



## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

August 2006

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Welcome to another month's Press Briefing newsletter, packed with information on what is new in London in August. This month we have a great selection of summer events, a mouthwatering choice of new restaurants, including Mews of Mayfair (see image), La Noisette and The Butcher and Grill, plus several thought-provoking exhibitions.



## Hotels

### Teen Concierge at Four Seasons Hotel

Back by popular demand for a second year, London's first Teen Concierge has a new face and hundreds of new ideal for teenagers visiting London this summer. Alex Collins, aged 17, has lived in central London all her life and has the inside knowledge on what teenagers like most about the city. Alex can tailor make suggestions to ensure all the family is happy.

For further information contact [Susanna Blackburn](#) on +44 (0) 20 7907 5363.

### Kids weekend at Rubens at The Palace

Rubens at The Palace has put together an enticing package for families. The Kids Weekend includes accommodation for the family, a special children's menu, kid's' packed lunch each day, a welcome pack that includes games, bathrobes and slippers for the kids plus English breakfast each morning for everyone.

For further information contact [Arnelle Kendall](#) on +44 (0) 20 7514 2174.

### Football widows at Conrad London

With the new Premiership season about to begin, Conrad London has come up with a special programme for those who aren't as interested in Chelsea's matches. Every Sunday the Champagne brunch takes place, with unlimited Champagne until the end of the first course. After the meal guests can book time with the Conrad's beauticians for a host of treatments. Sunday Campagne lunch is £45 per person.

For further information contact [Charlotte Heath-Bullock](#) on +44 (0) 20 7631 1000.

### Contemporary new design for Gloucester Park

The Cheval Group of serviced apartments Gloucester Park property, located in Kensington, has completed the final stage of an extensive four-year refurbishment programme. This includes a total redesign of all 100 of the luxury serviced apartments at the property, an overhaul of public areas including the main reception and lobby area and also the addition of a brand new four-bedroom penthouse apartment.

For further information contact [Helen Foster](#) on +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

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## Attractions

### Operation Stormbreaker

British Airways London Eye has teamed up with the cinema release of Stormbreaker. The film sees 14 year old special agent Alex Rider who finds himself on a mission to save the school children of Britain. Visitors to the BA London Eye can, up until 3 September, become special agents for the day and crack the code from the clues around the London Eye to try and win one of seven Nintendo DS consoles.

For further information contact the [press office](#) on +44 (0) 870 220 2777.

### Hidden Treasures at the Natural History Museum

Enjoy a rare behind-the-scenes opportunity to see the beautifully illustrated first editions of Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island, along with a genuine pirate chart from the museum's archives. Admission is free and the event takes place at 1,2 and 3pm on 2,9,16,23,and 30 August.

For further information contact [Sheryl Twigg](#) on +44 (0) 20 8312 6790.

### Kids invited to get mucky this summer at Kew Bridge Museum

The Kew Bridge Museum will host a variety of new exhibitions and displays this summer. Younger visitors especially are in for a treat with a line up of free drop-in family activities, including a chance to play with an interactive Sewer Robot as well as saving Freddie the Fish. Free entry for children aged 15 and under.

For further information contact [Nicola Osmond-Evans](#) on +44 (0) 20 8516 1470.

### The Ship: the art of climate change

The Ship: the art of climate change is a free, contemporary art exhibition designed to deepen our understanding of climate change. It brings a unique insight into the experiences of international artists and writers who, over the past five years, have travelled to the High Arctic as part of the Cape Farewell project. The Arctic theme is explored through photography, film, sound, sculpture and painting. The exhibition runs until 3 September.

For further information contact +44 (0) 20 7942 5000.

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## Exhibitions

### Antonioni's Blow-Up: Investigating an Icon

To mark the 40th anniversary of the acclaimed 1966 film, Blow-Up, by the Italian film director Michelangelo Antonioni, The Photographer's Gallery will present an exhibition of photographs from what is considered one of the most important films of this seminal decade, credited with encapsulating the vibrant and bohemian scene in London. The exhibition runs until 17 September.

For further information contact [Sioban Ketelaar](#) on +44 (0) 20 7831 1772 (ext, 213)

### Passion For Paint at the National Gallery

25 pieces are exhibited in this celebration of the qualities of paint. Taking in artists from different centuries, countries and sourced from collections around the world, this exhibition looks at different ways in which artists have used paint to represent the material world and to express emotion.

Paintings include Peace and War by Rubens, Van Dyck's Lady Thimbelby and her Sister, and Sargent's Ena and Betty, Daughters of Asher and Mrs Wertheimer, plus works by Gainsborough, Turner, Monet, Degas, Van Gogh and Bacon. This exhibition runs until 17 September.

For further details contact the [press office](#) on +44 (0)20 7747 2865.

### Punk in pictures

The raw energy and anarchic attitude of the punk movement are reflected in these gritty black and white prints from a number of different photographers. Exploits of bands such as The Clash, Sex Pistols, The Slits, Siouxsie and the Banshees and The Damned are all caught on camera – both on stage and behind the scenes. The exhibition runs until 16 September at Redferns Music Picture

Gallery.

[Click here](#) to read more.

### **Dark Matter at the White Cube Gallery**

This mixed artist exhibition looks at the subject of 'dark matter' which is the invisible space between points of visibility. The term was first coined by astronomers to describe the vast expanse of the universe. Works by the contributing artists are varied; however each piece explores the idea of negative space or the representation of a negative aura. Works include a Marilyn print by Andy Warhol, titled One Grey/Black Marilyn - part of his reversal series, and a recent minimalist piece by Damien Hirst titled Infanticide.

For further information contact the [press office](#).

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## **Events**

### **Vivaldi Four Seasons**

The Belmont Ensemble of London, conducted by Peter G Dyson, will be giving a performance at St Martin-in-the-Fields of Vivaldi's ever popular Four Seasons in aid of the Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Saturday 26 August from 7.30pm. Tickets start from £6.

For further information call +44 (0) 20 7766 1100 or go to [www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org).

### **Pirates at the Old Royal Naval College**

On Friday 18 August, kids will get the chance to meet pirate Grace O'Malley and learn more about her exploits at sea and in Greenwich. Inspired by her tales, kids will then be able to create their own pirate accessories to take away. This event is suitable for kids aged seven and over, tickets cost £2 per child, accompanying adults are free.

For further information call +44 (0) 20 8269 4799 or go to [www.greenwichfoundation.org.uk](http://www.greenwichfoundation.org.uk).

### **A tribute to Noel Coward**

Join Elizabeth Sharland for a couple of Sunday afternoons in August in the Theatre Museum's Paintings Gallery. A company of actors will look at the life of Noel Coward. Through readings and performances they will focus on his travels, his glittering career and his friends: Graham Payn and Cole Lesley to Judy Campbell and Sheridan Morley.

For further information contact [Caroline Malbon](#).

### **Canary Wharf Dragon Boat Challenge**

Competitors are invited to take part in the Canary Wharf Dragon boat Challenge. Teams of 10 paddlers and a drummer are being recruited. Entry costs £150 per team with all monny going to support the Watersports Centre's charitable work with young people. This event promises to be lively, spectacular, colourful and exciting, with lots of noise and action. Heats take place on August 2, 9 and 16 with the grand final on Wednesday 23 August.

For further information contact [dragons@dswc.org](mailto:dragons@dswc.org) or tel +44 (0) 20 7537 2626.

### **Clown around this summer**

International Clown Week is celebrated in the first week of August. In celebration of this, Canary Wharf will be hosting various special events including a Children's Circus Activity Week from 3-6 August. Clowns, mime artists and magicians will entertain the crowd and a circus skill workshop will also be available. Activities are free and will take place daily throughtout the retail malls from 11am to 4pm.

For further information contact [Julia Denman](#) on +44 (0) 20 7418 2322.

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## **Bars & Restaurants**

### **Mews of Mayfair**

Located within the heart of Mayfair, two traditional Mews buildings have been converted into an

exclusive restaurant, lounge and cocktail bar. A combination of lounge, cocktail bar, restaurant and a chef's dining room has been created across four floors. Mews of Mayfair opened in July and is at 10-11 Lancashire Court, New Bond Street, W1S.

For further information contact [Louise Swanne](#) on +44 (0) 20 8704 4500.

### **Summertime at Shish Willesden Green**

Shish Above is the open-air area of Shish Willesden Green. Situated on the third floor, it provides a perfect al fresco eating area, adorned with ethnic cushions, lanterns and plants. Shish Above is available for exclusive hire and boasts a private indoor bar leading onto a sun-deck, complete with a personal barbecue and its own dedicated chef.

For further information contact [Marie Spanou](#) on +44(0) 20 7436 1111.

### **County of the Month at the National Dining Rooms**

Following the success of Jesse Dunford Wood's first County of the Month menus, which have seen diners at the National Dining Rooms tucking into local delights from Cornwall and Norfolk, in August the produce of Yorkshire will come under scrutiny.

For further information contact [Rochelle Cohen](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

### **La Noisette**

Acclaimed chef Bjorn van der Horst has opened La Noisette, a 65-cover, French fine dining restaurant located in Knightsbridge. The menu is entirely seasonal and is divided into sections comprising Signatures and Classics, Summer Favourites, Chefs Garden, Fish and Shellfish and Meat and Poultry.

For further information contact [Danielle Proctor](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1000.

### **Keeping it light at The Cinnamon Club**

With London temperatures having recently hit higher than Madras, The Cinnamon Club's executive chef Vivek Singh has created a special Light Lunch menu which consists of dishes that are full of refreshingly clean tastes to help diners feel revitalised and energised without any post lunch slumps back at the office.

For further information contact [Flora Gandolfo](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

### **New breakfast menu at Sketch**

Pierre Gagnaire and Sketch's Executive Chef Pascal Sanchez have devised a new breakfast menu for the parlour at Sketch. The menu is short, simple, and elegant, and has a touch of the inevitable Sketch whimsy. Dishes include 9 Conduit Street Eggs (fried eggs, coconut and tomato marmalade, with toasted bread), Smoked Salmon served with apple jelly and Jacob's cream and Birchermuesli served with mixed berries. The breakfast menu is available Monday to Saturday 8am until noon.

For further information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0) 20 8947 4474.

### **The Butcher and Grill**

The Butcher and Grill has recently opened in Battersea, just a few minutes from Battersea Park and Albert Bridge. The site comprises of a butcher's shop, a grill and bar and a terrace. Meat and Poultry will be prepared to the highest standard in both English and French cuts. The butchers have been trained to offer the best advice on seasonality and the quality of specific products of that day. At The Grill, customers will have the option of making their selection from The Butcher counter or choosing their preferred cut from the menu.

For further information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0) 20 8947 4474.

### **Chocolate Thursdays at Verve**

Covent Garden's latest lounge bar, Verve, situated at 1 Upper St Martin's Lane, has launched 'Chocolate Thursdays'. The event features a selection of chocolatey cocktails at just £3.50. Choices include a White Chocolate Martini, Chocolate Banana Shooter or Chocolate Marshmallow Cocktail. Add to this a chocolate fountain with complimentary dipping delights including fresh fruit and marshmallows. This evening is a must for chocolateolics.

For further information contact [Lucy Lawson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

### **The Roundhouse Cafe, a new landmark in North London**

The Roundhouse Cafe, part of the Roundhouse entertainment venue in Camden, is located in a glass complex over two floors with a large adjacent terrace. The all-day Roundhouse Cafe's menu has a 'diverse London' theme, featuring a range of ingredients from several North London specialist and ethnic food suppliers. On the first floor is Torquil's Bar, with an adjacent terrace that features a barbecue and light menu.

For further information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0) 20 8947 4474.

### **Club Bar and Dining to open**

The Club Bar and Dining, a new restaurant and bar, will open on 21 August on Warwick Street, W1, on the site formerly occupied by The Sugar Club. The Club Bar and Dining will comprise of an informal bar and dining room on the ground floor, and a downstairs cocktail lounge bar. An intimate space in the heart of Soho, The Club Bar and Dining will open throughout the day for late breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks every day from 10.30am.

For further information contact [Antony Rettie](#) on +44 (0)20 7287 7711.

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## **Theatre & Film**

### **Kids Week 2006**

Kid's Week is back for its ninth year, running from 18 August until 1 September. One child (aged 5-16) can go free to any participating show when accompanied by a full paying adult, and another two children can go for half price. There is an extensive line up of shows participating this year including Babe, The Sheep-Pig, Chicago, Les Miserables, Guys and Dolls, Blood Brothers and Mary Poppins. For further information contact [Louise Drabwell](#) on +44 (0) 20 7483 2500.

### **Evita extends until 13 Jan 2007**

The revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's musical Evita has been extended by three months at the Adelphi Theatre - tickets now on sale to 13 Jan 2007.

[Click here](#) to read more.



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