



## What to do

Always secretly fancied yourself as a fashion designer? Want to learn how to run up a pair of curtains? Fed up with not knowing how to mend your clothes? Maybe now's the time to pay a visit to the new Sew Over It cafe in Clapham.

"I wanted it to feel cosy and homely and exciting," says Sew Over It owner, the joyously named Lisa Comfort. "People really want to be here and sew here. They get hooked in. And there's always the lure of tea and cake."

Lisa, who studied at the London College of Fashion and worked for designer Bruce Oldfield and couture bridal designer Phillipa Lepley, wanted to offer sew-curious folk a safe place to learn; whether it's at one of the 25 different classes on offer or at the open studio where you can rent a machine by the hour while a professional seamstress is on hand to give help or advice.

The classes are tailored to all levels; there's 'Introduction to Sewing' for those who can't even thread a needle to 'Mad Men Dress' for the more competent. Lisa has cherry picked expert quilters and leather bag designers for advanced classes. And this autumn there's also a chaps only, 'Men's Survival for Sewing' class.

"Nobody has ever left Sew Over It without being able to stitch," says a proud Lisa Comfort.

[www.sewoverit.co.uk](http://www.sewoverit.co.uk)

**Sew Over It offers all Vanity Fair A-List members the chance to win 4 hours of 1-2-1 Tuition with Lisa Comfort at Sew Over It. To enter this prize draw, simply send your details (name, address, phone and email) to [info@sewoverit.co.uk](mailto:info@sewoverit.co.uk) by Friday 5 August 2011. Terms and conditions apply.**



## What to hear

This August, watch out for a volcanic eruption when the whopping talents of Jay-Z and Kanye West meet on their new album Watch The Throne.

Add to that dashing duo, singles featuring Beyonce and Bruno Mars, and the package is really sounding tasty.

And then just to top it off, the album cover artwork has been created by fashion's current golden boy, Givenchy designer Riccardo Tisci.

Phew, it's going to be a scorcher.



## What to know

When the whole family goes on holiday, it can be a miserable time for... dogs.

But no more doleful looks from your four-legged friend as you pack your bags and no more pitiful whining as the family all leaps into the car, because dog-lover Erin Boyd has come to the canine rescue with Chien Bleu.

Mais oui! Boyd and her golden Labrador Blue, have roamed the land, testing hotels and looking for 'paw-fect' holidays for people who can't bear to be parted from their furry friends.

Only hotels that meet the strictest criteria receive the Chien Bleu 'Paw of Approval'.

For 2011, Boyd has concentrated on hotels in the UK, which include The Milestone Hotel, Blagdon Manor Restaurant with Rooms and Trigony House. But the next step is for Boyd and Blue to go globe-trotting together and returning with recommendations from around the world. Puppy power.

[www.chienbleutavel.com](http://www.chienbleutavel.com)

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