Londoners urged to help police prevent more terror attacks

City leaders have united to call on all Londoners to “do your duty” and help the Met stop another terrorist attack by tipping off police about anybody they suspect of radicalisation, writes Geoff Baker.

As the Mayor of London led the call for more tip-offs, in a tri-borough stand of defiance against terrorism, the leaders of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham councils have come together on one message to the extremists: “you will not win”.

The appeal for everyone to “act on your instincts” and provide information comes after security experts revealed that there are 3,000 people at large that the Met “has concerns about”.

As over-stretched police cannot keep the capital safe on their own, Sadiq Khan, pictured, is making the call for Londoners to step up to be the Met’s eyes and ears in the fight against terrorism.

In the aftermath of the Islamist attack that murdered four and injured 50 – and which has left London shocked, grieving but un-cowed – city chiefs, security commanders and community leaders have come together to urge everyone to play a vital part in the protection of all.

In paying tribute to PC Keith Palmer, the unarmed bobby killed at the gates of Parliament and hailed by the Prime Minister as “every inch a hero” for bravely tackling terror maniac Khalid Masood, the Mayor of London said: “Keith was one of the many, many, many officers who risk their lives on a daily basis and that demonstrates why we, as citizens, have a duty to give intelligence and information to the police to help keep us safe.”

He added: “With the best will in the world,
London high streets under threat as Businesses reel over new rates hike

By Off Baker

“INSANE” hikes in new business rates are threatening to cripple and close many small shops in the capital – shocking local traders so much that one almost had a heart attack after opening her swing ing new bill.

Huge demands by the government, intent on making small businesses pay through the nose for the austerity drive, are set to force many independents out of business.

The rocketing rates are so steep that the Mayor of London has stepped in to protest on behalf of businesses that face the risk of being paralysed by Chancellor Philip Hammond’s money-grabbing.

Sadiq Khan warns that small independent, particularly in Kensington and Chelsea are now confronting a “clear and present risk to their very existence”.

Typical of those being clobbered by the Chancellor is Katrina Phillips, whose family has been trading from the same shop on Portobello Road since 1963. Katrina runs the posh interiors shop that sells things that are ethically produced, old, or made by artists.

She believes the rateable value of her premises increase by more than 55 per cent, from £33,500 to £52,000 through the recent revaluation and as a result her business rates bill will increase by more than £10,000 over the next five years.

Katrina said: “I have gone into debt to keep the shop open, warded off bailiffs in tough times, and never given up.

“When the new business rates were announced, without exaggeration, I thought I was going to have a heart attack. I literally could not breathe.

“I have kept going through very tough times. I have strived to create a place of authenticity and beauty, something people are proud to be a part of.

“1 will not be able to survive these increases. There is not enough money taken by small shops to bear these insane rates and rates.

“A healthy, growing, vibrant business man whose plight has been highlighted by the Mayor of London is Katrina Phillips – “I thought I was going to have a heart attack”

Gareth Jones, owns the chocalate Alexeiva & Jones on Westbourne Grove. He has seen the rateable value of his premises increase from £52,000 to £87,500.

“The rateable value for the shop is over £1,500 per square metre – more than five times the charge per square metre levied on the offices of leading global companies in central London,” said Sadiq Khan’s spokesman.

“its actual rates bill, after the revaluation and as a result her business rates bill will increase by more than £10,000 over the next five years.

Mr Jones said: “I have been running the business for four and a half years. It is already difficult enough running your own business but rent rises and business rates increase are particularly onerous.

“It is another cost burden and makes it more difficult to run a small business. This makes me think that enough is enough and I am now considering closing down for good.

“As with a lot of small businesses, I think that the best opportunities may now be online or wholesale. That takes away the huge and increasing overheads of being on the street.”

A spokesman for the Mayor of London said: “With increased business rate bills landing on doorsteps across the capital, Sadiq Khan is particularly concerned that many small, independent companies who have worked hard to build up their businesses over many decades could be forced to close for good as they will be unable to pay new business rates bills that are rising by up to 45 per cent.

“According to Government data, London’s businesses are facing a £300 million business rate hike as a result of the revaluation, to fund an equivalent tax cut for the rest of the country. That figure could eventually rise to £1.2 billion”

Sadiq Khan, said: “When small companies just like Katrina Phillips and Alexeiva & Jones open their new business rates bills this weekend they will be faced with a clear and present risk to their very existence.

“These business owners have dedicated their lives to running successful businesses that are part of their communities. They have toiled thick and thin. Their stories highlight not only the impact these business rates hikes will have on London’s economy, but the human cost too.

“The very nature of London’s high streets is under threat. What we need is full devolution of business rates to London with genuine protections in place so we can safeguard businesses like this which are part of the fabric of what makes London such a vibrant, diverse and successful city.”

Sue Terpilowski OBE, London Policy Chair Federation of Small Businesses, said: “FSB London fought hard for a concession at the Budget that will impact small businesses.

However, the lingering concerns still remain that the average number of businesses in London will have to find thousands of pounds a month to cover the increase in business rates, alongside £2,600 in additional employment costs in 2017/18 and a further increase in pensions auto-enrolment costs.

“We need to realise that the hard costs of operating a business in the capital are starting to outweigh the benefits which simply does not make economic sense”.

While the Mayor has welcomed plans to alleviate the impact of the increases announced by the Chancellor in last week’s Budget, he does not believe they go anywhere near far enough.

“The Chancellor announced a £300 million discretionary relief hardship fund in the Budget. London’s share in 2017/18 of £72.5 million equates to less than 10 per cent of the additional bill facing London ratepayers from 1 April,” said the Mayor’s spokesman.

The Government has also set aside £25 million for the next five years to provide transitional support for small businesses losing eligibility for small business rate relief.

“These many firms have been paying no business rates for the last five years and were facing immediate increases of more than £3,000 in 2017-18 before the Budget.

While the Mayor welcomes the scheme in so far as it goes, we estimate that fewer than 5,000 businesses small businesses outside London are more than 300,000 – including only 28 firms in the City of London and a mere 20 in Merton - are expected to benefit,” said the spokesman.

“Sadiq also believes that at least 1,000 lops in London will not be eligible for the one-off £1,000 discount that was announced in the Budget. As the leading rating agents Gerald Eve have highlighted, due to state aid limits the proportion of pubs likely to benefit nationally is just 60 per cent - well below the 90 per cent of pubs claimed by the Government.

“For and for the majority of pubs in central and inner London facing large rises in their bills of up to 44 per cent on 1 April this will provide a very limited and very temporary concession.

“ar to the misery for businesses, bills that are currently dropping through letterboxes will not reflect these new reliefs and businesses will have to pay their bills on the basis of the pre-Budget figures until local authorities have received the necessary detailed guidance from the government.”
32,000 officers across London can’t keep us safe by themselves. They rely upon millions of Londoners and those who visit our city to provide them with information.

“One of the reasons why more than a dozen attacks have been thwarted over the past four years is because of the intelligence to the police coming from members of the communities. We’re not going to allow these terrorists to cow us, we’re not going to allow them to change our way of life.”

The Mayor’s call was echoed by Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council. He said: “The carnage on Westminster Bridge and at our Parliament was truly awful to behold. We must all hope for the best possible outcome for the injured and that there will be comfort for the bereaved.

“The terrorist threat is real...”

Police positions outside the Houses of Parliament

Picture: Adam Gray/SWNS

London Mayor Sadiq Khan issued a defiant message to Londoners

Mr Khan’s plea was echoed by Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior, founders of the Kensington-based The Unity of Faiths Foundation, which has had much success in de-radicalising young Londoners. They said: “We are dealing with people like us – British who have been radicalised, through forms of social media or the internet. People like this don’t need to be put in a corner, otherwise all they will do is bite back and we will only add fuel to the fire.

“We must embrace them. We must rehabilitate them. We must put an arm around their shoulder and say: this is your community, we are your family. Britain is your home. And most importantly we must all remember there is no colour of the skin, there is no colour of the flag – there is only the colour of the heart. Only the colour of the heart can change Britain and the world to a better place.”

The attack by madam Massoud, who sawed off 20 innocents in a car before storming the gates of Parliament and being shot dead, took victims from across the world – 15 Britons, including three policemen, three French children, two Romanians, four South Koreans, two Greeks, and one person each from Germany, Poland, Ireland, China, Italy and the United States. Those murdered on the bridge were: Kurt Cochran, a 54-year-old tourist from Utah, Aysha Frade, a 43-year-old Londoner and mother of two, and Leslie Rhodes, 75, from Clandham.

Mr Cochran’s brother-in-law, former lead of the Met’s Counter Terrorism Command, added: “The only way you can stop an attack like this is through good intelligence and cooperation from the Muslim community, for people coming forward.”

The Muslim Council of Britain’s secretary general, Harun Khan, added his weight to the appeal for tip-offs.

He said: “This attack was cowardly and depraved, there is no justification for this it whatsoever. The best response to this outrage is to make sure we come together in solidarity. I hope my Muslim brothers and sisters will reach out to fellow Londoners in solidarity to demonstrate that such hatred will not defeat our way of life.”

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MP hosts a Kensington clear-up

KENSINGTON MP Victoria Borwick has been getting her hands dirty for a cleaner borough. Mrs Borwick and council Leader Nick Paget-Brown joined volunteers to clean up Kensington and make it clear to those who are littering that it is not acceptable.

They took part in the Great British Spring Clean which brought together like-minded people from all walks of life to clear up the litter that blights Britain’s towns, villages, countryside and coastline.

“The campaign sends a clear signal to those who drop the litter - there is growing movement of people who find littering unacceptable,” said the MP’s spokesman.

Mrs Borwick cleaned up West Cromwell Road with around 30 volunteers and collected almost 50 bags of rubbish. They also tidied Acklam Road and Womlington Road.

The Great British Spring Clean was launched by Melissa Murdoch in 2015. In 2016 there was a hugely successful Clean for the Queen event which saw 250,000 people to get involved in local clean-ups. This year the campaign aimed to inspire 500,000 people to get outdoors, get active and help clear up rubbish.

Mrs Borwick said: “This is a fantastic initiative that cleans up our streets, brings the community together and sends an important message to those dropping the litter to stop. The turnout in Kensington was fantastic and the clean-up made a really positive difference to the local area.”

Easter activities for young people

YOUNG people in Kensington and Chelsea looking for something to do during the Easter holidays should check Epic Youth, Play and Sport services – a wide ranging programme of activities running from Monday 3 to Monday April 17 – urges the council.

“There’s lots on offer for young people aged from six to 19, and aged up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities,” said a spokesman. “Why not try your hand at chocolate making, take part in a DJ workshop or test your cooking and baking skills?

“If you fancy something more active there’s non-contact boxing, table tennis, trampolining, kayaking and climbing to work your muscles. There are also holiday-themed events such as an Easter egg hunt to take part in!

All Youth and Play events in the programme are free, Epic Sports Easter activities have prices ranging from £2 to £10 a session. For more information go to www.epiccic.org.uk/epiceaster.

Cycling in a box

TESCO shoppers almost crashed their trolleys in surprise at seeing a man bicycling in a box in the Kensington store.

Local volunteer Adam White put his life on hold to live in the glass case for 50 hours, to help national charity Caudwell Children raise vital awareness and funds for autism.

Adam entered the 3m x2m box in the foyer of the store at 6.15pm on Monday and came out at 6.15pm on Wednesday.

“The glass box is a metaphor for the condition, as many families that Caudwell Children support describe autism as ‘like living in a glass box’, a said Tesco spokesman.

“The sense of isolation, difficulty in communication and being stared at from all directions are often associated with the condition.”

All funds raised from the David Blaine-style event will be used to support autistic children across West London. To donate go to: justgiving.com/adamlockedin

Standing by our promise over Crossrail station

I was concerned, but not surprised, to read reports in the media that the Crossrail 2 project could be delayed or side-lined because of cost and competing infrastructure demands.

Residents will know that the Council is a staunch supporter of a Crossrail 2 Station on the King’s Road. We believe there is an overwhelming case for a station in an area in which many people visit but is poorly served by public transport.

I know that in the final analysis money calls the shots, especially when it comes to costly infrastructure projects. If reports are to be believed, a project that had a budget of about £29 billion is now looking to deliver the line with £27 billion in the pot. A cut of £4 billion. Not an insignificant sum and one that will require sacrifices to the original plan. Might this mean that the King’s Road station may be lined up for a place on the altar?

Of course, where money is concerned there is sometimes room for negotiation. Could we offer something that would help the budget? The obvious answer for a cash-strapped Treasury would lie in associated development above and around the station. But this is not an option. There will be no backsliding on commitments made to residents, even if such development would help to meet the cost of a station.

On current plans, one I still hope will come to fruition, the above ground element of a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea would be an elegant, single storey building at the southern end of Sydney Street. These modest proposals originated with TfL and put paid to a number of false claims and rumours, the most fantastical of which was that the station would entail ‘a Westfield-sized retail development. In letters to residents and local businesses and in a number of published articles the Council made plain its strong support for a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea. At the same time, we also promised that the station would not mean additional development which would be out of character with the local area. Moreover, we indicated that, as the planning authority, we would not permit such development.

Now, with the putative Crossrail 2 budget facing a significant reduction, borough campaigning for stations are under pressure to show what additional development might be possible in order to help meet the cost of the scheme. This is the context in which Kensington and Chelsea has renewed its commitment to residents.

Make no mistake, we continue to believe that Chelsea needs a Crossrail 2 station. Nevertheless, we consider ourselves bound by our public statements about station development. An elegant and low-key development would fit the bill – a larger development would not. That was our commitment to residents and we will not renge on that promise.

Our position therefore is that we have made a sufficient case for the station without having to offer up additional value in the form of over-station development.

It’s worth repeating that Chelsea is a densely populated area with three major hospitals. It is also a world-famous shopping and visitor destination. In other words, Chelsea is somewhere people actually want to go. Add in that it is poorly served by public transport, heavily congested, has some of worst air quality in the country and that, over the long term, our station would comfortably pay for itself and you can see why we believe we still have overwhelming grounds for being included in the next iteration of the route.

To contact the leader of the council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk
Giant crane will ‘minimise’ impact of Earls Court project

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WEST London’s skyline now has a new landmark – a crane called Al which is twice the height of Nelson’s Column and capable of lifting more than 100 buses in one go.

The heavy lifting crane, London’s largest crane at 400ft tall, is now ready to begin work on-site at Earls Court.

The Earls Court development, led by Capital & Counties Properties PLC will create 1,420 homes and 1,000 new jobs as well as a new High Street and a new five-acre park in London.

Demolition of the former exhibition centres to ground level is complete after two years of intensive work on site, managed by Capco’s construction partner, Keltbray.

The crane is the most visible part of the important site preparation that will take place throughout 2017 to prepare the site for future construction.

The heavy lifting crane - technical name, the AL.SK190 crane - is an industry-leading innovation and was designed and manufactured by specialist engineering firm, ALE.

The crane will carefully lift 61 ‘portal beams’ out from over the London Underground lines that lie below the former exhibition centres. Each large concrete beam supported the weight of the exhibition centre and need to be removed to enable development on site.

The smallest beam is 80 tonnes with the largest beam weighing 1,500 tonnes, the same as 118 London buses.

“The crane was specifically chosen as the optimum engineering solution and the method has been designed to minimise the impact on local residents, to help reduce the carbon footprint of the project and will significantly shorten the project timescales,” said a spokeswoman for the developers.

The crane is 120m high which is more than twice the height of Nelson’s Column and is the largest capacity lifting crane ever to be used in London. It will operate only on the Earls Court site and will not oversail any of the nearby properties.

Speaking about the progress on the site, Mike Hood, Group Development Director, Capco, said: “We are making good progress at Earls Court to prepare the site for future development. The heavy lifting crane is the most visible part of this work and will be part of the London skyline for the next year.

“We know there is huge interest in the crane and we are encouraging people to visit the Earls Court Project Rooms for our monthly open day to find out more.”

Dave Rowe, Technical Manager for Keltbray, the specialist contractor overseeing the site works at Earls Court, added: “By utilising this crane and lifting method, disruption is minimised and the crane’s high capacity and precision lifting technology will reduce the overall project timescale considerably.

“With the successful demolition of the former exhibition centres last year the lifting of the large portal beams is the next big task at Earls Court and we prepare the site for construction. The project team has worked tirelessly to ensure the most appropriate technology was chosen and implemented in order to minimise disruption to our neighbours.”

Giovanni Alders, Sales Manager, Global Projects Division for ALE said: “Operationally, this crane can perform lifts previously unachievable and reinforces the innovation seen throughout the whole project. We are looking forward to progressing with the project and executing the first lift.”

The first lifts will take place at the end of the week. The lifting of the portal beams will occur overnight in engineering hours’ after the last District Line train has passed through the tunnels underneath the beams.

Smallest house in Chelsea sells for £700,000 at auction

CHELSEA’S smallest house has sold for £2.500 per square foot and by more than £100,000 over the asking price.

The tiny detached home in Britten Street has been sold by estate agent Douglas & Gordon for £713,823. The guide price was £600,000.

“Made up of one bedroom, one bathroom, a kitchen and a reception room included in just 280 sq. ft, the property is in need of a full renovation but it has an exclusive Chelsea address, complete with views of St Luke’s Park, a unique appearance and – following blanket coverage in the press last month – fame in its own right,” said a spokeswoman.

“Douglas & Gordon’s Chelsea team conducted well in excess of 100 viewings, such was the interest in the mini mansion”.

It was eventually sold to Robin Swales, who saw off 18 other prospective buyers. Mr Swales said he saw the “small but beautiful” property, which was reportedly built as a home for grave diggers, as an investment that will outperform his pension by 30 per cent over the next 10 years.

Although Mr Swales said the occupation of its past owners “added to the charm of the place”, he said he would not be following in their footsteps and adding a basement.

Ed McCulloch, sales manager at Douglas & Gordon in Chelsea described the house as, “totally unique, a one-off” and added he’d never seen a smaller freehold property in Chelsea.

“When fully refurbished, the value of this property Chelsea gem will almost certainly increase in price, making it a great investment,” he added. “Properties this unique are extremely rare, and the person who owns it can be safe in the knowledge that no-one else lives in a house quite like them.”

Music award for St Charles

THE musical talents of pupils and teachers at North Kensington primary school have won them receive a School Music Excellence Award at City Hall.

All children at St Charles Primary School receive specialist music and singing lessons. This has resulted in whole classes taking up the recorder, cello and ukulele.

About half of all pupils at the school learn to play an instrument with the help of peripatetic teachers with children from less well-off families receiving subsidised or free one on one music tuition to ensure musical opportunities are open to all.

The school has two thriving choirs and an orchestra. Both the choirs and the orchestra perform concerts in the community and enjoy performing for elderly residents of the borough.

Musical opportunities offered by the Tri-borough Music Hub mean St Charles children regularly attend the Primary Proms and Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall. The school also hosts annual music workshops given by students from the Royal College of Music.

Ann Slavin, Head of St Charles, said: “I am delighted with the efforts of teachers and pupils who have led to us receiving this award.

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“The children have embraced music with a passion. They love playing and singing and it is clear that we have some very talented performers in our school!”
W hen I was growing up, my next door neighbour left school at sixteen since he was not interested in the subjects being taught at his school. Fortunately, he was offered an apprenticeship as a printer. This allowed him to receive on-the-job training while earning a wage.

Sadly, in the early 1990s a focus on getting more young people into university meant the popularity of apprenticeships and vocational training in the UK declined. This was in stark contrast to countries such as Germany where apprenticeships were seen as a key factor in the success of their Mittelstand (small and medium sized) companies. Fortunately, over the last decade apprenticeships have become more popular in the UK. The recent 10th National Apprenticeship Week (+NAW2017) brought together employers and apprentices from across the UK to celebrate the success of such partnerships over the last ten years, and to encourage even more people to choose this path as a fast-track to a great career.

Apprenticeships are seen to bring huge benefits to our young people, to older people looking to retrain, to our city and its vibrant economy, and to the country as a whole. They give people of all ages and all backgrounds the ladder of opportunity to get paid experience in work and achieve a top-class qualification at the same time. We all know that bright and talented people are critical to the long-term success and sustainability of our economy.

Apprentices taken: since 2012

Syed Salah Kamall MEP is a British academic and politician who was born in London as a Member of the European Parliament for the Conservative Party since 2005, and since 2013 has been one of the Leaders of the Conservatives in the European Parliament

London has topped 46,000 - just over half of them women - with most companies reporting how placements had improved productivity. Some 24,200 employers took on apprentices in London last year alone.

Long gone are the days when apprenticeships were seen by some employers as a means to recruit a runner or tea-bringer - indeed today's apprentices already bring with them a skillset of their own - particularly in the realms of multi-media. Many employers and employees have as much to learn from the apprentice as the apprentice has to learn from them.

Many of our young apprentices are inspiring, ambitious, full of energy and passion - and keen to bound up the ladder of opportunity to achieve their goals and be the best they can possibly be in their chosen fields. Older apprentices can bring all these things well as their experience of working in another industry.

An array of events up and down the country held as part of National Apprenticeship Week saw run apprentices, some run by employers themselves - showcased the best of apprenticeships and the numerous job roles and sectors they are available in.

The apprentices themselves addressed audience events and demonstrated the benefits apprenticeships have brought them, their professional and personal lives. Recently a new campaign by the Department for Education urged smaller companies to take on apprentices.

Other winners in 2016 London was Blue Engineering in Shoreditch. Apprenticeships were first tried at the company in 2012 in a programme that has expanded since then with its growing success. Past and present apprentices now account for almost half the Blue Economy’s workforce. But the government is concerned that almost three-quarters of other small and medium enterprises are “yet to be convinced of the merits of apprenticeship”. So the campaign aims to challenge perceptions and has funding available to pay apprentices’ wages for paid learning.

The combination of experienced staff members who have finely honed their skills over many years and apprentices, who bring raw talent, who are eager to learn and who bring with them a skillset, particularly in multimedia, that may not be prevalent in a more traditional workforce, changes a staff dynamic. London businesses are finding that the increasing number of apprentices in their organisations has had a tremendous impact on the way they work. An injection of youth or experience, talent, passion, and a willingness to learn has transformed their workplaces.

Today’s consumers, clients and customers are very careful who they do business with. They want to see companies doing their bit for their local communities - and hiring an apprentice can be one way to demonstrate this commitment.

Supporting apprentices is increasingly being seen as an important part of running a successful business in the labour market as a whole with apprenticeships expected to contribute a staggering £3.4 billion to the UK economy by 2022.

And let’s not forget, figures through the Foundation’s research show that individual stories. Stories of empowerment, success, passion and commitment. We should be proud of our apprentices. After many years of being belittled, apprenticeships now have the recognition they deserve.

School cuts
An open letter to the Prime Minister

WE are writing as local authority members and health champions, councillors representing the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, from all corners of the country and supported by the UK’s leading charities in this field.

As elected representatives seeking to improve psychological wellbeing, we welcomed your mental health speech of December 2016 in which you rightly emphasised early intervention for children and young people.

Of course, much of that early intervention takes place in schools, with children learning social and academic skills, protective of mental health, whilst being able to get pastoral care including counselling.

Those lessons and care can only be provided by skilled professionals and with around 70 per cent of schools spending at the front line on staff that requires the right funding. It is why we are so concerned about the National Funding Formula proposals, which are set to drastically reduce schools funding in the areas of greatest need.

The North West, the West Midlands and London, regions with some of the very poorest boroughs, and therefore the highest mental health prevalence rates, are all net losers from the NFF.

We ask you to look again at cutting the schools budgets for the poorest communities which will damage a vital mental health of coming generations, placing a greater burden on public services and our economy.

Instead, a relatively small investment of £350 million would level schools up rather than school cuts and school closures. Cllr Ed Davie – Lambeth; Cllr Catherine Faulks – Kensington and Chelsea; Cllr Simon St Dewhurst – Sutton; Cllr Ian Beckett – Harrow; Cllr Paullette Hamilton – Birmingham; Cllr Jo Blackburn – Pendle; Cllr Paul Collins – Sefton; Cllr Adam Williams – Calderdale; Cllr Amy Whitelegg Gibbs – Tower Hamlets; Cllr Helen Dennis – Southwark; Cllr Alan De’Ath – Hammersmith and Fulham; Cllr Jonathan Slater – Barking & Dagenham; Cllr Neil Wilson – Newcastle; Cllr Dr Abdulah Gulaid – Ealing

Care classroom
MY daughter Jenny has type 1 diabetes. By law, her school should have had a long-term medical conditions policy in place to protect her and other children with long term conditions, like ME (chronic fatigue syndrome), asthma, arthritis, coeliac disease, epilepsy, migraine and many more.

But after Jenny had a major problem while cycling in her PE lesson, she recently, I found out they didn’t.

Jenny was out doing her cycling (and she had a massive hypoglycaemic episode. No one had been able to stop her or give her her test kit or any glucose with her.

She was made to walk back to school where it took her 40 minutes to recover. I’ve spent the last few weeks trying to get her school to tell me what support they offer. Disappointingly, no school I spoke to had a long-term medical conditions policy in place.

In England, this is actually a breach of the law. But more importantly it risks children’s lives. This serious threat to my daughter’s health could have been avoided if a medical conditions policy had been in place and was being properly followed. I want the minister (for vulnerable children and families) Edward Timpson to write to every school in England to remind them that they have a legal responsibility to have a medical conditions policy.

And to make sure that these policies are actually being followed, he should ask school regulator Ofsted to look at this during their inspections.

Making sure schools get this right will help children with serious medical conditions thrive in school, and could save a life.

Louise Fyfe-Taylor
Shepherd’s Bush

Youth services
THE future of youth services in London looks increasingly bleak as updated figures show at least £7.5 million has been cut this year from council budgets across London.

The figures show:
• total youth service budgets across London between 2011/12 and 2016/17 are now more than £29 million, an average of 34 per cent
• councils plan to remove at least another £5.6 million from youth services in their upcoming 2017/18 budgets
• at least 457 youth worker jobs have been cut since 2011, a staffing cut of 48 per cent
• 36 youth centres have closed across the city.

I am now repeating my call for the Mayor to consider a strategic, London-wide level to protect youth services in my response to the Mayor’s Draft Police and Crime Plan.

The plan must set out how the Mayor will act.

Sian Berry
Green Party London
I was the teacher who was worried
I was the coach who noticed at practice
I was the family member who was concerned
I was the neighbour who felt uneasy

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Department for Education
THE Friends of the Holy Land charity raised £3,000 by holding a St Patrick’s Night party at Our Lady of Victories church in Kensington. Funds raised will support Christians in the Holy Land.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS of all political persuasions took to the streets of Chelsea to protest to Jeremy Hunt against plans to axe heart services at the Royal Brompton Hospital which would put babies and children at risk.

Kensington MP Victoria Borwick and International Trade Minister Greg Hands marched against their own party colleague as former Speaker Betty Boothroyd and Kensington and Chelsea Council Leader Nick Paget-Brown joined the mass of people protesting against the Health Secretary’s plans to cease all Congenital Heart Diseases operations and Children's Unit research at the Royal Brompton.

The march was supported by one of the world’s most renowned cardiac surgeons who warned that it would be a “crime” if NHS chiefs axed services at London’s specialist heart and lung hospital.

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub said the proposals to stop congenital heart surgery for children and adults at the Royal Brompton risked destroying the entire institution.

He said: “The Brompton has been a leading hospital in the world on congenital heart disease. It hurts me a lot to see centres of excellence being shut for convenience, for planning purposes, because it doesn’t fit on a piece of paper somewhere in the ministry.

“When you have a tradition of excellence in one place, please don’t destroy it. It’s very sad to see so-called planners wanting to have optimised services’, saying they don’t like this here and they might put it there.”

He added the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS trust had “evolved and worked for more than 100 years. What are you doing? Why are you killing a centre of excellence? To me, it’s a crime.”

NHS England’s draft plans would reduce the number of hospitals performing heart surgery to correct birth defects from 13 to 10. The Brompton is at risk because it was the only hospital in London that performed heart surgery for adults.

Mr Hunt’s draft plans would mean the number of patients undergoing congenital heart surgery would be cut from 1,000 to 600.

Mr Hunt’s proposals are opposed by at least 20,000 people who have signed a petition to save the Royal Brompton heart services, is put up for public consultation.

An NHS England spokesman said: “We have worked with patients, their families, clinicians and other experts for two years to draw up standards for congenital heart disease services. No final decisions have been taken and we will soon begin a consultation.”

Stephen Cowan leader of Hammersmith & Fulham council

Why terrorists cannot win

ON Thursday night, Councillor Sue Fennimore and I represented Hammersmith & Fulham at a vigil in Trafalgar Square. It had been called by Mayor Sadiq Khan.

We were joined by leaders of many faiths and people from different backgrounds and nationalities, sending an image of London united in our abhorrence at the previous day’s vile act of terrorism.

Four people were murdered. Around 50 people from 12 different countries were injured. I know all the people of Hammersmith & Fulham join me in expressing our deepest sorrow to those suffering injuries and to the families and loved ones of the innocent people killed.

One of those whose life was taken was PC Keith Palmer. PC Palmer had served in the Royal Artillery before becoming a member of the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Squad which he had served in for the last 15 years.

We should never forget that when attacks happen, and as civilians are ushered towards safety, it is the police and security services that take the opposite course and confront danger head-on.

PC Palmer was just 48. He was a husband and a father of a 5-year-old daughter. He courageously faced down the attacker. I can only imagine the grief his family feel today. They do not mourn alone.

Around the world people joined to send their messages of solidarity. The terrorists will not win. Our diversity, our unity and our democracy makes us stronger. Our respect for human rights, our belief in the rule of law and our compassion make us stronger. These are the values that confront the hatred they espouse. They cannot win.
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A watery-themed programme with legendary Squeeze frontman Glenn Tilbrook at the helm has been unveiled to help celebrate the arrival of up to 40 historic ships from across the globe.

Plans for the Greenwich Tall Ships Festival to mark the arrival of the Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta over Easter include free outdoor street performances in both Greenwich and Woolwich town centres.

Historic sailing ships including the Aphrodite to the Zephyr are to be anchored by the riverside on the Royal Arsenal site in Woolwich and Maritime Greenwich and visitors will be able to get on board for free.

Paid-for trips up the river to Tower Bridge will be on offer, and the highlights of the festival include a spectacular Parade of Sail climax as the ships head out to Quebec in Canada on Sunday, April 16 from 5pm.

For landlubbers there is to be plenty of activities to enjoy at the festival, which attracted around a million visitors when it was last held in 2014, spending around £17 million. The four-day event is to be launched on Thursday, April 13.

Charlton resident and singer-songwriter Tilbrook, from Squeeze, who cut their musical teeth in South East London, is among the acts set to entertain on the Pentimans Music Stage in Woolwich.

The highlights also include Spark! – a street theatre performance which combines drumming, dynamic choreography and lighting design.

Young singers from both the Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Youth Choir are to be among the youngsters showcasing their talents. Events are to culminate each evening with firework displays in both Woolwich and Greenwich.

Fifty youngsters from Greenwich will sail into Greenwich from Sines in Portugal as part of the first leg of the regatta, thanks to sponsorship from a range of companies and organisations.

Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, the cabinet member for culture, creative industries and community well-being, said: “The Rendez-Vous Tall Ships Regatta 2017 will be a maritime and cultural spectacular not to be missed. The event will also give a welcome boost to our local economy and businesses, who are already preparing for a very busy weekend.

“I’m incredibly proud of our local young people who have been picked to work as Tall Ships crew, and we are proud to be working with our official charity Partners Sea Cadets and Seafarers UK to increase such marvellous opportunities as these for young people.”

For more information visit www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/tallships/whatson. For information on sail trainee places available on the rest of the voyage visit www.sailonboard.co.uk.

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FOLLOWING an outcry of protest from the local community and a petition led by the West End Labour Action Team, the much-loved cinema Curzon Mayfair has moved nearer staving off the threat of closure.

Developers Vevil International and 38 Curzon Ltd have presented proposals to Westminster council seeking permission to install additional soundproofing to prevent noise from reaching recently refurbished luxury flats above the cinema.

“This represents a radical departure from the approach taken by the developers last year, when they brought an action of forfeiture against the cinema,” said a spokesman for the Westminster Labour councillors.

“If the action had been successful, the cinema would have had to leave their premises. It appears, however, that this approach has been dropped in favour of compromise.”

The U-turn follows pressure from the local community and the West End Labour Action Team, the much-loved cinema Curzon Mayfair’s management team who had argued that the venue is a unique community asset that had to be saved. Cinema-goers across the country also rallied behind the campaign to protect the historic venue.

Mr Lewis said: “This is a great step forward in the campaign to save the Curzon Mayfair. It goes to show that by pulling together we can send a strong message and protect cultural venues in the West End, putting the needs of the community above those of luxury-flat developers.”

“The campaign doesn’t end here though. We need to remain vigilant and continue to work to protect this cinema and indeed all cultural venues in the West End.”

“Too many places are under threat of closure. It is no exaggeration to say that arts and culture in the West End faces an unprecedented threat in this day and age.

“Curzon Soho is also under threat, and groups like Save Soho are doing a great job to raise the profile of the issue – we need to rally behind them.”

The petition read: “We the undersigned call on the mayor of London and Westminster City Council to step in and save historic cinema Curzon Mayfair from closure.”

“It is an absolute travesty that developers 38 Curzon Ltd have called on the Curzon to fork out £500,000 to soundproof luxury properties they are building above it. They know that the cinema doesn’t have the funds. They know that the venue is listed and would face an uphill struggle to get permission to change its interiors.

“This is a de facto attempt to close the Curzon through the back door.

“Curzon Mayfair must be protected. We simply cannot afford to lose this much-loved, iconic venue.”

MARYLEBONE’S Seymour Leisure Centre is set for a facelift that will introduce upgraded modern facilities into the historic site, as a public consultation opens on how to spend £1.6 million of investment.

Westminster council promises that the consultation will listen to people’s views on plans for new services and improvements for a location steeped in the history of UK sports.

“The current Seymour Leisure Centre was built as the modern incarnation of what is among the first public bath houses in the history of UK sports. The site in 1849. This bath house was developed and rebuilt over time until it was eventually replaced by the current building – which celebrates its 80th birthday this year,” said a council spokesman.

“This refurbishment work forms part of a programme of investment worth £9 million at sites across Westminster by our contractor, Everyone Active.

“At the Seymour, new facilities will potentially include a Hot Yoga studio, a group cycling studio, a new exercise studio, plus the refurbishment of the existing health suite to include hot beds and an expansion of the current gym area. This will be combined with a general update to the changing rooms.”

Cllr David Harvey, the council’s cabinet member for sport, leisure and community, said: “Seymour Leisure Centre is a fantastic location with a history of providing London with a healthy place to train and relax. The consultation on the refurbishment will run until Sunday, April 9. Residents can also complete a questionnaire, hosted on the Seymour Leisure Centre’s website and at the reception of the centre.”

COUNCILLORS move to name and shame dodgy landlords

WESTMINSTER councillors are to name and shame dodgy West End landlords so that people know who to avoid when looking to rent.

The plan to “out the rogues” is part of a new scheme for private tenants launched by the West End Labour Action Team.

The team is calling on residents, businesses and workers in the West End for their feedback on which landlords cannot be trusted, and which can.

“Our new plan brings forward ambitious proposals to tackle the fact that private tenants pay more and more in rent and yet may have to put up with poor living conditions like damp,” said a spokesman. “At a time when the prospect of home ownership remains a distant prospect for many, the West End Labour Action Team is calling on Westminster council to stand up for ‘Generation Rent’ and make sure tenants get a fair deal.”

Pancho Lewis, of the West End Labour team, said: “More than 40 per cent of residents rent, and the average tenant pays nearly half of their income in rent. And yet far too many tenants live in substandard accommodation. It’s just not on – we need to tackle this issue.

“We plan to introduce a scheme that would help tenants who are being let down by their landlords while celebrating landlords who do a good job, and name and shame those who don’t.”

The consultation will run until Sunday, April 9. Residents can also complete a questionnaire, hosted on the Westminster Council website and at the reception of the centre.

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The 163rd University Boat Race
crews get ready to do battle for 163rd time

BY TOM DEAN
shuz@slp.co.uk

The 163rd University Boat Race is taking place on Sunday, April 2.

Last year’s event will be remembered for the Cambridge men’s crew’s first win since 2012 and the terrible conditions which saw the Cambridge women nearly sink and allow Oxford to coast to an easy victory.

The Championship Course is four miles, 374 yards and stretches between Putney and Mortlake on the River Thames. The race is among the oldest sporting event in the world. Cambridge boast the superior record with the light blue men leading Oxford by 82 wins to 79. Cambridge’s women also have an advantage over their rivals, with 41 wins, to Oxford’s 30.

This year the Cancer Research UK Boat Races will be broadcast on BBC and presented by Claire Balding, with the women’s race at 4.35pm and the men’s race at 5.35pm. Spectators will also be able to enjoy the race up close with great viewing locations at Putney Bridge, Craven Cottage and Putney Embankment.

The Cambridge crew includes two members of the winning 2016 team, and weighs in at a total of 747.6kg (117.7 stone), while Oxford were 721.7kg (113.6st). Cambridge’s men’s coach is Steve Trapmore, who won Olympic gold at Sydney 2000 as part of the British men’s eight.

Sean Bowden takes charge of the Oxford crew and has been chief coach since 1997, winning 11 of the last 17 races. The women’s race will be umpired by Sarah Winckless, who will become the first female to umpire a race on the Tideway nine months after she became the first female to umpire a race at Henley Royal Regatta. The men’s race will be umpired by four-time gold medal winner Sir Matthew Pinsent. Pinsent raced for Oxford in 1990, 1991 and 1993, winning the first two races before losing as President in 93.

Perhaps the most famous face to have competed in the race in Oxford-born actor Hugh Laurie, who followed in his father’s footsteps and took to the Thames for Cambridge in the 1980, race, which the light blues narrowly lost.

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The 163rd University Boat Race

Left, the 2017 crews line up for the crew announcement at the Francis Crick Institute. Right, the 2016 boats pass under Hammer-smith Bridge. Below, the Cambridge crew celebrate last year’s win. Inset, Matthew Pinsent. Opposite page, the Oxford women and Cambridge men celebrate their 2016 wins. Inset, Hugh Laurie

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Easier to see GP or nurse

PEOPLE who live in Westminster can now book appointments to see a GP or practice nurse seven days a week.

Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CGG) has introduced evening and weekend services to help local people access routine medical appointments at times that suit them.

Patients can arrange appointments with a GP or practice nurse between 6.30pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 8pm at weekends.

The appointments will be offered at Connaught Square Practice, Pimlico Health at the Marven, and Westminster Green Surgery.

The service is available to anyone who lives in or is registered with a GP in the Central London CCG area of Westminster.

To book an evening or weekend appointment patients will need to call their own GP practice during opening hours.

Walk-in appointments will not be available. Patients that need to book an urgent GP appointment when their practice is closed should continue to call NHS 111.

Residents of Queen’s Park and Paddington, which are linked to adjacent Westminster practices, can access similar services by contacting their own GP practices.

Doctors and nurses at the GP access centres will be able to see patients’ medical records, with the patient’s consent, to make the appointments as effective as possible.

People will be able to use these evening and weekend appointments for routine care such as checking a minor wound or rash, getting contraceptive advice.

Dr Neville Pursell, Chair of Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “We’re delighted to offer evening and weekend services to all of our residents.

“This helps busy people who need to get convenient, local healthcare at the times that suit them.”

For more information, go to facebook.com/londonsupportersleague/.

Boffins learn from falcons

ENGINEERS have been working on future aircraft concepts inspired by the aerodynamics of the world’s fastest bird, the peregrine falcon.

Scientists at BAE Systems and City University in London revealed how research into the way falcons fly is inspiring new technologies for aircraft that could contribute to their safety in the air, aerodynamics and fuel efficiency.

And they say that these innovative technologies could be applied within the next 10 years.

The scientists have developed several concepts following research into how the peregrine falcon is able to stay in control and absorb shocks from speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, even in high winds.

The technologies being developed include ‘sensory feathers’ – 3D printed polymer hair filaments which would act like sensors on the body of an aircraft, providing an early warning system if it began to stall.

Similarly, more densely packed passive polymer filaments may also be capable of changing the airflow very close to the surface of the aircraft which could reduce ‘drag’ on the wing skin.

Aerodynamic drag ultimately slows aircraft in flight.

A further technology has been inspired by the falcon’s ability to stabilise itself after swooping or landing by ruffling its feathers.

The researchers say small flexible rubber or ‘sighted’ flags on an aircraft could allow the wing to manoeuvre quickly and land more safely in the event of an accident.

They said the added safety margin gained using this approach could allow future aircraft of a more compact design to be built at any angle. And the research so far has shown that the flags could position the lower airfoil in the optimum position.

Meet your neighbour

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham Council is urging residents to get to know their neighbours with a hearty “Dzień dobry!”

The voluntary effort put forward by Polish language classes in the centre in King Street will probably earn a response of “Piękny cię zobaczy” – or “lovely to see you”, in English.

In an initiative aimed at encouraging neighbourliness, the council is funding an event called Meet Your Polish Neighbours, to build bridges in the community.

Run by London Spark – a group which promotes Polish culture and the initiative has its own Facebook page.

The first workshop has already been staged at POSK, the Polish Social and Cultural Association at 238 King Street, Hammersmith.

The workshop was attended by a mix of native Polish speakers and people learning the language.

They were taught about the Polish language and history, and were encouraged to write and paint eggs. The workshop will be repeated at the centre in King Street and through most of the boroughs.

Passed on the Polish names for: Victoria, Catherine, Andrew, Konrad and Lucy.

The workshop takes place on Wednesday [29 March] at 6pm at the centre in King Street.

Kings-size gesture of football unity

THE prospect of supporters of eight of Europe’s premier football coming together in the same pub might usually trigger a police task force, but the fans are united in a new soccer venture at a Fulham pub, writes Geoff Baker.

With the support of Britain’s Best Sporting Pub, the Famous Three Kings in Fulham, eight London-based fan clubs have restored the principle of the game bringing communities together, by setting up a London Supporters League, the first of its kind in Europe.

London fans of Juventus, Lazio, Roma, Porto, Lyon, AFC Fiorentina, Celtic and Aston Villa, are all playing in the inaugural league until 24th June, when five awards will be made including League Cup and Best Player, as voted by the opponent club at the end of each match.

The opening ceremony was held last week at the pub in North End Road which was named Best Sports Pub in the 2016 Great British Pub Awards.

“We’re as big on foreign games as we are on English football, welcoming all nationalities,” said pub manager Paul Eastwood.

“This is such a positive signal to football players and fans all over the world, and it also shows the positive role British pubs actually play in uniting communities through sport.”

Taking the competition seriously, league organisations are observing all the proper rules, appointing qualified and independent referees to oversee fair play.

Chairmen of Italian Lazio and Roma fan clubs first came up with the idea, inviting other clubs and the Famous Three Kings to get involved who together made the vision come true.

“The voluntary effort put into setting up the league speaks volumes for the sentiment of the competition,” said Mr Eastwood.

“This is the first year of the event, but our ambition is to grow with more teams and be proud of a game that we know has so much good about it in connecting passionate people whilst promoting the health and benefits to society.

For more information, go to facebook.com/londonsupportersleague/.

Fans outside Fulham’s Famous Three Kings pub, united in a pioneering football initiative that brings football lovers together

Sound plan to tackle rising volume of noise complaints

BY GEOFF BAKER

MONEY can’t buy you love and it can’t buy you peace and quiet either – Kensington and Chelsea, London’s richest borough, has been outed as the noisiest.

When it comes to noisy neighbours irritating other residents, the royal borough is top of the capital’s poll of complaints from people wanting others to “TURN IT DOWN”.

Loud music, building work and buzzers are the biggest cause of the 13,790 complaints that RBKC residents made to the council last year.

The statistics put Kensington and Chelsea top of the noisy neighbourhood poll as, with a population of 157,700, it is the equivalent of approximately 87.4 complaints per 1000 locals.

Compiled by noise monitoring experts Cirrus Research via Freedom of Information requests of 33 London boroughs, the city overall had more than 143,000 noise nuisance complaints logged.

Westminster came second with 16,955 complaints within a population of around 242,900 – the equivalent of 68.8 complaints per 1000 and Hammersmith and Fulham came in third with 8,963 complaints within 179,000, or 50 complaints per 1000.

Residents of the royal borough who “have had it up to here” with all of the noise may want to consider a move to Lewisham, a much quieter borough where only 458 complaints were logged, or 1.5 per 1000 in a population of over 297,000.

“The City of London provided an anomaly for us,” said a spokesman for Cirrus Research.

With only 8,072 residents living in the financial district but 1,022 complaints made, it would have meant a hefty 128.6 complaints per 1000.

However, with around 400,000 commuters coming into offices on a daily basis, that takes the tally down to a more reasonable 2.5 per 1000 and that made more sense.

“We also asked the council how many of these complaints ended up being prosecuted or convicted. Only 96 cases ended up in court across London. The vast majority were resolved using mediation or warnings. Haringey came top here with 25 prosecutions.”

But, making itself heard above the din, Kensington and Chelsea Council is putting a brave face on the racket that is driving thousands of residents spare.

A council spokesman said: “We have one of the most responsive noise and nuisance departments in London, available seven days a week and through most of the night. Other boroughs don’t work these hours so the complaints cannot be acted on.”

“People who live in Westminster can now book appointments to see a GP or practice nurse seven days a week.

Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (CGG) has introduced evening and weekend services to help local people access routine medical appointments at times that suit them. Patients can arrange appointments with a GP or practice nurse between 6.30pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am to 8pm at weekends. The appointments will be offered at Connaught Square Practice, Pimlico Health at the Marven, and Westminster Green Surgery.

The service is available to anyone who lives in or is registered with a GP in the Central London CCG area of Westminster. To book an evening or weekend appointment patients will need to call their own GP practice during opening hours. Walk-in appointments will not be available. Patients that need to book an urgent GP appointment when their practice is closed should continue to call NHS 111. Residents of Queen’s Park and Paddington, which are linked to adjacent Westminster practices, can access similar services by contacting their own GP practices. Doctors and nurses at the GP access centres will be able to see patients’ medical records, with the patient’s consent, to make the appointments as effective as possible. People will be able to use these evening and weekend appointments for routine care such as checking a minor wound or rash, getting contraceptive advice.

Dr Neville Pursell, Chair of Central London Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “We’re delighted to offer evening and weekend services to all of our residents. This helps busy people who need to get convenient, local healthcare at the times that suit them.”

For more information, go to centrallondonccg.nhs.uk.
Talk of the town

N football, if your star striker is injured, it’s always interesting to see the different dynamic when a player comes off the bench to take their place. The whole shape of the team and their attitude to the match can completely change with the addition of some fresh legs and the same can be said for a team of performers, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Just days before the first preview of Stepping Out at the Vaudeville Theatre, leading lady Tamzin Outhwaite broke her foot and had to be replaced by stage stalwart Anna-Jane Casey.

After watching the show at Richmond last year, I can safely say the stoppage time sub is a real game changer and has helped to turn Maria Friedman’s production, which also stars Amanda Holden, from a theatrical plot into a snappy and infinitely charming portrayal of friendship.

The new star hooper isn’t the only modification since the touring production; in fact, it’s really become a different show.

Gone are the slow scene changes (and thankfully, the dancing children) and what’s left is a fast paced and punchy comedy brimming with appeal.

The plot of Richard Harris’ play will be familiar to many, having enjoyed numerous past incarnations, including a film version, which starred Liza Minnelli and Julie Walters. It invites us to sit in on a weekly tap dancing class, led by former pro Mavis (Anna-Jane Casey).

The play has been regularly performed on the amateur circuit, a place where, for me, it is at its best, with people who need once a week for an escape from their everyday lives portraying just that.

No, there is no real depth of character on display, but who really shows their inner feelings at a weekly class with virtual strangers? Don’t most people put on a bit of façade?

The play does however highlight the need for friendship and the ups and downs we all go through when attempting to formulate bonds with strangers.

Tracey-Ann Oberman’s volupitous, overconfident Maxine and Lesley Vickerage’s neurotic Andy sit at opposite ends of the group’s demographic and yet all of the characters exhibit a desperate loneliness in one way or another.

Anna-Jane Casey, in sharp contrast to Tamzin Outhwaite, brings a much-needed sensitivity to Mavis. Her entire fibre screes out that she is a dancer, even when just showing basic steps and her solo dance to a mix tape of show tunes is a real highlight.

Amanda Holden as Vera in Stepping Out

At one point she ironically utters the line: ‘I understood the lead a few times but never got on.’ In this production, she most certainly has got on and is absolutely outstanding.

Atmanda Holden’s shiny Vera is particularly caricatured (money obsessed with OCD), but the actress plays on her public persona to great effect, while Judith Baker as accompanist Mrs Fraser, is a typical matriarchal community figure; cantankerous and unwavering in her views, but hiding a heart of gold.

What Harris does with this and his other famous community centred play, Outside Edge, is capture the simplicity of parochial life. He doesn’t attempt to give the stories too much grit or depth but, by putting ordinary people at the heart of the action, he makes them delightfully relatable.

Stepping Out is running at the Vaudeville Theatre until June 17. You can visit the website for further details www.nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre/stepping_out

The Stage launches new awards to encourage rising talent

The world’s oldest theatre publication, The Stage has announced new awards to recognise the best breakthrough actors and creatives in theatre.

The Stage Debut Awards will celebrate burgeoning talent within the industry and anyone over the age of 16, making their professional theatre debut in the UK, will be eligible.

The Stage has a long history of discovering and supporting breakthrough talent, having been the first to review Tom Hiddleston, pictured, in his theatrical debut in 2005 for Yorgin Ox - The Man at Theatre 503, London. The Stage also gave Phoebe Waller-Bridge The Stage Edinburgh Award for her fringe show Fleabag in 2013. Meanwhile, Idris Elba secured his first acting role through The Stage newspaper, Alistair Smith, print editor of The Stage, said: “It’s increasingly hard to break into a career in theatre - especially if you’re not from a privileged or well-connected background. So, with The Stage Debut Awards we wanted to launch an awards that recognise the best performers, directors, writers, composers and designers from across the UK at the very start of their careers. The awards will serve as a launchpad for our winners and nominees and will help theatre retain the best and most diverse talent at a time when it can be a real struggle for emerging talent to make a name for themselves.

Shortlisted nominees will be announced in August, and invited to a awards ceremony in London on September 17, when the winners will be revealed.

Breakthrough talent can be nominated for consideration by the judging panel at thestage.co.uk/debuts. The deadline for nominations is July 30, 2017.

Categories open for nominations include: Best West End Debut, Best Writer and Best Designer as well as gongs for Best Actor in a Play, Best Actress in a Play and for leading roles in musicals.

Her sister, Natalie Casey (best known for starring alongside Sheridan Smith and Ralf Little in the sitcom, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crips) is another welcome addition and brings a hilarious irreverence to Sylvia, while Sandra Marvin continues to provide a huge amount of self deprecating, mirthful warmth as Rose.

Amanda Holden’s shiny Vera is particularly caricatured (money obsessed with OCD), but the actress plays on her public persona to great effect, while Judith Baker as companion Mrs Fraser, is a typical matriarchal community figure; cantankerous and unwavering in her views, but hiding a heart of gold.

What Harris does with this and his other famous community centred play, Outside Edge, is capture the simplicity of parochial life. He doesn’t attempt to give the stories too much grit or depth but, by putting ordinary people at the heart of the action, he makes them delightfully relatable.

Stepping Out is running at the Vaudeville Theatre until June 17. You can visit the website for further details www.nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre/stepping_out

THE story of the Kray twins has long ignited intrigue in the public and has led to some hugely popular dramatisations, including the 1990 film The Krays, which starred Martin and Gary Kemp.

A new play, which explores the early lives of Ronnie and Reggie Kray will be staged at Theatre N16 in Balham next month.

Entitled simply Kray Kray, the production boasts a pair of rising stars, who are ready to take on the roles of the notorious East End gangsters. With a continued fascination for their less than salubrious existence, the show promises to provide an intriguing evening out.

Ronnie and Reggie Kray were two of London’s most notorious gangsters. Basing their image and entire way of life around the iconic American gangster movies and the more classic Dickens’ baddies, the Kray twins managed to maintain a successful and theatrical career for many years.

The new play will star Perry Medowcroft (as Reggie) and Jimmy Barker (as Ronnie) and explores some of the early experiences of the famous duo, their subsequent influence on London crime, and their offer of a possible film deal.

Kray Kray runs at Theatre N16 in Balham from April 11-29 - www.theatren16.co.uk

Kray Kray

Perry Medowcroft and Jimmy Barker as the Kray twins  Photo by Paul Nicholas Dyke
Danny Mac will lead the cast of On the Town at the Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre this summer

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TRICTLY Come Dancing finalist Danny Mac will join the cast of the classic musical On the Town when it is performed at Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre later this year.

The show, made famous by the 1949 film, which starred Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin, will also feature Fred Haig and Jeremy Taylor.

Siena Kelly, Lizzy Connolly and Miriam-Teak Lee take the roles of Ivy, Hildy and Claire, originally played in the film version by Vera-Ellen, Betty Garrett and Ann Miller.

Also joining the cast are Maggie Steed as Madame Dilly, Naoko Mori as Lucy Schmeeler, Rodney Earl Clarke as The Workman and Mark Heenehan as Judge Pitkin.

Danny Mac (Gabey) was a finalist in Strictly Come Dancing 2016 and, with dancing partner Otai Mabuse, has recently completed the Strictly Come Dancing Live arena tour. Following his training at Arts Educational Schools he played Mark ‘Dodger’ Savage in Holyoaks, and went on to join the cast of Wicked at the Victoria Apollo.

Completing the cast are: Michelle Andrews, Myles Brown, Matthew Capputo, Edward Chitticks, Lavinia Fitzpatrick, Cristina Hoye, James Lees, Jacob Maynard, Rachel Muldoon, Melissa Nettleford, Emily Ann Potter, Mollie Meda Redgrave, Lisa Ritchie, Burnaby Thompson, Sam Salter and Brandon Lee Sears.

Playing from May 19 to July 1 On The Town is based on a concept by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, including the hit song “New York, New York (it’s a helluva town).” It is directed and choreographed by Drew McOnie.

● THE season continues with Dick-ens Uncovered. Artistic Director Timothy Sheader directs A Tale of Two Cities (July 7 – August 8), a new play by Matthew Dunster adapted from the original Dickens novel.

Developing open air theatre’s pro-

gramme of work made especially for families, Caroline Byrne will direct Twizzles created for everyone aged six and over adapted by Anya Reiss (July 17 – August 5).

Completing the 2017 season, Jesus Christ Superstar returns for just 41 performances (August 11 – September 16), giving audiences one last chance to see the production in its original home. The musical, directed by Timothy Sheader, won the Evening Standard Award for Best Musical, and is currently nominated for six Olivier Awards.

On The Town will run at Regent’s Park Open Air 19th May – 1st July. You can find further details on the website openairtheatre.com
HIP-hop legends De La Soul will be joining this year’s House of Common festival in Clapham alongside curators Madness and the recently announced David Rodigan. The addition of De La Soul is a glimpse of the strength and breadth of this year’s line-up. Madness’ recent announcement of the event’s return on Monday, August 28, also signaled what will be the Nutty Boys only London live date of 2017.

After their most recent album And The Anonymous Nobody was nominated for ‘Best Rap Album’ at this years Grammy's, De La Soul will be taking to the stage at House of Common to play a selection of material from their new album and some true hip-hop classics from their genre-defining back catalogue. And The Anonymous Nobody (their first album in 12 years and crowd funded to the tune of $600,000) features contributions from Damon Albarn, David Byrne, Little Dragon, Snoop Dogg, 2 Chainz, Usher, Estelle, Jill Scott and more.

De La Soul will join the line up for House of Common

Oh, to be Seventeen again

Seventeen Lyric Hammersmith ★★★

I’m sure there are times when we would all like to turn back the clock - just go back to our youth for a day or so - to when the future was laid out in front of us like a sea of opportunity and the stresses of adult life hadn’t yet reared their ugly heads, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Matthew Whittet’s Seventeen at the Lyric Hammersmith gives some veteran actors the opportunity to do just that in a production, which sees them revisit their final day at secondary school and experience again the excitement and trepidation faced by those on the cusp of adulthood.

The cleverly conceived play casts actors in their sixties to portray teenagers, so we experience a dual plot, where students look back on their school days, while retirees reminisce about their lives.

The cleverly conceived play casts actors in their sixties to portray teenagers, so we experience a dual plot, where students look back on their school days, while retirees reminisce about their lives.

Tom Scutt’s set design, comprised of an oversized playground, complete with an infinity symbol shaped climbing frame, further adds to the ingenious symbolism. And the costumes and props make time feel even more muddled.

A wonderful day in the sun saw Madness joined by Toots and the Maytals, David Rodigan, Lee Scratch Perry, Norman Jay and more, and this year’s line-up promises to deliver all this and much much more.

Located in the heart of the capital, Clapham Common is Madness’ spiritual home (south of the river, at least) and for good reason. It’s an oasis of peace amid the busy traffic of South West London, it is a vibrant summer destination, famed for its annual music gigs and festivals.

Madness say: ‘Madheads, carnival heads and madkids united to revel in the sunshine on Clapham Common for the first ever House of Common in 2016. It was the highlight of our mad year and we’re now spending these cold hours and days planning how to make 2017’s even better. Well worry about the entertainment, you bring the sunshine.’

More artists, stages and news of family-friendly areas will be to be revealed in the coming weeks, with House of Common 2017 shaping up to be one essential events of the summer.

House of Common 2017 will take place on Clapham Common on Monday August 28. You can find more details on the website www.houseofcommon.co.uk

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E VERYBODY likes a trier and we here at the LWN like them more than most. So too do the fans of Tall Ships, for whom the boat has come in again.

Following a series of what any master of understatement would call “dis-appointments”, Tall Ships are back and at the helm of their destiny to be a hugely successful band of rich promise, with the release of Petrichor’, the new single from their eagerly-awaited second album Impressions.

Frontman Ric Phethean says: “It started as a collection of one-liners trying to distil the sense of detachment I was feeling at the time of writing. Whilst working on the song, I came across the word petrichor, which describes the scent you get after a downpour during a long dry spell.

“This felt like a pretty apt word to describe the song and that feeling of relief that comes with externalising and talking about all the problems we carry around within us.”

Tall Ships have carried that weight a bit more than most.

“It all just crumbled away for a little while,” says Phethean, speaking of the period following their acclaimed debut album, 2012’s Everything Touching, which saw them championed by both the BBC and NME, selling out shows across the UK, and headlining the BBC Introducing Stage at Reading & Leeds Festivals.

After five years of hard graft building towards the album - enjoying industry plaudits and ever-growing audiences - they found themselves with no management and no record label, forced to confront the fact it all could’ve been a false start.

A lesser band would have packed it in and moved on; that band would not be Tall Ships.

“We were emotionally, physically and financially spent. We needed a break for a while to pay off debts we’d accumulated, recover from health issues and simply do our own thing,” said Phethean.

But that’s all in the past now and the band - Phethean, bassist Matt Parker, drummer Jamie Bush and keyboardist Jamie Field - opted to go it alone, taking command of every element of their art. Retreating to Field’s home on the edge of Dartmoor, they adopted a similarly DIY recording process to that which birthed Everything Touching years back.

Now, with their tour gigs selling out everywhere, Tall Ships have added a new show on May 3rd at London’s Bush Hall.

“We recorded and engineered all of the new album, the DIY nature of it is one of necessity, not aesthetic,” says Field.

What emerged speaks for itself. Impressions bristles with the most ambitious and anthemic music the group has ever written, marking them out once more as one of the UK’s most promising rock bands, but one worn with the battle scars of doubt, fragility and lessons learned the hard way.

“The album title references indentations that are left in us from the pressure and the knocks we inevitably receive while being alive. Life can be an incredibly difficult thing at times and the tragic events, joyous events and tender moments all leave their marks upon us,” said Phethean.

“If someone had just come to us and given us the money to make a second album right away, it would’ve been completely different. It’s a product of everything that’s happened over the past four years.”

INTERNATIONAL treasures British Sea Power release their first new material in four years on March 31st, with a fan-funded album that sounds like just what the doctor ordered for the Brexit blues.

Melodic, direct and brimming with emotional urgency, Let The Dancers Inherit The Party is an album inspirationally-described as “where rock muscularity joins inseparably with pop immediacy like a crate of the finest sparkling wine exploding inside a Marshall stack.”

We all want a bit of that, although probably wise to unplug at the mains first.

“Across their entire history, British Sea Power have taken a broad and panoramic perspective that’s drawn on historical events while mirroring the ageless wonders of the natural world,” said their spokesman.

“Let The Dancers Inherit The Party’s twelve songs cover subject matters ranging from the stars in the night sky to the methodology of media manipulation. Both consistently contingent and consistent in mood, the album alludes to a world full of chaos and disorder whilst seeking to answer that world with optimism and hope.”

What hope’s that, then? Guitarist Martin Noble explains: “The album was made to a background of politicians perfecting the art of unabashed lying, of social-media echo chambers, of click-bait and electronic Tonka Toys to keep us entertained and befuddled.

“All this can easily make the individual feel futile. But I think we’ve ended up addressing this confusion in an invigorating way, rather than imprisoning the listener in melancholy.

“Musically, it’s our most direct album and maybe the first one where we maintain a coherent mood from start to finish.

“Perhaps a little clarity isn’t a bad thing at this point. There wasn’t a plan to create an album with any particular subject matter but we’ve kind of ended up with a case of ‘think global, act local’ – an album where individuals are dealing with their domestic and personal lives against a background of uncontrollable international lunacy.”

Recorded in Sussex, London and on the Isle of Skye, it follows the band’s five studio albums for the great Rough Trade Records – a catalogue of releases that saw BSP become the longest continually-signed band in the label’s history.

The entire recording of the album was funded by the band’s remarkably dedicated audience. Money was raised via a multi-faceted programme with pledges ranging from pre-orders for a limited-edition box set version of the album to paying £1,500 for a tattoo that gives entry to all future BSP shows.

Let The Dancers Inherit The Party sees the band return to the kind of exhilarating and bright-minded guitar music that has seen them nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and which has drawn praise from David Bowie, Lou Reed and the National Maritime Museum, alongside Doctor Who, Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes (Peter Capaldi, Daniel Radcliffe and Benedict Cumberbatch have all declared themselves fans).

British Sea Power will play at 02 Shepherd’s Bush Empire on April 12th.
simple Minds are going back on the road for their first tour of the UK in 30 years, starting at the London Palladium on May 27th, and at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on June 4th.

To mark the forthcoming release of a new album, Simple Minds Acoustic, the band will be performing their career-spanning collection of songs acoustically for the very first time, and will be joined by special guest The Anchors.

The tour and new album follows several years in which the band has gone from strength-to-strength, becoming more relevant than ever; their 2014 album Big Music received across the board praise, with Mojo magazine declaring it “their best album in 30 years”.

Simple Minds Acoustic continues the band’s artistic quest with a one-off album release of strum, performing and reimagined songs, covering the whole of their eclectic and illustrious career.

“On Simple Minds Acoustic the band have found a way of doing the acoustic thing without losing their essence, and a dozen Simple Minds songs loved by millions now sound, more organic and even more likely to leave a lasting imprint. The synths are no more – but the Celtic soul remains,” said the band’s spokesman.

“The fact that the album sessions entailed a sentimental return to their Glasgow roots for Jim and guitarist Charlie Burchill, helped, with some songs recorded in Gorbals Studio, a former railway workers’ social club located a stone’s throw from the high-rise estates of the city’s South Side where the pair took their first musical steps.

“It was in this building that Jim and Charlie played their first gig, as teenagers in a school glam-rock band, and emotions were understandably high on their return.”

The genesis of Simple Minds Acoustic can be traced back to a rare live session the band recorded for the Chris Evans Breakfast Show in September 2014, promoting Big Music. The reaction, to the band’s surprise, was rave reviews.

“With this in mind, the band began 2016 by putting together an acoustic set for the Zer-natt Unplugged Festi-val in the Swiss Alps,” said the spokesman.

“Having spent weeks working on meticulously layered acoustic arrangements of their best-loved songs for that 90-minute performance, they began hatching plans to record them.

“With Jim and Charlie augmented by regular bassist Ged Grimes, backing vocalist Sarah Brown, acoustic guitarist Gordy Goudie and percussionist Cherisse Osei, they temporarily halted the recording of the forthcoming sequel to Big Music – a new album that will be anything but acoustic” – and gave their complete commitment to an all-encompassing acoustic project. The recorded versions stick to many of the ideas forged for that Swiss show, with the synthetic sounds of old replaced with warmer effects.

“As a group who formed in the punk era and found their mojo through a shared love of Bowie, Kraftwerk and electronic dance, Simple Minds are not natural acoustic adventurers, but they have done a remarkable job here, adding fresh nuance to brilliant songs without trampling on sacred memories.”

Jim Kerr added: “The concert stage is where Simple Minds do their best work – it is where we forged our distinctive live reputation. For that reason we look forward immensely to taking Simple Minds Acoustic out on tour.

“With a great live line-up and a set-list full of iconic Minds songs, it is bound to be a unique and memorable experience for both band and fans.”

Simple Minds have just re-released the video to the first single to be taken from the new album, Promised You A Miracle, which features fellow Scot KT Tunstall and is said to be “swaggering”.

Honeyblood date

MORE from Glasgow. The two-piece Honeyblood, hailed by MOJO as “tipped for immortality”, will end their new UK & Ireland tour at Koko on June 16th.

Tickets are selling like the clappers for the gig by frontwoman Stina Tweeddale and drummer Cat Myers, who will be performing tracks from their new album Babes Never Die, including the title track single with the video that has set YouTube on fire.

Shot across their recent world tour, the backstage footage was filmed by Cat and I made it without great folk getting involved and filming at the shows.”

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Teething probs but revamped pub offers a touch of class

A LOAF of bread really does cost the Earth, a new study found. Each year Britons munch their way through 12 million loaves and it is a staple on many a home's dinner table. Now University of Sheffield scientists have analysed the environmental impact of our love of bread, rolls and pastries.

The university's Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures looked at the complete process from growing and harvesting the wheat to milling the grain, producing the flour, baking the bread and preparing it for the bakery shelf.

The study found the ammonium nitrate fertiliser used to grow the wheat contributes more than two thirds – 63 per cent – of greenhouse gas emissions, dwarfing all the other processes in the supply chain.

Around three fifths of all grain and vegetable crops rely on fertilisers and 100 million tonnes are used globally every year. Agrifood research fellow Dr Liam Goucher said: "Consumers are usually unaware of the environmental burdens of their food. Yet there are steps farmers can take to mitigate the impact of dairy foods on breast cancer risk, the study suggests they can be just as horting.

Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the UK, with more than 50,000 diagnosed each year. It claims nearly 11,500 lives annually.

Diet is known to play a key role in risk. Recent research has linked a poor diet during adolescence and early adulthood to a greater risk of breast cancer among younger women. Although some dairy products may be considered unhealthy, research assessing the impact on breast cancer has produced inconsistent results.

Some studies have linked dairy intake to greater risk, while others have indicated the opposite. Dr Susan McCann, of Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, said: "Dairy foods are important sources of several nutrients that can also be high in fat. When it comes to the impact of dairy foods on breast cancer risk, the study suggests they can be just as confusing.

Too much cheese raises cancer risk

EATING too much cheese can raise the risk of breast cancer by more than 50 per cent, according to new research. A study of more than 3,000 women found those who consumed a lot were much more likely to develop the disease.

Scientists reviewed more than a decade of dietary surveys completed by the participants, almost 2,000 of whom had been diagnosed with breast cancer. A higher intake of cheese, especially Cheddar and cream cheese, was linked with a 53 per cent increased risk.

"Cheddar is Britain's favourite cheese, with the famous Somerset product claiming about half the annual £2.75 billion UK market. On the other hand, dairy products as a whole were also associated with a 15 per cent lower risk. Some studies are almost entirely due to eating yogurt, which made breast cancer 39 per cent less likely, reports Current Developments in Nutrition."

"Specific dairy foods may contribute to breast cancer risk in women, although risk varies by source of dairy."

The study reported higher intakes of yogurt were associated with reduced risk of breast cancer and higher intakes of American, Cheddar, and cream cheeses were associated with a marginally significant increased risk.

Dr McCann said: "Dairy foods are important sources of several nutrients that can also be high in fat. When it comes to the impact of dairy foods on breast cancer risk, the study suggests they can be just as confusing."

"There is perhaps awareness of pollution caused by plastic packaging – but many people will be surprised at the wider environmental impacts revealed in this study."

"In the study, her team reviewed data on more than a decade of surveys completed by the participants, almost 2,000 of whom had been diagnosed with breast cancer."

"When making their calculations they took into account factors including age, body mass index, menstrual status and a family history of breast cancer."

"The researchers said further studies are needed but they believe their current findings shed some light."

A higher intake of cheese, especially Cheddar and cream cheese, was linked with a 53 per cent increased risk.
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IF you rent a property in Somerset, it’s a good idea to stay on top of national lettings legislation so you don’t fall foul of dodgy landlords.

**Energy Efficiency regulations**

Rental properties must, in general, achieve at least an ‘E’ rating in their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) by April 2018 - or landlords may not be permitted to let them out. Landlords must order an EPC before they market their property, so ask to see one before you sign on the dotted line. Failing to do so could mean you’ll be overpaying on your energy bills.

**Electrical safety**

The government’s recent white paper on housing outlined an intention to tackle the issue of electrical safety. Although no details have yet been announced, new laws are expected in April and could demand landlords prove their property has had its electrical installation check and that electrical appliances have been subject to a PAT test before it can be let. Electrical safety is a serious issue, so make sure you ask your landlord if they have the relevant documentation.

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Transport for London, in consultation with the City of Westminster, hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3:

1. The purpose of the Order is enable carriageway works and resurfacing to take place on the A202 Vauxhall Bridge Road and Bessborough Gardens.

2. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
   (1) entering, exiting or proceeding on Bessborough Gardens between its junctions with Vauxhall Bridge Road and Allington Street;
   (2) entering, exiting or proceeding on Vauxhall Bridge Road between its junctions with Bessborough Gardens and Allington Street;
   (3) entering, exiting or proceeding on Allington Street between its junctions with Vauxhall Bridge Road and Bessborough Gardens;
   (4) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

3. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

4. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via:
   (For vehicles wishing to proceed northbound on Vauxhall Bridge Road) A3214 Vauxhall Bridge Road, St George’s, Lambeth Road, Blackfriars Bridge, London.
   (For vehicles wishing to proceed southbound on Vauxhall Bridge Road) A3214 Vauxhall Bridge Road, St George’s, Lambeth Road, Blackfriars Bridge, London.

Dated this 28th day of March 2017

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager, Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham


definitions

428 Shepherd's Bush Road London W12 7RD

Display of a free-standing illuminated sign, in the existing external lighting scheme, to display the replacement telephone kiosk.

59 Goldhawk Road London W12 7LD

Display of a free-standing illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

242 And 426 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6AE

Erection of a rear extension to No. 426; installation of a new garage; and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing rear balcony. The application reference: 2016/05450/FUL

287 King Street London W6 7NJ

Erection of a rear extension to include the installation of a new garage, of single storey building in the west side of Australia Road White City London W12 7PH

Erection of rear extension to include the installation of a single storey building in the west side of Australia Road White City London W12 7PH

If you want to make comments on any of the applications or the development, please visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Comments can also be emailed to plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

MCLACHLAN Director for Planning and Development

HAMPSTEAD & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress at www.lbhf.gov.uk. You can also view a list of recent planning applications at the Planning Home Page.

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Conor Washington scored his third international goal for Northern Ireland – in the World Cup qualifying win against Norway

West London goal heroes

Championship ‘rejects’ Martin and Washington strike World Cup glory

TWO strikers not considered automatic choices for their rival Championship clubs in West London fired themselves in the World Cup. Rob Newell Chris Martin silenced his Scottish critics with the crucial winner against Slovenia.

Chris Martin silenced his Scottish critics with the crucial winner against Slovenia

WOU D YOU LIKE TO GO ON A TOUR OF STAMFORD BRIDGE?

Chris Martin silenced his Scottish critics with the crucial winner against Slovenia.

FULLHAM midfielder Tom Cairney was rewarded for a fine season when he made his Scotland debut in their 1-1 draw with Canada last Wednesday.

Cairney rewarded – at last

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Cairney rewarded – at last

“Chopper” Harris will take place on Sunday April 9 at 3.30pm.

The admission price is £80 per person. But we have two tickets to give away to one lucky fan. To stand a chance of winning, all you have to do is tell us the result of the FA Cup final replay at Old Trafford in April 1970.

Now, this is an email-reply-only competition. Send your (hopefully) correct answer to cfcjourno@gmail.com by noon tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29 – yes, that’s tomorrow, so be quick! I shall pick out of the hat one winner – and two tickets will be that person’s to collect on the day.

Please supply a phone number where you can contact you should you win. Additional points to note: the editor’s decision is final and you have to be able to get a taxi from Stamford Bridge under your own steam. This is a tickets-for-the-tour-only competition. Good luck!

If you are unsuccessful, you can still book a ticket online for £80 at chelseafc.timepursuit.com.

Ron “Chopper” Harris during his Chelsea days have two tickets to give away to one lucky fan. To stand a chance of winning, all you have to do is tell us the result of the FA Cup final replay at Old Trafford in April 1970.

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

WIN! Chelsea Legends Tour

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A TOUR OF STAMFORD BRIDGE WITH THE LEGEND Ron "Chopper" Harris as your guide?

LWNSport has teamed up with our friends at Chelsea FC to allow you and a friend the chance to win just such a prize.

For the ultimate stats with still the highest appearance maker will show the tour participants around the Bridge and while entertaining them with tales of his eventful time in West London, which lasted almost 20 years.

As well as that epic 1970 replay victory over Leeds United, his time with Blues also included captaining the side to a first European success the following season.

On the tour there will be plenty of opportunity for photographs and autographs, as well as a Q&A session. All tour guests will receive a signed, personalised photo of Harris, plus a guidebook and use of an audio guide for the museum.

The tour with Ron “Chopper” Harris will take place on Sunday April 9 at 3.30pm.

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Gary Cahill is confident Blues can stay ahead of the rest in their pursuit of the Premier League title

By Paul Lagan

GARY Cahill is sure that Chelsea are fully prepared and ready for the home stretch they are entering, and that it will take Blues to the Premier League title.

Chelsea return to league action at Stamford Bridge on Saturday against a robust Crystal Palace side. And the West Londoners will have to display the same aggressive and positive attitude as they had in their last league outing, before the international break against Stoke City two weeks ago, if they are to reinforce their 10-point lead at the top.

The 2-1 win at Stoke, where Cahill scored the late decider, sent out a statement of intent to Tottenham Hotspur and the rest of the chasing pack.

Cahill said: “It’s been good for us to have coped with it really well. We have managed situations and still need to do the things we need to do.

“Teams have tried to play in different ways and systems against us but we have coped with it really well. We work really hard for each other on and off the pitch, which is the main thing.”

“It’s been a good season up to now but we know we have to keep going.”

Cahill tried to kick Blues into submission. Perhaps the Eagles, desperate for points themselves to stay clear of the bottom three, will try something similar? The South Londoners are just four points above the drop zone.

“We expected that sort of game at Stoke,” said Cahill. “I saw the Manchester City game when they played them and how well organised they were. They frustrated City.

“They were tough for us at home when we beat them 4-2, so it was important we didn’t get sucked into that. At times in the first half there were a few tackles going in and there was an element of them wanting to make it into a fight.”

Cahill feels that this Chelsea side is mature enough to expect the unexpected.

“I think it’s a case of adapting to different situations,” he said. “Sometimes we have played our football and everything goes nicely but it’s not always going to be like that. Teams won’t always let you do that and they shouldn’t either. It’s the way we have adapted to different situations that has been most pleasing, plus the way we are managing games.

“Against Stoke, there was a lot of stop and start in the first half, fouls and heated situations which could have boiled over. We could have got into a scrap with them but they would have been the ones to benefit. It’s just about managing situations and still playing our football.

“The manager stresses all the time that we still need to do the things we need to do.”

Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte can smell the title but is quick to add a measure of caution as they head into a tough couple of matches, firstly against Palace and then Manchester City (next Wednesday, April 5, 8pm) - both at home.

“Our path is incredibly,” he said. “What we are doing. If we look at the first part of the season it was very difficult to put Chelsea in the teams to fight for the title. The start of the season wasn’t bad with three wins. Then we changed a lot and now we stay at the top of the table – and we are determined to stay there.

“I have to say thanks to all of my players because they are working hard, they are working a lot and they trust in our football, our idea. They’re showing me in every game great commitment, great will to fight, great will to show that we can win the league.”

Conte expressed his appreciation of Cahill’s value at both ends of the field: “Gary can play also as a centre-forward,” said the Italian.

“Has good quality, acrobatic qualities and he’s very strong during set-pieces. I’m pleased for him because we conceded the penalty because the referee saw a little push from Gary. Then he thought to find the solution to score the second goal to win.

“I think this must be Chelsea’s mentality. Don’t forget, Chelsea is a great team and must play always to win. For this reason, when you play in this type of team you must have (the strength to build), you must work on this type of aspect – the mentality to grow.

“At Stoke, we showed from the start until the end the will to win the game, not to come only for one point. We didn’t want to manage the situation, we wanted to play the game to try to win, and in the end we deserved to win.”

Conte is now 10 games away from capping his first season of management in England with the ultimate prize.

“I like to say that now we have to take 21 points to be sure to win the title. Otherwise we risk to lose. We have to think always positive and game by game.

“The international break allowed some players to rest. It’s important to be focused, because now we have two games at home, against Crystal Palace and Manchester City. It’s important to be focused.”

While giving the impression that all that matters is the next game, a club of Chelsea’s stature always has to be thinking six months ahead, and to next season.

“I think that we started this season with work (to do),” he said. “This is the first season for me at Chelsea and for sure, when you have the possibility to work more years with the team you can improve, you must improve. It’s normal.

“This season is very important because my players are understanding my idea of football and they are adapting in my system, in my philosophy of football. We are building something important.

“I think my players are fully in my idea of football, fully in the method. But I think that in everything you can improve, and for sure we must improve. But I repeat, when I arrived, a new coach in a new team, you must know your players and have a bit of time to understand the habits, and then to bring them to your idea – but also to show them that your idea is a positive.”

CHELSEA Ladies have reached the Women’s FA Cup semi-finals.

On Sunday they had to overcome a 1-0 first-half setback at home to Sunderland but did so in emphatic style by hammering the North East outfit 5-1.

Two goals each from Ramona Bachmann and Hannah Blundell halted the potential shock and propelled Blues to an unassailable lead before Drew Spence added a last-minute goal.

If it should all come down to goal-difference, Fulham’s could prove decisive.

Comparing the two teams’ respective run-ins could well be little to choose between them in terms of calendar of opposition.

The combined league positions of Fulham’s eight opponents this season show they have only slightly lower at 58 points while Sheffield Wednesday’s is slightly lower at 56.