

Coco Momo

History of Coco Momo and Kensington

Coco Momo was originally built as The Harrington Hotel in 1857 and had rooms to let upstairs. It was named after a local land-owning family and the word Harrington can be found on other buildings in the area. After the 'Harrington' the pub was mysteriously renamed the Black Widow before becoming part of the Rat & Parrot chain and then the Prince Regent.

Local resident Tamara Cartwright-Loebl told us a little about what the pub was like:

“I was born in 1965 and still live in the area, my father has been here since the 1950s; we know there were supposedly rooms to let above the pub but he doesn't remember ever seeing them advertised. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, at least, there was an off license in the right hand side of the property, taking up the right hand window and door. When Waitrose shut down on the corner, the whole block was bought up for redevelopment with the exception of the Harrington pub itself which traded for several years in the middle of a hoarded up terrace. It stood empty for a long time with the rest of the block until redevelopment in the 1990s (only the front walls remained) when the Harrington, both pub and off license, reopened as the Rat and Parrot. It was predominantly a rowdy student bar and then became the Prince Regent, which was a more of a trendy gastro bar.”

In the Census of 1881 Mary Leach was listed as the Licensed Victualler at the young age of 24. She was joined at the pub by C Jones (33) housekeeper from Wales, Janet Brooks and Mary Wood, both 20 year old barmaids, Fanny Link a general servant, Ellen Shepherd a 21 year old lodger, Joseph Nottage a potman of 26 and George Simpson a 22 year old groom.

The pub is still within the Leach family by the Census of 1915 when Charles Samuel John Leach was listed at the helm.



The Prince Regent, March 2009



The Black Widow

Kensington

Kensington and Chelsea first originated from Saxon settlements, with both areas mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Royalty first moved into the area in 1689 when William III moved into Kensington Palace. Queen Victoria was born in Kensington Palace in 1819 and continued to reside there until her accession to the throne in 1837. With Queen Victoria's wishes, the title "Royal Borough" was given to Kensington in 1901, after her death.

In the census of 1801, Kensington was recorded as having a population of 8,500 and Chelsea 11,600. By 1831 this had risen to 20,902 and 32,371 respectively. It was only in 1861 that Kensington overtook its neighbour in population size. The two boroughs were only united in 1965 to form the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.



Kensington Palace 1851



Kensington Gardens, early 1900s

The district's commercial heart is Kensington High Street, running on an east-west axis. The north east is taken up by Kensington Gardens, containing the Albert Memorial, the Serpentine Gallery and Speke's monument. South Kensington and Gloucester Road are home to Imperial College London, the Royal College of Music, the Royal Albert Hall, National Historical Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, and Science Museum. The area is also home to many international embassies and consulates and the residence of many politicians and billionaires.



Kensington High Street 1900



Royal Albert Hall 1896