

LONDON VILLAGES





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WITH

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77
LONDON VILLAGES

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION • 6

CENTRAL • 8

MARYLEBONE VILLAGE • SHEPHERD MARKET • CONNAUGHT VILLAGE •
EAST BLOOMSBURY • EXMOUTH MARKET • BERMONDSEY STREET •
LOWER BELGRAVIA

NORTH • 50

PRIMROSE HILL • CROUCH END • HIGHGATE VILLAGE •
CAMDEN PASSAGE • STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH STREET •
HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE

SOUTH • 84

EAST DULWICH • BELLENDEN ROAD • BRIXTON VILLAGE •
CHELSEA GREEN • NORTHCOTE ROAD • ABBEVILLE VILLAGE

EAST • 120

WHITECROSS VILLAGE • COLUMBIA ROAD • BROADWAY MARKET •
VICTORIA PARK VILLAGE • SHOREDITCH VILLAGE

WEST • 150

QUEEN'S PARK • TURNHAM GREEN • BARNES VILLAGE •
LITTLE VENICE • GOLBORNE ROAD • CLARENDON CROSS

INDEX • 186



INTRODUCTION

London is often described as a series of ‘villages’. This rather romantic image is partly down to history (the capital grew by consuming the constellation of communities that surrounded it), and partly because Londoners have long found ways to make this vast, intense city feel a more intimate and manageable place to live.

In reality, London firmly remains one sprawling metropolis, and this book doesn’t mean to pretend otherwise. Instead, it hopes to introduce visitors and locals to enclaves within the city that have a distinct character, sparky community spirit and keen sense of localism. These may be ancient villages (Hampstead, for example, was in the Domesday Book), or more simply a picturesque spot with typical village-like features – a farmers’ market, say, or a pretty central green. It also homes in on streets and locations that have recently developed into contemporary urban ‘villages’ by virtue of a thriving medley of independent businesses, from butchers and bakers to cafés and boutiques.

There’s space here for just thirty of these destinations: a geographically diverse mix of iconic London villages and little-known neighbourhoods. By celebrating the essence of each and revealing local highlights, this book hopes to inspire both Londoners and tourists to take an alternative approach to exploring this incredible city.



CENTRAL

- MARYLEBONE VILLAGE • 10
- SHEPHERD MARKET • 16
- CONNAUGHT VILLAGE • 22
- EAST BLOOMSBURY • 28
- EXMOUTH MARKET • 32
- BERMONDSEY STREET • 38
- LOWER BELGRAVIA • 44



MARYLEBONE VILLAGE



Marylebone has always been a well-to-do area, but the 1990s saw it become something of a fashionable destination. Smart boutiques began to open along its central spine, Marylebone High Street, and several upmarket restaurants soon followed suit. Today, the road is crammed with chic fashion labels (Whistles, The Kooples), aspirational homeware stores (Conran Shop, Skandium), appealing charity shops and excellent pubs and cafés. It's quite rightly regarded as a more interesting shopping alternative to the more mainstream Oxford Street to the south, and though the invariably wealthy residents see it as their village, it has none of the stiffness of London's more po-faced moneyed areas. This lack of pretension is in part to do with its West End location, which ensures stray tourists and Londoners from further afield make as much use of it as the locals. Those who venture beyond the busy main high street will also find more specialist businesses quietly thriving. Chiltern Street, for example, hides a run of bridal shops, as well as woodwind instrument makers Howarth and Cadenhead's Whisky Shop And Tasting Room. On Moxon Street, let your nose lead you to La Fromagerie cheese shop, while Marylebone Lane is home to ribbon specialist VV Rouleaux.



DAUNT BOOKS

83 Marylebone High St, W1U 4QW

7224 2295 www.dauntbooks.co.uk

9am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; 11am-6pm Sun

One of London's most prized bookshops, Daunt is loved as much for its Edwardian charm as for its superbly curated fiction, non-fiction and children's book collections. True to its origins as a travel bookshop, it continues to arrange guides and literature by country in a grand backroom and along its oak mezzanine.



2 MARYLEBONE FARMERS' MARKET

Cramer Street Car Park, W1U 4EW
www.lfm.org.uk
10am-2pm Sun

Despite being one of London's largest farmers' markets, this weekly event, held in a car park behind the high street, is easy to miss. Locals tend to keep it a secret, but follow the ladies wielding wicker baskets and they'll lead you to some forty stalls selling farm produce, artisan preserves, hot food and wines.

3 THE WALLACE COLLECTION

Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN 7563 9500
www.wallacecollection.org
10am-5pm Mon-Sun

This exceptional collection of art, decorative items, furniture and firearms amassed between 1760 and 1880 is displayed in the opulent rooms of the seventeenth-century Hertford House. A visit to the free museum should be coupled with a meal at its elegant courtyard restaurant.

4 PAUL ROTHE & SON

35 Marylebone Lane, W1U 2NN
7935 6783
www.paulrotheandsondelicatessen.co.uk

8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 11.30am-5.30pm Sat
Rows of jams and condiments line the windows and walls of this family-run café, which started life as a German deli in 1900. Pop in to browse the shelves, or settle on bolted-down chairs and tables for tea, sandwiches and a bit of banter with Paul Rothe, grandson of the original founder.

5 THE BUTTON QUEEN

76 Marylebone Lane, W1U 2PR
7935 1505
www.thebuttonqueen.co.uk
10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 10am-3pm Sat

Whether you're looking for an elusive button, or you're merely after a bit of inspiration for a craft project, this cute shop can help. Hundreds of vintage and new fasteners are arranged in folders and boxes, and the owners offer button covering and sourcing services.



SHEPHERD MARKET



Laid out by architect Edward Shepherd in 1735, the secluded streets of Mayfair's Shepherd Market have been privy to some salacious goings-on over the centuries, and a slightly seedy atmosphere still lingers in its narrow network of passageways. The village's historic associations with prostitution, however, are muted by its central location (penned in by the well-heeled Curzon Street and boisterous Piccadilly) and its attractive chocolate-box façade.

Behind the picturesque shopfronts lie an array of chichi boutiques, and longstanding services include a cobbler, pharmacy and builders' merchant. The village's main appeal, though, is drinking and dining. High-end restaurants spill alfresco into the alleyways, and a number of popular pubs and bars (including celeb hangout and members' club 5 Hertford Street) give Shepherd Market a lively personality come evening. The raucous mood gently recalls the annual two-week long May Fair, when crowds would descend on the site for a spot of revelry, gambling and drinking. The event was deemed an affront to public decency and banned in the early eighteenth century, and the area has continued in its attempts to cultivate a refined image ever since.



3 LE BOUDIN BLANC

5 Trebeck St, W1J 7LT

7499 3292 www.boudinblanc.co.uk

Noon-3pm & 6pm-11pm Mon-Sat;

noon-3pm & 6pm-10.30pm Sun

Classic French cuisine, a connoisseur's wine list and rowdy regulars mean this Gallic favourite is always abuzz. Try for a seat outside in fine weather: you'll feel like you're lunching in a Parisian courtyard.

4 CURZON MAYFAIR

38 Curzon St, W1J 7TY 0330 500 1331

www.curzoncinemas.com

First opened in 1934 (though demolished and



rebuilt in the 1960s), the Curzon Mayfair is a long-serving bastion of foreign and arthouse film, and was one of the first cinemas in the UK to import international movies.

5 SHEPHERDS TAVERN

50 Hertford St, W1J 7SS

7499 3017 www.taylor-walker.co.uk

11am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun

While this village is known for its Victorian boozers (Ye Grapes at 16 Shepherd Market is a favourite), Shepherds Tavern predates them by some way. Its doors opened in 1735, just as architect Edward Shepherd was initially developing the area.



CONNAUGHT VILLAGE



Edgware Road, with its spirited Middle Eastern community and horn-blaring traffic, tends to do a good job of keeping the sleepy Connaught Village under wraps. Make your way in via the south end of Edgware Road: you'll know you're close when you spy the grand stucco houses of the area's affluent residents, or spot the armed guards that protect the home of Tony Blair and his family on Connaught Square. Like other parts of this Paddington locale, the square follows the formal designs of English architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell who was initially involved in giving the area (then known as Tyburnia) a facelift in the early nineteenth century. It was a time of ambitious and costly rejuvenation that went some way toward eclipsing Tyburnia's more macabre history as the site of Tyburn Tree – an infamous gallows which saw plenty of use between 1196 and 1783. A model of the scaffold can be seen in the crypt at Tyburn Convent, a beautiful central London monastery whose Benedictine nuns have kept relics of the Catholic martyrs that were hanged nearby. The convent's address is 8-9 Hyde Park Place, though its entrance is actually on Bayswater Road overlooking the 350-acre royal Hyde Park.



COCOMAYA

3 Porchester Place, W2 2BS

7706 2770 www.cocomaya.co.uk

Bakery: 7am-7pm Mon-Fri; 8am-7pm

Sat; 8am-6pm Sun. Chocolatier:

10am-7pm Mon-Sat; 11am-6pm Sun

The sweet-toothed can browse and buy creative chocs (shaped like skulls, for example, or flavoured with lavender) in Cocomaya's seductive boudoir-style chocolatier, before heading to its light-drenched bakery next door for divine pastries, tarts and cakes. Each shop has a large communal table.

ATELIER MAYER

47 Kendal St, W2 2BU

7706 7200

www.atelier-mayer.com

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

(ideally by appointment)

Atelier Mayer may look closed, but ring the doorbell and you'll be let into a wonderland of designer vintage clothing across two floors. Founder Carman Haid has a sharp eye for occasionwear, and an in-store appointment may well reward you with a super-luxe gown by the likes of Givenchy or Lanvin.



4 WILLIAM MANSELL

24 Connaught St, W2 2AF

7723 4154 www.williammansell.co.uk

9.30am-5pm Mon-Fri

William Mansell has been tackling tricky watch and clock repairs for more than 145 years, and the creaky old store appears to be frozen in time. If you don't have a ticker in need of restoration, pop in to browse new and antique timepieces and jewellery.

4 DE ROEMER

114 Porchester Place, W2 2BS

3463 1971 www.deroemer.com

10.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat

You'll need a sturdy credit limit if you fancy going wild in the aisles of this contemporary cashmere store. But Tamsin De Roemer's line of easy-to-wear jumpers, T-shirts and dresses are worth investing in, as are the designer's butter-soft leather bags and fashionable collection of fine jewellery.

5 ST JOHN'S HYDE PARK

Hyde Park Crescent, W2 2QD

7262 1732 www.stjohns-hydepark.com

This central London church attracts an enthusiastic congregation on Sunday mornings, particularly so on Horseman's Sunday. This annual September event sees the vicar mount a horse, invite churchgoers to do the same, and celebrate equestrianism in the city by blessing the animals and leading a family-friendly cavalcade and fair. The spectacle harks back to 1968 when riders took to their steeds to protest against the closure of the area's stables.



EAST BLOOMSBURY



Lamb's Conduit Street has been the backbone of this mini-neighbourhood since the early 1800s when many of the street's houses were taken over by shopkeepers responding to a local demand for retail. Today it remains pleasantly removed from the main tourist trail that swings past the British Museum, and provides another excuse to visit an area primarily associated with the Bloomsbury Group.

This artsy, intellectual set – including John Maynard Keynes and Virginia Woolf – haven't been Bloomsbury's only residents of distinction: Charles Dickens lived at 48 Doughty Street (now the Dickens Museum) and Charles Darwin resided in Gower Street. Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes were said to enjoy a drink at The Lamb, and the pub (at the top of Lamb's Conduit Street) is a good place to take a break while exploring the road's flurry of cool boutiques. The surrounding streets are equally worth rambling around, offering up coffee shops such as The Espresso Room (31-35 Great Ormond Street), a huddle of gift shops on Rugby Street and secret patches of green nestled among the buildings. Make particular note of Gray's Inn Gardens to the south, which was laid out by Sir Francis Bacon in 1606.

4 CORAM'S FIELDS

93 Guilford St, WC1N 1DN

7837 6138 www.coramsfields.org

9am-dusk Mon-Sun

This park is unusually open solely to children and young people – adults can only enter if accompanied by someone under sixteen. There's a small animal enclosure, various playgrounds designed for different age groups and a youth centre which organises a roster of events.

2 THE PEOPLE'S SUPERMARKET

72-78 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1N 3LP

7430 1827

www.thepeoplessupermarket.org

8am-10pm Mon-Sat; 10am-9pm Sun

Run 'for the people, by the people', this supermarket is a cooperative venture which asks members to donate £25 a year and four hours of work a month in return for 20 percent off their groceries. As well as stocking produce by local farmers and supporting the local community through jobs, the store runs the People's Kitchen – a hot food station serving cooked lunches at low prices.

4 PERSEPHONE

59 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1N 3NB

7242 9292

www.persephonebooks.co.uk

10am-6pm Mon-Fri; noon-5pm Sat

A publisher and bookshop with real purpose, Persephone celebrates literature and non-fiction by neglected and lesser-known twentieth-century female writers. Each volume is beautifully printed in the same way: with a dove-grey book jacket and pretty fabric endpapers.

f THE FRENCH HOUSE

50 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1N 3LH

7831 1111 www.thefrenchhouse.net

11am-6pm Mon-Sat

Achieve effortless French country style by calling in to this petite boutique which sells Continental textiles, toiletries and homeware sourced from small and artisan manufacturers. The shop layout adds to the rustic feel, with antique dressers and a backroom decked out like a farmhouse kitchen.

5 BEN PENTREATH

17 Rugby St, WC1N 3QT

7430 2526 www.benpentreath.com

11am-6pm Mon-Sat

Interior designer Ben Pentreath and his creative staff have a knack for filling this diminutive shop with covetable and unusual kitchenware, stationery, cushions, prints and more. An ideal place for picking up unique presents.



EXMOUTH MARKET



Exmouth Market – so named during its turn-of-the-twentieth-century role as a bustling market street – suffered crippling decline in the 1970s. Despite efforts to revive its fortunes, it didn't begin to recover its community character until the late 1990s. Chefs Sam and Sam Clark arguably fuelled the change when they opened the acclaimed southern Mediterranean restaurant Moro in 1997, triggering the arrival of a clutch of equally good eateries. Amble up the short, pedestrianised lane on a week day and you'll spy smart restaurants such as Caravan (a modish joint dishing up internationally inspired small plates) and mobile, global food vendors feeding the lunchtime crowds. A medley of gift shops, bookstores and services such as the renowned Family Business Tattoo Shop offer further reasons to visit. At the top of the road, Spa Fields furnishes the area with green space and a grim but fascinating story. In the 1780s, the park was known as the Bone House & Graveyard – a site designated to accommodate 3,000 burials. To the horror of local residents, graveyard manager Mr Bird managed to make room for some 80,000 interments by nightly exhuming and burning bodies. Happily, the landscaped gardens are now an attractive place to catch some rays.



EXMOUTH MARKET

3 CORNERS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Northampton Rd, EC1R 0HU

7527 2975 www.3corners.org.uk

3.30pm-6pm Tue-Fri; 11am-4.30pm Sat
(times vary during school holidays)

One of the most ambitious and creative park projects in London, 3 Corners Adventure Playground has given children aged six to thirteen a fantastical place to play. Adults are invited to drop off their kids and leave them to enjoy the fully supervised (and free) network of bridges, tunnels, spiral slides, climbing walls and fireman poles.

CLARKS

46 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QE

7837 1974

10.30am-4pm Mon-Thur;
10.30am-4.30pm Fri-Sat

Clarks has barely changed its fare since it began serving diners in 1960. Meals still consist of meat-filled pastry pies, perfect scoops of mash and lashings of parsley gravy – the wooden café booths and metro tiles are also original.



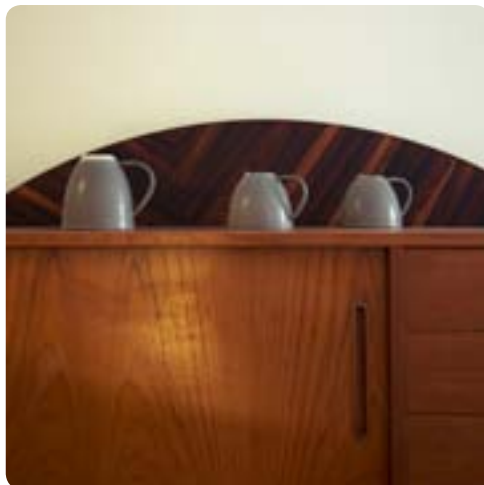


4 MEDCALF

40 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QE
 7833 3533 www.medcalfbar.co.uk
 Noon-3pm & 6pm-11pm Mon-Thur;
 noon-3pm & 6pm-midnight Fri;
 noon-3pm & 6pm-11pm Sat; noon-4pm Sun
 There's little sign of the original butcher's shop Albert Medcalf ran at this address from 1912, but his spirit lives on in this relaxed British restaurant which took over the premises in 2003.

f GN FURNITURE

31 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QL
 7833 0370 www.gnfurniture.co.uk
 Noon-6pm Mon-Sat; noon-4pm Sun



Discerningly sourced and immaculately restored mid-twentieth-century furniture is arranged over two floors in this stylish vintage shop. Pieces range from the 1950s to the 1980s and include original textiles, ceramics and glassware.

5 EAST CENTRAL CYCLES

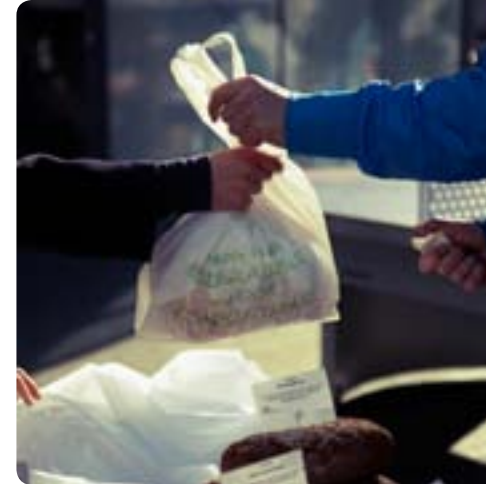
18 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QE
 7837 0651 www.eastcentralcycles.co.uk
 8am-7pm Mon-Wed; 8am-8pm Thur-Fri;
 9am-6pm Sat; 11am-4pm Sun
 Whether you're after an off-the-peg bicycle with a basket or a custom-made road racer, the helpful bike crew at East Central Cycles are happy to oblige. The store's bike specialists also tackle repair jobs.



BERMONDSEY STREET



Despite its proximity to Borough Market and the visitor attractions of London Bridge, Bermondsey Street has remained fiercely independent and defiantly local. The peaceful, partly cobbled road rarely shows any sign of tourist overspill, though the presence of iconic contemporary art gallery White Cube goes some way toward encouraging newcomers to the area. Once there, visitors are thrilled with their find: Bermondsey Street proffers an assortment of gift shops and a miscellany of pubs and restaurants. Good gastropubs include The Garrison and The Woolpack, while stellar Spanish chef José Pizarro has two outposts here: tapas bar José and the more roomy restaurant Pizarro. It's these establishments (rather than any central green) that give the long street its current village-like character, though its narrow-fronted shops are hardly new. Bermondsey Street began life as a medieval path for pilgrims travelling to the now long-gone Bermondsey Abbey, and its status as a major thoroughfare was fortified in the nineteenth century when tanneries and workers moved in to support a booming local leather industry.



BERMONDSEY SQUARE ANTIQUES MARKET

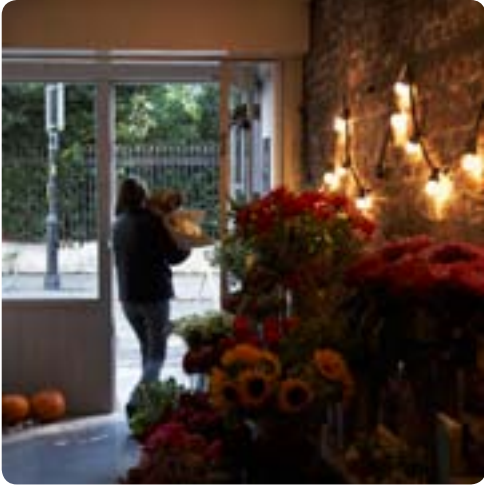
Bermondsey Square, SE1 3FD
www.bermondseysquare.co.uk
4am-2pm Fri

Established in 1950, this local market continues to attract serious antiques traders dealing in china, silverware and glass, alongside stallholders hawking more general secondhand clothes and jewellery. A popular farmers' market fills the square on Saturdays (10am-2pm).

SHORTWAVE CINEMA

10 Bermondsey Square, SE1 3UN
7357 6845 www.shortwavefilms.com

Championing the best independent and arthouse movies, Shortwave Cinema schedules a rolling programme of intriguing international film and hosts niche foreign film festivals in support of emerging talent. Its in-house café-bar is perennially packed, though its alfresco, south-facing seating makes it especially attractive come summer.



1 CAVE

210 Bermondsey St, SE1 3TQ
0011 4701 www.cavelondon.com
10am-7.30pm Mon-Wed;
10am-8pm Thur-Sat; 11am-6pm Sun

Cave takes care of pre-dinner-party present buying beautifully by rolling a florist, wine cellar and chocolate shop into one. Friendly staff can create a bouquet of fresh-cut blooms, help you navigate the range of bio-dynamic and organic wines, and guide you through the selection of artisan sweets.



f FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM

83 Bermondsey St, SE1 3XF
7407 8664 www.ftmlondon.org
11am-6pm Tue-Sat

It's impossible to miss this striking electric orange and pink museum. Founded by colour- and print-loving designer Zandra Rhodes in 2003, it curates temporary exhibitions, encompasses a café and shop, and runs industry-relevant courses with Newham College.

5 LONDON GLASSBLOWING

62-66 Bermondsey St,
SE1 3UD

7403 2800
[www.london
glassblowing.co.uk](http://www.london
glassblowing.co.uk)
10am-6pm Mon-Sat

Peter Layton opened this space in 1976, creating a shop-gallery at the front and installing a hot-glass studio out back where you can pull up a chair and watch glassblowers at work. Layton's own glassware is on display in the showroom, along with functional and decorative pieces by other contemporary makers.



LOWER BELGRAVIA



The genteel Ebury Street runs from Victoria station in the north right down to Pimlico Road in the south – crossing it almost directly in the centre is Elizabeth Street. Here, a small cluster of classy boutiques and their coloured awnings give the sleepy area a jolt of life. The shops are subtly geared toward the wealthy and you'll spy well-to-do women hiding behind their sunglasses as they nip into luxury fragrance store Floris (147 Ebury Street) and dapper gents plumping for a fine bottle of Bordeaux in wine merchants Jeroboams (50 Elizabeth Street).

For all the pomp, however, there's a real community spirit in this hidden neighbourhood and the local pubs and cafés are filled with friendly residents.

To get the most out of a visit, arrive via Sloane Square, then head down Lower Sloane Street and take time to explore the dozens of antique and interiors shops along Pimlico Road. En route, make a stop at Orange Square where a bronze statue commemorating the brief residence of Mozart is erected, and a Saturday farmers' market caters for locals. From here, Elizabeth Street is just a couple of minutes' walk.



THE THOMAS CUBITT

44 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PA 7730 6060

www.thethomascubitt.co.uk

Noon-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun

This smart gastropub channels the spirit of nineteenth-century master builder Thomas Cubitt's grand stucco terraces with a regal country house-style interior. There's a bright and buzzing bar which spills out on to the street and formal dining rooms upstairs.

MUNGO & MAUD

79 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PJ 7022 1207

www.mungoandmaud.com

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

Rather than garish squeaky toys and synthetic essentials, pet shop Mungo & Maud finds harmony between function and aesthetic with luxury cotton dog beds, wooden bowls, knitted playthings and hand-stitched leather collars.

PHILIP TREACY

69 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PJ 7730 3992

www.philiptreacy.co.uk

10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 11am-5pm Sat

Milliner Philip Treacy started his career on Elizabeth Street, setting up a studio in the late fashion icon Isabella Blow's house in 1990. A few doors down, he continues to showcase his incredible hats.





LOWER BELGRAVIA

f TOMTOM CIGARS

63 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PP

7730 1790 www.tomtom.co.uk

10am-6pm Mon-Wed; 10am-8pm
Thur-Fri; 11am-6pm Sat; noon-4pm Sun

Indulge a taste for tobacco in this specialist Cuban cigar store, where you can sample cigars onsite before you buy. The shop also sells humidors, accessories and aged, limited-edition sticks, and has a sister coffeeshouse further down the street.

5 PEGGY PORSCHEN

116 Ebury Street, SW1W 9QQ

7730 1316

www.peggyporschen.com

10am-6pm Mon-Wed;
10am-7pm Thur-Sat; 10am-6pm Sun
Pretty as a picture, Peggy Porschen's pink parlour serves fancy cupcakes, biscuits and cakes. Brides-to-be can discuss their showstopping tiered creation in the private boudoir and take inspiration from the stunning sugarcraft that decorates the shop's windows.





NORTH

- PRIMROSE HILL • 52
- CROUCH END • 58
- HIGHGATE VILLAGE • 62
- CAMDEN PASSAGE • 68
- STOKE NEWINGTON CHURCH STREET • 74
- HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE • 78

PRIMROSE HILL



Primrose Hill residents are fierce in their support for the independent businesses along Regent's Park Road. They've fought off the arrival of a Starbucks in the past and think nothing of rallying together to protect the character of their little community. It helps that the area is often defined by its celebrities, and big names such as Jude Law, Tim Burton and Gwen Stefani have numbered among the locals. This glamorous set followed on the heels of an altogether more bohemian crowd, as the village's now multimillion pound houses have also played home to writers including Sylvia Plath, Alan Bennett and Ian McEwan. It's easy to see the attraction: Regent's Park runs along the south of the village giving easy access to manicured lawns and London Zoo, while the more chaotic delights of Camden are just to the east. Camden's grungy indie scene has had surprisingly little impact on the more demure Primrose Hill. Though when Alan McGee's iconic label Creation Records moved in during the mid-1990s, it gave the peaceful area a new, electric sort of reputation fuelled by the arrival of bands including Oasis – once regulars at neighbourhood pub The Pembroke Castle.



PRIMROSE HILL

Primrose Hill Rd, NW3 3NA

www.royalparks.org.uk

24 hours a day Mon-Sun

William Blake, HG Wells and Blur are among countless writers and bands to have namechecked this 250-foot hill. Kids drag their sledges up here during snowy winters, picnic blankets dot the royal park in summer, and people perennially make their way to the summit for panoramic views of the city.

SHEPHERD FOODS

59-61 Regent's Park Rd, NW1 8XD

7586 4592 www.shepherdfoods.co.uk

8am-11pm Mon-Sun

A real local asset, this large delicatessen is geared towards those with a refined palate, and its sister deli, Partridges, holds a Royal Warrant for its dedication to supplying the Queen's larder. Shepherd has a decent wine selection and hot food counter making it a great stop before a picnic in the park.





4 PRIMROSE HILL BOOKS

134 Regent's Park Rd, NW1 8XL
7586 2022 www.primrosehillbooks.com
9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat;
11am-6pm Sun

Feeding the minds of Primrose Hill's literary types, this family-run bookshop is on friendly terms with local authors from Alan Bennett to India Knight, and signed books can often be found here. Owners Jessica Graham and Marek Laskowski also organise talks and readings.

f PRIMROSE BAKERY

69 Gloucester Avenue, NW1 8LD 7483 4222
www.primrosebakery.org.uk
8.30am-6pm Mon-Sat; 9.30am-5.30pm Sun

Slightly removed from the Hill's main retail hub, the joyously retro Primrose Bakery is worth a detour. Co-founders Martha Swift and Lisa Thomas have created a darling little café serving impeccable cupcakes, cola floats and cookies.

5 ROUNDHOUSE

Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8EH 7424 9991
www.roundhouse.org.uk

The cylindrical Roundhouse was originally built as a train turntable shed in the 1840s before becoming an arts centre in the 1960s. It's undergone various reincarnations and refurbishments since, but has famously seen Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd and the Ramones take to the stage. Today, it programmes a mix of theatre, music and performance art.



CROUCH END



Although Crouch End can feel a little removed from the city centre, with no tube and limited bus and rail links, its remoteness is largely its attraction. Young families love to set up home in this hilly neighbourhood, essentially hoping to live a suburban lifestyle without actually having to leave London. And the plan works quite well. Crouch End is a very complete village, with amenities catering for every need, be it bistro dining, or bedding soil from the high street garden centre. Its popularity with parents means the roads surrounding its central clocktower also have a remarkably high concentration of children's boutiques and mummy-filled cafés – though there's far more to the area than just shopping and eating. Dominated by farm- and hamlet-studded woodland until the late nineteenth century, Crouch End still boasts patches of forest (such as Queen's Wood a mile to the west), while the dominance of Victorian architecture reflects its era of boom and growth.

The most noteworthy period building is the mighty Alexandra Palace: some 300 feet above sea-level and surrounded by 196 acres of parkland, it's a must-visit if you're heading this far north.

1 ALEXANDRA PALACE

Alexandra Palace Way, N22 7AY 8365 2121
www.alexandrapalace.com

Things didn't start well for Ally Pally: the 'People's Palace' was opened to much fanfare in 1873, but promptly burnt down just sixteen days later. It was rebuilt within two years and went on to become a transmitting centre for the BBC from the 1930s to the 1950s. Day-trippers come for peerless views over London, or to visit its cafés, ice-rink, deer enclosure, pitch-and-putt course and glorious boating lake.

2 SCARLET RAGE

11 Topsfield Parade, N8 8PR
www.scarletragevintage.com
 10.30am-6pm Mon-Fri; 11am-6pm Sat;
 noon-6pm Sun

Vintage dresses from the 1920s to the 1950s hang in immaculate condition in this lovingly arranged boutique. Stylist and owner Jade Stavri is usually on hand with advice on the fit and heritage of the frocks, as well as the array of affordable tea dresses and accessories. Shop dog Frank can be found lounging in the corner.

3 THE HABERDASHERY

22 Middle Lane, N8 8PL 8342 8098
www.thehaberdashery.com
 8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 9am-6pm Sat-Sun

Crouch End is blessed with an abundance of

good cafés, but none seem as committed to the community as The Haberdashery. It organises the monthly Barboot (an evening bazaar supporting local artists and makers), as well as exhibitions and gig nights. Peruse its notice board for more village happenings – and try its fluffy bread baked in vintage terracotta pots.

4 THE QUEENS

26 Broadway Parade, N8 9DE
 8340 2031
www.thequeenscrouchend.co.uk
 Noon-11pm Mon-Thur; noon-midnight
 Fri-Sat; noon-11pm Sun

As grand a pub as you'll find in London, The Queens was built as a Victorian hotel and watering hole for Crouch End's refined middle class. Its spectacular stained glass, decorated plaster ceilings and original screened alcoves are lavish, but this is now a very down-to-earth pub.

5 PARKLAND WALK

Walk begins at Oxford Rd, N4 3EY
www.parkland-walk.org.uk
 Dawn-dusk Mon-Sun

This fantastically atmospheric three-mile walk runs from Finsbury Park to Alexandra Palace via a disused train line and is an ideal route if you're planning to explore the area. Follow the wooded path as it rears up over the chimney pots and dips down past abandoned platforms.



HIGHGATE VILLAGE



Bordering the eastern side of Hampstead Heath and sheltered by woodland, Highgate has long been popular with countryside-craving urbanites looking for a haven within the city. The village's hilltop setting and elevated vantage points have helped give its streets an exclusive air, and the tree-lined lanes and their period mansions have famously played home to poets including Samuel Taylor Coleridge and John Betjeman, as well as musicians George Michael and Ray Davies. But for all its seclusion, historic charm and wealth, this quintessential London village hasn't managed to avoid an influx of chains, and a few faceless coffee shops, supermarkets and pizza restaurants punctuate the high street.

Thankfully, they're neatly hidden behind pretty Georgian shopfronts and caught between more appealing local stores and authentic village pubs. One of the best, The Flask, is a distinctive eighteenth-century drinking den which neighbours quaintly with the picturesque Pond Square (a plaza which hosts community fairs and carol singing) and St Michael's – a grand neo-Gothic church which stands higher than any in London.



HIGHGATE VILLAGE

HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Swain's Lane, N6 6PJ 8340 1834

www.highgate-cemetery.org

East: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri; 11am-5pm

Sat-Sun. West: by tour only at 1.45pm

Mon-Fri; hourly from 11am to 4pm Sat-Sun

This working, Grade I-listed cemetery split into two parts is one of the most dramatic locations in London. Overgrown tombs, moss-covered statues and extraordinary vault formations (look out for the Circle of Lebanon) have made it a site of Victorian Gothic pilgrimage. Stick to the east for the graves of Karl Marx and Douglas Adams, or join a tour to explore the west side's rugged terrain where Michael Faraday and the family of Charles Dickens are interred.

WATERLOW PARK

Highgate Hill, N6 5HF

www.waterlowpark.org.uk

Dawn-dusk Mon-Sun

Once a private estate, this 29-acre plot was donated to the public by Sir Sydney Waterlow in 1889 as a 'garden for the gardenless'. Its undulating lawns, formal bedding, spring-water ponds and noteworthy trees are a match for any royal park. The on-site sixteenth-century Lauderdale House (which operates as an arts centre) adds further historic gravitas.





3 HIGHGATE LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

11 South Grove, N6 6BS

8340 3343 www.hlsi.net

10am-5pm Tue-Fri; 10am-4pm Sat

Established in 1839, this unusual institution continues to keep locals on their cultural and intellectual toes with a programme of challenging film, art, lectures and music.

Its library packs in some 26,000 books and an archive of Highgate history.



4 HIGH TEA OF HIGHGATE

50 Highgate High St, N6 5HX

8348 3162

www.highteaofhighgate.com

10am-6pm Tue-Thur; 8.30am-6pm Fri;

11am-6pm Sat-Sun

There's always a warm welcome at this Highgate café and owner Georgina Worthington has done a sterling job of creating a traditional British tea room with a contemporary twist. Expect classic cakes served on chintzy crockery.



5 KENWOOD HOUSE

Hampstead Lane, NW3 7JR

8348 1286

www.english-heritage.org.uk

This English Heritage-run Georgian mansion is perched on a knoll on Hampstead Heath looking out over a tranquil lake. Basking bodies speckle its lawns come summer, though the real treasures are inside where an art collection features work by Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Vermeer and Turner.



FELIX & LILY'S

3 Camden Passage, N1 8EA

7424 5423 www.felixandlilys.com

10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10am-7pm Sat;

11am-5pm Sun

Be warned: tots with a penchant for fashion may well turn into demanding little terrors in this children's boutique. Princess tutus, nostalgic printed tees, trendy shirts and classic blazers hang cutely from the rails, and classic toys (a wooden doll's house, for example) fill the shelves.



SMUG

13 Camden Passage, N1 8EA

7354 0253 www.ifeelsmug.com

11am-6pm Wed; noon-7pm Thur;

11am-6pm Fri-Sat; noon-5pm Sun

Local interior and graphic designer Lizzie Evans spent her pocket money in Camden Passage as a teenager and was thrilled when this three-floor store became available in 2007. Her eye for design is evident in the covetable mix of handmade toys, printed textiles and retro kitchenware and stationery.



4 PIERREPONT ARCADE

*Pierrepont Row (off Camden Passage),
N1 8EG 7359 0190*

www.camdenpassageislington.co.uk

Shop: times vary

Market: 8am-4pm Wed & Sat

A cluster of cupboard-sized shops make up this quaint antiques arcade, with further dealers manning stalls at its entrance on market days. Each is dedicated to a specific product, making this is an ideal place to get expert advice on buying antique clocks, oriental porcelain, period jewellery, military memorabilia and more.

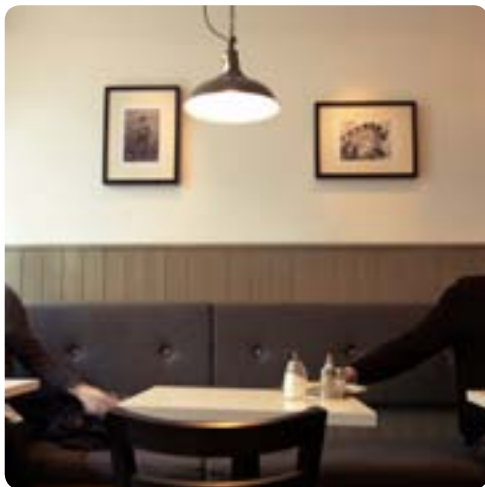
f KIPFERL

20 Camden Passage, N1 8ED

7704 1555 www.kipferl.co.uk

9am-10pm Tue-Sat; 10am-10pm Sun

Somewhat under-represented in London, Austrian food has found a champion in Kipferl. The café and restaurant has a sleek aesthetic and turns out classic sachertorte and apfelstrudel together with smooth Viennese coffee served the traditional way: on a metal tray with a glass of water. For lunch and dinner, try a belly-warming beef goulash or Wiener schnitzel.



5 LOOP

15 Camden Passage, N1 8EA

7288 1160 www.loopknitting.com

11am-6pm Tue-Wed; 11am-7.30pm Thur;

11am-6pm Fri-Sat; noon-5pm Sun

More than just a yarn shop, Loop fosters a craft

community. Its monthly SOS drop-ins help knitters in a bind and its knitting and crochet classes cater for beginners and improvers. The shop itself brings together a medley of colourful yarns, interesting patterns and beautiful gifts made by skilled knit, crochet and felt designers.





1 CLISSOLD PARK

Stoke Newington Church St, N16 9HJ
8356 8428 www.hackney.gov.uk/parks
Dawn-dusk Mon-Sun

Clissold isn't just a space for lounging and picnicking: it's an activities park. The playground and paddling pool become packed with children on a balmy day when families also turn up for the animal enclosure, butterfly dome and aviary. A sports pitch, tennis courts and good café in the stately Clissold House complete the park package.

2 STOKE NEWINGTON TOWN HALL

Stoke Newington Church St, N16 0JR
8356 5505 www.hackney.gov.uk

Regular retro dance evenings at this Art Deco town hall bring back a touch of the building's mid-twentieth-century glamour, when the cool kids would spend their nights tearing up the dancefloor in the Assembly Hall. The venue also continues the tradition of hosting comedy and concerts, and has added a film club to its entertainment programme.

3 THE SPENCE BAKERY & CAFÉ

161 & 178 Stoke Newington Church St, N16 0UH
7254 9753 www.thespence.co.uk
Bakery: 8am-6pm Mon-Sat; 9am-6pm Sun
Café: 9am-6pm Mon-Sun

The Spence's moreish, daily-baked bread can be enjoyed both in the original bakery (161), and its second, larger café (178). You'll have to be patient, however, as both establishments can get incredibly busy with punters queuing for seasonal loaves, lovely cakes and cups of coffee.

4 JOHN'S GARDEN CENTRE

175 Stoke Newington Church St, N16 0UL
7275 9494
www.johns-gardencentre.co.uk

8.30am-6pm Mon-Sat; 10am-5pm Sun
Supplying green-fingered residents with all they need to keep their gardens growing, John's knows its local market well and stocks a solid range of organic compost, veg plants, herbs and pesticides. The pot plants, trees, tools and terracotta are all out back.

5 NOOK

153 Stoke Newington Church St, N16 0UH
7249 9436 www.nookshop.co.uk
11am-6pm Mon-Sat; 11am-5pm Sun
You'll find several Stokey stores selling interesting homeware, but this sleek boutique is particularly worth noting. The emphasis is on beautifully designed products, be it an ever-useful dustpan and brush, or colourful cushions by Donna Wilson. Small, Scandi-style furniture, screenprints by local artists and handmade ceramics also feature.

HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE

One of London's most iconic villages, lofty Hampstead looks like it's been sliced straight out of the countryside. Narrow, winding lanes and Victorian cottages provide bucolic character, while its more than fair share of historic attractions ensure Hampstead is never forgotten as a key London destination. Two National Trust properties provide some of the area's most prized gems: Fenton House – a seventeenth-century merchant's townhouse famed for its period furnishings and enchanting walled garden – and 2 Willow Road, a modernist villa which reveals more about Hampstead's artsy and intellectual 1930s heyday. This property (originally home to architect Ernö Goldfinger, a name famously borrowed by disgruntled neighbour and Bond author Ian Fleming) is particularly recommended, brimming as it is with art and furniture by luminaries including Henry Moore and Max Ernst. It's also just tripping distance from Keats House, and the former homes of John Constable, DH Lawrence and Stanley Spencer are also nearby. In fact, the network of roads either side of Hampstead's now largely chain-filled high street are teeming with literary and artistic heritage, and it's worth arriving armed with a Blue Plaque guide.





1 EVERYMAN CINEMA

5 Holly Bush Vale, NW3 6TX

0871 906 9060

www.everymancinema.com

Opened in 1933, this outpost of the boutique Everyman cinema chain is one of the oldest movie theatres in the UK. It's also one of the most sophisticated, with two-person sofas, an alcohol licence and waiter service.



2 HAMPSTEAD ANTIQUE AND CRAFT EMPORIUM

12 Heath St, NW3 6TE 7794 3297

www.hampsteadantiqueemporium.com

10.30am-5.30pm Tue-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat; 10.30am-5.30pm Sun

More than twenty specialist dealers man their own cubby-like spaces in this ramshackle and old-fashioned indoor emporium which opened in 1967. The early noughties saw craftmakers join the antique sellers, and you'll now find handmade jewellery and ceramics alongside vintage furniture, textiles and collectable toys.



1 HAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

78 Hampstead High St, NW3 1RE
7794 8313

Vendors: 9am-5pm Mon-Sat

Food market: 10am-5pm Sat

A grocer, butcher and fishmonger do brisk week-round business outside this centre, joined by food traders indoors selling fresh produce and hot food on Saturdays. On Sundays, a rotating market alternately covers antiques, bric-à-brac, books and crafts.



f THE FLASK

14 Flask Walk, NW3 1HG 7435 4580

www.theflaskhampstead.co.uk

11am-11pm Mon-Thur; 11am-midnight Fri-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun

Occupying a historic plot where fresh water was bottled and sold in the early eighteenth century, the Grade II-listed Flask was built on the site of the Thatched House pub in 1874. As well as commemorating the location's heritage, the pub offers up its own antiques, with original glass screens, and panels painted by Belgian artist Jan Van Beers.



5 BURGH HOUSE & HAMPSTEAD MUSEUM

New End Square, NW3 1LT

7431 0144 www.burghhouse.org.uk

Noon-5pm Wed-Sun (Sat ground-floor gallery and café only)

This Grade I-listed house was built as a residence in 1704, turned into a British militia HQ in the mid-nineteenth century and was home to Rudyard Kipling's daughter in the 1930s before becoming a community hub some twenty years later. In 1979, it was restored and transformed into a museum and arts centre which celebrates the colourful history of Hampstead Village.





SOUTH

- EAST DULWICH • 86
- BELLENDAEN ROAD • 92
- BRIXTON VILLAGE • 98
- CHELSEA GREEN • 102
- NORTHCOTE ROAD • 108
- ABBEVILLE VILLAGE • 114

EAST DULWICH



Part of a vast, leafy south London suburb bookended by Brixton and Peckham, East Dulwich is one of several local villages and attractions. Annoyingly, the distances between each can be prohibitive if you're walking, so it's best to make a transport plan if you want to head down for the day and take in the Art Deco lido at Brockwell Park, the anthropological Horniman Museum and Gardens, and the bucolic Dulwich Village and Dulwich Picture Gallery – a majestic Regency building housing an impressive collection of Old Masters. Leave plenty of time for East Dulwich, however, as it hosts the area's largest concentration of shops and eateries. The main mishmash of retail can be found along the mile-long high street Lordship Lane, though the far quieter side street North Cross Road is also a hotspot. A sort of village in itself, North Cross is home to the popular Blue Mountain Coffee Shop, confectioners Hope & Greenwood, and vintage emporiums including ChiChiRaRa and North Cross Vintage (on Fellbrigge Road). It also lays on a fashionable Saturday market made up of retro clothes stalls and vendors selling hot and fresh food.



COLOUR MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY

53 Grove Vale, SE22 8EQ 7207 1120
www.sieclecolours.com

10am-6pm Tue-Sat; 11am-4pm Sun
 Simon March avoids loading his paint hues with stories about their heritage, or matching them with other shades. Instead, his various emulsions (designed by him and made by Dutch specialists) are painted on to hanging clogs and given throwaway names such as 'I thought I told you to wait in the car'.

ROULLIER WHITE

125 Lordship Lane, SE22 8HU
 8693 5150

www.roullierwhite.com
 10am-6pm Mon-Sat; 11am-5pm Sun
 If you tend to reach for the bicarb and vinegar when a household emergency strikes, you'll love Roullier White's line of traditional and practical household products. Among nostalgically packaged laundry detergent, furniture polish and washing-up liquid, the store stocks grooming essentials, artisan perfumes, luxury gifts and homeware.





4 FRANKLIN'S

157 Lordship Lane, SE22 8HX

8299 9598 www.franklinsrestaurant.com

Noon-11pm Mon-Wed; noon-midnight Thur-Fri;
10am-midnight Sat; noon-11pm Sun

There's no shortage of places to eat in East Dulwich, but none have quite the dedication to localism as Franklin's. The restaurant's menu makes use of fresh produce from Kent, meat from rare breed farms and seafood fished from British waters. Next door, Franklin's Farm Shop stocks the raw ingredients.

† BLUE BRICK CAFÉ

14 Fellbrigg Rd (off North Cross Rd), SE22 9HH

8299 8670 9am-6pm Mon-Sat; 10am-6pm Sun

The sleek Luca's Bakery at number 145, and tea salon Le Chandelier at 161, are two of Lordship Lane's best cafés, but this slightly out-of-the-way establishment deserves special mention. Clad in blue tiles on a residential road, the café serves a vegetarian and vegan all-day menu in what looks like grandma's kitchen. Stop in for cake and coffee, or bring your own bottle to pair with stews and salads.

5 DULWICH LIBRARY

368 Lordship Lane, SE22 8NB

7525 2000 www.southwark.gov.uk

9am-8pm Mon; 10am-8pm Tue; 9am-8pm Wed-Fri;
9am-5pm Sat; noon-4pm Sun

Established in 1897, this grand, redbrick library doubles up as a community hub hosting adult reading groups (from manga to poetry), as well as toddler mornings, after-school clubs, film matinées and craft workshops.



BELLENDEN ROAD



Parts of Peckham may be a little down-at-heel, but gentrification has had its grip on the south London district for some time, and places such as Bellenden Road are the fashionable result. The serene, boutique-lined street seems at odds with the parallel Rye Lane where pound shops and African grocery stores butt up against the odd pop-up bar – usually frequented by art school students from the nearby Camberwell College. The contrast often sees Bellenden Road accused of being ‘posh’ rather than ‘real’ Peckham, though it’s impossible to fault its genial shopkeepers, and hard to resist its pleasant cafés (see Anderson & Co), proper butchers (Flock & Herd) and welcoming pubs. Independently owned boozier The Montpelier on Choumert Road has a dinky cinema in its backroom and serves local brews, while The Victoria Inn back on Bellenden is at the heart of the village with a dog-friendly policy and children’s playroom. The surrounding area definitely merits a ramble too: look out for arts centre The Bussey Building at 133 Rye Lane, Persian deli Persepolis at 28 Peckham High Street, and the café-cum-gallery that pops up on top of the Peckham Rye Multistorey Car Park each summer.



1 CAFÉ VIVA

44 Choumert Rd, SE15 4SE

www.cafeviva.co.uk

7.30am-5pm Tue-Fri; 9am-5pm Sat-Sun

Café Viva's humble interior (bare-brick walls and simple white tables) serves as a fitting backdrop to a modest, well-executed menu of homemade soups, sandwiches and cakes. Locally sourced food is a feature, and coffee comes from close-by roastery Volcano Coffee Works.



2 REVIEW

131 Bellenden Rd, SE15 4QY 7639 7400

www.reviewbookshop.co.uk

10am-7pm Tue-Sat; 11am-5pm Sun

Local novelist Evie Wyld runs this bookshop and encourages a 'balanced reading diet' by stocking a generous number of short story and poetry collections among novels and non-fiction. The shop is a pivotal part of the annual Peckham Literary Festival and also hosts regular in-store events.

3 FENTON WALSH

117 Bellenden Rd, SE15 4QY

7635 0033

www.fentonwalsh.com

10.30am-6pm Mon;

10am-6pm Tue-Thur;

10am-7pm Fri; 10am-6pm Sat;

11am-5pm Sun

This fashion boutique was here well before Bellenden Road made a name for itself, and owner Maria Fenton has long championed the area by rallying support for summer parties, Christmas fairs and shopping events. She also finds time to source an impeccable array of affordable threads and accessories by independent designers.





f THE BEGGING BOWL

168 Bellenden Rd, SE15 4BW

7635 2627

www.thebeggingbowl.co.uk

6pm-10pm Tue-Wed; noon-2.30pm

& 6pm-10pm Thur-Sat

Thai street food is brought indoors by regional food expert and chef Jane Alty in this colourful, contemporary restaurant. The atmosphere is jumping in the evenings, when busy tables are topped with small bowls (stir-fries, soups, grills and curries) designed for sociable sharing.

S MELANGE CHOCOLATE SHOP & CAFE

184 Bellenden Rd, SE15 4BW

www.themelange.com

Noon-7pm Tue-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat-Sun

Bowls of sample chocolate are lined up along the counter inviting you try inventive flavour combinations such as ginger and lime, cardamom and clove, or raspberry and rosemary. The chocs (or a heavy slice of cake) can be wrapped up to go, or you can learn more about the infused Belgian sweets at Melange's tasting and making workshops.





1 LEFTOVERS

Unit 71, Fourth Avenue, SW9 8PS

www.facebook.com/leftoversbrixton

11am-5.30pm Tue-Wed; 11am-10pm Thur;
11am-5.30pm Fri-Sat; noon-4pm Sun

Margot Waggoner makes regular trips to France to source vintage clothes and accessories for her treasure-trove of a store. Call by to pick up a Parisian petticoat, a Breton top, some antique lace or one of the many Continental trinkets she brings back from her travels.

2 CIRCUS

Unit 70, Fifth Avenue, SW9 8PR

www.circus5thave.blogspot.co.uk

11pm-5pm Tue-Wed; 11am-10pm Thur;
11am-8pm Fri-Sat; 11am-4pm Sun

Tabitha Rout and Binki Taylor, owners of this compact boutique, champion local artists with unrelenting dedication. They keep the Circus shelves stocked with an ever-changing line-up of handmade ceramics, cards, jewellery and art by practitioners who live within a five-mile radius of the store – and they make sure price tags remain affordable.

3 FEDERATION COFFEE

Unit 77-78, Fifth Avenue, SW9 8PS

www.federationcoffee.com

8am-5pm Mon-Fri; 9am-6pm Sat;
9am-5pm Sun

Run by two Kiwis, Federation was one of the originators of Brixton Market's current boom and its popularity has seen it up size to larger premises. Its success rests on its locally roasted coffee and freshly baked cakes and pastries.

4 CANNON & CANNON

18 Market Row, SW9 8LD 7501 9152

www.cannonandcannon.com

11am-5pm Tue-Wed; 11am-9pm Thur-Fri;
9am-9pm Sat; 11am-5pm Sun

Cannon & Cannon can sort cheese and charcuterie board dilemmas with minimal fuss. Its selection of British cured meat (sourced from as close as Kent and as far as the Scottish Highlands) is matched by a stellar range of artisan cheese. Pair with the deli's chutneys and pickles, and wash down with pale ale from Bermondsey's Kernel Brewery.

5 FRANCO MANCA

4 Market Row, SW9 8LD 7738 3021

www.francomanca.co.uk

Noon-5pm Mon-Wed; noon-10pm Thur-Fri;
11.30am-10pm Sat; noon-5pm Sun

One of the first restaurants to put Brixton Village on the map, Franco Manca has become so famous for its mouthwatering sourdough pizzas, you can expect a queue to come snaking out of the door most evenings. There are plenty of worthy alternatives should you be short of time.

CHELSEA GREEN



Tight-lipped residents don't like to reveal too much about this locale, preferring to preserve the peace of their secret village. To their credit, they've done a marvellous job – many Londoners are clueless about Chelsea Green's existence, missing out on an intimate little neighbourhood with a traditional squared-off lawn at its centre. The roads facing the green – and additionally Elystan Street – are where you'll find a small number of boutiques, bars and grocers supplying high-grade essentials. Look out for gourmet food shop The Pie Man, the acclaimed Chelsea Fishmonger, Jago Butchers and wine shop Haynes, Hanson & Clark. If you'd rather stop for food, the village also offers two destination restaurants headed up by the same chef: formal dining room Tom Aikens and the more relaxed British brasserie Tom's Kitchen. It would be a shame to visit solely for a meal, however, as just a short walk away, Sydney Street reveals the magnificent St Luke's & Christ Church. The imposing neo-Gothic nineteenth-century building is quite rightly proud of its heritage: Charles Dickens married Catherine Hogarth here on April 2 1836, just two days after publication of his first instalment of *The Pickwick Papers*.



FELT

13 Cale St, SW3 3QS 7349 8829

www.felt-london.com

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

A cult favourite, and beloved by celebrities, this tiny shop is crammed with an unusual mix of vintage and new costume and fine jewellery. The cherry-picked selection sits alongside an oddball mix of ever-changing gifts from rare books and antique ceramics to colourful cashmere scarves. If you're strapped for cash, you can bring along a piece of jewellery you no longer wear, and barter it for store credit.



CHELSEA TOYS

53 Godfrey St, SW3 3SX 7352 1718

www.chelseatoys.co.uk

10am-5.30pm Mon-Thur;

10am-6pm Fri-Sat

It may jar with our digital age, but the old-fashioned Chelsea Toys should thrill even the most technologically savvy child with its seductive assortment of nostalgic wooden toys, Victorian games, cap guns, mobiles, finger puppets, soft animals and crafts.



3 FIFI WILSON

1 Godfrey St, SW3 3TA 7352 3232

www.fifiwilson.com

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

Fifi Wilson's reputation for selling labels you're

unlikely to see elsewhere has broken beyond Chelsea Green, and it's not uncommon to see a big-name model or actress browsing the rails for girly pieces by lesser-known and international boutique designers.

**4 JANE ASHER PARTY CAKES & SUGAR CRAFT**

22-24 Cale St, SW3 3QU 7584 6177

www.janeasher.com

9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat

The sweet smell of icing greets you at the doorway of Jane Asher's baking shop. The one-time fiancée of Paul McCartney set up shop in 1990, selling biscuit cutters, cake colouring, ribbons, decorations, silver boards and more. Friendly staff can advise you on executing a one-off celebration cake, or you can commission a sugarcraft creation from the skilled onsite bakers.

**5 PAPER & PAINT LIBRARY**

3 Elystan St, SW3 3NT 7823 7755

www.paintlibrary.co.uk

9am-5pm Mon-Fri; 10am-4pm Sat

Joining a run of interiors specialists on Elystan Street, David Oliver's Paper & Paint Library is devoted to pairing harmonious hues for effortless home-decorating. Each emulsion and wallpaper shade is uniquely created by David, who travels the world looking for colour inspiration.

NORTHCOTE ROAD



Once farmland and fields of lavender, this area of Battersea blossomed following the advent of Victorian railways and industrialisation. Terraces sprouted around key thoroughfares, and the Falcon Brook (whose route ran along the path of Northcote Road) was lost from the landscape. As the population grew, so did small shopping enclaves such as Northcote Road: it was here that locals would run grocery errands to the butchers, bakers and fishmongers, as well as the famous fruit and veg market. The road changed with the times during the twentieth century, but has always retained its market tradition and continues to foster independent business, both foodie and otherwise. For the best boutiques and cafés, it pays to head away from Clapham Junction's uninspiring high street and toward the lower end of Northcote Road. Make an effort to walk over to the parallel (and far quieter) Webb's Road too, where there's a small congregation of shops and eateries. If you're all shopped out, try Battersea Rise to the north for a decent bar, or head east or west to hit green space: Northcote Road is sandwiched between Wandsworth Common and Clapham Common.



1 NORTHCOTE ROAD MARKET

Northcote Rd, SW11 1PA

8871 6384

www.wandsworth.gov.uk

8am-6pm Mon-Sun

This outdoor market really gets going on Fridays and Saturdays when there's a full complement of stalls selling fruit, veg, household goods and bric-à-brac. Some of the best traders are around all week, however, meaning you can pick up superb loaves, pizzas and gigantic doughnuts at Breadstall, or fresh seafood at South Coast Fisheries.

2 DOVE

71 Northcote Rd, SW11 6PJ

7223 5191

www.doveandson.co.uk

8.30pm-5pm Mon; 8.30pm-

5.30pm Tue-Fri; 8.30pm-

5pm Sat; 10am-3pm Sun

Three generations of the Dove family have stood behind the counter since this butcher was founded in 1889. Bob Dove is currently at the helm, and can usually be found recommending

a particular handmade sausage or piece of Yorkshire beef, or serving a legendary homemade pie. The shop keeps good gastronomic company with nearby wine merchant Philglas & Swiggot and cheese shop Hamish Johnston.

3 THE HIVE HONEY SHOP

93 Northcote Rd, SW11 6PL

7924 6233

www.thehivehoneyshop.co.uk

10am-5pm Mon-Tue; 10am-2pm Wed;
10am-5pm Thur-Sat (closed 1pm-2pm)

Honey-based beauty products, candles, lozenges, condiments, ciders, sweets and more are tightly packed into this small shop opened by James Hamill in 1992. The Hamill family have been apiarists since the 1920s, and this store (which features a live hive) shows off international and local honey, and also arranges urban beekeeping workshops for beginners.

f VERDE LONDON

113 Northcote Rd (via Wakehurst Rd),

SW11 6PJ 7223 2095

www.verde.co.uk

10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat

Essential oils and botanicals are key ingredients in this shop's natural and organic products. Its creams, shampoos and bath salts – as well as remedies for specific ailments – all smell divine, and knowledgeable staff are exceptionally helpful.



**5 NORTHCOTE ROAD
ANTIQUES MARKET**
155A Northcote Rd, SW11 6QB
7228 6850

www.spectrumsoft.net
10am-6pm Mon-Sat;
noon-5pm Sun

Some thirty dealers cover a variety of homeware periods and styles in this indoor antique emporium – you'll find casual visitors cooing over retro curiosities, and collectors making investments in silver, china and furniture.



1 THE ABBEVILLE

67-69 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9JW
8675 2201 www.theabbeyville.co.uk
11am-11pm Mon-Wed; 11am-midnight
Thur-Sat; 11am-10.30pm Sun

Three locals addressed a need for a village hangout in 2002 with this smart and distinctly pastoral pub and dining room. The seasonal menu makes use of animals reared through the pub's own breeding programmes set up in conjunction with small British farms. The chefs also pride themselves on nose-to-tail cooking.



2 WHISPERS

51 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9JX 8675 7700
www.whispersbeauty.com
11am-5pm Mon; 10am-7pm Tue-Wed;
10am-8pm Thur; 10am-7pm Fri;
10am-6pm Sat; 11am-5pm Sun

This boutique beauty salon feels like a plush living room, with its opulent chandelier and white sofas. Friendly therapists add to the relaxed ambience, and services range from indulgent massages to essential waxing and manicures.



3 LES SARDINES

63 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9JW
8675 3900
www.lessardines.co.uk
10am-5.30pm Tue-Sat;
11am-3pm Sun

There's a certain French *mien* to this interiors store: rustic linens are sold by the metre (or made into deluxe cushions and used to decorate antique armoires) and Duralex glass tumblers beg to be bought and filled with wine. You can pop in to pick up a luxury candle, or arrive with a mind to invest in a handcrafted oak dining table.





f **ABBEVILLE KITCHEN**

47 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9JX 8772 1110

www.abbevillekitchen.com

Noon-3pm & 6.30pm-10.30pm Tue-Sat;

1pm-3pm & 6pm-9.30pm Sun

A local favourite, this laid-back restaurant was opened by Kevin Hastings, the man behind the brilliant Le Petit Boulanger a few doors down. It features an open kitchen which turns out a no-fuss menu of modern European small plates and main dishes.

5 **MACFARLANE'S DELI**

48 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9NF 8673 5373

www.macfarlanesdeli.co.uk

8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri;

8.30am-6pm Sat; 10am-5.30pm Sun

Robert Marsham, formerly co-head of hospitality at Fortnum & Mason, runs this deli with knowledge and care. His first-grade selection of international cheeses, meats, wine and fine foods are meticulously sourced, and the deli's own-made sausage rolls have earned legendary status.





EAST

- WHITECROSS VILLAGE • 122
- COLUMBIA ROAD • 128
- BROADWAY MARKET • 134
- VICTORIA PARK VILLAGE • 138
- SHOREDITCH VILLAGE • 144

WHITECROSS VILLAGE



Though technically sporting a central London postcode, Whitecross Village is just striking distance from Shoreditch in the east, and best explored together with other villages in this chapter. Try to arrive at lunch, as its main calling card is the weekday food market which brings Whitecross Street roaring to life from around midday. City workers, nearby residents and local shopkeepers descend on the area to ogle the many hot food carts that pitch up as they queue for fresh burritos, curries, bagels, falafels, pies and more. If you are heading over for lunch, make a note of Fortune Street Park at the bottom end of the road, where an abundance of benches provide mealtime seating. Or else head to the Two Brewers at 121 Whitecross Street – a pub that invites you to bring your boxed-up takeaway inside to enjoy with a pint. You can always round off with a visit to Fix at number 161, where baristas use lip-smacking seasonal coffee blends. Aside from foodie nourishment, the road also provides an easy thoroughfare between the Barbican Centre in the south, and chamber music venue London Symphony Orchestra St Luke’s in the north.



BARBICAN CENTRE

Silk St, EC2Y 8DS 7638 8891

www.barbican.org.uk

9am-11pm Mon-Sat; noon-11pm Sun

The Brutalist architecture of this mammoth building rears up above Whitecross Village.

More than a decade in the making, it was opened in 1982 and remains one of the largest arts centres in Europe, curating a cutting-edge programme of music, theatre, art and film.

BUNHILL FIELDS BURIAL GROUND

38 City Rd, EC1Y 1AU

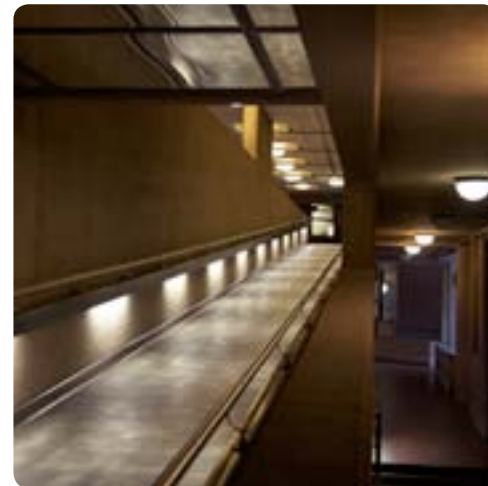
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/bunhillfields

Oct-Mar: 8am-4pm Mon-Fri; 9.30am-4pm

Sat-Sun. Apr-Sep: 8am-7pm Mon-Fri;

9.30am-7pm Sat-Sun

Some 120,000 nonconformists, radicals and dissenters found a final resting place at the Grade I-listed Bunhill Fields. Though the cemetery closed to new burials in the mid-1850s, leftwing sympathisers continue to leave fresh flowers by the stones of William Blake, Daniel Defoe and John Bunyan, and enjoy the peaceful greenery of the adjacent gardens.





3 CURIOUS DUKE GALLERY

207 Whitecross St, EC1Y 8QP 7251 6551

www.curiousdukegallery.com

11.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri; noon-4pm Sat

Peppered with street art, Whitecross is already its own urban alfresco gallery. Curious Duke brings a little of this spirit indoors, supporting emerging contemporary artists and selling original prints.



4 HULA NAILS

203-205 Whitecross St, EC1Y 8QP

7253 4453 www.hulanails.com

10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Tue;

10.30am-9pm Wed; 10.30am-7.30pm

Thur-Fri; 11am-6pm Sat

Electric pink walls, retro pin-up prints, intimate treatment rooms and a gentle tiki theme set this glamorous beauty salon apart from the rest. Therapists are dolled up like '50s starlets and can oblige with vintage-style hair and make-up, as well as everyday manicures, waxing and spray tans.



5 IRONMONGER ROW BATHS

1-11 Ironmonger Row, EC1V 3QF

3642 5520 www.better.org.uk

6.30am-9pm Mon-Fri; 9am-6pm Sat-Sun

Don't let the state-of-the art swimming pool, gym and Turkish spa fool you: these public baths have been at the heart of the local community since 1931. The building underwent a major renovation in 2012, and is now a sparkling blend of heritage and modernity.



COLUMBIA ROAD



Best known for its Sunday flower market, Columbia Road is a decidedly weekend destination. Vendors start setting up in the early hours, and keen shoppers arrive at 8am to snap up the freshest cut stems and pot plants, and stock up on gardening equipment, seeds and sundries. By the market's close at 2pm, the vocal, friendly flower sellers are swiftly shifting bunches of blooms at bargain prices, and the masses of people streaming between stalls are beginning to thin. The bustling atmosphere remains all day, however, and the dinky shops and cafés lining the road are usually heaving uncomfortably on Sundays.

If you don't fancy battling with prams, hipsters and tourists on market day, your best bet is to visit on Saturday, when many of the shops are open. Top draws include the fragrant Angela Flanders at number 96, an independent perfumery which has been concocting intoxicating scents since 1985, as well as Beyond Fabrics at number 67, where rolls of patterned cotton, baskets of bobbins and every conceivable sewing implement are on offer.

For an afternoon snack, try Lily Vanilli's in the courtyard off Ezra Street – the adventurous baker turns out fanciful creations, from cherry bakewell pies to a divine pomegranate and coconut sponge.



COLUMBIA ROAD

**VINTAGE HEAVEN
& CAKEHOLE**

82 Columbia Rd, E2 7QB

www.vintageheaven.co.uk

Noon-6pm Sat; 8.30am-5.30pm Sun

Every surface and space of this family-run vintage store is piled high with antique china, Art Deco glassware, fancy cutlery and table linen. At the back, the cute Cakehole café serves homemade bakes and pots of tea.

RYANTOWN

126 Columbia Rd, E2 7RG

7613 1510

www.misterrob.co.uk

Noon-6pm Sat; 10am-4pm Sun

Perhaps the most twee of all the twee shops on Columbia Road, Ryantown showcases the much-loved work of British artist Rob Ryan. Among the paper-cut prints incorporating honey-sweet messages, you'll find Ryan's work printed on cushions, mugs, tote bags, ceramics and other gifts.





5 SUCK & CHEW

130 Columbia Rd, E2 7RG 8983 3504
www.suckandchew.co.uk

Noon-4pm Sat; 9am-4.30pm Sun

Aniseed balls, cola pips, pear drops, gobstoppers, rhubarb and custards, sherbet lemons and many more are stored in glass jars and weighed out by hand in this traditional sweet shop.

4 JONES DAIRY

23 Ezra St, E2 7RH 7739 5372
www.jonesdairy.co.uk

Shop: 8am-1pm Fri-Sat; 9am-2pm Sun

Café: 9am-3pm Fri; 9am-4.30pm Sat;
8am-3pm Sun

Tucked behind Columbia Road on a cobbled courtyard, Jones Dairy was a working dairy at the turn of the nineteenth century. Today, it sells farm-fresh produce, bread and artisan cheese, and serves up brunch and lunch in its rustic café.

5 HACKNEY CITY FARM

1a Goldsmiths Row, E2 8QA 7729 6381
www.hackneycityfarm.co.uk

10am-4.30pm Tue-Sun

Urbanites can get acquainted with a host of farmyard animals, from donkeys and pigs to rabbits and guinea pigs, at this ramshackle, long-running city farm. The on-site, award-winning café is the perfect post-petting destination.



BROADWAY MARKET



With Regent's Canal at one end, and London Fields at the other, Broadway Market is bookended by two of the East End's most popular alfresco haunts. The canal is a favourite with runners and cyclists, and a couple of moored barges open as book and bric-à-brac shops at the weekend. London Fields, meanwhile, encompasses a lido (originally opened in 1932 and restored in 2006), a playground and a snug pub. But the area's main attraction is the market itself. Established on a drovers' route to the City in the 1890s, but falling into decline in the 1980s, it was reintroduced by a troupe of proactive locals in the mid-noughties, rejuvenating the whole area in the process. Today, its food stalls pull in hordes of punters each Saturday, supporting the independent businesses that have popped up along the street. Look out for fishmongers Fin & Flounder and wonderful florist Rebel Rebel, as well as a couple of excellent bookshops, quaint fabric and haberdashery stores and sustenance stops including coffee favourite Climpson & Sons and slick gastropub Market Café. Among these fashionable services, you'll spy a few gentle reminders of Broadway Market's past. There's the Cat & Mutton at number 76 – a boozier which has been serving since the late 1600s, and F Cooke at number 9 which has been dishing up pie, mash and eels since 1900.



2 STELLA BLUNT

75 Broadway Market, E8 4PH
07958 716 916

12.30pm-6pm Wed-Fri;
10.30am-6pm Sat; noon-5pm Sun

Manoeuvre carefully through this tightly packed, two-floor store to avoid knocking into a host of immaculate kitsch crockery, reclaimed school chairs, Formica tables and thoughtfully chosen vintage curiosities.

2 BROADWAY MARKET

Broadway Market, E8 4PH
www.broadwaymarket.co.uk

7.30am-6pm Sat

Join the mustachioed, tweed-wearing men and retro bike-wielding women filling their eco shopping bags with fresh produce, hot food, cakes, craft and fashion from around 100 sellers. At the top of the road, the smaller Netil Market (13-23 Westgate St, E8 3RL; 11am-6pm Sat) covers vintage threads, jewellery, homeware and yet more food.

3 L'EAU À LA BOUCHE

35-37 Broadway Market, E8 4PH
7923 0600

www.labouche.co.uk

8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri; 8.30am-5pm Sat;
9am-5pm Sun



This wonderfully fragrant French food store and deli makes room for a giant (and always busy) communal table, where diners munch on fresh salads, quiches and cakes. There's wine on barrel tap (locals enjoy a good-value carafe refill service), artisan cheese, store cupboard treats and farm produce.

4 THE FILM SHOP

33 Broadway Market, E8 4PH
7923 1230 www.thefilmshop.co.uk

Noon-10pm Mon-Sun

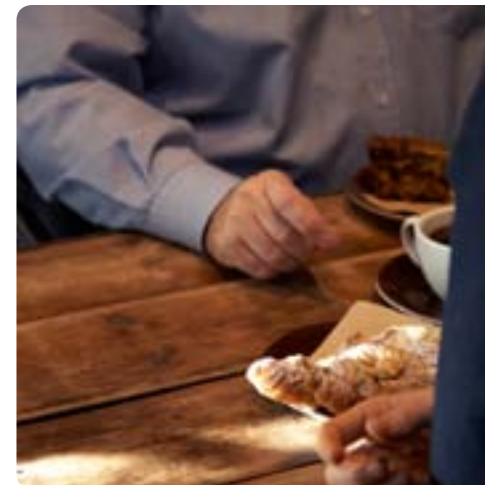
Bucking the waning interest in local video rental stores, The Film Shop caters for movie fans with a penchant for international and independent cinema. The shelves are stacked with DVDs categorised by genre and filmmaker, so you can find that obscure Ingmar Bergman thriller with minimal fuss.

5 LOCK 7

129 Pritchard's Rd, E2 9AP 7739 3042
www.lock-7.com

8am-6pm Mon-Sat; 10am-6pm Sun

While Lock 7's cycle workshop mechanics take care of your bike service, repair a puncture or tune your brakes, you can refuel with a Monmouth coffee and light lunch at the shop's waterside café.



VICTORIA PARK VILLAGE



Bordering the northwestern edge of Victoria Park, and at least half a mile from the nearest train station, this self-contained pocket of Hackney feels like a village plucked straight out of the British countryside. Its four main streets radiate outward from a central roundabout, which was transformed from a weed-ridden eyesore into a blooming, award-winning plot by resident gardener Caroline Bousfield. Her handiwork has given the village a much-loved centrepiece – but it isn't the only local award-winner. Wine shop Bottle Apostle and butchers The Ginger Pig have both won sought-after industry gongs, while gastropub The Empress has been decorated with a Michelin Bib Gourmand.

These destinations can be found alongside worthy neighbours, including fishmonger Jonathan Norris and the bustling Deli Downstairs, and a number of stellar pubs and restaurants. Tea and cake come via the homely Loafing; Vietnamese delights abound at Nāmo; and stone-baked pizza, a pint and a bit of live music are supplied at The Lauriston. It's worth remembering that the latter pub runs a 'pizza in the park service' on the weekends, taking phone orders and dropping off takeaways to loungers in the park.

1 VICTORIA PARK

*Best accessed via the Crown and Royal Gates on Grove Rd
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk*

7am-dusk Mon-Sun

Overcrowded and polluted, the nineteenth-century East End was in dire need of green and open space. Queen Victoria backed plans for a pleasure garden, and Victoria Park (dubbed The People's Park) was developed in the 1840s. Over the decades its glamour faded, but a much-required facelift in 2012 has returned the park, monuments and boating lake to their former glory.

2 HAUS

39 Morpeth Rd, E9 7LD 7536 9291

www.hauslondon.com

11am-6pm Thur-Sat; 11am-5pm Sun

Andrew and Jane Tye have filled their sleek store with a tasteful edit of contemporary design pieces for the home. Scandi-style furniture and creative lighting, kitchenware and gifts are sourced from international brands and indie designers.

3 THE GINGER PIG

99 Lauriston Rd, E9 7HJ 8986 6911

www.thegingerpig.co.uk

9am-6.30pm Wed-Fri; 9am-6pm Sat;

9am-3pm Sun

Handsome cooked meat pies eye you from the window of this legendary butcher shop. Its cuts of pork, beef and lamb are from animals reared free-range on the Yorkshire Moors, other meats are sourced responsibly, and the pies, pâtés and chutneys are all handmade.





f VICTORIA PARK BOOKS

174 Victoria Park Rd, E9 7HD

8986 1124

www.victoriaparkbooks.co.uk

10am-5.30pm Mon-Sun

If you can tear your kids away from The Toybox across the road, this children's bookshop is a real treasure. Jo and Cris De Guia make it their business to know what's new, what's being taught at school and what children – from tots to teens – are keen to read.

5 CAROLINE BOUSFIELD'S WORKSHOP

77A Lauriston Rd, E9 7HA 8986 9585

www.carolinebousfield.co.uk

10.30am-5.30pm Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat

Potter (and gardener) Caroline Bousfield bought this old coach house back in 1975. She swiftly converted it into a workshop and has been busy behind the pottery wheel ever since. The space doubles up as a shop, with shelves piled high with glazed stoneware.



SHOREDITCH VILLAGE

Often described as London's creative hub, Shoreditch has seen a stream of big chain establishments trickle in over the last few years, diluting the area's once boho appeal and driving out some of the artists that sparked its gentrification in the late 1990s. Despite the cynical cool-chasers, however, an ever-burgeoning number of genuinely independent and imaginative retailers continue to maintain Shoreditch's villagey feel, and the streets entangled around Shoreditch High Street, Curtain Road and Great Eastern Street accommodate a hodgepodge of cult boutiques, vintage stores and dozens of dive bars, fashionable clubs and trendy pubs. The area's great heritage, however, ensures it's more than just a nightlife spot: Shoreditch Town Hall adds Victorian grandeur on Old Street, while the Church of St Leonard has been open for prayer since 1740. Its grounds have actually been a place of worship since the twelfth century; it was used as an actors' church in the 1500s and is also the resting place of James Burbage. An apt fact, given that the Elizabethan impresario built a playhouse (among the first in England) across the street where New Inn Yard meets Curtain Road.





1 LABOUR AND WAIT

85 Redchurch St, E2 7DJ
7729 6253
www.labourandwait.co.uk
11am-6pm Tue-Sun

A traditional hardware store with a fashionable twist, Labour and Wait has nostalgic, functional design down pat. Enamel jugs, wooden cleaning brushes, steel buckets and stylish screwdrivers should inspire you to inject a little chic into household chores.

2 PAPER & CUP

18 Calvert Avenue, E2 7JP 7739 5358
www.paperandcup.co.uk
8am-5pm Mon-Fri; 10am-5pm Sun

Individually selected, cheap-as-chips secondhand books line the walls of this friendly neighbourhood hangout – the rest of the space is given over to a bright café. Enjoy both in the knowledge that all proceeds go to the Spitalfields Crypt Trust, a local charity which supports people suffering homelessness and addiction.



3 AIDA

133 Shoreditch High St, E1 6JE 7739 2811
www.aidashoreditch.co.uk
10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat; noon-6pm Sun

It's typical for Shoreditch shops to offer more than just one service, and Aida neatly encapsulates the local trend. You can browse rails of indie fashion for men and women, have your hair fixed at the vintage beauty bar or stop for a brew in its café.





4 THE PRINCE'S DRAWING SCHOOL

19-22 Charlotte Rd, EC2A 3SG
7613 8568

www.princesdrawingschool.org

9.30am-8.30pm Mon-Fri; 9.30am-5pm Sat
Founded by the Prince of Wales to champion the discipline of drawing, this school runs a public programme of evening and daytime drawing classes, lectures and films. There's also a gallery of student work on the ground floor.

5 THE BOOK CLUB

100 Leonard St, EC2A 4RH 7684 8618

www.wearetbc.com

8am-midnight Mon-Wed;
8am-2am Thur-Fri; 10am-2am Sat;
10am-midnight Sun

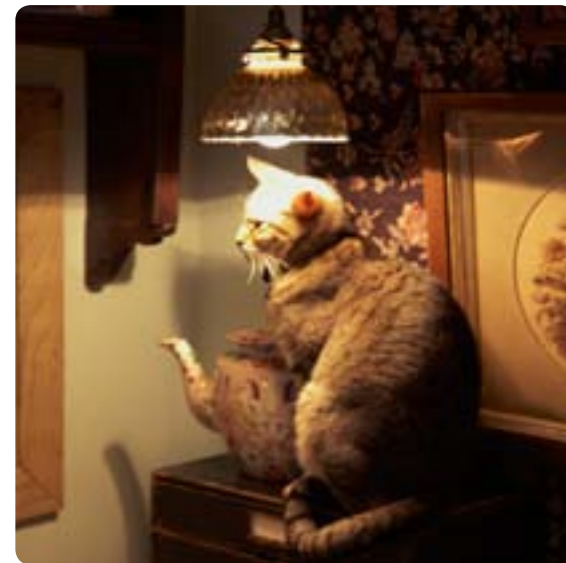
There isn't anything this café-bar-club-arts-venue doesn't do. You can pop in for breakfast, roll up for late night drinking and dancing, play a game of ping pong, book in for a life-drawing class, or find a beau at speed dating.





WEST

- QUEEN'S PARK • 152
- TURNHAM GREEN • 158
- BARNES VILLAGE • 164
- LITTLE VENICE • 168
- GOLBORNE ROAD • 174
- CLARENDON CROSS • 180



QUEEN'S PARK



Queen's Park grew furiously in the late nineteenth century: terraces sprung up to house the working classes, and its eponymous centrepiece – a 30-acre park designed in a figure of eight – was unveiled in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The park quickly became the heart of the village, morphing with the changing needs of residents: a grandstand was installed in 1891, tennis courts in the '30s, allotments during WWII and an animal petting corner in the '90s. It continues to be well used and is justly celebrated each September on Queen's Park Day when village businesses set up stalls and local groups put on a show. The family festival is just one of the events organised by the voluntary Queen's Park Residents' Association, and joins the annual Open Gardens And Studios day in June and the Book Festival in May. Queen's Park Books on Salusbury Road has an integral role in the latter, encouraging celebrity and local authors to helm readings, talks and signings, while the neighbouring library and local schools get involved with children's events and workshops.



1 MR FISH

51 Salisbury Rd, NW6 6NJ
7624 3555 www.mrfish.uk.com
11am-midnight Mon-Sun

A local chippy with a London-wide reputation, Mr Fish looks like it's been transposed from a British seaside town. Its pleasantly retro décor is matched by a nostalgic menu (there's prawn cocktail to start and sponge pudding to finish), though the main draw is its freshly battered fish and light, crisp chips.



2 IRIS

73 Salisbury Rd, NW6 6NJ
7372 1777 www.irisfashion.co.uk
10am-6pm Mon-Wed; 10am-7pm Thur-Fri;
10am-6pm Sat; 10.30am-4.30pm Sun

Providing moneyed villagers (of which there are plenty) with high-end fashion, Iris stocks a discerning mix of labels in an airy, girly boutique. Chic threads by APC, Humanoid and Isabel Marant hang alongside a small collection of designer children's clothing.

3 THE SALUSBURY

50-52 Salisbury Rd, NW6 6NN
7328 3286
www.thesalusbury.co.uk
5pm-11pm Mon; noon-11pm Tue-Wed;
noon-midnight Thur-Sat;
noon-11pm Sun

This bar and dining room has won a legion of fans with its convincing Italian menu and cosy pub interior, and it takes pride of place among three jointly owned and adjacent businesses that bear the name Salusbury. Pop next door for the Salusbury Wineshop (where you can try wines by the glass), or head two doors down for the Salusbury Foodstore – a fashionable deli and pizzeria.





4 CC'S CAKE SHOP & NAMA

*19 Lonsdale Rd, NW6 6RA
www.ccscaleshop.co.uk
/www.namafoods.com
9am-5pm Mon-Sun*

Two contrasting businesses share the same open-plan premises here: sleek café Nama serves a virtuous and dedicated raw food menu featuring elaborate dishes such as vegan lasagna and (nut) cheese boards. The homely CC's, meanwhile, encompasses a bakery and cookery school which runs classes ranging from pastry making to sushi rolling.

5 QUEEN'S PARK FARMERS' MARKET

*Salisbury Road Primary School,
Salisbury Rd, NW6 6RG
www.lfm.org.uk
10am-2pm Sun*

Queen's Park residents flock to this award-winning market each Sunday, so be prepared to sidestep regulars gassing with friends if you want to cover some thirty stalls selling free-range and organic groceries, as well as more unusual products such as oak-smoked garlic.



TURNHAM GREEN



Though situated a little north of Chiswick's main attractions, Turnham Green has established itself as the commercial heart of the area. To its south runs an incredibly scenic stretch of the Thames dotted with rowing clubs and pubs for walkers. Inland, Palladian villa Chiswick House attracts vast numbers of tourists, as does Hogarth's House – the former country pad of Georgian artist William Hogarth. For Londoners, the rather upmarket Chiswick Car Boot sale operates on the first Sunday of every month from the school on Burlington Lane, and the area's centuries-old brewing heritage means there are plenty of historic pubs to enjoy. Frustratingly, there's little to get excited about along Chiswick High Road itself, dwarfed as it is by standard high street restaurants and chains, but offshoots Turnham Green Terrace and Devonshire Road lay claim to a stronghold of independent retailers. On Turnham Green Terrace, a number of delis have made the street a destination for fans of fine food, and Foubert's Café (a local institution since 1980) is famous for its Italian ice cream. Devonshire Road, meanwhile, offers clothes boutiques, gift shops and the ramshackle Strand Antiques at number 46.



1 THE LAMB BREWERY

9 Barley Mow Passage, W4 4PH
8994 1880

www.lambbrewery.co.uk
11am-11pm Mon-Thur; 11am-1am
Fri-Sat; 11am-10.30pm Sun

This microbrewery, bar and dining room opened in 2012 in honour of the original Lamb Brewery that operated around the corner between 1790 and 1922. It brews eight craft beers and ales in its in-pub copper tanks, offering a more intimate alternative to a tour of nearby Fuller's Griffin Brewery, London's biggest independent beer maker.

2 FOSTERS' BOOKSHOP

183 Chiswick High Rd, W4 2DR
8995 2768

www.fostersbookshop.co.uk
10.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sat

The Foster family has run this tightly packed antiquarian store since 1968 and continues to acquire and sell a choice selection of rare books and first editions, together with volumes of local history and more general Penguin paperbacks and illustrated children's novels.





4 THE OLD CINEMA

160 Chiswick High Rd, W4 1PR
8995 4166

www.theoldcinema.co.uk

10am-6pm Mon-Sat; noon-5pm Sun

As its name implies, this antiques emporium was once a working picturehouse serving Chiswick locals in the early 1900s. Evidence of the building's original use survives, but the cavernous two-floor showroom is now crammed with attention-stealing homeware, ranging from opulent Art Deco dressers to polished steel factory furniture from the '50s.

3 LA TROMPETTE

5-7 Devonshire Rd, W4 2EU 8747 1836

www.latrompette.co.uk

Noon-2.30pm & 6.30pm-10.30pm

Mon-Sat; 12.30pm-3pm &

6.30pm-9.30pm Sun

La Trompette's Michelin star, refined décor and sophisticated French menu make it one of Chiswick's most prized neighbourhood restaurants. Owners Nigel Platts-Martin and Bruce Poole are also responsible for the superb Chez Bruce near Wandsworth Common and The Glasshouse in Kew, so you can be sure of a superlative dining experience.

5 TABARD THEATRE

2 Bath Rd, W4 1LW 8995 6035

www.tabardtheatre.co.uk

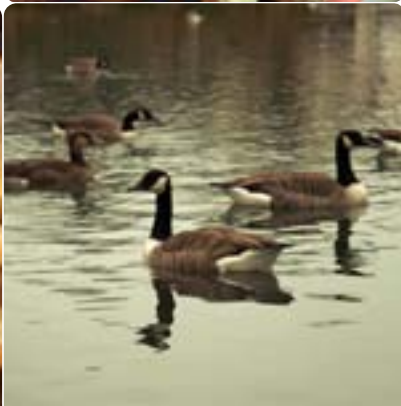
A studio theatre with strong family appeal, this 96-seat fringe venue lives above nineteenth-century pub The Tabard. It may feel a little humble, but its in-house productions have been known to transfer to the West End and embark on UK tours. It also hosts regular comedy gigs.



BARNES VILLAGE



Of all London's Thameside villages, Barnes is perhaps the most alluring. On any given day you'll see rowers powering down its snaking stretch of river, locals making the most of a scenic promenade and families feeding the ducks at the impossibly picturesque village pond. The Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race in April is a yearly highlight here, though the community's willingness to organise events mean there's always something worth pitching up for. Barnes lays claim to one of the biggest summer fêtes in London, for example, as well as an annual bonfire night and a weekly farmers' market. There's an antiques fair on the first Saturday of every month and nightly live jazz at the legendary music venue-cum-pub The Bull's Head on Lonsdale Road. All this civic activity, coupled with an idyllic setting, keeps demand for houses (and their prices) astronomically high. One of the most desirable spots is the river-facing Terrace where Gustav Holst (composer of *The Planets*) and Dame Ninette de Valois (founder of The Royal Ballet) once lived. You can spy their Blue Plaques among other sights on the two-kilometre circular Barnes Trail – just follow the metal markers embedded in the pavement.



1 ORANGE PEKOE

3 White Hart Lane, SW13 0PX 8876 6070

www.orangepekoeteas.com

7.30am-5pm Mon-Fri; 9am-5pm Sat-Sun

This bright and airy tea room makes much of its expertly sourced loose-leaf tea stored strikingly in large black tins. An informal afternoon tea includes a blend of your choice, billowing scones and a decent wedge of cake, all served on vintage crockery.

2 TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL

68 White Hart Lane, SW13 0PZ 8878 8902

www.tobiasandtheangel.com

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

It's not just the shop cat curled up on the sofa that makes Tobias and the Angel feel like home. Its creaky warren of rooms is furnished like a country house and shows off handcrafted furniture, vintage and new homeware, light shades, linens and hand-block-printed fabrics which are sold by the metre and used to make cushions, lavender bags and doorstops.

3 THE BROWN DOG

28 Cross St, SW13 0AP 8392 2200

www.thebrowndog.co.uk

Noon-11.30pm Mon-Sun

Barnes Common dog walkers and their canines tend to decamp in this pooch-friendly pub

where locally brewed cask ales are available on tap and bowls of water are dotted about on the floor. Ask the staff to snap a Polaroid photo of your pet and they may well add it to the doggy wall of fame.

4 THE OLYMPIC CINEMA

117-123 Church Rd, SW13 9HL

www.olympiccinema.co.uk

The Olympic Cinema opened in 2013, taking the place of the Olympic Sound Studios which famously played host to dozens of big names – The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Queen, The Who and U2 among them – who recorded here over a forty-year period. The boutique cinema now incorporates a chic dining room, café and tuck shop.

5 LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

Queen Elizabeth's Walk, SW13 9WT

8409 4400 www.wwt.org.uk

Nov-Mar: 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat

Apr-Oct: 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat

You'll see plenty of twitchers with flasks tucked under one arm and birdwatching guides under the other in this 105-acre Wildfowl And Wetlands Trust reserve. As well as a network of walkways and gardens, the centre offers an adventure playground, pond-dipping opportunities, an otter holt and guided tours.

LITTLE VENICE



Little Venice – a triangular-shaped pool where the Grand Union Canal and Regent’s Canal meet – is at the centre of a serene Paddington locale famous for its moored barges, leafy walkways and waterside pubs. Perversely, the evocatively named village couldn’t feel less Italian, particularly when the annual Canalway Cavalcade bobs into town. Established in 1983, the very British festival sees more than 100 dressed-up boats gather on the water for a summer pageant, while Morris dancers and a real ale bar fuel the fun. At any time of year, however, it’s normal to see bemused tourists intrigued by this countrified stretch of the city. To get a better feel for the area, it helps to wander off the waterway and explore Warwick Avenue’s well-hidden village shops. A small section of Formosa Street is where you can unearth the majority of the retail activity and a number of genuinely good local eateries, though there are also a few boutiques along Bristol Gardens. Ramble beyond here and you’ll be rewarded with spectacular local architecture which runs along majestic, tree-lined avenues. Make special note of the Italianate, mid-nineteenth-century housing on both Randolph Avenue and Warrington Crescent.



📍 HANDMADE INTERIORS

4 Formosa St, W9 1EE 7286 5100

www.handmadeinteriorsshop.co.uk
10am-6pm Mon-Fri; 11am-5pm Sat;
11am-4pm Sun

Textile and interior design duo Piyush Suri and Burcu Akin have taken inspiration from Turkish tiles and Scandinavian design symmetry to create a collection of screen-printed fabrics, soft furnishings and wallpapers. The pair sell their gorgeous pieces alongside homeware by other makers.

📍 THE PRINCE ALFRED & FORMOSA DINING ROOM

5A Formosa St, W9 1EE 7286 3287

www.theprincealfred.com
Noon-11pm Mon-Thur; noon-midnight
Fri-Sat; noon-10.30pm Sun

The Prince Alfred's original snug rooms, snob screens and decorative tiles make it one of the best examples of a late Victorian pub in London. The ornate bar is adjoined to the intimate Formosa Dining Room, which enjoys repeated recommendations in Michelin's Eating Out In Pubs guide.





5 THE WATERWAY

54 Formosa St, W9 2JU 7266 3557
www.thewaterway.co.uk
 Noon-11pm Mon-Fri; 10.30am-11pm Sat;
 11am-10.30pm Sun

The Waterway is fortunate enough to overlook the Grand Union Canal and its chief charm is a spacious outdoor terrace. Despite its alfresco allure, on a sunny day the restaurant-bar is up against stiff competition from the neighbouring Summerhouse (60 Blomfield Rd, W9 2PA), which is even closer to the water's edge.

† CLIFTON NURSERIES

5A Clifton Villas, W9 2PH
 7289 6851 www.clifton.co.uk
 Nov-Mar: 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat
 Apr-Oct: 9am-6pm Mon-Sat

Sandwiched between two houses on the residential Clifton Villas, this nursery has been incongruously located since 1851. It merits a visit even if you're not a garden owner, as its three interconnected shops stock pretty items for the home as well as garden-inspired gifts.



5 PUPPET THEATRE BARGE

Opposite 35 Blomfield Rd,
 W9 2PF 7249 6876
www.puppetbarge.com

This floating marionette theatre and local landmark opened back in 1982, and continues to present and tour productions for children and adults. If you don't have your sea legs, stick to dry land at the nearby Canal Café Theatre (Delamere Terrace, W2 6ND) which also programmes plays, comedy and cabaret.



GOLBORNE ROAD



Tourists often miss out on the delights of Golborne Road, unwittingly sticking to the main stretch of Portobello Road instead, and thanklessly battling with hordes of people who too have followed their guidebooks to the letter. Those who make their way toward the very north of Portobello Road will be rewarded with a far more casual shopping experience. Under the shadow of Ernő Goldfinger's infamous, 31-storey Trellick Tower, market sellers strew their jumble of bric-à-brac across rugs on the pavement, food stalls have space to offer seating, and shops range from secondhand furniture dens to contemporary gift stores. The substantial Moroccan, Lebanese and Portuguese communities here add an animated personality, as men sociably sip coffee in clamorous cafés and families eat freshly grilled fish served by Middle Eastern food vendors. It makes for a dynamic and intimate alternative to the more established and sprawling Portobello Road, though of course Golborne and Portobello are best visited together. Both areas share the same market days, with the majority of stalls open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Some traders work throughout the week, though mainly just the fruit and veg sellers.



1 UNITE & TYPE

341 Portobello Rd, W10 5SA

8964 4599

www.uniteandtype.com

10am-6pm Thur-Sat

A traditional printing press sits at the back of this shop, ready for regular in-store letterpress workshops.

The remaining space shows off printed cards and playful mugs, bowls and jugs made in a Staffordshire pottery. If you're feeling creative, note that the ceramics can be custom printed with your own typography.

2 GEORGE'S PORTOBELLO FISH BAR

329 Portobello Rd, W10 5SA

8969 7895

10.30am-11.30pm Mon-Fri;

10.30am-9pm Sat; noon-9.30pm Sun

George Periccos opened this fish and chip shop in 1961 and you'll still find him behind the counter making sure that fresh cod, haddock and plaice is battered and fried to his exacting standards. There's limited seating, so be prepared to take away – and to queue.



5 T&F SLACK SHOEMAKERS

32B St Lawrence Terrace, W10 5SX
8969 9100

www.tandfslackshoemakers.com
11am-6pm Mon-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat

Husband and wife duo Tim and Fiona Slack give classic British shoes a wickedly contemporary twist: there are brogues with bright soles, loafers stacked up on heels and Oxfords made from suede. By handcrafting the shoes in a London factory, they can also offer a custom service.

f JANE BOURVIS

89 Golborne Rd, W10 5NL 8964 5603

www.janebourvis.co.uk
12.30pm-6pm Tue-Fri; 10.30am-5.30pm Sat

Walking into this vintage bridal shop feels like wandering into Miss Havisham's dressing room. Dozens of antique lace dresses hang from the ceiling, corsets weigh down rails, and every available surface is topped with trinkets, strings of pearls and wind-up music boxes.

5 LISBOA PATISSERIE

57 Golborne Rd, W10 5NR 8968 5242

7am-7.30pm Mon-Sat; 7am-7pm Sun

It's hard to believe anyone could find a more heavenly custard tart outside of Portugal than at Lisboa. The patisserie's legendary *pastéis de nata* are the reason that patient punters stand in line daily, though its *palmiers* and *pão de lietes* (milk bread rolls) are equally worth waiting for.



CLARENDON CROSS



Whether you're arriving at Clarendon Cross from Ladbrooke Grove, or strolling up from Holland Park, you'll have the chance to admire rows of pastel-coloured houses lined up like Ladurée macarons in a box. These multimillion-pound properties were once the site of notorious slums known for their population of brick-makers and pig-keepers in the early 1800s and, later, impoverished and immigrant communities. Relics of the 'potteries and piggeries' era remain on Walmer Road where a tile kiln stands adjacent to the entrance of Avondale Park (itself once covered in pig slurry), and longtime residents still remember the area as infamously grotty right into the '60s. Clarendon Cross itself – a tiny spot with a big reputation – began life as a village of amenities in the early 1900s when there was a dairy and newsagent, a sweetshop and grocers. But the arty middle classes started arriving in the '70s, and the shops took on a more bohemian character. Gentrification took hold over the next twenty years and Clarendon Cross became a magnet for London's richest looking to raise their families in an attractive central locale. The mini village is now dominated by specialist homeware boutiques, and is a go-to destination for upmarket interior designers.



MYRIAD

131 Portland Rd, W11 4LW
7229 1709 www.myriad.me.uk
11am-6pm Tue-Thur & Sat

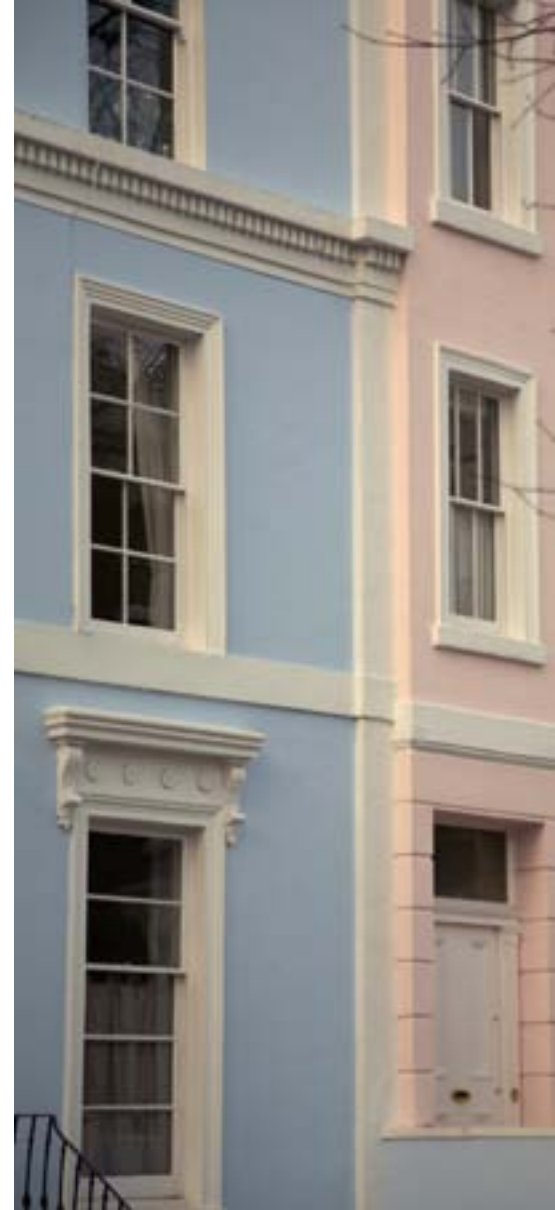
Sara Fenwick mixes antique finds from international markets with new stock and one-off commissions in this two-floor homeware store. Her style is casual luxury, so expect myriad farmhouse tables, bell jars, mirrors and battered leather armchairs.



JULIE'S

135 Portland Rd, W11 4LW 7229 8331
www.juliesrestaurant.com
10am-3.30pm & 7pm-11pm Mon-Fri;
10am-4pm & 7pm-11pm Sat-Sun

When it opened in 1969, Julie's arguably put the then down-at-heel Clarendon Cross on the map. A-list actors, fashion royalty and rock 'n' roll legends once flocked here, and you might still see the odd star in one of the restaurant's many intimate, shabby-chic rooms and alcoves.





3 VIRGINIA

98 Portland Rd, W11 4LQ 7727 9908

11am-6pm Mon-Sat (ideally by appointment)

Clarendon Cross's concentration of eccentrics and artists may be thinning these days, but long-serving establishments such as Virginia keep the area's unconventional personality alive. Virginia Bates opened up shop in 1971 and is renowned in the upper echelons of the fashion industry for her incredible collection of antique apparel from the 1850s to the 1930s.



4 THE TEMPLE GALLERY

6 Clarendon Cross, W11 4AP 7727 3809

www.templegallery.com

10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri (or by appointment)

Sir Richard Temple moved his Knightsbridge gallery to this address in 1989, bringing with him rare artefacts from the most niche of genres: Russian icons and Byzantine antiquities. An eminent expert on medieval sacred art, Temple curates laudable temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

5 THE CROSS

141 Portland Rd, W11 4LR 7727 6760

www.thecrossshop.co.uk

10am-6pm Mon-Sat

The Cross was one of the first of its kind in London: a lifestyle boutique covering an

inspiring blend of independent fashion labels, children's clothes, toys, gifts, accessories and jewellery. Every surface and rack of the shop's two floors is stuffed, making this a happily time-consuming place to visit.





INDEX

VILLAGES

Abbeville Village, 114
Barnes Village, 164
Bellenden Road, 92
Bermondsey Street, 38
Brixton Village, 98
Broadway Market, 134
Camden Passage, 68
Chelsea Green, 102
Clarendon Cross, 180
Columbia Road, 128
Connaught Village, 22

Crouch End, 58
East Bloomsbury, 28
East Dulwich, 86
Exmouth Market, 32
Golborne Road, 174
Hampstead Village, 78
Highgate Village, 62
Little Venice, 168
Lower Belgravia, 44
Marylebone Village, 10
Northcote Road, 108

Primrose Hill, 52
Queen's Park, 152
Shepherd Market, 16
Shoreditch Village, 144
Stoke Newington Church
Street, 74
Turnham Green, 158
Victoria Park Village, 138
Whitecross Village, 122

BARS, PUBS & GASTRO PUBS

5 Hertford Street, 17
Abbeville, The 116
Book Club, The 149
Brown Dog, The 167
Bull's Head, The 165
Cat & Mutton, 135
Elk in the Woods, The 69
Empress, The 139
Flask (Hampstead), The 82
Flask (Highgate), The 63

Garrison, The 39
Jolly Butchers, The 75
Lamb Brewery, The 160
Lamb, The 29
Lauriston, The 139
Montpelier, The 93
Pembroke Castle, The 53
Prince Alfred & Formosa Dining
Room, The 171
Queens, The 60

Salisbury, The 155
Shepherds Tavern, 20
Thomas Cubitt, The 47
Three Crowns, The 75
Victoria Inn, The 93
Waterway, The 172
Woolpack, The 39
Two Brewers, 123
Ye Grapes, 20

CAFÉS & RESTAURANTS

Abbeville Kitchen, 119
 Anderson & Co, 93
 Begging Bowl, The 97
 Blue Brick Café, 90
 Blue Legume, The 75
 Blue Mountain Coffee Shop, 87
 Book Club, The 149
 Breakfast Club, The 69
 Café Viva, 94
 Cakehole, 130
 Caravan, 33
 CC's Cake Shop, 156
 Clarks, 35
 Climpson & Sons, 135
 Cocomaya, 25
 Espresso Room, The 29
 F Cooke, 135
 Federation Coffee, 101
 Fix, 123

Foubert's Café, 159
 Franco Manca, 101
 Franklin's, 90
 George's Portobello Fish Bar, 177
 Haberdashery, The 60
 High Tea of Highgate, 66
 Homa, 75
 Honest Burgers, 99
 Jones Dairy, 132
 José, 39
 Julie's, 183
 Kipferl, 72
 L'eau à la Bouche, 136
 La Trompette, 162
 Le Boudin Blanc, 20
 Le Petit Boulanger, 119
 Lily Vanilli's, 129
 Lisboa Patisserie, 178
 Loafing, 139

Lock 7, 137
 Market Café, 135
 Medcalf, 36
 Melange Chocolate Shop
 & Café, 97
 Moro, 33
 Mr Fish, 154
 Nama, 156
 Nāmo, 139
 Orange Pekoe, 167
 Paper & Cup, 147
 Peggy Porschen, 48
 Pizarro, 39
 Primrose Bakery, 56
 Spence Bakery & Café, The 77
 Starbucks, 53
 Tom Aikens, 103
 Tom's Kitchen, 103
 Wild Caper, 99

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Zucono, 69
 Barbican Centre, 123, 125
 British Museum, 29
 Burgh House & Hampstead
 Museum, 83
 Curious Duke Gallery, 126
 Dickens Museum, 29

Dulwich Picture Gallery, 87
 Fashion and Textile Museum,
 42
 Horniman Museum and
 Gardens, 87
 Kenwood House, 67
 London Glassblowing, 43

Peckham Rye Multistorey
 Car Park, 93
 Prince's Drawing School, The
 149
 Temple Gallery, The 184
 Wallace Collection, The 14
 White Cube, 39

PUBLIC SPACES & VENUES

2 Willow Road, 79
 3 Corners Adventure
 Playground, 35
 Abney Public Hall, 75
 Alexandra Palace, 59, 60
 Avondale Park, 181
 Barbican Centre, 123, 125
 Brockwell Park, 87
 Bunhill Fields Burial Ground,
 125
 Bussey Building, The 93
 Camberwell College, 93
 Chiswick House, 159
 Church of St Leonard, 145
 Clapham Common, 109
 Clissold Park, 77
 Coram's Fields, 30
 Curzon Mayfair, 20
 Dulwich Library, 90
 Everyman Cinema, 81
 Fenton House, 79
 Fortune Street Park, 123

Grand Union Canal, 169
 Gray's Inn Gardens, 29
 Hackney City Farm, 132
 Hampstead Community
 Centre, 82
 Hampstead Heath, 63
 Highgate Cemetery, 64
 Highgate Literary & Scientific
 Institution, 66
 Hogarth's House, 159
 Hyde Park, 23
 Ironmonger Row Baths, 127
 Keats House, 79
 Kenwood House, 67
 Lauderdale House, 64
 London Fields, 135
 London Symphony Orchestra
 St Luke's, 123
 London Wetland Centre, 167
 London Zoo, 53
 Olympic Cinema, The 167
 Parkland Walk, 60

Pond Square, 63
 Primrose Hill, 53, 55
 Puppet Theatre Barge, 173
 Queen's Park, 153
 Queen's Wood, 59
 Regent's Canal, 135, 169
 Regent's Park, 53
 Roundhouse, 56
 Shoreditch Town Hall, 145
 Shortwave Cinema, 41
 Spa Fields, 33
 St John's Hyde Park, 26
 St Luke's & Christ Church, 103
 St Michael's Church, 63
 St Paul's Church, 75
 Stoke Newington Town Hall,
 77
 Tabard Theatre, 162
 Tyburn Convent, 23
 Victoria Park, 139, 141
 Wandsworth Common, 109
 Waterlow Park, 64

SHOPS**BEAUTY**

Angela Flanders, 129
 Floris, 45
 Geo F. Trumper, 19
 Hula Nails, 126
 Verde London, 111
 Whispers, 116

BOOKSHOPS

Daunt Books, 13
 Fosters' Bookshop, 160
 Paper & Cup, 147
 Persephone, 30
 Primrose Hill Books, 56
 Queen's Park Books, 153
 Review, 94
 Victoria Park Books, 142

FASHION

Aida, 147
 Annie's, 69
 Atelier Mayer, 25
 ChiChiRaRa, 87
 De Roemer, 26
 Felix & Lily's, 71
 Fenton Walsh, 95
 Fifi Wilson, 106
 Iris, 154
 Jane Bourvis, 178

Kooples, The 11
 Leftovers, 101
 North Cross Vintage, 87
 Philip Treacy, 47
 Scarlet Rage, 60
 T&F Slack Shoemakers, 178
 Virginia, 184
 Whistles, 11

FOOD & DRINK

Bottle Apostle, 139
 Cadenhead's Whisky Shop And
 Tasting Room, 11
 Cannon & Cannon, 101
 Cave, 42
 Chelsea Fishmonger, 103
 Cornercopia, 99
 Deli Downstairs, 139
 Dove, 110
 Fin & Flounder, 135
 Flock & Herd, 93
 Franklin's, 90
 Ginger Pig, The 139, 141
 Hamish Johnston, 111
 Haynes, Hanson & Clark, 103
 The Hive Honey Shop, 111
 Hope & Greenwood, 87
 Jago Butchers, 103

Jane Asher Party Cakes &
 Sugar Craft, 107
 Jeroboams, 45
 Jonathan Norris, 139
 Jones Dairy, 132
 La Fromagerie, 11
 MacFarlane's Deli, 119
 Melange Chocolate Shop &
 Café, 97
 Partridges, 55
 Paul Rothe & Son, 14
 People's Supermarket, The 30
 Persepolis, 93
 Philglass & Swiggot, 111
 Pie Man, The 103
 Salusbury Foodstore, 155
 Salusbury Wineshop, 155
 Shepherd Foods, 55
 Suck & Chew, 132

HOMEWARE & GIFTS

Ben Pentreath, 30
 Beyond Fabrics, 129
 Button Queen, The 14
 Caroline Bousfield's Workshop,
 142
 Cave, 42
 Chelsea Toys, 105
 Circus, 101

Clifton Nurseries, 172
 Colour Makes People Happy, 89
 Conran Shop, 11
 Cross, The 185
 Felt, 105
 French House, The 30
 GN Furniture, 36
 Hampstead Antique and Craft
 Emporium, 81
 Handmade Interiors, 171
 Haus, 141
 John's Garden Centre, 77
 Labour and Wait, 146
 Les Sardines, 117
 London Glassblowing, 43
 Loop, 73
 Myriad, 182
 Nook, 77
 Odyssey, 69
 Old Cinema, The 162
 Paper & Paint Library, 107
 Pierrepont Arcade, 72
 Roullier White, 89
 Ryantown, 130
 Skandium, 11
 Smug, 71
 Stella Blunt, 136
 Strand Antiques, 159
 Tobias and the Angel, 167

Toy Box, The 142
 Unite & Type, 177
 Vintage Heaven, 130
 VV Rouleaux, 11

SERVICES & SPECIALISTS

Anderson Wheeler, 19
 East Central Cycles, 36
 Family Business Tattoo Shop,
 33
 Film Shop, The 137
 Howarth, 11
 Lock 7, 137
 Mungo & Maud, 47
 Rebel Rebel, 135
 Tomtom Cigars, 48
 William Mansell, 26

MARKETS

Abbeville Farmers' Market, 115
 Barnes Farmers' Market, 165
 Bermondsey Square Antiques
 Market, 41
 Borough Market, 39
 Broadway Market, 135, 136
 Camden Passage Antique's
 Market, 69, 72
 Chiswick Car Boot, 159

Columbia Road Flower Market,
 129
 Golborne Road Market, 175
 Hampstead Antique and Craft
 Emporium, 81
 Hampstead Community
 Centre, 82
 Marylebone Farmers' Market,
 14
 Netil Market, 136
 North Cross Road Market, 87
 Northcote Road Antiques
 Market, 112
 Northcote Road Market, 109,
 110
 Pierrepont Arcade, 72
 Pimlico Road Farmers' Market,
 45
 Portobello Road Market, 175
 Queen's Park Farmers' Market,
 157
 Stoke Newington Farmers'
 Market, 75
 Whitecross Street Food
 Market, 123

