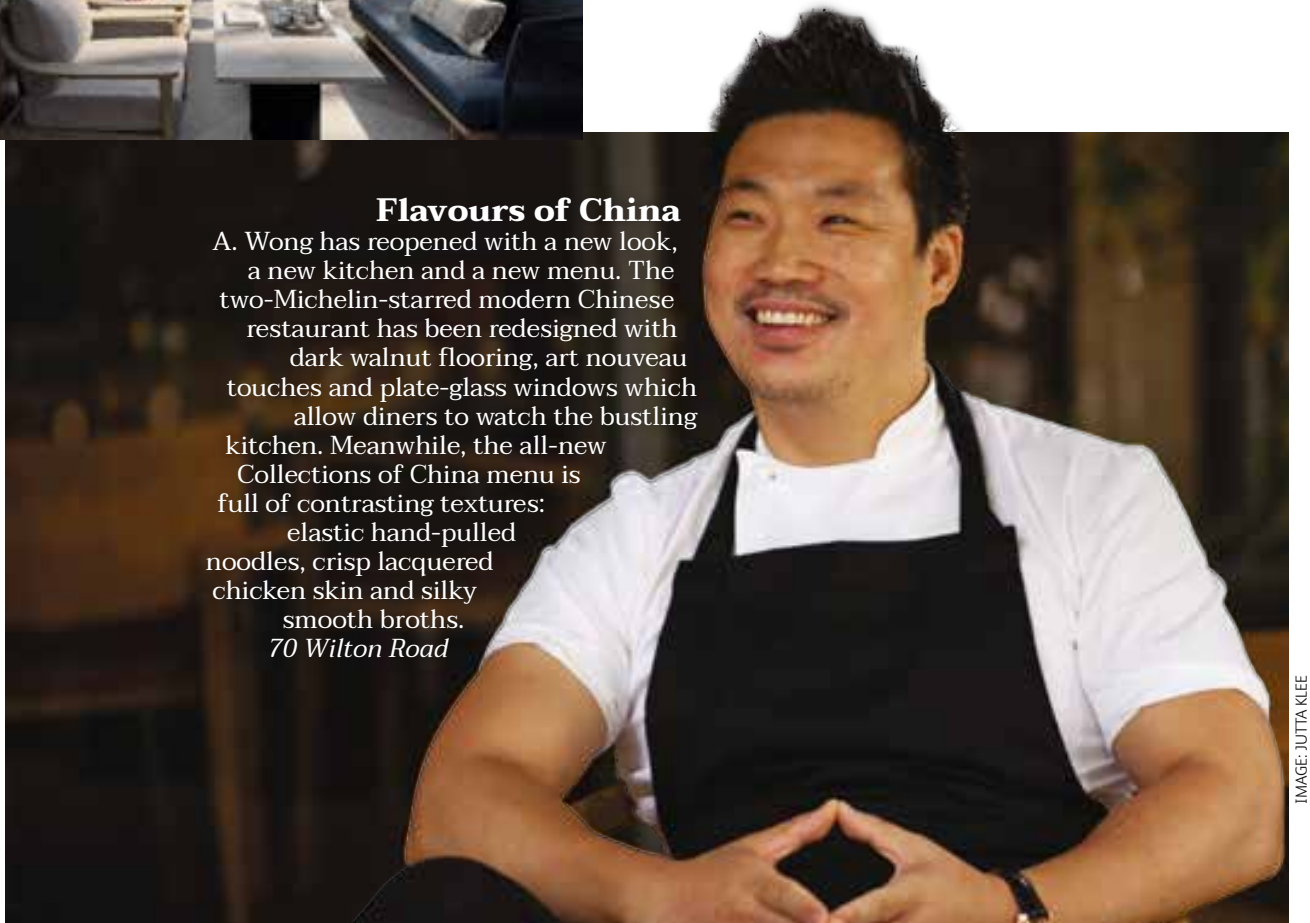
Vino with vibes

The Savoy has opened the Beaufort Wine Bar, a new destination for exceptional wine and live music. Here you can sample some of the 250 wines from 18 countries which are held in the Savoy's cellar, including rare and vintage bottles, as well as a selection of grape-based spirits and wine cocktails. For food, there's a tableside carving experience featuring artisan cured meats and jamón ibérico, as well as a curated selection of British cheeses.
The Savoy, The Strand



Fresh faced

St James's Court, a Taj Hotel, has completed its comprehensive, multi-year refurbishment project, including the creation of a cool new cocktail venue: 1987 - The Bar. It boasts its own margarita trolley, as well as house cocktails like the Rainforest Ablaze, made from white rum and kumquats. You can also explore the intimate new whisky and cigar lounges, the gleaming pale-stone lobby, and the new glassed terrace overlooking the courtyard.
54 Buckingham Gate



Flavours of China

A. Wong has reopened with a new look, a new kitchen and a new menu. The two-Michelin-starred modern Chinese restaurant has been redesigned with dark walnut flooring, art nouveau touches and plate-glass windows which allow diners to watch the bustling kitchen. Meanwhile, the all-new Collections of China menu is full of contrasting textures: elastic hand-pulled noodles, crisp lacquered chicken skin and silky smooth broths.
70 Wilton Road

IMAGE: JUTTA KLEE

Eat & drink Directory out & in



THE IDLER
The Idler is a relaxed setting for festive gatherings, moments from Victoria Station. From team dinners and client entertaining to end-of-year celebrations, bring everyone together over seasonal dishes and drinks in a welcoming, design-led space.
Festive Dining | £52 per person
Our seasonal set menu begins with welcome bites and drinks, followed by sharing starters, a choice of seasonal mains and a festive dessert. Highlights include beetroot-cured trout, venison haunch and chocolate puff pastry bread pudding with salted caramel.
Enquiries: events@theidlerlondon.co.uk
282 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London
SW1V 1EJ
Tel: 020 4618 8200
theidlerlondon.co.uk

MR FOGG'S SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION
Mr Fogg's Society of Exploration is the atmospheric immersive cocktail bar in Covent Garden home to the world's first Mechanical Mixologist. The spirit of adventure remains within these very walls with a lifesize train carriage, timeless antiques, weather-beaten maps and old mounted portraits of past explorers. Open seven days a week, Mr Fogg's Society of Exploration offers showstopper cocktails and light bites as well as playing host to the Murder On The Fogg's Express, a two hour tabletop murder mystery breakout experience, including a welcome cocktail and selection of nibbles, the perfect way to spend an afternoon or evening on Bedford Street.
1A Bedford Street
London
WC2E 9HH
Tel: 020 7590 5255
https://www.mr-foggs.com/society-of-exploration/





MAISON GIGI - PÂTISSERIE, DELI & CATERING
As Autumn settles over London, mornings call for something warm: a coffee, hot chocolate, or matcha to ease into the day. Every morning, our pastry team bakes classic French pastries, served warm and flaky.
For lunch, our kitchen prepares daily seasonal specials, hearty quiches, and fresh sandwiches. And because a sweet treat brightens any day, our cake counter is always waiting for you. After all, good things are made to be shared, at our table, or catered for yours.
Monday to Friday 7am-5pm
143 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NH
bonjour@maisongigi.co.uk

KENDAL'S CAFÉ BAR
Discover Kendal's Café Bar at One Great George Street for great coffee, snacks and dishes. Perfect if you're out and about in Westminster with a friend or colleague, or need a pick-me up after taking in the sights of its neighbouring Big Ben and St James's Park. Traditional British daily menus are designed to suit every palate.
LHQ Hub app users receive 10% off Kendal's fresh in-house dishes on Mondays and Fridays
Kendal's Café Bar, One Great George Street, The Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster, London, SW1P 3AA







Eat the world

Market Place Food Hall has opened in Victoria. Inside, you'll find 10 award-winning kitchens serving up food from across the globe, from Greek street food and spicy jollof to Korean rice bowls and Thai curries. Expect live sport, fun events, music and much more – the venue is also dog friendly!
Victoria Place Shopping Centre, 115 Buckingham Palace Road



Cafe society

A new cafe has opened at The Z Hotel Covent Garden. Café Inigo is open all day, so you can stop by for breakfast pastries in the morning or pre-theatre cocktails and nibbles in the evening. The generous Mediterranean-inspired menu features fresh salads, sharing boards, olives, baked Camembert and more.
31-33 Bedford Street



IMAGE: JAMES BALSTON

Give us a swirl

Fancy a tasty but healthy sweet treat? Yolé specialises in zero-added-sugar frozen yoghurt and ice cream, with customisable cups and cones topped with fresh fruit, crunchy bits and sauces. Visit the new store on The Strand to try flavours like matcha, chocolate-hazelnut, mango and peanut butter.
434 Strand



Eat & drink Directory out & in



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, with a large and peaceful outdoor terrace. Jones Family Kitchen also offers 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

ROMY GILL AT THE PEM
Celebrate the festive season at Romy Gill at The Pem. Inspired by Romy's travels, the menus showcase the vibrant diversity of Indian cuisine in a relaxed, social fine dining setting. Guests can experience the tasting, feasting, set lunch, or pre-theatre menus. Welcome the new year with an elegant New Year's Eve menu featuring live entertainment and shared moments.
Romy Gill at The Pem at Conrad London St. James.
22-28 Broadway
London SW1H 0BH
020 3301 8080
romygillatthepem.com





SHAN SHUI SOCIAL
Step into the glamour of 1920s Shanghai, just moments from Victoria station. With Art Deco interiors, a neon-lit bar and authentic regional Chinese cuisine, we bring a playful touch to every occasion.
Savour exquisite dim sum, succulent Cantonese roast duck, fiery Sichuan specialities and wok-tossed favourites. Complete your meal with Asian-inspired cocktails featuring baijiu, lychee, calamansi and chilli.
Celebrate the festive season with our Christmas menu, or bring everyone together for a private event, corporate celebration or large gathering.
Corporate discounts are available for companies - get in touch to explore the benefits for your team.
14 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0QP
020 4617 8888
hello.victoria@shanshuisocial.co.uk
www.shanshuisocial.co.uk

WESLEY'S CAFÉ
Wesley's Café offers a welcoming space in the heart of Westminster, open Monday to Sunday serving breakfast and lunch alongside seasonal drinks. Enjoy our bright, relaxed setting and warm up with expertly crafted Old Spike coffee, including autumn and winter favourites such as pumpkin spice lattes and salted caramel hot chocolates. Our hyper-seasonal menu features fresh sandwiches and hot food, made with ingredients from London-based suppliers for a constantly evolving offering. Pair your drink with freshly baked cakes from our in-house baker, perfect for a cosy treats.
Monday–Friday 8am–4pm, Saturday–Sunday 10am–4pm
Follow us @wesleyscafeldn
Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH
www.c-h-w.com/wesleys-cafe/



IMAGE: TWO-D PHOTOGRAPHY

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Christmas is nearly here! We asked local chefs and foodies what they eat to celebrate the season...

BY ALICE CAIRNS



Francesco Vacca, head chef at Tozi Restaurant & Bar

I love the traditional Christmas meal that I have always shared with my family in Sardinia. We usually begin with a selection of Sardinian cured meats and cheeses, accompanied by homemade preserves such as mushrooms and seasonal vegetables.

For the main meal, my favourite dish is fregola with seafood, followed by a whole fish to share with the family, such as grouper, John Dory, turbot or, on special occasions, lobster. Everything is accompanied by a good Vermentino di Sardegna.

To finish, there is always panettone with a glass of Vin Santo.

For me, that sense of togetherness is what Christmas is all about.

Tozi, 8 Gillingham Street



Chef Ling Ling Zeng is London's first female head dim sum chef, leading the dim sum kitchen at Canton Blue at The Peninsula

One of my favourite things to eat during the festive season is steamed fish. In Chinese culture, fish is a traditional dish for celebrations, as the word for fish sounds like "surplus" or "abundance" in Chinese. It represents the wish for 年年有余 – prosperity and abundance year after year.

I also love steamed fish because it allows the natural freshness and sweetness of the fish to shine. With just a little ginger, spring onion and light soy sauce, it can be a beautifully simple yet delicious dish.

Canton Blue, 1 Grosvenor Place

Mohan Senchuri is manager of The Curry Room at The Rubens at the Palace

Christmas is all about togetherness, generosity and sharing memorable food and drinks, which are also at the heart of Indian hospitality. My favourite meal just be a Lamb Punjabi Curry- Slow cooked with warm festive spices such as fresh ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and cloves which brings together warm aromas to enjoy with a Cumin Basmati Rice, butter Naan. Of course, with a warm glass of mulled wine too!

To finish, I love a traditional Indian masala chai, also infused with fresh ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and cloves.

39 Buckingham Palace Road

> At its heart Opera Forge is forging dramatic voices. Creating opportunities. Building the future of opera.

OPERAFORGE

Opera Forge Inspires

Launching in London in November 2026 with two semi-staged performances of Wagner's Die Walküre

Book tickets



Left to right: Pauls Putnins, Rozanna Madylus, Sir John Tomlinson

Guided by Legends. Built for the Future.

Opera Forge is led by **Managing Director Katerina Mina** and **Artistic Director Kelvin Lim**, whose shared vision is to create exceptional opportunities for the next generation of dramatic voices while presenting opera of the highest artistic standard.

That vision is strengthened by the extraordinary guidance of **legendary Wagnerian bass Sir John Tomlinson**, whose experience and artistry help shape Opera Forge's inaugural production of *Die Walküre*.

As Opera Forge grows, we invite businesses, philanthropists, and opera lovers to become part of our story through sponsorship. Supporting a role, an artist or a production is an investment in the future of world-class opera and the artists who will define it.

Stay in tune with Opera Forge: operaforge.com instagram.com/opera.forge

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Refreshing your beauty regime for the new year? Here are our recommendations for 2027

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS

MINDFUL EXERCISE

In a time where we're all looking for moments of stillness as well as energy, Hotpod Yoga has transformed its classes into six different formats, which includes its signature energetic classes but also those built for recovery and rest. Recovery, Slow & Steady and Rest & Restore are ideal for calming the nervous system and stretching out tight muscles. *19 Eccleston Yards, from £48 a month*

CLEANER WATER

If you haven't already started to think about your bathing water, now is the time. Jolie's Filtered Showerhead is NSF-certified to remove chlorine from your water, as well as filtering heavy metals, bacteria and scale. The result is skin that is healthier and softer, helping to alleviate skin conditions, loss of collagen and hair lipids. *£130, available at Space NK, 6 Cardinal Place*





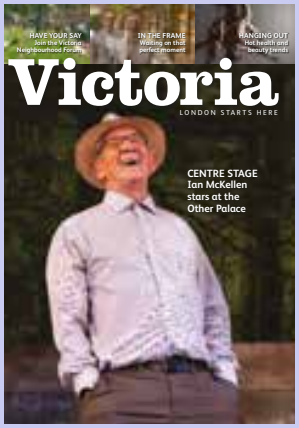
SUPPLEMENT WISELY

Around the age of 25, natural collagen declines, and is halved by the time you turn 50. Green People's new Advanced Pro-Collagen Skin Defence uses Vollagen® – a plant-based alternative with 18 amino acids associated with collagen composition, closely mirroring human Type I collagen, the main collagen found in skin. This formula not only helps with skin elasticity, as ingredients like grape seed extract, vitamin C, zinc and copper will also protect from oxidative stress. *£29.50, available from Whole Foods Market, 57 Victoria Street*

DON'T SKIP YOUR SPF

It might be winter, but SPF is an all-year round necessity. Emma Lewisham's Sunceutical SPF 50 Mineral Glow Serum is something of a revelation, because it offers UVA AND UVB protection with 20% zinc oxide, leaving no white residue, thanks to bronze pigments included in the formula. The result? A natural glow and well-slept complexion. *Space NK 6 Cardinal Place, £46*

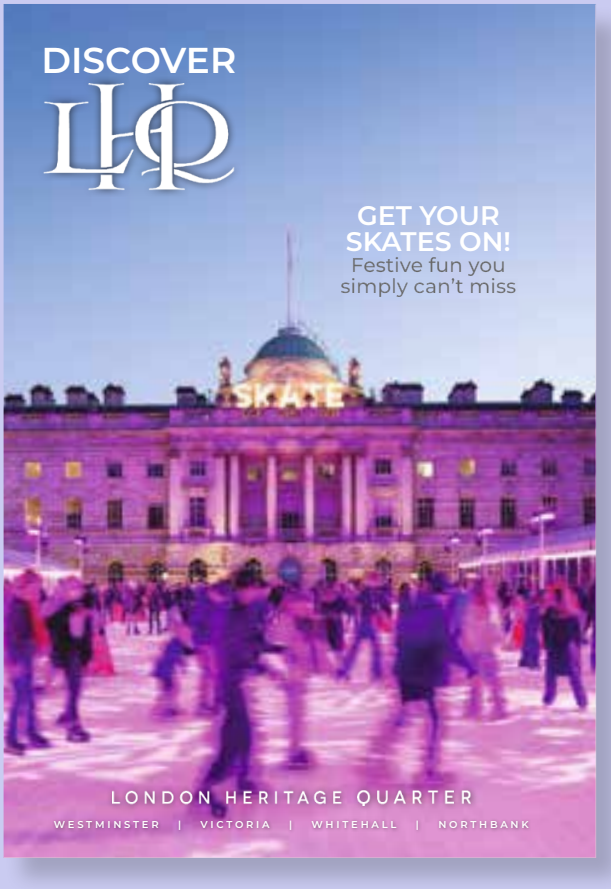




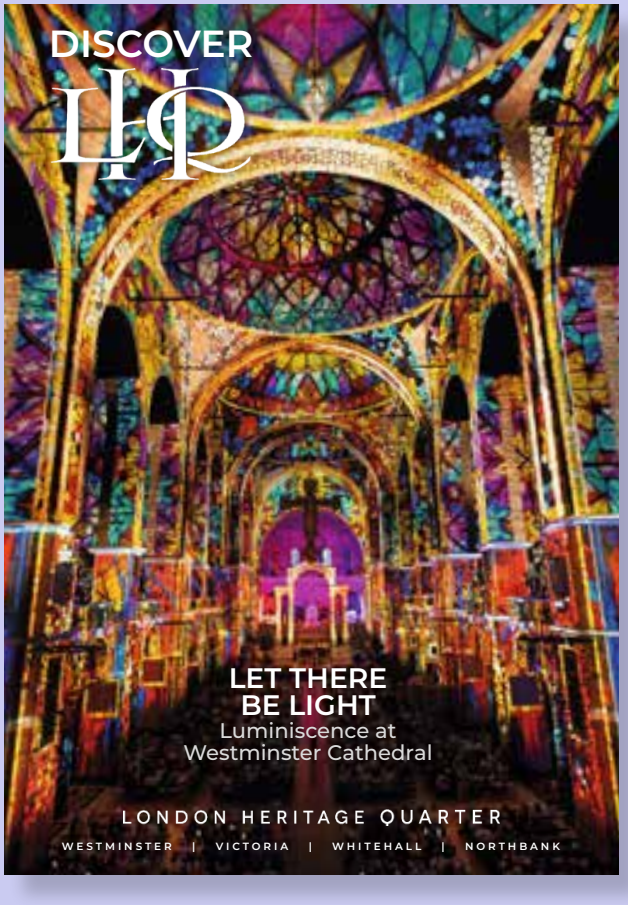








KEEP IN THE KNOW



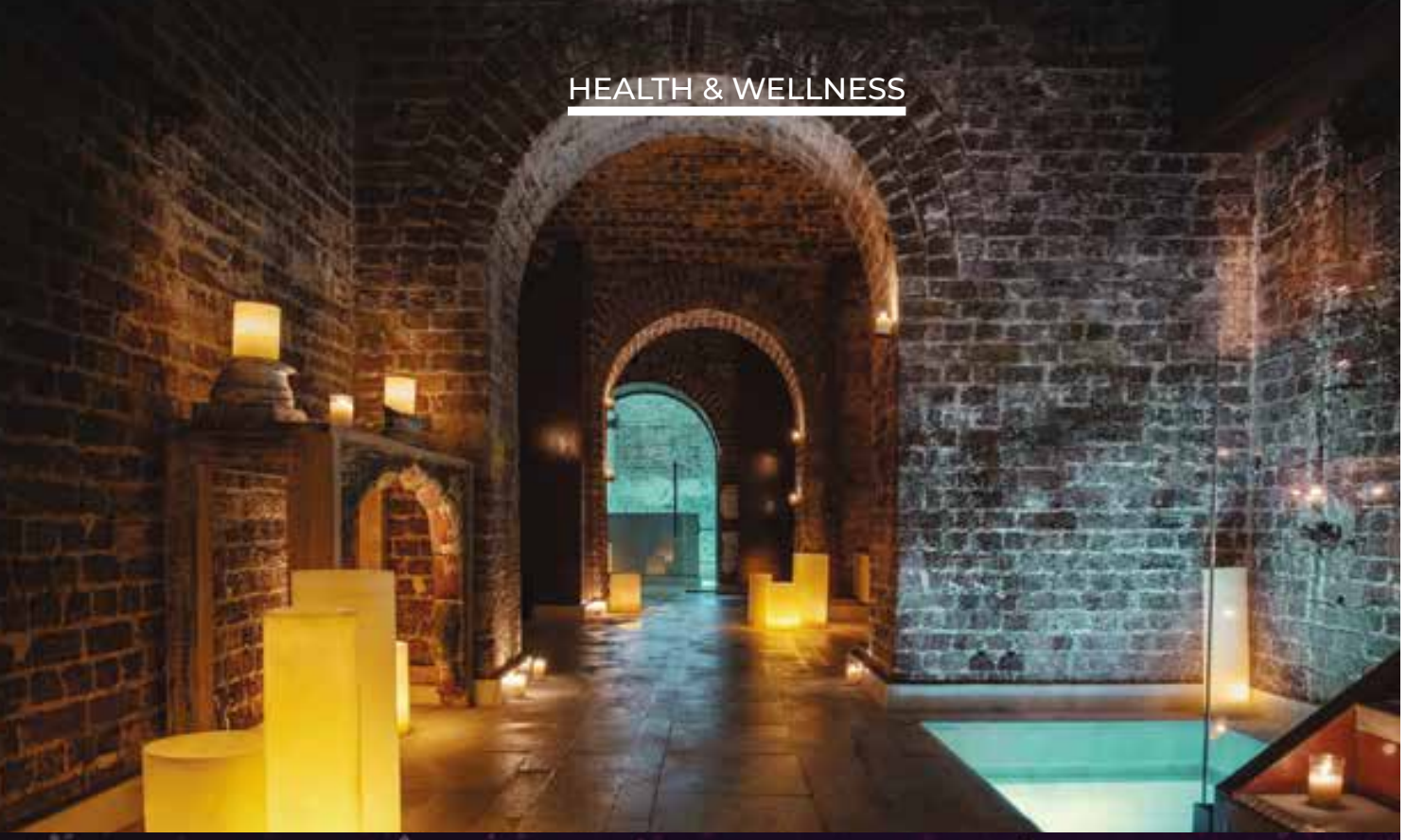
We know that these days you might not be in the area every day – or you may just visit us occasionally – but you still want to keep up-to-date with what's happening locally

So why not sign up to receive the digital edition of *Discover LHQ* and we'll send you the latest edition as it is published

That's it. You will receive no other emails or marketing material

To start the service simply visit pubbiz.com/subscribe

Follow us on Instagram
@londonheritagequarter



RELAX AND RESTORE MIND, BODY AND SOUL

Thermal baths of varying temperatures, massages, rituals, Vaporium, the Bath of a Thousand Jets and the Flotarium: all features designed for absolute relaxation at Aire Ancient Baths, right in the heart of Westminster. The Holistic Ritual may be just the ticket for weary Londoners looking for a complete reset with exfoliation, sandalwood oil massage, honey hair mask and a restorative journey through the baths.
2-3 Robert Street, from £115

TOP THREE ADVENT CALENDARS



HEAVEN SCENT

The Lush Advent Calendar is full of the high-street store's fan favourites, from the Silent Night Bath Bomb, Sticky Dates Shower Gel and Dream Cream. This, alongside 10 exclusive treats – including socks, a scented candle and perfume – all packed up in a reusable festive hamper is just what you need for the 25 days before Christmas.
Victoria Station, £210

SCENT-SATIONAL

Discover 12 spectacular scents from M&S in a range of beautiful formats, from body wash and hand lotion to room spray and a read diffuser. You'll also receive a luxurious silk eye mask and a snuffer and wick trimmer to make the most of your cosy night in.
Cardinal Place, £120

PERFUME PACKED

The Aesop Valise Advent Calendar will give you 13 days of wonder, opening up some of the Aussie brand's cult classics, as well as some soon-to-be-discovered wonders. Expect to find everything from the well-loved Resurrection Aromatique Hand Balm and Ptolemy Aromatique Candle to the Tacit Truths EDP inside this carry-on.
7 King Street, £445



-EAT & DRINK-

MARKET PLACE

-VICTORIA-

FOOD HALL NOW OPEN

INSIDE THE TRAIN STATION

7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 11AM

£5 PINTS & MARGS

3-7PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

10 GLOBAL FOOD TRADERS

LIVE SPORTS VIEWING

SCAN FOR EVENTS & EXPERIENCES

SCAN TO SIGN UP TO LOYALTY AND COLLECT POINTS

BRING THIS AD FOR A **FREE DRINK** AT THE BAR

*ONE HOUSE WINE, DRAUGHT PINT OR MULLED WINE PER CUSTOMER. VALID DURING NOVEMBER AT MARKET PLACE FOOD HALL VICTORIA ONLY. 18+, ID REQUIRED. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE SERVICE. OFFER MAY BE WITHDRAWN IF NECESSARY.

Victoria
Wellness

EMFACE® + EXION®

Lift & tighten.
No downtime.

EMFACE® lifts and tones the facial muscles.
EXION® tightens and smooths the skin.
Together: a firmer, more defined face.

20min	37%	1M+
per session	avg. fewer wrinkles*	EMFACE® treatments

Book a consultation.

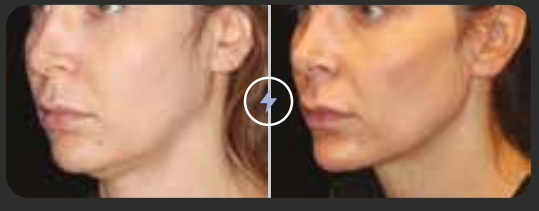
020 4514 2844 · victoriawellness.co.uk

154 Buckingham Palace Road · 2 mins from Victoria Station

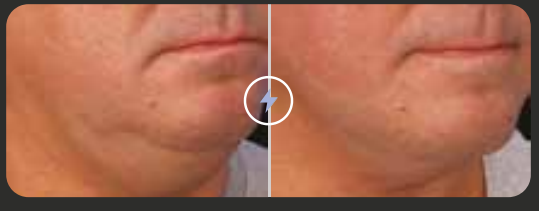
*Clinical study results; individual results vary. Before & after images after 4 EMFACE® treatments, courtesy of Jennifer Levine, MD; Barry DiBernardo, MD; Chris W. Robb, MD.

REAL RESULTS

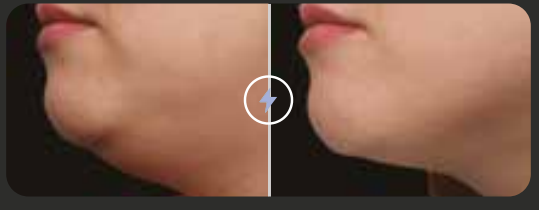
BEFORE AFTER 4 TREATMENTS



Lifted contours & a firmer jawline



Tighter, more defined jawline



Less fullness under the chin



IMAGE: GARY MCGOVERN



General Manager of Trafalgar Theatre Matt Powder shares his top spots in the area...

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS



What do you love about working in the area?

Being a part of London's theatre sector is amazing. It's not something that the wider public would think about, but the West End theatres all have an affinity towards one another. We look out for each other and share tips and insights. The whole sector really is a community in its own right, and it's a privilege to be a part of it.



There's so much going on all the time: you can look down Whitehall and see Big Ben (and our lovely theatre, of course), St Martin-in-the-Fields, National Gallery, the Fourth Plinth... There's frequently an event of some form happening there too.

What's your... Favourite bar?

Gordon's Wine bar (*47 Villiers Street*) and I go way back. I remember when it didn't even have the terrace seating outside. I used to go there a lot when I was a student. I also took my partner there for one of our earliest dates. Great pre-show bar too!



Favourite place for a sweet snack?

I'll have to say Gelupo (*7 Archer Street*). In my opinion, it's the finest gelateria in town. It's one of the few places that actually serves granita and the mint stracciatella is incredible!

Favourite spot for your lunch break?

I frequently grab myself a coffee and just sit in Trafalgar Square as it's a wonderful spot for people watching.

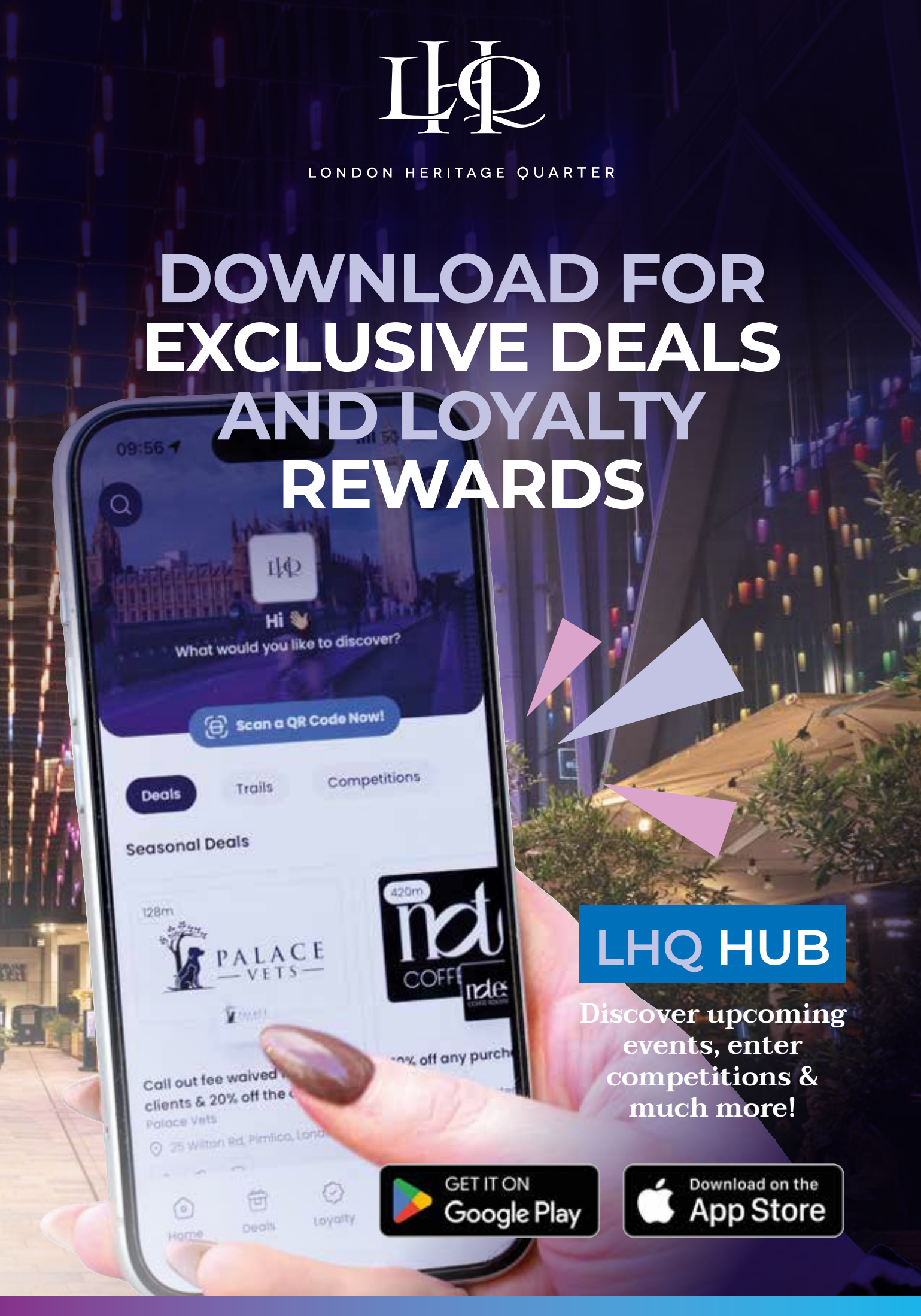
Describe your typical day.

It's an old adage for anyone working in theatre that no two days are ever the same. That phrase exists for a reason – it really is true, and it's what makes working in such a place all the more rewarding. Best of all is having some small part to play in giving a person an experience that will stay with them long after we switch the lights off.

Currently starring Lolly Adefope, Oh, Mary! will run at Trafalgar Theatre until June 5, 2027. To book tickets, visit trafalgartheatre.com

LONDON HERITAGE QUARTER

DOWNLOAD FOR EXCLUSIVE DEALS AND LOYALTY REWARDS



LHQ HUB

Discover upcoming events, enter competitions & much more!

GET IT ON Google Play

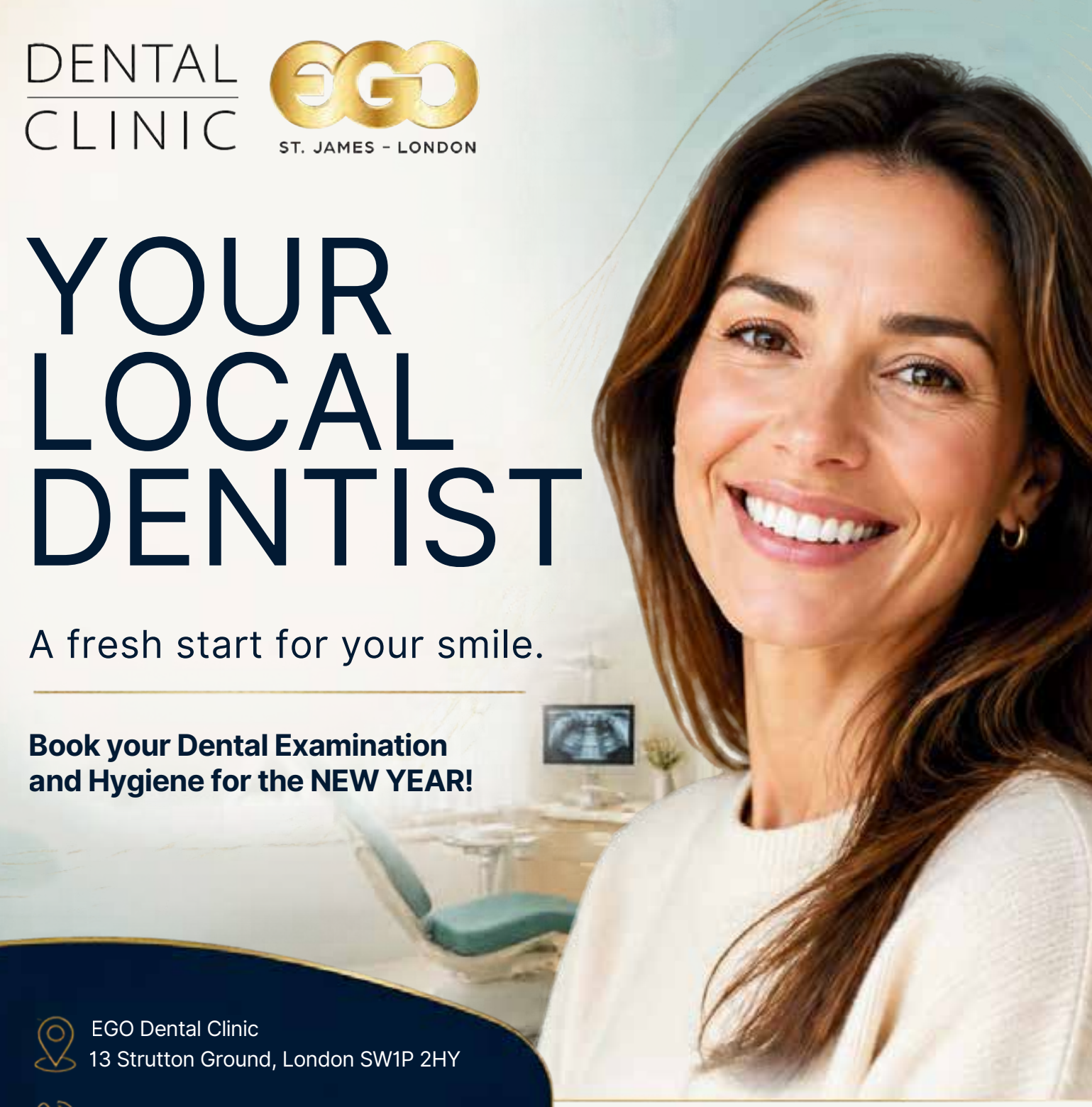
Download on the App Store

DENTAL CLINIC

EGO

ST. JAMES - LONDON

YOUR LOCAL DENTIST



A fresh start for your smile.

Book your Dental Examination and Hygiene for the NEW YEAR!

EGO Dental Clinic
13 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HY

Phone: 020 7222 5902

WhatsApp: +44 7999 66 6699

info@egodentalclinic.co.uk

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND BOOK

FINALIST
PRIVATE DENTISTRY AWARDS 2026
PRACTICE OF THE YEAR

PROUD FINALIST

Private Dentistry Awards 2026

Practice of the Year · Team of the Year