

Village Matters



Spring-Summer 2011

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Liz Thomson Head of Lettings

Easter brought us summer weather and then the Royals brought us a wedding but the question is – what will the property market bring us this year? We anticipate more of the same – an ever constant demand for homes to rent and buy in the villages we love. We bring you some more friends from the local community who make Notting Hill and Kensington better places to live. This time we have a theatre, a gallery, a choir and a used car salesman – read on and find out more about what is going on just down the street from you.



Michael Wilson Head of Sales

East meets west

"We believe in our artists. They're the ones that make the gallery – they're our lifeblood."

East West Gallery owner, Jill Morgan, has lived in Notting Hill for more than 20 years, where she and her husband, David Solomon, have raised four children. Fiercely loyal to the area, they've never been tempted to move. With the number of galleries in the area declining over the last few years, a commitment to local artists and customers is so crucial.

The East West Gallery is on St Luke's Mews, just off trendy All Saints Road and has at any one time a stable of 20 artists. "Many of them live locally, so it's a real pleasure to sell work from the area," Jill enthuses. While most of the works are figurative, content varies wildly. "The variety of artists amazes me. People come in expecting to buy a portrait of a headless figure and leave with a delightful still life of some hyacinths."

Perhaps the most important part of their business is the relationships Jill and David have built up with their clients. In fact, customers frequently commission their artists to do personal works. "Many people get a professional photographer to create family portraits. Having an artist you admire produce a painting is so special," says Jill. Her favourite piece? "A painting that one of our artists, Cathy Fenwick, did of my baby daughter."

The East West Gallery, 26 St Luke's Mews, W11
020 7229 7981 www.eastwestgallery.co.uk



Motor mania

There's probably nothing finer than a sleek, classic car that's been lovingly restored and maintained. Graeme Hunt, who's been part of the classic car world for more than 20 years and has run his Kensington showroom for close to a decade, is the man to consult when one requires a smart automobile.

"I've no business partners, no bank loans and buy and sell what I like in the state I would like it," says this truly independent specialist dealer in Radley Mews just round the corner from our Stratford Road office. Interviewed on a sunny day, Graeme took himself off to the golf course in an E-type Roadster. He believes the attraction of classic cars such as this one is that they're not made anymore. Also, it's not worth keeping your money in the bank right now, so you might as well buy a restored old car and enjoy it.

Once Managing Director of Jack Barclay, Graeme has a particular penchant for Bentleys. "My car is a 1954 R-Type Continental," he proudly announces.

For those who want only the best to accompany that vintage Daimler, Rolls Royce or Ferrari, Graeme's sister company sells motoring art and motoring bronzes by a variety of well-known artists and sculptors from the same showroom.

Open Monday to Friday 10.00-5.00
Weekends and Bank Holidays by appointment
Graeme Hunt Ltd, 18-23 Radley Mews, W8 020 7937 8487
www.graemehunt.com



FOR A
VERY FISHY
TALE – SEE
PAGE 2

What are values doing in the village?

There was a flying start to the first quarter of 2011 particularly at the upper end of the market. In an effort to beat the arrival of the new 5% top band of Stamp Duty there was flood of sales completing before the 5th April. This new 5% rate now applies to all properties purchased over £1M and as a result of the rush we completed on over £16M worth of property sales in just one day!

April saw a rather inevitable slow down as the market caught its breath after this unprecedented stampede and there was the double whammy of back-to-back long bank (continued on page 2) ►

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SOLD Callcott Street, W8 £1,595,000



SOLD Campden Hill Square, W8 £5,850,000



SOLD Holland Park Avenue, W11 £3,750,000



SOLD Radley Mews, W8 £975,000

Our Sales Department has been extraordinarily busy and achieved some outstanding results for our clients. If you are considering selling your property and would like honest, accurate advice please call or email us to book a FREE valuation – our contact details are on the back page.

MOUNTGRANGE HERITAGE

► (continued from front cover) holiday weekends providing ample distraction. But now spring is in its stride and with it comes new shoots of optimism. The application for Olympic tickets has closed and the reality of hosting the games in 2012 is beginning to feel very evident. Our villages may be a few miles from the Olympic one but there is no doubt that the international attention and 'feel good factor' that '2012' is bringing to London will further cement the appeal and attraction of our extraordinary city and the property market to boot. ●



O sing, choir of angels

Gareth Malone has a lot to answer for, believes MJ Paranzino, but it's all to the good, as his TV series *The Choir* has inspired thousands to find their voice.

Head of the West London Choir in Notting Hill, MJ is amazed that there are already 50 members of the choir that started up just over a year ago. "It's lovely to see it blossom, with young and old members all standing up together and singing a diverse range of classical, pop, rock jazz and musical theatre tunes," says MJ, who originates from Philadelphia and has been a local resident for a decade.

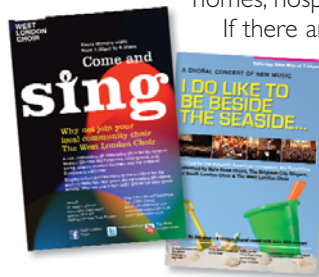
It's easy to join the choir. "Simply show up and sing," explains MJ. "As well as singing together, we do at least one charity performance annually and plan to do more community work in senior citizen homes, hospitals and prisons in the future."

If there are any budding tenors or basses out there

The West London Choir needs you. Everyone (male or female) is welcome on Monday nights from 7.30-9.30 pm at St Peter's Church, Kensington Park Road, W11.

For more information, contact MJ Paranzino on 07837 374705

www.westlondonchoir.co.uk



A very fishy tale

Fish can be good for you in more ways than one. However, rather than nibbling a tasty piece of fish fillet, why not let the fish nibble you? Visit Aqua Sheko Fish Spa just off Kensington Church Street for the latest eco-friendly, sustainable and chemical-free way to get a pedicure and gentle massage.

Lucky for us locals, the idea discovered by business partners To Chan and Karen Ho when on a trip to Macau, has been imported to London with the first spa at 14 Holland Street, W8. "The fish feed off your feet, so you have no dry or flaky skin. The fish are fed and you end up with soft feet, so everyone's happy," explains Chan.

Clients relax in large, leather armchairs and enjoy cups of Japanese tea and snacks while ►





▶ dangling their feet in individual tanks full of the hungry, but gentle Garrarufa fish. It can be a bit ticklish first time around, admits Chan, "but you quickly get used to it. It feels like a lot of Champagne bubbles bursting or a gentle mini-massage."

Fish pedicures start at £30 and the ultimate reviver package of pedicure followed by massage costs £60. Contact Aqua Sheko on 020 3489 8336 www.aquasheko.co.uk

Dear Diary

Instead of having to stop and tell everyone about a campaign to save the face of Portobello Road, the latest great café or restaurant, or anything else interesting or quirky in the area, Mary-Lu Bakker and Amanda Waggott decided to launch a website on local issues www.pavlovariaries.co.uk.

Coming up to its first anniversary, the site has 1,000 regulars logging on every week and gets more than 2,500 hits. Not bad for a small, but upbeat website offering news, views and reviews about Notting Hill, Holland Park, Kensington and Bayswater.

"We wanted to put up all the things you used to read about in a good, local magazine," says Bakker, who includes anything from recitations on chocolate, to the best ever minestrone recipe, book reviews and other mischievous missives. "It's only good news, as we want to be positive and funny, a far cry from reading all the miserable international news we're being subjected to these days."



Pavlova is all about promoting local shops, theatre productions, artists and authors "there are tons of them," Amanda points out. "There's so much going on right on our doorstep at places like The Tabernacle. The Idler Academy's a lovely idea too, where you can forage for edible weeds or learn about ancient philosophy."

And what of the name? It was Amanda's invention, as she thinks we're all a bit like meringues: "firm on the outside but warm, squishy and surprising on the inside."

Send your local news or join in debates.

Contact Mary-Lu on 07712 002933 www.pavlovariaries.co.uk

Cuisine Francaise

What could be better than a traditional French restaurant with a hint of the modern, minus all the fuss of Michelin stardom? The answer is Chez Patrick, a friendly, local French restaurant that uses only fresh produce in a simple, but special way.

"I'm very down-to-earth and like to make people feel comfortable as well as feed them properly," says owner Patrick Tako. He's just unveiled the spring weekday set menu – £13.20 for three courses, and evenings and weekends at £16.90. (continued on page 4) ▶



LET Holland Park, W11 £1,350 per week



LET Pembroke Villas, W11 £1,000 per week

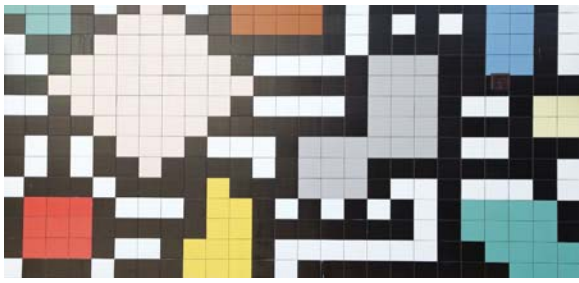


LET Kensington Court, W8 £800 per week



LET Gordon Place, W8 £500 per week

Our Lettings Department has had lots of success this spring and is looking to continue this success into the summer. So if you are considering renting your property please call, email us or pop into one of our offices to book a FREE valuation – our contact details are on the back page.



Spot the wall competition

Blocks of colour based on the geometric murals of the Ndebele people of South Africa make a striking impression on a wall in the Royal Borough but where is it? The first person to tell us will win a lunch for two at Chez Patrick on Stratford Road. Email us at win@mountgrangeheritage.co.uk

► (continued from page 3) To reserve a table at child-friendly Chez Patrick with a first floor space for private parties call now. Chez Patrick, 7 Stratford Road, London W8 020 7937 6388 www.chez-patrick.co.uk



Changing rooms...

When Anda Winters says it took "quite a long time" to convert The Print Room into a functional theatre, it's something of an understatement.

With fellow-artistic director Lucy Bailey, she spent three years renovating the building which stood empty for 15 years. It was a savvy move on their part; they now have a large, flexible place that showcases not only theatre, but also art, dance and music. "We thought it would be nice to have our own space where we could put on work we liked. Plus, the area was sorely in need of another theatre."

The Print Room, well situated on Hereford Road, makes a fantastic addition to the nearby Gate and Bush Theatres, with an eclectic mixture of old and new work. "We like to do plays by well-known artists, but equally ones that are rarely performed. When we opened in October 2010, we put on lesser-known works by Pasolini and Ayckbourn," Anda explains.

The Print Room is currently preparing for a production of Tennessee Williams' *Kingdom of Earth*, accompanied by an exhibition of photographer Robert Polidori's work depicting scenes of post-Katrina New Orleans. By combining different media, the play, which first premiered in 1968, is given a contemporary feel.

Anda is proud of "how much we've achieved in six months, and hope to continue. However, without local support – which ►



► we've had plenty of so far – we may not be able to do that. I'm encouraging everyone to come and visit us. It's a fantastic space and you really need to come inside to experience it."

Kingdom of Earth runs from 28 April - 28 May. The Print Room, 34a Hereford Road, W2 020 7221 6036 www.the-print-room.org



Cricket at the Oval



Captain of Surrey County Cricket Club, Rory Hamilton-Brown

is not only the youngest captain in English Country Cricket, he's also the son of one of our directors!

This season we are proud to sponsor Yasir Arafat Satti, the 29 year old Pakistani all-rounder who was signed by Surrey in January. Look out for our special cricket

competition which will soon be advertised; the prize will be four tickets to a Surrey match at The Oval and the exciting opportunity to meet and be photographed with Yasir and Rory.



Designer **Edwin Belchamber** Editor **Cheryl Markosky**
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