

The Soho Society's **Free** and yet
Priceless Magazine



THE
FRENCH
HOUSE
30 YEARS

PRIDE

**SOHO
VILLAGE
FETE**

SOHO.LIVE
JAZZ WEEK

SOHO FOOD
FEAST

SOHO
clarion

NO. 173
THE CLARION
CALL OF
THE SOHO SOCIETY

SUMMER
2019



Best Estate Agent in
Central London

Gold Sales & Gold Lettings

glp

greaterlondonproperties.co.uk

3 Editorial	20 Restaurant Review Cricket	30 Seven Dials 2019 Anniversaries
9 20th Century Fox - a view from the developer	21 Dan De La Motte	31 The closure of Gino's
11 Bar Bruno	22 Soho Bakers Club Recipe	32 Soho.Live Jazz Week
12, 13 Ward Councillors Cllr Richard Beddoe Cllr Ian Adams	23, 24, 35 Ward Councillors Cllr Tim Barnes Cllr Jonathan Glanz Cllr Pancho Lewis	32 Playland by Anthony Daly Book review by Tim Lord
15 Robbi Walters Interview	26 Exercise Classes for over 50s	33 News from St Anne's
17 Soho - the heart of LGBT	27 30 Years of The French	34 Now it's goodbye to all that
18 Soho Fete History		36 Soho Waiters Race

SOHO NEWS Pages 4-8

Closures
Developments
We're Watching
Soho Neighbourhood Forum
Licensing Report

Oxford Street
Ward Panel
Oxford Circus (Vehicle Closure)
20th Century Fox
Soho Hospital for Women

THE SOHO SOCIETY

St Anne's Tower, 55 Dean Street, London W1D 6AF | Tel no: 0300 302 1301
admin@thesohosociety.org.uk | Twitter: @sohosocietyw1
Facebook: The Soho Society | www.thesohosociety.org.uk

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Lord | Jane Doyle | Lucy Haine | Jonathan Glanz | Tim Barnes | Pancho Lewis
Reverend Simon Buckley | Steve Muldoon | Matthew Bennett | Soho Bakers Club
Richard Piercy (photographer) | David Gleeson | Richard Brown | Philip Antscherl
Phillip Baldwin | Dan De La Motte | Jack Perraudin
Hugo MacGregor-Craig (design) | Joel Levack

EDITOR

Jane Doyle





Soho Neighbourhood Forum

PLAN
FOR
SOHO

Find Soho Neighbourhood Forum at the Soho Summer Fete to complete the plan!

Sunday 30 June 2019
12.30pm-6pm
Wardour Street, London

The Soho Neighbourhood Forum will be on-hand to update you on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and our upcoming activities and events this year.

We are keen to protect Soho's reputation for creativity and diversity. Our Draft Plan supports the heritage of Soho while enhancing sustainable growth.

Do you live, work or visit Soho?
We need you!

Sign-up as a member to the Forum to keep updated on the latest news and come along to our AGM to find out more.

Soho Neighbourhood Forum
AGM:

Wednesday 3 July 2019
6pm-7.45pm
First Floor
Conference Room
29-39 Soho Square
W1D 3QS



planforsoho.org



[planforsoho](https://www.instagram.com/planforsoho)



[planforsoho](https://twitter.com/planforsoho)



[planforsoho](https://www.facebook.com/planforsoho)

Scan me





Good fences make Good Neighbours

From the ages of 7 to 14 much of my spare time was spent on my parents' sheep farm in East Lancashire. On a well run farm much of the work is properly routine. Feed is taken out in the summer when the land is dry and stored close to the stock so it can be more easily distributed in the winter. The careful maintenance of the ewes' feet and the cleanliness of their behinds is carried out on a regular schedule. Occasional bursts of activity would take place when the hay was made, sheep clipped and dipped or lambs taken to market. Even lambing itself, which might involve late nights, proceeded on a gentle timescale set by the ewes themselves. Things had to be done but urgency and alarm were generally avoided. There was, however, one exception to this; an escape of stock.

In the summer, the river would be low and fattening calves, attracted to sweeter grass, might wade across - this makes it sound like Wyoming but in fact it was Clitheroe. A clever ewe might find a way to push through the wire fence (such ewes were sent to market before others could learn from them). A walker may have left a gate open. A fence may fail through lack of proper maintenance. At that point the mood of the farm changes to one of deep seriousness. Whether your stock had escaped or you were unwillingly hosting your neighbour's fattening calves it was all hands on deck. Animals straying cause unpredictable and adverse consequences. Sheep could stray on to a road and cause accidents. Crops could be damaged. Stock could be hurt and you were responsible for even trespassing stock while on your land. One's reputation amongst the community of local farmers was at stake based on how these crises were handled. Polite yet serious phone calls were made. At home everyone stopped what they were doing until the animals has been found, identified, safely corralled and eventually returned. In the countryside, good farmers maintain fences well. Once resolved, stories of heroism in finding the errant stock would be told in the pub. Drinks would be bought.

Soho no longer has sheep or rivers or fences as such, but it does have boundaries. For example, boundaries between the evening and the night, and the night and the morning. The much loved and deeply missed

Bryan Burroughs once explained to me that the magic of Soho is that throughout each 24 hour period, Soho is host to office workers, those seeking entertainment and relaxation and sleeping residents. It was his and the Society's aim to ensure all these activities and people could work well together. The boundaries need to be set, not change too often and to be taken somewhat seriously.

The licensing group of the Society is working on the boundary between evening and night because of noise from errant drinkers (much like the fattening calves) and the need to protect the residents' sleep. Bob O'Dell works on maintaining the boundary between commercial premises and the "shared" pavement which is increasingly appropriated for tables and chairs to the exclusion of the public. Quentin is maintaining the fence between the shared pavement and its use for the commercial storage of rubbish bags. Matthew mends a fence between the need for development and the public interest in retaining our historic buildings and the management of construction noise and nuisance.



Obviously, the good farmers, in addition to mending fences would also attend the village show to show off their prize animals. This year the Soho Village Fete is on the 30 June. Come and meet the good farmers of the village to tell stories, sing, dance and be merry. Bring your dog if you are lucky enough to have one.

Tim Lord



Closures, new beginnings, and other things!

The first item, a closure, sadly, is the newly refurbished Kettner's Restaurant in Romilly Street, which is now open only to Soho House members and hotel guests. This is very sad as it has been a Soho institution for well over 100 years. The champagne bar remains open to the public, and food is available.

Then Jackson & Rye on Wardour Street has closed, and been replaced by Martha's, which bills itself as a "retro-styled restaurant with American food and revue acts ... American food, jazz and more in Soho ...". Also opened at the end of May is Chik'n at 187 Wardour Street, the premises vacated by BRGR.co, billed as "Proper fried chicken in Soho" and selling "top class fried chicken sandwiches with some new additions to the menu too." Whilst on the subject of chicken there is also Coqfighter, a new venture, coming to 75 Beak Street, and opened at the end of May. Look out for, amongst other things, Fried Chicken Bao with Szechuan Mayo, Pickled Daikon, Coriander & Korean Hot Sauce and their Vodka & Sesame battered Wings with Sweet Soy Glaze and Korean Hot Sauce. So chicken lovers are well catered for! Fatt Pundit is a new Indo-Chinese restaurant at 77 Berwick Street. It originates from Kolkata and came into being when the Hakka people migrated to India from the Chinese province of Canton,

and combines traditional Chinese cooking techniques with the spices of India. Their menu looks great.

Robata is a new Japanese izakaya-style restaurant at 56 Old Compton Street. It is styled as a 'Japanese pub' serving up dishes such as Soft Shell Crab bayo with spicy mayo, green mango, purple shiso, cucumber and red chilli, Miso Aubergine with pickled shimiji mushroom and Robata red chilli, and more, cooked over a grill.

Comptoir Gourmand is a new bakery and patisserie that has just opened in Noel Street. It's a small family run business that started life in Bermondsey, and everything (which looks delicious) is freshly made.



Med Kitchen and Bar - this is adjacent to the Mediterranean Café at 18 Brewer Street, and is open fronted and does a great trade, particularly at lunchtime as it produces good food, reasonably priced, and is thus able to compete with the street food which doesn't pay the rents and rates of the other premises. Look out for it. It is shortly to change it's name to 'Violet's' thus immortalising one of Soho's favourite residents.

We wish them all every success.

It seems that the Windmill Club is being taken over by Cirque le Soir and, after an extensive revamp, will open as a "celebrity cocktail bar". The Windmill has a long history, and was famed for never closing, even during the worst days of the Blitz, but it lost its adult entertainment licence last year after an undercover sting operation found that dancers were flouting the 'no touching' rules.

For the avoidance of doubt and contrary to some press reports, the Society did not seek it's closure.

Developments

The fiasco that is 90 - 104 Berwick Street is still ongoing. We were told that it was due to finish in September, but no one is holding their breath. It has been beset by problems, delays, residents have suffered immense hardship, it has more or less killed Berwick Street market and One hopes that those who have suffered worst will get some form of redress. Joanna Lumley came and switched on the Christmas lights in 2016, perhaps she should be booked to switch them on in 2019! The Walkers Court development is progressing and the new Boulevard theatre should be open in October, alongside a restaurant and bar area. The hotel development on the corner of Berwick Street and Broadwick Street is ongoing, and it's too early to tell whether this will complete on time. Crossrail (the Elizabeth line)

was due to open in December 2018 but has hit problems and now may not open for another two years. The station is being built, and one can see progress, but who knows what the cost will be to the taxpayer. An idle thought, what has happened to all the 'rolling stock' that should have been ready to go in December 2018? Is it with the 500 drivers that are currently being employed by Crossrail at taxpayer expense?

Jane Doyle

We're watching...

At Ingestre Court WCC have at last brought forward a scheme for new and start-up businesses in the basement, ground, 1st and 2nd floors of the building to be run by Huckletree. We welcomed it as the space has been virtually vacant for quite a few years but objected to 7 air conditioning units which were to have been placed on the flat roof far too close to the windows of the flats on the 3rd floor and above and these are now to be relocated.

We objected to another hotel application at Regency House on the corner of Warwick Street and Brewer Street. The applicants sought to justify the very crammed scheme by indicating it would be a scheme for only those on foot or using bicycles. But they did not propose to provide cycle storage

for visitors and expected them to find cycle parking on street where



they could. It was also coupled with proposals to substantially increase the restaurant and bar use.

Our agendas have been increased substantially in last quarter by two factors. Applications for new signage are now being treated separately from overall proposals to renew or change shopfronts. Also there has been a trend towards fully or partially openable shopfronts. We tend to oppose such applications because the potential for noise nuisance is substantially increased by the use of large open windows, and also in some A1 and A3 uses they tend to be used as a way of serving customers directly on the street and this causes congestion on the narrow and heavily used streets of Soho. We also opposed a large and late night take away on the north side of Leicester Square because of its potential to be a focus for crime and anti-social behaviour.

The hoardings have gone up around the large Monico site at Piccadilly Circus. Those looking up at all the colourful high-resolution adverts may not realise that they mask a really massive development. It was the proposed redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus in 1972 and the resulting Save Piccadilly Campaign that was the forerunner of the founding of the Soho Society in 1974. The current scheme is no longer for a skyscraper a la 1972 but it is still a massive development that will have a huge impact on south west Soho.

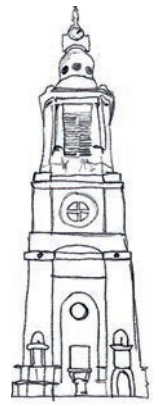
The much delayed Crossrail project has agreed to submit

a planning application to temporarily display a range of photos of local Soho people so, assuming it is agreed by WCC, we look forward to that eventually being some sort of acknowledgement to the local community after so many years of noise, dust and disturbance.

Soho Neighbourhood Forum Update

We continue to await the formal revisions to the Westminster Local Plan to 2040 which was informally consulted upon in November and December last year. WCC are still revising elements of it in the light of the feedback they received but the delay in publishing the plan for formal consultation is delaying our own plan. This is because we decided back in 2017, when the new WCC plan was originally promised, to make the Soho Neighbourhood Plan in general conformity with the new plan rather than the old one. But WCC is now some 18 months behind the original timetable. We are using the time as best we can by getting an appraisal of it by outside consultants called an 'Evidence Base and Policy Development Assessment' which we have now received. We hope to start our final public consultation on our draft plan in June and July before submitting it to the Council for all the processes leading to its adoption. The AGM is on 3rd July 2019.

Matthew Bennett



Licensing

Very occasionally a licence application can present us with a quandary if it proposes the development of something that could be (a) appealing in terms of maintaining the unique atmosphere of the neighbourhood, but (b) not so appealing when it comes to protecting residential amenity. The redevelopment of Walkers Court includes a new entertainment venue which, at the time of writing, is named the Boulevard Theatre. This is being constructed in a contained area and will include a restaurant, bars, terrace and entrance lobby. Most of the alleyway has been rebuilt, with the quaint, appealing seediness that used to define it now replaced with a smoother, though hopefully still appealing, tidiness.

The possibility of another, more intimate theatre in the near vicinity is intriguing and could be an exciting new development - the landlords have announced the appointment of a programmer, hinting at exciting future shows, whilst reminding us of the theatrical roots of their founder, Paul Raymond. However potentially exciting and glamorous, we note it is in the middle of a heavily residential part of Soho, with many surrounding homes on Brewer, Peter, Berwick and Hopkins Streets, as well as Greens Court and Ingestre Place. The Boulevard is likely to be popular, which could mean up to a few hundred more people milling around these small residential streets in the very early hours of the morning.

With attendant taxis, pedicabs, noise and general late night Soho nonsense, the necessity for careful negotiation in order to maintain the delicate residential/commercial balance becomes clearly obvious.

David Gleeson

Oxford Street District: next instalment

In February, Westminster issued its 'Place Strategy' for the Oxford Street District (OSD), responding to the numerous comments it had received on its consultation draft. The new Strategy is a noted improvement on the draft, not least as it recognises Soho as a unique and iconic neighbourhood!

Other good points include:

- Greater emphasis given to the importance of SMEs within Soho, with an intention to support start ups and entry level employment
- Only to allow small hotels within Soho, with a size limit of 2,500 m2 (roughly 30-40 rooms)
- A reduction in the numbers of buses on Oxford Street
- Oxford Circus to be made the 'centre piece' of the OSD
- More pedestrianisation, with resting places, wider pavements and partial street closures
- Later opening hours on Oxford Street itself, with more entertainment and greater flexibility for retail uses though clearly this will have to be done with care
- Many more trees – although not enough at the Eastern end of the district.

The new Strategy also includes

many statements of good intention – but we all know where those lead, especially as few are backed with specific actions - or even target dates.

These include:

- To 'accelerate the adoption' of the zero emission zone – with no target date
- 'Seek to ban' diesel buses and 'prioritise the adoption' of zero emission taxis – again no dates
- 'Work with others' to manage freight and service vehicles, but with no ideas for what to do
- 'Lobby for powers' on pedicabs and rough sleeping; WCC have been trying, but no success so far
- 'Plans' for partnership management of OSD - would be better if there were ideas about what such plans would entail and for when
- 'Overhaul' of lighting policies and a new 'frontage guide' – again nothing specific

However, good intentions are better than none, and there are some important points on which the Strategy is unfortunately silent.

These include:

- The actions listed are mainly for the physical fabric, but these are not the only ones that could make a big difference to the area; there are few action plans on other aspects of the strategy
- There is nothing on how WCC could, or better still, will use its existing powers on planning and licensing – or its leadership, to help achieve the aims of the strategy
- No mention of the serious problems of waste collection and of rubbish piling up in the

streets

- Nothing about noise or noise reduction targets, either for pubs and clubs or for vehicles
- No expectation that owners and tenants of buildings show respect for their historical fabric
- Too little about enforcement arrangements for good behaviour and against bad – by individuals but also by businesses
- Not even a mention of the problems caused by business rates and/or by the unbridled greed on rents by some landlords
- No indication of the amount of revenue funding needed for effective management and enforcement, nor about where such funds might come from
- Nothing on the roles, plans, action timetables of other bodies for management of the District

The Soho Society has submitted these points about the Strategy to WCC and will report WCC's response in the next issue of the Clarion – keep watching this space!



Ward Panel Update

Since the last issue of the Clarion, there have been a lot of changes within Westminster following the merger of Westminster Police with Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham. The Leicester Square Impact Zone has been disbanded, as has ORB (Oxford/Regent/Bond Streets), and the officers are now within the 'pool' of officers available when needed. It is too early to tell how these changes will affect Soho over the longer term, but we have certainly seen more police on the streets

recently. The drug 'hot-spot' of Cambridge Circus has certainly seen improvements during the day but there is still a lot of activity at night and in the early hours of the morning. There is still a lot of crime in the area, particularly robbery (usually at night) the main targets being people who may be vulnerable for one reason or another; also theft from person has increased. A 'charming' tale, not in Soho, was that a lady kindly brought a sandwich for someone she believed to be in need, and so grateful were they that they gave her a great big hug, at the same time relieving her of her purse containing over £50. So if anyone looks to hug you, beware.

The police and Westminster Council are also doing what they can re the menace of pedicabs, but it needs legislation - who knows when that may happen because of the current political climate that's Brexit! Stay safe and be vigilant, and if in danger always dial 999. Crime can also be reported online at the Met Police website.

Jane Doyle

Oxford Circus - East West Closure to Vehicles

As we go to print we have received further clarification on Westminster's Oxford Street proposals. Oxford Circus is to be closed to all east-west vehicle traffic - 24/7 - including emergency vehicles, taxis and buses. All traffic will instead be routed north on Great Portland Street, then Great Castle Street and John Prince's Street with a slightly different route for west-

east traffic.

We asked why. The reason given by Westminster is that Oxford Circus tube disgorges so many people on to Oxford Circus that the East-West vehicle traffic must be removed completely for safety.

We suggested that when Crossrail opens next year many passengers will use the new Dean Street entrance to Tottenham Court Road station or the revamped Bond Street station - avoiding Oxford Circus itself. According to Westminster (and in direct contradiction to what it had previously said about Crossrail) there will be no reduction in passenger numbers at Oxford Circus tube when Crossrail opens. This is rather an extraordinary thing for Westminster to say. The new Oxford Circus pedestrianisation scheme will require the destruction of the diagonal crossings which WCC paid £5m for in 2009. This strikes us as all very odd and one is left wondering what the real reasons for these changes are. Maybe it will become clear later in the consultation.

In addition, we asked if Westminster had modelled changes to the drivers of pedestrian footfall as land use on Oxford Street changes - i.e. if there is a shift away from retail to office and residential and new uses. Westminster confirmed that it has done no such modelling.

We also asked what the new uses might be. Restaurants and things like Crazy Golf and whatever the



market thinks up - but not, we are promised, night clubs. None of this is reassuring. The “new use” of Oxford Street currently is endless candy and souvenir stores. Is Westminster using public money to prop up the hope that Oxford Street alone will buck the changes in the retail sector that have affected every other high street in the country and beyond? Those assumptions should be explicit so that the person responsible for them can be held accountable. There will be further consultation events in due course. It might be worth letting the Council know your concerns.

20th Century Fox Building - proposals for demolition and development

The Society’s planning group has seen proposals for the demolition of the 20th Century Fox building in Soho Square and its replacement with a rather anodyne tile and glass edifice that, depressingly, would not look out of place anywhere except a conservation area. There will also be a new pedestrian area behind the Soho Theatre and a route through from Dean Street to Soho Square with a new archway in the south west corner of the square.

There are lots of references in the proposal document to the Joseph Bank’s herbarium which was located in this area. What this has to do with the current proposals for an office redevelopment (with no herbarium) is anyone’s guess. Frankly, it’s unlikely to

win anyone over.

The Society is concerned about the loss of an attractive building with many historical associations in the conservation area, the loss of integrity to the square, at least two years of construction and the impact of construction on neighbours (both business and residential), and the environment. There is an argument that it might suit the Soho Theatre to have an area at the back for the theatre crowd - but that too has to be balanced against the construction nuisance.

In the interest of fairness we have given the developers a page in the Clarion to describe their scheme [see opposite]. Readers can make their own mind up. If you are concerned about the loss of this building it would be good if you joined the Soho Society and volunteered for the planning group.

Soho Hospital for Women

We had a meeting with the owners of the Hospital for Women on Soho Square, NHS Property. The Society is concerned that the NHS want to close the building and sell it off for a hotel or residential development. We are also concerned that this large and prestigious building has been half empty for many years when there is demand for space in it from uses within the existing Class D planning permission - medical, museum and community use for example. We have asked what it might cost to rent space in the building - no information has been forthcoming. NHS Property said the use of



the building is nothing to do with them and it’s all down to the Central London Clinical Commissioning Group and their “strategy” for the building. This is presumably the same “strategy” that CLCCG have been working on for nearly two years about which they can say absolutely nothing - including when it might be complete. We have asked for a meeting with the CLCCG but so far they are unable to find a date.

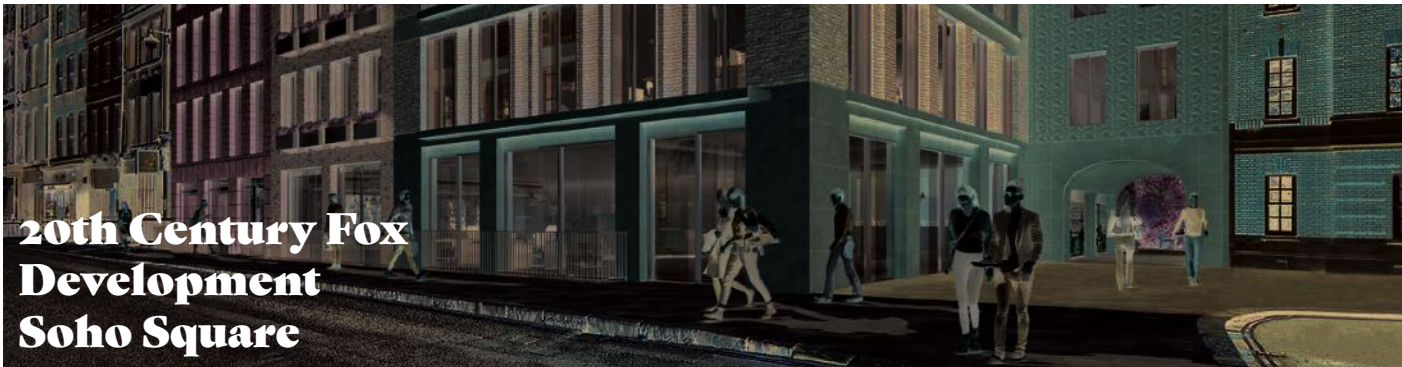
A hospital paid for by public subscription has been largely closed to the public for years while the NHS fails to use all of it or lease space in it to help defray the cost of maintenance. The lack of any alternative credible story on what they are up to could suggest that what they want to do is to sell it off with a change of planning classification.

Eventually, Soho will lose from public use one of its most impressive and historic public buildings. It was the first hospital for the ailments of women in the world.

Please let us know your views, chair@thesohosociety.org.uk

Tim Lord

Soho Food Feast - 8th and 9th June
Soho Fete - 30th June
Soho Neighbourhood Forum AGM - 3rd July
Pride - 6th July
French House - Lesley Lewis’s 30th Anniversary - 13th and 14th July
Soho Jazz Week - 4th to 7th



Royal London are pleased to share their development proposals, which include the redevelopment of 31-32 Soho Square and 65-66 Frith Street as well as the refurbishment and extension of 22-25 Dean Street and 10 Chapone Place. At the heart of the plan is the creation of a new enlarged public space and pedestrian route within Chapone Place, developed by award winning Emrys Architects and Landscape Architects, Farrer Huxley Associates. In bringing these buildings and Chapone Place together Royal London have, over time, taken a holistic approach to deliver a comprehensive development rather than adopting a piecemeal approach.

A Public Chapone Place

The proposal includes the enlargement and transformation of the existing private Chapone Place into a managed and maintained landscaped space for the public to enjoy, introducing a new east-west pedestrian route through the site connecting Soho Square with Dean Street creating a space to stop and sit, which Soho residents, workers and visitors will be able to enjoy. The design, architecture and material selection within the space has been inspired by the unique history of the site.

Mixed Use Office Led Development

The proposal renews the existing primary office use of the site buildings providing a range of sizes of office accommodation. The new building on the site of 31-32 Soho Square and 65-66 Frith Street will provide office accommodation on basement, ground and six upper floors incorporating flexible larger or smaller floorplates suitable for accommodating a range of different businesses, while the extension of the existing office accommodation at 22-25 Dean Street and 10 Chapone Place will provide office accommodation ideally suited for small and medium sized enterprises.

Design and Heritage

A key aspect of the scheme is the sensitive replacement of 65-66 Frith Street and 31-32 Soho Square with a replacement building of the highest architectural quality. The new building has

been developed with detailed consideration to the surrounding context. The building is designed to sit comfortably within the historic square and tributary streets by adopting Georgian plot widths, facade design and a contextual material palette.

The scheme also celebrates the important history of the site as the former location of the home of the pre-eminent botanist Sir Joseph Banks. This history is expressed in a number of ways notably in the design and materials of the proposed public space and a tiled mosaic which will form part of the elevation of the proposed building facing onto Soho Square, reintroducing the plot form of the original Banks home.

A Community Focused Development

Royal London have spoken to many residents, local businesses and interested parties over a number of months. It is recognised that this part of Soho has undergone significant development over a number of years and that this inconveniences residents. However, Royal London take their participation in the community seriously and have experience managing construction in sensitive locations. Designing and implementing a bespoke construction plan for this part of Soho is a priority and the contractor will fully comply with the City Council's Code of Construction Practice.

Dedicated, managed and regulated servicing and waste facilities will be put in place. The design, layout and operation of the new public space has been developed with consideration of the surrounding neighbours. The entrance to the public space includes ornate gates which based on the consensus of views from community engagement will be closed overnight. Conditions would also control the potential uses and hours of external seating and proposed restaurants to prevent noise and anti-social behaviour.

If you would like further information on the proposals the please contact Nathan Parsad at nparsad@conciliocomms.com or 07867 543 882.

@CARNABYLONDON

@THISISSOHO

#SOHOMUSICMONTH

SOHO MUSIC MONTH

A FREE MUSIC
AND CULTURE
FESTIVAL

1-30
JUNE 2019

CELEBRATING MUSIC IN SOHO

PLATFORM LDN HUB
3 CARNABY STREET, W1
FEATURING

RUN THE JEWELS
JULIE ADENUGA
MAYA JAMA
ASHLEY WALTERS
JAMZ SUPERNOVA
AND MANY MORE

WORLD OCEANS DAY

SATURDAY 8 JUNE
12-6PM

LIVE MUSIC &
PERFORMANCES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
PROJECT O
POP-UP SHOP
LIMITED EDITION
TOTE BAGS
PHOTO BOOTH

SPECIAL EVENTS
EXCLUSIVE DISHES
& COCKTAILS

VISIT CARNABY.CO.UK/MUSICMONTH FOR FULL DETAILS AND LINE-UP



CARNABY

Shaftesbury

PLATFORM
LDN



Project O

Bar Bruno

Bar Bruno is one of the last links between the Soho of yesteryear and this fast changing place we find ourselves in today.



Once there were many traditional ‘greasy spoons’, now there is but one. Bruno established it in the 1960’s after his decision that running a cafe was preferable to being a Holborn based driving instructor. It has faithfully served the builders, tradesman, residents of Soho and visitors ever since.

Frank who originally hailed from Italy started his career at Bruno’s in the 1970’s, working alongside his uncle. He has since taken over, and by staying true to his roots, runs a successful independent business. Frank is the first to admit that the current business environment is the harshest he has faced with spiralling rents as a result of large groups desperate to have a presence in Soho at any cost, and with WCC rates unfairly not differentiating between large corporates and small independent businesses. Having squeezed margins to such an extent that unless you have an extremely understanding landlord and/or deep pockets, there is very little chance for independent businesses to survive and flourish in Soho. This is coupled with the unfair advantage he (and I suspect many others) sees with regard to how established restaurants and cafes are treated by the council when compared to street food vendors who don’t of course have the same overheads, food hygiene regulations and staffing costs.

Frank sees a very difficult few years ahead for all small independent Soho based businesses. However, he believes that through hard work and innovation he will be able to hand over Bruno’s to the next generation as a viable business. He believes that without the support of the Soho community small independent businesses like Bruno’s will struggle to survive.

In fact he and his son are looking to rework their lunch and dinner menus and are looking to bring a flavour of his home town of Naples to Soho, so customers could see fresh pasta with various old style Italian sauces - puttanesca, Neapolitan, or arrabbiata among others - on the menu.

Soho has already inadvertently lost large swathes of its history through past questionable planning decisions, through landlords looking only at yields, and through the authorities treating Soho as a cash cow, without any thought of legacy. If, like me, you like to enjoy egg and chips and cuppa, this total disregard for Soho and its heritage needs to end, or Bruno’s and other such historic establishments will be replaced by yet another generic outlet.

Bar Bruno, 101 Wardour Street, London W1F 0UG.

Philip Antscherl



COUNCILLOR RICHARD BEDDOE



Cabinet Member for Place Shaping and Planning

Soho must be saved from invasion of bland brands. One of the best things about Soho is that it means something different to everyone who visits.

The area has an amazing cultural history and will always be celebrated as the birth place of much of Britain's best music, film, culture and LGBTQI+ heritage.

It is so eclectic that it is, perhaps, easier to describe Soho by what it is not, rather than what it is. For example, Soho is not a Costa Coffee or a Pret a Manger on every corner, it is not row after row of high street brand stores found up and down the UK and it is not bland, paint by numbers chain pubs and bars. Our challenge as a council is to protect Soho's unique character without artificially freezing it in time.

Soho has seen a dramatic decline in shops in recent years with one in four retail and independent shops closing since 2007. The historic area has also seen a significant loss of pubs, clubs and live music venues with recent high profile cases like Borderline or The Coach and Horses the latest in a long list of much-loved music venues and independent community pubs facing closure or blandification.

We need to help the neighbourhood adapt without losing its quiriness. Key to the campaign will be new planning rules in the council's City Plan. Within the plan, which will be open to public consultation in the coming weeks, the council will protect smaller independent retailers by supporting and maintaining suitable commercial spaces.

Of course we must also appreciate that it is not the place of a council to interfere hamfistedly with the market – so there is a balance to be struck. But by using our planning powers to create an environment where the creative industries can thrive, we'll make more space for the modern independent retailers or new start-ups.

We will also be lobbying government to give us a greater share of business rates. This will allow us

to pump more money back into the local area and ensure Soho remains special.

However, Soho is not a museum. It's a bustling, modern cultural destination. So alongside the new policy there are plans to introduce many more dropped curbs to improve accessibility and a huge amount of electric vehicle infrastructure to tackle pollution. The council is also pledging to create thousands of new jobs in the creative industries over ten years, supplying the area's booming, film, fashion, media and arts industries with skilled staff through apprenticeship schemes.

It would be tragedy if in five or ten years' time the neighbourhood became like any other high street or shopping district around the world, and I want to reassure people who love Soho that I do too. That is why Westminster City Council is campaigning to save Soho.

Membership Matters

To join the Soho Society please go to our website where you can sign up and pay with a credit card.

Individual membership
Lifetime £250
Annual £30
Concession / Soho Resident £20

Business Membership
Standard £200
Small Business (<30 Employees) £50

PAYMENT ON-LINE
Our Barclays Bank account details:
Account Number: 13609987
Sort Code: 20-10-53

Please enter your surname and post-code as the payment reference.

COUNCILLOR IAN ADAMS

Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing



As we are firmly in the first few months of the new policing model in Westminster, I wanted to provide an update about what our Integrated Street Engagement Unit (ISEU) and police partnerships have been doing to ensure public safety on the streets of Soho. Whilst crime prevention is always key, it is also essential that residents are getting the appropriate response to local issues affecting day to day life in the area. I am glad to see that these positive changes are being made.

Policing in Soho has recently seen the rollout of Operation Taniwha, which has now become their standard patrol position in the area. This increase in visible police presence has been met with overwhelmingly positive feedback in the community and helped to spread the word amongst drug users and dealers that regular enforcement is going on in the area. We want people to be aware that these activities will not go unchallenged in Westminster and have no place in this community. Following these new patrols:

- There has been a marked increase in arrests for a wide range of offences in the area, with many resulting in successful prosecutions.
- There have been several arrests for drug supply, including three following the first three stops and searches on one evening alone.
- Two registered sex offenders and two of the most problematic local individuals are now serving prison sentences.

This operation has also resulted in wanted individuals being arrested and linked to a variety of previous offences.

The ISEU, a partnership between Westminster City Council services and local charities that supports our daytime street population off the streets and into accommodation, have also had some recent success in the area. At the start of this year, a great number of complaints were lodged by local residents and businesses about Great Windmill Street, and the street obstruction

being caused there by several tents and littered areas. I am pleased to report that ISEU worked with multiple agencies to remove the encampment. With the assistance of City Inspectors, Outreach Services, Turning Point, the Police, and Veolia, five tents and a large wooden structure were removed, along with a large amount of litter in the area. I was especially happy to see that, whilst the obstructions were cleared, efforts were made to assist the 11 people residing there and to refer them to Westminster's local support services, with social workers on site to assist any vulnerable and high-risk individuals.

As we see this new policing activity roll out across Westminster I hope to continue to provide you with regular positive updates. I will be working closely with the Metropolitan Police and our ISEU partners moving forward to help ensure that our community is safe, and as always, I thank you for your support and engagement in this campaign.

You can order the Soho Society beer
from our website.

FOR WHOLESALE SALE & ORDERS:
orders@mondobrewingcompany.com

FOR ACCOUNT ENQUIRIES:
accounts@mondobrewingcompany.com

Phone: 0207 720 0782

FIND US:

86 Stewart's Road
Battersea
London SW8 4UG



Robi Walters is an immensely talented Soho based artist, a rare species these days given the spiralling rents, and the Government's penal business rates.



ROBI WALTERS



His start in life was not easy, and the fact that he has achieved what he has thus far should be an inspiration to all. Robi, through his art and charitable works has built up an impressive following, counting Thandie Newton, Stellan Skardgård, Usain Bolt as well as Major Lazer Diplo and Jillonaire as collectors, while collaborating with U2, Mary J Bilge and Sir Paul McCartney in order to raise money for charity.

Why did you chose Soho as your base?

“I was living in Canada at the time and was very clear that I wanted to have a studio on Dean Street, which is a very specific street given the size of London. When I returned after six years away, it took me a year to make it a reality. That was eight years ago, and I have never looked back. Soho, I don’t know, there is something magnetic about it, which had attracted me for a very long time and it was where I wanted to make my work and show my work.”

What were your first impressions of Soho?

“When I first started to go clubbing, one of the clubs I used to go to was the Astoria on Charing Cross Road. It was the first time I really experienced anything like this as a young person coming into town. It was so multi cultural and was so different, populated with such diversity, it was concentrated in a way that I had never experienced before. It didn’t matter whether you appeared to be eccentric or mad in the way you dress. If you were an alternative thinker, Soho is where you felt normal. I grew up in the suburbs where there were not many black people or people of mixed race. At school, or when I was playing sports I always felt I kind of stuck out a little, but when coming into Soho I felt I fitted.”

What is it about Soho that inspires you?

“I am very prolific with my work, I don’t stop working and try to do a piece every day, that’s my hobby. Then I do my collage pieces which are made up of recycled materials, my commissions and my shows. There is an energy around Soho where, if you can find a nook or corner you can find peace, but as soon as you step out the energy is so high, it’s always switched on. I love being

in nature, which also energises me. But when I am making my work I need to be stimulated in a way that everyone around me is doing something. It seems everyone in Soho is in a rush, even the homeless people are walking fast, like I am thinking, ‘where are you guys going?’ Everyone seems to be on a mission, and with a sense of purpose. Time seems to move quicker in Soho, everyone is in a rush, unless they have found their calm place. That high energy is really seductive, and makes it possible to do my work.”

What is your favourite aspect of Soho?

“My favourite aspect of Soho is you can walk down a street, and there can be a Rolls-Royce dropping someone off, while on the other side of the street someone is taking drugs or is homeless. That cocktail of acceptability, its not just whether it’s poor people or rich people. There is a strong thriving Gay scene, and it’s not a new Gay scene. There is the film industry, where films are still edited and cut, and then you go around the corner and there is a red light, and an invitation at the top of a stairway. There is a sex industry, with sex shops comingling with bars, clubs and restaurants. It would be very hard to re-create a space like Soho. It has taken millennia to make Soho what it is today. That fusion, that cocktail cannot be manufactured, it’s in the fabric, in the walls, and in pavements, they have seen so much, and you cannot replicate that. Soho is a melting pot for all walks of life, from rich to poor, from sex to film from restaurant to madness, you can walk around any corner and you will never know what you are going to see.”

What do you see as crucial to keep Soho relevant?

“We are in quite a flux of change, by which I

mean there is a lot of development. I don't mean renovations but buildings being flattened and being rebuilt on such a huge scale. For such a small area Soho is being developed at a ferocious rate but you can still find a seedy little downstairs bar. You will always find something that seems to have been there forever, but is next door to something that's being developed. You need both of those, you can't just stop development, but then again you can't just wipe out the historic stuff as well, its the uniqueness of the area."

What do you see as the biggest hurdle for the creative industry in Soho?

"In theory I shouldn't be able to exist in Soho financially, and frankly I cannot afford it. There is no room financially to allow a young creative to try something new, because it has become so expensive. You either need to have a seriously understanding landlord or you cannot do it. Most units that become vacant are unfortunately being taken over by corporations that don't really care whether their business succeeds in that area, they just want a presence. You could put three or four Pret's and X numbers of Costa in Soho, they

don't have to make money as they have enough outlets to be able to balance the books. If someone tries to come to Soho with an independent concept like bespoke handmade shoes, they have to make money, they have no choice or they are out. It's a shame that in certain areas everyone is painted with the same brush. I think there should be some type of recognition for these young entrepreneurs, tax breaks maybe, but some type of incentive. It seems that the corporates are the ones getting the tax breaks as they can afford the legal advice where people like me cannot. It seems that people like me are being punished for not being rich."



Robi is based at his gallery:

12 Ingestre Place, Soho, W1F 0JF

www.robiwalters.com

Philip Antscherl

www.kinkyoctopus.com
Soho Beach
20% OFF FOR CLARION READERS - USE CODE KINKY20

Soho Housing Association works to provide well managed affordable housing to enhance and sustain the diverse communities in the heart of London.

www.sohoha.org.uk

Soho - the heart of the LGBT Community



It was a Saturday evening in the summer of 2003 when I first visited Soho. I had just celebrated my 18th birthday. As my friend and I turned the corner into Old Compton Street, pop music blaring from bars, a handsome young man wearing hot pants pushed two flyers into my hand and winked at me playfully - "see you later!" Walking down Old Compton Street for the first time, was a rite of passage for every gay man. And remains so to this day.

Pride in London takes place on 6 July and will see hundreds of thousands of LGBT people, allies and their friends pass through Soho, either on their way to the parade, to Trafalgar Square or to enjoy Soho's LGBT shops, restaurants, bars and clubs.

In 2003, people spoke of Earl's Court once having rivalled Soho as an LGBT destination. But Soho remains at the centre of LGBT life in London, with satellite venues in East London and Vauxhall.

Soho has always had historic LGBT links, with venues like the Caravan Club on Endell Street and Billie's Club on Flitcroft Street, famous during the inter-war years for what was then their sexually transgressive clientele. In the decades following

the Second World War, the area was actually best known for its straight sex workers, porn shops, cinemas and peep shows.

The 1967 Sexual Offences Act decriminalised gay men in England and Wales, but it was the Stonewall Riots in 1969 that saw the LGBT Community become a fully-fledged movement. LGBT venues started to become more visible and the first Gay Pride march took place in London on 1 July 1972.

In the 1970s and particularly the 1980s, as action was taken to prohibit the sex industry in Soho, LGBT venues and services not only became more visible, but flocked to the area. Compton's opened in 1986. It replaced an establishment called the Swiss Tavern, where gay patrons still had to be discreet. Old Compton Street was lined with LGBT bars by the 1990s. The venues, like their clientele, were out and proud.

That evening, back in 2003, my friend and I went to two night clubs, The Shadow Lounge and G-A-Y at the London Astoria, which was open until dawn. The London Astoria was closed in 2008 and demolished as part of the Crossrail redevelopment. The Shadow Lounge closed in 2016 and is now a lap dancing club. Redevelopment, rising rents and gentrification pose the greatest threat to LGBT venues today.

Whatever the time of day, whichever corner I turn, Soho's streets always bring back memories of intense conversations, the joy of friendship, crazy nights out and old flames. Soho evokes strong emotion in most LGBT people, where we feel free, safe and able to express our identity, in a community we can call our own.

Follow Philip's journey at: [@philipcbaldwin](https://twitter.com/philipcbaldwin)



50 years of Racing Ducks, Snails and Waiters! The Soho Fete, 30th June 12-6pm



Did you know, there were once two Summer Festivals in Soho?

The current 'Village' Fete dates back to 1975 although the Soho Summer Festival itself was a 1950's institution, running annually until 1959, then a 16 year gap until 1975, when the modern Soho Festival was reborn, though history does not relate why.

The Soho Waiters' Race was always held separately to the fete and actually died out completely until revived by the Soho Society in recent years.

The Fete of the 1970's, was organised by all the businesses in Soho and the Film "Sunshine in Soho" is really a record of all these festivals and businesses. The Soho Society took over the fete after its 16-year hiatus, holding it on the bomb site of St Anne's Church, which was fully restored by The Society in 1990/91.

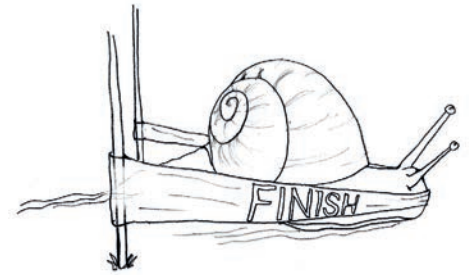
In 1975 the first fete was held next to the ruined Church tower in what was then a car park, organised by the irrepressible Mario Forte, owner of The Star Café, Great Chapel Street, now The London Gin Club and still run by his daughter Julia. Mario also ran the Soho 5 a side football team.

In 1980 the Festival used the car park and vestry gardens, until the Housing Association built the



present Chancel Court building, then it was in the garden and street outside. The Fete used to be in Wardour street as well, and over the years it has

expanded and contracted to its current home in St Anne's Gardens. In 1977 there were aspirations for a two day Festival and in 1978 the



Clarion reported that there were enough activities for a full week - gawd help the organisers!

Always international in spirit, the 1978 Summer Clarion reported that "Gourmets (at the Festival) could look forward to savouring food from The Philippines, Korea, Switzerland and China as well as, Italy Singapore Turkey and America."

Leslie Hardcastle reminisces, "In the 70's Soho was an enigma, it was run-down and crummy but you had fantastic restaurants, for example Kettner's, a restaurant of high style, and retail specialists including a cigar shop. The Soho Society was much closer to trade and businesses; we had 1000 members, 500 of them were trade. Events like the Spaghetti Eating Competition took place from the start. For the uninitiated this involves eating a bowl of spaghetti in the fastest time possible (in 1978 this was 1.5lb's dry-weight). This year's competition at 12.30pm is sponsored by Vapiano, Wardour Street, kindly supplying huge vats of Spaghetti Pomodoro.

A draw of the 70's fetes were the TV Celebrity guests. September 1977's Festival saw 'Are You Being Served's Wendy Richard presenting 1st prize for The Waiters Race. TV personality attendance was down to the St Anne's Padre Revd. Hurst Bannister who was Priest Padre for West End Theatres. His connections secured Prunella Scales, Carry On Actress, Fenella Fielding, and even Dr Who. Ultra-Modern, you could have an instant polaroid photograph taken with them. Forget snail racing, early Festivals included duck racing with real ducks! There were the Soho Wrestlers and you could enter a competition for the best beard. There was a Cigar Smoking Competition, history does not relate if this was based on size a la Monica Lewinsky, or the shortest time to smoke a Cuban.

In the noughties, Mandana of The Academy Club ran the Festival and changed the name to Soho's Village Fete, a tongue in cheek reference to

central London's most interesting village. Recent organiser Lisa Sheehy famously secured a life-size albeit non-mooing cow, and female Morris Dancers, The Belles, who will be returning this summer. This is our village fair, all are welcome, we have transvestites and Drag Queens who are part of our community. The local community are inviting you in to our Village in Soho.

Being part of the Fete Committee is a rollercoaster lurching from the sheer terror of delivering local expectations, to joyful bohemian chaos. Important questions such as; will Brian, The Giant African Snail (currently in happy retirement) wake from hibernation in time to defend his snail racing title, provide a soothing escape from daily corporate life.

This year's Fete on Sunday 30th June, 12-6pm, has a packed line-up including a NEW! Dog Show, RETURNING! Tug of War, The Human Fruit Machine, Snail racing, Alpine Horn Blowing and the ICONIC! Waiters Race for which recruitment is in full flow.

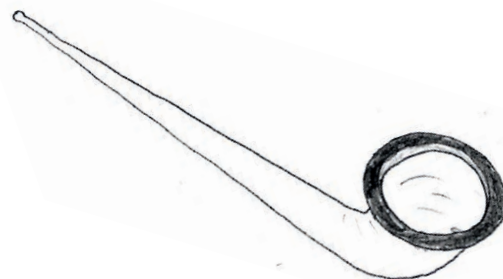
Free and Family friendly, with musical entertainment and Drag Queens all afternoon, the Soho Fete is 100% unmissable.

Would you like to get involved in this year's Fete? We are looking for Raffle Prizes, Tombola



Donations, Sponsorship and Volunteers! Please email Lucy and Rachel - Fete@theSohoSociety.org.uk

Lucy Haine



GERRY'S

WINES & SPIRITS

International Wines and Spirits

74 Old Compton Street
London W1D 4UW

Telephone
020 7734 2053
020 7734 4215

If it's drinkable it's here



MEDITERRANEAN CAFE

Established 1987

18 Berwick Street
London W1F 0HP

Mon - Sat: 9am-11:45pm
Sunday: 9am-10:30pm

Tel: 020 7437 0560
@MedCafeSoho

email: info@medcafesoho.co.uk

<http://www.medcafesoho.co.uk>

**FIND US ON
BERWICK ST
MARKET IN
LONDON'S SOHO**

KRICKET

12 Denman St, W1D 7HH

It was only a few weeks before my 18th birthday, and living in the shadows of St Mary-le-Bow, that I found myself for the first time, wedged into the tiny dining room of an elegantly appointed Indian restaurant. Furry wallpaper, pink table cloths, and melodic chanting interspersed with a frantic sitar. Having lived a relatively sheltered life in terms of culinary exposure, the onslaught to the senses of unknown and exotic spices in that small room changed my life.

Having no idea, and being too simple minded to ask my far more experienced friends, I ventured for a chicken vindaloo and a pint. Presented to me some minutes later was a dark red and angry, slightly oily stew-like dish. What should have alerted me to the life changing experience were the many dried chilis in plain sight, and the way my eyes watered when I took a sniff. Not wanting to show my total lack of experience in these matters, I delved in and much to the amusement of the staff and fellow diners I turned scarlet, had a coughing fit and necked the pint. Some pints later, the last mouthful of lava finished, I thanked the Gods that this self inflicted pain and suffering were at an end. How wrong I was, a convert I have become.

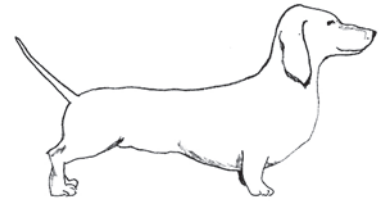
While taking a short cut down Denman Street, I happened upon an open door and was immediately assailed by those now familiar culinary aromas. Cricket had come to Soho. Conceived by Will Bowlby and Rik Campbell in a Brixton based shipping container in 2015, and wildly popular, it wasn't long before the concept needed to expand from its original 20 seat space to a more befitting home. An open kitchen dominates the ground floor, immersing you in the deliciousness of what Cricket has to offer as you enter. This is not in any way an old school curry house, it is streets away from that first experience. Cricket has developed a concept that is light, fragrant, flavoursome, and downright delicious. All dishes are to share, unless you have an aversion to sharing ... like me.

The menu is near perfectly balanced between vegetables, fish and meat. It is easily possible to skip the meat or even fish. However i would recommend trying all three if your lifestyle choices allow. Being wholly unable to make a decision on what to order from the frankly fabulous array and with some habits dying hard, I plough straight in without a second thought of the consequences. The bhel puri with raw mango and tamarind yoghurt is a mixture of crunchiness, creaminess and spice. With the samphire pakoras with date and tamarind chutney, Cricket has taken the simple poppadom, and given it a make-over you will not forget. Kashmiri chili cured trout, buttermilk mustard oil, pickled chillies and shiso is a fabulous way to take a river fish which by any stretch of the imagination cannot be described as being interesting, and making it interesting. What can I say about the Keralan fried chicken.. other than Colonel Sanders would rue the day he chose Kentucky as the base for his fried chicken recipe. It is quite honestly the best fried chicken i have ever had.



If you are not sufficiently stuffed, you may opt to try one or both of the puddings, or you could instead order a spiced masala chia with a rum shot to round off the proceedings. Whatever your choice, either will be the perfect end to what can only be described as one of the finest Indian meals you will ever taste.

Philip Antscherl



DAN DE LA MOTTE

Duck Soup) from the late 1940s until her death in 1979. Belcher (played by Tilda Swinton in the 1998 film *Love is the Devil*) was known to ‘purr at the women, but bark at the men’, and so notorious, and indeed loved, was she for her razor tongue that she was affectionately nicknamed ‘Cunty’. In 1940s/50s Soho, Belcher would look after the area’s heavily powdered and painted pretty boys, taking them under her wing, as well as the most talented artists of the day, such as Francis Bacon, whom Belcher labelled her ‘daughter’, and who would paint Belcher as payment for his bar tab.

Belcher was an incredible woman. And so was Billie Joyce, who around a decade earlier and just round the corner on Flitcroft Street (formerly Little Denmark Street), ran Billie’s Club, a performance space where Londoners could experiment with their own gender and sexual identity within the safety and comfort of their own kind. A modern day equivalent would perhaps be Bethnal Green Working Men’s Club; think shabby chic aesthetic with bawdy performance art. When we think of the history of Queer liberation we (rightly) think of the Stonewall uprising in New York and the work of the Gay Liberation Front in the Notting Hill communes of the early 70s, but we must also think of these men and boys who, with their hair and nails done just so, were the effeminate pioneers of all who came after them, including myself.

Billie’s Club was eventually raided by police in 1936, at which point Billie sprang to the defence of her Queer clientele, with the line, ‘they’re not all bad’. Joyce was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. Incidentally, a performer on stage on the night of the raid was found guilty under

Throughout its history, Soho has been a place where ‘others’ of one form or another have lived, worked and congregated. My own family moved to Frith Street from the tiny Italian village of Mignano in the 1950s without two words of English to string together and forged a life in Soho’s very own ‘Little Italy’. Here they rubbed shoulders with other European migrants, travellers, bohemians, artists, jazz musicians, people of colour, political exiles, and, perhaps unknowingly, Queers. I use the term ‘Queer’ deliberately; it is the political catch-all for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and people who, using today’s terminology, are trans or gender non-conforming. These Queer lives from 1930s, 40s, 50s Soho have always fascinated me. Walk down Dean Street or Greek Street and you can still feel their energy ricocheting off the bricks and mortar and into and around contemporary Queer people; they are ghosts, shadows, echoes of what went before us, of the long and ongoing journey towards liberation and equality, and it is our duty to acknowledge and celebrate these lives.

One such life is that of Muriel Belcher, who along with her Jamaican girlfriend Carmel Stuart, ran the Colony Club Room at 41 Dean Street (now

the 1533 Buggery Act, introduced by Henry VIII over 400 years earlier, and sentenced to 2 years hard labour.

A short skip away from Billie's was the Caravan Club at 81 Endell Street, a Queer space under police surveillance from the turret of the Shaftesbury Theatre diagonally opposite. This club was one of the regular haunts of Cyril Coeur de Leon, a feisty and self-empowered Queer man, who said of 30s Soho; 'I've only become Queer since I came to London. Before then I knew nothing about it.'

So, does Soho 'queer' the people, or do the people 'queer' Soho? What is the relationship between person, place and identity? Soho has always incubated and nurtured those on the outside of society, and has always been resilient in the face of tragedy and persecution, and long may this continue.

Dan de la Motte leads Queer Walking tours of Soho as part of Queer Tours of London

Dan de la Motte

@Dandelamotte // @QueerToursLDN



**27 Frith Street
London W1D 5LE
020 7734 6204**

www.bistrol.co.uk

Open daily to 1 am

Relaxed and friendly Mediterranean restaurant on two floors with coloured glass lamps, serving 2 and 3 course set menus.

SOHO BAKERS CLUB

Summer Raspberry Roulade



4 egg whites
225g caster sugar
30g flaked almonds

Filling

300ml whipping cream
Few drops of vanilla essence
350g fresh raspberries

Pre-heat the oven Gas 7, 220c
Line a 33 x 23 cm Swiss Roll tin with baking parchment

- In a clean bowl whisk the egg whites using an electric whisk on full speed. Whisk until very stiff.
- Gradually add the sugar, a teaspoon at a time and continue to whisk on full speed.
- Whisk until the mixture is very stiff and all the sugar has been incorporated, you should be able to stand a spoon in it.
- Spread the mixture into the prepared tin and sprinkle with the almonds.
- Place the tin near the top of the pre-heated oven, bake for 6 minutes. Keep an eye on it, if the almonds start to burn place some tin foil on the top.
- Then lower the oven to gas 3, 160c and bake for a further 15 minutes until firm to the touch.
- Remove the roulade from the oven, turn almond side down on a sheet of baking. Remove the paper from the base and allow to cool.
- Whisk the cream with the vanilla essence until stiff peaks, spread over the base of the roulade and add the raspberries on top.
- Roll from the long end, sprinkle with icing sugar and serve.

COUNCILLOR

TIM BARNES

CONSERVATIVE WARD COUNCILLOR

Why Stand for the European Parliament?

When the Soho Society's Chairman, Tim Lord, tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Why don't you do something for the Clarion on why you are standing in the European Elections?", my immediate response was to say yes, but agreeing to do so has caused me some regret ever since.

The answer should be obvious, but it says a huge amount about where we found ourselves in 2019 that the question behind this article even needs to be asked.

The European Parliament is a powerful body that exerts significant control over day-to-day elements of all our lives. Let's take that as read, because if that's not the case, then this whole Brexit argument has been for nothing and that's just not worth thinking about.

It follows that, as someone with a desire to play a political role to improve the lives of those around us, it's something to aspire to. However, the reality of me being elected to Brussels was never going to be as high as "slim chance". So, the question remains: why bother standing?

This is certainly not about progressing a career in the Conservative Party. There are few things that most associations, particularly outside of London, want to see less than engagement in European elections that they see as embarrassing. It's also not about Brexit, at least not for me.

I voted Remain in 2016 and helped to set up the Conservatives national Remain campaign, 'Conservatives.In'. My view remains that Brexit is likely to bring worse economic prospects for the UK than would be the case if we stay, but we made that case and the wider electorate disagreed. For us to remain a democratic nation, we need to implement that decision and recognise it needs to be done with a deal that both the UK and EU can accept. Sadly, this election is being seen by many voters as another referendum, this time on whether we should take that path or the No

Deal offered by the Brexit Party and others. I reject that option completely. Brexit shouldn't even

be the biggest issue because that's not where it needs to be resolved and elections to Brussels will not change the balance of parties and views in the UK Parliament but voters are making it so.

But back to the question... if it's not Brexit or career, is there a reason to stand at all? Yes. The trouble is that I have found it hard to explain without sounding overly pious. All the same, here it goes.

I believe that it is fundamental to a representative democracy that voters should be able to go into the polling booth and find a broad range of candidates and parties so you can clearly express a preference based on meaningful choice. For that to happen, there need to be people who will put themselves forward to be candidates.

In practice, that means that as the representative of a political party, when there is an election you fight it as a candidate or by campaigning for others. You put forward your views on the big issues of the day, you propose what you would like to do if you were elected and you highlight your track record.

This is not a new position as I have found only recently. As we headed towards the 2015 General Election, the coalition was polling well and Nick Boles, among others, suggested we should campaign on a joint Conservatives-LibDem ticket. That didn't seem to me to be fair on voters who would be denied two options. I have also debated against Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, when they called for a "Progressive Alliance" ahead of the 2017 General Election. Would it really be right for Labour voters in some parts of the country to be denied the chance to express their preference because there was only a Green in their area? Or vice versa?

I believe the answer is no. This really is about democracy and the need for real choices to exist that voters can then decide between. It's why we are lucky not to live in China, Venezuela or Burma and have choices that are denied to their citizens. But for us to lose that, all it takes is for people to give up and not take part in elections. Finally, if by some twist of fate I am elected, it will give Soho a new voice on the international political stage that I am sure we will all agree is truly deserved and probably long overdue.

And that is why I am standing in the European Parliament Elections on 23 May.

If this has pleased, angered or engaged you in anyway, please feel free to contact me via **@CampaignTim** on Twitter or



tbarnes@westminster.gov.uk if you prefer.
Some rational conversation about this is probably long overdue for all of us.

COUNCILLOR
JONATHAN
GLANZ
CONSERVATIVE

Why Stand for the European Parliament?

Even though I have now spent nearly 10 years on the Council, and 12 or more years in Community Politics as Chairman of the Marylebone Association before that, it is still a mystery to me as to how Westminster Council officers prioritise Public Realm and Lighting Renewal Schemes. Some lampposts seem to be changed every six months or so whilst other languish unworking and unloved for years. Old Compton Street had, in my opinion, reasonably good paving, yet it is being completely relaid. Other streets in Soho are significantly worse, with broken tarmac, lack of dropped kerbs and various trip hazards. I have repeatedly drawn these to the attention of the teams, asking that they be prioritised. Please let us know where there are upgrades which you would like to see so that they can be included in the Programme and we can do our best to ensure that they indeed are prioritised and addressed.

Two major planning applications currently under consideration share in common the aim of creating improved connectivity. The developers claim that this is in a “Soho style”. One development replacing the 20th Century Fox building in the corner of Soho Square will create a new pedestrian link to Dean Street. The other will create a new pedestrian link between Poland Street and Great Marlborough Street, and replaces the two hotel consents currently granted for the site with a single hotel with fewer rooms. Whilst residents have concerns in relation to both schemes, which I am pursuing with the developers and officers, particularly the potential adverse effects on Marshall Street which has led to a major revision of that particular scheme, they also offer potential long-term benefits to Soho. Crossrail – I am very disappointed at the further delays in Crossrail and at their attitude in dealing with problems being suffered by those



Cllrs Jonathan Glanz and Timothy Barnes (right) at the Bulgarian Festival in Soho

closest to the Dean Street site and Goslett Yard. We were repeatedly told by Crossrail that the project was “on budget and on time”, and the long further delays add insult to the injury of blight and inconvenience which has bedevilled the northern part of Soho for some time. We will keep the pressure on them to comply with their undertakings both to the Council and to individual residents and businesses affected by the works and access problems. Crossrail 2 has gone very quiet at present.

Good progress is being made on improving connectivity in Soho. Community Fibre have spread their initial coverage of the three Towers to the areas surrounding them, and G Network are putting fibre connections into many of Soho’s streets. Even BT have upgraded some of their Cabinets to improve coverage and, whilst there is more to do, Soho is no longer the “not-spot” of Central London.

We have sought and received assurances that work will finally start on the long-term problems caused by vaults collapsing in both D’Arblay Street and Poland Street. The legal arguments relating to this have been resolved but the practical effect is that road closure will be required for a further significant period whilst the works are undertaken. There is never a period of respite from development and other pressures in Soho, but my colleagues and I continue to work hard to ensure that the effects on residents and businesses are minimised. We are also seeking to make sure that the diversity and those aspects of what makes Soho special, including the Coach and Horses and the remaining LGBTQ+ venues are maintained.

COUNCILLOR
PANCHO LEWIS
LABOUR

Soho v. Fuller's



Sohoites will know there has been a long-standing battle to stop the Coach & Horses being taken over by pubco Fuller's. It's been inspiring to see so many people rally around the campaign to keep the Coach independent. 10,000 people have signed the petition and the campaign has received massive support in the media.

I'm pleased I've been able to support the campaign. I got Westminster City Council to publicly back the campaign when I asked the Cabinet Member for local businesses to sign the petition and write to Fuller's. I also supported the bid to make the Coach an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and I'm really pleased ACV status was granted.

But at the time of writing things aren't looking up for the pub. Fuller's seem intent on taking over. By the time this edition of the Clarion is printed, they may well have installed their own management.

This is very frustrating. Despite a massive public outcry, Fuller's have refused to come to the table and negotiate. They've refused to listen to the community.

This points to a deeper issue in Soho. Big business – whether its developers, pubcos, or restaurant chains – often imposes its will on the community and disregard what local people want. As one resident put it to me recently, many big businesses don't see Soho the same way we do. For them, Soho is a spreadsheet. It's just numbers; there to make them a profit. It's been a similar story elsewhere, including with the hotel development at 90-104 Berwick Street.

In my role as a Labour councillor for Soho, I will always be on the side of the Soho community, whether for small businesses or residents. I will work with the community to stand up for Soho and stand up to big business when they behave irresponsibly and impose their will unilaterally.

I'm pleased that as a result of Labour campaigning, we're seeing some steps in the right direction. For one, the Conservatives at Westminster Council finally agreed to make Soho into a 'Special Policy Area' after we campaigned hard to give Soho a special status in planning terms. This will help stop more big hotels being

built in Soho and help support independent businesses. Plus, special emphasis will be given to building affordable homes.

But there's so much more to do. The Conservatives are in power at Westminster Council and their instincts are to side with moneyed interests and the ultra-wealthy. My commitment as a Labour councillor is to always work on behalf of the interests of the community and represent the local community's aspirations and vision for Soho.

I produce a monthly email newsletter. Please let me know if you'd like me to add you to my list.

Email: plewis@westminster.gov.uk

I hold monthly advice surgeries every third Saturday of the month:

Between 10-11am at Danceworks, 16 Balderton Street, Mayfair, London W1K 6TN; and

Between 11.30-12.30pm at 68 Dean Street, Soho, W1D 4QJ

Phone number: **020 7641 5377** (Members' Team)

My
PLACE

21 Berwick Street
London W1F 0PZ
020 3417 2829
www.myplacesoho.com

Relaxed all day brasserie with exposed brick walls.
Serves sharing plates, burgers, coffee and cocktails.
Open 8 am to late.

Lifestyle award for the best Coffee Shop 2017

To those who we are lucky to call regulars, we thank you for your ongoing support. To those who are yet to visit us, we look forward to welcoming you soon.

EXERCISE CLASSES FOR OVER 50S

Open Age is a wonderful charity operating mostly in the Queen's Park/Harrow Road area which offers a wide range of activities for the over 50s, from health and fitness classes such as dance, Pilates, yoga, chair exercise and walking groups, to creative and performing arts sessions including opportunities to learn or improve your guitar skills. And much, much more.

Now Open Age have come to Soho, to the Marshall Street Leisure Centre. On Mondays you can do Pilates, from 3.00-4.00pm, or 4.00-5.00pm. Or on Wednesdays, from 10.00-11.00am there is Osteo Blast, a 16 week strength and weight bearing exercise to promote bone and muscle strength.

The classes cost just £1 per session.

For the Pilates, you just turn up.

For Osteo Blast, you need to book (call Jade at

Open Age on 020 8962 4537).

You will need to become a member of Open Age but this is free (although a small donation is always welcome).

You can join at your first session, or by going to their website:

www.openage.org.uk

where you can find details of all their other activities in Westminster.

It would be great if they could be persuaded to bring more activities to Soho!

Wendy Hardcastle

MEABY & Co
solicitors



Strength & wisdom in law & business since 1848

With our head office in the centre of Soho, we are the natural choice for businesses and individuals who have legal needs in Soho and Central London. Our unique offices, our experienced team, our 5* Google reviews and our awarding winning service will ensure that all of your legal needs are supported on your doorstep.

Specialising in:

Media & Entertainment
Litigation and Mediation
Wills, Trusts & Probate
Crisis Management
Fraud & Private Crime
LGBT Experts

Employment Law
Family & Divorce Law
Reputation Protection
Commercial & Corporate Law
Residential & Commercial Property
Lease Extensions

Drop by our offices at 3-4 Portland Mews, Soho, W1F 8JF or contact our switchboard.

Need advice elsewhere? We can assist. We have branch offices in Camberwell, Dorking & Chigwell.

Switchboard: 0207 703 5034 **www.meaby.co.uk**

@MeabyandCo meaby-&-co MeabyandCo meabyandco



30 YEARS AT THE FRENCH



Lesley Lewis - 30 years at the French House
Who could possibly believe that come Bastille Day, 14 July, Lesley will have been at the French for 30 years? Certainly not Lesley! I caught up with her recently for a chat. This can only be a snapshot as she has so many memories and thoughts on Soho.

A little background history: Lesley first came to Soho in 1979 on completion of her drama diplomas, to run the Carnival Strip Club in Old Compton Street. She was given a flat and a studio in return for choreographing the girls and making the costumes. She stayed at the Carnival for a couple of years, but times could be difficult then with the Maltese connection, there being a large Maltese community in Soho at that time. Among other problems, sadly, the girls kept being beaten up. She says that Soho was very different then to now, with clubs ripping people off, clip joints, and the like.

In those days there were strip clubs all over Soho. The girls would do their three minute spots, throw their coats on, grab their vanity cases, and run down to do the next performance, and then the next, and so on. The girls earned £1 a spot. She remembers a queue of 'old' men waiting to get into the Carnival when it opened, and the large, elderly Maltese lady, a girl friend of the one-eyed owner (the other having been poked out with an umbrella by a rival club owner), who would sit on the front desk going, "pussy, pussy, pussy", allegedly looking for her cat. No one was sure that the cat existed as it was never seen, but she was always looking for it!

Lesley then moved into restaurants, getting a job in Peppermint Park, and ended up as a manager of the group, Coconut Grove. There was a

branch in Old Compton Street, called Fatso's Pasta Joint. It was cheap and cheerful, and always packed. It had space invaders on the tables and made a fortune!

The company was then sold and Lesley was offered redundancy or a pub and she took the pub, ending up running three pubs in Clerkenwell. After a time, she was offered a 'little wine bar in Soho', which turned out to be the French, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I asked a question she must have been asked a million times, if Gaston was a hard act to follow. She said he was, mainly because he had the total loyalty of his customers. A lot of said customers were apparently quite 'difficult' in the beginning, no doubt a shiver running down several spines when they heard part of Lesley's history was American restaurants! Of course, the French at that time was never renowned for its food (it served baguettes with different fillings), the kitchen having been condemned in the 60s! In fact, when Lesley took over even the baguettes were off-limits and the whole place was condemned - when she got her licence (provisional) she was told she had three months to sort it out.

The premises at that time had no fridge and no ice machine - there was an iced tray for beer, and wines and half bottles of champagne were kept chilled in a bucket of ice, which was delivered daily in a huge chunk and broken up! But it was and still is a much loved place.

When Lesley came to do the required works, she was often met with the refrain, "Gaston wouldn't have done it like that, Gaston wouldn't do that". She at that time had a 20 year lease, with a break clause after two years, and she was apparently counting the days down because many people were horrid - not everyone, but enough

to make life difficult. When the works were done (mostly overnight) so as not to disrupt business and incur further criticism, surprise, surprise, people quite liked the fact that there were stools, the windows opened and the loos were clean (and the gents was no longer visible from the street)! The décor was done in roughly the same colour scheme, including the ceiling which was painted a 'nicotine' colour. Among other eccentricities from the past was an oak bar with an inlay of red lino, and the panels also had the same red lino! The place now has an English oak bar top, which had to be 'abused' to 'fit in'. People worried about 'change' - Jeffrey Bernard wrote darkly about the 'changes' that would occur - realised they had nothing to fear!

Fortunately, she weathered the two year storm and clearly earned her 'stripes'. Of course, the kitchen and the restaurant had to be completely redone. There was also a new 'innovation', a restaurant upstairs, which has seen several chefs over the years, the kitchen now being overseen by Neil Borthwick, which has had great reviews in recent months and is always busy.

Space here doesn't allow me to go into too many

of the customers or the stories which are legion - several issues would be needed, but Lesley has made a lot of friends (rather than customers), who she treats as 'family'.

She does all sorts of things beyond being a pub: art exhibitions are held from time to time in the bar - in fact, the photographer, John Claridge has done a book of photographs covering the past 30 years (available behind the bar, £35), which will form the basis of an exhibition.

Upstairs in the restaurant is a small part of Lesley's collection of black and white photographs, which feature many regulars past and present, and which include one of her snake dancing from the Peppermint Park days as part of a cabaret act. Also upstairs is a picture of the 1984 Soho Festival by Tyrrel Broadbent, depicting the days when it was held in the car park opposite. You can see all the 'characters' in it - a competition perhaps 'Name the Faces'!?

Another curiosity of the French is that it has never served pints, a custom Lesley has continued. However, once a year on 1 April, they have 'Pints day', the proceeds of which go to charity. This year, the charity was Action against Hunger. All



sorts of celebrities, such as Suggs, Lorraine Chase, Robert Peston (prior to Brexit) and others pull a pint that is then auctioned. There were four top chefs involved this year, Neil Borthwick of course, Mark Hix, Russell Norman of Polpo and Jeremy Lee of Quo Vadis.

In the past the charity has usually been Macmillan, but this year she's doing something different for them - a series of, she says, beautiful letters written by various celebrities which were put together by her late husband, Noel Botham, for a book called "Will I see you in Heaven?" These will be read by the "French House Players" and others (perhaps at an evening event at St Anne's). So watch out for this.

Lesley was part of the Soho Society exec for a time, she was also a governor of the school for which she has always had great affection, the French were responsible for the bar at the fete, and was a founding member of the Soho Food Feast, which raised large sums of much needed cash for the school over the eight years of her involvement.

Lesley is a fan of small, independent, local restaurants, of which there are still many, as witnessed by those who give their time at the Soho Food Feast and give us all a chance to sample their menus, and she hopes they will continue to survive. She also doesn't care for Airbnb, as she feels it kills communities, and increases rents, and so on.

There are so many other things, including the 'SLAGS' lunch - the Soho Ladies and Gentlemen's Club. There hasn't been a lunch for some time, but there are plans afoot for one in memory of Eddi McPherson, who was a long term regular of the French and resident of Soho. Many of the old 'SLAGS' are gone, but there are junior 'slags' ready to come on board!

Lesley is often asked to cater for, amongst other things, funerals, which she feels is a great honour. However, she probably has a better knowledge than many of their likes and dislikes, and the sort of 'party' they'd like, and she makes sure they get it.

The French runs a successful customer training school, and drinking lessons are given - buying your round, very important! So remember when you visit! Another 'no-no' is using a mobile phone inside the pub, possibly a barring offence!

Lesley means to write a book (let's hope she does), and says her flat is full of memorabilia collected over the 30 years - every picture, press cutting, etc, is somewhere there. She's considering doing

something like a picture story-book covering the 30 years.

We chatted about many things, including perhaps a museum of Soho - Lesley thinks at times she could easily be a museum exhibit - people pop in, have a quick look round and go, without so much as a word! We also chatted about the lack of art galleries, and so on, and discussed how sad it is that so many have gone over the years. An interesting idea is that Lesley has thought for many years that there should be plaques (maybe dark red) on some of the buildings where the clubs were, because soon most of them will be forgotten - such as the Colony, the Gargoyle, the Kismet. There were so many, often in dingy basements, going back to the days when the pubs shut in the afternoons. They were all very much a part of Soho.

Another thing to emerge over the years was the start of the Useless Information Society, devised by Noel and Keith Waterhouse, which resulted in 10 books of 'useless information'. Lesley does Useless Information dinners in memory of Noel, about four a year, though perhaps in memory of Keith they should be lunches, as he had very 'particular' ideas about lunch and its 'etiquette', and wrote a book on the subject!

I asked, "Would you come to Soho knowing what you know now?" The answer was, "Of course, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

"What would you miss if you weren't here?"

"The people. So many have popped in for 'just the one', and are still here, 30 years later! " She feels there's something in the walls that says 'Drink here', and she's probably right.....

Here's to the next 30 years!

Jane Doyle



**THE SEVEN DIALS TRUST
2019 ANNIVERSARIES
THE TRUST'S 35th AND THE
SUNDIAL PILLAR'S 30th**



The Trust, in partnership with Shaftesbury Plc, is planning an event in and around the Dials on Saturday June 29th, the exact 30th anniversary of the Sundial Pillar's unveiling by HM Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands with Prince Claus. The unveiling was the finalé of the year long William & Mary Tercentenary and the Pillar was the first project of its kind in London since Nelson's Column. Photos featured are of the 1989 event...

The Pillar shrouded in Dutch national colours & the unveiling with 800 biodegradable balloons in the same colours. Each had a return tag and the furthest reached a back garden in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg! This was the first project of its kind in London since Nelson's Column.

The event will include Street performers, Punch & Judy, 'Paint the Pillar' and games for children, virtual reality and 3D printing, the Exhibition 'History | Architecture | Horology' the history of Seven Dials, how the Sundial Pillar was designed and built and the Trust's work over 35 years; community stalls.

**For more information go to
www.sevendials.com**



Thank You.

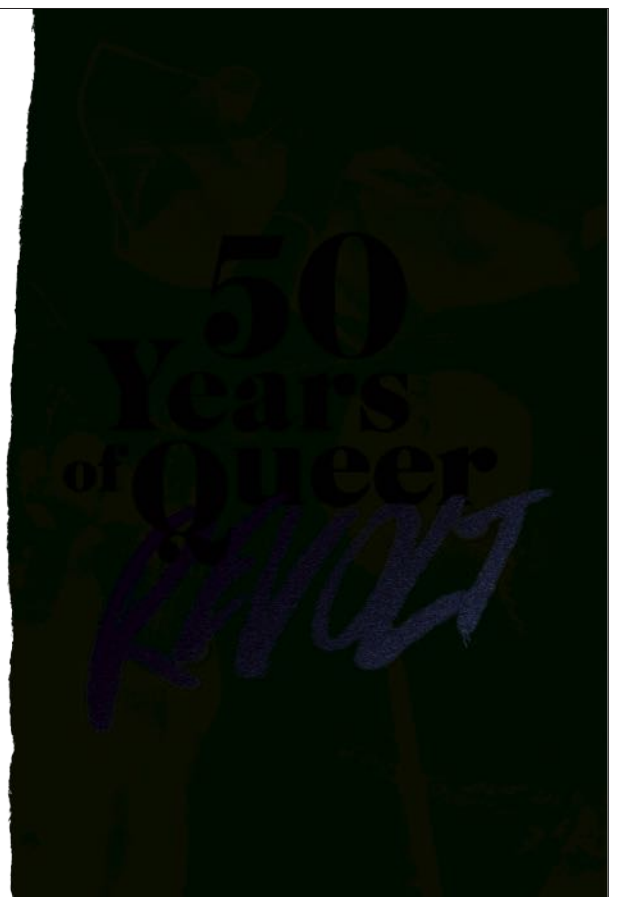
Pride in London will take to the streets on Saturday 6th July and this year we're marking our #PrideJubilee - 50 years since the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern Pride movement.

Soho is the heart of London's LGBT+ community and so we say to all Soho residents: thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your patience as we celebrate. We could not put on London's largest LGBT+ event without your support and we hope some of you will join us to celebrate on the day.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like more information, please contact our dedicated Resident and Business Liaison team on RBL@prideinlondon.org, or visit prideinlondon.org and click on 'Parade Day' and then 'Residents and businesses info'.



prideinlondon.org



The Closure of Gino's

The story is sadly quite a familiar one. A local business pushed out and elsewhere by high rent and a rich foreign landlord. Gino's is moving elsewhere. 33 Dean Street has been home to barbers since 1923 when two Neapolitan brothers came to London and opened a shop. Within a few years they hired the man to whom the shop owes its name. Gino, a young man from Palma, began cutting hair there soon after the war. Later, in 1971, Tony started under the guidance of Gino, from whom he later took over the shop. Tony was joined a few years later by his nephew also named Tony. Since then the barber's has been a home from home for myself and I am sure many other men. A place where there was always some good conversation to be had interspersed with skillful snippings and the occasional torrent of Italian.

It is at times like this which demand we ask ourselves certain questions. What makes Soho the way it is? To what does it owe its charm? Is it just its location in the centre of town? Or is it the shops and businesses within it? More specifically, is it those longstanding shops which

have stood in their places for decades and which have stories to tell? If it is the former then we need not worry about the gutting of Soho by wealthy foreign investors. But if it is the latter, then we must begin to question how many more changes like this Soho can bear before it resembles the centre of any other major city. I have lived in Soho all my life - for near two decades. And for all that time I have gone to Gino's. 33 Dean Street has been a home from home for me and I am sure for many others. Indeed, it is places like Gino's and people like Tony and Tony to whom Soho owes its character. We do not need more soulless chains or huge hotels. We need to protect the businesses that we have. Maybe we, as a community, will one day realise that. But perhaps by then it will be too late.

When we went to press, the new address of Gino's was not yet known.

Jack Perraudin



Watsons Pharmacy 屈臣氏藥房

Watsons Pharmacy has been established for over 35 years in the Soho area. Our aim is to provide a service for our local community.

1 Frith Street, London W1D 3HZ
T. 020 7437 2270 F. 020 7287 9358
E. watsons.charles@gmail.com
E. watsons.sale@hotmail.co.uk



Medicine and Appliances Dispensing

藥單配藥服務

Repeat Dispensing

重複藥單服務

Healthy Lifestyle Advice and Promotion

健康生活諮詢及推廣

Medicine Disposal

安全處置藥物

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS)

電子藥單配藥服務

Emergency Hormonal Contraception Service

緊急避孕服務 (事後避孕藥)

Stop Smoking Service

戒煙服務

Minor Ailment Service

輕微疾病諮詢服務

New Medicine Service

新處方使用跟進服務 (只限哮喘、糖尿、高血壓、薄血病患)

Medicine Use Review (MUR)

藥物使用跟進服務

Health Check Service (Blood pressure)

健康檢查服務 (量血壓)

Home Delivery Service (within 1 mile)

送藥服務 (一里之內)

Supervised Medication Consumption

藥物使用監管

Chinese Language Access Service

中文翻譯服務 (只限於藥物翻譯)

營業時間

星期一至五 上午九時至下午六時三十分
星期六 上午九時至下午六時三十分
星期日 上午十時至下午四時
星期日 休息

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9:00am - 6:30pm
Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday closed

What will you be doing for Soho.Live Jazz Week 2019?

For the fourth year running the Soho Jazz Jam is coming back to Carlisle Street in partnership with the City of Westminster this September. However, this year the organisers decided to turn the one-day music extravaganza into a festival across multiple venues leading up to the big street party on Saturday 14th September 2019.

The producer of Soho.Live Jazz Week and Soho resident George Hudson hope that local businesses and residents of Soho can join him on his mission to develop and nurture some of the world's most talented musicians that perform nightly all year long in the capital's creative square mile. The creation of the week has happened organically from the street parties at The Piano Bar Soho. George comments that the street parties are so well received each year that we just had to expand it. "We're aiming to put on 40 shows across 20 venues from Wednesday 11th September till Friday 13th with names you'll recognise alongside the new wave of up and coming jazz stars. Then on Saturday out on the street, the

Piano Bar Soho stage comes alive and provides a 5-hour jam featuring over 100 musicians, with free attendance for all...We can't wait!"

For further information or to find out how you can be involved in the Soho.Live Jazz Week 2019 please visit www.soho.live/jazzweek

Soho.Live Jazz Week

September 11th - September 14th

Multiple Venues Across Soho

£FREE - £65 (depending on the artist)

www.soho.live/jazzweek

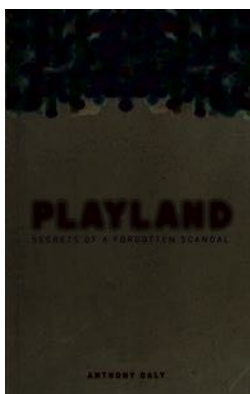
John Haysten



Playland

Anthony Daly

Secrets of a Forgotten Scandal, Mirror Books, 2018



This is a dark book and not for the faint-hearted. It tells the story of Anthony Daly, a 20 year old Irishman who seeks escape from the troubles in Northern Ireland, by moving to London and taking a job at Foyles where he pursues his interest in antiquarian books. The date is 1975. His escape from

the violence from both sides of the Irish troubles is, however, short lived. Soon after his arrival in London he is cheated of his small amount of cash, groomed, raped, photographed and blackmailed, then forced into male prostitution. His clients are rich and politically connected men who conspire with the police and criminals to avoid any investigation or sanction. They trade access to the boys for money,

favours and protection.

It is at this point that you remind yourself that, while the book reads like a novel, it is NOT fiction, it is fact. The issues were first brought to public attention in ITV's documentary "Johnny go home" and in Jake Arnott's novel, "Johnny come home", as well as several criminal trials in the 1970s. This book, however, goes further in both detail, naming some of the politicians, and its insight into the impact on the victims such as the author himself. Horrifically, the sexual violence described is the truth from someone that witnessed it.

It's also a dark truth about a particular place - Soho. The key location of where the pimps, clients and boys all meet is the eponymous "Playland" - an amusement arcade on the corner of Great Windmill Street where young dispossessed boys, blown in from outside London and often avoiding abuse at home, are groomed and exploited. It's about Soho because it is only Soho which attracts the lost boys and is conveniently located for the clients, and where the clients are from politics, the police and the law and thus have the power to avoid any scrutiny.

It is also the truth about those politically connected clients many of whom can now be named. The dead

can't sue in defamation which is why the book is now possible. However, one is left with a sense that the perpetrators were never held properly to account for their actions at the time. Very few faced actual justice as a result of the Playland trials - as the judge noted. This is maybe why the book particularly deserves our attention, but also why it cannot deliver any sense of redemption. People got away with it and the cover-up largely worked.

In 2018, Daly is back in Ireland, with his wife and four children in a reasonable sort of recovery. So the other story here is how he came to write the book - a description of his therapeutic process and

recognition of what was done to him.

One thought remains - for those that love Soho - part of that love is for the intensity of life in the centre of the global city, the numbers of people, the range of activity and creativity, and this book reminds us that while Soho reaches highs, in equal measure it hosted and facilitated some of the darkest behaviours of humankind, and of men of power in particular.

Tim Lord



News from St Anne's

When St Anne's was rebuilt in 1990 amongst the artworks commissioned for the new church was the stained glass by students from Central St Martins College of Art, then on Charing Cross Rd next to Foyles. Several students contributed different abstract designs, two of which use imagery which reflected the fracturing of the original church glass by incendiary bombs of 1940. I wasn't part of the Soho community when the 'new' church was being designed and built, but I would be surprised if there weren't some who mightn't have thought that, since the new church was a sign of hope, of looking forward and recovery from destruction, using imagery which harked back to its destruction was in some way negative. It was "time to move on" you might say.

The same has been said to me every year by someone when the annual Admiral Duncan Memorial has been advertised "is it necessary to keep dragging that up?" (which is possibly the only time I hear the word 'drag' used negatively in Soho!). Yes, for some the memorial is too painful a reminder and they do not come. But for many more it is an important celebration of lives lost but not forgotten and an affirmation of the

belief in the power of love over hate. I don't think for anyone who joined in the recent twentieth anniversary Act of Remembrance on April 30th that this was an occasion to feel like a victim, nor for the LGBT+ community to wallow in self-pity at the hatred that their very existence still stirs up in some individuals, even today.

This year around 700 people joined in the Act of Remembrance which has become a rallying call to us all to stand with, and up for, any who continue to face persecution or victimisation, to remember the heroic neighbourliness which that atrocity generated, and to celebrate the love that is unbroken by death. Knowing our history, passing on the story of this community is important because sometimes it is only by 'owning' our past wounds that we are really able to celebrate the present and set priorities for the future. The scars on individuals and communities alike should not be a source of awkwardness, embarrassment or sadness alone, to be airbrushed from our personal photographs or edited out of the history books. They are instead the real signs of our humanity - painful reminders of what we hold most precious. People often forget that after the resurrection it was by the wounds that Jesus bore that the disciples really recognised him. He was authenticated by his scars: just as St Anne's, Soho and its LGBT community are by theirs and indeed I am by mine.

It is precisely when we recognise our wounds, when we come together in spite of whatever has scarred or thwarted us in life that our celebration whether through Pride, the Soho Village Fete or any other celebration of life, has real meaning and value and ultimately true joy.

Reverend Simon Buckley

Now it's goodbye to all that

Diana Matheou reflects on leaving her home in Frith Street, Soho after 50 years.



I usually find I'm awake by 6am in time to hear St Patrick's bell ringing for early mass. This has been one of the unchangeables in my 50 years of living in Soho. The early morning here belongs to the 'villagers', a small window of time when clubbers have gone and before the delivery trucks, cleaners and baristas arrive.

I first came here when I was 17 encouraged by my brother, who was studying in London, to spend an all-nighter at 'Les Cousins', the folk and blues club at 49 Greek Street. I sat on an old sofa talking the night away with a young Steve Adams, soon to be transformed into Cat Stevens (now Yusuf Islam). I too was a young singer song-writer on the circuit in my home town of Colchester. I little realised then that the woolly haired guy on the door, Andy Matheou whose club it was, would become the love of my life.

By 1970 I had moved into the second floor flat at 55 Frith Street and lived there with Andy, his parents and our soon to be born baby daughter, Emma, I'm still here - just.

Loukas and Margaret Matheou had emigrated from Cyprus; they moved into Soho in 1949 when Andy was 2. He went to Soho Parish School in Great Windmill Street, an institution which is still a mainstay of family life here. After running a cafe in Fulham Loukas bought the lease on the ground and basement floors of 49 Greek Street and opened it as the Escoffier inspired 'Soho Grill'. In the basement 'Les Cousins' opened, initially as a discotheque.

Once Andy left school and took over he started to book singers and musicians from the burgeoning folk scene.

Later on in the sixties Loukas changed from French to Greek cuisine. More families were having holidays abroad and becoming familiar with such dishes as moussaka, dolmades, humus and taramasalata - things we now find in every supermarket. He had Sundays off after working seven days a week for years and renamed the restaurant the 'Dionysus'. Meanwhile the club downstairs was becoming a legend and a mecca for emergent talents to share music and learn from one another. Davy Graham, Bert Jansch, Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Van Morrison, Sandy Denny, Martin Carthy, Nick Drake, John Martyn - the list goes on and on - all played there and were part of that luminous era. John wrote his beautiful song 'May you Never' for his friend Andy while the generosity of Margaret and Loukas saw to it that hard up musicians were fed and often housed in return for washing up or peeling aubergines. It was a time when we all felt the world could change into a better place. Years on now I've realised that at least in your own corner you can continue to promote the good-will and generosity which seemed so prevalent back then.

And back then, Soho's Old Compton Street was full of delis from all over Europe. Berwick Street had stalls of fruit and veg on both sides. Tailors, instrument makers, artisans of all sorts, working girls, their pimps and maids, private gay clubs, strip joints and gambling dens lived and worked side

by side with English, Greek and Italian immigrant families who populated the 'village'.

At the junction of Frith and Old Compton Streets Bifulco's, the Italian butcher offered a huge variety of meat cuts, and on the opposite corner a tobacconist with an equally large choice sold cigarettes, cigars and snuff.

Where Caffé Nero is was Parmigiani's Italian delicatessen, surgery clean with a fearsome matron behind a cash desk and the now Balan's corner was a greengrocers. The only survivors from that time in Frith Street are Ronnie Scott's and Bar Italia who've both reached iconic status.

The Health Centre at the top of the street is just holding on to its medical history, though there are fears that the NHS will sell it off. The Twentieth Century Fox building on the other side will soon be torn down to make way for another huge planned re-development. We wait to see if the Shaftesbury Avenue end of the street which includes the Curzon Cinema will go to Crossrail 2.

In May 2015 my landlords told me that I too would have to go, 53-55 Frith Street was going to be redeveloped. Now the block has been re-sold and four years later after uncertainty and concern I'm on my way from the home I thought I'd always have.

I know Soho will hold on to its own particular vitality. Over coffee recently at Bar Italia with Tony Shrimplin of The Museum of Soho, I shared the sense that Soho has its own ley-line and I don't

think this can ever be lost no matter how much gentrification moves us on. It's a place which has withstood so many changes throughout its history and holds its people close. We love it here. The deep energy of it continues to draw us in like the central beating heart of the great city which surrounds it. Soho has always accepted and absorbed and makes everything and anything seem possible - no wonder it's so hard to leave.

I'm thankful that the major part of my life has been lived in such a place.

Andy and his parents are gone and our only child is in Bath with her children so I shall go there. The new landlord of 'my corner' will earn a great deal more money than my rent-controlled tenancy can. I'm thankful to people like Bryan Burrough and Leslie Hardcastle who had the foresight to form the Soho Society over 40 years ago and which continues to work for the preservation of the quality and character of Soho. I leave a wonderful community of friends and neighbours, many centred around St Anne's Church in Dean Street where father Simon Buckley shepherds a heart-led flock in a true 'Christians-in-Soho' way.

I support my grief at going by remembering the words of Teresa of Avila - 'Let nothing disturb you, or harm you ever, everything changes, God changes never'. Soho is a blessed place and will always maintain a sense of homecoming to those who find their way here.

Diana Matheou



The Soho Waiters Race

It's that time of year again when we start getting busy preparing for the Summer Fete and, of course, the Soho Waiters Race. Long-time residents of Soho will recall that the preparations for the Waiters Race used to be a fairly informal affair with volunteers stopping traffic on the day for the race and people from the community manning the streets. Things are quite different now and a considerable amount of paperwork with the council needs to be completed to obtain the necessary permits before we start shutting down streets.

As always, the race will start with Lesley from the French House with the starter pistol, go up Dean Street, cut across Carlisle Street, come around Soho Square, go back down Frith Street, then turn right onto Old Compton Street with the finish line in front of Gerry's at the corner of Wardour Street. We hope to start the race at 3:30pm, and usually the race only lasts about fifteen minutes. But as we need to have a pre-race briefing with all the waiters and volunteers about the rules (it IS a race, after all) and get everyone prepped with their tray with a bottle of fizz, champagne flutes, napkin and ashtray, we do need the waiters to come approximately an hour prior to the race. (We have decided to keep the ashtrays as they work as a nice counterbalance to the bottle making it a bit easier for the waiters).

Looking back at old black and white photos of the Waiters Race in the 1950s, most of the waiters really look the part in the classic 'French' waiters' uniforms, and the formal dress certainly gives the event a sense of occasion. Obviously we have moved on since then with our diverse tastes, but I think dressing up a bit gives the event that bit of Soho style that everyone longs to see. 'Dressing up' can be interpreted in any way - some might say a nothing but a bow tie and black leather pants would be considered 'dressing up', for example - this is Soho and very little is off-limits. In order to get the waiters to put some thought into this, we've introduced a

'Best Dressed' prize this year. As much as it is a race, we shouldn't forget that at the end of the day, it needs to be a spectacle for the public to enjoy.

We have started contacting restaurants, bars, pubs, and clubs for participants, and if we've accidentally missed you and you would like to participate, please do get in touch.

As with all community events, nothing is possible without the help from our volunteers. We will need around 100 volunteers to man the streets just for the Waiters Race alone, so if you are keen to help out hosting this world famous event, please do get in touch, or just sign up on the Soho Society website!

Takashi O'Rourke

calling all waiters from our soho restaurants, clubs, and bars
 1st prize £100
 2nd prize £50
 best dressed £50
 entry fee £20
 sign up at soho society website

finish
 start

soho waiters race 2019
 sunday june 30th 3.30pm

in conjunction with...
 the soho village fete
 12.30 - 6pm
 st anne's gardens wardour street

steve russell © 2019



The King of Soho gin encapsulates the rich creativity and unique lifestyle of the effervescent London district of Soho. A celebration of the life and legacy of the original disruptor and King of Soho, Paul Raymond.

📍📱📺 TheKingOfSoho

Find out more at www.KingOfSohoDrinks.com

Rapha
LONDON

The Rapha Clubhouse is an inspiring meeting place for road cyclists and fans of the sport. Inside you'll find a retail space stocked with the latest Rapha products, a café serving fine coffee and food which is also available to hire as an event space plus an extensive programme of live racing, group rides and events.
Open 08:00 - 19:00 Mon - Sat and 11:00 - 18:00 Sun



SoHo Society presents

45th



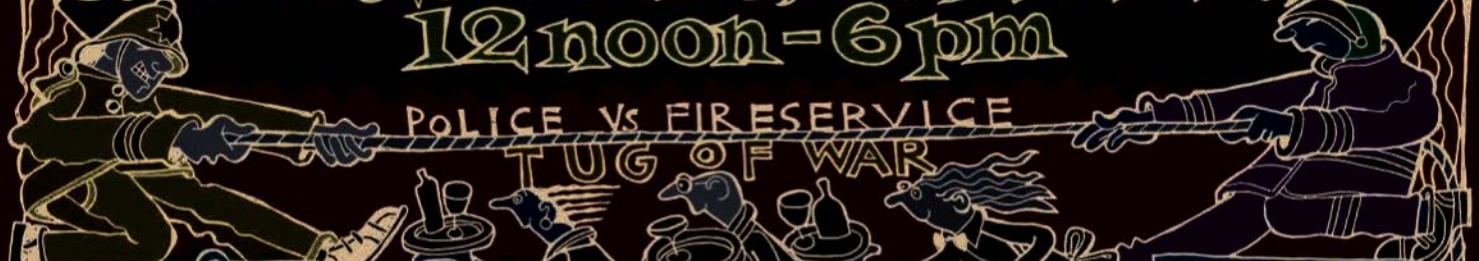
SOHO

VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY 30th JUNE

St. Anne's Garden, Wardour St, W1

12 noon - 6 pm



POLICE VS FIRE SERVICE

TUG OF WAR

waiters' race

race

HARI KRISHNAS



FIRE ENGINE

DOGSC

FRUIT



SNAIL RACE

ORA

CE