



NO. 180
THE CLARION CALL OF
THE SOHO SOCIETY

SOHO clarion

winter
2021

The Soho Society's Free and yet
Priceless Magazine



CLYM
X



Our Vision for Soho

YES to a Soho that works for all who live, work and visit

YES to proper consultation with all of Soho's businesses and residents

YES to well managed outdoor dining

YES to re-opening Soho's public toilets

YES to effective waste management

YES to fully re-opening Regent Street to reduce congestion in Soho

YES to controlling noise pollution in Soho

YES to a diverse and eclectic entertainment offering in Soho

NO to wholesale destruction of Soho's heritage and community

NO to permanent 7 nights a week street drinking

NO to stunt tourist attractions like the Marble Arch Mound in Soho

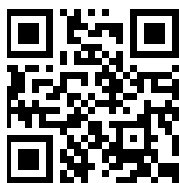
NO to turning Soho in to a pedestrianised outdoor Westfield

NO to Westminster City Council imposed top down decision making

NO to destroying quality of life for 3,500 people, families and pensioners

NO to Westminster City Council's Vision for Soho

Agree? Join Us and complete our survey at



www.thesohosociety.org.uk

Please join us in making sure Soho remains a place that a community including the old, young, disabled and families with children can actually live.

The Soho Society has for 50 years strived to make Soho work for all its residents, workers and visitors.

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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
Advertising | clarion@thesohosociety.org.uk

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Lord | Jane Doyle | Lucy Haine | Matthew Bennett | Mark Jowett | David Gleeson
Nickie Aiken | Tim Barnes | Pancho Lewis | Louise Ritchie
Jason Fisher-Jones | Clive Jennings | Gabriel Wilding
Richard Piercy | Susan Fleming | Reverend Simon Buckley

EDITOR Jane Doyle

FROM THE TOWER



First of all welcome to our first “door drop” edition of the Clarion which has been delivered to all letter boxes in Soho postcodes in order to reach all of Soho’s residents. It’s a trial for now. If it works in driving readership, advertising and engagement we will continue. Let us know!

We have a number of updates for you, which highlight the continued importance of Soho as a community. We also have some key worries and issues in the article below, which we continue to investigate on behalf of all Soho’s residents and businesses.

We had one of our best Soho Village Fetes ever on Sunday 5 September with perfect weather and all the usual events, dog show, snail racing, tugs of war, waiters’ races and spaghetti eating. Enormous thanks to all the volunteers that put it together and to our sponsors. There is a delightful video of the event on our website which is worth watching to remind you of the glorious days of summer and of Soho’s special madness which continues unabated.

We continue to have a weekly radio show hosted by Joel Levack and his co-hosts. We have great guests and I

encourage you to listen at 9 am on Thursday mornings through the internet at Soho Radio or to listen to the recording of the show that is available through the Society’s website. The show is on a roll and it’s a good way of keeping up with what’s going on in Soho.

We are having a Christmas Social on Tuesday 21 December for members in the Church Hall. You will receive an e-mail shortly with sign up details.

The Soho Society will be celebrating its 50 year anniversary in 2022. If you want to get involved in volunteering with events or any of our work get in touch.

The Soho Society is now part of the Co-op Community Fund. If you have a Co-op loyalty card you can choose the Soho Society as your chosen charity. Please do so.

Many thanks to Clym Evernden for our Winter Clarion cover and to Jane, Jason and our new volunteer Roy for all their hard work on this edition. Thinking of all the people that makes Soho such a special community. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Noise Pollution and Human Health, Regent Street and Traffic

The WCC Noise Strategy expired in 2015. The Soho Society commissioned a noise survey measured on the night of 28 May 2021. It concluded:-

“... that when assessing against WHO guidelines there is a serious risk of causing adverse health and wellbeing impacts to the residents of Soho if this continues, in the areas investigated during this survey.”

We sent the survey to the council on 12 October, along with our worries about noise issues going forward. The council replied on 9 November refusing to substantively engage with the issue, and stating it had no legal duty to keep its Noise Strategy up to date. If you would like to see a copy of the Sound Survey get in touch.

Regent Street has been restricted to a single carriageway in both directions which means traffic can only go as fast as the buses. It causes delays, congestion, idling and air pollution. We raised the issue with the Crown Estate,

who have confirmed they are not measuring the pollution impact on Soho’s residents or the delay to private vehicle transit times. On 10 November Twitter users pointed out that an ambulance was blocked on Regent Street by a street cleaning vehicle. We raised it with the leader of the council and the Crown Estate. At time of writing, no response.

We were contacted by Clare Rogers of Living Streets. She was concerned that in the last Clarion we referred to non-residents attending the Vision for Soho consultation and strongly supporting the Phase 2 proposals to reduce traffic. To clarify, we were referring to Claire and Peter Hartley - who do not live in Soho - not to the residents who do live here who are also keen to reduce traffic. The Society is also keen to reduce traffic but the Vision for Soho proposals on this only start 3 or more years from now. The pedestrianisation is next Spring. 40 long term Soho residents told us they were being forced out by noise issues. No one has ever told us they are being forced out by traffic issues. Living Streets have also told us that they don’t want streets converted to outside drinking and dining so it’s odd they are supporting the council’s Vision for Soho which would do exactly that.

COUNCIL: 'FACTS' VS REALITY

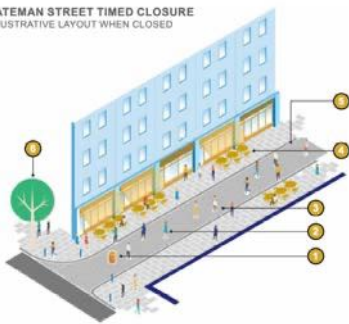
The Council claims to be implementing a number of positive things to address issues facing Soho. However, the evidence below shows that in key issues, the council's version of the truth ignores the grim realities that are both obvious and avoidable.

THE COUNCIL'S VERSION

THE REALITY

A3 PEOPLE FOCUSED STREETS

BATEMAN STREET TIMED CLOSURE
ILLUSTRATIVE LAYOUT WHEN CLOSED



Proposed pedestrianisation of Bateman and D'Arbly Street in Spring 2022.

This is a picture of the what pedestrianisation looked like in 2021.



C5 INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO WC'S

Issues resulting from public urination and a lack of WC facilities has been a key concern. Whilst some public WC's in Soho have closed due to safeguarding challenges, WCC are committed to exploring solutions. This could range from temporary interventions to address peak-time issues or working with businesses and other stakeholders to increase access to clean, safe and accessible toilets. Lessons could be learnt from the City of London's Community Toilet Scheme.

SOHO NP POLICY 22 RECOMMENDATION 24

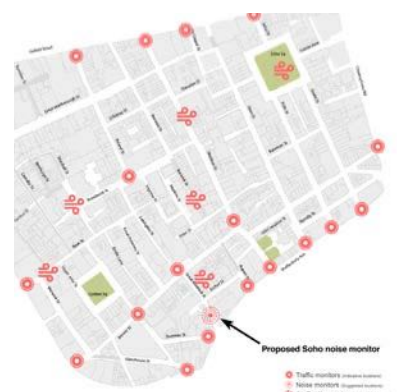
The council is proposing plans for safe and accessible toilets.

There are safe and accessible toilets in Soho which the council has permanently closed.



Confirms that it is implementing noise monitoring in Soho.

The published proposal indicates one noise monitor at the bottom of Great Windmill Street for the whole of Soho.



WE'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE...

*West End Extra
March 1999 to October 2000*

Traffic ban will turn Soho into backwater, traders warn

Car ban sparks drugs fears

DRUGS dealers, pimps and prostitutes are expected to flock to Soho as a result of the proposed traffic ban, traders warn.

The Soho Chamber of Commerce has warned that the proposed traffic ban will turn the area into a backwater, and that it will lead to an increase in drugs, prostitution and other criminal activity.

The chamber says that the ban will lead to a loss of business for many of the area's shops and restaurants, and that it will lead to an increase in crime.

The chamber has written to the council, asking it to reconsider the ban. It says that the ban will lead to a loss of jobs and a decline in the area's reputation.

The council has said that it is committed to the ban, and that it will not be reconsidered.

STREET DRINKERS COULD TAKE OVER AS PLANS TO TURN SOHO INTO CAR-FREE ZONE FORGE AHEAD

'Ghetto' fears as cafés take over pavement

DRINKING and street drinking could take over Soho as plans to turn the area into a car-free zone forge ahead, it is feared.

The Soho Chamber of Commerce has warned that the proposed traffic ban will lead to an increase in street drinking and other criminal activity.

The chamber says that the ban will lead to a loss of business for many of the area's shops and restaurants, and that it will lead to an increase in crime.

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Reduction in traffic has created a slum

SLUMS are being created in Soho as a result of the reduction in traffic, it is claimed.

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Secret report condemns council's plans to seal off Soho

Fire fears over streets closure

SECRET report condemns council's plans to seal off Soho, and warns of fire fears over streets closure.

The Soho Chamber of Commerce has warned that the proposed traffic ban will lead to an increase in fire risks and other criminal activity.

The chamber says that the ban will lead to a loss of business for many of the area's shops and restaurants, and that it will lead to an increase in crime.

The chamber has written to the council, asking it to reconsider the ban. It says that the ban will lead to a loss of jobs and a decline in the area's reputation.

The council has said that it is committed to the ban, and that it will not be reconsidered.

YOU CAN'T WALK DOWN THE STREET WEARING A WATCH

'Wild West' End is ready to explode

WILD West End is ready to explode as a result of the proposed traffic ban, it is claimed.

The Soho Chamber of Commerce has warned that the proposed traffic ban will lead to an increase in crime and other criminal activity.

The chamber says that the ban will lead to a loss of business for many of the area's shops and restaurants, and that it will lead to an increase in crime.

The chamber has written to the council, asking it to reconsider the ban. It says that the ban will lead to a loss of jobs and a decline in the area's reputation.

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Ghetto cause traffic plan U-turn

A SUDDEN U-turn on the Soho road...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Bars protest as cars come back

Soho ban scrapped

BARNS and FREEDLANDERS...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Squalid conditions, rampant crime and rubbish makes... These streets are a national disgrace

COMMUNITY and business leaders...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

to public attention...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Bonham Carter hands in petition to reverse road closure Star joins Soho outcry



Petition over...

Where are M25 loos?...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

Members agree...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...
The Council says it will...

PLANNING

MATTHEW BENNETT



We're watching

The major planning development since the last issue is the granting of planning consent for a new 'pod' hostel at 91-92 Dean Street to accommodate between 725 to 775 persons and involving redevelopment in Great Chapel Street and Diadem Court and the moving of the NHS service to the homeless to a new location in Carlisle Street. The Society's planning committee supported the continuation of the hostel, recognised the need for modernisation and some increase in numbers. It welcomed the new provision for the NHS but felt strongly that the increase in numbers was too great.

The existing hostel accommodates 295 so a rise to around 750 persons is a massive increase which is bound to have adverse impacts on those living close to it. It is also a surprise in that in April this year, the Council itself had adopted a new City Plan which contained for the first time a 'Soho Special Policy Area' which states it seeks to protect the area's character. Part of that new policy makes clear the Council will not allow new hotels of more than 100 bedspaces. So, when is a big new hotel not a hotel? When it's a hostel. But hostels and hotels offer the same thing, sleeping accommodation for visitors. So, when is a policy not a policy? When officers and councillors decide it doesn't apply.

Another application which has been contentious is an application in Great Pulteney Street for a large office block seeking to create a roof terrace which would allow users to look directly into the homes and bedrooms of residents across the street. The Society and local residents have objected to this strongly and want to see these proposals changed to protect their amenity and await the outcome.

Another irritant is the way 79 Dean Street is being used as a massage parlour and some allege as a brothel. Although reported to Westminster City Council little enforcement appears to have occurred so far.

One recent quirky application was to remove the old pavement mosaic installed pre-war at the entrance to 15 Frith Street. This picks out 'Isola Bella Restaurant' and in our view is an interesting artefact recording a restaurant there in the 1930's emphasising this aspect of Soho's continuing character. We hope the new occupier Negroni's will think again and withdraw their application and realise that they are part of, and successors to, Soho's long tradition

of hospitality and be happy to acknowledge this heritage and protect this interesting record of years gone by.

We were shocked to see that Shaftesbury's big refurbishment of the block in Broadwick Street now nearing completion, which includes the huge electricity substation, has proposed as part of its management plan wheeling bins of rubbish generated within the building at certain times of the day along Broadwick St to the street cleansing depot in Dufour's Place. Why Shaftesbury, with all its expertise and resources, is unable to design schemes which can house waste and recyclables properly on site without needing to export them to other places is beyond us. Why a company with a large property estate centred on Carnaby Street does not already provide a dedicated waste and recycling facility within that estate for all its tenants is a mystery. It makes Shaftesbury's statements that they are fully committed to sustainability and net zero sound rather hollow.

To end on a more positive note we are beginning to see a trickle of applications where property owners are applying to improve the sustainability of their buildings by improved plant and the use of heat pumps. We hope more such proposals come forward because Soho is one of the most carbon wasteful areas of London there is, as any quick look at the GLA's London Heat Map will show.

Soho Neighbourhood Forum

In the referendum on 2 September 91% of residents who voted and 89% of businesses who voted supported the Neighbourhood Plan which was a great result. Thanks to all for achieving it. WCC formally made the order to bring it into effect on 8 October. We now have a statutory plan for Soho. The Forum will also be able to direct the expenditure of 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) received in the Soho Neighbourhood Area.

The Forum will actively promote projects which tackle infrastructure related problems for Soho and will also monitor how well the policies in this newly adopted plan are complied with in practice.

Matthew Bennett

LICENSING

In many ways, this year mirrored the last, with a lockdown in January followed by the staged reopening of the hospitality sector including al fresco dining. We have continued working throughout the year with the Licensing Group monitoring all licence applications, and noted in response to COVID a trend in applications for time-limited extensions to licensed hours. We also saw an increase in cafes/restaurants applying to remove conditions where alcohol could only be served to people taking a table meal. This gives rise to concerns as food-led premises gradually become more drink-led, which has the potential to seriously change the character of these premises, and therefore the wider environment of the West End Cumulative Impact Zone.

Westminster City Council has had a busy year with the publication of the new Statement of Licensing Policy in January, followed by a new consultation in June on their proposals for the sale of alcohol in shops, the delivery of alcohol and 'late night refreshment' mainly from restaurants and cafes, and deliveries from grocery delivery centres. They published these new policies in October, and as the Clarion goes to press there is a consultation on the proposed Gambling Policy.

During 2021 the Licensing Group considered licence applications for premises that are either selling or planning to sell alcohol – restaurants, bars, cafes, supermarkets, shops, etc, as well as premises applying for late night refreshment

licences, and sexual entertainment venue licences. At the time of writing, we have reviewed 87 applications and submitted 25 representations: this figure is up from 16 made in 2020 and 17 in 2019.

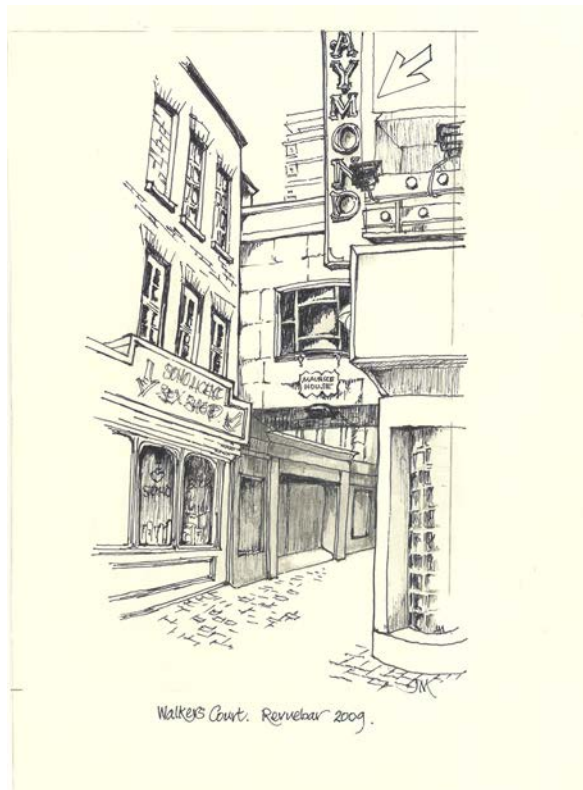
Our overall aim is to make Soho a better place for people to live, work and visit by preserving and enhancing the area's historic fabric, its existing character and its diversity of uses;

and by improving its facilities, amenities and the sustainability of its environment. However, the growth in the number of licensed premises in Soho we believe has led to a marked deterioration in the quality of life and wellbeing of local residents and ultimately jeopardises the sustainability of the community. We will continue to make representations to all applications which will erode residential amenity and change the nature and characteristics of this unique area.

To do this effectively we need your help! Any Soho Society members who are interested in how licensing works in Westminster, and are keen to take part in an important Society activity that carefully negotiates the residential/

commercial divide, are welcome to attend short monthly meetings and help with monitoring licensing applications. Please drop a line to admin@thesohosociety.org.uk and we will contact you.

*The Licensing Committee
Illustration by Joan Martyr*



SOHO HOUSING

New Homes and New Offers at Soho Housing

Since summer, we have been busy at work. Firstly, the development of new affordable homes in Westminster continues apace. We are delighted that progress is well under way at 12-13 Greek Street where eight new homes are being developed in partnership with local stakeholders, Soho Estates. Forming part of the larger Ilona Rose House development, all flats have two bedrooms and will be charged at sub-market rents. Due for completion early in 2022, the properties will be a great addition to our housing portfolio in the heart of the city.

Beyond building work, we have also been looking inward, evaluating our organisation and, with the arrival of our new CEO, Barbara Brownlee in September, considering how we can better support our community. For example, we carried out a survey to understand what perceptions our residents and other local people currently have of Soho Housing. A number of residents fed back that improvements could be made in our operational communications. In response, we reviewed the way we offer our services; in our new operating model, each housing officer is a direct named contact for residents on their patch. More housing officers and smaller patch sizes mean that our staff can get to know our residents and their homes much better and tailor services accordingly. Operations Director Richard Smith who joined Soho Housing in March 2020 said, “We have made some significant changes in the way that we deliver services over the last few months. This includes a new, permanent team of housing officers who are responsible for all management issues on their patch of properties, including repairs. We’ve also changed the way we deliver

the majority of our repairs, and are now utilising a marketplace of contractors that bid on each job and are selected based on cost, quality and customer satisfaction.”

Finally, recognising that those living in urban environments, and therefore the majority of our residents, have been particularly impacted by the pandemic, we have launched our Hardship Fund. By fundraising over the coming months, we will provide some support to a small number of residents who have experienced hardship during the recent challenging times.

A perfect opportunity to initiate this was at our tombola and raffle stall at the 46th Soho Village fete in September. The sun shone, literally and metaphorically. It was a glorious, well-attended event where our staff were able to chat to residents and other locals and, thanks to participation in our tombola and raffle, we raised some £500 for our Hardship Fund. We are extremely grateful to all those who contributed, including the many commercial tenants and local stakeholders who made generous prize donations.

Now, as the nights draw in and the leaves turn amber, we are looking forward to the final chapter of 2021 where we hope to see the final stages of

our Greek Street development implemented, and further investment in our existing homes.

Mark Jowett



SOHO SOCIETY HOUR

It has been another bumper few months on the Soho Society Hour with a range of guests chatting to Joel and his co-hosts (usually Leslie but Tim as back-up) on our weekly programme, which goes out live every Thursday from 9.00 am to 10.00 am on the Soho Radio internet radio station (sohoradiolondon.com) on the culture stream. Those otherwise occupied at this time can re-listen to the programmes on the Soho Society website (www.thesohosociety.org.uk). We would also like to offer a podcast version of the show but we need a volunteer to help with that.

We have had some really wonderful guests over the last quarter. We can't mention them all here but I will mention some highlights.

On 28 October 2021 we heard from Greg Lane from the London Early Years Foundation, who runs the Soho Community Nursery at 23 Brewer Street. The nursery looks after approximately 40 children with most of them progressing on to the Soho Parish School next door. Around 65% of children are from Soho resident families. We also learned what a Drag Queen Story Time is! The nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm and it offers places both for residents' children and the children whose parents work in Soho. Soho children are apparently particularly resilient and creative because of growing up in the centre of town, and unusually skilful at play times in small places. Listen again if you want more details of LEYF's campaign to get more men into childcare.

On the 4 November we heard from David Russell and Daniel Saunders on their new book "Some Kind'a Soho" (reviewed on page 33). A celebration of Soho, its people and their voices, a vibrant, compelling and dynamic life which is fast disappearing. The book

opens a window on to some of Soho's most colourful faces, musicians, restaurant owners, club promoters, media personalities and even a tattoo artist. If you want to buy a copy (it makes a perfect Christmas gift) you can do so through the Society's website.

On 7 October I really enjoyed hearing from Peter Brown, who runs the Soho book stall in Rupert Street, about how he started out in selling books, who buys from him and where he buys his stock. He also had some very cool music choices which you might enjoy. On the same programme Maurice Marshall told us about his new private members club in Soho called Martinez at 49 Greek Street and its eponymous cocktail "The Martinez". Apparently, the Martinez recipe mixes gin, sweet vermouth, dry vermouth, maraschino liqueur and orange bitters. Every bartender, however, is likely to have their own take on how to execute the recipe.

The programme starts every week with a round up of the latest Soho news. If you have something to say about Soho then get in touch. If there is someone you want to hear from let us know:

radio@thesohosociety.org.uk.

As ever, our thanks go to Soho Radio for welcoming us to their Broadwick Street Studios every week, and in particular to Rachel and Will who help us with the technicalities and are always supportive and accommodating.

Tim Lord

Photo: Jason Fisher-Jones



WARD PANEL UPDATE

AND OTHER NEWS

The Covid al fresco finished, as promised, on 30 September, so Soho is going through another period of adjustment. I write this on the first day of “winter”, the clocks having gone back, so it’s dark at 5 pm and earlier now.

The priorities for the ward panel have slightly changed and there is now one set by the police - at the last meeting it was robbery particularly on Greek Street, which was one of the hot spot areas. The others are set by the panel and are theft from person and crime, and once again cycling offences. This is the second time this last has been a priority for the attendees at the meeting, and largely stems from the seemingly complete disregard for pedestrians and other road users. There is a constant flow of cycles and in particular delivery bikes going the wrong way on streets, on the pavements, etc. They are dangerous and the riders don’t think any rules apply to them! They do!

Another menace is the e-scooters, who also don’t think rules apply to them. Unless they’re the modified ones for hire they’re illegal on the roads (and of course the pavements). They come at you at speed and silently, so an accident waiting to happen.

As to pedicabs, Nickie Aiken MP has given an update on the progress of the Bill through Parliament; she seems to be garnering lots of support so, fingers crossed! Whilst obviously there are measures that can be taken by the council, whose responsibility these are, it’s not an easy problem to solve as officers have to be there to stop them and obviously they can’t be everywhere at the same time. Another difficulty is that, unlike ‘racer’ cars, they don’t have number plates and therefore are hard to identify.

Since writing the above, we understand the Government is to support the Bill, so we would like to thank to Nickie for all her hard work on this, and look forward to “regulation” in due course, particularly as to noise and safety.

There is often confusion about the responsibilities of the police and those of the council. The responsibilities of the police are of course crime, criminal ASB, drug abuse, and obviously robbery, burglary, etc. Crime can be reported through 999 in an emergency, 101, online at Met.Police.uk. Crimes can also be reported on twitter via [@MetCC](https://twitter.com/MetCC). To comment about crime and/or grievances, etc, on twitter is not reporting, so these posts do not get taken into account. If people don’t report it’s not perceived to be a problem.

The council’s responsibilities are, in no particular order, noise (to include illegal busking and pedicabs), rubbish collections, fly-tipping, enforcement of licensing conditions.

The council has a ‘Report It’ link on its website and there is also FixMyStreet, which is more user friendly than the council’s own website.

Good news for restaurant goers: as mentioned in the last Clarion, Vasco and Piero’s Pavilion, has now opened in its new home at 11 D’Arblay St, London W1F 8DT.

The Seafood Bar (also mentioned in the last Clarion) has opened at 77 Dean Street - it looks good. We’d hoped to review it for this issue of the Clarion, but circumstances didn’t permit. We will!

Also newly opened is Gunpowder at 20 Greek Street. It bills itself as “an Indian restaurant celebrating traditional family recipes with a modern twist, showcasing the vibrant, bold flavours of the subcontinent through responsibly sourced ingredients.” They do small plates, sharing plates and also pre-theatre menus.

Also just opened is Rita’s at 49 Lexington Street, W1F 9AP, where a highlight for carnivores will be a steak dinner for two, which is billed as “Beautiful sirloins and rib eyes, with all the trimmings. Starters, sides and dessert all included and all done unlike anywhere else.”

I have also had strongly recommended to me Fadiga Ristorante Bolognese, at 71 Berwick Street, a small family run restaurant. It seats 30 and is also available for private hire. They have a small, delicious looking menu. and they also sell home-made pasta so For more information visit their website: fadiga.uk. Also Jay Rayner gave them a great review. So pay them a visit, I’m going to!

Bon Appetit!

Whilst we’ve all seen shortages in the supermarkets recently, I’ve been talking today to some of the shops in Soho, and have been told that there are likely to be supply shortages in the near future (i.e. over the Christmas period) of Champagne, Wine, Tequila, bitters, liqueurs from Europe and beyond, also cigars. Don’t say you haven’t been warned!

There is some good news in that the Vintage House tells me they are likely to have some good offers over the Christmas period so keep an eye open.

Jane Doyle

A LIFE IN THE DAY OF AN APPLE TART

First of all, the Society would like to thank Bistro 1 for all the food they provided for our AGM. It was much appreciated by all who were there, and there wasn't a morsel left..... There was delicious garlic bread, mixed meze, chicken skewers and escalopes, chips and more. It was great to be able to offer food and drink to all those who attended and to see our members now that the restrictions have been lifted. So thank you very much, TJ.

Whilst on Bistro 1 and TJ, who does a lot for the Society and St Anne's, a little history: TJ (as he is known by all) came to England from Turkey in 1990. He started life in the hospitality industry doing washing up in Pierre Victoire. At that time there were very few Turkish restaurants so, with an eye to the future, in 1993 TJ took himself to college, where he studied all aspects of catering and obtained his City & Guilds qualifications.

After this he opened one restaurant, which was not a success. In 2000 he opened the first Bistro 1 in Beak Street, serving Mediterranean food. This was followed by a second branch in Covent Garden (which was closed when the lease expired), and in 2005 he came to Frith Street, which is where he is today, following the same successful formula. The result is that Bistro 1 offers good value food - they do two and three course set lunches and dinners, as well as a Mediterranean menu. A recent addition is a pizza oven which produces thin crust pizzas, and delicious bread,

plain and garlic. TJ is always thinking of new ideas and ways to improve, whilst at the same time offering value for money, so he is forever tweaking this and that. There are old favourites such as falafel and hummus, borek, followed by moussaka, marinated chargrilled chicken skewers, and even, though not strictly Mediterranean, fish and chips and burgers. There are also vegetarian options. So there's plenty of choice for everybody. They also cater for large parties, if wanted, both upstairs and down.

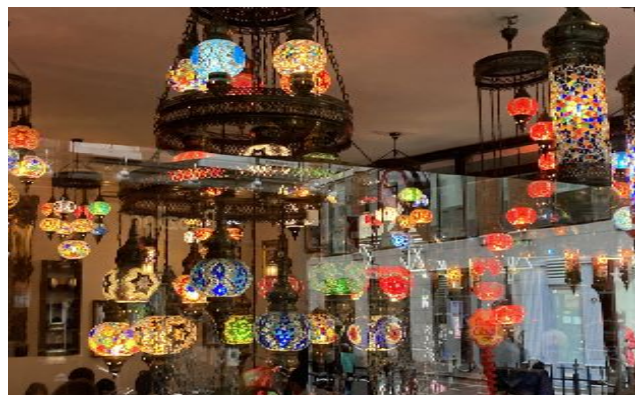
The service is efficient, warm and friendly, and if TJ is there he's always happy to see you,

In December there will also be a Christmas Lunch menu available on request.

Once again, TJ and Bistro 1, thank you so much for all your help over the years.

Jane Doyle

*Bistro 1, 27 Frith Street
London W1D 5LE
Telephone: 020 734 6204
email: b1@bistro1.co.uk*



BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT SOHO PARISH

At Soho Parish, we ensure that our curriculum reflects the diversity of our local community and student population and situates learning about the history of the UK, London and Soho within a global perspective. Books we use draw on characters and situations from diverse backgrounds. In addition, we celebrate Black History Month to improve children's understanding of the contributions and experiences of Black men, women and children through time, until recently badly neglected by the UK curriculum.

Each class has shared a piece of work that they have undertaken during October.

In Class 1 we enjoyed talking about the work of black artists like Yinka Shonibare, the curator of this year's Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. We looked closely at Yinka's work 'The British Library' where he celebrates the diversity of Britain by writing the names of influential immigrants on the spines of Batik covered books. Inspired by this, we created our own Batik inspired prints and wrote our names on the spines, celebrating the diversity that exists in our classroom! We also had a go at some graffiti art in the playground inspired by John Michel Basquiat, an artist who is famous for painting his black heroes and influencers wearing crowns to highlight their importance.

Class 2 learned that Marcus Rashford is not just a professional footballer. He had led a successful campaign to end child food poverty in England and in his campaign asked the government to offer a guaranteed meal a day to all school children in England in financially struggling families.

Y3 wrote letters from Lilian Bader to her long, lost brothers. Lilian was an orphan and was separated from them at the age of 9. We wrote in the perspective of Lilian, telling her brothers how she was one of the first black women to join the British armed forces and how she overcame racism, sexism and discrimination.

Alongside our study of the Windrush, class 5 have been learning about segregation. We listened to Martin Luther King's speech and wrote our own, thinking about what we would like to change about the world:

I have a dream, that the world will be clean of harm and that we will learn to forgive and will be forgiven.

I have a dream that our planet will thrive in justice.

I have a dream that the rich will help the homeless.

I have a dream that both black and white shall be treated fairly.

I have a dream that there will be no violence in the world and no one is bound by slavery.

I have a dream.

As the theme of Black History Month this year was 'Proud to Be', We also wrote poems which celebrate our individuality.

Believing that Black History is not only taught at a particular time of year, Class 6 have woven in their term's Concept Learning on 'Segregation' by looking closely at primary sources of migration, with particular foci on the 'push and pull' factors of Windrush and the differences between the expectation and actual experiences of the Windrush generation.

For art, the class have been looking at diasporic art, understanding the context of artists' lives, including El Anatsui and Yinka Shinobare. After researching their backgrounds, cultural influences and exhibitions, the class began to sketch their interpretations of their works. Attached is a sketch based on Yinka Shinobare's "Cheeky Little Astronomer".

In addition and due to their interest in contemporary and influential creative figures, class members researched some of these personalities and created posters on Marjorie Blackman, Little Simz, Michael Boyega, Stormzy, Oswald Boateng, Zadie Smith, Bernadine Evaristo, Marcus Rashford, Lashana Lynch, Dave, Michael Kiwanuka and many more.

Louise Ritchie, Headteacher



Researcher: Amelie Ay...

Person's Name: Marius Rashford

Lived from: _____ year to _____ year

Most Known for: Goal keeping helping to fight poverty in England

Person's Portrait

Five Facts

1. Marius was born on 11/01/2000
2. He was playing for Manchester United
3. Marius loves football
4. He played for local teams
5. He scored 2 goals

Friday 15th October 2021
 7.4 can use past tense.

Lillian Bader
 51 Great Windmill St
 London
 N4 5HA

Brothers
 51 Woodrow St
 London
 N5 1ST

Dear my beloved brothers,
 I am writing to you because I miss you! I was separated from you when I was nine. I stayed at the orphanage until I was twenty. Nobody wanted me to do things, when I separated from you I was very upset.
 I was enlisted in the navy a canteen assistant, I lost my job in seven weeks because I had not been in the UK. I got a new job working at a farm, feeding caddis for 1 year on the radio they needed power to join the (WAAF) to train and repair. I am looking forward to see you, by.

Best wishes, Lillian.

For History this term and to tie in with Class 6's SEGREGATION concept, we have been looking at primary sources of MIGRATION. Our current focus has been on the 'push and pull' factors of WENDRUSH.

HISTORY

Primary sources and historical photographs related to migration, including text and images.

John Boyega
 (Actor and producer)

STAR WARS

Profile

Born: 17 March 1992 (He is 27)
 Location: Peckham, London
 Height: 1.75 m
 Education: South Thames College
 Westminster City School, Wandsworth, Greenwich

Star Wars

He was the first Black actor to play Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars franchise.





The King of SOHO

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Happy Christmas!

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Our Featured Cocktail:
Variorum Picante

40ml King of Soho Variorum Gin • 10ml Triple Sec
25ml lemon juice • 15ml Honey • 1/4 Birdseye chilli • Optional dash of Dark chocolate bitters

Muddle the chilli with the honey in the bottom of a shaker, add the other ingredients and stir until the honey is well mixed.

Add ice and shake well. Double strain into a chilled cocktail glass and garnish with a zest of orange.



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NICKIE AIKEN

CONSERVATIVE MP FOR CITIES OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER



As many Soho Clarion readers will know, one of my key campaigns is gaining regulation of pedicabs to ensure the safety of those who use them. My legislation is currently making its way through Parliament, and I have been hard at work to build the case and garner support.

Similar to taxis and other private hire vehicles, my legislation would require Transport for London (TfL) to issue licences to pedicab drivers, requiring them to meet a specific safety standard, whilst TfL also gain the power to regulate the prices they charge.

I have recently met with Baroness Vere, the Minister for Roads, Buses and Places to further push my campaign. Thanks to the strength of feeling locally, and the regular emails and letters I am receiving sharing pedicab experiences, I was able to show the Minister how vital this legislation is for the Two Cities.

I am proud to also receive the support of Baroness Stowell who has brought my campaign to the House of Lords and is working to raise awareness around pedicabs.

I am growing increasingly confident that we will get legislation for the safety of pedicabs. However if my second attempt to bring legislation fails, there are other avenues that I am pursuing and I will have a further update for the new year. Find out more, and back my campaign at:

www.nickie.news/pedicabs

What the Budget means for the Two Cities

At the end of October, the Chancellor revealed his plans for the future. I welcome the Budget and believe the Two Cities have much to gain.

Firstly, despite the success of the 'Everyone In' which saw everyone who needed a bed offered one during

the pandemic, rough sleeping remains a huge issue in Westminster. I welcome the £640 million fund to tackle rough sleeping and will be campaigning for Westminster City Council to gain its fair share, and continue their outstanding work to offer a bed every night and end rough sleeping for good.

The Chancellor also doubled tax relief for our theatres, museums, and galleries, and announced a 50 per cent business rates discount for our retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. There are over 5,000 licensed premises across Westminster and the City of London which will benefit from additional business rates support, and I will continue fighting their corner.



Lastly, since entering Parliament, another of my key campaigns has been to improve our national newborn screening programme, working with ArchAngel MLD Trust, a Westminster based charity. Previously, babies were tested for only nine rare diseases at birth, compared to Iceland who test for 49. I was delighted to hear the Chancellor announce the UK's newborn baby

screening programme will benefit from investment into Health Research & Development with a new pioneering programme to detect over 200 rare diseases.

If I can help with any issue, please do not hesitate to email me at:

nickie.aiken.mp@parliament.uk

Follow me @TwoCitiesNickie on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

TIM BARNES

CONSERVATIVE WARD COUNCILLOR



When Jane Doyle, esteemed editor of this august journal, asked the candidates for the Westminster City Council elections next May to each submit a short piece about themselves, I thought it would be a good idea to look back at some of the previous Clarion editions to see what was said last time.

Turns out, not a lot. The issues of the Clarion in the run up to the election didn't really mention the candidates. But how things have changed! Since 2018, local councillors have regularly had an opportunity to reflect on what has been happening in council activities and their impact on Soho. This can only be a good thing and is evidence of the much greater level of engagement in local politics in Soho than is common in the rest of the country.

In the three and a half years since those last council elections, we have all seen huge changes due to Covid and the long periods of lockdown when Soho was eerily quiet, with not only visitors but some residents gone for the duration. I chose to remain in my flat on Great Windmill Street. Taking my regular walks round the deserted streets was peaceful but for someone like me, who hasn't lived more than ten minutes' walk from Soho in the last 25 years, it never felt right. Soho is not suburbia.

In addition to being a West End Councillor, I also have responsibilities as Lead Member for Soho and as Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning across our City. Even so, my council work is supposed to be part-time. But during the Covid crisis it became very much full-time. Businesses and residents were all suddenly in need and from issues with al fresco, business rates and support grants to school children learning from home, it all led to record levels of council work. It was a unique time to be a councillor and it has been a real privilege to have represented Soho throughout all that has happened.

Like many who live and work here, my business was one of many that suffered due to lockdown and I can empathise with all of those who faced disruption. I closed a large part of my company and started working more from home. Fortunately, after a slow period, the entrepreneurs, government agencies and universities I work with all require help again to build the new businesses and jobs we all need now.

Similarly, much of the regular Soho life has now returned and although levels of many commercial activities are still a long way below where they were, we are still a strong and vibrant community and, and I am proud of how we have all made that possible.

While I am standing again, my ward colleagues, Cllrs Glanz and Lewis, are stepping down in May and I wish them both the very best in their post-Council lives. Whatever the results of the elections, I hope we can find a new balance of vibrant economic activity and decent living for all of us.



L-to-R: Looking so much younger then, Cllrs Timothy Barnes, Pancho Lewis and Jonathan Glanz on Election Night (well, morning after!) 2018

PANCHO LEWIS

LABOUR WARD COUNCILLOR



Broken promises from the Council

In mid-October The Soho Society held its AGM. One overriding message came through loud and clear: Trust in Conservative-led Westminster Council is in very short supply. Broken promises over the Covid al fresco scheme, coupled with the Marble Arch Mound debacle, have left the community feeling frustrated and with little faith in promises from Conservative councillors. Worse still, some long-term residents are being driven out of Soho due to excessive levels of noise.

‘Vision for Soho’

The fact that some residents are leaving Soho and that trust is at rock-bottom is unacceptable. I’m working with Labour candidates Paul Fisher, Patrick Lilley and Jess Toale to campaign for the Council to change. In the short-term, we’re calling for the Council to temporarily suspend its ‘Vision for Soho’ (VfS) consultation exercise. Some of the stated aims of the VfS are laudable — for example, improving air quality. However given that the Council can’t be relied on to carry out some of its most basic existing responsibilities (for example, policing excessive noise), the VfS consultation exercise promising grand, transformative change is being met with incredulity. Indeed, that’s what we’ve heard from residents who tell us they’ve found the exercise futile at best and disingenuous at worst. Others have told us they should make greater use of the recently approved Soho Neighbourhood Plan instead of reinventing the wheel; we agree.

Restoring trust between the Council and the community

Longer-term, there needs to be a reboot in how the Council engages with the community. If elected in next year’s local election, your new Labour administration in Westminster Council would explore running a ‘Soho Community Assembly’ made up of a representative group of community members. We would use this to transform how the Council engages with the community. There are other ways of rebuilding Council-community relations. For

one, the Council needs to be honest and upfront with the community about the challenges it faces and the limits of what it can or intends to do. This means abandoning the Council’s current approach of making statements about things it has no intention of delivering — like, for example, the promises that were made over policing ‘vertical drinking’ in the al fresco scheme. As we know, it turned out the Council had no real plan or intention to do this.

We want to hear your ideas

We want to know what you think about how trust can be restored between the Council and the community. We hope we can speak to you either on the doorstep or at an event to hear your views ahead of next year’s elections.

In other news...

We’re campaigning on a range of issues. First, we recently called for the Council’s Cabinet Member for Business to install noise monitoring equipment across Soho so it has the data it needs to understand where residents are worst affected by late night licensed premises. We’re pleased that a commitment has now been made to explore introducing such equipment in the coming months. Another issue we’ve taken up is campaigning to curb excessive helicopter noise. Our open letter to the Council Leader and police has been signed by dozens of residents. Finally, we wrote to oppose plans for a new mega-hostel on Dean Street, arguing it would bring disruption and was not in keeping with protecting Soho’s character. We’re disappointed the Council’s Planning Committee approved the hostel and we’ll continue to fight for residents on planning issues, including plans to tear down 20th Century House on Soho Square.

JULIE REDMOND

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

My love of Soho began as soon as I arrived in London on my own in 2005 from Dublin. It was the “destination” for a girl from Ireland. A place where anything could happen. My first night out consisted of a dinner in St Moritz, drinks in The French House and then on to The Colony Room Club. I love history and difference and interesting people with no judgement and unusual places. Soho is one of the only places that retains the spirit of a time gone by but simultaneously is ahead of its time. Everyone is accepted, celebrated, and embraced on its magical streets.

I grew up in Galway and then went to live in Dublin and attended a very liberal German school. I am passionate about people and helping others, so it was a natural progression to study nursing and pharmacology, and I have worked in A&E and Dermatology in the public and private sectors in both the UK and Australia. I love theatre, film, and the arts. At one stage, I dreamt of being an actor, you will catch a glimpse of me in films 'The Actors' and 'Evelyn'! When I have time off you will see me either in the theatre or at an art exhibition. Family is particularly important to me; I have lived with my husband in Marylebone for 15 years, where my son was born and he goes to school in the West End, so I recognise the challenges encountered by young families in the area.

My friends live in Soho. I became a member of The Groucho Club when Bernie Katz was at the helm, and it has been a second home ever since. In January 2021, I was one of the first to become a Covid vaccinator. If I see a problem or an issue my years in nursing have taught me positive action gives the best outcomes and as a result encouraged the uptake of the covid vaccine and

vaccinated many residents in Soho over the last year. It has been a fantastic opportunity to meet everyone and listen to concerns from a wide demographic of residents.

I am aware of the challenges in Soho as the area transitions. The two issues that stand out are noise and public toilets. The relationship between the council, residents and stakeholders is complex and challenging too. Partisanship and finger pointing helps nobody. I am determined to engage with everyone and ensure that we move towards a kinder more inclusive politics. Soho has an extraordinary broad community, and all voices need to be listened to and we need to work together to solve problems as a team.

I entered politics as I wanted to help, I wanted to make a difference to the local community. I identified problems and issues, what was working and what was not. I love practical problem solving so I joined the Marylebone Association and the Conservative Party. Everything I have done has always been for the residents and community first. People are the heart of everything. I have seen how Soho has changed, I want to help preserve the character and retain the old Soho. I will

use my skills and experience to help shape policy. I am a chatterbox and I get my nose stuck into everything, you will see me either chatting to market stall holders, lecturing builders or out with a noise monitor machine measuring noise after midnight.

It would be a privilege for me to be involved in taking Soho residents and businesses over the next few years with empathy, tact, delicacy and hopefully more than a bit of the magic we all love.



EOGHAIN MURPHY

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

I am a long-standing owner-occupier in Fitzrovia and have lived in W1 since 2005, initially in Marylebone. I was raised not far away, off Ladbroke Grove in North Kensington.

I am a serving councillor, which I have much enjoyed. It is for a largely residential ward — Bryanston and Dorset Square — which is roughly Marylebone west of Baker Street. The boundary change presents me with the opportunity to stand in the ward where I live, West End, and indeed part of my current ward is moving into the expanded West End.

I love the life and activity of the West End and I much enjoy the unique character of Soho. I have been a member of the Society for several years as well as of Blacks Club. I am involved in the Church of the Assumption in Warwick Street and the organization, reached off Golden Square, provides in its basement a hearty cooked breakfast and showers for the homeless on Wednesdays.

I enjoy singing and have sung in various West End churches including Soho Square, Margaret Street, Warwick Street, the Grosvenor Chapel and Marble Arch. I particularly love the Renaissance choral repertoire.

As a sitting councillor, I have an appreciation of the very considerable workload that being a West End councillor would entail. I am single and flexible, and have recently changed my commitments, giving up full time work in asset management governance at HSBC to allow myself to focus on this challenge.

Being a resident in the West End, I am very alive to local issues that its more-commercial character exacerbates, including over-development, al fresco, late-night noise, anti-social behaviour, enforcement, public lavatories, air quality, dumping, short lets, pedicabs, dangerous e-scooter and cycle delivery vehicles. I see the challenge of supporting the revival of business sectors – including creative, retail, hospitality, cultural and entertainment – whilst respecting the unique character of Soho.



I serve as chairman of Westminster City's pension fund – supporting our former and current employees' retirements – and have overseen the pivoting of the fund's investments towards sustainability. Among other Council committee appointments, I also serve on the Rating Panel, hearing appeals for hardship and discretionary relief of business rates.

In my current ward I have campaigned for, and secured, funding for the redevelopment of the Seymour Leisure Centre and Library. I supported residents in alleviating teething problems over the introduction of Baker Street two-way traffic. I assisted residents in the planning process, most recently speaking on their

behalf regarding the large redevelopment of the former Arcadia HQ on the Marylebone Road.

As your councillor, I would likewise support and represent residents and campaign for your problems and concerns to be fully addressed.

PAUL FISHER

LABOUR CANDIDATE

I am a Westminster-based barrister, specialising in commercial and public law disputes both in the UK and internationally. Although you wouldn't tell from my accent, I originally grew up in south Wales, where I attended a comprehensive school in the north of Cardiff. It was my experience of a truly comprehensive education, built on the foundations of a strong local authority that led me to think about the importance of local government to social mobility and enhancing life chances. This was one of the reasons I joined the Labour Party and became active in local politics from a young age. I was lucky enough to come to Oxford for university, which brought me across the border into England. Most importantly, though, my job brought me to the city I love and now call home – London.

Soho in particular means a great deal to me. Having lived locally in the West End, I know from experience that it represents so much of what it means to be a Londoner: it is a vibrant, creative, progressive and diverse village. That diversity lies not just in its obvious title as the home of London's LGBT community in our city, but in the fact that it has historically maintained that careful balance between the interests of both local businesses and a strong local community of residents.

I am a huge advocate for Westminster and Soho, but I also have experience of the negatives living in the centre of our city: the sort of noise, crime and general disruption to life that we're all told we just have to put up with because of where we live – trust me, I have experienced it all (including

being mugged early on in my time in London). In Soho, in particular, residents are too often told that they should "grin and bear it". I disagree.

Knowing the importance of community to tackling these problems, I have always tried to be part of London community life: whether that was through joining the Covent Garden Community Trust, where I served as a Trustee, or more recently campaigning alongside my colleagues on the Covid Al Fresco scheme that has, due to poor oversight and the complete pedestrianisation of some of Soho's streets, caused sleepless nights for many residents. We don't need to accept the status quo. Our communities are not a "zero sum" game between residents and businesses and (as the Soho Society proves) can be immeasurably improved by stakeholders working together to achieve progress.

That balance is the key to Soho's continued success. But it has been placed in jeopardy in recent years. Without its residents - who have traditionally been willing to stand up for what the Soho Neighbourhood Plan rightly calls the "intangible spirit of Soho" – Soho may well have been a very different

place. Soho is at a crossroads. It has never been more important to speak up loudly for the interests of residents here. Alongside the Soho Society, it is my hope that I and my colleagues can achieve very tangible results for the community and I am looking forward to meeting many of you over the coming months to explore how we can make that happen.



JESSICA TOALE

LABOUR CANDIDATE

Soho is the undisputed heart of the West End. For me, it is the place I first worked after finishing my Masters. It is the place I had my first date with my now husband. And it was the place I would visit on trips back to London when I was living overseas – a home away from home. I remember being fascinated to learn that the tree in the garden of the House of St Barnabas features in Dickens's Tale of Two Cities. Soho's history, culture and energy still captivate my imagination today.

The dark days of lockdown reminded me of the privilege it is to live in such a vibrant and historic place and instilled in me a strong sense of community. It is because of the bonds I forged over the past two years that I decided to stand for local election. Now more than ever, it felt like the right time to serve my community here in the West End.

A desire to serve was what initially took me into a career in international development and into Labour politics at the heart of Westminster. Through this work I had the opportunity to support peace talks in Northern Ireland, lead HIV/AIDS education projects in Bolivia and campaign at the United Nations to ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has the best start in life. This same driving ethos is why I now volunteer with the charity Under One Sky to support people experiencing homelessness in Soho and why I am retraining as a human rights barrister.

Soho is unique, and with that comes a set of unique challenges. Residents are rightly proud of the vibrancy of the area and its cultural and architectural heritage. Many of you fought to preserve this unique character. But this must not come at the expense of quality of life. Residents on Dean Street and across Soho have told me about how the Council ignored their concerns over the al fresco dining scheme and the detrimental impact that noise, lack of public toilets and disability access were having. For too long the community has been disregarded and misunderstood by both the Council and visitors to the area alike.

I want to help do something about this. I want to represent you to ensure your voices are heard on the issues that matter most to you. I want to raise awareness about the depth and diversity of this community. And as your councillor, I want to work with you to ensure Soho is not only a great place to visit, but also a great place to live.

It has been a privilege getting to know the stalwarts of the community, and I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months. If you see me out and about, please do stop to say hello. You will likely find

me having an after-dinner coffee at Bar Italia or picking up supplies at I Camisa, usually with my bulldog Clive in tow.

Twitter: @JessicaToale



PATRICK LILLEY

LABOUR CANDIDATE

My connections with Soho go way back. At University in 1980 I lived within sight of Oxford Street sharing a house with Boy George on Great Titchfield Street. I have lived in Westminster continuously now for 25 years, just a short cycle ride from Soho. I am a community activist and life coach who has lived, worked and campaigned to protect Soho. My experience of the issues here led me to stand in the West End Ward for the council elections of 2018. I came within a whisker, just 27 votes, of winning.

I have met more residents since, whose lives have been devastated by the incompetence of Westminster Council's Conservative leadership. I worked to expose the impact of big property on Westminster Council planning policy. Because of our campaign, the role of Cabinet Member for Planning and the Chair of the main Planning Committee are now separate.

The chaos on Berwick Street's disruptive and delayed development foreshadowed the appalling decisions around Soho Al Fresco (and the Marble Arch Mound). As Soho's streets were swamped by thousands of "upright" drinkers our pressure ensured there were more toilets to cope with the mess.

As a community activist, I spoke up for Berwick Street Market traders opposing the privatisation of the market. We helped defeat the Council's plan. A property developer threatened to close the nearby Curzon Mayfair but our West End Labour petition of 27,127 names helped force the property developer to negotiate with the Curzon, which remains open. Church Commissioners were planning to turn the Connaught Square NHS Surgery into luxury flats and I collaborated with residents to successfully oppose their plans. The practice is still providing care to over 2,000 patients.

Since the Conservatives can't manage a budget of £2 million on the Marble Arch Mound, without spending £6 million, they really shouldn't be trusted to spend £150 million on Oxford Street regeneration! We oppose the rushed plans for Oxford Circus "piazza-fication" and fear it will drive traffic into nearby residential streets.

A small tourist tax on room occupancy of hotels and Airbnb in Westminster could raise £30 million, about half of annual Council Tax revenue. (Labour opposed the recent Conservative Council Tax rise). This could pay for more street level toilets: cleaner, safer streets and an expansion of the noise team to clamp down on pedicabs and illegal parties in flats. Residential blocks have been "hotelified" by a huge rise in short lets. We need enforcement of the rules that limit the number of Airbnb lets to 90 days.

Noise in Soho is at unhealthy levels. I wrote an open letter to the Leader of WCC about police helicopter noise over Soho. Over 125 residents shared my concerns. There should be no further al fresco without adequate noise monitoring and genuine consultations.

Many fear big property companies and Conservative councillors, will turn Soho into a saccharine shopping experience solely for tourists. Next May you will have the opportunity to say whose vision for Soho you support: our community led approach working for the benefit of residents, or those who prioritise property developers and tourism over your wellbeing and happiness.





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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	上午九時	至	下午六時三十分
星期二	上午九時	至	下午六時三十分
星期三	上午九時	至	下午六時三十分
星期四	上午九時	至	下午六時三十分
星期五	上午九時	至	下午六時三十分
星期六	上午		
星期日	休息		

Opening hours

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

OH WHAT A LOVELY FETE!



Cast your mind back. Much of the month of August was misty and dank, the sky was low, the air chilled and lacklustre, and with a turbulent weather forecast predicted for Sunday, 5 September, a sunshine filled fete seemed unlikely. A lot of praying at Soho Society HQ tower, and miraculously somehow, skies cleared and at 11am precisely, sunshine broke through. The Belles of London City Morris Dancers, (plus Horse) were in position, the congregation of St Anne's arrived and the chaos, happiness and a dash of eccentric madness, that makes up the fete, unfolded with joyous abandonment.

The Soho Fete is organised by a team of volunteers from the Soho Society who give up countless hours to set up stalls, put up bunting, write out event plans and risk assessments, chivvy up sponsors and ask our very generous Soho businesses for donations from free spaghetti to raffle prizes. They organise dog shows, run the bar, liaise with Tug of War contestants, effortlessly manage the entertainment schedule and deserve huge thanks – you know who you are.

So how would one describe the Soho Fete to an alien landing from Mars? Well, it might be tricky! This year we had Elvis on stilts in a gold lamé suit mixing with the crowds, a giant Dalston Snail called Brian racing against mini snails from Southend for £1 a go, as well as the epic and iconic Soho Waiters Race with competitors seemingly unfazed by the slightly longer route dictated by al fresco. A superb flying photo finish between Soho House with Dean Street Townhouse and Kettners, seemed only fitting as Soho House sponsored the race, with the Co-op supplying the Prosecco.

The Co-op newly reopened on Berwick Street, was very much in situ, donating Prosecco for the waiters race, running

a glittery stall, supplying packed lunches for volunteers - and lovely calm team leader Jed fixing the welcome sign at the gates, thank you!

For a second year running, the Soho Fire Station Commander, this year the Blue Watch, led by Ryan Osbourne, emerged victorious from three rounds of the Tug of War. Steve Muldoon leading the Metropolitan Police team, put up a great fight but were routed at the end - better luck next year Steve!

The Human Fruit Machine is always popular and wasn't it fantastic to see Fete Poster designer, David Shenton back in position beneath a psychedelic fruit and netting, Carmen Miranda ensemble, once more, having travelled down at the last minute from his home in Norfolk.

Entertainment started jauntily, the Band of the Welsh Guards, breezing through to the Fabulous Lounge Swingers, Frank and Johnny, Soho grown Jasmine Morris's Nova Trio and Neil Drinkwater's Red Stripe Band and winding up with the Soho Fete Allstars and Drag Queen Finale with Ebonknee and Minnie Diamond. Overheard, whilst the Allstars were on, "well this is Soho after all, we should have expected Roxy Music and Pink Floyd on stage, it's not your ordinary fete!"

It seemed that for one day, the world was right again and the Soho Community was out in force, united in a collective joyful celebration, fuelled by the French House's Cidre Breton, Meteor Beer and vast amounts of Brazilian Steak.

With Roxy Music playing, "More than this" up on stage, Soho Summer Fete 2021, life just doesn't get much better.

Lucy Haine



The Soho Society would like to thank all of our supporters without whom the Soho Village Fete and waiters race would not have been possible, including...

Our People; David Shenton for his fantastic poster design, The Soho Society Fete Team - Lucy, Tim, Takashi, Rachel, Jane, Marina, Richard, Joel, Maggie, Harry, Steve, Jason and Onward Display. Our amazing Fete Volunteers, Lesley Lewis at The French House, Meteor Beer UK, Rev. Simon Buckley & Jake at St Anne's Church, Soho Parish School, MPS Soho, Soho Fire Station, Arthur Beales, Paul Donlon, Yamaha Music and Pastaio Carnaby

Our Sponsors; The Crown Estate, Westminster City Council, Shaftesbury plc, The Co-op, Soho House, Broadwick Street Holdings, Soho Housing Association and The Rotary Club

Our Raffle Donors; Firmdale Hotel Group, Nimax Theatres, PizzaExpress Live, Bocca di Lupo, Randall & Aubin, Duck & Rice, Lina Stores, Mildreds, David Crocker, The Union Club, Storm Flowers, Algerian Coffee Stores, Fleet London, King of Soho and Crosstown Doughnuts

Our Entertainers; The Soho Fete All Stars, The Belles of London City, The Red Stripe Band, Sweety of the St Moritz, Jasmine Morris & The Nova Trio, The Fabulous Lounge Swingers, The Welsh Guards, Ray and Johnny, DJ Dave Flack, Ebbonknee and Minnie Diamond, and Peter Cliffe compere.

The Soho Society Committee past and present.....and all our wonderful volunteers!



SOHO PUPILS LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS

Lighting up Soho's Streets from the 8 November

With a strong community focus, Soho's Christmas lights are designed by the children of Soho Parish School under the direction of architect and RIBA Architecture Ambassador Antonio Capelao, supported by the school's art lead, Hannah Peaty, and Florist Joao Rocha of Storm Flowers London. Lighting up Soho's streets from 8 November, festive designs include snowmen, baubles and reindeer, all with a distinctly Soho feel, experiencing Christmas through a child's eyes and brought to life by Blachere Illumination UK.

A walking tour and map of the 21 lights across Soho, will be available via www.ThisIsSoho.co.uk, from 8 November and the long-term plan is for the lighting panels to return to Soho each year. Each lighting panel features a QR code linking to the original design and explaining how to donate much-needed funds to Soho Parish school.

The 21 Designs were selected via a judging panel lead by Capelao, which included RIBA, The National Gallery, Shaftesbury, St Anne's Church, Soho Ward Councillors, Storm Flowers London, former pupils of Soho Parish School and head teacher, Louise Ritchie.

Generous funding from Westminster City Council, Shaftesbury, Soho Estates and Broadwick Soho, increased the number of panels, initially planned at 7, to 21, and the panels will be displayed on lamp posts across Soho's streets including Archer Street, Berwick Street, Brewer Street, Old Compton Street, Dean Street, Wardour Street and Frith Street from 8 November to the middle of January 2022.

Antonio Capelao, architect says: "I was inspired by a school in Newburgh, Scotland who have been creating Christmas lighting panels for 19 years. I asked the students of the Soho Parish Primary to think about what the festive period means to them and how they would communicate this in lights. The response was incredible, and I am looking forward to

seeing their faces when they see the lights lighting up Soho this Christmas."

Simon Quayle, Shaftesbury Director says: "We are delighted to be a sponsor of the Soho Parish Christmas lights. The concept behind the scheme being designed by children from the school is truly special and brings a real sense of community and magic. The installations are completely unique to Soho and add to the area's creative spirit".

David Monson, General Manager, Broadwick Soho says: "We are all delighted to be able to support the Soho Parish Christmas Light project and will always play an active and supporting part in the local Soho community. Christmas is such a special and magical time of the year for children and to see their artwork up in lights throughout Soho will be a wonderful and memorable gift."



One of the aims, of the Soho Christmas Street lighting project, is to raise funds for Soho Parish Primary School. If you would like to support Soho Parish School and adopt a Christmas light, please email Architect Antonio Capelao at amcapelao@gmail.com. Your contribution will go towards financing some of the services and projects, that Soho Parish school relies on to provide the best possible education for children and your name will be up in lights, featured on the Soho Christmas walking tour via the QR code on This is Soho Website.

VENUE: Soho Streets including Archer Street, Rupert Street, Brewer Street, Berwick Street, Dean Street and Soho Square

LIT UP: 8 NOVEMBER until MID JANUARY 2022

Lucy Haine

Photos: PA/Matt Crossick



CELINE'S SOHO SALON

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY RICHARD PIERCY

Soho based Celine Hispiche had already had a successful career as a performer and writer before opening Celine's Salon in 2016; the ethos behind it was to try and provide a platform for both experienced and novice writers to introduce and showcase new work. Parisian born Celine's love of music hall and French cabaret inspired her to produce a literary format, where the audience is treated to a variety of poetry, short stories, song-writing and comedic sketches. The Salon convenes monthly with each event having a different theme - Icons, The Seven Deadly Sins and The Art of Laughter being examples of previous gatherings. Writers are deliberately given short notice of between two and three weeks to prepare, the thinking being that this creates spontaneous writing with little time to overthink ideas. Each artist has a maximum of five minutes on stage; equality is the byword. Celine's Salon has had residencies at a number of Soho venues during its lifetime beginning at Babette Kulik's Society Club, followed by a stint at The Med Café in Berwick Street and eventually moving on to Gerry's Club in Dean Street. Unfortunately, a flood at the premises has prevented it from reopening there post lockdown, consequently the Salon will be a pop up event until the situation resolves itself.

In the meantime, the success of the Salon has resulted in the publication of 'Celine's Soho Salon - The Anthology Volume 1'. Published by Wordsville, an independent publishing house specialising in the performing arts. The book contains the work of 29 talented and intriguing writers. This hugely readable volume is divided into seven parts, each one containing the work of four or five artists. The well thought out layout concludes with a curtain call that lists the venues, dates, and themes of past Salons. Its distinctive cover artwork, by graphic artist Gary Salter, evokes the spirit of Soho's bohemian heritage, celebrated on the pages inside. Whilst the printed page can't hope to recreate the high energy atmosphere and vibe of the live events, the launch party at The Blue Posts in Berwick Street at the beginning of September ensured that its arrival didn't

go unnoticed. Packed to the rafters, guests were treated to a sometimes raucous variety of quality performances throughout the evening, much in keeping with the spirit of the monthly show and presided over by Celine herself.

Whilst Celine's Salon is the current expression of Celine's considerable talents, the story doesn't end there; she also has a monthly show on Soho Radio. She started her career as a featured writer at the Royal Court Theatre and has seen her plays broadcast on LBC in London and New York. With her roots in comedy, she previously spent three years in the 90s touring the East Coast of America with Saturday Night Live and has appeared at Rodney Dangerfield's and Caroline's Comedy Club in Manhattan. She has worked extensively with Marc Almond and David Ball of Soft Cell, opening for and singing a duet on stage with Marc at Wiltons Music Hall in Whitechapel.

Looking towards the future Celine will be taking Celine's Salon out on the road, firstly to Londonderry and then on to Glasgow, which was originally

scheduled for just before lockdown. Beyond that, the dream is to take the show further afield to New York, Paris, and Berlin, with performers chosen from each of those cities. She is currently writing the first draft of her novel titled 'Luke and the Golden Ball', based on the three elements of, factual history, Victorian magic and human values. The American novelist and playwright Gertrude Stein once said, 'You are extraordinary within your limits, but your limits are extraordinary', a maxim that Celine Hispiche has certainly taken to heart and continues to be inspired by. We look forward to many future instalments of her creative output.

The next Celine's Salon will be hosted by Cuts in Frith Street, where the theme will be 'vanity'; fitting for a venue that's a hair salon! Further details on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Celine's Soho Salon - An Anthology Vol 1 can be ordered online at wordsville.net



LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT OUT

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY RICHARD PIERCY

Ray Gelato aka ‘The Godfather of Swing’ is a natural born entertainer. Backed by his band The Giants, his brand of foot stompin’ upbeat swing music has wowed audiences across the globe, with the band recently celebrating its 25th anniversary. Ray has played some of the world’s most prestigious venues and events – The Montreal Jazz Festival, The Blue Note in New York, Carnegie Hall and the Umbria Jazz Festival. He has appeared regularly at the legendary 100 Club since 1982, a venue he has a special affection for, and has performed twice for HM The Queen as well as playing at Sir Paul McCartney’s wedding. His Christmas residency at Ronnie Scott’s is now in its 17th year and is considered an annual highlight. Quite the CV all in all!

Fresh from playing a sell-out show at The 100 Club to mark his 60th birthday, I met up with Ray at Bar Italia, his favourite Soho hang out, to learn more about his career and the release of his latest album ‘Locked Down But Not Out’

Whilst puffing on his preferred brand of Cuban cigar (a Montecristo Petit Edmundo, for all you cigar aficionados) Ray described his early years growing up in Latimer Road, West London. As a child he was surrounded by music as his father was a fan of Rock n Roll and had a great record collection. As a result of this he’s always loved artists from the 50’s such as Little Richard, Bill Haley, Fats Domino and Dean Martin. These artists were Ray’s introduction to a musical world he would later inhabit, and one that eventually led him on to jazz, rhythm and blues and swing.

Ray began playing saxophone at the age of 18 when his parents bought him his first instrument from Rose Morris on Shaftesbury Avenue. By playing along to his dad’s rock and roll records, as well as listening to classic saxophonists such as Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young and Stan Getz, he made rapid progress and within six months he was gigging with his first band The Dynamites. Shortly after this in 1982 he was a founding member of retro jump jive band The Chevalier Brothers giving him his first shot at being front man and vocalist and where he honed his distinctive

Louis Prima style. Initially Ray was a reluctant singer, he explains that the band were all in the car one day and the guitarist, Maurice Chevalier, who’d heard him sing before, announced that someone was needed to sing on a couple of numbers for a forthcoming gig. ‘Don’t look at me, I can’t do that’ Ray said. ‘You can and you will’ Maurice replied, so he did. The performance went down well, and Ray started to sing on a few more songs and things went from there.

Ray formed Ray Gelato and The Giants in 1995 and their twelfth album ‘Locked Down But Not Out’ was released at the end of October. The album is dedicated to all the fans who supported his online ‘Coffee With Ray’ solo performances during the pandemic. The show was born out of the collapse of the live music industry due to lockdown when musicians found themselves unable to work, with many receiving little or no government support. Ray was on social media one day and decided to sing a few songs accompanying himself on the piano. Almost overnight the show snowballed into an hour-long event, garnering Ray many new followers. The album itself has special significance as it was entirely written and recorded during lockdown. With the restrictions preventing the band getting together in the studio, ‘Locked Down But Not Out’ was recorded ‘virtually’ with each musician recording their parts individually at home with only limited technology. The finished product is a testimony to the skill and dedication of the musicians and the sound engineer. I’ve been listening the album whilst writing this piece and can report that it’s extremely good!

Ray Gelato and The Giants will be appearing at Ronnie Scotts from Monday 20 to Thursday 23 December and at The Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean Street, on New Years Eve. Tickets available online.

‘Locked Down But Not Out’ is available as either a CD or a download at raygelato.com

Pic: Ray Gelato onstage at the 100 Club, Oxford St.



KING OF SOHO GIN

JANE DOYLE

We asked the question: “How did King of Soho Gin and West End Drinks come to be?” and were told by Alex Robson, one of the founders:

“It all started late one night over a drink in a dimly lit bar in Soho, it was one of those ‘let’s do’ moments! I’m sure most of your readers have been there, a business plan written on the back of a napkin, which in this instance we actually implemented. Once the spirit was in our dreams, the idea took on a life of its own.

Gin had been the drink of our fathers’ generation, reminiscent of a cocktail culture, which we now all embrace. Our idea came into being before the gin renaissance which took hold a year or two after our 2013 launch. The reason for gin for us was an emotional one. It was not long after the death of Howard’s father, the original ‘King of Soho’ Paul Raymond, and so it was fitting that we name the gin after him as a celebration of his life and his Soho legacy.

Paul Raymond was a famous theatre impresario and businessman who was fundamental in shaping the Soho that we see today; his legacy lives on in the streets of Soho. Founding iconic clubs such as the Raymond Revuebar and Madam JoJo’s, he was famous for his risqué shows, for a period he dominated the London entertainment scene encouraging new talent and cultural diversity. A challenger spirit, who back in the day when ‘nude dancers’ were actually not allowed to move on the stage was a driving force in the liberating of British society. We have come a long way since then.

With this inspiration in mind, we set about creating a beautiful bespoke spirit in a bold and colourful bottle. Soho is about fun, gin is about fun, it all seemed very logical to us at the time.

Staying true to our London heritage, our gins are five times distilled in the heart of London using traditional methods in a steel pot still. Our distiller comes from a family who started making gin around the same time that the word Soho was coined for this area of London, serendipity at its finest.

The bohemian design of the bottle with its ‘Spirit of Soho’

character captures both the past and present of Soho Life and the ‘anything goes’ attitude that Soho is famed for.

We have two gins, which appeal to different moods or preferences.

The first spirit we crafted was the King of Soho London Dry Gin (October 2013); a smooth and delicate combination of citrusy grapefruit with classic juniper; a classic dry gin with a contemporary twist.

In 2018, to mark the brand’s fifth anniversary, the King of Soho Variorum Gin was created; a low sugar pink gin, notes of strawberry and chamomile complement the classic juniper and citrus botanicals of the original recipe. The creativity and literary works of Soho are the inspiration behind the name ‘Variorum’ - in literature, a variorum edition is an original work with notes.”

The business is very much rooted in the Soho community, and Alex looks after the day to day management and creative buzz from an office at the top of Old Compton Street. She says Soho is very much part of who she is today, “It tends to wrap you, pull you in and claim you. Originally from the North East, I have always followed an adventurous and slightly more unconventional path; for example I lived in Russia for a period and I have touched moon dust.”

She says, “I make a beautiful product that gives people pleasure, my focus is always on the people who love and drink our gin. My focus is always on the quality of our offering and in the same way as there is nowhere quite like Soho, there are no other gins quite like the King of Soho.”

You can find King of Soho in many places, as they are not just national but also an international brand. Over the years the word “Soho” has become internationally synonymous with creativity and fun, people are drawn to the essence and freedom that it represents. The Soho Spirit and the King of Soho both like to travel.

The Society would like to thank West End Drinks for their support over the years, most recently their generous support for the bar and raffle prize for the fete.



SOME KIND'A SOHO

“The voices of disappearing Soho. Dedicated to people lost in the Pandemic”

by Darren Russell and David Saunders with an introduction by Robert Elms

This book comprises a series of interviews with people who have made Soho their home, both literal and spiritual, or workplace. Readers of the Clarion may well know or recognise many of them, but may (or may not) be surprised by some of the responses. Each person was asked the following questions:

“What was your introduction to Soho?”

What is your favourite pub, bar or both?

What is your favourite restaurant, past/present? favourite restaurant

What song/tune reminds you of Soho?

What is your favourite club, past/present? favourite club, past and present?

What is the most interesting fact you know about Soho?

How do you feel about the changes in Soho? feel about the changes in Soho?

Tell us about your typical day in Soho?

Who is your favourite character in Soho, fact/fiction?

What do you miss in Soho?”

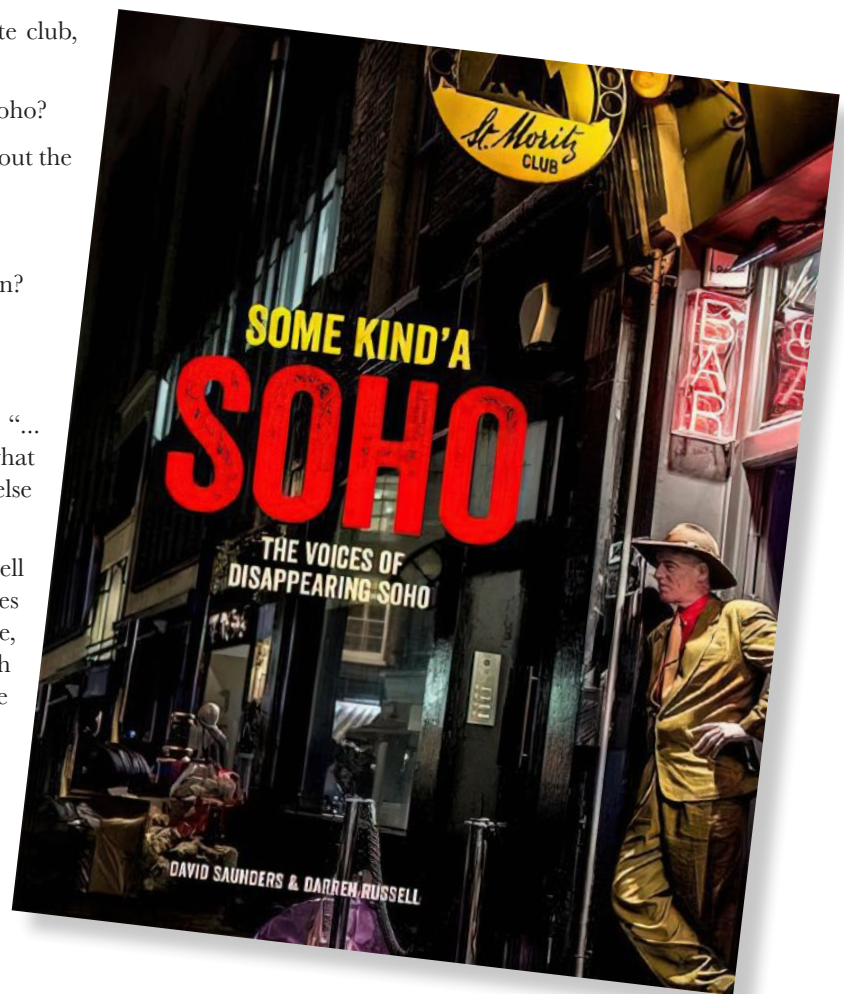
As Robert Elms said as part of his introduction: “... Soho is never what it was and maybe it wasn't what they said it was anyway. But it is always something else and somewhere else ...”

Each of those featured has a different Soho to tell you about, though many of the names and places mentioned are, sadly, no longer here (the Beat Route, the Wag Club). Of course many survive (the French House, Ronnie Scott's, Bar Italia, Algerian Coffee

Stores). Those places that are no longer with us, should not be forgotten as they are very much an important part of Soho's history. Perhaps there should be a map showing where they were and when!

In the meantime, I would recommend this book as a Christmas stocking filler, it's a great book to dip in and out of, which I shall continue to do. It's available on our website www.thesohosociety.org.uk. Enjoy.

Jane Doyle



59 GREEK STREET

SUSAN FLEMING

Catherine Howe

APS Books, £8.99

Catherine Howe, a singer-songwriter, has written several history books. She was drawn to the subject of 59 Greek Street, as she actually lived there for a while in the late 1960s. The house, a landmark building in Soho, has famously provided a club and lodgings for young women working in London's businesses and theatres for nearly 100 years.

It all began in 1883, when one Maude Stanley, a wealthy social worker, rebuilt an original warehouse as the 'Soho Club and Home for Working Girls' (once displayed on the frontage, sadly no longer there). The girls had to pay membership, rent and sundries (meals, laundry). Maude wanted them to have a safe place to live, although that living was done amidst the street's several brothels...

Some 33 years later, in 1916, Virginia Compton, of a distinguished theatrical family, took over the lease of the Soho Club, and turned it into the Theatre Girls' Club. Her intention was similar to Maude's, to give girls seeking their fortunes in show business a safe place to call home. Some say Gertrude Lawrence was one of the first residents, but certainly by the 1920s, Ellen Terry and Sybil Thorndyke were raising money for the Club. The president was the novelist, Sir Compton Mackenzie (remember Whisky Galore?), who was Virginia's son.

In 1933, after years of leasing, Virginia bought the freehold of number 59, and she remained involved in the Club until 1940. Both world wars affected the success of the Club, but particularly the Second, when the bomb shelter in number 59's basement was much used. Post war, there

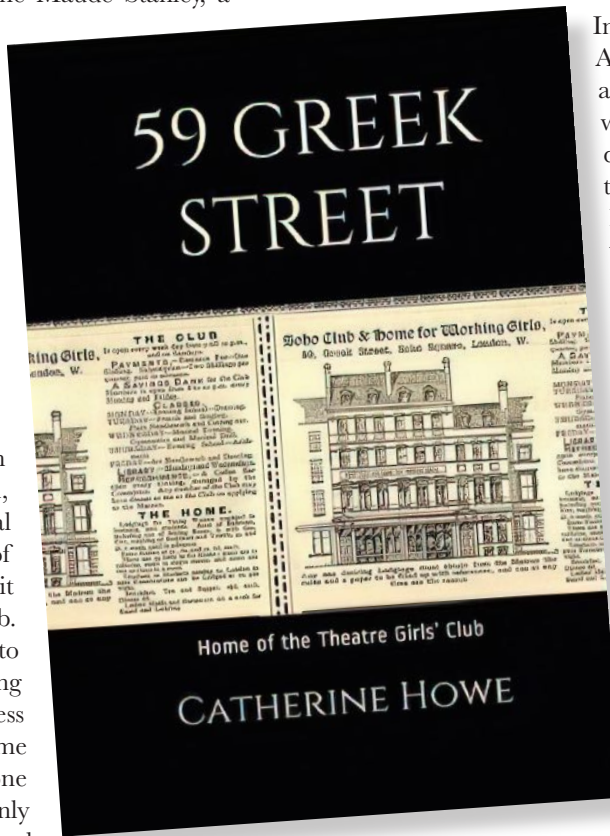
are some charming reminiscences from former residents. Dame Merle Park, prima ballerina, stayed at the club in the 1940s. As did Betty Boothroyd, who danced at the opposite end of the spectrum: she was briefly a Tiller Girl before entering politics and becoming, much later, Speaker of the House of Commons. Amanda Barrie lived there too in the late 1940s, she who was to star in Carry on Cleo, and Coronation Street.

In 1971, the Club asked Christian Action to take over the lease at number 59, and the women who now lived there were of a different breed – the homeless, the hopeless, the hapless. In 1979, the Centrepoint charity took control, and men, rather than women, were installed. The Soho Housing Association acquired the freehold of the property in 1998, and it has now been redeveloped. There are nine flats at affordable rents, and one penthouse at market rent; the ground floor and basement hold small retail units.

Catherine Howe's book is the story of a distinguished old building, and of the people who funded and managed it, and found haven in it, from the 1880s onwards. There are many fascinating facts about Soho, its denizens, its

industry, its criminality, its solidarity. I yearned to edit the material, but the book is well worth a look for those who delight in Soho history.

Susan Fleming



LAST NIGHT IN SOHO

CLIVE JENNINGS

An aspiring young ingenue female fashion designer, an excellent performance from newcomer Thomasin McKenzie, arrives in the Smoke from a sheltered background in Cornwall, to study at the London College of Fashion, behind Oxford Circus. She is mysteriously able to travel back to the 1960s, via a portal in her bedroom, where she encounters a dazzling wannabe singer, played by Anya Taylor-Joy, hot from her recent success as the doe-eyed chess prodigy in *The Queen's Gambit*, and a Soho wide boy played by Matt Smith. However, the glamour is not all it appears to be, and her dreams of the past start to crack and splinter into something far darker and bloodier - it is a horror movie, after all.

To enhance the channelling of the '60s, the film very cleverly features three actors, Diana Rigg (the last film

she made before her death), Terence Stamp and Rita Tushingham, who first appeared on screen in that decade, and epitomised the zeitgeist of 'Swinging London'. There is also a very strong '60s soundtrack, featuring in particular female singers such as Sandie Shaw and Cilla Black, whose character features briefly. This soundtrack is used to impressive dramatic effect when it builds to a crescendo at key points in the film.

Denizens of Soho and Fitzrovia will recognise many of the locations in the film, as, true to its title, the main action never goes north of Fitzrovia or west of Oxford Circus. I am reliably informed by our own director of *The Museum of Soho*, Tony Shrimplin, that director Edgar Wright's people reached out to his institution and other Soho establishments and property owners, when making the film. As a former resident of Goodge Place, I was delighted to see the lead character lodging at Number 8, just round the corner from my old gaff.

Apparently, Krysty Wilson-Cairns, who co-wrote the screenplay, lived above Sunset Strip, on Dean Street, and worked at the Toucan Bar on Carlisle Street. This explains why the lead character works in this bar, overseen by the kindly bar manager, a touching performance by Pauline McLynn, who famously created the classic role of Mrs Doyle in the TV show *Father Ted*.

Parts of the plot are almost a simplistic morality tale about the young innocent discovering the inherent wickedness of the big city. In this respect it pays homage to those films of the '50s and '60s when Fitzrovia was known as North Soho, and the whole area was a byword for sex and seedy sedition. The film loses momentum a little in the middle but the denouement is spectacular and compensates for any earlier shortcomings. It is essentially a modern-day Hitchcock thriller - a slow burn that suddenly descends into mind games and terror. Highly recommended.



THEATRES, MUSEUMS & GALLERIES FROM LONDON LIVING LARGE

BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE MUSICAL ★★★★★

Adelphi Theatre | From September 13, 2021

Mon, Wed - Sat: 7:30 pm, Wed & Sat: 2:30 pm, Sun: 3 pm



The future of the theatre is here! Whether you are a fan of the film franchise or have never seen one of the movie blockbusters, you will love this show. It's a wonderful immersive experience that captures all of the fun and silliness of the original while taking theatrical spectacle to a whole new level. Finn Ross (video design) and Tim Lutkin (lighting design) really have pulled out all the stops. The visual effects are quite stunning, but the great thing here is

**We can easily
imagine
ourselves going
back to this
Future again
and again.**

that the terrific cast of performers are not overwhelmed by these production values. We completely shared Olly Dobson's wonder as he created a completely credible Marty McFly, and Roger Bart was wonderfully goofy as Doc Brown, the unlikely inventor of the time machine. The other stand-out for us was Hugh Coles as the awkward, endearing George McFly. Kudos also to Rosanna

Hyland (Lorraine Baines) and Aidan Cutler (Biff). For this production, Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard have contributed several new songs but the old favourites "Power of Love" and "Johnny B. Goode" remain the show's highlights. Strong choreography by Chris Bailey, on-the-mark sets by Tim Hatley and deft direction by John Rando - it all worked for us. Power up the DeLorean! We can easily imagine ourselves going back to this Future again and again.

Reviewed by S.B.

Photo by Sean Ebsworth Barnes.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Old Vic: Nov 13, 2021 - Jan 8, 2022

This Scrooge returns to London with five Tony Awards. Jack Thorne's adaptation of the classic captures the spirit of all our Christmases.

PANTOLAND AT THE PALLADIUM

The London Palladium: Dec 4, 2021 - Jan 9, 2022

This happy Christmas tradition is always a welcome seasonal treat. We can't wait to be amused and amazed!

SUMMER EXHIBITION 2021 ★★★★★

Royal Academy of Arts | Sep 22, 2021 - Jan 2, 2022

Tue - Sun: 10 am - 6 pm



This year's Royal Academy of Arts *Summer Exhibition 2021*, subtitled *Reclaiming Magic*, is coordinated by Yinka Shonibare, who gets the tone just right. In the past, this show might have sometimes seemed a bit dry and dull, but this year the nine galleries are crammed from floor to ceiling with colour and frivolity alongside occasionally more serious works. Somehow the huge variety of styles all meld together, and out of 1,382 works it is virtually impossible to pick a favourite. The soft grey hues of Mick Moon's paintings certainly appeal, especially when contrasted with Victor Ehikhamenor's amazing multimedia "The Holy King from the Sky." We particularly liked Lu Mason's woven "Magician" and Jaana Fowler's bowl of ceramic "Marigolds" certainly raises a smile. They are gloves, not flowers! Naturally, there are pieces which one feels have no place in these hallowed halls, but that is as much a matter of taste as one of quality. Not everything works, of course, and one questions the reason for showing a copy of a famous Frida Kahlo self-portrait, especially as it is so high up. The inclusion of no less than four paintings by Mali Morris seems a little excessive, but these are minor niggles. There are also many more textiles on view this year with a kaleidoscope of colours and textures. This incredibly diverse and slightly mad exhibition certainly fits Shonibare's concept. Go along and you will be astounded at room after room filled to bursting with some wonderfully eclectic art. This is a show that offers the most fun in town!

Reviewed by D.S.J.

Image: Eddy Kamuanga, *Oubliez le passé et vous perdez les deux yeux*. Courtesy of the Artist and October Gallery, London.

For more reviews and ratings visit:

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FAREWELL TO Y MING

SUSAN FLEMING

At the beginning of October 2021, friends, patrons and happy diners were horrified to hear that Y Ming, the Chinese restaurant that had nourished them for 35 years, was to close by the end of the month. Christine Yau, the owner, announced the news on Y Ming's website, and it is thought that her chef leaving (for family reasons) is partly responsible for the closure.

At the time of writing, I do not know what will happen to the restaurant space which encompasses 35 and 36 Greek Street, and 4 Romilly Street. Probably another restaurant, as the building has long been associated with food. No. 36 was a butcher's shop from about 1760, and a coffee house through the late 1800s. No. 35 was acquired by a French restaurateur, Joseph Tiserant, at the beginning of the 20th century, and conjoined thereafter, with no. 36 and 4 Romilly by WWII, as the classic French restaurant, Le Petit Savoyard. Bryan Burrough (a founding, and much-loved, member of the Soho Society) used to live above Le Petit Savoyard, and told tantalising tales of the pâtissiers, charcutiers and chefs. (The Camden Town group of artists reportedly used to eat splendidly there, before causing mayhem in Tottenham Court Road on their way home.) When it closed in around 1979, the Karlywah Chinese restaurant then occupied the property until 1986.

Christine Yau had settled in London in November 1985, and opened Ming in June 1986. When business partners left, she re-named the restaurant Y Ming. Since then, with her loyal and talented team, she has opened Londoners' eyes to tastes which are unusual, intense, primarily Northern regional, quite different to the Chinese food offered elsewhere. She also presented that food in an entirely different way: her restaurant was calm, elegantly decorated, with tablecloths, flowers, and serving staff who were willing to please (not entirely the norm in many venues in nearby Chinatown). I remember particularly beef and coriander wrapped in lettuce leaves, crispy duck in pancakes, duck with wintergreen (not a hint of inhalant!), glorious dumplings, and perhaps her most surprising offering, spiced deep-fried cauliflower, which had to be the opener to almost every one of my Y Ming meals.

Christine is not only known in Soho as a restaurateur. She has been the Chairman of the Chinese Community Centre, co-Chairman of the Soho Society and Chairman of the Chinatown Stakeholders' Group. She played a leading role in the Chinatown Action Plan published in 2003, and the Chinatown Renewal Scheme in 2004-5, which was shortlisted at the London Planning Awards for the best Community Project. She has helped organise probably more Chinese New Year celebrations than she cares to remember! She received an MBE in 2014 for her services to the industry. She will continue her work with the

Chinese community after Y Ming closes.

Christine and her manager, William Tiger Sin - who has been with her for 25 years - used to welcome us all, and would oversee each visit with expertise, humour and much charm. In her closure announcement, she said she would always remember her 35 years in Soho. Christine, we too have many happy memories. Thank you for providing us with them, and we wish you and all your staff success and happiness in the future.



When I first came to St Anne's in 2004, it was to Y Ming that that the then Rector, Clare Herbert, took me to dinner, describing it as 'one of the jewels of Soho'. From that day not only has Y Ming continued to serve me and countless friends with superb Chinese food, but Christine has proved to be a great supporter and friend to St Anne's - and me personally, as its Rector, for nearly nine years - just as she has supported the whole Soho community. It is hard to imagine Soho without her elegant pashmina-draped frame stepping down our streets, or William waving whenever I walked by. A diamond has dropped from Soho's crown with its closure, but Y Ming leaves many of us with memories of happy evenings to treasure."

Rev'd Simon Buckley

Restaurateur Christine Yau MBE provided a classy background in which to consume Y Ming's culinary offerings. This was Chinese cuisine for those whose palates veered towards a slightly more sophisticated version of what was available a few streets away. She was the perfect hostess, whose communication and social skills enhanced her work on behalf of the local Chinese community.

Cindy Hacker

COCO'S CORNER

GABRIEL WILDING

Ugly Dumpling

1 Newburgh St, Carnaby, London W1F 7RB

Just off the wind-swept stretches of Oxford street amidst the ruins of the male fashion capital, springing like buddleia is a lovely little food and drink oasis. Carnaby is the buzzing hot spot for nosh and nourishment.

As is the fashion, more venues are capitalising on the importance of the two-legs-four-legs relationship. Personally, I would avoid any negative adjective in the name of my restaurant but Ugly Dumpling proudly proclaims its twist on the Asian staple.

Spilling out on to the street the upstairs is all neon lighting and cosy wood panelling. We are ushered downstairs into a booth area due to the canine element in our party. Sadly, this sauna-like basement is next to the only toilet and for whatever reason, this is noticeable in the air. Not ideal.

Being below ground we are rather forgotten and the kindly promised water bowl for the dog takes some time to get to us. The waitress is apologetic; dealing with outdoor tables, upstairs and downstairs must be a strain.

With the little pup settled on her blanket us humans turn to the menu, surprisingly dominated by dumplings, shocker! We choose a classic platter and new favourites platter and are recommended Tempura fried aubergine by our tired but friendly waitress.

The classic platter is enjoyable but not particularly 'ugly' or exciting. The aromatic duck, chicken satay and prawn and chive are tasty, and the spinach and tofu warms on you: adequate but not anything to write home about or scream into the chilly Soho night.

The issues begin in what I would imagine is the 'ugly' section of the menu (ironically named) the new favourites platter. Pretty much all these range from downright odd to deeply unpleasant. The cheeseburger is doughy stodge rolled in an even doughier shell. The mushroom and truffle have all the worst sides of fungi earthiness, and the pizza although covered in adorable little fries is an odd effect, heavy with tomato ketchup. The meatball dumpling is dense and disappointing. The take-away? Not everything works as a dumpling.

The Tempura aubergine is a lifesaver, with a crispiness that crunches the soul and a sweetness to keep your vegan friend happy as you chow down on prawn and pork.

We are not brave enough to try the other 'ugly' offerings,



but I would imagine the Nutella, pecan pie and banana and cinnamon dumplings to be equally out there.

The pull of the restaurant is a cute gimmick but with the classic dumplings being not much better than those from Itsu or Wasabi they fall on the first hurdle. At 50 quid for 16 (small) dumplings, some battered vegetables and beer, this is a rather steep ask for substandard food. Although your furry friend might be welcomed with arms that are open, you might want to keep this particular restaurant at arm's length.

PORK AND CHESTNUT TURKEY STUFFING

SUSAN FLEMING

This is a fairly classic sausagement and chestnut stuffing, which can be used inside the bird – at the neck end only – or baked separately. (It makes enough for a 4.5kg turkey.) But the mixture has many other possibilities. You could pack it into an oven dish, and top with sliced potatoes before baking, for a pie. You could roll the mixture into balls, fry them and serve with a tomato sauce and/or pasta.

Melt the butter in a large pan, and add the onion. Fry gently for about 5 minutes until the onion softens. Leave to cool.

Mix all the remaining ingredients into the cooled onion. Stuff inside your bird, at the neck end, and cook for the time recommended in your turkey recipe. Or pack into a suitably sized ovenproof dish and bake in the oven at 180°C/160° Fan/Gas 4, for an hour. Serve in slices with the turkey.

Serves 8

50g unsalted butter

1 onion, peeled and finely chopped

700g best sausagement

300g pre-cooked chestnuts, finely chopped

60g white breadcrumbs

1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley or sage (or a mix)

salt and freshly ground black pepper



THE RECTOR WRITES



Some years ago St Anne's had a small chest of church plate - chalices and such like - that had survived the bombing of the church in 1940 (presumably because it was locked in a safe) or been given to the congregation by that of St Thomas Regent Street which was itself another casualty of the Second World War. With the building of the 'new St Anne's' in 1990 this chest of antiquated and partly damaged silver and gold plate was put into the safe hands of the bank who promptly lost it when they closed the branch in Westminster where it was stored. Thankfully it was eventually, and after several months, found in a vault in Aberdeen, but not after some anxious letters and phone calls had been exchanged - it being the age before emails.

The chest is now stored safely and securely at St Anne's and some of its contents we use on high days and Festivals such as Easter and Christmas, so our 'liturgical bling' will be in use again very soon. My parents, like many of their generation, had a tea set that was kept 'for special occasions' but, despite the very happy home I was blessed to grow up in, it seemed most occasions just weren't special enough; and so the beautiful bone china service was rarely taken out of the sideboard which my brother and I knew to keep well away from. In my mind there was a conversation in which my mother said "God forbid it should ever get broken, it was your grandmother's" to which my brother quipped "God forbid it should ever get used!" earning him a clip round the ear. But I may just have imagined that.

Anyway, my very diligent churchwardens thought it wise to get this chest of Soho history valued for insurance purposes - a clear sign that they expect me to drop, scratch or dent something during my tenure as Rector. They're thoughtful like that. In the bottom of the trunk beneath a thurible (incense container) that we thought was brass which turned out to be silver and a Queen Anne plate for Communion bread, was a circular salver sheathed in bubble wrap. About 14 inches across, it was engraved as a gift to the Rev'd John Anderson, the Presbyterian of Kelvinside Parish in Glasgow from 1877 to 1927. It's not a liturgical item, it looks more like the sort of thing you'd offer glasses of sherry on... if you were to do that sort of thing. But I was intrigued by it, not because it was particularly attractive, and can't help wondering how it ended up here.

Soho has long been a place in which disparate people have 'washed up'. Some intentionally and some accidentally.

Some didn't intend to stay and some who have left keep coming back. Part of Soho's charm, genius and strength is that it has provided and continued to be a place in which people from different backgrounds have found themselves here and found themselves welcome here. I'm sometimes saddened when people ask if they would be able to come to a service at St Anne's, the thought that they might not be welcome (a) in church and (b) in a church in Soho, of all places, is a sad reflection probably more on the former than the latter. But in the wider Soho community we have experienced recently a feeling that some people aren't welcome in Soho. I have had a long term resident come to see me in tears at being told by a (new) neighbouring restaurant whose patrons were blocking her doorway that she should leave as she 'doesn't belong here anymore'; and, walking down Greek Street at midnight the other week after a very nice evening in Soho, the carnage that myself and a much younger Soho stalwart were greeted with as people stood around cars blaring music as they swigged from bottles of Jack Daniels, made him say 'my wife and I wouldn't come to Soho of a weekend any more'.

Surely Soho should be able to welcome all, except those whose presence, attitude, behaviour or number make others feel unwelcome, unsafe or unhappy. Two landlords (one who benefited from al fresco and one who didn't) have commented to me in recent months that there is a different crowd in Soho late at night now. And whilst they and I welcome different, new faces, new blood, new businesses into the community it can't be at the expense of driving out others. To let that happen would be to sell off the family silver of Soho.

It rather goes against the grain wrapping up bits of old silverware and storing them in a safe. They're mostly not all that valuable, useful or attractive and it's tempting to sell them off to pay the gas bill for a month. But we can't do that and neither should we. We are their custodians, not their owners, just as we are of Soho. Once gone, they're gone for ever.

Rev'd Simon Buckley

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Tuesday 14th Dec 6pm

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Monday 20th Dec 7pm

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followed by mulled wine

Friday 24th Dec 5pm

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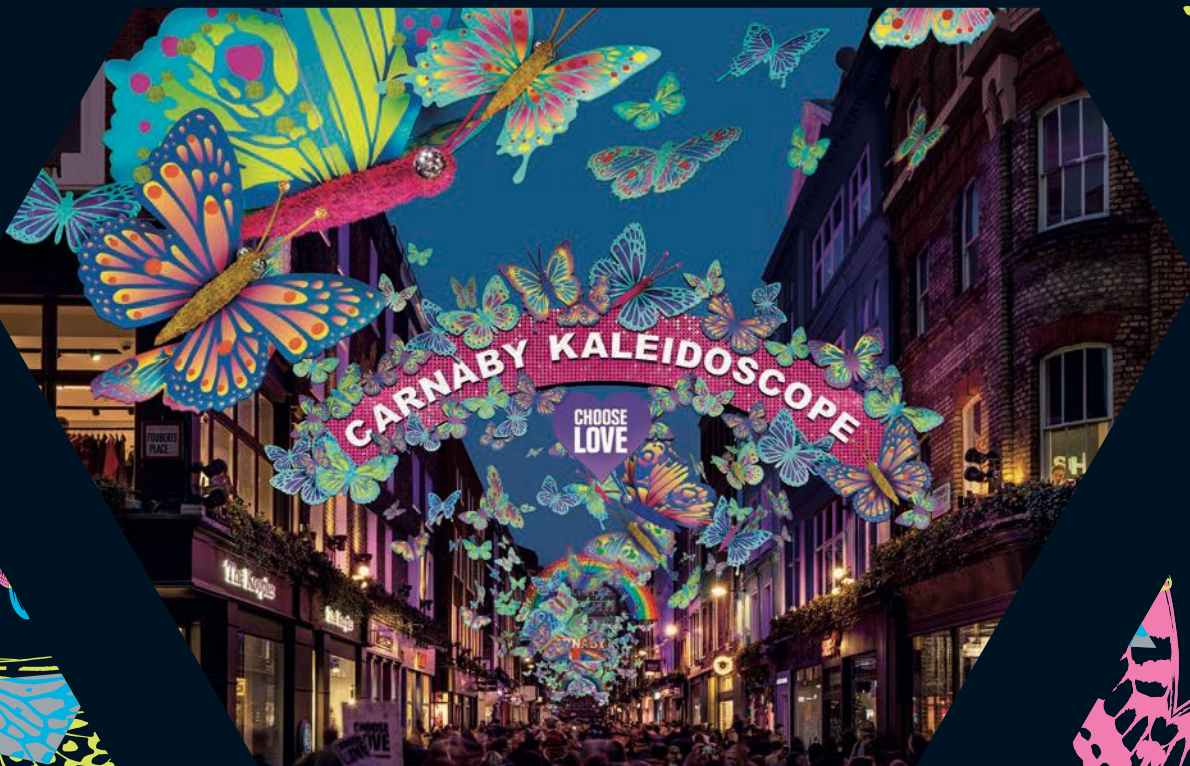
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