

Spring/Summer 2022

# MAIDA UNVEILED

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# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

John Zealley

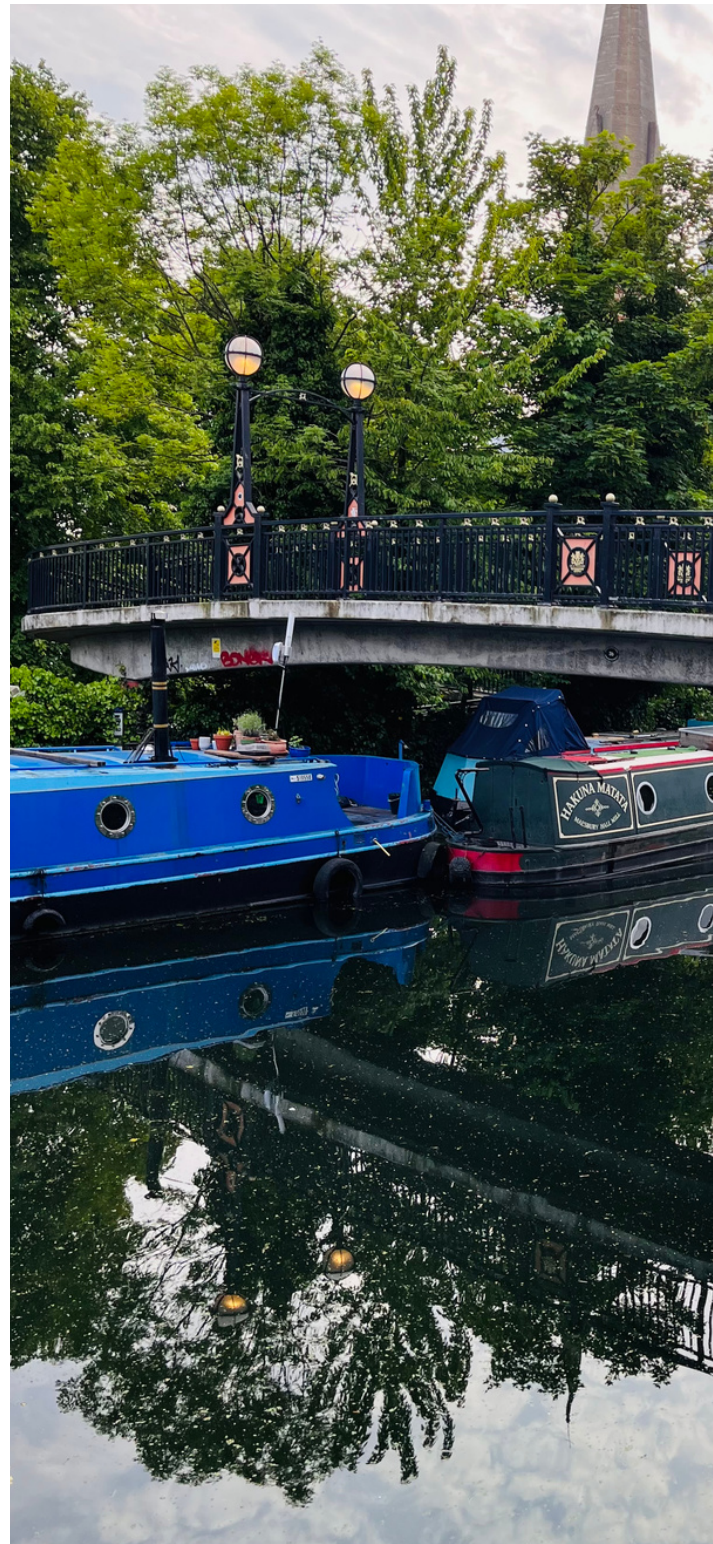
On the occasion of the Queen's 70th anniversary jubilee it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this special edition of Maida Unveiled, the journal of the Paddington Waterways & Maida Vale Society, your designated WCC Amenity Society for our area.

It's a good time to reflect on what the past 70 years have seen happen here in our area. We have moved from a time when a mix of war damage and unsatisfactory maintenance of many properties by uninterested landlords made for a pretty tired environment for those who chose to live here.

Today, we have a vibrant and diverse community, with well preserved historic fabric, green open spaces and a wide range of facilities available for all. Most dramatically this is seen around Paddington Station which has moved from being an area of post industrial dereliction to now being a lively area that draws visitors into our zone from around London and far further afield. Soon, we are likely to see further change when the appropriately named Elizabeth Line through central London comes into operation, connecting our area more directly to many of the growing hubs of London and beyond.

So, our collective challenge, along with the new WCC Leadership, will be how to make such change a source of opportunity for everyone within our area, whilst at the same time continuing to sustain and enhance the amenity and facilities we have learned to appreciate.

Examples of how PWMVS, working with WCC Councillors, have supported this has been the successful work to ensure that WCC refuse the application for the over development of the Travis Perkins site opposite Paddington central which would have led a significant negative impact on the Conservation Area and deterioration of the local amenity not least from loss of light to adjacent family flats.







We have also supported streetscape improvements to enhance pedestrian safety as well as playground improvements. This work will continue, as will our desire to find a way to encourage TfL to listen to the concerns of residents when their road schemes divert through-traffic on to residential streets.

In addition, we will be working hard to improve street safety; the adoption of active transport a major contribution to making our area 'greener', especially walking, requires our residents and visitors to feel safe when they walk around our area. We are looking to tackle known 'anxiety spots', not least the Porteus Road underpass, to ensure active transport is a benefit that all feel able to adopt.

If you would like to learn more about our work, then please do attend our Zoom AGM, which will be held in June - details will be posted on our website [W9W2.co.uk](http://W9W2.co.uk).

Until then, I leave you to turn the page and see what our hardworking editorial team have magic'd up for us in this edition.

John Zealley,  
May 2022







ISSUE  
7

MAIDA  
UNVEILED

SPRING/  
SUMMER 2022

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"The Views expressed in Maida Unveiled are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily of PWMVS"

*If you are a local business and would like to be included in our next issue, please contact our editorial office  
([alice.sinclair@w9w2.co.uk](mailto:alice.sinclair@w9w2.co.uk))*



CANAL CAFE THEATRE AND EMMA TAYLOR PRESENT:

# THE GREAT FRANK SYBILBY

## NEWSREVUE



'SATIRICALLY  
BRILLIANT'  
THE GUARDIAN

9:30PM  
THUR-SAT  
9:00PM  
SUN



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# KAREN BUCK

## Our local MP

When Covid-19 first struck, two years ago, it was vital that we worked together and ensured a massive, co-ordinated response to protect public health and prevent the economy collapsing. That didn't mean there weren't differences of view, or important questions to be answered, but there was a focus on overcoming a challenge unprecedented in modern times. Now in spring 2022, we need to learn from what went right (and wrong) and rise to a new set of challenges, many of which are closely linked. The soaring cost of energy and rising inflation generally, are driving the deepest cost-of-living crisis for decades. Much of this pre-dates the effect of the war in Ukraine, though that terrible conflict has also intensified energy cost pressures. Everyone is affected, with pensioners and others on low incomes particularly hard hit, as local foodbanks and advice agencies can testify. There are short term measures which could bring relief - a one-off tax on oil and gas giants to support households and small businesses, pensions and Universal Credit linked to current inflation rather than last September's rate, for example. The government's current offer, of £150 for households in council tax bands A-D and a repayable 'loan' later this summer, is simply insufficient and more will need to be done. However, both the costs spike and the Ukraine crisis, alongside the ever-more-urgent warnings about climate change, also drive home the central importance of improving our energy security by reducing our reliance on imported energy and fossil fuels, and improving insulation and boosting renewables. We've wasted too much time in recent years, with the latest government energy policy providing "nothing" more for energy efficiency, but re-opening debates about fracking and the Cambo oilfield. We can - we must - do better.

Whilst we cannot link any single weather event with climate change, we do know extreme weather is becoming more common and that this increases the risk of floods of the kind we saw locally last summer. With so many people affected in Maida Vale and Little Venice, I hosted a zoom meeting with the Chair of the Independent London Flood Review, Mike Woolgar, which was well attended and hopefully allowed local residents to put their points across.

The first interim report has now been released looking at 'what happened' and we now await the substantive findings into 'why' and 'how we can prevent it happening again'. Meanwhile we are also continuing to lobby for more flexibility in government support with insurance for flood victims.



As travel and tourism continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, we are also returning to some of the pressures resulting from the short-let/holiday let sector. Westminster had the highest proportion anywhere of entire homes listed on online short lettings currently with 13,039 homes being rented out! Not only does this involve the loss of badly needed permanent homes, too many of these lettings generate local concerns about anti-social behaviour, rubbish and noise. The government relaxed the rules in London in 2015, and I have been pressing since then for a proper registration scheme so we can reduce rule breaking. Last month I introduced a 'presentation bill' to Parliament to introduce a registration scheme, and although this needs government backing to become law, I will keep trying. Policing issues have also come very much to the fore in the last few months as well. The Metropolitan police service faces a massive recruitment challenge, with police numbers having been reduced by 20,000 in the last decade as a result of government funding cuts.





Together with natural changes, as police retire and leave, the service is now having to recruit closer to 50,000 people to get back to where we were in 2010, which means big challenges in terms of selection, training and supervision. The Met is also dealing with serious blows to public confidence arising from incidents like the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving officer, the revelations of unacceptable behaviour at Charing Cross police station, as well as the strip-searching of Child Q and the treatment of murder victims Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman. We need an effective, efficient police service to keep us safe and that means a service which upholds the highest standards and treats all members of our incredibly diverse city with respect and without discrimination.

It is good to know that the local MPS has accepted in full the recommendations of Operation Hotton - the investigation into local standards, and the Borough Commander has confirmed 'We will use them, along with our existing rebuilding trust plan and our strategy for inclusion, diversity and engagement, to drive forward lasting change that will help improve the public's confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service'.

Finally, many local people have offered support, and even homes, to Ukrainian refugees as we watch the horror the brutal consequences of the Russian invasion and my office has been busy trying to help progress visas which are being unreasonably delayed and caught up in bureaucracy. The contrast between the public's generosity and the harshness of the Home Office's systems is painfully striking and I hope lessons will be learned for this, as they were not after last summer's Afghanistan crisis. I welcome any comments on this (or any other issue), as always. With all good wishes.



**Karen Buck,**

**May 2022**





# AN UPDATE FROM OUR LITTLE VENICE COUNCILLORS

**T**hings have changed a lot since we last reported back to you a year ago on the pages of Maida Unveiled.

We continue to take up Little Venice residents' casework on all issues from planning to parking and as always pay particular attention to the needs of vulnerable residents at this difficult time. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who voted in the recent local elections. Cllr Melvyn Caplan and Cllr Lorraine Dean are pleased to have been re-elected to serve you and your neighbours in Little Venice for another four years. Matthew Green thanks everyone who voted for him and will continue to work to support Little Venice and its residents as a local community champion.

## Planning

It has been another busy year with regard to planning applications. We opposed the 32- storey tower at Paddington Green Station which will now be decided by the Mayor of London who has called in Westminster's rejection of the application.

We also successfully opposed the application for nearly 800 students at the Travis Perkins site on Harrow Road.

We supported the 20 new community supported flats for people over 60 that are currently being built at Adpar Street.

We also helped many residents with the large number of smaller household applications, both in support or in opposing the applications so as to protect and preserve the local heritage of our area.

## Improvements on our Estates

We were able to install new door entry and security gates on several blocks on the Hall Park Estate which have made a very significant difference to the reduction in issues of ASB that previously occurred in these blocks.

We also obtained funding that has enabled new security fencing to put up around the children's playground in John Aird Court and works will start in the next few weeks to resurface the sports pitch and to replace the goalposts and redo the lines for basketball and football on these pitches.

## Ward Budget

The end of the four-year cycle of ward budgets saw a number of new projects funded by us.

We continued with the 156 hanging baskets across the ward, but were also able to fund a number of new projects in the last year.

We used the ward budget to resurface the courtyard area of Fleming Court and the entrance to it.

We added three new cycle hangers to bring the total to 15 in the ward.

We also funded a local basketball club for young people with special educational needs and provided new funding for the local boxing club that gives kids an alternative to gangs.

We were also able to support the shops in Clifton Road with funding for the Christmas lights and trees.

As the new cycle of funding begins, we are always pleased to hear about local projects that we can consider for funding in our area.

## Improving Pedestrian Safety

We are pleased that a pedestrian crossing phase at the junction of Blomfield Road and Edgware Road is finally happening.

This scheme has been delayed for a number of years by TFL, albeit it is entirely funded through the council. These works began in April and will be completed in the coming weeks.





This comes on top of the pedestrian phase crossings at Sutherland Avenue/Shirland Road and Warwick Avenue/Blomfield Road that were completed in 2021.

#### **Parsons North/Venice Court**

Earlier this year the council developed building was completed and it provided 19 affordable homes for local residents.

We were delighted that a number of overcrowded families from the Hall Park Estate were able to move into more suitable and larger accommodation in this new block. There will also be a new community hall for local residents that should be completed this month.

#### **Thames Water and Flooding**

We continue to support a large number of residents that were affected by the flooding on July 12 th last year.

We have secured funding of £10M from Thames Water that will pay for flood alleviation measures for some of the most affected properties in the form of Non- Return Valves, Flaps and Flaps that are fitted within properties or in the sewer system itself.

Thames are currently contacting affected residents to discuss these measures.

#### **Electric Charging Points**

We are committed to increasing rapidly the number of charging points and we already have more than any other council in London.

There are 87 in Little Venice Ward and we will continue to help residents getting additional one's in roads within the ward.

#### **Keeping in touch**

If you wish to contact any of us, you can phone the Little Venice Conservative councillors' hotline on 0207 289 9929 or email us at [littlevenice@westminsterconservatives.com](mailto:littlevenice@westminsterconservatives.com). You can also write to us at 2 Lanark Mews, London W9 1RY.

**Cllr Melvyn Caplan,  
Cllr Lorraine Dean,**

**Little Venice Ward  
Conservative  
Councillors**

**May 2022**



**Little Venice Ward also  
welcomes Sara Hassan,  
newly elected Labour  
Councillor -who we look  
forward to hearing from  
in the next issue of Maida  
Unveiled.**







# AN UPDATE FROM OUR MAIDA VALE COUNCILLORS

## Election Results

The local elections of 5th May were hard fought and resulted in the first Labour administration in Westminster since its creation in 1964. The winning manifesto is called A Plan for a Fairer Westminster and you can read it here

<https://www.westminsterlabour.org.uk/manifesto-labours-plan-for-a-fairer-westminster/>

In Maida Vale, we again won all three councillors and with a greatly increased majority which grew from 59 to over 500. We are very pleased welcome Iman Less to the Maida Vale team. She replaces Rita Begum who has moved a short way to the North and is now representing Kilburn on Brent Council.

Cllr Geoff Barraclough and Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis also have executive roles in the new administration. Nafsika is Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and the Voluntary Sector. Geoff is Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development.

You can see the full Westminster election results here

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/about-council/democracy/elections-referendums-and-how-vote/local-elections-5-may-2022>

and read our Plan for A Fairer Westminster.

## Flooding

Many local residents affected by the floods of 12 July 2021 are still not back in their homes. Others are struggling with insurance claims and unhelpful landlords.

The independent London Flooding Review (<https://londonfloodreview.co.uk>) has completed the second of its four reports. The results, so far, indicate that the high tide on the evening of 12th July played an important role in the extent of the flooding as Thames Water's sewers could not discharge their overflow into the Thames.

The third report, due soon, will look at how well Thames Water's assets performed on the night in question.

Insurance is becoming an important issue as many residents have found it either significantly more expensive or, sometimes, impossible to obtain cover against future flooding. Along with Karen Buck MP, we have been pressing the Minister for Flooding to extend Flood Re so include many more homes in our area. This scheme is meant to ensure that flooded properties can still get insurance but houses divided into more than three flats are excluded. This rules out the majority of street properties in central London.

## Lower Kilburn High Road

We're pleased that the Lower Kilburn High Road improvements are finally underway. These include a refuge crossing at the junction with Kilburn Park Road and a permanent bus lane heading North.

## Foxes

We have had many complaints about foxes in the local area. Foxes can be very noisy and annoying but are not considered vermin. There are strict rules about how they can be controlled. Please do not feed the foxes. It only encourages them.

## HMOs

Rules on Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) changed last year. Any flat with more than three people from two families is now considered an HMO and requires a licence from Westminster Council. This includes flats in purpose-built blocks. You can find more details here: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/houses-multiple-occupation>.





### **Paddington Rec**

We had a very positive meeting with Westminster Council staff about Paddington Rec. The new tennis courts have been delivered and there are plans to refurbish the rest of the courts too.

The council have also committed a £50K budget to refurbish the paths in the park that are most in need of work.

We are also pleased that the council have removed the planning application for installing a smart screen in the park (and thank you to everyone who commented on the planning application). The staff are having a re-think and would still like to install a screen but either without removing the monkey bars at all or by re-providing the monkey bars to a different area of the park.

### **Petition on Inclusive playgrounds**

We are pleased to hear that after the petition we launched, Westminster council is scoping the playground on Alfred Road (in Westbourne ward) to be refurbished with equipment that will be inclusive of children with disabilities and additional needs. Thank you to everyone who signed the petition, and if you haven't done so already, please sign it here

<https://www.westminsterlabour.org.uk/ward-news/maida-vale/2022/03/29/westminster-playgrounds/>

so we can continue demonstrate resident support for schemes like this.



**Cllr Geoffrey Barraclough  
Cllr Nafsika Thalassis,  
Cllr Iman Less,**

**Maida Vale Labour Councillors**

**May 2022**





# PUTTING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING TO WORK

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is one of two types of financial developer contribution collected by local authorities (the other being section 106) and it is specifically designed to support the delivery of new infrastructure arising from new development and to ensure that growth is effectively and positively managed in the interest of Westminster communities.

CIL is divided between the City Portion (known as the 'strategic' pot) and the Neighbourhood Portion. While the City Portion is spent by the Council on delivering the infrastructure needed to support growth, the Neighbourhood Portion is divided among the 21 Neighbourhood areas to address the demands of development within their area.

Subsequently Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society now has access to this Neighbourhood funding from developments within our area and are putting these funds to work on our patch.

Our first project was the creation of 'Paddington Small World' play area within Paddington Recreation Ground, for young children and their parents to enjoy. Nearby we also replaced the dilapidated youth shelter with a mini rotunda replicating the full sized rotunda at the top end of the grounds. As the photo shows, the new shelter is provided with solar panels for charging points!

Our next project involved significant widening of the pavement area in Blomfield Rd overlooking Brownings Pool on the canal. This footway was pretty much non existent with pedestrians forced to walk in the roadway, and was quite dangerous. As the before and after photos show, we have created a much widened space to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike!

We currently also have a scheme in Elgin Avenue where we have funded the feasibility study, and have progressed it to the final design stage, and are now awaiting approval from the Westminster CIL Committee to proceed with the work. This scheme involves greening of sections of the central reservation area, provision of more cycle racks, and creating more shared use parking spaces.

Finally, the society has been working with St John's Wood WCC Councillors and the Canal's and Rivers Trust to reopen the Aberdeen Place steps and tow path access to the Lisson Grove tunnel. We are pleased that this has now come about, after approaching 7 years and so the Jubilee Greenway is reinstated for the Queens' Platinum Jubilee.

We are always on the lookout for worthwhile projects for our CIL funds, so please let us know if you have any worthy suggestions.

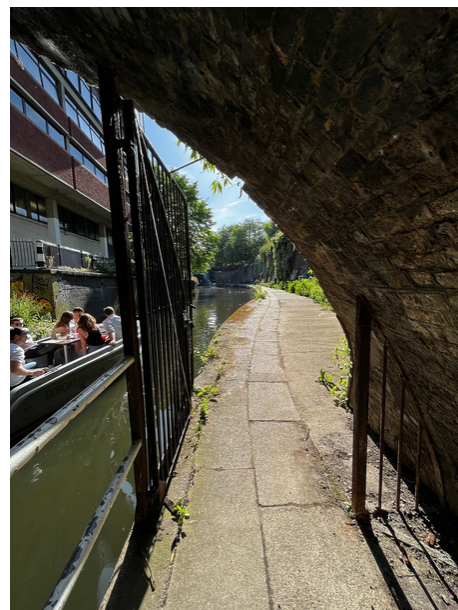
**Paul Newman,**

**May 2022**





*Widening of the pavement area in Bloomfield Rod overlooking the Browning's Pool Canal.  
Left: before the works. Right: after the works*



*Left: Aberdeen Place steps. Right: tow path access to the Lisson Grove tunnel*





# STREET SAFETY

## Sharing space on the streets, how it can impact women, and what can potentially be done?

*Opinion piece by a local Psychotherapist, and Woman's Rights Activist*

SUMMER! It's that time of year again when can start to see evidence of the change in season; flowers peeping, increased outdoor activities, shirtless men. Oh and it's also the time of year where less layers are required, so women feel more exposed and at risk on the street.

As a Psychotherapist it is really important to find ways to keep grounded when you are working with clients. Walking is my preferred method, which means stepping out onto busy streets if you live in London, as I do. Doing this every day over a lengthy period of time has given me large amounts of exposure to the misogynistic behaviours that still go unchecked. Those little somethings that seem like nothing.

When a man runs too close, stares intently, or catcalls it can trigger a trauma defence response, taking the survivor straight back to the traumatic experience itself. This happened to me on one of my walks in the park. Four men ran past me, from behind, so close one brushed my arm. I became uncontrollably angry. I was screaming "This is my effing space what are you doing!?" They seemed to find it amusing and didn't change their pace. I was left in a state of confused dreaminess, until an acute feeling of shame jolted me back into consciousness. I stopped going out as much and became very nervous of male interaction, even friends. What happened was a trauma based response stemming from an early life personal experience of gender based violence (GBV), which resulted in PTSD. The actions of these men had triggered a PTSD reaction. When you get triggered a part of your brain called the amygdala goes into fear mode and floods your body with a bout of stress hormones and the sympathetic nervous system goes 'offline'. Leaving you with strong fight/flight or freeze responses.

One in three women have experienced GBV - which means it is highly likely that one in three women suffer from some form of PTSD. These are women sharing the same street space as you. They are likely to be triggered by an invasion of personal space, such as running too close and also staring intensely and catcalling.

In a recently published book MAKING SENSE OF MICRO AGGRESSIONS Author Susan Cousins wrote "Micro aggressions are forms of everyday oppression that tend to go unseen and unacknowledged. They contain subtle undertones... that are both unintentional and deliberate".

I came across Susan Cousins in a Student of Colour and Allies Group for training Psychotherapists. For me she explains beautifully the impacts that racial micro-aggressions have on people of colour. This in turn got me thinking about how women experience outdoor/public spaces and how easily and regularly our primal responses can be activated. Do these 'somethings that seem like nothing' I have been experiencing come under the micro-aggressions category? Could these examples then perhaps give Society something more tangible to work with when looking at how to manage the issue of street safety for women? I want to add 'Street level' in front of micro aggressions to direct attention towards how they materialise daily against all women who merely step onto the street. The impact that they have on women and how they form part of the root of gender based aggression. Violence which can ultimately result in brutal street murders such as those of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa and more recently Yasmin Chkaifi.





After walking daily and speaking to many different women around the borough of Westminster and beyond - broadly street level micro-aggressions fall into three main categories:

**"running too close"**

Myself and every woman I know has, at some point in their lives, had the experience of men (in lycra) running/cycling too close. Often on their own trajectory and completely unable or willing to change or adjust it.

I have muddled many pairs of trainers and wound up in bushes dodging this 'entitlement in lycra'. A girlfriend got knocked into Regent's canal once. There is a latent expectation that women will be subservient and change trajectory.

**"staring"**

I don't mean a natural glance. I mean holding eye contact up to the point where it's an invasive display of domination and objectification. It is scary especially if it is not a busy street. It's more prevalent with men in packs, or you get that male on the tube who weaves his head around poles and seats so he can lock both eyes with a clear view. It reminds me of KAA, the snake from THE JUNGLE BOOK. This is so common, hugely intimidating and triggering.

**"making noises?"**

This is widely known as catcalling, men making noises to bring you to look their way. It's a vulgar and invasive method to coercively gain your attention.

So far this year I have accumulated 4 pssspsssses. One for each month. I think this one needs the least explanation as to why it is wrong. Just no.

As a therapist I have seen first hand in my clients the impacts of micro-aggressions. Where do these triggered feelings go? Women are supposed to process them and it adds yet another layer to managing the mental strain that misogynistic behaviour puts on women. Sometimes the accumulation and exposure can trigger life threatening issues like agoraphobia, eating disorders, self harm and suicide.

To demonstrate and quantify how regularly women face these aggressions, I started to give myself a point for each time I experienced a SLMA, I did this for three months. I have walked the same 5 miles, 5 days a week, at the same time every day round a Central London Park. If you count one point for each of the above three types of SLMA. I got a score of 103 in 60 weekdays. They started to increase- in fact almost doubled- as the weather improved.

**Why?**

It is most likely unconscious, so the purpose of this article is to bring you into consciousness, to be aware and take responsibility that as a man what is 'normal' to you could be triggering for the women that share the streets with you.



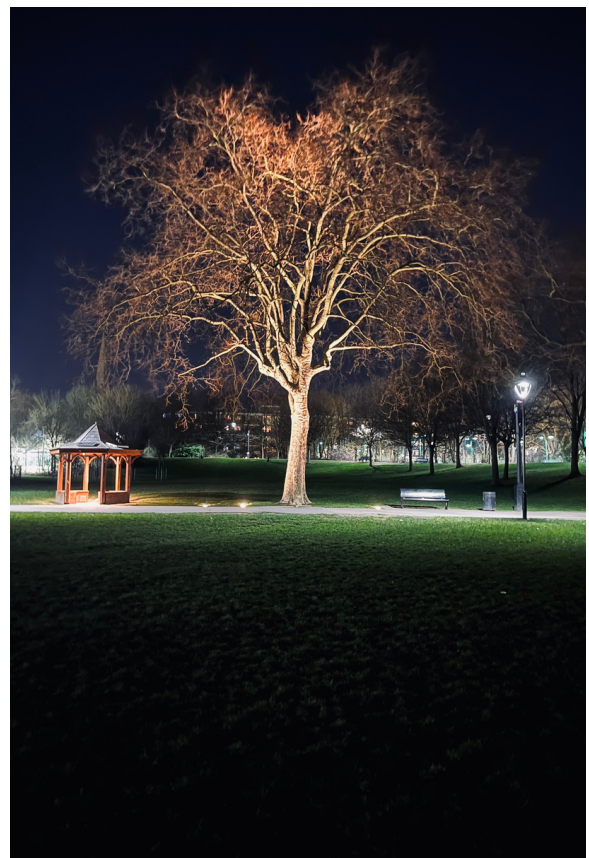
From an Anthropological perspective; is it the density of the city population that aids the masking of these street violations. In a village you are more likely to be held accountable by the sociological structure of people being connected more tightly. In a city, a snake can move through, undetected. So how do we keep women safe? In the wake of the recent (long overdue) London Mayoral campaign on street safety; If men are aware of these micro aggressions then they can practice being accountable for themselves and holding other men accountable too.

#### How?

If YOU see a woman being stared at, shoulder barged, catcalled, then do your best to expose.. Raise your voice, tell everyone, its less likely that the perpetrator will continue post public exposure.

If you see a man running too close to a woman, stop them, ask them if they are aware of the impact?

Small steps that could cumulatively make communal spaces equally communal for all. These small changes by men that could amount to something big for women. Narrowing the gap of unequal freedoms, when it comes to street safety for women.



*Park in the dark*





ISSUE  
7

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# THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

MAIDA VALE STUDIOS IN 1953

THE ELIZABETH LINE

QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY





# MAIDA VALE STUDIOS

By Robert Bruce

**T**he BBC's Maida Vale Studios have brought the sound of music alive in all its different forms over the last century. From Beethoven to the Beatles, from Adele to Paul Weller. And the music is still, just, going strong. Robert Bruce has been listening to the vibe of the last hundred years.

We are coming into the season that sees a steady stream of musicians emerging from Warwick Avenue or Maida Vale tube stations and walking determinedly in the direction of Delaware Road. You can identify them as musicians by the instrument cases they are carrying. Some have violins, others unidentified woodwind, the odd French horn, or a trumpet or two. It is like an annual migration. Early July is the start of the BBC Proms, the world's biggest music festival, and Delaware Road is home to the BBC Studios which for generations has also been home to rehearsals and performances right across the musical spectrum. It is convenient too for the Proms musicians.

The Royal Albert Hall, where the Proms largely take place, is just the other side of Kensington Gardens. And in the days when Daniela's on Shirland Road was a simple café nearby, lunchtimes in late summer teemed with musicians. Principal timpanists munched good Italian focaccia alongside viola players. Sadly all this is coming to an end, and not just because Daniella's was reborn as a restaurant.

There has been a long battle between the management of the BBC and the musical world. Management cited the age of the building. The musical world embraced its lengthy heritage as a place where everyone from Sir Adrian Boult and the BBC Symphony Orchestra to David Bowie, the Beatles and Paul Weller, a local resident, have performed. Small boys then, now long grown-up, recall with joy the hunting of autographs at the front door of the studios. The ghosts of the entire history of popular music over the last century live within its walls.







And not just Queen, the riotous rock band, but remembering in this jubilee year The Queen, who visited the studios just before her Coronation all those years ago.

Five years ago the BBC announced that the studios would close in 2023 and move to the other side of London to the Government-encouraged cultural hub in Stratford, East London, a legacy of the 2012 Olympics. A fight over the actual buildings themselves ensued. In mid-2020 Historic England added the studio buildings to its List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The BBC then appealed against the Listing. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport turned down the appeal earlier this year. The legal tit-for-tat continues.

The BBC would obviously prefer to sell the buildings to a developer who could raze them to the ground and build a block of, inevitably, luxury apartments.

The music world and the good people of Maida Vale would prefer the concert and studio complex to keep its character and remain as it is. It is all a far cry from the days when it was first built to cash in on the great craze for roller-skating arenas in the years immediately before and after the First World War.

The Maida Vale Roller Skating Palace and Club opened in 1909 on what had been an area of allotments. It was, briefly, a huge success and boasted of being one of the largest and most elegant rinks in the world with hundreds of skaters, a resident band and refreshments available. But crazes can be short-lived. It closed in 1912. There was a brief intermission while the building housed the Ministry of Health's insurance department until, rebuilt and transformed, it reopened as the BBC's Maida Vale Studios in 1934.







It was Britain's largest studio complex and it drew musicians to Maida Vale. The great star band leader of the time, Henry Hall, moved to Randolph Mews, for example. A blue plaque records his time there. Then despite evacuations during the war and bomb damage the studios took up where they had left off.

In September of 1946 it saw the launch of what was then called The Third Programme, what is now Radio 3, the main classical music and culture station. Sir Adrian Boult was on hand to conduct a concert of British music. The main concert hall can hold 150 orchestral players, 120 singers and 200 lucky souls in the audience. A fine tradition grew up whereby tickets were free to the public, most recently via online ballots. And the great strength of the place was that as studios it didn't get bogged down with recording individual albums lengthily for weeks.

It is devoted to short sessions for broadcast and as a result it became the busiest recording studio in the world.

It has been packed ever since with musicians making one-off recordings as well as orchestras recording a concert either live or for later broadcast. The John Peel sessions pulled in everyone from David Bowie, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, the Clash, The Verve and Pink Floyd. In the early days of their fame in 1963 The Beatles did a regular programme from there called 'Pop Go The Beatles'. A famous photograph shows the rest of The Beatles giving Paul McCartney his 'birthday bumps' in Delaware Road outside the studios the day before his 21st birthday.



*Left: The Beatles giving Paul McCartney his 'birthday bumps' in 1963.  
Right: For fun, PWMVS recreated the photo with committee members bumping our Chair, John Zealley.*





He could not have predicted that he would be back in the studios for a programme talking through his song-writing career when he reached his 80th birthday. Meanwhile the eccentricities pile up. In Studio 3 a plaque on the wall tells you that in 1977 Bing Crosby, the superstar crooner of the mid years of the last century, made his last broadcast from there, three days before he died of a heart attack on a golf course in Spain. If you lift up the metal cover in the floor of what used to be Studio 7 you find the river Westbourne rushing by on its way to the Serpentine and, via a huge pipe up in the roof of Sloane Square tube station, to the Thames. And in its golden days of the late 1950s and 1960s the BBC Radiophonic Workshop created some of the most extraordinary, weird and wonderful music of its time.

The genius of both Daphne Oram and her experimental sound machines, (one named Delaware after the road outside), and Delia Derbyshire's quirky electronic creativity led to sonic wonders. These included the Doctor Who theme, and deeply embedded in my own childhood memories, the astonishing sounds of Major Bloodnok's stomach exploding in the Goon Show of Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe. Whatever happens to the future of the studios Maida Vale will have seen ninety years of the most extraordinary contribution to British musical life. It has been a cultural hotbed of the nation's music in its broadest sense. All tucked away in an old roller-skating rink in the midst of leafy and bucolic Maida Vale.





# THE ELIZABETH LINE

## The Queen makes a surprise visit to Paddington Station

Given reports of the health of the Queen, there hadn't really been much expectation that Her Majesty would be able to attend the opening of the Elizabeth line at our very own Paddington Station!

Nevertheless she persisted and the Head of State arrived on the morning of Tuesday the 17th of May readily dressed in (Circle Line) yellow to give her Royal seal of approval.

The Queen was accompanied by her son, Prince Edward, who was lined up for covering official duties in her absence.

The Head Of State was greeted by the Prime Minister, the Mayor of London and the TFL Commissioner.

Her Majesty then unveiled a new blue plaque, spoke with some of the project key workers and was given an Oyster card to try out! A customer service assistant showed the Monarch how to top up the Oyster card, telling her:

*"If I just give you this ticket here, you just put it by the yellow reader right here."*

*"Oh there?"* the Queen replied.

*"Perfect and you see in the screen here it says you have got £5, and if you want to top up here's £5 and £10."*

*"And where might I go?"*

*"You can go all the way from here to Abbey Wood."*

*"Oh nice, splendid."*



*Above: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Edward at Paddington Station*



The Elizabeth Line is expected to transform travel across London and the south-east quite dramatically by improving transport links, cutting journey times, providing additional capacity, and transforming accessibility with spacious new stations and walk-through trains.

According to the TFL website here is what to expect in the next coming weeks of the line opening:

*From 24 May 2022 (subject to final safety approvals)*

*Services currently running as TfL Rail will be rebranded to the new Elizabeth line*

*The central section opens, adding nine new stations to the TfL network (Bond Street will open to Elizabeth line customers later in 2022)*

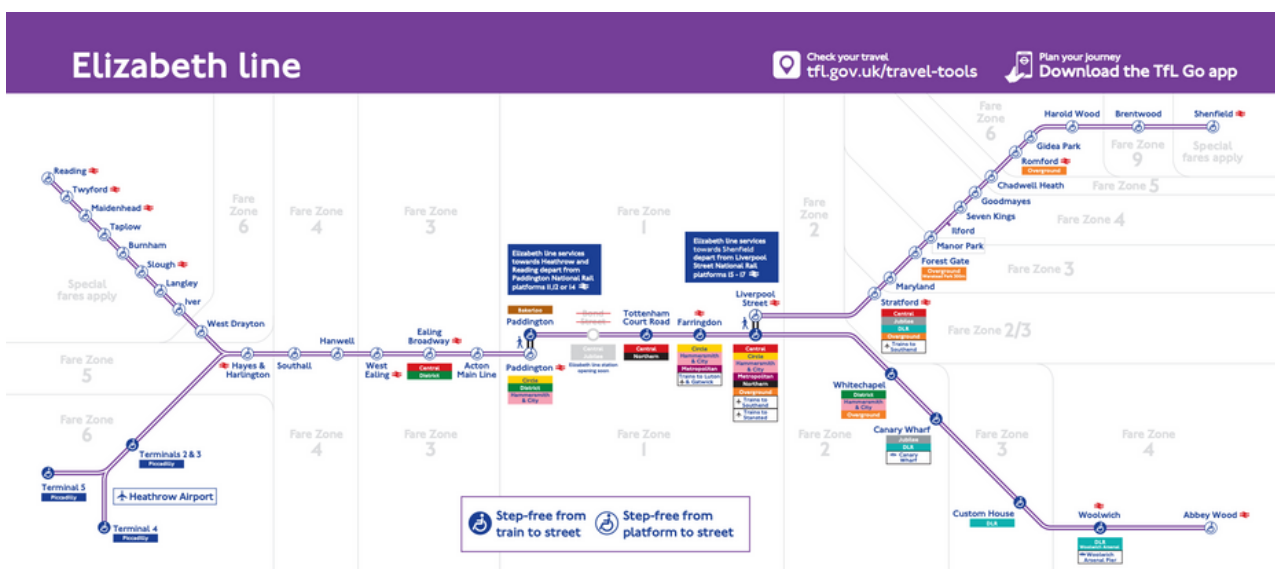
*Service will start with 12 trains an hour (a train every 5 minutes) running between Paddington and Abbey Wood from 06:30-23:00, Monday to Saturday. (Work will continue outside those hours and on Sundays to allow for any testing and software updates needed before higher frequency services start in autumn 2022)*

The excavation works that took place during the project gave archaeologists a valuable opportunity to explore the earth underneath London's streets that was previously seen as inaccessible.

Crossrail undertook what was described as one of the most extensive archaeological programmes ever seen in the UK. Over 100 archaeologists have found tens of thousands of items from 40 sites, spanning 55 million years of London's history and prehistory.

Some of the most notable finds include:

- Victims of the Great Plague
- Thirteen skeletons, thought to be of victims of the Black Death in the 14th century
- A Tudor period bowling ball
- Medieval ice skates
- Roman coins and a Roman medallion
- Leather shoes dating from the Tudor period
- A Victorian chamber pot







# THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

Over the course of each year, The Queen welcomes over 30,000 guests to spend a relaxed summer afternoon in the beautiful gardens of Buckingham Palace or the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Garden Parties are an important way for The Queen to speak to a broad range of people from all walks of life, all of whom have made a positive impact in their community.

This May set the return of the Queens Garden party at Buckingham Palace, and Committee member and Editor Alice Sinclair was invited by the head of state to attend, in acknowledgement of the achievements that had been made in light of the response to the pandemic.

Alice and her team of over 100 volunteers delivered well over 15,000 masks to St Mary's hospital when PPE was scarce and much in need, the team raised over £20,000 in donations, which went to feeding the hospital staff, and people struggling in community for well over a year.

We asked Alice what her garden party experience was like:

*"On the day of the garden party itself the atmosphere was delightfully British, in the sense that it poured with rain and the queues were long.*

*However in true British style, it was all about the 'keep calm and carry on' attitude and the guests had much fun sharing weather complaints and celebrating each others achievements, while enjoying the surrounding gardens and wonderful tea, cake and sandwiches, and rather nice Palace guards, wink."*

Written by Julia Wilson

May 2022



*Above: Committee member and editor Alice Sinclair on the day of the garden party, showing the letter of invitation*



# CAVALCADE WITH CATS

I had my own narrow boat and my cat, Derek, usually came boating with me.

The first year we went to Cavalcade we were moored near the cafe boat and the blue bridge (Delamere Terrace to Blomfield Road). Derek didn't like it there. It was too busy and no greenery, so he went out - and didn't return! I was devastated and went around calling his name. He answered me from the toll house garden, the other side of the bridge.

He did not return to the boat until the Festival ended and it was quiet again. After that I always shut him in during the day.

Boats moored in Paddington Basin had to leave by the Tuesday morning following the Bank Holiday Monday, the last day of Cavalcade. The commercial trip boats then wanted to return to their normal moorings. On Tuesday most of my time was taken with the delivery of a new (to me) cooker. I had to leave for work straight afterwards with no time to move the boat. I then had 2 cats. Oscar had joined us. I made sure both were locked in.

On return from work there was no sign of my boat! Other boaters told me that British Waterways (the navigation authority at that time) had been seen towing my boat (with cats) along the canal towards St. Magdalen church and footbridge. I found my boat moored three boats out. We had to moor boats abreast as many owners could not leave until the following weekend.

My 'Boys' always went out in the evening, and so did I. Then I had a phone call one evening from the owners of the next boat to say that Oscar was aboard their boat. Both cats wore a collar with their names and my number. Oscar, unlike Derek did not have a good homing trail so did not always find his way directly back home.

By the church was a good mooring for the 'Boys' with its bushes and greenery and I often moored there after the Festival.

Subsequently my mooring at Cavalcade was on Rembrandt Gardens. Ideal for the 'Boys' after the crowds had gone.

I boated the whole canal system with my cats, shutting them in during the day when they usually slept and opening up the boat when I'd moored for the evening. There were of course a few more 'adventures' and extended stays at places where meals out were better than I provided inside the boat.

Sadly I no longer have the cats and have had to give up the boat, but I still enjoy going to Cavalcade.

**Aileen Butler, Committee member for the Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society**

**May 2022**



*Above: the cat Derek photographed in Aileen's boat.  
Photo by Aileen Butler.*





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*Pictures taken by Robert Bruce at this year's Cavalcade 2022*



# NORTH PADDINGTON YOUTH CLUB

**N**orth Paddington Youth Club is excited to open its doors into a new facility based on Lanark Road. Welcoming all young people in the local area.

The club is for young people aged 8 - 21 years old (25 years old if disabled), from all backgrounds and abilities.

The fantastic Club offers a number of new and modern facilities including a sports hall, music room, ICT suite, lounge area, sensory room for young people with Special Educational Needs, a commercial kitchen, counselling rooms, an equipped gym as well as a multi purpose gym.

The new building is Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant with a lift and appropriate facilities on each level.

NPYC's modern, dynamic, state of the art building gives a phenomenal opportunity for a varied programme of on-site activities for the members as well as offering the wider community the opportunity to hire parts of the provision when the premises is not open to members.

NPYC has always worked in partnership with local organisations in order to ensure that they deliver maximum benefit to the greatest number of local people. The impact of their work on not just the future lives of our young people but the wider community cannot be overstated.

NPYC's work ensures that responsible young people become responsible young adults who care about their community and who contribute and give back to it.

We spoke to the club manager Ronnie and he told us this:

*"The redevelopment took nearly 6 years but finally North Paddington Youth Club has opened up to local children, young people and the wider community in Maida Vale W9.*

*It will be offering a wide range of activities for children and young people aged from 8 - 21 years of age (up to the age of 25 if you have additional needs / disability).*

*Junior Club for 8 - 11 year olds from 3.30pm - 6pm (Wednesday - Friday)*

*Youth Club for 12 - 21 year olds from 6.30pm - 9.30pm (Wednesday - Saturday & 2pm - 5pm on Sundays)*

*We will be operating 5 nights / sessions a week during term time (Wednesday to Sunday) and funding permitting we will be running additional activities / sessions during each of the school holidays including trips out and residencials."*



*The new sports hall at North Paddington Youth Club*





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# LOCAL ARTISTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

SAMANTHA MORRIS

YILHEM OUBAICHE





# THE LOCAL ARTISTS, AND SOME EASTER FUN!

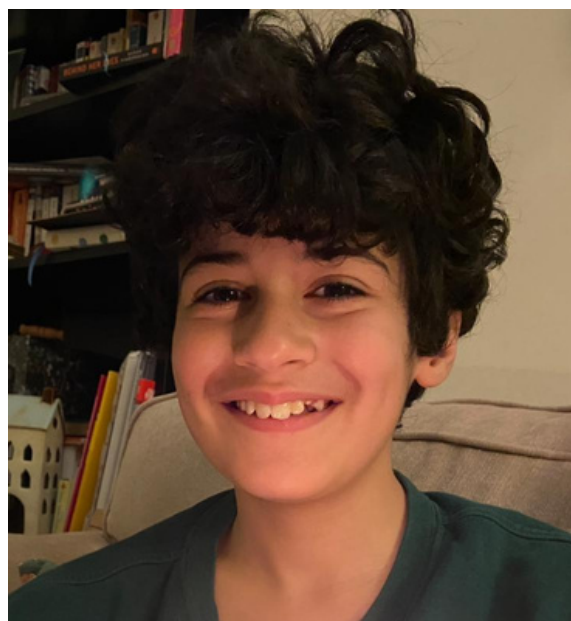
Over the Easter weekend, some fun was had in our Paddington Waterways and Maida Vale Society Easter egg hunt! We had four local artists, who each painted their own version of an Easter egg, so five eggs and a bunny were hidden around the area in local shops and clues were given online as to their whereabouts and participants posted pictures of the eggs when they were discovered!



*From left to right: Diane Umemoto, Miya Gaia, Mukadas Muborakshoeva, Ilhem Oubaiche*

Assad, aged 11, came up with the idea from home.

*" I told my mother you are an artist, how about you draw some pictures of Easter eggs and put them up around the area for local families to find - fun for people in the area "*



*Assad Oubaiche, aged 11*



# SAMANTHA MORRIS

## *Front cover artist*

I've lived in Maida Vale for over 25 years and there's seriously nowhere else I'd rather be! As a designer I've always loved the architecture in this Area.

My first flat share was in Wellesley Court, a building which I still love for its mix of modernist and Art Deco design. I remember photos of it taken in the late 1930s on the wall of the porter's office, it looked very grand with large expensive cars pulled up outside. 'The Battleship' by the Westway flyover in Paddington is also a firm favourite, as is Erno Goldfinger's Trellick Tower, which I can see from my bedroom window in Shirland Mews.

When I first moved here, I was very surprised to find that My Grandfather, Peter Harrison, trained at Paddington Rec, in the 1940s and 50s. As a 200m and 400m runner, he trained on a shale track, which was situated where the cricket green now is. He was picked to run in the 1948 Olympics, but sadly had to pull out due to injury.

The best coffee and pastries in the Vale has to be The Little Coffee Tree on Shirland Road. I love the Sushi at Murasaki and I'm lucky enough to live very close to The Cedar on Fernhead Road for delicious Lebanese food.

I started my business about 10 years ago, having worked for years as a designer, for the likes of Sky Magazine and Ministry of Sound, and as an Art Director for a large Newspaper. I had 2 very small children and thought there needed to be a little more work life balance. At the start, I used to silkscreen print all of my designs at the London Print Studio, on the Harrow Road, and sell them at small local fairs.

As I added more designs and products, I set up a website and started to wholesale and attend larger fairs and trade shows. I'm still basically a one woman show though, I'm design, marketing (not very good at that), accounts and post room, all rolled into one!

For Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, I designed a range of commemorative mugs, which I was lucky enough to have manufactured by McClaggan Smith Mugs, a fabulous company based in Scotland. The 'Jolly Good at being Queen' design is my absolute favourite, and very apt for a woman who's been in the same job 70 years!

You can find out more about my work on <http://www.samanthamorris.co.uk>

You can also follow me on Instagram [glammmorris](https://www.instagram.com/glammmorris)



*Above: a selection of Samantha's artwork*

SAMANTHA  
MORRIS  
co.uk



“The ‘Jolly  
Good at  
being  
Queen’  
design is my  
absolute  
favourite,  
and very apt  
for a woman  
who’s been  
in the same  
job 70 years!”

Samantha  
Morris







# IILHEM OUBAICHE

I was born in Algiers/Algeria 43 years ago and have lived in France and been in London for 22 years. I have lived in the area for 11 years. I love all the coffee shops, the Brimful store, the art gallery, the pubs, the Everyman cinema. We are lucky to have such a nice community feel around here and so many cool places and events to go to. What I love doing best is sitting at coffee terraces and drawing people or the streets of Maida Vale.

Drawing came naturally to me since the age of 3. It takes me to an imaginary world where I feel calm and in peace. In secondary school, drawing was my favourite subject. It is also when my drawings started to be noticed by my art teacher and by the students. At the time, I was doing portraits of Hollywood stars like Rita Hayworth, Elisabeth Taylor in pencil. I was struggling in all other subjects but not in art because I have dyslexia but only found out in my early 40's. Back then I was dreaming of going to Les Beaux Arts which is a reputable institute for artists in France but I studied fashion design instead due to my struggle in learning in school though I loved fashion too. Actually then I wanted to become an haute couture designer.

Later in life I developed a love for photography so I got myself a Canon 550D and started taking pictures. This led me to participate in photography exhibitions and to work as a photographer for art and culture magazines in Middle East. I am also a qualified language teacher (bachelor degree UCL / PGCE London metropolitan).

Having said that, I did stop drawing for a while due to some life circumstances. During the first lockdown I started drawing again because I had the time. I took part in Artsippers online drawing event which brought my love for drawing back.



*Mr grumpy by Ilhem Oubaiche*

More recently, I took part in WTFEB 2022 challenge of Stevebox. This challenge took me out of my comfort zone and I loved it. I discovered all the creative side of me. I can perform, for example and make zero budget short films. I am not shy anymore of showing my art and be my creative self. This experience has led me to create several new projects.





*Sur-prize by Ilhem Oubaiche*

As an artist, I am attracted to bold colours which you can see in my style of drawing. I also like to use my art as a form of expression and explore emotions in a person which I try to capture in my drawings. I like to be led by my emotions while drawing which is why I never know the end result of the art piece. I like to use my art on subjects that are very important to me.

For instance, I am working on a project called 'my body, my story'. The idea is to collect as many stories as possible from participants about their relationship with their body. I ask them to tell me what part of their body they love or have learned to accept in a short paragraph while they send me a picture reference so I can draw them. Once it's done I post my drawing of them with their story.

I want to shift negative talk/thoughts about our bodies to a more positive approach by sharing real bodies, real stories, real struggle. I want to create a movement to normalise talking about our bodies and not feel weird or ashamed. The audience can relate or not relate though we can learn from each other with no judgment.

Everyone talks from their own experiences and what it is like to be in their shoes. It is important to me that my project represents all generations, sex and genders as we often assume to know what the opposite sex feel while it's not always true. We often share similar insecurities. I also hope by doing so, the new generations won't feel ashamed to talk about their bodies and embrace their body no matter the shape or size. Overall I want through my art talk about subjects like body positivity and self acceptance.

I also have created other projects and characters like Ms Wrinkles which is a low budget short movie series where I talk about the physical insecurities of the subject and how she deals with it using self acceptance. I use lots of humour too.

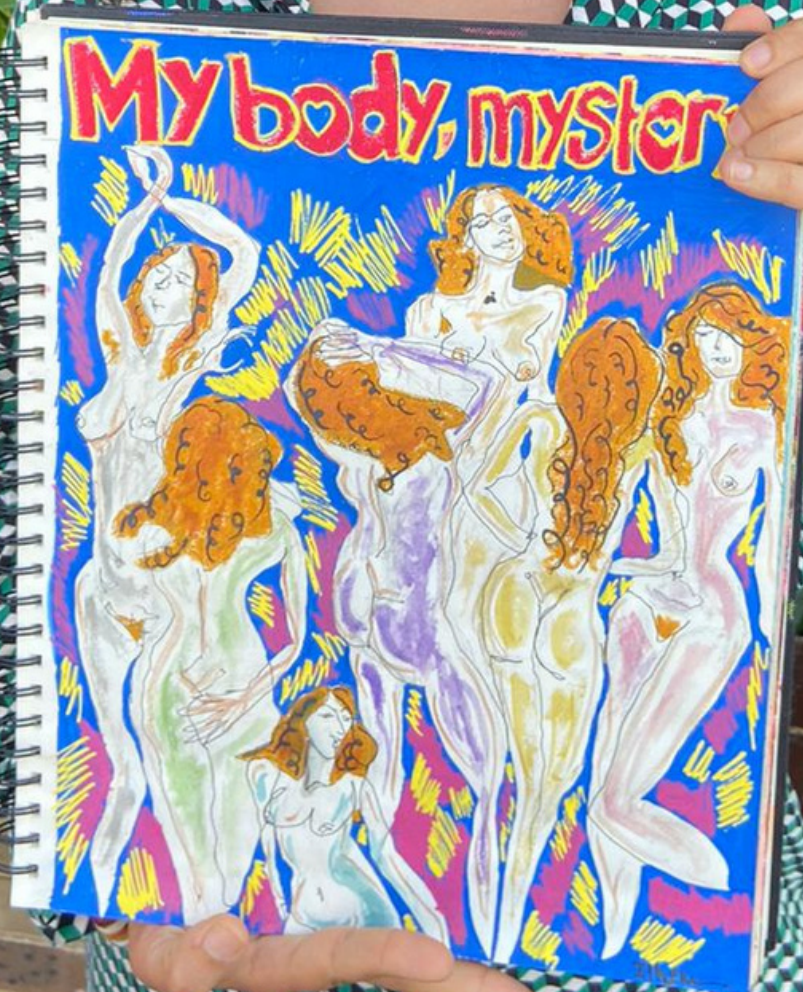
As a person I like to support and uplift people. I like to use my art to bring self reflection.

**You can follow my art work on Instagram: [il\\_aime\\_art](#).**



“What I love  
doing best is  
sitting and  
coffee  
terraces and  
draw people  
on the streets  
of Maida  
Vale”

Ilhem  
Oubaiche





# 60 SECONDS WITH ALICE

## Featuring GLEN MATLOCK

**We managed to sit down with Glen Matlock, the lead guitarist/writer from the Punk rock band The Sex Pistols!**

**Here is a short bio on his work, life and achievements.**

*Singer Songwriter Punk Pioneer*

*Forever changing rock 'n' roll history as chief songwriter with the Sex Pistols, the evolving path walked by Glen Matlock remains unbound by genre, geography, & task.*

*His contribution to the Sex Pistols, and thus culture itself, is well documented. Penning the anthem Pretty Vacant, arguably the most famous punk song ever, Glen wrote the music to all the Sex Pistols classics, including Anarchy In The UK and God Save The Queen, creating the benchmarks for any aspiring rock band who followed in their wake. Periodic Sex Pistols reunions have allowed the world the chance to see Glen reaffirm his rightful position as the cornerstone of the Pistols.*

*The Sex Pistols, however, represent only a fraction of Glen's legacy. His next band, the Rich Kids, put out one of the most influential albums of the late 70s, Ghosts Of Princes In Towers, packed full of rock 'n' pop gems. Working with Iggy Pop, (who recorded Glen's song Ambition), during the 80s kept him sharp and sought-after with a body of work during this period giving rise to releases by bands such as The Spectres and Hot Club.*

*In the 1990s Glen emerged as a solo force to be reckoned with. His album Who's he Think he is When he's at Home? recorded for Creation Records, home of Oasis, was a full-on guitar album, blistering in its intensity, taking everyone by surprise. Not content to kick up his heels, the reinvention continued with a series of fine albums by his band project, The Philistines. Invigorated in the wake of the Pistols re-emergence, Glen continued to record songs to rival those on Never Mind The Bollocks for swagger and craft. Open Mind, On Something, & Born Running were albums showcasing the full spectrum of Glen's prowess.*

*Pile drivers rubbed shoulders with reflective refrains & personal lyrics. One solo highlight, Hey Mister, was seized upon by BBC radio.*

*It's not just Glen's solo work that sets him apart from the pack. Headhunted by artists from all backgrounds and styles, both in the U.K. and abroad, has seen him not merely contribute, but shape some of the coolest sounds around. Recent acclaimed cutting edge albums by Wendy James, Viv Albertine, and King Mob have been enriched by his input, while his own studio projects with Earl Slick & Slim Jim Phantom show a continuing rich vein of inspirational song writing. Always in demand live, Glen has heeded the call from all corners of the musical world, whether it be the rockabilly of Robert Gordon or reformed Faces.*

*It can be no coincidence that his knack of continual inspiration and invention comes in part from his belief in just getting out there and engaging. Picking up his guitar and delivering an acoustic set, either in his beloved London, or some far flung outpost in the global rock universe, keeps Glen grounded and in tune with life and its stories. Keen to expand his worldview and experience, Glen has developed a niche in DJ sets guesting in nightclubs in countries as geographically dispersed as Brazil and Italy. Passing on his vast knowledge and experience to others has become important to Glen (his two sons are making musical waves of their own) and he has latterly embraced college music teaching. This seems fitting for one of the most famous, yet grounded, musicians to emerge at the forefront of the most turbulent and celebrated musical upheaval in rock 'n' roll.*

*History is, thank God, not what Glen Matlock is about. Embracing the past, but constantly seeking out the new, musically, professionally and personally, keeps Glen out of his comfort zone, and at his best. Alive and alert.*

*Post Script as well as joining Blondie for their current run of international dates Glen has recently signed a worldwide recording deal with Universal records and will be releasing a new studio album later this summer.*

**Written by Phil Singleton**





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**Name:**

Glen Matlock

**Age:**

65

**Best thing about Little Venice / Maida Vale:**

The broad streets and sense of community.

**Worst thing about Little Venice / Maida Vale:**

Newcomers building extensions that impinge on other peoples enjoyment of their properties.

**When you were little what did you want to be when you grew up?**

In the Dave Clark Five.

**Who are your 5 dream dinner guests:**

Kind of pretty happy hanging out with my local posse of lads and lasses who all have a tale to tell. I am not too phased by celebrity. That said, if you need names, Dudley Moore, Steve Marriott, Iggy Pop, Grayson Perry and Rusty Egan could get nicely messy.

**Who would play you in a film?:**

Ideally Dudley Moore or Jim Dale but am actually already well served by Christian Lees who plays me in the forthcoming Danny Boyle semi bio pic TV series 'Pistol'.

**If you could steal credit for any piece of art, song, film, book etc which would you claim?**

'What Kind of Fool' am I song by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse.

**What would your last meal be?**

Cheese on tomato on marmite on toast - English pizza basically...

**How would you describe your job to a 5 year old?**

Showing off!

**what is the funniest thing that has happened to you recently?**

Headlining over Public Image in Pasadena.

**Finally...**

**How will you be spending your time celebrating the Queens Jubilee**

Aha.

I could answer 'what Jubilee?' but being aware of it, I will be happy to be missing the whole flag-waving claptrap by performing festivals as a new member of Blondie in California.

I might relent a little though and buy some PG tips in the ex pat store in Santa Monica just to keep my hand in.



A photograph of Glen Matlock, a man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a tan leather jacket over a black shirt. He is holding a black acoustic guitar with a floral design on the body. The background is a plain, light-colored wall, and a shadow of him is cast to the left.

“I might  
relent a  
little though  
and buy  
some PG  
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in Santa  
Monica just  
to keep my  
hand in.”

Glen  
Matlock





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# LOCAL BUSINESSES

THERESA WITH A T  
PIERRE KOFFMANN



# THERESA WITH A T

We sat down for a chat with local entrepreneur Theresa Novin, owner of Theresa with a T.

## How did you get to Theresa with a T?

The story of Theresa with a T started after I left teaching and was pregnant.

During this time, I decided that I was going to design tote bags to help my favourite magical island, Ibiza, go plastic-free. I had this idea to help reduce the use of single use throw-away plastic bags with beautifully sustainable and loveable tote bags. The tote bags would also be a token to take home.

I decided on the design when I sat waiting to start a prenatal yoga class in London, the instructor walked in with a yellow tie-dye sweater. I loved it!

It conjured many vivid memories of nostalgia, immediately I was brought back to the time when my mother and I spent a summer in Canada hand tie-dyeing t-shirts. I remember being very good at it.

In the summer of 2019, I spent the rest of my pregnancy in Ibiza hand tie-dyed tote bags in the hot summer sun on my own, while my husband travelled back and forth to London at the weekends.

I packed some cotton tote bags, dye and elastic bands and set up on a table out on the balcony looking out to the Mediterranean sea. Can't think of a better place to tie-dye.

I almost gave up after the first batch because it didn't turn out so well but my husband encouraged me to try again.

Each time they would be very different but full of life and colour, just like me, this is how I got to Theresa with a T.

I would test out different colour combinations and ties and soon I had a dozen bags.

I began to see my tote bags in a different light and my friends and family reinforced my belief in my bags. Once I had a sufficient amount of stock, I approached hotels, while heavily pregnant, and offered them the opportunity to stock my bags or provide them for to guests as part of eco- friendly way to reduce the use of plastic bags. I was only turned away.

## What inspired you to set up your own business?

While out for dinner one day, I met an instructor from Imperial College Business school. I spoke with him about my tote bags and he saw how passionate I was about my bags and the belief I had behind them.

He told me to keep in contact because the University is always looking for start-up businesses, like mine, for graduates to complete their final summer marketing projects.

I applied to the programme and my start-up was accepted. I worked together with the students and discovered that there was a good market for tote bags and a rising trend for tie-dyeing.

The students inspired me to take my tie dye bags to the next level.

## How has the pandemic impacted this?

Fortunately for me, the pandemic was a positive impact on my business.

During the first lockdown, the weather was perfect tie-dyeing. Everyone who was stuck at home was doing it too. It became popular and trendy and business began to boom.

I was able to make a lot of bags during this time, while caring for my baby boy.

I created my Instagram account with a strong presence and because my husband was working from home, he was able to take photographs and help me document my hand tie- dyeing process.





I started receiving sales both on my Etsy site and privately. Additionally, the effects of the pandemic built my business in Ibiza too. That same summer, I went back to hotels that turned me away the previous year, and was surprised that this time they welcomed my bags. I was also asked to do a tie-dye workshops for hotel guests because of the night-life restrictions.

And out of the blue a fashion influencer with a strong following bought one of my bags in a beach club boutique and loved my story about how I make from home that she added it to her Instagram story (no sponsor) showing her support and asking her followers to show their support.

My hard work started to pay off and my business was taking off!

#### **What challenges have you faced?**

During the lockdown, it was very hard to deliver my tote bags. There were long queues at the post office and parcels sent overseas took a very long time to receive. I had to reassure overseas customers that their parcels had been sent and to have faith in the postal system. I have to say ... when they did receive their tote bag, they loved it much more!

Another challenge I constantly face.... is the weather. We all know that the weather in London can be so unpredictable and grey and tie-dyeing relies on sunny days. I need to have a good run of sunny and hot weather at the start of Spring to produce a sufficient amount of stock to keep my business running.

#### **What are you feeling hopeful for?**

I am hoping that my business continues to grow, that my brand begins to become more recognised in the community and maybe one day worldwide ... I am a big dreamer! I am also hoping to be able to stock my tie-dye tote bags and wear in more local shops.

At the moment, you can find tote-bags at the Brimful store on Formosa Street. I believe my tote bags are perfect for this Spring and Summer and especially now that we can travel and go to festivals. They are fun and easy to carry around!

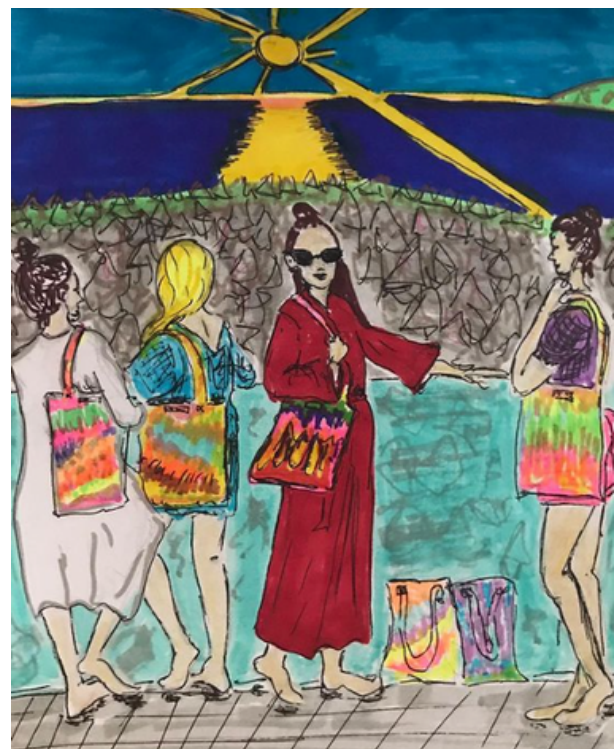
#### **What do you love about being a Maida Vale resident and what brought you to the area?**

I love living in Maida Vale. It's perfect place to raise a family.

We go to Paddington Recreation nearly every weekend because the playground caters for all age groups and has good fitness facilities, like the running track, the walking path around the park and the beautiful gardens.

We also love the Carlton Tavern. It's perfect place to go for a drinks and food, while sitting outside on a nice sunny day.

I don't believe we will be moving out of this neighbourhood anytime soon.



*Right: Theresa Novin and her tie dye bags by Ilhem Oubaiche*





# PIERRE KOFFMANN

*By Alice Sinclair*

Sitting in D1, the cafe on Aberdeen place on the cusp of Little Venice, the small and friendly cafe is buzzing, as usual.

It's warm and raining outside and the cafe is all lit up and cosy, much like the dynamic between Pierre Koffmann and his wife Claire.

Pierre Koffmann is an internationally acclaimed chef who has contributed to Britain's finest cuisine for almost forty years. Pierre was born in France;

*"I wasn't very good at school and when I reached the age of 14, they asked me to leave, so I started training as a chef"*

La Tante Claire, his now legendary restaurant, gave Pierre Koffmann the platform to achieve three Michelin stars.

Between 1977 and 2004, La Tante Claire set new standards for cooking while also becoming a training ground for some culinary superstars such as Tom Aikens and Bruno Loubet.

The Koffmann's have been happy residents of Little Venice/Maida Vale for over 16 years.


Their favourite local places to get ingredients is (no, not Waitrose) but Church Street Market!

*"This Market is packed with fruit and vegetable stores and a lot of produce that is hard to find elsewhere, we go every Friday for boxes of whatever might be in season, like Mangoes or artichokes. There is also a brilliant butcher, Bob, who always has pigeon, rabbit, squab and French poultry; he is a good friend to have!"*



*Above: Pierre Koffmann*



A portrait of Pierre Koffmann, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is sitting at a dark table, resting his chin on his right hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a restaurant interior with a window and some greenery outside.

“ I wasn't very good at school and when I reached the age of 14, they asked me to leave, so I started training as a chef.

”

Pierre Koffmann





Pierre, now "officially" retired, still has a hand in many things Culinary. Pierre is spending time with his other passion, potatoes. Working with Claire and his brother in law Simon, their business "The food Heroes" is mainly supplying Potatoes to some of the top chefs in the UK.

Pierre agreed to share one of his recipes with Maida Unveiled in time for the Jubilee celebrations. He thought that his "Salmon confit" would be fitting for a fresh taste at a (hopefully) sunny garden party!

In Pierre's words:

*"The Salmon Confit, this is an old recipe that I came up with during my time at La Tante Claire and now I see it on menus of chefs who have worked in my kitchens- That's a rewarding discovery: it shows it is timeless.*

*Despite being an oily fish salmon can be difficult to cook well, as it has a tendency towards dryness. Poaching it in oil or fat as in this recipe, cooks it very, very slowly but keeps it beautifully moist and succulent. The fat slides off the salmon as you lift it out and you'll find it is not oily on the plate.*

*I only ever use wild fish- both at home and in the restaurant. Not only is flavour infinitely better, but farmed fish are generally fed with other fish, such as krill, which feels like a waste to me and is at odds with the way I like to cook"*



*Above: A variation of Salmon Confit, the one below has Petit pois so looks a little different.*



## Salmon Confit, petits pois a la française

### For the petits pois,

- heat 20g of butter in a small saucepan. Add the bacon and leave to sweat until softened and beginning to crisp.

-Then add onions and 100ml of water. Place a circle of greaseproof paper over the surface and leave to simmer gently until the onions are cooked (5-7 minutes)

-Add the petit pois then the Little Gem baby lettuce, stir well, then whisk in the remaining 30g of butter. Season well and keep warm, covered over a low heat.

### For the pea puree,

-Put the petit pois into a saucepan and pour in the cream so that it is just level with the peas. Season and bring to the boil. Leave to simmer for 5 minutes, then remove from the heat and blend with a stick blender until very smooth. Set aside.

### For the salmon,

-Heat the goose fat in a large deep saucepan, wide enough to hold all the fillets in one layer, until the thermometer reads 50 degrees centigrade. Gently lower the salmon into the fat so it covers the salmon, and leave until just cooked through 7-10 minutes depending on the thickness of the fish.

-Watch the thermometer so that the temperature remains consistent, otherwise it will over cook. The fish is cooked when a fine skewer goes in easily and the flesh is slightly pink.

### Meanwhile,

-In separate pans, fry the ham until warm and gently reheat the pea puree. Serve the salmon on top of a helping of pea puree and ham with the petits pois alongside finish with a drizzle of beurre blanc.

### Serves 4-6 people

500g goose fat OR 500ml of olive oil

4 x 150g Wild Salmon Fillets, Skinned

4 slices of Bayonne ham

Salt and pepper

Beurre blanc

### For the petits pois a la française

50g unsalted butter

2 rashers of smoked streaky (fat Canadian) bacon, chopped

12 baby button onions

500g frozen petit pois

1 small head of Little Gem (baby) lettuce, shredded

### For the Pea puree

500g frozen petits pois

200ml whipping cream





ISSUE  
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MAIDA  
UNVEILED

SPRING/  
SUMMER 2022



# The Lonely Pet Column

**Name:** Roger (3yrs old)

**Species:** Dog, Corgi

**Owner:** HM The Queen and a lacrosse team of ladies-in-waiting

**Family:** we are seven siblings - Sleepy, Slurpy, Welshy, Scotty, Dodger, Meghan and me

**In Roger's words...**

Despite my name I am a doggie saint. I have used various apps, most recently 'woof', but it all goes corgi-shaped when I try to sneak any lady paws into the Palace. The boys in bearskins always catch me. I have tried smuggling them in via the laundry van, the Italian ambassador's FIAT 500, Trump's hairdresser's bag. But every time, when I am a 'hop on' away from Corgi paradise, I am caught and marched back to mummy. More frustrating than a scone with jam on first.

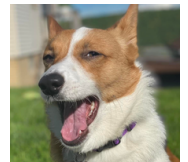
I enjoy balls, any sort really, especially when they're thrown vigorously into the yonder distance. I have a preference for chewing legs, the kitchen table at the palace is one splinter away from collapse, that venison haunch shall me mine (evil laugh).

I love being taken for walks by Palace security. The park is my favourite place, making friends, exploring and looking regal waiting for ice cream.

I like cuddles and treats but I love shaking my tush to Hall and Oates, they have a knack for the perfect rhyming couplet and a delicious fuzzy bass line. There was one time I was shaking it hard to 'Man-eater' and I got stuck in one of the royal trouser presses in the laundry room at Balmoral.

What I am looking for- If you only come out at night, the lean and hungry type looking for a friendly happy corgi with a twinkle in his eyes, and a wiggle in his walk, then look no further!

\*\*\* Have you got a pet who you think would like a partner? please email [alice.sinclair@w9w2.co.uk](mailto:alice.sinclair@w9w2.co.uk) if ypu would like them to feature in our next issue \*\*\*







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# Our W9W2 area...

