

TALK OF THE TOWN

What's moving where in west London. *By Vanessa Grall*

What's Hot

What's Not



Clarendon Cross ▲

The Holland Park hideaway is just what we need when the hustle and bustle of Notting Hill gets too much to handle in the heat of summer. Julie's for coffee, Cowshed for a manicure and The Cross for a spot of retail therapy.

(clarendoncross.net)

◀ Tribal chic

We're loving Diane von Furstenberg's tribal print dresses. The ethnic trend is set to prevail right through to winter so don't hesitate to stock up in the sales... (matchesfashion.com/dvfv)



▼ Maida Vale music spot

Idlelive's increasingly popular Sunday night gigs have made it onto our radar. Seriously impressive talent in a vibrant atmosphere with fabulous cocktails. What better way to spend your Sunday nights... (myspace.com/idlelive)



▲ Mark Ronson in the hood

Making regular appearances out and about in Notting Hill, the super producer has been working his magic on the Kaiser Chiefs' next album in a north Kensington music studio.



▶ Same ol' summer drinks

Whichever bar you venture to on a hot afternoon, the ice crusher is either broken or the drink just doesn't taste as good as it used to. But we've found a summer cocktail with a bit of a wow factor. The Regent St. Germain is the combination of a classic sauvignon blanc from the south of France with a delightful elderflower liquor from Paris. Topped with ice and soda for a summery punch – this is our new drink.

Venture to The Regent, 5 Regent Street, Kensal Green, NW10 5LG (020 8969 2184; theregentkensalgreen.com)



◀ Fashion without function

Have you noticed this bag around town? As worn by every chic yogi around, this is the limited edition Barefoot Blondie bag. In the midst of the July sales frenzy, alleviate some of the guilt for all our reckless spending – £1 of the proceeds of every yogi chic bag go to our local The Special Yoga Centre charity. Shopping doesn't need to be a completely selfish activity.

Barefoot Blondie bag, £4, Special Yoga Centre, 2a Wrentham Avenue, NW10 3HA (020 8968 1900; barefootblondie.com)



▶ Coffee overload

It's about time we start weaning ourselves off the toxic bean before the winter chill. We're intrigued by the idea of afternoon tea at The Paradise By Way of Kensal Green – an à la carte menu of teas, homemade finger sandwiches, scones and... well, enough said really. ([020 8969 0098](http://02089690098); theparadise.co.uk)



◀ Westbourne Grove disaster

Sitting in a thick layer of cement dust and grime, the once glamorous haven for independent traders has reached crisis point thanks to the Thames Water works. Most shops have seen their takings fall by as much as 75 per cent – four have already shut.

