

ADDRESS *book*



Kally Ellis

56 McQueens managing director

McQueens is the UK florist whose reputation for elegance and innovation continues to flourish. As well as heading the creative team behind the flowers at Vanity Fair's post-Oscar party in Los Angeles, Kally directs the floral designs at three of London's destination hotels – The Berkeley, The Connaught, and Claridge's. This is McQueens' 21st year in business and what better way to celebrate than with the launch of an integrated retail space, McQueens at Claridge's? The McQueens headquarters is based in Clerkenwell, with the flower studio and flower school, while Kally lives in Tufnell Park. www.mcqueens.co.uk



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OUT & ABOUT

Highgate Cemetery is one of the loveliest corners of London. It's totally untamed in places, and has this wonderful connection with history. I can see why the Victorians were so obsessed with cemeteries. There's a peace and tranquility that pervades the place. On a Sunday, I love walking to the top of Parliament Hill with my family and looking out across that heart-stopping panorama. Then we walk down the hill for coffee at Kalendar, a local café.



HIDDEN GEM

Waterlow Woods near Highgate is just beautiful. It's a great place to go walking and a much more manageable destination than Hampstead Heath! And it feels like it has been here forever - it was given to the public by Sir Sydney Waterlow, as "a garden for the gardenless" in 1889. Lauderdale House at the edge of the park has a tea room and hosts functions including weddings, some of which we've had the pleasure of installing plenty of fabulous flower creations for.



EATING & DRINKING

BREAKFAST

Our local, the Tufnell Park Tavern, opens for breakfast – which came in rather handy when we had our kitchen extended recently! During the week I often have working breakfasts at Claridge's, now we've opened a McQueens flower shop within the hotel. And, if the weather is fine, we sometimes have a Saturday brunch at the Modern Pantry in St John's Square in Clerkenwell. It's such a lovely spot and you can bask in the sun with a delicious breakfast. Bliss.



LUNCH

Lunch is often taken at Cicada in Clerkenwell. It's a pan-Asian menu and every mouthful tastes fresh with carefully balanced flavours.

DINNER

We're lucky enough to have some excellent gastro pubs on our doorstep. We love The Junction Tavern in Kentish Town, and The Lord Palmerston in Dartmouth Park for a bite to eat in the evenings.



THE AREA

I live with my family in Tufnell Park, one street away from the house I was brought up in, and that sense of community is something I treasure. My children go to local schools, so we have an amazing network of friends locally. I travel a lot with business – we often design for parties and events in the USA and Europe – but I love that feeling of coming home. I feel as though I belong here.



SHOPPING

I think Marylebone High Street has a lot to offer. There's such a wonderful mixture of designer names, quirky shops and lovely delis. When you're done, pop into Providores for a glass of wine and some delicious tapas.