

PRESS RELEASE

14 February 2022

COVENT GARDEN LAUNCHES FAMILY FRIENDLY FEBRUARY HALF TERM FESTIVAL

- *Covent Garden is bringing a Family Food Festival to the Piazza this February*
- *An array of irresistible food offers, children's dining menus and entertaining pop ups will launch across the estate, providing fun for the whole family over Half Term and beyond*
- *Covent Garden will bring magic to its visitors with an exclusive **Harry Potter Butterbeer Bar** on the Piazza in celebration of the estate's Harry Potter Photographic Exhibition*
- *A new **public art** initiative will see an **al fresco community dining area** designed by London-based artist **Coco Lom** popping up on the Piazza*
- *Covent Garden's **Feast It** food trucks will see **Copper Penny**, **Crepe Masters** and **Pabellon** showcase a line-up of day to night food treats, from morning coffees to evening cocktails*
- ***Pancake Day** celebrations showcasing the best pancakes across the estate*

From 16th February **Covent Garden** will launch its very first **Family Food Festival**. The festival will see an exciting selection of innovative food pop ups, family friendly activities and exclusive food and drink offerings at restaurants across the estate throughout Half Term and into March, and a huge selection of pancakes for Pancake Day.

For fans of the much-loved book and film series and Covent Garden's **Harry Potter Photographic Exhibition**, a spellbinding **Harry Potter Butterbeer bar** will pop up and spark joy across the Piazza from 17th February, serving bottled Butterbeer and Harry Potter themed cupcakes to visitors, in a magical installation. Free souvenir tankards will be offered to anyone who purchases a bottle of Butterbeer from the pop up and then goes onto buy a ticket to the Exhibition.

To celebrate the launch of the Family Food Festival, Covent Garden will install a **brand new al fresco community dining area on the Piazza**, designed by London-based artist [Coco Lom](#). The al fresco area will be transformed with '*Blissful Benches*' - bespoke hand painted picnic tables in Lom's signature bold shapes and bright coloured prints and patterns, emblazoned with uplifting messages including 'Euphoria', 'Togetherness', 'Laughter' and 'Celebration'. There are eight separate designs to discover and the benches will be in situ from 17th February.

The hottest street food offers from **Feast It** will also be popping up across the Piazza from 16th February - 1st March with offerings that cater for families to office workers seeking a new lunch spot and beyond. Food and drink offers will span coffees and pastries from **Copper Penny**, family friendly lunches from **Pabellon**, **The Duck Shed** and **Crepe Masters**, sweet treats by **Jesseco**, **Prosecco & Pancakes**, and evening cocktails by **Free Wheelin** and **Honest Folk** to finish off the day in style, with all available to eat on the new al fresco dining area.

For families looking for pancakes ahead of pancake day, Covent Garden offers one of London's largest and most innovative selections, including American style pancakes and crepes at restaurants across the estate. Highlights include Macha pancakes from **AVOBAR**, Hot Buttermilk Pancakes courtesy of **The Ivy Market Grill** and **Balthazar** will serve their much loved New York style banana and blueberry buttermilk pancakes. Other favourites include **Crème de la Crêpe's** delicious sweet & savoury Crêpes and **Ave Mario's** Chantilly cream and banana buttermilk pancakes.

The Family Food Festival will spotlight Covent Garden's wide range of family dining options and children's menus at all budgets. **Sticks'n'Sushi** offers a fantastic value for money kids menu and in-restaurant activities to keep young visitors entertained as well as a contest where they can receive chocolates for their entire class at school, while **Pitaya** offers a bespoke children's menu of hero 'Little Pitaya' dishes including chicken or vegetable main, a fruit drink and apple dessert. There are also family friendly menus at Covent Garden favourites **Balthazar, Shake Shack, Frenchie, The Ivy Market Grill, Avobar, Lilly's** and **The Gentlemen Baristas**.

Sitting alongside Covent Garden's food offering, the neighbourhood will play host to a range of family friendly activities providing children with fun and educational ways to stay entertained this half term. Visitors can explore **The London Transport Museum** and its new exhibition, *Legacies: London Transport's Caribbean Workforce*, which opens on 11 February and celebrates the generations of Caribbean people that have shaped London's transport history and culture. The museum will also offer activities including a Flag Exhibit, storytelling sessions and creative poster making throughout the week, with local resident discounts and kids go free offers available.

Other options for a Half Term day out include tech workshops at **Apple**, the **Harry Potter Photographic Exhibition**, ear piercing at **The Alkemistry**, a variety of shows at **Covent Garden's theatres**, and Family Sundays at **The Royal Opera House**. A cultural corner of London, theatregoers and art enthusiasts are spoilt for choice with the National Gallery, British Museum and Somerset House only a short walk away.

Half Term will also see the return of the successful **Pollock's gift bags**, which will provide young visitors the opportunity to select their own toys from the old-fashioned counter. The retailer has also teamed up with broadcaster and author Zeb Soanes and will be stocking signed copies of his latest book 'Gaspard's Foxtrot'.

Coco Lom, Artist: *"I was thrilled to work with Covent Garden on this new commission for a public art initiative, creating 'Blissful Benches' for all visitors to enjoy. Colour has the power to affect our body and behaviour. It influences our happiness, changes our mood and triggers different emotions. Colour and pattern can bring a fresh wave of joy and spark new energy that ripples throughout whole communities. They have the ability to make positive change in people's lives, which is incredibly powerful. I hope to encourage people to share and celebrate joyful moments together in Covent Garden."*

For further information on drinking, dining and shopping, offers and things to do in the area please visit www.coventgarden.london or visit @CoventGardenLDN

-Ends-

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Capco Covent Garden:

Covent Garden is a leading retail and dining destination and is one of the most vibrant estates in the heart of central London. The area is now home to a wide variety of British, global and independent brands including Chanel, Tom Ford, Vashi, Glossier, Ave Mario, Balthazar and SUSHISAMBA, with upcoming openings from Tag Heuer and Reformation. www.coventgarden.london

Capital & Counties Properties PLC ("Capco")

Capital & Counties Properties PLC is one of the largest listed property investment companies in central London and is a constituent of the FTSE-250 Index. Capco's landmark estate at Covent Garden was valued at £1.7 billion (as of 31 December 2021) where its ownership comprises over 1.1 million square feet of lettable space. As of the date hereof, Capco owns a 25.2 per cent shareholding in Shaftesbury PLC. Capco shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. www.capitalandcounties.com

Harry Potter Photographic Exhibition

Journey through the memories of years of magical filmmaking in a display of behind-the-scenes images, never before seen in one place. Housing iconic production images, the Harry Potter Photographic Exhibition takes fans behind-the-scenes of key moments in the film series, from Harry's first day at Hogwarts through to the Battle of Hogwarts. Located in Covent Garden, the Photographic Exhibition is home to London's only bottled Butterbeer bar where fans can purchase the wizard's drink of choice served in a souvenir tankard or take a bottle away to enjoy at home! Find more information or book tickets here: www.harrypotteronlocation.co.uk

Coco Lom

Coco Lom is an abstract artist and designer, known for her joyful work mixing bold patterns and bright colours, seen on murals and community spaces, and featured across the world. Recent commissions have included central London's first art basketball court featured by Sky Sports, a vibrant redesign of the 1997 Bristol Stool Chart for health food store Holland & Barrett, and this colourful new project 'Blissful Benches' for Covent Garden this Spring. www.cocolom.com @ [cocolom](https://www.instagram.com/cocolom)