Labour think they can pull off shock result in ‘safe’ Tory seat

LABOUR Party chiefs in Kensington are seriously predicting the previously-thought-impossible – that the bluest seat in Britain could turn red next week.

They say the long-accepted belief that Kensington is the safest Conservative seat in the universe is “twaddle”.

But independent election experts say Labour’s high hope is rubbish and that the Tory candidate Victoria Borwick is predicted to walk it.

Labour leaders say statistically all that is needed is “a slight swing” for Kensington to return the biggest shock result of the entire general election.

A combination of changes since the last election – when Sir Malcolm Rifkind won the safe Tory seat with a majority of 8,616 – has made Labour bosses believe that now the seat isn’t so safely-Conservative at all.

Labour believes that Sir Malcolm’s “cash-for-access” scandal, which forced his resignation in February, has weakened local support for the Conservatives.

Labour also believes it will benefit from the fact that thousands of foreign-owners who do not get a vote and second-homers – who get a vote elsewhere – have moved to Kensington since the last election, when the Conservatives won 50 per cent of the votes.

“In 2010 Rifkind’s Kensington was 142nd safest out of 307 Tory seats. But according to Electoral Calculus, by October 2011 he had slipped to 211th safest,” said a leader of Labour’s Kensington election team.

“That same month Electoral Calculus predicted the following vote: Conservatives - 43 per cent, Labour - 34 per cent, LibDem - 1 per cent, UKIP - 16 per cent, Green - 5 per cent.

“While this 9 per cent margin has shifted a bit, mainly due to UKIP’s own failings, the new Tory candidate has barely scraped Kensington up to 201st safest.

“Meanwhile our own calculations show that, based on the 2014 local election swing, if we could get our

By LWN reporter GEOFF BAKER

LABY VICTORIA BORWICK: Polsters predict a comfortable majority

Dr ROD ABOUHBAR: Labour think he can pull of a shock result

Will it be a sister for Prince George?
- see page 14

We feature top songs from the Portobello Road
- see page 17

CASH BOOST FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

FOUR talented young athletes have received a cash boost from the Westway Trust to help them reach their sporting potential.

Full story on page 3

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Thursday, April 30th 2015

POLSTERS SAY LADY BORWICK WILL ‘WALK IT’ BUT...
Mayor delighted to launch a ‘revolution in volunteering’

It’s easy for Londoners to lend a hand

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has officially launched a revolutionary new speed volunteering scheme to encourage busy Londoners to try out volunteering for the first time.

The scheme is the latest development in the Mayor’s Team London volunteering programme, which has seen almost 62,000 Londoners help out across the capital in the last two years.

According to an independent survey, 60 per cent of potential volunteers are deterred from volunteering because they feel they do not have sufficient time due to work commitments. People also cited home and family responsibilities, caring for elderly relatives or studying as other reasons for not getting involved.

The digital Team London speed volunteering initiative will allow people to sign up for short bursts of activity which fit around their schedules, whilst making a real difference to their communities.

The online speed volunteering platform works by allowing individuals to input their interests, location and availability, to then be matched with possible opportunities. The website for Londoners to visit is called speedvolunteer.london.gov.uk

All the volunteering opportunities are for six hours or less, require no training and are one-off activities, at flexible times throughout the week.

Charities and organisations have welcomed the move, which will free up thousands of potential volunteers to help out at short notice on much-needed projects.

Almost 40 organisations across London have already signed up to the scheme, offering over 3,500 sessions, from stewarding a floating community cinema to greening a local park or helping at a community centre.

Boris Johnson said: “Team London’s fantastic new speed volunteering plan has the potential to revolutionise volunteering in the capital. We know more Londoners want to get involved but often find it challenging to fit volunteering into their hectic lives. This scheme is designed to encourage everyone to give volunteering a go but with added flexibility. I urge Londoners to see how speed volunteering might work for them.”

Veronica Walley, senior advisor on volunteering, said: “This is hugely exciting for London and will open up volunteering to people across the capital. There are thousands of short, speedy activities to choose from, from an hour teaching IT classes in your lunch break, to two hours greening your local park on your commute home, or a morning helping at a day centre on the weekend. Register now at the Team London website and get involved.”

Volunteering is a great way to gain skills and experience and although there is no expectation for speed volunteers to commit to organisations they support, many have chosen to help out on a regular basis.

As part of the platform, volunteers can create an online volunteer CV, endorsed by the Mayor of London, and include a volunteer organisation as a reference. Public profiles can also be added to LinkedIn.

Hannah Saverymuttu, who is a speed volunteer for a homelessness charity in Tower Hamlets, explained how she became involved. She said: “I signed up for a two-hour speed volunteering session with Providence Row, a charity providing services to help people tackle the root causes of their homelessness.”

She explained: “Accompanied by a staff member, I started teaching sessions on keyboard skills, writing CVs, setting up email accounts and using Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint.”

Jonathan Dean, senior community engagement co-ordinator at Trees for Cities, was equally enthusiastic about the new initiative. He said: “The speed volunteering platform is a great system – the ability to offer opportunities at short notice, to two-hour time slots throughout the week and weekend is really useful for us, and it’s now really easy for us to match volunteers to the opportunity that they apply for.

“We’ve had some fantastic volunteers support our mid-week sessions which has really helped our programmes!”
Cash boost for talented athletes

FOUR young athletes have been given a cash boost to help them reach their sporting potential.

The Lister Hospital’s Sports Scholarship offers financial support to young people of outstanding sporting potential who are otherwise unlikely to reach their full potential.

The winners of this year’s inaugural awards are:

- Adrian Ramírez Cañaver - Olympic weightlifting - £1,000
- Mariana Rodriguez Angel - Olympic weightlifting - £1,000
- Adam De Souza - squash - £1,000
- Xavier Trimmer - climbing - £2,000

Xavier’s award was the highest because the costs of climbing at a competitive level are greater than the other sports.

“IT was the ‘Great Lister Bake Off’ at Chelsea-based The Lister Hospital as staff rallied together to raise awareness for Allergy Awareness Week. Staff members from all over the hospital provided ‘free-from’ baked goods and treats, which were judged by the hospital’s senior management team.

The event featured home baked goods that were either dairy-free, gluten-free, or free from eggs, being the ingredients most likely to trigger food intolerances and allergies. Some of the cakes on display included a pistachio and chocolate almond cake, an apple crumble flower cake, a coconut and lime cake, and a gluten-free rocky road bites. All proceeds from the bake sale were donated to Allergy UK.

The event gave patients, visitors and staff members the opportunity to talk to the specialist dietitians about food allergy and intolerances whilst highlighting the full range of services offered at the Chelsea Allergy Clinic within The Lister Hospital. An allergy is a multi-organ disease, affecting approximately one in three of the population in the UK at some time in their life. Each year the numbers are increasing by as much as five per cent and the allergic condition can take on many forms and range in severity. Symptoms can be the mildest of hayfever to life threatening anaphylaxis. Allergies can be triggered through food, drugs, airborne allergens and those affecting the skin.

Hannah Hunter, Specialist Dietician at The Lister Hospital explained, “By combining a description of your symptoms with appropriate tests and an examination, an allergy specialist will be able to tell you if you have an allergy. This may include blood test or skin prick testing, where small drops of different solutions are placed on your skin and pricked with a tiny needle and any response on your skin will be measured. These tests should only be carried out by experienced professionals as results can sometimes be difficult to interpret.”

Specialists

The Chelsea Allergy Clinic based at the hospital provides a full and comprehensive assessment, including blood tests or an allergen specific blood test (if required).

She continues, “Our clinic at the Lister Hospital in Chelsea is made up of a team of specialists from different disciplines who work together to comprehensively diagnose and manage allergies. We only use reliable and approved testing and base our treatment on the most recent evidence.”

Andy Willcocks, Chief Nursing Officer at The Lister Hospital comments, “At the Chelsea Allergy Clinic we see a great number of patients who are learning to live and deal with the symptoms of their allergies and intolerances, and we wanted to highlight that even if you are restricted in your diet, you can still enjoy cakes and treats. We felt it was important to show you how you can tailor your ingredients to avoid these triggers but still enjoy your food.”

JOIN US on Thursday 30 April from 6:30-8:30pm to celebrate the launch of two spring titles from Gallic Books.

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The Electoral Calculus prediction for the election results are:

- Conservatives – 280 seats (from 307)
- Labour – 281 seats (from 258)
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- UKIP – 2 seats (from 1)
- Green – 1 seat (from 1)
- Plaid C – 3 seats (from 3)
- N Ireland – 18 seats (from 18)
- SNP – 48 seats (from 6).

In theory, such a result would trigger not only a second election but probably new leaders elected too for the Lib Dems and the Conservatives, with Theresa May and Boris Johnson tipped to battle it out to replace David Cameron.

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THE LISTER HIGHLIGHTS FOCUS ON FOOD ALLERGIES

JENNIFER GARVEN (Winner of The Great Lister Bake-off), RUPERT ALLEN (Dietician) pictured at the Great Lister Bake-Off

ALLERGY BUSTERS: SUZY JONES (Chief Operating Officer), ANDY WILLCOCKS (Chief Nursing Officer), JENNIFER GARVEN (Winner of The Great Lister Bake Off), RUPERT ALLEN (Dietician) pictured at the Great Lister Bake-Off

THE Lister highlights food allergies

IT WAS the ‘Great Lister Bake Off’ at Chelsea-based The Lister Hospital as staff rallied together to raise awareness for Allergy Awareness Week.

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New site for the farmers’ market

NOTTING Hill’s Farmers’ Market needs residents’ support for its move to a new site. Due to building work starting soon, the market is to move from Kensington Church Street, where it has been since 1999, to one of two new proposed sites – the Town Hall forecourt or Phillimore Gardens near High Street, Kensington.

The Market, which has 40 vendors, is asking customers to help them show the support that there is locally for the farmers’ market to remain in the area and will be attending as President of the International Council for Monuments and Sites. The trust, which was formed in 1991 to preserve and restore historic sites and art treasures of Croatia damaged by war, is also staging the concert in thanks for the life of Sir Henry Grant De La Poer Beresford-Peirse.

The concert will feature pianist Piers Lane and, from the Croatian National Opera, soprano Ivana Lazar and mezzo soprano Dubravka Separovic Musovic. They will perform The Last Four Songs by Strauss and Wagner’s Wesendonck Leider.

Ticket, at £25, are available from the Cadogan Hall box office. Tel 0207 730 4500.

EVENTS NOT TO MISS

Amira stars in Our Kids’ concert

OUR Kids Charity Foundation is staging its second fund raising concert with Amira Medunjanin, billed as “Eastern Europe’s most potent contemporary voice”.

This year the concert is to take place at the stunning St Peter’s Church in Notting Hill on Saturday, May 9th – Victory Day and Europe Day!

An invitation has gone out to all to enjoy this special occasion and enjoy traditional music from the Balkans and support Our Kids charitable mission of improving the lives of disadvantaged children and young adults in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Minimum donation to attend the concert is £20 per person and it can be made via JustGiving on Our Kids website www.justgiving.com/ourkids www.justgiving.com/ourkids. Please clearly state the names on whose behalf the donation is being made.

For this donation, supporters will enjoy canapés and a complimentary drink. For further modest donations, they will also be able to enjoy additional drinks before and after the concert.

The latest album by Admira (pictured), “Silk & Stone”, has received excellent reviews in British media. The Guardian has awarded the album four stars to Amira’s “intimate, painted and gently compelling voice” and Nigel Williamson has described the album as “career-defining third album from Bosnia’s finest export” in “Uncut Magazine”.

Funds raised by the concert will be used to finance Our Kid’s long term and ongoing projects to support young adults over 18, many with special needs, who have to leave institutional care in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but don’t have any support from the society.

This year Our Kids will start running “Halfway House” Project in Mostar; this is a residential/business/commercial development already completed by the Italian-based NGO Luciano Lama, which will now be run as a facility for vocational training and other activities designed to increase the young adults’ ability to enter employment, as well as improving the professional skills of personnel working in children’s homes across BiH.

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The Duke of Gloucester will attend a thanksgiving concert at the Holy Trinity Church on Sloane Square on June 9th.

The 7.30 pm concert is being staged by the International Trust for Croatian Monuments and the Duke

Ensuring this is a great borough to grow up in

SOMETIMES a brand is so toxic that its owners try to bury any trace of it, think of Ratner’s. But sometimes brands are so powerful they endure, even though the original product is much altered.

One obvious local example is Peter Jones. John Lewis so admired this rival store that when he took it over he kept the name, he kept the staff and he emulated the ethos.

And so it will be with Maxilla nursery.

Maxilla has for decades been doing a great job for the people of North Kensington but as a consequence of unavoidable facts means it must now move out of its home and join forces with the nearby Golborne nursery.

What are those facts? The first and most telling is the drastic reduction we have suffered in the money available to fund nursery places.

Then there is the building. Maxilla is a great nursery because of its wonderful staff, not because of its wonderful building. At Maxilla, The Gruffalo and The Very Hungry Caterpillar get read in a bleak portacabin, in a grim spot beneath the Westway. Not only does that building now require a lot of investment, its lease is up for renewal.

At a time of severe austerity, we had to ask ourselves: do we pay a higher rent, do we pay for a new building, or do we make better use of buildings we already own?

We think the rational and practical thing to do is the latter.

Golborne nursery is also a great nursery with close links to Maxilla. It is nearby. Its far superior building can comfortably accommodate all the extra children and the extra staff too. We are spending £250,000 to prepare it for the new arrivals. And as I have already said, we are keeping the Maxilla name and Maxilla staff and thus the ethos will survive as well.

Of course the many people whose children have thrived at Maxilla will worry about the impact of this change. We understand that and we are working hard to reassure them.

But the plain truth is this council is doing a good job of protecting services to children, and especially vulnerable children.

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UKIP will be wiped out in London at the general election next week – winning not one seat in the capital.

That is the prediction of Electoral Calculus, the most accurate pre-poll predictor at the last election in 2010. Despite all of the UKIP clamour in recent years, Electoral Calculus says Nigel Farage’s party will be completely rejected by the vast majority of London voters.

And the Green Party will completely lose out and get no seats in London too, say the predictors who use scientific analysis of opinion polls and electoral geography to form their conclusions.

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And the Green Party will completely lose out and get no seats in London too, say the predictors who use scientific analysis of opinion polls and electoral geography to form their conclusions.

Electoral Calculus predicts that they will lose 5 seats in the capital, slashing their number of London MPs from 7 to 2.

The Lib Dems are predicted to lose Brent Central (to Labour), Hornsey & Wood Green (to Labour), Bermondsey & Southwark (to Labour), Carshalton & Wallington (to the Conservatives) and Sutton & Cheam (to the Conservatives).

The London political map after May 7th is predicted to be: Liberal 2 seats (from 7), Conservatives 26 seats (from 28) and Labour 45 seats (from 38).

Electoral Calculus says the Tories will lose Brentford & Isleworth, Croydon Central, Hendon and Enfield North to Labour and will gain Carshalton & Wallington and Sutton & Cheam from the Lib Dems. They predict that Labour will lose no seats but will gain Brent Central, Hornsey & Wood Green and Bermondsey & Southwark from the Lib Dems and will win Hendon, Enfield North, Brentford & Isleworth and Croydon Central from the Tories.

UKIP is predicted to not get even 20 per cent of the vote in any London constituency. Electoral Calculus say UKIP’s best five results will be Hornchurch & Upminster (19.8 per cent of the vote), Old Bexley & Sidcup (19.3 per cent), Romford (18.4 per cent), Bexleyheath & Crayford (17.9 per cent) and Bromley & Chislehurst (16 per cent).

Political chaos

The Greens are predicted to fare even more badly – with their best five results being Hackney North & Stoke Newington (13.9 per cent), Hackney South & Shoreditch (10.8 per cent), Tottenham (10.9 per cent) and Hornsey & Wood Green (10.7 per cent).

Electoral Calculus’s prediction for the national outcome of the general election adds up to political chaos, with the Conservatives winning most seats but falling 44 seats short of an overall majority.

According to the predictions, even if the Conservatives formed a Coalition with ALL the Lib Dems, UKIP, the Greens, the Welsh and Northern Ireland MPs, they would still be six seats short of a majority over Labour and the SNP.

Financial experts are predicting that such an outcome would cause the markets to go into freefall and that another election would have to be called to try to make Britain governable and remotely stable.

The Electoral Calculus prediction for the election results are:

- Conservatives – 280 seats (from 307)
- Labour – 281 seats (from 258)
- Lib Dem – 17 seats (from 57)
- UKIP – 2 seats (from 0)
- Green – 1 seat (from 1)
- Plaid Cymru – 3 seats (from 3)
- Northern Ireland – 18 seats (from 18)
- SNP – 48 seats (from 6)

In theory, such a result would trigger not only a second election but probably new leaders elected too for the Lib Dems and the Conservatives, with Theresa May and Boris Johnson tipped to battle it out to replace David Cameron.

Inspired by stars

GIRLS seeking a spot of inspiration to make their career in the arts took a huge leap forward when they met stars from the theatre and TV.

Fifty Year 9 girls from Pimlico Academy got the chance to listen to and quiz some of the industry’s movers and shakers and even quizzed them on what it took to be a success. On Thursday of last week, at the Tate Modern, the girls from the lupus street school took part in an inspiring Women event, founded by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg’s wife Miriam González Durántez. The evening was hosted in the Turbine Hall of the southbank museum where 150 high-profile women representing a wide range of careers in the arts took part, in a speed dating-style process to chat to more than 850 girls from around the UK.

Pimlico girls met actresses Jenny Agutter, Jaime Winstone, Louise Brealey and writer Jane Goldman as well as, Liz McCarthy, deputy head of corporate development at the National Theatre.

Ms Agutter, said: “To be an actor you need to take rejection, but drama is such a great subject it teaches you discipline, interpersonal skills and makes you look beyond yourself, it gives you a breadth of experience and lots of choices”.

Jane Goldman encouraged Pimlico’s budding writers. “Do any subject that improves writing skills,” she said.

“It does not just have to be English.”

The message from all the women was to make sure you study something that you are really passionate about – not just a subject that you think will provide you with a job.

“Always ask for a mentor, people love it. I can absolutely assure you that even if they say no because they are too busy they won’t mind being asked,” said advised Liz McCarthy.

Thrilling for staff

Lin Proctor from Pimlico Academy, said: “Taking part in this event is just part of our Raising Aspirations programme at Pimlico Academy.

Introducing our students to the wealth of opportunities available when students leave us is absolutely essential.

“It was thrilling for us as staff to see 50 young women so excited about the possibilities that await them if they dare to dream, work hard and stretch themselves”.

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IT’S BAD NEWS FOR FARAGE IN CAPITAL

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GUY Rubin, Green Party candidate for Chelsea & Fulham, has his eyes on sorting out the fat cats.

He says: "The Greens want a more equal London based on fair wages and taxation for all. We will introduce a minimum living wage of £10 so that all Londoners have enough to provide for themselves and their families. The Greens will cap London bankers bonuses - the highest in the world and introduce a wealth tax on the very richest (those with assets of more than £3 million) - this ensures that those earning the most contribute while generating a minimum of £23 billion to invest in the NHS, affordable housing and better public services.

"Housing has been neglected by the two main parties, with the number of affordable houses built at a 10 year low. More than two thirds of new homes in London are bought by private investors, and half to those to buyers from overseas - as housing has become an investment opportunity, it has been priced out of ordinary Londoners reach. House prices are 18 times higher than average earnings, meanwhile Generation Rent face some of the highest rents in Europe, pay rip off fees and charges and have lost rights against unfair eviction. The Greens will invest in genuinely affordable housing, introduce rent controls and secure tenancies in the privately rented sector and abolish the unfair bedroom tax.

"The Greens will try to deal with the problem of crime by removing dangerous and polluting lorries and HGV’s for example by banning them from Oxford Street. The Greens say of Robin: "He wants to be someone who is genuinely interested in solving the housing crisis that we currently have in the capital, especially in Kensington. I’m somebody who is interested in looking seriously, nationally at how we can change the way our democracy works to bring about proper political reform. Somebody who’s going to stand up for all residents of Kensington. You know Kensington has lots of very poor areas and lots of very rich areas. "I would be somebody who’s genuinely interested in social mobility and creating a more equal society. And somebody also who is willing to speak their mind. "I want to be a very strong, independently minded backbench MP who is entirely interested in getting stuff done. And getting stuff done in an imaginative way, not in a boring way of going along with what the system likes, which is what I think too.

"Against unfair eviction. The Greens will invest in genuinely affordable housing, introduce rent controls and secure tenancies in the privately rented sector and abolish the unfair bedroom tax. I support the Save Earls Court campaign and if elected will demand an independent public inquiry into the scandalous Earls Court redevelopment where private developers have been given permission by the Tories to build 7,500 luxury flats. Seventy hundred and sixty existing social housing units are being demolished.

"Astonishingly, an independent valuation expert found that the estimated profit for the Earls Court site had been minimised by the developers in order to justify providing as little affordable housing as possible," says Gey. "No housing for social rent is being provided at all. I will campaign to build affordable and energy efficient homes for local residents on the Earls Court side and elsewhere in the constituency, not assets for investors.

"Improving the quality of life and the local environment is vital. Everyone has a right to breathe clean air but air pollution on the polarised and congested roads in Fulham and Chelsea, such as the Cromwell and Talgarth Road, is a ‘silent killer’, the second biggest public health risk after smoking and a particular risk to children and the elderly. The government itself, estimates that air pollution is responsible for 4,000 premature deaths in London every year but their policies of neglect have made the situation worse. The Green Party will tighten controls on pollution and rigorously monitor them. We will monitor pollution and accelerate the introduction of 20 miles per hour speed limits and remove dangerous and polluting Lorries and HGV’s from our roads and use public health legislation to create more green spaces for local people to walk, cycle and play in.

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"Many MPs like...

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UKIP pledge to reverse cuts in the Metropolitan Police budget

REVERSING the cuts in the Met and the immigration issue are key to the campaign of Westminster North UKIP candidate Nigel Sussman, who gave the following answers when we set him some questions.

1. What do the voters of Westminster North most want from their MP?

I hope and trust that what they want most their MP is to get them out of the EU. Seventy-five per cent of our laws came from the EU and Westminster is now just an empty shell of an institution. If as I suspect all the voters want is representation and a strong voice to speak up for their community, then they must vote for return of this country’s sovereignty, anything else is just window dressing. UKIP will implement an Open Primaries Bill to enable all voters a say in the selection process of a parties candidates, and will also implement a right of recall to enable them to sack their MP.

2. Immigration is not the problem, uncontrolled immigration is. The UK has a strong history of integrating and engaging with immigrant communities, and UKIP applaud this, we will implement an Australian points based system in order to control the numbers, a great analogy is it is like trying to organise a wedding when you don’t know how many people are coming. The current situation is just simply madness and none of the other parties are willing or able to do anything about it!

3. What are your Housing plans for Westminster North?

The current Housing crisis is due to shortage of supply, the other parties will say they will build more homes, but they are not controlling demand, by exit ing from EU and taking back control of our borders, we will give Westminster North a fighting chance. In addition we will allow more building on Brownfield sites. UKIP will remove VAT from repairs to listed buildings. UKIP will continue Housing Benefit for young people under the age of 25, and have Housing Benefit paid directly to landlords. UKIP would allow for the overturning of large scale developments by local referendum.

4. Many companies in Westminster North trade with the EU, how would you help them if the UK came out of Europe?

Just because we exit the EU does not mean we will not have an individual trading arrangement with the EU as a country. It is my personal belief that free of the EU, we will be able to regain our place at the World Trade Organ isation, and reengage with our Commonwealth partners, and this country will blossom on the world stage. Not a single EU country is in the top 15 list of growing economies. The many companies you refer to will probably need help in how to grow their businesses!

5. There are 11,000 properties in Westminster North that are owned by ‘offshore owners’, what is your policy on this?

UKIP would make sure that this is not done for the avoidance of tax, but also I personally believe there is such a thing as a local identity. I would like to see more powers given to local communities to protect their heritage and culture.

6. What are your plans for the NHS in Westminster North?

I would say that the NHS is only safe in UKIP hands, we are committed to it being free at the point of use, and no charges for seeing a GP. The NHS like all public services is suffering from uncontrolled immigration, only UKIP will exit the EU and take back control of our borders.

Only UKIP will exit the EU and prevent the implementation of TTIP. UKIP is committed to 8,000 more GPs, 20,000 more nurses and 3,000 more midwives. UKIP are committed to combining Mental and Physical Health in order to take a ‘Whole person’ approach. UKIP will end the PFI scandals and end Hospital Parking charges.

The voters of Westminster North have surely seen enough of the effect of the NHS in both Conservative and Labour hands, I trust they will make their vote count on 7th May.

7. Violent crime in Westminster, especially gun and gang crime, is a growing concern, how would you tackle this?

Prevent foreign criminals coming into the UK and deport those who commit crimes here, reduce the number of territorial constabularies and Police and Crime Commissioners to cut costs and tackle serious crime. UKIP will take a zero-tolerance approach to unacceptable ‘cultural’ practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM). UKIP will also refuse to give criminals the vote and ensure that full sentences are served.

8. Would UKIP increase the numbers of officers in the Met? If so, by how many? What are your views on a cap on every corner, as in New York?

UKIP would reverse the current cuts and return us to a meaningful capita-based policing resource. A cop on every corner sounds like a police state to me, UKIP would refuse to allow the introduction of the Euro Gendarmerie force, something the Federal Dictatorship of the EU would like to implement in the future if we don’t exit as soon as possible.

9. What would you do about residential properties that are bought but left empty?

UKIP will place a statutory duty on local authorities to bring these empty properties back into use within their broader housing and planning strategies. UKIP would also charge those whose homes are empty for more than 2 years, implementing 50% more on the applicable rate of council tax.

10. What other plans do you have for Westminster North?

UKIP will end large companies paying zero tax and make for a more equal playing field for small local businesses. UKIP will reduce Business Rates for small businesses. UKIP will implement fines for late payments from large companies to small businesses. UKIP will implement 30 minutes free parking in high streets to boost local business. End income tax on the minimum wage, scrap inheritance tax, abolish the bedroom tax, and definitely not implement the mansion tax!

UKIP will cap Social care costs at £35k, and pay carers an extra £572 per year. UKIP will introduce a flexible state pension age. UKIP will abolish green taxes to help cut fuel bills for everybody. UKIP will adapt Zero Hour contracts to give more rights to the individual. UKIP will help save the pub, by amending the smoking ban and offering tax breaks to smaller breweries.

UKIP is a Democratic, Libertarian party that believes in putting Britain first. To be Libertarian means to uphold liberty as a principal objective. Libertarians seek to maximise autonomy and freedom of choice, emphasising political freedom, voluntary association and the primacy of individual judgment.

If you want your dreams to come true, then first you must wake up!

Last minute candidate stands to defeat Labour

IN A late intervention in the 2015 General Election, shortly before nominations closed, Nicholas Ward is standing in London’s Westminster North constituency to bring a spotlight on HS2, the Government’s project to develop a high speed rail link from Euston through north and west London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. Nicholas Ward, 73, is retired from a career latterly as an independent director on the boards of various companies, public bodies and charities. He has decided to stand because he opposes the £50+ billion project and is very concerned at the way the Government is driving it through Parliament.

“With mind-defying arrogance, the Coalition Government has dismissed this latest report out of hand,” he says, referring to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee which on 23rd May reported that:

1. The Government has yet to make a convincing case for proceeding with the project.
2. It is not at all clear that HS2 represents the best, most cost effective solution to the problems it is intended to solve.
3. All three major parties, Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats, are committed to the scheme and Ward feels that they have deliberately ignored HS2 during campaigning.
4. ‘Parts of London and long swathes of the countryside will be torn apart,’ says Ward. ‘This is a vanity project, the real costs of which have not been discussed. The construction phase alone will disrupt lives for a generation. At a time when the deficit is a key component in party manifestos, HS2 is unnecessary and a scandalous waste of public funds.’

Ward appeared before the House of Commons Select Committee on HS2 on March 17 and said ‘HS2’s evidence, arguments and conduct in these proceedings fall far short of what one would expect from such important public body.’ There is a video of his appearance on his campaign website www.independent-against-hs2.co.uk.

Ward hopes that his efforts to secure a seat as an independent candidate will bring focus to a major policy that has been deliberately pushed under the carpet by the key Westminster parties.

‘There are serious concerns about HS2,’ says Ward. ‘The case is fundamentally flawed but the lack of an effective challenge in the House of Commons means there is a democratic deficit on this issue. I am standing to bring this outrageous situation to public knowledge in a marginal constituency that will be directly affected by HS2. Westminster North decides on the next Government, the subject of this railway line must be discussed by politicians, the media and the public.’

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Schools meet big rise in demand for places

WESTMINSTER education officials have managed to stem the tide of pressure on school places facing many local authorities, particularly in the capital.

The authority reports that it has enough places for every pupil as well as being able to make extra places available for late applications and those who will move to the city later in the year.

Despite a record number of applications for primary school places in London this year, all children in Westminster have been awarded a primary school place – with 80 per cent receiving their first choice, the council said this week.

Westminster outperformed the neighbouring borough of Camden, which reported 75 per cent of their pupils achieving their first preference for schooling.

According to recent analysis, the Local Government Association predicts that by September next year, two in five local authorities in England – that is 66 out of 152 – will have more children ready to start school than there are places for them.

Andrew Christie, Executive Director for Children’s Services at the council, said: “In Westminster we have a place for every child looking to begin primary school in 2015, as well as extra places available for late applications and those who move to the city later in the year. We will continue to be able to provide places for every child in 2016.”

The percentage of Westminster school places offered to Westminster residents was 80.7 per cent, a figure which does not include allocated places. Last year the figure was 81 per cent. The number of vacancies remaining before the allocation of places was 293.

Department of Education data published earlier this year predicts there could be 900,000 extra pupils in English schools over the next decade. New LGA modelling suggests the cost of creating places for all of these pupils is £12 billion.

Clr David Simmonds, Chairman of the LGA’s Children and Young People Board, said: “Mums and dads rightly expect their children to be able to get a school place and councils and schools are doing everything they can to provide this, in some cases going to extraordinary lengths to create places.

“But we fear a tipping point could soon emerge when councils and schools can no longer afford the massive costs for the creation of places, nor find the space necessary for new classes, if this crisis is not properly dealt with.

“We do not want any child to be without a place. That is why, at a time when parents are making big decisions about their child’s future, we are calling on the Government to commit to funding the creation of school places and hand councils the powers to open new schools, for both primary and secondary-age pupils, before time runs out. Additionally, councils face a challenge creating places on time and in the right places when their hands are tied by red tape.

“Councils face a challenge to create places on time and in the right areas, in a climate where they are also short of money to do so. The scale of this crisis is too much for council taxpayers to pay for alone. Additionally, much of the decision making about new school places rests in the hands of the Government, whose funding for school places came late. As a consequence, councils are carrying a billion pounds worth of costs which puts pressure on other school services.”

Charlie Pipes Up!

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London’s most outspoken entrepreneur

I T’S an American thing that started in the early 1990s, but if we’re going to adopt Halloween and pop tarts, then we could do a lot worse than get behind the initiative, Take Our Daughters To Work, which seems to me to be a worthy way of introducing youngsters to the reality of what their parents do to put a crust on the table.

I guess I was ahead of my time with this since I brought both my daughters to work, and put them to work for Pimlico, and like my granddaughter, Daisey, they were coming into work on weekends and school holidays from a young age.

That said, I suppose it’s true that boys going to work with their dads is a much more common thing to see so Take Our Daughters to Work Day seems like a good idea to me.

One of the biggest influences on the future careers of young people, is still parents. Career advice in schools and colleges is still not up to scratch in my opinion and who better to give first-hand advice on not just where to go to work, but why we need to work, than mum or dad.

For those that don’t know anything about it, Take Our Daughters To Work Day was created in New York in the summer of 1992 by the Ms Foundation for Women and its president, Marie C Wilson, with support from foundation founder Gloria Steinem.

The first celebration took place on Thursday, April 22, 1993 and it has since been celebrated on the fourth Thursday of April every year.

The event has generally been scheduled on a day that is a school day for most children in the United States and schools are provided with literature and encouraged to promote the programme.

Educators are provided with materials for incorporating career exploration into the school curriculum on the day before or after the event.

Despite the obvious good intentions of the project there were some detractors who believed the day should also include boys. However, the Ms. Foundation contended that the programme was designed to specifically address self-esteem issues unique to girls and initially resisted pressure to include boys.

Much of this pressure came from people in education who did not wish to include the event in their curriculum given that their male students were not encouraged to participate.

Boys are now included and are able to take part, but the principles of the day remain the same, which is the most important part, including the need to bridge the gap between education and employment.

However, from the point of view of someone who runs a business that offers trade services like plumbing, electrical and roofing, any initiative to encourage more girls into our sector should be embraced.

We’re right behind the #notjustforboys campaign and recently welcomed Employment Minister Esther McVey to our depot where she met quite a few of our female members of staff and was impressed with how we encourage girls into trade careers, but also in roles across all manner of departments.

Yes, we’re keen to have more girls working as engineers, but it’s also important that there is a strong gender mix across all areas of the business, from accounts and HR through to recruitment and our call centre.

And that’s why last week we had members of our team accompanied by their princesses to show them what it’s like to work in a busy and fast-moving business. Even if they don’t literally follow in the footsteps of their Old Man, getting a taste of what it’s like in the world of work, particularly from the perspective of their parents, is invaluable.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper

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SINGERS have been serenading the shoppers in Portobello and Golborne Market this month in celebration of the trading area’s 150th anniversary.

Under the umbrella of the Borough’s Sing to Live, Live to Sing project community choirs have been taking to the streets and the Response Community Projects SW5 singers, pictured, were keen to play their part.

Sing to Live, Live to Sing is a fun, health programme managed by the council’s arts and public health teams which aims to improve residents health and well-being through the use of singing workshops which provide social and health benefits.

During 2015 Portobello and Golborne Market is celebrating 150 years of trading and promoting a different theme associated with the market each month. April is music month.
In its first inspection as an Academy, Fulham-based Courtyard Alternative Provision Academy, established in April 2013, has been rated by Ofsted as ‘outstanding’ in all categories including leadership and management, behaviour and safety of learners, quality of teaching, and learner achievement.

The academy’s predecessor school, the Primary Pupil Referral Unit, had most recently been inspected by Ofsted in 2012 when it was judged to be ‘good’.

All Courtyard learners have historically presented behaviours that mainstream education has been unable to fully address, resulting in permanent exclusion for many. Ofsted has recognised that the teaching staff constantly succeed in keeping learners focused on their work so that they have little time to be distracted - resulting in young people who take pride in their work and become increasingly eager to learn.

Janet Packer, head of school at Courtyard AP, said: “The staff and learners have worked extremely hard over the last couple of years, and this is testament to that effort. All our learners are disadvantaged in some way, and this can present many challenges. However, we believe in our learners’ ability to help change their own futures by improving their core skills and re-learning positive behaviour patterns works. They learn extremely well because they are helped to understand how to improve, and our reward systems enable pupils to understand the progress they are making.”

Courtyard is part of The TBAP Trust (Tri-borough Alternative Provision). Seamus Oates, executive headteacher at TBAP, said: “Ofsted has recognised that Janet and her team of committed teachers and support staff have raised the level of attainment of every one of the young disadvantaged learners in their care. This is tremendous progress in a short space of time, and shows the benefits of focused programmes of personalised learning for kids who have previously been labelled ‘hard to reach’. It is fantastic news and I feel incredibly proud of everyone associated with Courtyard AP – the students and their families, as well as the staff and the wider TBAP family.”

Politics, faith and religious leadership

FORMER Secretary of State for Education and Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Charles Clarke, pictured, will be speaking at the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in the first of a new series of leadership lectures.

Speaking on the subject of ‘Politics, Faith and Religious Leadership’, Mr Clarke will be drawing on his experience both in Parliament and later as a Visiting Professor in Politics and Faith at Lancaster University.

The talks on Tuesday, May 19th, will be followed by a lively discussion and a drinks reception.

All of the school’s leadership series events are free of charge and are open to members of the public to attend.

Other keynote speakers include Francis Campbell and Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe who will both be delivering talks later in the year.
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE IS ALSO THE MOST POPULAR ONE FOR LONDON.

In a recent YouGov poll, 46% of Londoners said they would prefer a second runway at Gatwick, compared to the 35% who supported a third runway at Heathrow. And there’s still time for us to convince the 19% who were undecided.

Get the facts about the runway debate at gatwickobviously.com and @LGWobviously
Fed up with politicians trading election insults

AM I the only one who’s fed up with our politicians exchanging insults in this general election campaign? When David Cameron took office he said he wanted to improve the standard of behaviour at Prime Minister’s Questions. Whatever happened to that promise? These past five years we have been subjected to increased infantile behaviour across the floor of the House of Commons as Cameron and Miliband have exchanged insults. To make matters worse, we have had to put up with that obnoxious little squirt Bercow who has made a mockery of one of the great Parliamentary offices, Speaker of the House. With any luck he will be replaced when the House sits again after the election.

In my view election campaigns go on far too long. I think 90 per cent of voters know who they will be voting for as soon as an election date is declared. Let’s cut down the campaigning to a maximum of two weeks, long enough for anyone to change their mind. Some think that the result will be decided this way. In my view, the election will be focused on the economy. It will be interesting to see how that plays out.

Malcolm Webster
Pimlico
Send your letter to editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Life in Notting Hill
by Mary-Lu Bakker from Notting Hill Post
www.nottinghillpost.com

NOTTING HILL is a huge mix of people and so many in brilliant outfits, some stylish, some colourful, some eccentric or with great music to offer. When you walk down the street it is so refreshing to see such a colourful mix of style and clothes and this is the best time of year to sit and people watch. So where to go?

GOLBORNE ROAD is maybe the best place to park yourself, there are so many outdoor seats at the many different cafés. Top of the list for a good coffee and a cake is Golborne Deli near the corner with Portobello Road. This is so relaxed, there is a great outdoor space and it is super friendly.

IF YOU feel like a stroll towards the Trellick Tower, Lisboa Café is a great destination. There will be lots of men in deep discussion, but ignore them and just go for the custard tarts, they are so delicious.

WORTH a gander is West Thirty Six which opened a few weeks ago. It is open all day with chef Jon Pollard from Soho House focusing on British meat and veg. You can just go along for a drink, it’s good for a cocktail or two. There is an outside terrace too for you to gaze at the passing world.

JOHN DOE specialises in game and serves things like Beer Butt Pheasant and Rack of Red Stag and it’s had good reviews and apparently has a good wood smoking oven. No outside seats but a really big window.

SNAPS & RYE is full of delicious Danish food, especially for fish lovers with a selection of finely cut fillets of salmon and home-mari nated herring. Lots of lovely feathery fennel. There are good-looking Tiberkes, pastries to you, and Smørrebrød open sandwiches. And don’t forget the meatballs.

PIZZA EAST is a must, full to the brim and perfect people watching territory, with about 10 outside tables. The best pizas, especially the Portobello Pizza. Of course.

LATEST on the block is Salumeria run by Italian chef Carmine De Benedictis and his partner Emily Drinkwater. Simple delicious food like open sandwiches and salads and you can sit outside in the sunshine and watch the world go by. It is a deli too so you can pop in and take it home.

The perfect place to sit, eat, drink and watch. Golborne.
New baby will cause a boom for economy

Feel good factor keeps the tills ringing in ‘Kiss Me Kate’ effect

By Geoff Baker

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have been hailed for giving a £250 million kiss to the economy and setting cash tills ringing all over London with the birth of royal baby Mania.

Global fascination for the new baby, born to be fourth in line to the throne, is boosting spirits and takings across the capital.

“It’s the big story of every bulletin and the London economy is glowing as a result of all the worldwide news about the new baby and its beaming mum – it’s the Kiss Me Kate Effect,” said one financial expert.

Pubs and bars are enjoying their busiest days since Christmas as all over town Londoners and visitors are raising a glass to toast the new pride of London.

“The royal birth is certainly going to have a positive effect on the UK economy,” said Michael Ingram, economist at BGC Partners in Canary Wharf.

“It engenders the feel-good factor and this is likely to manifest itself largely in the retail space, consumers are likely to be out there spending a little bit more money, certainly retail outlets, pubs, restaurants will see the benefit in the form of increased purchases of food and drink. There will be memorabilia sales of course.”

Experts predict the economy could be boosted by up to £250m.

“At the time of the birth of Prince George two years ago, the Centre for Retail Research estimated that that birth would give us something like a £243m boost to the UK economy. I think we can expect a similar sort of figure this time around,” said Mr Ingram. But besides causing a huge injection of celebratory spending, with sales of royal souvenirs expected to rocket, the proud parents have also been hailed for the way they have conducted themselves since Kate’s pregnancy was first announced on September 8th.

Exemplary

“Kate has proved herself to be an exemplary example of the modern British mum, she has inspired millions of young mothers in the way that she has cheerfully kept up with her work, and because she was so public throughout her pregnancy she has made the people feel in some way involved,” said one royal watcher.

Shares in baby clothes and motherwear companies are expected to rise and fashion houses are now eagerly-waiting to see what Kate wears next, as that will cause another boom as young mums rush to the shops to emulate her much-copied

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PRINCE William and Catherine Duchess of Cambridge visit an XLP community bus and recording studio in London on their last official visit together before the birth of their second child.

Photo:REX/Shutterstock
FROM page 13

style, not only in London but around the world too.

Since the birth of Prince George in 2013, the baby business has boomed for fashion designers and the birth of the new royal is tipped to boost turnover even more.

Within the childrenswear retail sector, infantwear - newborns and under 5s - has seen the most consistent and best performing trends in sales in recent years.

The continued performance of this sector has prompted a move toward children’s ranges, with Stella McCartney, Gucci and Burberry among a number of fashion houses expanding their collections.

But the royal baby boom is not just for London, experts predict it will be felt all over the world.

“From the moment Prince William and Kate Middleton announced their engagement Kate became a style icon,” said American fashion writer Cheylyne Thongkham.

“What we Americans love about the Duchess of Cambridge’s fashion sense is that she dresses very much like a modern princess. While she’s every inch the couture queen at her more glamorous engagements, Kate’s day-to-day style is very accessible. She has become London’s unofficial style ambassador.”

New Zealand fashion editor Annabel Venning says the Duchess has given young mums around the globe a new champion.

“Kate Moss might be more revered as a style icon by the fashion pack, but for most women, whose lives are a mixture of work and family, it's the other Kate whose look is more adaptable: jeans that are fitted without being prohibitively tight; skirts in which you can safely bend down to talk to a toddler; knee-length dresses that you can wear to the office; colourful coats; walking-friendly wedges; nude shoes that go with everything,” said Annabel.

“Bay Garnett, the stylist and Vogue contributing editor, believes her appeal lies in the fact that she is ‘aspirational but in a completely approachable way. She's got elegance, but it's ‘next-door’. It’s all about accessibility; it’s not avant-garde, it’s not eclectic, it doesn’t take imagination - it’s normal. You can do it.’

“In other words, despite being a duchess, she has everywoman appeal.”

More visitors are now expected to flock to the capital in the hope of passing congratulations to The Queen on the birth of her fifth great-grandchild.

This Thursday The Queen will be at St George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle for a service for the Royal Victorian Order. 

The Princess Royal, as Commander In Chief of St John Ambulance, will hold a young achievers’ reception at St James’s Palace.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Society for Army Historical Research, will present the Templar Medal Book Prize at the East India Club.

Princess Alexandra, as Royal Honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Barbers, will attend a reception at Barber-Surgeons Hall, Wood Street EC2.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals, will present the PDSA order of merit at Goldsmiths’ Hall EC2.

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here’s the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

• Tuesday, April 28th
  The Countess of Wessex, as Patron of the London College of Fashion, will hold a reception at St James’s Palace.
  The Princess Royal, as Appeal Patron of the Woolf Institute, will attend a dinner at Trinity House, Tower Hill.
  The Princess Royal, as Royal Patron of WISE, will visit students involved in the Outbox Incubator Project at Salesforce Tower, Bishopsgate.
  The Duke of Gloucester, as Vice Patron of the National Churches Trust, will attend a fundraising event at Westminster Abbey.

• Wednesday, April 29th
  The Earl of Wessex, as Royal Honorary Colonel, will attend the London Regimental Dinner at Ironmongers’ Hall.
  The Countess of Wessex, as chairman of Women In Business supporting the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, will chair a meeting at Belgrave Road SW1.
  The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Whitley Fund for Nature, will attend the Whitley Awards Ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore SW7.

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The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, will present the Princess Royal Award at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Kent, as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, will attend the annual investiture of the Grand Chapter at Freemasons’ Hall.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Air League, will hold a reception at St James’s Palace.
By Geoff Baker

A real bundle of joy

The new royal baby will be a tantrum-free cuddlebug – that’s the good news from the heavens for proud parents William and Kate, say astrologers.

The London Weekly News astrology correspondent Simon Smith is predicting a trouble-free time for the royal couple with their new Little Bright Bull, the Taurus-born fourth-in-line to the throne.

“The Little Bright Bull will be a joy child,” says the Dorset-based sky-watcher known as Stargazy Si.

“Apart from their natural stubbornness, a Taurus child will not give you trouble. Taurus babies are intelligent and trusting, very gentle and calm individuals who will happily lie back in a comfortable pram and stay there quietly until it’s time for a cuddle,” says Stargazy Si.

“The Little Bright Bull especially likes hugs, cuddles and kisses. Love from family, especially parents and siblings, in early years will keep a Taurus emotionally balanced throughout later life.”

As the baby is born under the same sign as its great-grandmother HM The Queen, it will share Her Majesty’s priority for family life.

“You Taurus loves family,” says Stargazy.

“As the Little Bright Bull gets older he will wait for bedtime stories and cherish the imaginary world that books open up for him. Many times, he will come to you quietly and give you a bear hug.”

But the star-charters warn that Taurus babies won’t be told to what they have made up their minds not to.

“All other astrologers agree on this key point, that Taurus has strong likes and dislikes,” says Stargazy.

“It is their wise, gentle nature that makes them reject extremes of any kind. Tiny Taurus will simply not allow you to expose them to things they do not like. If you try to give them a bath when they do not want to, they will simply refuse to cooperate with you, and you will only end up tiring yourself out trying to force a way that is not their way.”

“They strongly dislike any attempts to change their Taurus ways. You will find it difficult, if not almost impossible, to spoon the food a Bull not want to eat. The more you push, the more stubbornly they will refuse. In any attempts of will, it is always a Taurus who will win.”

“Out of all twelve signs, Taurus is the most emotionally balanced and will never throw tantrums. The Little Bright Bull will rarely display extreme emotions but can get very upset when others do. Bulls like calm, structure and planning, they are happy with regularity that they find reassuring.”

“But how will the new royal arrival get on – or not get on – with Prince George, who was born under the sign of Cancer?”

There’s good news there too, says Stargazy Si, for these siblings will bond fabulously.

“Taurus and Cancer share one of the strongest relationships that there can be. They both are dependable and will provide each other with lots of emotional support and strength. Though occasional stubbornness of Taurus and mood swings of Cancer can create problems but they are usually not permanent.”

“Their personal natures are very similar and they get on fabulously together. Depending on each other and with that comes modesty and reservation in everything they do.”

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But the star-charters warn that Taurus babies won’t be told to what they have made up their minds not to.

“All other astrologers agree on this key point, that Taurus has strong likes and dislikes,” says Stargazy.

“It is their wise, gentle nature that makes them reject extremes of any kind. Tiny Taurus will simply not allow you to expose them to things they do not like. If you try to give them a bath when they do not want to, they will simply refuse to cooperate with you, and you will only end up tiring yourself out trying to force a way that is not their way.”

“They strongly dislike any attempts to change their Taurus ways. You will find it difficult, if not almost impossible, to spoon the food a Bull not want to eat. The more you push, the more stubbornly they will refuse. In any attempts of will, it is always a Taurus who will win.”

“Out of all twelve signs, Taurus is the most emotionally balanced and will never throw tantrums. The Little Bright Bull will rarely display extreme emotions but can get very upset when others do. Bulls like calm, structure and planning, they are happy with regularity that they find reassuring.”

“But how will the new royal arrival get on – or not get on – with Prince George, who was born under the sign of Cancer?”

There’s good news there too, says Stargazy Si, for these siblings will bond fabulously.

“Taurus and Cancer share one of the strongest relationships that there can be. They both are dependable and will provide each other with lots of emotional support and strength. Though occasional stubbornness of Taurus and mood swings of Cancer can create problems but they are usually not permanent.”

“Their personal natures are very similar and they get on fabulously together. Depending on each other and with that comes modesty and reservation in everything they do.”

——

By Geoff Baker
A real bundle of joy

A child with a wise and gentle nature
In the latest in an occasional series, the London Weekly News takes a look at the lives and work of some great London names. This week we meet the nation’s favourite musician

Jools Holland

By Geoff Baker

AS AROUND this time the honours committee is deciding who should get the good gongs on The Queen’s official birthday in June, there’s a name they should consider adding to the knight train of Sir Paul, Sir Elton and Sir Mick — Colonel Jools Holland OBE, Deputy Lieutenant for Kent, Fellow of Canterbury Christ Church University.

It would be a popular pick, a great Londoner who is already reckoned by his many, many showbiz pals to be in the room at the House of Lords anyway.

For who doesn’t like Jools Holland, the Deptford boy who became Britain’s best-connected man and best-loved pianist? If he was up for being the next Mayor of London, he’d walk it. He knows and has played for The Queen, Paul and Ringo were at his wedding, the last hit that their mate George ever wrote he did for Jools’s album and he was among the guests when Princess Charles married Camilla.

The fact that David Cameron is also a huge fan of the Cockney cheeky chappie who has become Britain’s most-popular musician is almost small beer in the glittering circles that gladly open all doors for the Shooters Hill schoolboy who was checked out of class at the age of 15 for letting the handbrake off a teacher’s parked car.

To fully appreciate just how much he is loved by the Establishment alone, it is worth quoting in full the speech of congratulations that Prince Charles made when Jools was honoured at the Music Industry Trust Awards at which the next king addressed him as “dear Jools”.

The Prince of Wales continued: “I just wanted to add my heartfelt congratulations on your official promotion to the ranks of the great and good. There has been a long-running plot to promote you to a fully-fledged national treasure. You are the embodiment of that rare species and so many people’s lives have been enhanced not only by your irresistible music, but also by your wonderful humanity. Over the decades you have been one of the great stars of the British music industry and such is your appeal that you manage to inspire as many grandchilren as you do grandparents. It’s a rare trick we all marvel, I can assure you. During the last 20 years or so you have been a marvellous help and support to me and an exemplary ambassador for many of my charities. Whenever you are present everyone knows something special is about to happen and it always does.

I wish you and bless you for everything you mean to so many people in this country and beyond.”

“So Jools!” “Bless you?” Said Charles himself? This is a level of unparalleled endorsement that the PMs for more commercially-successful stars can only imagine as their wildest dreams. How does he do it? Well there’s the clue in the sentence above, the entirely-likeable thing about Jools is that he doesn’t chase the top spots in the charts or want to make the most money from his shows — he’ll say, honestly, that it’s only about him loving his boogie-woogie at which he makes no boasts to be as great as he is. If anyone on the honours committee is looking for a category to pin a knighthood on, for musical services to modesty would be a good start.

Ask him who are his favourite guests that he’s had in the just about everybody who has appeared on his BBC2 “Later” show and he’ll reply, “all of them.” Few if any other TV hosts would say that; they’d say Clapton or McCartney or the Gallaghers. But Jools isn’t into star-rubbing and even when he’s in a room full of legends he just pulls that smiley face that says he’s amazed to be in there.

“My shows are only about the music because I can only be me, I’m not an actor,” he says.

And unlike other interviewers, he’s the best-regarded because he doesn’t probe. Cheeky at times, but never nosy; he only wants to talk songs.

“Well, I think that’s probably what I want to do to all of the guests. I’m not trying to trick them into a confession of a crime. I’m trying to celebrate their beauty. When somebody performs on the show they are revealing more about themselves,” he says.

No wonder then that when Paul, George and Ringo were looking for an interviewer for “The Beatles Anthology” documentary and could have picked anyone in the world for the job which, he says, “I really accept the idea that Jools Holland with his band ‘an ongoing, never-ending process of musical creativity that has won them admirers all over the world’ would be you.”

But we were really appalling at the audition,” he says. “We were supposed to introduce a band we liked and do a fake interview with a student who was there. Paula ended up calling the student worky and slapping him. And I pretended to introduce some dead people, and mimed dragging them across the floor of the studio.

Just good manners

“It was a shambles, it wasn’t funny, it was rubbish. What we didn’t understand was that in the control room was a woman called Andrea Wonfor, whose idea The Tube mainly was, who said to her fellow executives from Channel 4 and Tyne Tees: ‘I agree they’re not very professional, but none of us could stop looking at them, could we? Why don’t we try that? We had all the other people know what they’re doing and can remember the words and it hasn’t worked.’

“We thought we were being hired because of our talent and professionalism, whereas in fact it was because we were completely shambolic amateurs.”

He soon made the headlines, after he was suspected for swearing in a too-relaxed moment on the live show. Mary Whitehouse, the influential clean-up TV campaigner of the time, to him. Other TV hosts would have bitten her back, but instead Jools agreed with her scolding.

“She went to me,” says Jools. “If you do this, standards will drop.” I wrote back saying: ‘I absolutely agree with you. It was an inadvertent slip of the tongue on my part but actually, you’ve got a point.’ She was quite right,” he says.

There’s another reason for his popularity, the Jools Holland courtesy which is a result of his working class roots and which accounts in part for his fondness for the royals.

“I like them because they always write thank-you letters and set a good example. I don’t think people know what to do half the time, about taking their hat off in the presence of a lady and so on,” he says.

“But I tell you what, Norman from the docks knows how to behave perfectly well. It’s just good manners. I think it’s good that the Royal Family is doing all that. Well done.”

His friendship with Prince Charles is predicated on another modern rarity, an admiration for common sense.

“I agreed with a lot of the ideas he was trying to get across to people, about sustainability and buildings and how small is beautiful,” he says. “It’s the sort of things your grandmother would have said to you. ‘Why are you buying a silly modern fashion coat when your nan’s coat will fit you perfectly well?’ I identified with that.”

But it’s music and in particular boogie-woogie that matters most for the UK’s likeable lad and as usual he’s immersed in it — “Later” has just returned for its 46th series on BBC2 [Tuesdays and Fridays], his Radio 2 show is as good a listen as ever and May sees the start of a seven-month UK tour with his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra to catch it at the Hammersmith Odeon on July 16th.

“I started playing the piano at the age of eight, my mother played a little and used to sing blues songs. Both my parents liked jazz and blues, so there were those records around the house. But my uncle Dave played boogie-woogie on a little band and when I first heard him play all the chaos of the universe became order for me in that moment. I asked him to show me how to do it, which he did, and I’ve spent the rest of my life trying to figure it out.”

This year marks the 21st birthday of the Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, but they are still coming of age.

“The extraordinary thing of having had a big band for as long as I have had is that it’s all the same people. We are very unusual or unique to be the only Big Band to be going on this long. I think, to have the same people play and so we are hope fully thinking together as well as playing together; thinking as one, rather than reading the music.

“The orchestra is like a living, breathing organisation... a big creature. It has grown organically — a group of people thinking together who need constantly to be fed new ideas, new music. We gig almost non-stop for much of the year but we also find time to learn new things. We’ll retire some material and find something new. And having different guests brings something additional. It is an ongoing, never-ending process.

“You need to have continuity in the people. So they don’t just read the music, they all need to actually think and feel the music. We do have some staples and there’s always some boogie woogie. We love to see the impact on people — seeing those boogie woogie moments twang the ska knees moving as we play.

“It is the whole joy of playing live. You are looking into the whites of an audience’s eyes. But after you’ve done it for a while it becomes something you love — and it just gets better. Like every other life, whether it’s a story or writing or photography, the more you do, the more you gradually improve — and I like to think I’m doing that with a big band.”

For details of all the shows in the Rhythm & Blues Orchestra’s spring and summer tour, visit the band’s website www.joolsholland.com
Soundtrack of our lives

Tom Vague lovingly assembles a chronological top 20 of Portobello Road’s memorable songs...

(1) ‘Portobello Road, Portobello Road, street where the riches of ages are stowed, anything and everything a chap can unload is sold off the barrier in Portobello Road, you’ll find what you want in the Portobello Road.’

The most famous of the many Portobello Road songs in the 1971 Disney film ‘Bedknobs and Broomsticks’ seems like the oldest as it’s set in 1940, but is at least the fourth.

(2) The Portobello pop music market opened for business in 1966 with Cat Stevens’ ‘Portobello Road’ song, on the b-side of his debut single, ‘I Love My Dog,’ the first release on Decca’s Deram label. In the folk pop classic, Cat (now known as Yusuf Islam) was ‘getting hung up all day on smiles, walking down Portobello Road for miles, meeting strangers in Indian boots, yellow ties and old brown suits,’ and ‘nothing looks weird, not even a beard.’ The lyrics were written by the American producer Kim Fowley, who later managed the Runaways punk group. The track has been cited by Rob Finnis as ‘one of the few songs to capture, unaffectedly, the essence of London in the so-called swinging 60s.’

(3) At the same time Donovan came north to Portobello in ‘Sunny South Kensington’ and ‘met a fellow with a cane umbrella he must have used as a sieve.’ (4) The Cat Stevens/Kim Fowley track was duly covered by the American singer Ellie Janow and Cat’s guitarist Alan Davies, and (5) Spectrum came up with a more cynical Portobello song in 1967 featuring the lines: ‘You can spend or stand there, it’s better than the Chelsea fair, antiques, bric-a-brac… great Victorian, customers, American, treated just like long lost friends, when business stops the friendship ends in Portobello Road.’

(6) Yet another track entitled ‘Portobello Road’ was recorded in 1968 by Billy Nicholls, with members of the Small Faces for his Immediate album ‘Would You Believe?’ In this one there were ‘people raising hands to bid, taking off the lid there won’t forget you’ve been there.’

(7) Into the 70s the Pink Fairies by Billy Nicholls, with members of the Clash formed in Portobello market, as recounted by Joe Strummer in ‘All Dub Disco Style’ album included a ‘Portobello Special Dub’, and (8) Clifton Larry Lawrence’s ‘Out of One Man Comes Many Dubs’ featured another ‘Portobello Dub’ reggae track.

(11) In punk rock legend, the Clash formed in Portobello market, as recounted by Joe Strummer in ‘All the Young Punks’ on their second album: ‘I was hanging about down the market street… when I met some passing yobboes and we did chance to speak, I knew how to sing and they knew how to pose…’

The pre-Clash London SS group had the line: ‘I saw him selling winter coats on the Portobello Road.’

(16) Transvision Vamp’s Wendy James took a trip ‘across Portobello Road underneath the Westway’ in ‘W11 Blues’, and Joe Strummer paid homage with the Latino Rockabilly War track ‘Shouting Street’. (17) In the 90s and early 2000s there were a couple more ‘Portobello Road’ songs by Roy Aquarius and (18) James Ryan, (19) more mentions in the Blur tracks ‘Blue Jeans’ and ‘Fool’s Day’, and Blair’s ‘Have Fun Go Mad’ in ‘Sliding Doors’. (20) Sharleen Spiteri’s ‘Carnival Girl’ and Lily Allen’s ‘LDN’ set along Portobello, and the local singer Rosannamund Portobello.

Portobello Farm was named in celebration of the victory over Spain in the 1739 battle of Porto Bello (now in Panama), which also inspired the song ‘Rule Britannia’.

Festival experience

Portobello Live is an exciting new festival showcasing the heart and art of vibrant west London in a rich blend of music, cabaret, spoken word and performance, held in association with Wall Of Sound and Rough Trade over May Day bank holiday. The festival features new bands and performers alongside royalty and special guests. Portobello Live is dedicated to making music, spoken word, cabaret and performance art accessible to all, and preserving Notting Hill’s rich and diverse artistic heritage.


Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Portobello & Golborne Market in Notting Hill For full details go to the website www.shopportobello.co.uk Supported by The Portobello & Golborne Management Committee
Devonshire Square revealed as London Wine Week Hub

DEVONSHIRE Square, E2C, has been confirmed as the hub venue for London Wine Week, the event celebrating the capital’s passionate and thriving wine scene.

The business and leisure district in the heart of the City will play host to the Nyetimber Hub as the focal point of the festival as well as other pop-ups, including The Wines of Portugal Discovery Bar in the Western Courtyard, special events, discounts and offers.

Devonshire Square, which was once home to the 18th century warehouse complex of the East India Company, is tucked between the City and Shoreditch. Its unique architecture, stunning Western Courtyard and thriving 630,000 sq ft campus of bars, restaurants, shops and offices, makes it the perfect location to enjoy a glass of wine during London Wine Week.

Carsten Lund, General Manager of Devonshire Square said: “We are excited to be hosting the London Wine Week hub and working with Nyetimber English sparkling wine to celebrate the city’s wine offering. Bringing together retailers and pop-ups across London is a great honour and we are looking forward to presenting a fantastic range of wines and events in the historic location.”

London Wine Week, which is in its second year, will be utilising the space at Devonshire Square as the key starting point for guests to the festival. At the Nyetimber your wristbands speak with members of the LWW team to plan their week and relax in the specially created lounge, whilst enjoying a free sample of the stunning Nyetimber Brut Reserve.

Wristbands are available for £10 (www.londonwineweek.com), and also give the wearer access to London’s most extensive self-guided wine tasting, The Wine Tours, with more than 100 venues across town offering wine tasting flights for £5, as well as special pairing menus, corkage deals and drop-in tastings all week.

Emma Murphy, Festival Director of London Wine Week said: “We are delighted to announce Devonshire Square as the heart of London Wine Week 2015. The iconic square with its beautiful covered piazza is the perfect setting for people to begin their London Wine Week tour, and enjoy an alfresco glass of wine or two over the late May bank holiday.”

Devonshire Square’s participating bars and restaurants include: Cinnamon Kitchen, Devonshire Terrace, Hix City, New Street Wine Shop, The Bull and Hide, Enoteca, Old Bengal Bar, New Street Grill, Fish Market, and English Wine and Spirits who will be presenting special offers on wines to those with London Wine Week wristbands.

BACON rib is perfect for the summer barbecue season. What I use here is basically a slab of sweet-cure smoked, streaky bacon which is left on the bone. A good butcher should be able to get hold of a piece of it for you, and if you don’t want to barbecue it, you can slow-cook it in the oven.

1-1.5kg piece of sweet-cure smoked, streaky bacon on the bone
For the Waldorf salad

1firm red or green dessert apple, cored
3-4 sticks of celery, peeled if necessary and cut into rough 1cm squares
Any leaves from the celery, washed
20 walnuts, lightly toasted
2-3tbsp good-quality mayonnaise
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Put the bacon rib in a roasting tray and cook in the oven for about 3–4 hours, basting as often as is necessary to keep it nice and moist.

When you are almost ready to serve the rib, cut the apple into chunks about the same size as the celery (around 1cm). Then mix the apple, celery and walnuts in a bowl with enough mayonnaise to bind the mixture together; now season to taste. Cut the bacon ribs into slices and serve with the salad on the side.

Bacon rib with Waldorf salad

MARK HIX’S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Serves 4

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Are all newspaper offices like this?

I HAVE recently been touring the smaller fringe venues and this week I found another diamond - The Arcola Theatre in Hackney.

They describe themselves as ‘locally engaged and internationally minded’ and the whole building really gives off a cool and exciting buzz. Trendy in an unfinished way, this theatre is worth the slightly convoluted trip out from the central theatre district.

I was there to watch a play called Clarion, by Mark Jagasia. Based on a single day in a newspaper office in central London, the storyline felt more than a little close to home for a reporter from a print publication.

Safe passage

The Clarion, like many newspapers, has been struggling in recent years against the rise of the online digital world. Its main competitor, the Sentinel, has embraced the change but the brash and anachronistic editor of the Clarion - Morris Honeyspoon - played by Greg Hicks, is convinced his exploitative style of news will see the Clarion’s safe passage through the muddled waters.

Clarion, Arcola Theatre, Hackney

Hicks is stupendous as the illiberal Morris whose hectoring in the boardroom makes the likes of Alan Sugar look like a pussy cat. He wonderfully portrays the ranting bully, only ever showing any semblance of humanity when engaging with aged columnist and lash Verity Stokes, played by Clare Higgins.

Three time Olivier winner Higgins gives an astounding performance with raw emotion perfectly interspersed with the steely grit, honed from years at the coal face of tabloid journalism. Verity’s office ally Josh, played with charm by Ryan Wichert, uncovers a potentially damaging revelation which could see the paper’s despicable editor publicly ruined and spell the end of the Clarion.

Anyone who has worked in journalism, or any office for that matter, will recognise the other characters. Albert (Jim Bywater), the nearly retired news editor and Clive (Peter Bourke), the smug corporate executive are both played with great adeptness and the elderly astrologer Dickie, played by John Atterbury, really is the embodiment of a celestial prophet.

Laura Smithers as the airhead work experience girl is accurately pretty annoying, and one audience member actually cheered out loud when she received a good hard slap from Higgins in act two.

With a huge amount of inappropriate humour, blazing monologues and general bad behaviour this is a real guilty pleasure and for journalists and ordinary human beings alike this is a must see. Not thinking about any of the characters in particular I have told my boss he has to see it!
The True Love sails again
by Nicky Sweetland

AFTER the hugely celebrated opening of Gypsy at the Savoy Theatre, another revival set to hit theatreland this year is Cole Porter's newly revamped High Society at The Old Vic.

Hotly anticipated, this classic musical is directed by West End superstar Maria Friedman and will be a must see for theatre musical fans when it opens in May.

One of its stars, Ellie Bamber, is fresh from performing Letters of Note Live with the likes of Benedict Cumberbatch and Louise Brealey and has just finished a film with former Doctor Who, Matt Smith. Bamber is tipped to be one of the bright young theatre talents of 2015 as she takes on the role of Dinah in the Old Vic production. Ellie took some time out from rehearsals to tell me about the show.

"I'm having an absolutely wonderful time," she said.

I play Dinah, who is the younger sister of Tracy Lord. We're a rather wealthy family and when the show starts Tracy has split up with her husband Dexter. It's all happy because Tracy is getting married to a new man George, who is a politician, but the day before her wedding Dexter turns up, so everything goes into absolute chaos and the party gets out of hand.

Eventually everyone gets mixed up and the story is about Tracy and her journey through her love for different people and in the end, well, you'll have to wait to see what happens.

The 1956 MGM film starred a young Grace Kelly alongside Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra and was nominated for two Academy Awards for best song and best director. It was adapted for Broadway over 40 years later and the Old Vic production features some new songs and new characters.

Ellie continued: "I loved the Grace Kelly film. I watched it with my family when I was younger and obviously have watched it since. Recently I went to see The Philadelphia Story which the show is based on and I thought it was wonderful because our show is something in between the two."

Director Maria Friedman is a three time Olivier award winning actress, who has starred in numerous musicals and in 2012 directed the highly acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim's Merrily We Roll

Jerry's Girls transfers to the West End

FOLLOWING a near sell out run at The St James Studio, Jerry's Girls is set to transfer to the West End on May 12th.

As one of the best things I've seen this year, the review, of some of Jerry Herman's most well-known Broadway musicals includes numbers from shows like Hello Dolly, Mame and Mack and Mabel. With one exception the cast from the St James studio production will transfer to the Jermyn Theatre for a three week run.

I caught up with one of the stars, Ria Jones, to chat about the transfer and her love for the rmsazmattaz of Broadway musicals.

"It's a great show and I loved that stage at the St James Studio. It's going to be really interesting to see how it transfers to a completely different space. I'm a bit nervous but very excited at the same time."

"It's a show for all Jerry Herman fans. When I say that I mean any fans of Hello Dolly, Mame, Le Cage Aux Folles, Dear World, Mack and Mabel to name his most famous ones. It is, I think, an evening of enlightenment in a way because we think we know his songs and then there are other ones that creep in.

"There aren't that many who can write as good a lyric as a melody and I think Jerry Herman is one of them."

"I'm a big traditionalist. I love all the old fashioned proper Broadway musicals and, for me, he's the master of that.

"I look forward to singing those songs every night."

There is one change to the St James' cast. The ever versatile Anna-Jane Casey will be replaced by former Easter- ler's star Emma Barton.

Ria said: "They're very different which is good. I worked with Emma in Victor Victoria at The Bridewell Theatre and I think she's a wonderful comedy actress, with a great voice, a good all-rounder. I'm looking forward to her taking on it."

"I look forward to seeing it before we will be curious to see it again."

Ria and I talked about possible revivals following the huge success of Gypsy at the Savoy and the possibility of Mame or Hello Dolly returning the West End. Another show that we agreed is due a revival has to be Lord Lloyd Webber's Sunset Boulevard. Ria took part in the original workshop for this musical based on a washed-up silent movie star.

"I told Andrew when I did the workshop originally that I really wanted to do the part and he did promise me a revival, so I must hold him to that."

"You heard it here first!"

Jerry's Girls runs at The Jermyn Street Theatre from May 12th-31st and is a fairly small venue - booking is advised and very much recommended.
TALK OF THE TOWN  The entertainment scene across London

Curtain Up’s Tim on singing nuns and dangerous cabaret

by Nicky Sweetland

RESONANCE FM’s Tim McArthur has more than one string to his bow. The host of the weekly Friday afternoon Curtain Up show is also a regular on the London cabaret circuit, as well as being a very talented director.

I caught up with Tim, following his special Olivier outside broadcast award for Resonance.

Tim said: “Resonance is a community radio station based in South London. It has a mix of shows ranging from Calling all Pensioners to Out in South London, a show aimed at the lesbian and gay community.

“The Curtain Up show is a weekly celebration of the theatre scene in London. The hour-long show has its classes from the different shows each week. It's been going for about three years and the show is live every week.”

Tim trained in musical theatre at Mountview before deciding to do a one man show in Little Venice.

“I was just trying to get casting people to see me and amazing it sold out, he said.”

This kickstarted Tim’s hugely successful cabaret career which led to him supporting stars such as Graham Norton, Bobby Davro and Julian Clary.

“I started producing other artists, and then did a two-handed comedy show with Helen Leader, which toured for six months. We got on really well and I’ve recently directed her one-woman show.”

Possibly Tim’s most famous cabaret turn is with his alter ego Sister Mary.

He said: “When I did the Purcell Room with my one man show I needed something to open act two. One morning I was hungover and watching the Sound of Music. I was comfort eating Curly Wurlys, flicking through Women’s Own and I thought, I’ll dress up as a nun and sing ‘Do Re Mi’ with the audience. The actor in me said, ‘you can’t do that because there’s no reason for her to do it’, so I thought about a nun who’s trapped in a convent and wants to be a star. I came out as Sister Mary and sang ‘I Want To Be A Star’ and then did ‘Do Re Mi’ with the audience.”

Sister Mary went down a storm and Tim took the act to Edinburgh, Cape Town and even New York.

Speaking about his next project Tim said: “Sister Mary is going to be doing a monthly piece at the Cockpit Theatre from September.

It’s going to be a variety show with lots of different variety acts. She sort of takes over my life. It’s nice not to do something for a while and then bring it back. Because this is a new show, a new format, hopefully her fans will come and see it.”

Tim’s cabaret accomplishments led to many other achievements in the business from presenting to master classes. About to work on Chess at the University of Cumbria, Tim has also just released a solo album.

TIM McArthur as his alter ego Sister Mary

"After nearly 20 years in the business I just though it was about time," he said.

The album has a lovely mix of songs, all of which have a very personal meaning to Tim.

“It’s not songs that you necessarily know from musicals and people have said they love the fact that it’s not obvious choices. It’s very me.”

One of the songs, Dangerous Cabaret was written especially for Tim by Brett Kahr when he first started to do cabaret so it’s seemed an obvious choice for the album.

Each song has got a little story as to why I’ve chosen it.”

Tim has just directed a play called Rise like a Phoenix at the Above the Stage Theatre which is the UK’s only LGBT theatre. He’s also been asked to perform on the stage in Trafalgar Square on June 27th for Pride, as well as hosting the cabaret stage in Waldorf Street.

Rise Like A Phoenix runs until May 3rd at the Above The Stage Theatre. The Curtain Up Show is on Friday afternoons on Resonance FM 104.4 FM.

London Music Awards

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, will host the second annual London Music Awards at Camden’s Roundhouse on Thursday June 11.

Established to recognise the capital’s wealth of talent, and the achievements of London’s aspiring young musicians. Its rising stars and legendary performers, the London Music Awards 2015 will build on the success of the inaugural event, attracting attendees from across the music industry, city influencers and supporters of the Mayor’s Music Fund.

The London Music Awards will also be an important fundraiser for the Mayor’s Music Fund, a charity that gives out grants of approximately £400,000 every year to enable thousands of children and young people across every London borough to develop their musical potential.

Chairman of the charity, Veronica Wadley says: “The growth of the Mayor’s Music Fund is remarkable. In just four years it has had a huge impact on the musical landscape of our great city, nurturing and developing the talent of future generations.

The London Music Awards is an opportunity to celebrate that talent and to raise funds to allow that the work continues, ensuring London’s status as the music capital of the world.”

A total of 12 awards will be presented on the night, covering an extensive range categories from London’s Favourite Music Venue, votes for which can be cast here, through Music Excellence in Schools and rising stars to a London Legend, which last year was awarded to Soul II Soul’s Jazzy B.

The music industry is showing its support with major players such as PRS for Music, Live Nation, the Mackintosh Foundation, ABRSM, PPL UK, Time Out, Universal and AEG live sponsoring awards and hosting tables. Others lending their support are UK Music, Sony, Warner, iTunes and law firms, accountants and financiers. Money will be raised on the night through personal pledges and a silent auction.

The 12 London Music Awards categories are:

- Mayor’s Music Fund Outstanding Scholars
- Mayor’s Music Fund Outstanding Musical Partnership
- Music Excellence in Schools
- Music Philanthropist
- Londoners’ Favourite Music Venue

www.timeout.com/london/music/londons-favourite-music-venue-vote

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Penalty miss proves costly

W e will know very soon just how costly Saturday’s penalty miss by Charlie Austin will prove to be in the context of QPR’s ongoing struggle to avoid relegation.

At the moment, it feels almost catastrophic to R’s fans, who viewed the visit of West Ham as a timely opportunity to grab all three points, instead of the goalless draw that ensued at Loftus Road.

Austín saw his 22nd-minute penalty saved by West Ham goalkeeper Adrian, who has now saved three spot kicks in succession. Although Austín struck his shot powerfully, it was aimed too close to the Spanish keeper and at a good height for him to deflect the ball away to safety.

It was a poor penalty – Austín’s second miss in five attempts from the spot – but only the hardest Hoops’ fans would hold it against the striker whose Premier League goals this season have at least given the club a top flight lifetime. Without them, they would have been dead and buried weeks ago.

QPR manager Chris Ramsey said: “Charlie is devastated about it. He knows he has contributed greatly to our season. A lot of the points we have accumulated are down to him and we all know that.”

Former Hammer Bobby Zamora, who won the penalty award with a flick that rebounded off James Collin’s hand, added: “Charlie is gutted, obviously, but he’s got us out of so many situations in the past. It’s one of those things. He’s hit the ball, he’s hit it, hard, on the way in it goes in.”

Four a drift

Away victories for Leicester City (at Bumley) and Hull City (at Crystal Palace) compounded QPR’s misery, leaving R’s four points a drift of safety with four games remaining.

“It’s going to be more difficult for us now,” admitted Ramsey. “We haven’t scored enough goals from other areas of the pitch, we’ve been too reliant on Charlie.”

Richard Dunne thought he had given Rangers the lead midway through the second half when he bundled the ball over the line but referee Mike Jones adjudged Steven Caulker to have fouled Adurin in the build-up.

“It was very frustrating,” Ramsey said. “I thought the disallowed goal was very harsh. There was no way it’s a foul and it’s hugely frustrating, because we are scrapping for our lives. It’s a difficult decision to take.”

Normal

If you look at it, he continues. Caulker has gone up to head the ball in a normal challenge, he hasn’t lifted his hands above his head or anything like that. The keeper spilled the ball and Richard Dunne’s bravery was

OUTLOOK ROAD RANGERS REVIEW With Tony McDonald

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Thursday, April 30
Southampton U21 v CHELSEA U21, 7.00.
Saturday, May 2
Manchester United U18 v CHELSEA U18, 11.00.
Norwich City v FULHAM U12, 12.15.
Liverpool v QPR, 3.00.
May 3
CHELSEA v Crystal Palace, 1.30.
Monday, May 4
FULHAM U21 v CHELSEA U21, 12.00.

CHELSEA dominated the annual PFA awards ceremony in London on Sunday night, when Eden Hazard collected the coveted title of Player of the Year.

The 24-year-old Belgian star said: “I’m very happy. One day I want to be the best and do this season is very good for me. It’s very good to be voted by the players – they know everything about football. This is good. I’m very happy.”

“We are almost champions, maybe this is the key. Last season we finished third and this season we have an opportunity to win the league. This has changed from last season.

"I continue like I did last season – I try to be the same. I try to score more goals than last season. Personally, I have played a good season. I have been there in the big games and I scored a lot of important goals, this is why I’m better this season."

Eight Blues were named in the PFA’s Premier League Team of the Year. Along with Hazard, John Terry, Gary Cahill, Branislav Ivanovic, Nemanja Matic and Diego Costa were also in their fellow pro’s

SURREY CCC ROUND-UP

SURREY captain Gareth Battty was upbeat despite his team being held to a 1-1 draw in Cornwall where his side twice declared after amassing a combined 770 runs in their first Championship encounter of the season against Glamorgan.

Battty said: “For the vast majority of the game we won pretty much every battle, we played on a very good, flat pitch that probably made it a bridge too far for. "Glamorgan played well to avoid the follow-on – we tried everything and I’m proud of everyone in the dressing room. The bowlers struck at the task and in Cornwall, where he would have known who the greatest player in the world was? They both played magnificently well.”

Teddy promises partner Cahill

FROM BACK PAGE
disappointed to be left out but he has come back and taken his chance again. He has been different class and is England’s best centre-back. For me, he has been brilliant all season long.

“The manager has taken him out and stuff but for me he has been his different class. In these big games everyone has a lot of experience and he steps up to the plate.”

Arsenal fans had the audacity to label Chelsea as ‘boring’. Terry responded: “I honestly don’t think that’s definitely not boring. If we do go on to win the League, no one is going to remember the performances where we maybe needed to do something exciting. We have dug deep in the points they are behind us.”

“Possession is great, we saw a couple of times Manchester United game the previous week. Possession is great. The taka football is great but if you’re not winning games, you’re not going to win the League.

“Let’s not forget that up until Christmas, we were the best by far. Some of the football we played, with Cesc Fabregas and his movement, was very, very good. At Burnley and once again, the way they played between our different class. Teams were worried then about playing against us. The manager, being the way he is, came up with a way to get us through games and that’s where is at his best.”

Is defending an art, as Arsene Wenger suggests? "It is an art. I totally respect him, he’s a great manager. From our point of view, I’m just delighted.”

Does Terry feel he has one hand on the Premier League Trophy already?

“It’s in our hands more than anybody else’s,” he said. “It’s not a ten game wait and grinding, gutting results. We have the quality throughout the squad, so hopefully we can get over the line because we are very close."
Fulham finish with a flourish

**Sport**

***By LWN reporter Paul Lagan***

sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

**CHELSEA one step closer**

The champagne has arrived and it’s on ice, but will when be opened? That’s the question Chelsea fans have been pondering this week.

Sunday’s 0-0 draw with Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium, which kept Blues 10 points ahead of the Gunners and Manchester City, meant that Wednesday’s match at Leicester City (played after LWN Sport went to press) could see Chelsea just three points away from reclaiming the Premier League after a five-year absence.

The title could be won on Sunday, when Crystal Palace visit Stamford Bridge for the early afternoon kickoff.

Even more mouth-watering a prospect for Chelsea supporters could come a week later with the visit of Liverpool. Should Blues be crowned champions against the Eagles, then the Scousers will be duty-bound to provide a guard of honour for the Chelsea players as they enter the pitch.

That will be a horrible scenario for the travelling fans and ex-Chelsea reserve team coach and now Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, but it seems the most likely outcome as the season reaches its climax.

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, as pragmatic as ever, said after the draw against Arsenal: “It’s a point, we need five points to be champions. But the team is confident and playing extremely well. It’s in our hands and we have a 10-point gap with 15 to play for. We are confident.

‘Absolutely amazing’

“We performed very well against a very good team. We had the game under control. I told JT (John Terry), that he was fantastic, the best performance in the six years I have played with him. It was absolutely amazing.”

Despite seeing three penalty appeals turned down by referee Michael Oliver, Mourinho did not want to get drawn into a fresh controversy surrounding officials.

“I want to forget the penalties and focus on the performance,” he said. “It was an intense and fast game with danger at both ends. The referee had a good performance. I don’t want to comment on the Cesc Fabregas booking for a dive.”

If John Terry had an amazing performance and he made a mistake, then he was still amazing. It’s the same for the ref – he had a good performance with a mistake.”

Terry said: “The point on Sunday was a step to where we want to go. It’s not mathematically done yet. It’s still possible for other sides to catch us but it’s a big step forward.

“The main thing at the Emirates was not to let Arsenal gain points on us and we did that. It was a very good performance.

“It was a tough game. Arsenal are a very good side. They’re up there fighting and have been in great form too. They have some world-class players but we nullified them.”

Terry explained that without injured strikers Diego Costa and Loic Remy, the match would be different to the 1-0 win they achieved over Manchester United the previous week.

“People thought we would come to north London and sit back, like we did against Man United, but we gave it a go,” he said.

And it was a game of end to end, perhaps too much. In the second half we were more in control and got our possession up, which will please the manager. It was very good against Anorthoi’s two blocks (to defend) but we were ready to go at them and we showed that threat by getting behind them.”

Terry had no complaints about the penalty claims dismissed by referee Oliver. Chelsea had the biggest shout in the first half when Oscar was polarized by David Ospina after clipping the ball over the Gunners’ keeper, only to see his goal-bound effort cleared by a defender. Arsenal also appealed for handball against Chelsea’s Gary Cahill, although that would have been a harsh decision.

“I think he probably got them all right,” Terry said.

“The ones on defenders, when the ball is really close, are never going to be given. All the captains were briefed by referees before the season and they said they won’t be given, it’s as simple as that.”

‘Almost there’

With five more games required, can Terry smell the title back at SW6 after a five-year absence?

“Yes, we are almost there.”

What did the Chelsea skipper make of Mourinho’s assertion it was his best ever performance under him?

“Yes, he said that to me afterwards,” continued Terry.

“To hear that from him is obviously very nice. I’m delighted with the way I played but, more importantly, it’s the result for the team. Everyone dug deep and put in a really good all round performance.”

Would he rate it as one of his best?

“I’m not too sure. It seemed like I got on the end of a lot of crosses and cleared them and ushered a couple out. During the game you can feel when things are going well. I definitely felt it was going well. But to hear that from the manager, who stands there and assesses day in, day out, year after year, is really nice. But I still need to kick on and keep going, because it can go the other way.

“Arsenal are a really good side, particularly going forward. We needed to be on defensive wise, which we have been of late. If Gary Cahill wasn’t there, then either Branislav Ivanovic or myself were. Cesar Azpilicueta was excellent, while Thibaut Courtois came out late on to take the pressure off the back four. Even the midfielders were tracking back late on, you could see they were a little bit.”

Terry’s central defensive partner Cahill appeared to be back to his best after a shaky period in the new year. JT agrees. “He is a big character. He was obviously

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27