

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

NOVEMBER 2014 • £5

MAGAZINE

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

FACT & FICTION:
COMMEMORATING
THE CENTENARY

ACTING

Up

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS:
SIR TIMOTHY ACKROYD
& MICHELLE DOCKERY

ONE *Fine* DAY

AN ALL-STAR CAST
ASSEMBLES TO CELEBRATE
THE LAUNCH OF IWC'S NEW
PORTOFINO MIDSIZE

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: KATHARINE POOLEY INTERIORS • LONDON ART STUDIES • PLANET OCEAN



If Music be the Food of Love...

On my way to an evening all about Verdi's *Othello*, the words of another famous composer, Georges Bizet, came to mind: "If you were to suppress adultery, fanaticism, crime, evil, the supernatural, there would no longer be the means for writing one note". Knowing the opera reasonably well, I felt that most of those elements had inspired Verdi to write his masterpiece, based on Shakespeare's play. However, the opera's fascinating background and the beauty of its music was brought to life thanks to Divas & Scholars, Chelsea's opera appreciation organisation. The occasion was one of a number held each year at the Chelsea townhouse of a musically gifted lady whose mission extends to spreading a love of opera and bringing its singers to the public's attention. Following an intimate champagne reception, our group of 25 entered an elegant drawing room where musician Richard Peirson explained what he described as his "favourite bits" that both characterised the opera and propelled its narrative. All were fascinating but the details became even more meaningful as Richard illustrated them with sections of recordings and his live piano accompaniment of Charles Johnston's glorious baritone voice. After three hours of pure pleasure, I headed home with Shakespeare's memorable line in my mind, "If music be the food of love, play on". *Carol Cordrey*
Next Champagne Opera Evening: Adriana Lecocuvreur, 12 November; divasandscholars.com

Horseplay

Making the world a more beautiful place one mural at a time, select works of Mao Wen Biao will soon be on display at the Osborne Studio Gallery. Well known for revamping the streets of Kensington and Chelsea in partnership with property developer John Hunter, you may have stumbled upon one of Mao's building works already, for instance his life-size portraits of the Duke and Duchess of York. The gallery will exhibit a selection of his bold and dynamic paintings from his breathtaking equestrian portraits to the calm still life of a flowerbed.



Clockwise from top/ Irises; Hydrangea; No.57 Derby
 All by Mao Wen Biao

19 November – 6 December
 osg.uk.com

Bonfire Night 2014

Remember, remember the fifth of November. With Bonfire Night right around the corner, London will be ablaze with a selection of breathtaking firework shows. Considered one of the capital's best displays, Battersea Park, just a jump across the Thames from the Royal Borough, is sure to be a crowd-pleaser with spectacular fireworks, music, food stalls, glow concessions, and a bar. Expect huge crowds at this event so be sure to get there early, wrap up warm, and be prepared to have an unforgettable evening.

Saturday 8 November
 wandsworth.gov.uk



Christmas Shopping the Right Way

We all know how stressful the hustle and bustle of the high street can be when you are trying to finish your Christmas shopping last minute so why not get ahead of the game with a unique shopping experience at the Spirit of Christmas Fair? Offering an exciting collection of products from independent boutiques and exceptional design talent, cherry pick exclusive pieces ranging from fashion and interior accessories to gifts for men and children. Learn invaluable tips at the workshops on the secrets of scent with Jo Malone and get advice on choosing the perfect champagne with Luis Roederer's Master of Wine. And of course it wouldn't be Christmas without some festive treats; pay the Food Hall a visit to stock up on chutneys, preserves, artisan chocolates, specialist cheeses and Christmas cake.

Spirit of Christmas Fair, 4-9 November
 spiritofchristmasfair.co.uk



New School in Town

Kensington Aldridge Academy welcomed its first students on 15 September. The £28 million school, sponsored by the Aldridge Foundation, will provide much needed school spaces for children in the area; before more than half of the students had to travel outside the Royal Borough for their secondary education. The Academy's intake this year is only year seven and will grow year-on-year until sixth form admissions in 2016. Principal David Benson assures that the academy will strive for excellence in curriculum and development. If the initial 500 applications for 184 places are any indication for the future, we can expect great things from the Kensington Aldridge Academy.

kaa.org.uk

