Row over library ‘is becoming class war’

Leading councillor hits out at proposals to turn over facility to prep school

BY GEOFF BAKER
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The battle by North Kensington residents to try to prevent the Victorian building becoming new classrooms for Notting Hill Preparatory School is squaring up to be a fight of the interests of rich parents against the needs of the poor community.

In a borough where the new council plan reveals “21 per cent of all children live in poverty” but where the average home costs £1.2 million and “21.5 per cent of adults work in financial and insurance activities”, the fight to save the library is coming to mean much more than a tussle of where residents go to take out books.

“The library row is not just a matter of replacing an old building with a new one, it’s a class war,” claimed a leading Kensington and Chelsea councillor. The councillor, who asked not to be named, added, “This is the most unequal borough in Britain. To the south you have great wealth and to the north there are some of the most deprived areas in London. Shutting a public library which is much-used by the ordinary community so that it can be used by a private school represents that great divide.”

Kensington and Chelsea council wants to close the existing library, which opened in Ladbroke Grove 1851, and re-site it in a new building to be built 50m away in Lancaster Road. The old library would then be rented by the council to Notting Hill Preparatory School at £365,000 a year for a 25-year lease.

But in a new move this week, campaigners fighting to keep the old library are now appealing to governors of the prep school to put the needs of the local community first, and to not sign the lease which they say is “dishonourable”.

In an open letter to the governors, sent to this newspaper so that it can be given borough-wide distribution, the Friends of North Kensington Library said they were appealing to governors of the prep school to put the needs of residents first. They said: “If the library is closed and rented to a private school it will have a negative impact on the community. Notting Hill Preparatory School does not need a new library as they have a huge library in their own premises.”

270,000 more on Crossrail

SADIQ Khan has revealed that Crossrail 2 will bring an extra 270,000 people into central London every morning. The massive increase of many more people in the over-crowded capital was revealed by the Mayor of London when he spoke at the V&A at an annual dinner in aid of the London Transport Museum.

PAGE 3

Style gurus’ masterclass

TALENTED teenagers of Ladbroke Grove were given a masterclass in cool by style legends Don Letts and Bella Freud at the Moncada Brewery – and were warned not to worship the Internet.

PAGE 4

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Beacon of hope in the fight against diabetes

MORE than 4.5 million people across the UK are now living with diabetes – and three times that number are at risk of developing the condition. It is fast becoming one of the nation’s biggest healthcare crises, with £10 billion carved out of the NHS budget every year to cover the cost of diagnosis and treatment.

But behind the facts and figures, pioneering researchers are pushing back the boundaries of science in a bid to find a cure. One of them is Dr Victoria Salem, a clinical researcher at Imperial College London.

She is part of a small team working at the university’s campus in White City, close to Hammersmith Hospital.

Using groundbreaking research techniques, Dr Salem and her colleagues are going underground in an attempt to assess whether hormones found deep inside our guts could be used as a form of therapy for type 2 diabetes, the condition’s most common form.

The leading research could pave the way for the development of new treatments to drive type 2 diabetes into remission – and spare millions from the danger of an early death.

“We know that bariatric surgery can put type 2 diabetes into remission,” explains Dr Salem.

“And I want to understand whether gut hormones could be used as a therapy to produce the same effect in the future.”

Diabetes UK – the national charity that is pumping £7 million every year into life-changing research in the care, treatment and prevention of the condition – celebrated Dr Salem last week as one of the industry’s most inspirational researchers.

She was singled out as a visionary figure in her field and an icon for young women starting careers in medical science.

Dr Salem says she is proud to be part of a small team of researchers striving to answer the question of whether gut hormones could be used as a therapy to produce the same effect in the future.

“I feel hugely privileged,” she adds. “I have got this responsibility to produce research that is really going to make a difference to people with diabetes – hopefully within my lifetime.”

Diabetes UK is currently funding more than 50 female scientists in their bid to break down the barriers to finding a cure for diabetes.

If not managed properly, the condition can lead to serious complications, including sight loss, limb amputation and kidney failure.

Around 90 per cent of people living with the illness have type 2 diabetes, which is brought on because of family history and age but may also be linked to being overweight.

The more serious type 1 diabetes affects only 10 per cent of sufferers and is currently unpreventable.

But the work of Dr Salem and others could yet prove instrumental in tailoring therapy not only for the 4.5 million who live with the condition, but for the one million more who have type 2 diabetes and do not realise it.

“All our fantastic researchers play a vital role in helping us to know diabetes and fight diabetes,” explains the charity’s Dr Emily Burns.

“Our amazing female researchers have had a huge impact on the treatment of diabetes. They will continue to be leaders in the world of diabetes research and care.”
Library plans ‘highlight inequality in borough’

FROM PAGE 1

Kensington Library says: “Our petition requesting that you refuse the lease offered is in no way a demand that your business cease to expand. We merely ask that you cease to expand in ways that do not further reduce the wider community’s access to the much-loved building on Ladbroke Grove in particular, and in ways that do not support the loss of public space and community assets in general.”

The campaigners add: “The decision to take North Kensington Library building out of the public realm should be a decision for the wider community, who were not consulted about any aspect of this proposal until after they had been approached and offered the lease on the building.”

In a 13-point argument aimed at persuading the school governors to back off from the library deal, the Friends claim:

- “You were offered the building in a closed process, effectively disabling the community’s ability to offer alternative plans for the upkeep of the building.”
- “The head of the council committee who took the decision, Rock Fielding-Mellen, has his own children’s names down for places on your school, a clear conflict of interest.”
- “You have been offered a lease which requires the taxpayers to foot the bill of the Grade II listed exterior, meaning that the taxpayer is not relieved of the cited expense of the upkeep of the building under the proposals.”
- “The revenue stream that leasing the current building to you, at £365,000 a year, for the proposed 30 years will not cover the cost of moving the current library, £11 million” leaving a shortfall of £18 million.
- “You have been offered the lease in a country, with close to 0.5 billion in reserve, who nevertheless intend to use recent changes in the law to raise the extra cash for front line services, particularly social care, that they say they need. It is therefore disingenuous to suggest that the money from this lease is intended or required for front line services.”
- “However, the council has hit back and it argues that without the rent from the prep school there could be ‘devastating’ cuts to vital services.”
- “A council spokesman said: ‘Providing we get planning permission of course, there will soon be an outstanding new library just 50 yards away. It will be a brand new building that, in library terms, will be bigger and better in every way than the old building.”
- “The plan is for the old library to generate a significant new rental income for the council to support our services to residents in North Kensington and elsewhere in the borough.”
- “Since 2010 the income received from our property portfolio has gone up from £3.8 million to about £11 million, and it is deals like North Kensington Library that have made that possible.”
- “‘Without all that extra rental income, the cuts to our vital services would have been devastating. The new library will be used to provide additional private-school places which are in great demand among many of the borough’s residents.”
- “Perfectly properly, Notting Hill Prep is serving its parents and pupils by seeking to occupy what will be a vital new library. The decision to vacate the building has of course been taken by the council and not the school.”
- “At a meeting next month, the council’s cabinet is to decide on the plan to leave the library to the prep school.”
- “The planning application is available online at the planning section of the council’s website rbk.gov.uk/planning.”
- “The council have already had the new North Kensington Library and Youth Centre, visit nklibrary.org.uk.
- “To see the full letter from the Friends, turn to page 8.”

Help thriving social enterprise remain a bright point of light

SLOPED off early the other day, uncharacteristically I can assure you. The reason was I wanted to watch the presidential inauguration from the comfort of my sofa. Anyway there I was, G&T in hand, mixed nuts at the ready, when by way of a warm-up the BBC showed a montage of highlights from previous inaugural speeches. It was really interesting. JFK’s famous “ask not what your country can do for you,” was included and so too was Ronald Reagan’s “government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.”

But the inaugural phrase that really caught my attention was from a president not known for his soaring oratory: George Bush – H, not W. At his 1989 inauguration, President Bush spoke about a ‘thousand points of light’ by which he meant the voluntary organisations ‘spread like stars throughout the nation, doing good’. It was a fine simile.

I like to think that we in Kensington and Chelsea are similarly blessed with points of light, maybe not thousands of them but hundreds certainly.

And when I was sitting there on my sofa, one of those that sprang most readily to mind was Westway Community Transport – perhaps because I had recently been on a visit there.

Westway CT was 25 years old in 2016. In that time, it has transformed itself from a small scheme criticising minibus services to a thriving social enterprise with 48 vehicles, 60 or so employees, a huge pool of volunteers, 500 group members and 2,300 individual members. But it wasn’t just the scale that impressed me, it was the good they do and how positively they get it done.

The goals are to tackle isolation and loneliness, and enable people to live their life as independently as possible.

And Westway CT tries to achieve those goals in ways that are pleasingly straightforward and practical. For example, they provide community groups with subsidised minibuses, with or without drivers.

There is a community car scheme for older people and people with disabilities which can be used for journeys to class, visits to friends, appointments with hairdressers and dentists or simply for an outing.

There is a regular minibus service to the shops – and at just £1.50 each, it’s a great way for someone older to do a big shop without having to brave public transport.

There is also a mobility scooter scheme that provides training in and access to scooters so people who are no longer quite so steady on their feet can still get out and about.

And there’s more. There’s a minibus service with all the seats ploughed back into Westway CT’s charitable activities.

There’s wheelchair hire, disability equipment and then there’s the qualifications training: in first aid, manual handling and being a passenger assistant, and in professional driving.

So Westway CT is not only helping people stay independent and in contact, it is also helping people into employment.

If you would like to sign up for any of Westway CT’s services, or its training opportunities, or if you would simply like to help it remain a particularly bright point of light in Kensington and Chelsea by becoming a volunteer, visit westwayct.org.uk.

To contact the leader of the council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbk.gov.uk
Masterclass in the art of style for Kensington kids

TALENTED teenagers of Ladbroke Grove were given a masterclass in cool by style legends Don Letts and Bella Freud at the Moncada Brewery – and were warned not to worship the internet.

At the interview event, organised by The Rhythm Studio Foundation – the west London charity which helps give fresh opportunities to underprivileged young people with a passion for music – Don, the acclaimed DJ, film producer and musician, cautioned against the blandness of internet technology.

“The internet’s kind of cool but it’s a double-edged sword. It’s killed the mystery of the planet,” said the Grammy Award-winning director who has been a leading influence on contemporary culture since working with The Clash, The Slits, The Psychedelic Furs, The Pretenders, Elvis Costello and Big Audio Dynamite.

He added: “An insidious uniformity has crept into the 21st century - it’s as if punk rock never happened. Style-driven subculture has disappeared.”

Bella, the pioneering fashion designer who has worked with Vivienne Westwood, John Malkovich and Anita Pallenberg and was a fashion consultant for iconic brands including Jaeger, Miss Selfridge, Barbour and Cutler & Gross, discussed with the young and avid audience the importance of making your own style and exploring the different fields of creativity.

“The evening kicked off with an acoustic set played by the extraordinarily talented Myla Newell, a pupil at Holland Park School, who has been supported by The Rhythm Studio Foundation’s scholarship scheme for the last three years,” said a spokeswoman for the ‘Local Legends’ event.

“It provided a fascinating and animated question and answer session with Don Letts and Bella Freud both veterans of the style and music scene over the last 30-40 years. Topics discussed were the evolution of the punk scene, underground sub cultures and why individuality isn’t celebrated anymore.

“Both Don and Bella have been long-time and ardent patrons and supporters of The Rhythm Studio Foundation, with Bella recently designing a limited range of T-shirts for the charity.

In discussing the important work which the charity funds, Don Letts said: “The Rhythm Studio gets children working with a common goal and experiencing the chemistry that happens if you bring young minds together.”

Grants available to fund festivals

Grants of up to £5,000 each are being made available to support arts and cultural festivals that take place in and around the Westway area of Kensington and Chelsea.

Westway Trust, the charity that manages 23 acres of land under the Westway flyover in the community interest, is making £75,000 of grants available to support and recognise local talent, diversity, and heritage.

The fund is in addition to several other funds the trust makes available including the Community Grants Programme, which supports projects and events organised by social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations in the borough.

The Westway Trust’s Fostivals Fund comes alongside the launch of the Westway Arts Network, which will put local people at the heart of decision making about how Westway Trust supports arts and culture in the area.

Miriam Nelnken, Westway Trust Head of Culture and Partnerships, said: “The Westway area is home to arts and cultural festivals of local, national and international significance. The Fostivals Fund aims to support existing festivals as well as encouraging new festivals to develop, increasing opportunities to showcase local creativity and talent.”

The deadline for applications for events starting after April 30 and before October 10, 2017 is March 10. Details can be found at www.westway.org/festivalsfund.
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Residents urged to make views clear on Heathrow third runway

COUNCILLORS are urging residents to have their say on plans for the third runway at Heathrow, which, they say, have left them feeling “very concerned”.

The Government recently began a four-month consultation on plans for a third runway at Heathrow Airport.

It believes a new runway will strengthen the UK’s links with the rest of the world, offering new and improved opportunities for tourism and trade.

“But a third runway will also have an environmental impact,” said a Kensington and Chelsea Council spokesman.

The Government is promising to address that impact with a package of measures it describes as ‘world class’. It believes expansions can be delivered within existing air quality requirements through this runway, in any case, be a condition of planning approval.”

The leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council has also urged residents to speak against plans to expand Heathrow Airport.

Cllr Stephen Cowan said it is important that local voices are heard during the latest phase of consultation over proposals for a third runway.

Cllr Cowan said: “Expanding Heathrow would damage the borough. We don’t support it.”

The consultation is on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on expanding runway capacity and airport infrastructure in the south-east of England.

The draft NPS sets out: · the need for additional airport capacity in the south-east of England · why Government believes that need is best met by a north-west runway at Heathrow Airport · the specific requirements that the new runway will need to meet to gain development consent on issues such as pollution, climate change, habitats, health, good design and cost.

There will be a number of consultation events across London, including one at Kensington Town Hall on Wednesday 1 March. This drop-in event is open to all. It begins at 11am and finishes at 8pm.

It is also possible to participate online. All the background documents and consultation response forms are available at: www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion.

The consultation ends at 11.45am on Thursday 25 May 2017.

To address the worries about noise, climate change and air quality, the Government is proposing a range of counter measures that includes legal binding noise targets, a ban of six hours’ flight operations in winter nights and new technology to make airspace more efficient and reduce the need for stacking, thereby making journeys faster and more environmentally friendly.

“We remain very concerned about the environmental impact of a third runway,” said Cllr Tim Colegrave, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Transport.

“Our hope is that the ‘world class package of measures’ that has been promised will address our concerns. We will be studying it closely before making our official submission to the Government.”

A KENSINGTON and Chelsea charity has received a £500,000 grant to help its fight to bridge the gap in the borough with the greatest inequality in Britain.

The City of London Corporation’s charitable funder, City Bridge Trust, has awarded the grant to the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation (KCF) to expand its work supporting and strengthening local voluntary groups and residents.

“KCF believes that when people think of Kensington and Chelsea, they picture prosperity and privilege, yet the borough has the greatest gap between wealth and opportunity of any area in the UK,” said a spokesman for the Trust.

KCF was set up in 2008 and raises support from local people and businesses to improve lives in the royal borough.

The grant is to address political and environmental issues, including pollution, climate change and air quality (both local and global), which are some of the biggest challenges facing the borough.

Since 2008, the charity has raised nearly £9 million to improve lives in Kensington and Chelsea. KCF also has its own campaigns, which it delivers through local charity partners, to address specific issues in the borough including:

• Winter Warmth - which helps older people living poverty.
• Young Sparks - which gives local children in need better opportunities.
• Hands Across the Borough - which was recently launched to address isolation and loneliness.

The charity’s current strategy is called ‘Reaching out and Reaching more’. KCF has ambition to grow its network of supporters - be it individuals, schools or businesses.

The grant from City Bridge Trust will mean the charity can focus on extending its business network to encourage more companies to support local charities and residents in need,” said the spokesman.

Alison Gowan, Chairman of the City of London Corporation’s City Bridge Trust Committee, said: “It is great that we are able to support an organisation that is doing its utmost to tackle disadvantage and inequality across Kensington and Chelsea.

“The support they provide to small charities and local voluntary groups across the borough is invaluable. The foundation has grown significantly over the past eight years and is now helping thousands of people annually through their campaigns and support services.

“City Bridge Trust is committed to tackling disadvantage across the capital and making London a fairer and better place to live.”

Susan Dolton, Director of the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation, added: “Being awarded this grant from City Bridge Trust is fantastic news for us. It means that we will be able to expand our reach into our local businesses for the next two years, encouraging them to support charities based in this Borough and through them to help improve the lives of local people.

“Our model is to make it easier for businesses to get involved in the community by helping them to make informed decisions about fundraising, in kind support and giving their time and talents.

“We believe that there is huge potential to grow relationships between local businesses of all sizes in this Borough to support and enrich the lives of everyone who lives and works here and this grant will help us achieve that.”

City Bridge Trust is London’s biggest independent grant giver, making grants of £20 million a year to tackle disadvantage across the capital. The Trust has awarded more than 200 grants totalling over £350 million since it first began in 1995.

A PULHAM building society has held its first homelessness ‘action day’ after signing up to a new partnership with a national rough sleepers charity.

The North End Road branch of Yorkshire Building Society has teamed up with End Youth Homelessness in a bid to help the borough’s most vulnerable people off the streets.

The society is aiming to raise £750,000 over the next three years to help hundreds of young people off the streets.

According to official figures, more than 100 16 to 25-year-olds in Hammersmith and Fulham received homeless support from the council last year.

Members of staff at the Fulham branch will be raising money towards the project by selling trolley coin key rings and staging a ‘give a bear a home’ competition.

Neil Murray, manager of the Fulham branch, said: “We are proud to launch our new partnership with End Youth Homelessness and hope our customers and members of the public in Fulham really get behind us.”

“Our action days will raise funds for rental deposit guarantees, home essentials grants and practical help for homeless young people seeking to live independently.”

Rosie Mellor, partnership manager at End Youth Homelessness, added: “Through our partnership with Yorkshire Building Society, we will not only be supporting 700 homeless young people into their own rented homes, we will also aim to break down the barriers that homeless young people face.”

Yorkshire Building Society has launched a three-year charity partnership with End Youth Homelessness

Building society in a bid to help end youth homelessness

Cash boost in fight against Royal Borough inequality
Street lights powering up electric vehicles

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A STREETCAR named de wire. Street lights connected to UK Power Networks electricity network in Kensington and Chelsea have been converted into charge points for electric vehicles – a first for central London.

The trial by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, UK Power Networks, and Ubitricity has started with the conversion of the first three Kensington street lights into electric vehicle (EV) charge points.

This installation allows two local residents to charge their vehicles from a street light near their front door, and receive accurate bills for their electricity use via their smart phone or home PC.

During the trial in Onslow Gardens, Kensington, drivers who previously charged their EV at a nearby shopping centre now park and plug in at one of the street lights that have been fitted with charging technology. Access to the charge points is managed with smart charging cables. This way the amount of electricity being used can be accurately determined and paid for.

“The trial which started in November could pave the way for greater EV use and tackle air pollution in London by allowing drivers to conveniently charge their vehicles closer to home,” said a council spokesman.

In outer London, 31 per cent of households have no access to off-street parking to charge an EV, and in inner London this rises to 46 per cent.

Councillor Tim Corderidge, the Royal Borough’s Cabinet Member for Highways, said: “A growing number of residents have made enquiries about the availability of electric vehicle charging points here in Kensington and Chelsea.

“The use of street lights as charging points provides electric vehicle owners and users charging opportunities closer to where they live and work. If this trial is successful we will look at exploring other opportunities for using street lights in this way.”

Mark Burton, from UK Power Networks, said: “We are delighted to work with the Royal Borough and Ubitricity on a trial to allow more EVs to charge via street lighting columns connected to our network. This technology avoids the need to build new electricity network and makes better use of the cables, particularly in the daytime when the lights are switched off.

“This solution means we can monitor how much electricity is being used in order to maintain reliable electricity supplies as more EVs connect to our networks. It should also release more parking spaces currently set aside as dedicated EV charging bays, resulting in less street furniture and fewer excavations to install new charging points.”

UK Power Networks agreed to upgraded fuses at the first three points to allow more electricity to be safely drawn from the cable, making sure local electricity supplies remain safe and reliable.

“The Kensington and Chelsea trial could not have happened without the support of UK Power Networks and the Royal Borough. The trial means that local residents can for the very first time charge right outside their front door. In one case this has removed the need for drivers to charge their vehicle at a nearby shopping centre now a week to charge, reducing both congestion and electricity consumption.”

In December the Department for Transport’s On Street Residential Grant Scheme (£2.5m) launched guidance for local authorities UK-wide to apply for funding for provision of charge points in residential areas, where there is a lack of off-street parking. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-charge-points.

Traffic penalties
HAMMERSMITH roundabout and the Bagley’s Lane junction in Fulham were among the top hotspots in London for traffic penalties last year.

More than 100,000 penalties were issued in the borough in 2016, according to figures released by London councils.

Town hall bosses put the number down to the huge volume of traffic passing through the borough into central London.

Almost one million tickets were issued for moving traffic offences across London last year.

From street lamp to car – using Ubitricity technology to power up electric vehicles on street during a trial in Kensington

HEATHROW EXPANSION PROPOSAL
Have your say

The government has announced Heathrow as its preferred scheme for a new runway in the southeast and is holding a public consultation over the next four months.

There’ll be events around Heathrow where you can come along to share your views, ask questions and learn about the package of measures to support local communities.

Come and talk to us, we’re here to listen.

Have your say, visit www.gov.uk/dtt/heathrow-airport-expansion

Find an event near you

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Plea to school over library lease

An open letter to the governing board of Notting Hill Prep Ltd

WE write to restate our request that you do not sign the lease for 108 Ladbroke Grove, the first purpose-built public library in the area, proudly serving the community for 125 years.

We write to you once more, to give you the opportunity publicly to weigh in on the only issue over which you have agency: signing the lease for North Kensington Library.

Our members are currently collecting signatures to a petition directly calling for you to refuse to sign the lease that you have been offered on the building. In our communications with you, we have invited you to enquire in detail about the wider community about alternative options for the expansion of your business; we have recalled your own publicly stated commitments to be a school engaged with the local community; we have made suggestions as to how to move forward with your plans; and even offered our support in proposing that you lease the whole of the new £11 million building proposed on Lancaster Road.

In the past year, we have held public marches, petitions the council, spoken to a full council meeting, contacted councillors, engaged with the planning and consultation process, and scrutinised the decision-making process, all in order to open the public dialogue about the future of the building that the council has offered to you.

We think it important to point this process out, as in communication with your head, Jane Cameron, and John Mackay, registered director of the company, and co-chair of your board of governors, you have suggested that we take up our cause with the council – as indeed we have.

We write to you once more, to give you the opportunity publicly to weigh in on the only issue over which you have agency: signing the lease for North Kensington Library.

Our members are currently collecting signatures to a petition directly calling for you to refuse to sign the lease that you have been offered on the building. In our communications with you, we have invited you to enquire in detail about the wider community about alternative options for the expansion of your business; we have recalled your own publicly stated commitments to be a school engaged with the local community; we have made suggestions as to how to move forward with your plans; and even offered our support in proposing that you lease the whole of the new £11 million building proposed on Lancaster Road.

Our petition requesting that you refuse the lease offered is in no way a demand that your business cease to expand. We merely ask that you seek to expand in ways that do not further reduce the wider community’s access to the much-loved building on Ladbroke Grove in particular, and in ways that do not support the loss of public space and community assets in general.

We do not ask you to intervene on the council’s process or argument: we simply ask you to do what you can do, which is to refuse the lease you have been offered.

We have come here to have to refute the arguments offered by the council about your building’s take-up of the lease of North Kensington Library, because clearly these are arguments that we have made, and continue to press, to the council itself.

However, as you continually refer us to the council in our communication with you, it is worth precisng our case to them for your own records, and to clarify to you that in fact we do not ask you to comment, respond to, or defend the council’s own disingenuous and outright misleading narrative about the “necessity” of removing the building on Ladbroke Grove from public use.

In fact, we ask only that you do not sign the lease – which is clearly something you do have agency over, despite your repeated assertions to us that the entire decision is in the hands of the council.

In the first place, the decision to take North Kensington Library building out of the public realm should be a decision for the wider community, who were not consulted about any aspect of this proposal until after you had been approached and offered the lease on the building. We do not ask you to defend this.

Secondly, you have offered the building in a closed process, effectively disabling the community’s ability to offer alternative plans for the use of the building. We do not ask you to defend this.

Thirdly, the head of the council committee who took the decision, Penny Fielding-Mellen, has his own children’s names down for places on your school, a clear conflict of interest that he only begrudgingly declared after pressure from our campaign. We do not ask you to defend this.

Fourthly, you have been offered a discount on the upkeep of the building under the Grade II listed exterior, meaning that the taxpayer is not relieved of the cited expense of the upkeep of the building under the proposed 25 years, and so the claim that the building is fully wheelchair-accessible is disingenuous and outright misleading.

Fifthly, you have been offered a discount on the lease over the first five years to offset the cost of internal upgrade and repair work. This means that the £365,000 a year for the proposed 25 years will not be “bigger” unless you discount the unused space in the current library building.

Sixth, the building could not be turned into flats or office space if it were not offered to you, as it has D1 status, it would need to remain an educational institution. We do not ask you to defend this.

Seventh, the revenue stream that leasing the current building to you (at £365,000 a year) will not affect the cost of moving the current library (G11 million). We do not ask you to defend this.

Eighth, the new library will not be “bigger” unless you discount the unused space in the current library building.

Lastly, the new library will not be “bigger” unless you discount the unused space in the current library building.

We do not ask you to defend this.

Ninth, the new library will not be “bigger” unless you discount the unused space in the current library building.

Tenth, the current building is fully wheelchair-accessible, according to the only research ever conducted on this issue by the council. The council are therefore being disingenuous in citing lack of accessibility as a reason to move the library. We do not ask you to defend this.

Eleventh, the council’s savings plans have reduced spending on adult social care, year on year, and so the claim that extra is required for adult social care is bore out by the council’s own figures, and means that the lease on the current library building is unrelated to the costs of adult social care, as has been claimed. We do not ask you to defend this.

Finally, the building is not a new library but a new multi-use space, some of which will house consolidated library services, but the majority of which is earmarked for the use of private schools.
We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this... We think you are probably aware of this...
I f it had not been for the brilliance and care of NHS hospital doctors and nurses, it is most likely that my son would have died at his birth 23 years ago and quite probably his mum would have done so too.

NHS hospital doctors and nurses also saved the life of my eldest granddaughter when she was born frighteningly-premature three years ago.

So I have nothing but the greatest respect and affection for NHS hospital doctors and nurses. I put them above my way it would be they who would be living in the mansions of Knightsbridge and not those bankers and financiers who got to live there because of the moral emptiness of our valuing moneymaking over lifesaving.

I have recently criticised those many in the capital who have marched against the election of President Trump – because I don’t believe that Americans vote is any of the business of the British – but I would march, demonstrate, riot and quite possibly throw petrol bombs myself if ever any authority threatened to eviscerate decades of selfless dedication of the NHS doctors and nurses.

Like most people reading this, although possibly not the elite bankers of Knightsbridge, in my lifetime I have known some hospital doctors and many nurses as dear personal friends. Their dedication, their tireless work ethic and their compulsion to do whatever is possible of politician, not public servants, not journalists, not engineers, not IT geeks, not musicians nor artists and clearly if you get the drift of my personal beliefs, definitely not bankers.

Without NHS doctors and nurses, we would have had it and it appalls me how little we seem to appreciate both that and them.

But, the but is that the wonder which is the NHS is almost entirely predicated upon the work of doctors and nurses. Because of them, we praise and highly-regard the health service. But does the health service deserve this esteem?

If you take away the work of doctors and nurses, put that to one side, does the rest of the NHS hospital system stack up to be worthy of our acclaim? In some areas, no. In some departments it is as is the case with all other professions – journalism, public service, engineering and, obviously, banking – a bolt-hole for the inept and incompetent.

Management, bureaucracy and administration of the NHS is my target here. At the moment, I have really got it in for them.

This distaste, loathing is slightly too strong a word, is because I have been waiting for quite a long time to hear from one particular NHS hospital on whether the CT scan that I might have as I smoke heavily there are many others for whom knowing whether they are going to peg it or not has some importance.

People like to know these things, so that they can make those vital arrangements like cancelling the milk and putting the cat out.

Clearly, I do not blame the doctors and nurses for any of this, I blame the management and the questionable way that they have arranged for how hospitals should be run.

And I wonder, is it because they are essentially just clerks that they seem to have little understanding for how it affects those who wait and wait for test results or an operation?

Would matters be massively improved if you could not work in any department of a hospital without some sort of clinical training? Would that give you a better appreciation of your customers’ needs and fears, especially among those at the top?

The Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt recently said that doctors and nurses should be put in charge of running our hospitals, as they are in Canada where 74 per cent of managers are clinicians and in Sweden, where the number is an even more sensible 94 per cent. In Britain, the figure is a pathetic 54 per cent.

Let’s throw out unqualified managers and, personally, I would far rather have an even more sensible 94 per cent as hospital managers. That’s the same as the average for all other Rocket Packs available everywhere

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Call for football clubs to pay to police their own matches

LONDON leaders are putting the boot in against the city’s wealthy football clubs – demanding that they and not taxpayers should pick up the “eye-watering” bill for keeping fans safe.

Members of the London Assembly say it is “outrageous” that taxpayers have to meet the cost of the Met policing the matches and they are calling on Sadiq Khan to fight for a change in the law which would enable the Met to recover costs from the clubs.

“During the 2015/16 football season, the number of police officers deployed to football clubs cost London taxpayers more than £5 million – that’s the equivalent of employing 93 constables for a year,” said a spokesman for the Assembly.

“The London Assembly has agreed a motion that asks Mayor Sadiq Khan to lobby the Government for a change in the law to allow the Metropolitan Police to recover policing costs from football clubs.

A motion that asks Mayor Sadiq Khan to lobby the Government for a change in the law to allow the Metropolitan Police to recover policing costs and it is calling on the Mayor to write to professional football clubs in London asking them to voluntarily meet the costs in – the equivalent of employing 93 constables for a year,” said a spokesman for the Assembly.

The full text of the motion is: “This Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government for changes to the law that would enable the Metropolitan Police Service to recover costs for policing operations outside of the stadium. In the meantime the Mayor should write to the capital’s professional football clubs and invite them to do the decent thing by agreeing on a voluntary basis to meet the full reasonable costs incurred by the Met of policing their commercial activities, including football matches.”

Over £5 million – this would equate to 93 constables on the average salary.

“In 2012, the High Court ruled that clubs can only be charged for policing inside the stadiums or on their land. There is no legal right for the Met to recover costs from football clubs cost London taxpayers more than £5 million – that’s the equivalent of employing 93 constables for a year,” said a spokesman for the Assembly.

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Organisers are promising to create the “ultimate celebration of summer and stylish living”. More than 500 exhibitors will gather for the event between June 21 and 24. Tickets are on sale for £16 in advance or £20 on the door.

Environmental film

HAMMERSMITH actor David Gyasi, pictured, has starred in a new film that aims to influence government policy on climate change.

The 37-year-old, who has appeared in hit movies Cloud Atlas and Interstellar, plays the lead in Love Song alongside Charles Dance and Miranda Richardson.

The short film is the centrepiece of Show The Love, an annual campaign organised by major environmental charities.

Mr Gyasi said: “I was really excited to be asked to take part in this very moving film.”

Stylish living show

OLYMPIA exhibition centre will host its first house and garden festival later this year.

The four-day event brings together three major lifestyle shows – the Spirit of Summer Fair, the House Fair and Grow London.

Organisers are promising to create the “ultimate celebration of summer and stylish living”. More than 500 exhibitors will gather for the event between June 21 and 24. Tickets are on sale for £16 in advance or £20 on the door.

LONDON Weekly News
GUTSY Sadiq Khan is to put his head in the lion’s mouth with a five-city Euro tour after the Government triggers Article 50 to quit the EU.

Although the official notice to leave will worsen the UK’s status as the pariah of Europe, the Mayor of London is to make a special case plea for the capital to senior politicians and city leaders who are leaving Britain is leaving the Euro club.

“Sadiq will visit five major European cities next month to declare that London remains the number-one destination for investment, business and tourism, and to discuss the capital’s needs from the Brexit negotiations,” said the Mayor’s spokesman.

“Shortly after the Government is expected to trigger Article 50 and begin formal negotiations with the EU, the Mayor will visit Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Madrid and Warsaw over six days in to strengthen the historic economic, business and cultural links London shares with its European neighbours.

“The trip will use the make it clear that London continues to welcome people from across the world to work, study or visit. His visit next month is expected to include meetings with senior politicians, city leaders and business leaders.”

Talks are expected to cover London’s needs from the Brexit negotiations and key issues that the capitals have in common with London, including air quality, the night-time economy and the need for greater social integration. There will also be discussions of the importance of joint security work put by the aftermath of Brexit, to help keep London and Europe safe from terrorist attacks.

“In Brussels, Sadiq will meet with senior EU representatives and deliver a keynote speech, in which he is expected to lay out London’s requirements from the Brexit negotiations and argue that London and other European cities will need to work closer together than ever before in the aftermath of Brexit,” said the spokesman.

“The will tell senior business leaders he will meet on the trip that, despite Brexit, London will remain the biggest city in the world in which to do business. The Mayor will point out that the flow of ideas and talent into London from overseas has always been the key to the city’s success, and say that not only are visitors welcome in London but they are celebrated for the many contributions they make.”

Sadiq Khan said: “I want to take the message directly to Europe that London will always remain open to engaging, trading and doing business with our friends across Europe. Our connections on the continent are more important than ever before and, regardless of Brexit, we will continue to work closely together for our mutual benefit.

“I promised to be the pro-business Mayor this city has ever seen and it is vital that we demonstrate to our partners overseas that despite Brexit we remain open to business, investment, talent and ideas.

Last September the Mayor led a trade delegation of 30 fast-growing companies to the United States to strengthen business links between London, Chicago and New York. The start-ups accompanying the Mayor met with investors, business leaders and entrepreneurs, generating investment and trade opportunities for London.

“As a direct consequence of the visit several of those companies are now negotiating deals with major US clients and one London business has already doubled its US revenue following the trip,” said the spokesman.

Following the decision to leave the EU, Sadiq Khan has championed London’s cause – the only region in England that voted to remain.

“He has been clear that when Article 50 is triggered by the end of March, London must secure privileged access to the single market. He believes this is critical for London’s future growth and prosperity and is fundamental to keeping the capital’s businesses globally competitive,” said the spokesman.

Mayor has also campaigned for London businesses to retain full access to the very best talent from around the globe, and has issued a stark warning that a ‘Hard Brexit’ would risk having to explain to future generations why we knowingly put their economy, their prosperity and their place on the world stage in such peril.”

The Mayor added: “I accept the result of the EU referendum and the democratic will of the British people. Now we must work on a deal that protects our economy and prosperity for future generations. Britain only succeeds when we work together and London’s requirements from the Brexit negotiations w ith the EU, the Mayor will visit back to the real meaning of the occasion which should be just to show your loved one they are loved, it appears that most couples are just not buying it – with 64 per cent of us not purchasing a gift for our loved ones.

“Even couples who have the urge to splash belief there should be a spending limit of £20 with seven in 10 duos agreeing their partner should keep to this budget when purchasing a gift for them.”

We’re lost that loving feeling

ONE in every 10 women in London expect a romantic gift costing more than £200, a new survey has revealed.

But a lot of them will be out of luck because the research has also revealed that most of the £6 billion spent on Valentine’s Day will be spent on gifts.

The survey of couples by Glowing Embers, a wood-burning stoves company, revealed that 58 per cent never go out to celebrate Valentine’s Day.

The alleged most romantic day of the year has lost its buzz for many lovers, with a third claiming it is too expensive to celebrate with a special meal and the fifth saying they had too much work to do.

“Others excuse not to play Cupid included ‘too tired’; ticked by 13 per cent, no childcare (9 per cent) and ‘don’t agree with the over-commercialised concept’ (25 per cent).”

“You can forget the expensive chocolates and dozen roses too,” said a spokesman for the survey.

Although our friends’ social media statuses would have us believe they are being showered with lavish gifts it appears that most couples are just not buying it – with 64 per cent of us not purchasing a gift for our loved ones.

EEN couples who have the urge to splurge believe there should be a spending limit of £20 with seven in 10 duos agreeing their partner should keep to this budget when purchasing a gift for them.

“Although they say that money can’t buy you love, for some ladies Valentine’s Day is all about the money. Going against the general consensus of over 1 in 10 ladies do expect a gift of £200 or more – a figure seven times greater than what their male partners expect.”

Richard Frewings, Director of Glowing Embers, said: “Our results really do show that most of us feel that Valentine’s Day is just too expensive and a way for florists and shops to make us part with our money. The survey results prove that Valentine’s Day shouldn’t be just another night glued to your phone or Netflix.”

Assembly members back call for national HIV memorial

THE London Assembly is backing moves for a national HIV memorial to be erected in the capital.

The memorial would pay tribute to the men, women and children who have died from HIV and AIDS in the UK and abroad. The World Health Organization estimates that there have been some 39 million HIV and AIDS-related deaths, with at least 20,000 in the UK.

Assembly Members agreed a motion calling on the Mayor to join them in supporting the campaign and to write to Government ministers urging them to explore funding for the memorial.

An HIV/AIDS memorial statue was erected in Brighton in 2009, designed by local sculptor Romany Mark Bruce. The memorial, the first in the UK, was entirely privately funded.

Sian Berry, who proposed the motion, said: “London was at the heart of this country’s AIDS epidemic which affected so many people, their loved ones and their friends. It’s also where some of the most pioneering treatment and prevention measures are being carried out today.”

“London is absolutely the right place for this memorial for both historical and contemporary reasons. It was at the heart of the epidemic at the time, at the cutting edge of medical developments, and today around 60 per cent of those seeking treatment for HIV in the UK do so in London. I am delighted the Assembly has backed our call for this memorial, and look forward to seeing the campaign grow and succeed.”

Tom Copley, who seconded the motion, said: “This issue has local, national, and international importance.

“The capital is the right place for this memorial for both historical and contemporary reasons. It was at the heart of the epidemic at the time, at the cutting edge of medical developments, and today around 60 per cent of those seeking treatment for HIV in the UK do so in London. I am delighted the Assembly has backed our call for this memorial, and look forward to seeing the campaign grow and succeed.”

HIV/AIDS memorial statue in Brighton

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BY GEOFF BAKER

KENNINGTON society is mourning the tragic loss of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, the friend of the royals who was one of London’s most popular party girls.

The 45-year-old socialite was found dead in her flat at Branham Gardens last week. She had been receiving treatment for a brain tumour.

Prince Charles, a close friend of the “It Girl” family, led tributes and said he was “deeply saddened” by her death.

The former Sunday Times columnist and reality TV star was a regular on the London party scene in the 1990s and 2000s. She made headlines for her social life, frequently appearing in the pages of society and celebrity magazines, before later appearing on I’m A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here!

The gossip columns’ favourite also battled a high-profile cocaine addiction, which she discussed publicly on a number of occasions.

She was diagnosed with a tumour last January after returning from a skiing trip and was also suffering from an autoimmune disease that caused acute anaemia, tiredness and joint pain.

She used her celebrity status to raise the profile of brain tumours, by speaking publicly about her illness.

Sarah Lindsell, chief executive of The Brain Tumour Charity, said: “Three months ago, Tara was brave enough to speak out about her brain tumour diagnosis and the impact it had on her life.

“Her honesty helped to raise awareness of the disease and it was welcomed by the many thousands of people in the UK and around the world who cope with the impact of a brain tumour.

“Tara helped to show why we must do all we can to defeat this devastating disease, which is the biggest killer of children and young people in the UK.”

Tara was found dead by her cleaner who builders heard crying before she set off an alarm.

The cleaner arrived at Tara’s flat at around 1.30pm last Wednesday and was herself crying by builders renovating the apartment below. Minutes after the cleaner set off the alarm an ambulance arrived with several paramedics, followed by three police cars.

Tara was the daughter of an aristocratic farmer and grew up in Dummer Grange, a 1,200-acre estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire.

Publicly educated at Sherborne Girls School, she achieved 10 O-levels and three A-levels and briefly worked at Rothschild’s bank before moving into other jobs in the fashion world. Her father Charles was a former Olympic skier who taught Prince Charles.

The family was skiing with the prince in the Alps in 1988 when they were hit by an avalanche that killed one member of their party, Major Hugh Lindsay, and left Palmer-Tomkinson’s mother Patti with serious leg injuries.

In the 1990s Palmer-Tomkinson was photographed sharing a strictly platonic kiss with Prince Charles at Kloster’s ski resort in Switzerland. The image made the tabloid front pages - and a new celebrity was born.

Tatler magazine swiftly christened her the It Girl and her relationships and exploits were pored over in society and celebrity magazines, leading to further offers inviting her to become a columnist for the Sunday Times and Mail on Sunday among others.

Royal historian Ingrid Seward told BBC News: “She did have it all, and perhaps that was part of her problem. She was a good-looking girl, she had a fabulous family, she was a brilliant skier, rider, and she was very artistic. She sang beautifully.

“I think there was just too much, life gave her too many choices, and she just didn’t make the right ones. But she was a very generous, sweet person, I mean she really was a charming, charming girl.”

What’s a typical day at St Vincent’s House? Catching up with family

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Duchess takes the lead in war on back-street dog breeding

THE Duchess of Cornwall is now at the forefront of a long-fought campaign to end one of the UK’s great animal cruelties and to change the way that we buy pets.

As the newly appointed royal patron of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home the Duchess will spearhead the drive to get tough on back-street breeders, the unregulated dog dealers who are thought to be responsible for selling nine out of every 10 puppies that the public unwittingly buys.

With the help of the Duchess, back-street breeders now face brooding behind bars.

The leading animal-welfare charity has welcomed the government’s new tougher dog-breeding licensing rules, which promise to go some way towards clamping down on the indiscriminate dog breeders who have put profit before animal welfare.

Two years to the day since Battersea launched its End Backstreet Breeding campaign, shining a spotlight on the shocking practice of back-street breeders, dogs over and over again in squalid conditions, the government is now proposing to set in motion a tightening-up of the laws around selling pets and breeding dogs.

It is expected that the new rules will make it illegal to sell puppies younger than eight weeks old, which is something Battersea’s campaign has been calling for.

Anyone breeding and selling three or more litters of puppies a year will also have to apply for a formal licence or face an unlimited fine or prison sentence.

Responding to the government announcement, Battersea’s chief executive Claire Horton said: “Battersea knows only too well that back-street and commercial puppy breeding is a huge issue that affects many thousands of animals and pet owners every year.

“We take in the battered, exhausted breeding bitches cast out on to the street once they’re past their sell-by-date. We care for the under-socialised, sick or dying puppies, sold to unsuspecting owners who, faced with mounting vet bills or behaviour issues, often give them up.

“We launched our End Backstreet Breeding campaign two years ago to urge the government to act, so we’re pleased to see that our calls have not gone unheeded.

“It’s high time we put a stop to the many undercover back-street breeders and large-scale puppy farmers that profit from their cruel treatment of these animals.

“No puppy should start its life in cramped, squalid surroundings, before being torn away from their mother at a few weeks old. So many owners buying their new pet would be horrified to know that this was indeed the case.

“Toughening the current dog-breeding licensing rules and making it completely illegal to sell puppies younger than eight weeks old is a welcome first step and we now look forward to working with the government to see these plans be put into practice and progress further.”

The appointment of the Duchess as Battersea’s new royal patron is expected to bring greater clout to the campaign as she is a committed supporter of the sanctuary, having taken in two strays as pets of her own.

The Duchess replaces the Queen as Battersea’s lead patron and will be allowed to express views more trenchantly than custom permits the sovereign.

It is expected that she will be as forthright in her support for the work of Battersea as she has been in her backing for the campaign against domestic violence, another social evil which she spoke out against last year in a landmark speech when she described the relentless surrounding it as corrosive and warned of the fatal consequences of staying quiet.

The vocal backing of the Duchess is much needed to raise public awareness as the cruel practice of back-street breeding is far more widespread than the public imagines.

“Battersea estimates that around 88 per cent of puppies are born to unregulated dealers every year,” said a spokesman for the dogs’ home.

“Laila, a recent arrival at Battersea, is a striking example of the consequences of backstreet breeding.

“Found wandering in Tower Hamlets in January, it was obvious that the five-year-old had been used repeatedly for breeding.

“The young dog’s mammary glands were so swollen, painful to the touch and covered in sores that the home’s veterinary staff believe Laila has had multiple litters of puppies and been used as a breeding machine.

“Despite what she’s been through, Laila is a sweet and friendly dog, who is now looking for a home of her own.”

The requirement for online adverts to contain licensing information will make it harder to sell puppies illegally.

Battersea says it is also encouraged to note that local authorities will now be able to concentrate their efforts on problem breeders and sellers, and the charity sees this support for tougher enforcement as an essential next step.

“Backstreet breeding is a cruel and often illegal practice that results in thousands of mistreated and abandoned dogs each year. Anyone buying a dog from an online advert, a poster in a shop window, or from a friend of a friend can be affected,” said the spokesman.

“Large-scale commercial puppy breeders, often known as puppy farms, churn out thousands of puppies each year.

“These animals have often been bred without appropriate veterinary care, food or socialisation, and are torn from their mothers before they are ready and sold to an unsuspecting public, often from a more attractive ‘front premises’. The buying public may never see the puppy farm itself.

“Often seen by breeders as a quick, victimless money-making scheme, backstreet breeding commonly happens in people’s own homes where an unneutered animal is allowed to breed over and over again for profit.

“Dogs are often kept in squalid, dirty, cramped conditions and isolated from other people and dogs apart from when they are bred.”

Each year Battersea cares for more than 8,000 dogs and cats, of which around 30 per cent arrive as unloved strays.

Geoff Baker
Queen set to be briefed on new ways to defeat cyber criminals

ALTHOUGH it is somewhat of a massive improbability that Her Majesty faces fears of computer hackers revealing any David Beckham-style rants in her emails, even the Queen is at risk of an attack by cyber thugs these days – a fact that will not be far from her mind when she opens this week London’s new HQ in the war against the toerags, as the security services call them.

Her Majesty is to spend Valentine’s Day at the National Cyber Security Centre in Victoria, being briefed about how to protect against the anonymous crooks who aim to steal and exploit all of the files stored on every computer, including those at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen has apparently already declared a keen interest in the threats in the ether. According to reports, two years ago she consulted one of the UK’s most prominent cybersecurity experts, leading to talk that the Royal Family has sought its own protection from hackers and spies.

Her Majesty was said to have met Professor Sadie Creese – an expert in cybersecurity from the University of Oxford – over a palace luncheon and was reportedly given first-hand advice on how to tighten up security on email accounts and other safeguards.

Although Buckingham Palace does not comment on matters affecting any form of security, state secrets to which Her Majesty is privy would be of great interest to hackers keen to know everything from how much she has in which bank and how to try nick it, to keen to know everything from how much she has in which bank and how to try nick it, to what arrangements are being made for the impending visit of President Trump. But you don’t mess with The Boss and Her Majesty is believed to want a thorough briefing at the new security centre about the many threats.

“A wide range of hostile actors use cyber to target the UK. They include foreign states, criminals, ‘hacktivist’ groups and terrorists,” warns MI5.

Hostile actors conducting cyber espionage can target the government, military, business and individuals. They use computer networks, for example, to steal large volumes of sensitive data undetected. This might include intellectual property, research and development projects, strategic data on a company’s merger and acquisition plans, or any other information that the owner might want to protect.”

Ciaran Martin, chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre, spoke last year of the need to “defend the nation against the gravest, sophisticated threats we face” and “the risk of being compromised on an unprecedented scale”.

He added: “In the UK we’ve faced and continued to face some very serious cyber attacks. Unlike some of our allies, there has not yet been a single stand-out incident of hostile foreign attack that’s resonated as a first-order national crisis with the public and media. But I expect – frankly I know – that we will face one, and we prepare on that basis. And behind the necessarily closed doors of our cyber defence operations centre, last year we detected twice as many national-security-level cyber incidents – 200 per month – than we did the year before.

“This is core national-security business for us; it always has been, it always will be. And these attackers are the people the cyber security industry and others like to call advanced persistent threats, or APTs. They threaten our public services, they threaten our infrastructure, they threaten our research, they threaten our innovation and much else.

“It’s hard to do what they do and we invest heavily in our cyber defences and our cyber resilience to stop them. But then there’s everything else. States, criminals and others attack in all sorts of ways, and not just in the sensational ways that push the buttons of editors and filmmakers.

“Twenty five per cent of all large UK companies reported a breach in the last year. And our local media in the UK is full of painful stories of small businesses, lovingly built up, struggling to survive and maintain the confidence of their customers after a ransomware attack.

“Now these attacks aren’t carried out by APTs. My technical director, Dr Ian Levy, who’s an expert of global standing with a fine turn of phrase, he likes to call them APTs, but he also likes to call them something else: Adequate, Pernicious Toerags. But whatever term we use for them, they’re doing a lot of harm and in terms of defending against them we are not yet, good enough.”

But that was last year and since then the National Cyber Security Centre is now believed to have now developed the world’s finest defence against attacks in the ether. Behind the scenes on Valentine’s Day, Her Majesty will now learn the most hush-hush new ways to detect that not all that comes from Russia is with love.
Ladyhawke
KOKO, Camden
Wednesday February 15
Singer-songwriter and electro-pop princess born and raised in New Zealand before making a splash in the UK in the late 2000s. Known for her self-titled debut, winning no fewer than six gongs at her home nation’s annual music awards ceremony. Returned with Wild Things last year and hitting the road with Isle of Wight this year.

Odds on favourites Guns N’Roses

GLASTO GUESSING
Who’s in and who’s out in 2017 asks Geoff Baker

Guns N’Roses leading the stars will making the chopper flights to Worthy Farm this year, with Guns N’Roses leading the field with odds of 4/6. Other favourites to appear include Kasabian, The Stone Roses and The Foo Fighters, the latter being much-tipped following their 2015 cancellation forced by Dave Grohl injuring his leg after falling from a stage in Sweden. Also much-fancied to appear is Ed Sheeran. “He’s been approached to play according to early reports and betting has now been suspended on his chances as being named headliner number two. With a European tour ending just in time for the festival as well, this one looks like it could be nailed on,” reports NME’s man in the festival know, Thomas Smith.

Loyal Carner
02 Shepherd’s Bush
Friday February 17 / Saturday February 18
South London rapper making waves in the new year following release of stunning debut Yesterday’s Gone inspired by childhood memories and the tragic loss of step-father Niki. The 22-year-old supported hip-hop hero Nas last year but is expected to pack out the Empire for two headline shows of his own. Expect smooth jazz samples and from-the-heart lyrics.

Sacred Paws
The Islington, Islington
Friday February 17
Delightful indie pop duo providing optimistic summer tunes six months ahead of schedule. Rachel Aggs and Eilidh Rodgers formed the band after playing together in forgotten Glasgow group Golden Grrrls. Have toured with the likes of Mogwai, Future Islands and Veronica Falls in the build-up to the release of their debut album Strike A Match last month.

Possible appearances at Glastonbury this year? Ed Sheeran is much fancied, Diana Ross may take up the Legends slot and Robbie Williams has kept the weekend free

Gaga pushing for a spot as Lady Glagla?
Capital nights

FOR almost 20 years Elbow were the great British underdogs – the perennial no-hopers swimming determinedly against the tide but always out of shape with the mainstream moulard.

Without a hit to their name and question marks over whether they would even carry on pursuing the dream, the Bury-bred five-piece were incontrovertible proof that nice guys do indeed finish last.

All that changed, however, with the release of – and worldwide acclaim for – the band’s breakthrough album The Seldom Seen Kid in 2008.

A record of such timeless majesty, it was bound to become a sure fire hit no matter what the rules of the zeitgeist prescribed.

Bookended by the soaring Starlings and One Day Like This – a track that would go on to be name-dropped by dozens of Desert Island Discs – the album was a springboard. In an instant, Elbow were propelled from obscurity to stardom.

Now almost 10 years on – and one drummer down – the band are firmly entrenched in a new chapter in their career.

Little Fictions, their latest album, released earlier this month, is Elbow’s third since The Seldom Seen Kid – and it paints a picture of a band rediscovering their delicate touch after the bluster of popular success.

Since that glorious breakthrough, Elbow, led by the friendly giant singer-songwriter Guy Garvey, have pandered only to their own interests as musicians.

The two follow-up records to date have yielded mixed results, but Little Fictions is a return to form.

Subtle and stripped back compared to its predecessors, Garvey and co sculpt a collection of fragile ballads littered with the occasional soaring chorus.

A triumphant trio of shows at the Hammersmith Apollo arrive hot on the heels of the album’s release in March – a venue well-suited to Elbow’s stadium-sized sound and a far cry from the backstreet bars of the band’s early days.

It will also be a rebirth of sorts as Elbow begin life without drummer and founding member Richard Jupp and welcome back Garvey after he took a break to record his debut solo album, Courting The Squall, in 2015.

“As lovely as it is being the boss, you have no one to bounce ideas off that has a vested interest in your idea being the right one,” says Garvey.

“No two nights of this extravaganza will be the same,” he promises, before quickly adding: “This is less of a boast than an admission that a) I am hopeless at learning scripts, and b) I still have no idea what I am going to include.”

What Baker can guarantee is a “flow of the soul”, leaning on nuggets and titbits from his colourful career in television, radio and journalism.

Because over the course of a full 40 years in the showbiz racket, the Deptford-born broadcaster has conquered all corners of the entertainment arena – stand-up aside, of course.

Giddily with excitement about the tour, which kicked off in Leeds at the start of the month, Baker pledges to “go off like a cacophonous catherine wheel of chat” complete with hundreds of tales – including some pinched from the illustrious family photo album made famous on Cradle To Grave.

“A night at the theatre can either be deep dish or high kicking,” he explains. “What I promise to haul before you is very much in the latter category. Content-wise I will make Springsteen and Dodd look like short-changing slackers. I can’t wait.”

Alas, the best laid plans often go awry for Baker, who only recently retired from regular BBC Radio 5 Live while pissing copies of his best-selling autobiography.

But for all his media success, Danny Boy says he is chuffed to be part of a new beginning on the stage.

As much a part of our national culture as Mick and Keith – their triumphant musical identity was used as the theme for the BBC’s coverage of the London Olympics in 2012 – the final tour are engaging the golden years of their already illustrious careers.

The forthcoming Apollo shows will be a chance to catch one of our best-loved bands as they set sail on a new adventure together.

Danny Baker brings Cradle To The Stage to the O2 Shepherd’s Bush Empire on March 31 and April 1. The new album Little Fictions is out now.

Danny Baker stepping out in front of a live audience

HE has been the resident motormouth of Saturday morning radio for almost 30 years - but now Danny Baker is returning to his first love.

The proud south Londoner, who was raised in Bermondsey by his docker father ‘Spud’ and long-suffering mother Bet, has always been a favourite on the airwaves.

But his clown-around capers and razor-sharp wit are set to find a new home on the stage this month as he brings to life some of his tallest tales for a live audience.

Standing in the spotlight, Danny says, is the perfect platform for his chatterbox-style quips. Although when pushed he admits he’s never actually given it a go before!

Still, armed with a lifetime’s collection of celebrity run-ins, anecdotes and observations, what could possibly go wrong?

“Whether or not I’ve actually told the story is far from the backstreet bars of the band’s early days. It will also be a rebirth of sorts as Elbow begin life without drummer and founding member Richard Jupp and welcome back Garvey after he took a break to record his debut solo album, Courting The Squall, in 2015. “As lovely as it is being the boss, you have no one to bounce ideas off that has a vested interest in your idea being the right one,” says Garvey.

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D ARLING of the West End, Frances Ruffelle is having a right royal bash later this month when she leads the cast of Michael John LaChiusa’s The Wild Party, writes Nicky Sceatland.

The show will be the inaugural production at The Other Palace, formerly the St James Theatre, when it reopens as the newest addition to The Really Useful Theatres Group.

In its first major London production, The Wild Party will be directed and choreographed by Drew McOnie and star the Tony award winning actress Frances Ruffelle, who took some time out of rehearsals to tell me about the show.

She said: “It’s about a wild party, wilder than any I have been to and I have been to a few!”

Despite being kicked out of her family’s famed theatre school (Frances’ mother is the impresario Sylvia Young) Ruffelle has forged a hugely successful career in show business.

She is perhaps best known for her portrayal of the waif Eponine in Les Misérables, a role which earned her a Tony award for the Broadway production, but the versatile performer has also represented the UK in the Eurovision song contest as well as garnering acclaim as a recording artist.

Ruffelle took some time away from her performance vocation to have three children—one of whom is the pop sensation Eliza Doolittle and has since built up a huge following in the US, where her very special solo shows have been met with enormous approbation.

Frances says she is pleased to be back as part of a company: “I love doing my solo shows and choosing how and what I do but it’s quite lonely and all the pressure is on you. Being part of a company is like gaining a new family. And certainly so far, this rehearsal period has been full of excitement and more of a buzz than I have experienced in a long while.”

Her character Queenie, is a blonde Vaudeville showgirl who parties herself to rock bottom and Frances explains: “Queenie and Burrs throw a debauched party in the Lower East Side for their rather unsavoury friends, supplying bathtub gin in a time when drinking was illegal. It soon turns into a dark, crazy and filthy party.”

“She is insecure, wishes she was a star, and only feels loved when she is made love to; she substitutes her disappointment in life with alcohol and sex. She has to face up to what life has given her and find happiness in the life she has.”

The Wild Party began life as a narrative poem by New York journalist and screenwriter, Joseph Moncure March. LaChiusa’s musical version ran for just 68 performances on Broadway in 2000, but gained a cult following and, after the writer heard Ruffelle perform a song from the show in one of her New York solo engagements, he offered her the UK rights.

“The music and lyrics are what I fell in love with 10 years ago when I first heard the original cd. It’s like a jazz opera. It is totally mind blowing but also some of the most challenging music I have ever had to learn.”

Frances got producer Paul Taylor-Mills involved, who then invited rising star Drew McOnie to direct the piece. After Andrew Lloyd Webber bought the St James Theatre and put Taylor-Mills in charge, the trio realised they had found the perfect place for the party to start.

Ruffelle is full of praise for the celebrated choreographer and director: “He [McOnie] is a breath of fresh air. When I first heard the original cd. It’s like a jazz opera. It is totally mind blowing but also some of the most challenging music I have ever had to learn.”

The producers are yet to reveal who is going to play the two lead roles of Alexander Hamilton and King George, but fans are hoping the top job will be taken by the show’s writer, Lin Manuel Miranda, even if just for a limited season.

Hamilton is about the life of an American founding father and inspired by the 2004 biography Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. The show will open at the newly refurbished Victoria Palace Theatre in the autumn—www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Growing up disgracefully

WEST End audiences are to be treated to an uplifting and moving musical adaptation of Alan Warner’s The Sopranos later this year, when the critically acclaimed Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour is brought to the stage at the Duke of York’s Theatre. Following sell-out run last summer at the National Theatre, Vicky Featherstone’s smash-hit production of Lee Hall’s musical adaptation reunites original cast members and will open in May.

It follows the story of six Catholic schoolgirls from Oban, let loose in Edinburgh for the day. Funny, raucous and heartbreaking, Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour is brought to the stage at the Duke of York’s theatre. Vicky Featherstone’s smash-hit production of the critically acclaimed Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour is brought to the stage at the Duke of York’s theatre. Vicky Featherstone’s smash-hit production of the critically acclaimed Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour is brought to the stage at the Duke of York’s theatre.

The show is pitched as a glorious anthem to friendship, youth and growing up disgracefully.

Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour will run at the Duke of York’s Theatre from May 9 to September 29—www.ourladiesofperpetualsuccefful.com

Frances Ruffelle and John Owen Jones in The Wild Party

The Wild Party runs at The Other Palace until Saturday April 1. Visit the website www.theotherpalace.co.uk

Helen George

Love in Idleness

DIRECTOR Trevor Nunn has gathered an all-star cast for his return to the Menier Chocolate Factory.

Principal casting for their major new revival of Terence Rattigan’s Love in Idleness includes Eve Best, Edward Bluemel, Helen George and Anthony Head.

Eve Best, who plays Olivia Brown, is perhaps best known for television work, which has included roles in Lucky Man, Nurse Jackie and Prime Suspect.

Edward Bluemel, playing Michael Brown, is currently featuring as Toby Hamilton in The Halo –on ITv.

Call the Midwife’s Helen George plays Diana Fletcher and Anthony Head, who has enjoyed a hugely successful career both on stage and screen is Sir John Fletcher.

Returning from Canada after a four-year absence during the war, eighteen-year-old Michael is full of youthful ideology and leftist leanings.

But he is shocked to find his widowed mother Olivia is now the mistress of cabinet minister Sir John Fletcher, enjoying a comfortable society life. When Michael and John clash, sparks fly and relationships are tested as everyone learns some difficult lessons in love.

Love in Idleness opens at the Menier Chocolate factory on March 20 running until April 29. For further information, you can visit the website www.menierchocolatefactory.com
Review Fantastic Mr Fox
Lyric Hammersmith  ★★★★

FOLLOWING the celebrations for what would have been Roald Dahl’s 100th birthday last year, the show joins hugely successful predecessors Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (soon to open on Broadway) and the RSC’s multi award-winning Matilda.

Sam Holcroft’s other clever enrichment is the addition of adult humour into the otherwise fairly tame story of a family of wildlife fighting for survival against some reprehensible farmers. The original fable lacks the darkness of some of Dahl’s other work, making it extremely family friendly, but with the potential of becoming a bit stark for the adults.

Director, Maria Aberg has ensured that, as with any good family show, there is something for all ages and the energetic cast propel the simple story along at breakneck speed in order to keep the attention of even the most skittish young theatre-goers.

With some naughty nuances provided by a randy and raucous rabbit, grown-ups can also enjoy the show without the, slightly saccharin, morality tale growing too tiresome.

There is also some seamless doubling up with Richard Atwill’s haunting looks and villainous voice, giving the perfect amount of pantomime wickedness to both Rat and the main antagonist, Frank Bean, while the disastous duo of Boggs and Bunce are gruesome, yet somehow appealing, thanks to hilarious portrayals from Gruufud Glyn and Raphael Bushay.

In these tumultuous times we all need to escape to a world in which good triumphs over evil and with the enduring appeal of Roald Dahl’s work, this fabulous family treat is destined to be become a hit.

Fantastic Mr Fox continues at the Lyric Hammersmith until February 19 - lyric.co.uk

A moving story about real people

GARY Barlow’s first West End musical, The Girls opens next week, but who has the master song-writer trusted to take on the pivotal leading roles?

Well, the answer is, two of the most highly acclaimed musical theatre performers of their generation in the shape of Claire Moore and Joanna Riding, urpies Nicky Sweetland.

Based on the real life story of The Calendar Girls, the new musical has been in development for five years and follows a group of Yorkshire women who, after tragedy strikes, take the decision to raise money for charity by posing nude for a WI calendar.

The story of the women is well known to British audiences after the film, which starred Helen Mirren and Julie Walters and the subsequent stage adaptation, but writer Tim Firth always thought the he could make it into a great musical. After getting his childhood friend and Take That star Gary Barlow involved, the project will come to fruition at the Phoenix Theatre later this month.

Leading ladies Joanna Riding and Claire Moore have been there from the beginning, contributing from the first workshop, to the first performance in a village hall in Yorkshire and now bringing the show to London audiences.

Joanna said: “To be involved right from the workshops and to see Tim and Gary craft it into a great musical. After getting his childhood friend and Take That star Gary Barlow involved, the project will come to fruition at the Phoenix Theatre later this month.”

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The stage stalwarts are extremely humble about their prominence, a quality which fits perfectly with the roles are they portraying in The Girls.

Riding plays Annie, based on Angela Knowles, whose husband John was diagnosed with leukaemia, while Moore plays Chris, based on Trish Stewart, the driving force behind the idea to make the original calendar.

West End favourites including Michelle Dotrice, Debbie Chazen, Claire Machin and James Gaddas join them and real Calendar Girls have been involved in the process from the start.

Claire said: “In the first workshop, our producer, David Pugh introduced us to the ladies and it made us feel like we were onto something special. “Everyone has experienced loss at some time, everybody has those moments. Tim has portrayed it beautifully with Gary’s music as well and the ladies believe this is the truest portrayal of their relationship. It’s still the same, it really is.”

Joanna adds: “I was invited to Angela’s house and I picked her brains about the real John and about her family and she was so generous with that.”

“I think there has been a sort of alchemy between Tim and Gary.” Joanna said.

“There’s such an honesty to the way the lyrics have been written. It’s how real people talk about their grief, not with great platitudes or sweeping statements and I think it’s so devastatingly moving because of that. It’s honest and true and people relate to that.”

To date, The Calendar Girls have raised nearly five million pounds for the Bloodwise charity, with much of the money going to research cures and treatments.

When The Girls was first performed last year, the cast went out after each performance and collected over £7,500 from audience donations. The musical will continue to raise money for the cause, with a percentage of the profits going straight to the charity.

The Girls opens at the Phoenix Theatre on the February 21 - www.thegirlsmusical.com

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Chrysanthemum leaves and daisies among top veg

G REENGROVERS at New Covent Garden Market have published their predictions for the hottest vegetable trends for 2017.

This year, foodies will be eating raw turmeric root, Tokyo turnips and daisies. Yum.

As parents across the capital doubtless cannot wait to try to get their kids to eat up these vegetables, chefs and mixologists are increasingly responding to customers looking to avoid allergens. Meanwhile, kale and avocado fans need not fear as these vegetables are anything but dull and the consumer palate appears to have developed a new appreciation of the unique bitter taste that is characteristic of this family of vegetables.

New veg on the block. “Some exciting and wildly different varieties are newly appearing in the crates of New Covent Garden’s market traders. One such produce is nasturtium root which heralds from the Andes mountains in South America and has a beautiful yellow colour to it. Nasturtium root has a creamy, earthy flavour with natural mustard oil contributing a peppery tone. Like other roots, they can be boiled, roasted or mashed, while braising with as little water as possible helps to retain their shape and creamy texture. Tokyo turnips are also turning heads with their unique taste that is somewhere between a radish and a turnip. Along with Japanese herbs, this variety is also a great example of a produce the is not native to the UK but is now been grown from seed here, in response to the demand for more locally grown produce.”

E at up your Bolivians. “South American cooking from Mexico, Peru and Bolivia features herbs such as the pungent, oregano-like epazote, and papalo, a herb similar to coriander. Tomatillos are also being planted in UK glasshouses, alongside more familiar varieties. Chrysanthemum leaves, the classic choy suey green, already grow well in the UK and we’re seeing more Japanese and Chinese specialities being grown from seed, such as amaranth and shiso leaves. Other ethnic produce being grown in UK fields include Caribbean turnip tops, also known as callaloo or collard greens.”

Japanese roots. “All manner of roots and tubers are proving a big hit with chefs at the moment, including roots of chervil, nasturtium and parsley, all of which offer rich, less fibrous flavour. Crunchy cromes, or Japanese artichokes, are an unusual root, friendishly difficult to harvest and prepare, which accounts for their rarity and expense.”

Sustainability. “Sustainability has been proven as a key trend by many of the market’s traders. Increasingly there is a demand for not just the exceptional produce they supply which is the freshest of the fresh but also out-graded or surplus vegetables which companies will find uses for to make jams, chutney and much more to ensure they are building sustainability into their business models.”

Geoff Baker

Exquisite cuisine and opulent surroundings

J UST a short walk from Waterloo Station and tucked beneath the railway arches hides one of London’s best kept culinary secrets, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I stepped across the threshold of Royal China’s Thai Silk restaurant on a cold and drizzly January lunchtime and was immediately taken with the warming and friendly atmosphere which greeted me.

The attractive interior boasts a perfect blend of the traditional and the contemporary, with lavish wall hangings alongside modern art installations creating an opulent display.

Ordinarily I stay away from Thai cuisine, as my shellfish allergy inhibits my choice. But the extensive menu at Thai Silk enabled me to enjoy a three-course feast, chosen by the passionate waiting staff.

First I was served with a plate filled to the brim with traditional treats, including spring rolls and chicken satay.

The mouth-watering aroma hit me first and the glorious presentation made for an artistic start to the meal. I washed it down with a mocktail – a fresh, fruity and sweet alternative to an alcoholic beverage made with strawberry, passion fruit and lime for a sharp but refreshing libation.

For my main course I was treated to a beautifully tender lamb shank in a medium curry sauce served with vanilla rice and crunchy vegetables to add a flash of colour to my plate. It was the perfect fulsome dish for a cold winter’s day and I was left with little room for my dessert.

But not to be beaten I managed to find a little pocket for the antithesis to the obligatory January diet in the shape of a banana fritter. Served with coconut ice cream, the sweet extravagance was a fabulous way to finish off my cheat day and I ventured into the afternoon with a blissful, if not slightly guilty, feeling.

The restaurant was surprisingly full considering it was a Wednesday lunchtime. But after sampling the exquisite cuisine, I’m not surprised patrons are more than happy to return over and over again.

Thai Silk, at 94-95 Isabella Street, is open daily. For more information, visit thai-silk.co.uk/index.html.
Described by the New York Times as “Broadway’s best kept secret”, Cy Coleman and Ira Gasman’s The Life will get its long awaited London debut next month at Southwark Playhouse.

Directed by the show’s original Broadway director, Michael Blakemore, the musical will boast a stellar cast including T’Shan Williams, David Albury, Sharon D. Clarke.

A thrilling exposé of the darker side of 1980’s New York, The Life is a defiant and heartfelt musical about Times Square before it was cleaned up. A world of pimps and prostitutes, innocents and opportunists, it’s a gutsy and gritty joyride filled with both pathos and fun.

Queen (T’Shan Williams), a young girl from Savannah, and Fleetwood (David Albury), a Vietnam vet with a drug habit, are trying to make it in a merciless New York. Queen is forced into part-time prostitution and The Life describes how these two lovers move through this dark world until Queen is helped by her one true friend, an older more experienced hooker, Sonja (Sharon D. Clarke), to make her escape.

On this journey, we meet Memphis (Cornell S. John), the all-powerful king pimp, the girls he controls, Jojo (John Addison), the hustler, who makes it all happen, and the fresh-faced Mary (Joanna Woodward), straight off the bus from small town Minnesota, only too eager to embrace The Life.

The original critically acclaimed Broadway production of The Life, opened on 26 April 1997 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. It received 12 Tony Award nominations, winning Best Featured Actress and Actor in a Musical for cast members Lillias White and Chuck Cooper. Sharon and Cornell will be assuming these roles in the UK production. The Life was also nominated for nine Drama Desk Awards, winning three, including Best Musical.

Full casting of the hit Broadway musical, The Life includes John Addison (Jojo), David Albury (Fleetwood), Jalisa Andrews (Chichi), Matthew Caputo (Oddjob), Lawrence Carmichael (Snickers), Omari Douglas (Slick), Aisha Jawando (Carmen), Thomas Lee Eldred (Bobby), Charlotte Reavey (April), Jo Servi (Lacy), Lucinda Shaw (Tracy), Johnathan Tweedie (Theodore), T’Shan Williams (Queen) and Joanna Woodward (Mary). They join the previously announced musical theatre stars Sharon D. Clarke (Sonja), who was recently appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2017 Queen’s New Year Honours for services to drama, and Cornell S. John (Memphis).

The Life will run at Southwark Playhouse from 25th March until 29th April. Visit www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk for more details.
Property

Lots of us are living in smaller homes, especially in towns and cities, so here are some ideas for making them work better.

1. In small bedrooms, storage is all-important. Fitted wardrobes provide floor-to-ceiling storage and are most useful if built in what might otherwise be wasted space, such as the alcoves next to a chimney breast. Fitted wardrobes aren’t expensive if you make them out of MDF (or get a carpenter to), and can be customised for your storage needs. A bed with built-in storage may also be a good investment.

2. To make a small bathroom work well, think about re-jigging the layout - would there be more space with a corner toilet, shower cubicle or basin, for example? Also consider the depth of the toilet - some are a lot shorter than others, giving you more usable floor space. If you don’t use the bath, could you save space by replacing it with a shower cubicle? This may put off some buyers when you come to sell, but may be worth it if it improves the bathroom for you. If you want to keep the bath, there may be a better bath for the room, such as a shorter, narrower or tapered one.

3. Fitting everything in a small kitchen can be a challenge. Consider moving the washing machine to the bathroom or under-stairs cupboard, for example, and fitting smaller appliances, such as a two-burner hob. Clever kitchen designs make more of limited space - try a pullout worktop and wall-hung table that folds down. Tall wall units, if the ceiling’s high enough, give you more storage by using otherwise wasted space.

4. A small boiler will free up space. Dated properties often have a big, floor-standing boiler with a hot-water cylinder, plus tanks in the loft. In smaller properties, this takes up valuable space and is unnecessary because a combi boiler (no cylinder or tank needed) will usually suffice (ask a heating engineer if in doubt), some combis are especially compact.

5. In some rooms, it’s hard to find wall space for a radiator without putting furniture in front of it, which is pointless. Solve the problem with slimline vertical radiators - they’re ideal when wall space is limited and are handy for drying big things like sheets. Most vertical radiators are only one or two columns deep, which limits the heat output. As well as being a practical solution for small rooms, these radiators are the perfect combination of period elegance and contemporary style, and a nice feature in their own right.

To make a small bathroom work well, think about re-jigging the layout.
Eliza Brown
Agor Town not on any maps now, but the river still runs for me.
Love Richard XXX

Articles for Sale

Laurastar Heat Resistant Iron Restraint for Laurastar models magic & premium, expand your ironing surface, very good condition, was £125 (now £99.99) - phone calls only 07960 280756

High Quality Acrylic: ideal for displaying books, plates and gift ware, £11.19 (new), excellent condition, £11.50 (used) - phone calls only 07960 280756

Laurastar Anti Scald Water Filter shuts off the hard sad from tap water before using for ironing, reliable, pricings inline, was £44.99 (now £19.99) - phone calls only 07960 280756

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Music System, 3x turn deck tape recorders, 1x JVC graphic equalisers manual, controls, all fully working, order now and get much more for £400, total £99.99 for all 5 items together - Call 020 7717 4362 or 07987 980787

Furniture

Table with glossy black surface, machine base, rust proofed, primed painted, choose wood or wood top (180cm x 91cm or 120cm) and rust painted - colour, hand made, tilting top (Lucas WM74cm x Omen WM74cm or WM40cm (45cm or 30cm) £49.99 - phone calls only 07960 280756

Chlorophytum (spider plant)
Trailing plants (2 per pot) will produce sprays of tiny white flowers in well ventilated, used for 2 years, very good condition, was £12.50 (now £7.50) - phone calls only 07960 280756

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BATTERSEA Boot Sale
BATTERSEA PARK ROAD (A3205), W11 1AY
EVERY SUNDAY
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OPEN RAIN OR SHINE

PETS & ANIMALS
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Cat Scratching Post with peephole for Sale £29.99 strong, sturdy, sealed covered, base eliminates tippin and wobbly, solid and castor covered column, top platform covered in thick carpeting, peephole in platform encourages play. H81cm, W20cm. D14cm peephole 10cm diameter, enjoyed by our cat. Cost £65.00 - phone calls only 07960 280756

BATTERSEA Boot Sale
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3 Bed House 1.30pm - 5.00pm
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1.30pm - 50p
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10.30am - 4.30pm
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Classifieds
### Public Notices

#### Transport for London Notice

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

**THE A4 GLA ROAD (CROMWELL ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2017**

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable junction improvement works to take place on A4 Cromwell Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:

   - Stopping on Cromwell Road between its junctions with Collingham Road and Ashburn Gardens;
   - Entering or exiting Cromwell Road from Ashburn Gardens, Courtfield Gardens, Grenville Place and Ashburn Place;

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

   - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

5. At such times as the traffic prohibitions are in force alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via:

   - For access from Cromwell Road: Knaresborough Place, Courtfield Gardens, Courtfield Road to normal route of travel;
   - For access to Cromwell Road: Courtfield Road, Courtfield Gardens and Collingham Road to normal route of travel

Dated this 14th day of February 2017

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager, Road Space Management – Operations Transport for London

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### Motors

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### Public Notices

#### Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

Innovative Aged Care Limited, Chelsea Court Place, 234A Kings Road, London SW3 5UA.

Hereby given notice that the above named applicant has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the following licensable activities under the Licensing Act (2003):

- **Supply of Alcohol**
  - Monday to Sunday 00:00hrs to 23:59 hrs

- **Late Night Refreshment**
  - Monday to Sunday 23:00 hrs to 05:00 hrs

The licensing Register can be inspected at any time by visiting [www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx)

During office hours arrangements may be made for the application or register to be viewed Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW.

Any representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by 02/03/2017

Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable for a fine on summary conviction of up to £5,000.

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### Motors

#### Transport for London Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE**

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(KING STREET)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of King Street between its junctions with Queen Caroline Street and Cambridge Grove.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherd’s Bush Road and Goldhawk Road.

4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

5. The Order would come into operation on the 7th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and last until Thursday 27th July 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of February 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(ARGYLE PLACE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate gas main works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Argyle Place between its junction with King Street and the rear of 118-116 King Street.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.

4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

5. The Order would come into operation on the 14th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 14th March 2017 and last for 8 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(CRESFORD ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Cresford Road at its junction with Wandsworth Bridge Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be via
   (a) Wandsworth Bridge Road, Bovington Road and Bagleys Lane
   (b) Wandsworth Bridge Road, New Kings Road and Harwood Terrace

4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

5. The Order will come into operation on the 16th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works are expected to commence on Thursday 16th February 2017 and last for 4 days with a backup of Tuesday 28th February 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OF APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
70 Milson Road London W3 6PS 2017/00315/FUL
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2016/02579/FUL granted 07/07/2016 to include: alterations to front dormer window; formation of new external steps and associated landscaping in the front garden.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT (DEVELOPMENT WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR EXISTING BUILDING WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
16 Dalling Road London W3 5ET 2017/00355/FUL
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2016/02579/FUL granted 07/07/2016 to include: alterations to rear dormer window; formation of new external steps and associated landscaping in the rear garden.

200 Uttridge Road London W12 7JD 2017/00148/VAL
Change of use of the ground floor from a hairdressers (Class A1) into an office (Class B1). The work includes: alterations to the frontage, including the conversion of the single dwelling house into 1 x 1 bedroom, 1 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom self-contained flats.

59 Emlyn Road London W12 9TG 2017/00363/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; consisting of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; increasing the height of the roof of first floor rear back extension by 0.7m.

Unit C302A Westfield London Shepherd's Bush, Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DA 2017/00405/VAL
I give notice that Leon is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FulHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Removal of condition 1 of planning permission ref: 2016/00752/ADV previously granted 28/03/2016 to allow the continuation of use of part of the front footpath as an outside seating area comprising of 12no tables and 24no chairs.

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of St Peter's Square at its junction with Neya Gardens.
3. The Order will come into operation on the 12th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 28th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 28th February 2017 and last for 6 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Historic England

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (ST PETER’S SQUARE)

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of St Peter's Square at its junction with Neya Gardens.
3. The Order will come into operation on the 12th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 28th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 28th February 2017 and last for 6 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Historic England

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (CRESFORD ROAD)

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Cresford Road at its junction with Wandsworth Bridge Road.
3. An alternative route for vehicles which would be via (a) Wandsworth Bridge Road, Bovington Road and Bagleys Lane (b) Wandsworth Bridge Road, New Kings and Harwood Terrace
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 16th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Thursday 16th February 2017 and last for 4 days with a backup of Tuesday 28th February 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Historic England

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
AN eighth home league defeat of the season, this time against high-flying Huddersfield Town, leaves Queens Park Rangers glancing nervously over their shoulder at the relegation zone, writes Tony McDonald.

Only two points behind Wigan Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers, have a worse home record than Rangers, who had won only four of their 16 matches at Loftus Road.

Add in Blackburn Rovers’ FA Cup third round victory at Shepherd’s Bush and you can appreciate why Rs fans believe there really is no place like home.

Chelsea loanee Izzy Brown (26 minutes) – his fourth goal in six games – set Huddersfield on course for their first league win in W12 in 13 attempts. Nahki Wells (37) doubled Terriers’ lead before half-time as the Yorkshiremen climbed to third in the table.

Although second-half substitute Luke Freeman, a recent £300,000 signing from Bristol City, marked his QPR debut with his first goal for the club on the hour mark, this defeat leaves Ian Holloway a side down to 19th – just three places and five points above the bottom three.

Holloway said: “We’ve probably got to win five or six games, so we’ve got a big margin for error. We’re disappointed to lose again but if we keep playing like that, we’ll be fine.

“We created three or four chances before the break. We let the first goal in almost out of nothing and then, before you know it, it’s two. We had a mountain to climb but I was delighted with the lads’ effort.

“Unfortunately, this league is about taking your chances, and we created more than enough to win it. It’s what a venomous snake does to you. It bites you – and we got bitten.

“I was disappointed at half-time because I felt for 20 minutes we gave them a right good game.

“The changes in the second half really gave us a boost. I was delighted with the subs. We just needed to take the chances. Because Huddersfield know they’ve been in a big game.”

QPR’s Director of Football Les Ferdinand might care to ponder why Izzy Brown and, especially, Tammy Abraham were not on the club’s loan radar last summer, when a pair of promising Chelsea youth products headed to Huddersfield and Bristol respectively to gain experience and competitive game-time in the Championship, rather than draw at Derby on Saturday. How Rangers could do with the former Pimlico student to lead their blunt attack which has managed only 11 goals in 16 home games.

Once again, the QPR boss had cause to rue decisions that went against his team. Holloway added: “I’m looking at the referee and some of the decisions. It was very frustrating.

“We had a lot of decisions that didn’t go our way. And they had a lot that did. It’s so infuriating, because the fans really drove us on in the second half.

“We didn’t fold. We didn’t wobble. We just didn’t get the big decisions that could’ve gone our way.

“I’m bitterly disappointed for the team because we deserved a point.

“We need to keep going and believe we can get the right results.”

On a more optimistic note, Holloway and his players should not let cold statistics start to haunt them just yet. Birmingham City managed to avoid relegation from the second tier in 2013-14, finishing 21st, despite winning only two home games and drawing eight.

As it happens, Rangers’ next game is against Birmingham at St Andrew’s on Saturday.

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Once again, the QPR boss had cause to rue decisions that went against his team. Holloway added: “I’m looking at the referee and some of the decisions. It was very frustrating.

“We had a lot of decisions that didn’t go our way. And they had a lot that did. It’s so infuriating, because the fans really drove us on in the second half.

“We didn’t fold. We didn’t wobble. We just didn’t get the big decisions that could’ve gone our way.

“I’m bitterly disappointed for the team because we deserved a point.

“We need to keep going and believe we can get the right results.”

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OUT IN THE COLD: IAN HOLLOWAY needs to arrest his team’s abysmal home record Pic: Rob Newell

Simply link up with their West London neighbours. The 19-year-old Abraham took his league goals tally for the season to 18 with a brace in Bristol City’s 3-3 draw at Derby on Saturday. How Rangers could do with the former Pimlico student to lead their blunt attack which has managed only 11 goals in 16 home games.

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ON A MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE, HOLLOWAY AND HIS PLAYERS SHOULD NOT LET COLD STATISTICS START TO HAUNT THEM JUST YET. BIRMINGHAM CITY MANAGED TO AVOID RELEGATION FROM THE SECOND TIER IN 2013-14, FINISHING 21ST, DESPITE WINNING ONLY TWO HOME GAMES AND DRAWING EIGHT.

AS IT HAPPENS, RANGERS’ NEXT GAME IS AGAINST BIRMINGHAM AT ST ANDREW’S ON SATURDAY.

THE CHANGES IN THE SECOND HALF REALLY GAVE US A BOOST. I WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE SUBS. WE JUST NEEDED TO TAKE THE CHANCES. BECAUSE HUDDERSFIELD KNOW THEY’VE BEEN IN A BIG GAME.”

QPR’S Director of Football Les Ferdinand might care to ponder why Izzy Brown and, especially, Tammy Abraham were not on the club’s loan radar last summer, when a pair of promising Chelsea youth products headed to Huddersfield and Bristol respectively to gain experience and competitive game-time in the Championship, rather than
Diego Costa has been misfiring for Chelsea but showed tremendous effort against Burnley – a result that Gary Cahill believes could be crucial.

By Paul Lagan

Gary Cahill remains bullish that the hard-earned point Chelsea achieved at Burnley on Sunday might just be the one that sees Chelsea back in Premier League title.

Pedro scored in the seventh minute but a wonder free-kick from Robbie Brady earned the Clarets a 1-1 draw.

Cahill, skipper in the absence of John Terry, said: “We were aware of their record before we came here - the fact that they have only one point away from home. We knew that they were going to have confidence playing here, because that’s where their results are coming from. It was always going to be dangerous.

“Their system is not to play with their back four so it’s a way to try and affect us and that’s what they aimed to do. Their system is not to waste the ball, and this is an important thing to keep doing.

“Then add that to the fact there was sleet and snow and it was freezing, so we knew it was going to be very tough. So the result didn’t disappoint.

“Maybe that’s a big point for us, time will tell, but it was important we didn’t lose.”

Before Chelsea play Manchester City at The Bridge in early April, Blues have the chance to put clear daylight between them and other challenges.

“It’s a time to press on,” the 31-year-old England centre-back agreed. “The motivation to try and finish the job should be there for everyone. There is a light at the end of the tunnel now and it’s important we keep working, keep focused, keep doing what we have been doing for 95 per cent of the season. I thought we could have played a lot better on Sunday and maybe that’s a little wake-up call where we realise that it’s obviously going to be tough to cross the line and there is still plenty of football to be played.”

Cahill believes that hard work on the training ground is reaping dividends on the pitch.

“We have been playing well, attacking, scoring goals and keeping loads of clean sheets,” he said.

“It’s been going good for us this season. Burnley were very direct and I am not criticising them for that, because I have been on both sides of the coin in teams that I have played in. Every time the ball was in their half, it was getting botted towards our box. They played to their strengths and that’s why it was so difficult. Every game is difficult in its own way and it is something we have to adapt to.

“When you play teams like Arsenal and Manchester City, with their movement, you have to concentrate on tracking runs. And then there are games against sides like Burnley where it is slightly different.

“Everyone makes mistakes, that’s football, but we haven’t made that many this season. That’s why you see so many clean sheets. We have a good shape and are attacking. It comes from work on the training pitch and that’s what we have to keep doing.

“It’s not hard to stay focused if you want to achieve what we want,” he continued. “We have done so much hard work this season, to get us in this position and almost see the finish line.

“With 13 matches to go now, it’s important that we chalk them off with the right results. I think that what we should be even more focused as we get closer (to the finish) and even more determined.”

Diego Costa’s goal drought continues. It’s been four games since he hit the back of the net but Cahill is not concerned.

“It didn’t even cross my mind, to be honest,” he said. “It’s a team thing. If we had played a lot better on Sunday, then Diego would have got a few more opportunities, it goes hand in hand. “We dug in when we had to. It wasn’t the greatest. It wasn’t a nice sunny afternoon at Stamford Bridge, where we can just zip the ball about. It was tough, we wanted three points but it wasn’t to be. But we have it in our make-up now that’s why we keep on working. “In the first half, maybe we could have had opportunities to put the game to bed if we’d taken our chances. If it had gone 2-0 it would have been a different ball game. But the way the second half went, taking everything into account, it was important that we did not lose.”

Head coach Antonio Conte knew it was going to be a tough game at Burnley but he was disappointed with the result.

“I said Burnley at home is one team and away is another team. When you see they have 29 points at home, you know they are a tough team.

“Despite this we must be hit disappointed because we started well. We created a chance to score and then scored the goal. In the second half we tried with all our strength to win the game but it didn’t happen. It is a pity but we tried to play football. We tried to create chances against a strong team.

“The draw at Turf Moor stretched Blues’ lead at the top to 10 points before Manchester City’s game at Bournemouth last night (played after LWN Sport went to press).

“Cahill values ‘big’ point

Blues settle for well-earned draw as title inches closer

How much will Chelsea win the FA Cup? And how will they do in the Premier League this season? I’m on the look out for some answers.

Tony McDonald

LATEST FROM LOFTUS ROAD – PAGE 27

Fulham boss wants more

EVER-demanding Fulham boss Slavisa Jokanovic was still not satisfied despite seeing his team snatch victory in the fourth minute of stoppage time against Championship strugglers Wigan Athletic at chilly Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Goals by Floyd Ayite, Denis Odoi and Neeskens Kebano earned Whites maximum points to climb one place to ninth and move within six points of the play-off positions.

The win extends the West Londoners’ unbeaten league run against second-bottom Late to 17 matches.

But head coach Jokanovic said: “I can be proud of my team’s desire to win the game but from another side, I was really disappointed with some parts of the game.

“We weren’t solid enough, we didn’t show a good enough attitude or desire to defend or when we were playing without the ball, and this is an important part of football, too.

“It’s not important that we have 73 per cent possession of the ball if you cannot fix the problem without the ball. This kind of present we gave them today is simply not acceptable. If we don’t improve this part of the game we cannot be successful.

“I expect I’m going to find something different on Tuesday night (against Nottingham Forest) and we’re still going to be better in some parts of the game.

“At the end we scored the third goal and we go home satisfied with the points but I’m not satisfied with what we offered today.

“Ayite put Fulham ahead from close range in the 25th minute, following a surging run and cut-back from Sone Aluko. Wigan were level seven minutes when Scott Malone turned Stephen Warnock’s cross into his own net.

“Michael Jacobs slid in Max Power’s left-wing cross to put the visitors ahead in first-half stoppage time.

“Although Wigan lost goalkeeper Daniel Johnson to injury at half-time, with Matt Gilks taking over, they went close to a second. Omar Bogle was denied by keeper David Button.

“Aluko hit the crossbar for the hosts before Odoi’s stunning 30-yard strike from power to put the corner to the scores with 20 minutes to go.

“The match was heading for an 11th draw between the sides in the last 17 meetings until Kebano struck on his return from Africa Cup of Nations duty with DR Congo. Receiving an inch-perfect pass from Tom Cairney, he side-footed home the ball, and this is an important game at the angle at the Putney end.

“Jokanovic said: “We are working so hard to be more solid and more competitive. I’m always after the clean sheet.

“Today we made ourselves a bit nervous which put too much pressure from the opposition team. We weren’t good enough to stop Bogle – this kid pushed us and did some big damage in the game. We had to show what we are capable and we need to stop this kind of thing.

“Tonight (Tuesday) Fulham entertain a Nottingham Forest side looking to build on a 5-1 battering at Norwich. Fulham are second to fourth in their attention to their mouth-watering FA Cup fifth round derby with Spurs at The Cottage on Sunday (2.00pm).”

Tony McDonald