Despite government funding cuts, Kensington & Chelsea Council chiefs have moved to protect the needy in their new budget and have increased spending for the vulnerable in the royal borough this year.

Although a swingeing slashing on spending was anticipated due to the austerity era, the council has bucked expectations by giving more money to many of those most in need. But the Conservative-led council has had to raid the teapot on the dresser to help fund its capital programme, with reserves plunging by an estimated £150 million. A survey conducted by a dating website the royal borough is the capital’s top hotspot for adultery, with almost six per cent of residents cheating on their partners. Pollsters claim that the cheating rate is high in the borough because house prices make it hard for unhappy couples to split up and afford two homes.

Established 1857, part of the London Weekly News group

FREE

Tuesday, March 8th 2016

It all points to a celebration of Shakespeare

We will remember: A sea of red remembrance will meet The Queen when she attends this year’s Chelsea Flower Show as it marks HM the Queen’s 90th birthday with one of the most spectacular exhibits in its history.

The centrepiece of the show at the Royal Chelsea Hospital will be a magnificent display of tens of thousands of red poppies.
Bid for success in regeneration game

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has achieved a target to support 50 business improvement districts which have contributed more than £25 million to regenerate town centres and industrial sites across the capital.

Since 2012, in excess of 60,000 firms in London have clubbed together to invest millions in business improvement districts (BIDs), which give local businesses a vote to collectively contribute to improve services, boost trading conditions and enhance their towns and public areas.

Local businesses sit on the board of each BID and decide where to allocate funding, which includes measures such as improving pedestrian routes and cycle paths, business support, lobbying and security staff to protect shops and restaurants.

The mayor strongly supports BIDs and their role in the place shaping of town centres and industrial centres and made a commitment to support the creation of 50 improvement districts across the capital before May.

City Hall convenes regular network meetings, showcasing BID work, to support businesses and encourages them to bid for resources from the likes of Transport for London and the Mayor’s High Street Fund.

He also signed off £600,000 of funding from the London Enterprise Panel, which was allocated to 12 BIDs.

Research commissioned by the mayor at the end of last year across 36 successful BIDs in London, revealed the number of firms in BID areas increased by 89 per cent from 32,250 in 2012 to 60,980 in 2014, while the number of people employed has risen from just under 500,000 to 905,250 employed by some 61,000 firms of all shapes and sizes spanning right across the city.

Mr Johnson said: “It is clear to see that business improvement districts provide a strong voice for firms to support the changes they want in their town centres and that is why I made it a manifesto commitment to ensure 50 new ones sprouted up across the city during this term.

“BIDs have played a key part in the regeneration of town centres and industrial estates and they continue to boost growth and help drive London’s economy.”

The mayor achieved a manifesto pledge when Euston, which is looking to maximise the regeneration potential of the area and take advantage of future transport projects such as Crossrail and HS2, became the 50th BID in the capital last week.

Simon Pitekchale, chief executive of Camden Town Unlimited, said: “The growth of BIDs in London, from humble beginnings some 10 years ago, to this symbolic figure of 50, is a really interesting shift in the landscape of how London operates and is governed. It would not have been possible without the support of the mayor of London and it will be really interesting to see how things play out in the coming years.”

Helen Clark-Bell of the Love Wimbledon BID, which consists of 420 businesses in the area, said: “Love Wimbledon are delighted that business improvement districts are growing in number and starting to reach a critical mass. BIDs are such a powerful tool for revitalising areas and particularly with local authority budget cuts and the changing nature of retail, having a positive impetus to bring dynamic events and activities along with business focused projects into the town are very welcome additions to the local economy.”

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Royal borough’s first for affairs

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSDON and Chelsea has been revealed to be London’s most unfaithful borough with more than 8,000 residents having extra-marital affairs.

According to a survey conducted by a dating website the royal borough is the capital’s top hotspot for adultery, with almost six per cent of residents cheating on their partners.

Pollsters claim that the cheating rate is high in the borough because house prices make it hard for unhappy couples to split up and afford two homes.

“Kensington and Chelsea has 8,520 people cheating out of a population of 78,500 – meaning 6.67 per cent of the borough’s couples are seeking excitement outside their marriage,” said a spokesman for the dating website for married people, IllicitEncounters.com

“A significant number of people have been district liaison to IllicitEncounters and it appears that the site is popular with a significant number of people that are cheating. They have no intention of doing anything wrong and are simply looking for new experiences and excitement.”

The dating site has seen a 20 per cent surge in registrations in the last five years because it says many couples simply cannot afford to divorce due economic pressures and ever-rising house prices.

The spokesman said: “London is enjoying a boom in extra-marital affairs because spiralling house prices have made divorce increasingly difficult for many couples in the capital. They are struggling along unhappily because they simply cannot afford to set up two homes.”

One of the website’s members is Chelsea business consultant Gweneth Lee. The 45-year-old widow admits to regularly seeking wealthy men on the site for dates and discreet liaisons.

She said: “I enjoy being in a relationship but I also crave the excitement of meeting new people. I have been on the site for around four years and during that time I have had affairs with several married men.

“They have mostly been rich businessmen in the commuter belt around London who are bored in their marriages and are seeking sex, fun and a change in their daily routine. They are fed up with sitting in silence in front of the TV with their wives every night.”

“They have no intention of leaving their wives and simply want to enjoy some uncomplicated fun with a woman they know isn’t going to make any unexpected demands.”

One of Gweneth’s lovers was a 50-year-old Danish shipping magnate who had been on the site for five years and is married with three teenage children.

Gweneth said: “He adored his wife but there was no sexual spark anymore and they have not made love for the last few years. Neither wanted to divorce and they are loving parents to their children. He wants women very discreetly for sex without his wife’s knowledge and I fitted the bill nicely.”

According to the website, the top 10 boroughs for cheating are:

1 Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea 8,520 [5.67 per cent]
2 Hammersmith and Fulham 9,951 [5.57 per cent]
3 Islington 11,145 [5.54 per cent]
4 Bromley 16,807 [5.17 per cent]
5 Brent 16,388 [5.17 per cent]
6 Tower Hamlets 13,985 [5.12 per cent]
7 Camden 9,316 [4.06 per cent]
8 Morton 7,790 [3.84 per cent]
9 Wandsworth 11,813 [3.8 per cent]
10 Ealing 12,096 [3.53 per cent]

Council pledges to spend more on vulnerable care

FROM PAGE 1

£30 million on last year – and by 2019 the kitty which stood at £97 million last year is expected to plummet by £100 million. Reductions in the council’s external funding left a £13 million gap. For example, over two years the Government grant for children’s services has been cut from £12,318,000 in 2014/15 to £5,504,000 for 2016/17.

But although being down on its grant aid, the authority is putting more of its money to helping locals in need.

Funding is going up for many of the adult and children care services in the borough:

Adults with learning disabilities: UP from last year’s £15,438,000 to £17,974,000.

Adult mental health support: UP from £7,131,000 to £8,452,000.

Carers support: UP from £809,000 to £969,000.

Council housing services: UP from £4,173,000 to £4,313,000.

Adult and family learning: UP from £1,347,000 to £1,413,000.

Children with disabilities: UP from £3,200,000 to £3,735,000.

Youth offending services: UP from £1,351,000 to £1,413,000.

Fostering and adoption: UP from £3,596,000 to £4,833,000.

And although a new report by the Action For Children and The Children’s Society charities had predicted a coming 70 per cent fall in funding Early Help schemes in Kensington and Chelsea, it appears that the council is increasing its spend on early intervention instead.

In last year’s budget the council set aside £1,658,000 for Early Help and £5,596,000 for social work. In this year’s budget the two departments have been combined for a funding of £9,380,000 – £2,126,000 more than last year.

A Council spokesman said: “The figures quoted by Action for Children and the Children’s Society are not ones we recognise and there will certainly not be cuts on this scale to our early support for children and families.

“We have made savings in the region of 20 per cent which are mainly the result of efficiencies in management and administration. The reality is there has been little or no change to important front-line support for families. In fact, for families and children deemed as being at risk there has been no reduction at all.

“It is important to stress there have been no cuts in our social work staffing. Our children’s social workers are extremely dedicated and as a result of very effective social work practice fewer children are having to be placed in care which generates further savings. We believe our services to families and children are amongst the best in the country and are pleased that we are able to work closely not just with those with the greatest needs but are also able to identify and provide support to those with lesser, but nonetheless, important needs.”

Commenting on the new protecting-the-needy budget, the leader of the council, Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, said: “The financial backdrop to our budget is well known. I am proud that despite reductions in Government funding we have been able not just to maintain a range of vital services for our residents, and in particular the most vulnerable, but to ensure they continue to improve and remain amongst the very best in the country.”
Launch date for new cycling superhighway

**NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**

LONDON’S flagship “Crossrail for the bike”, Europe’s longest substantially-segregated city cycle route, will open on April 30, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, announced yesterday, Monday, March 7.

Exactly three years since the mayor launched his “cycling visio”, on March 7, 2013, he also released new figures showing that central London’s first segregated superhighway, opened six months ago at Vauxhall, has seen a 73 per cent increase in cycling, compared with the same road in its pre-superhighway state.

Motor vehicle journey times in the area, meanwhile, have returned to what they were before the construction works, or are quicker than before, with only one exception.

From the end of next month, cyclists will be able to travel from Westminster to Blackfriars, the City, Tower Hill, Canary Wharf and Barking, a distance of just under 12 miles, entirely on traffic-free segregated tracks or low-traffic streets.

The council hopes this will also soon be able to connect to Blackfriars to the new traffic-free north-south superhighway to Southwark and Elephant & Castle, and via quiet link roads to the substantially traffic-free, upgraded Cycle Superhighway 2 to Whitechapel, Stepney, Bow and Stratford. Both these routes are due to open at around the same time as the east-west superhighway.

The “Crossrail” cycle route section from Westminster to Hyde Park, a Corbus, Lancaster Gate and Paddington is still under construction and will open later. Agreement was only reached on this section in August. The section of the north-south route through Ludgate Circus will open in summer.

Mr Johnson said: “In 2013 I stood on this very spot on the Embankment and promised that we would soon behold a magnificent cycle superhighway. Many doubted it would ever get beyond the artist’s impression. A noisy minority fought hard to stop it happening.”

“But, in opinion polls and public consultations, large majorities of ordinary Londoners, most of them not cyclists, said they wanted this project and what it represents for a cleaner, safer, greener city.”

“I advise to motorists temporarily inconvenienced by the construction works on the Embankment, and I thank them for their patience in putting up with it – but the end is now in sight. I am immensely encouraged by the evidence from Vauxhall showing that now the scheme there is finished, the flow of traffic in the area is also returning to normal.”

The Vauxhall superhighway comprises a two-way protected cycle track across Vauxhall Bridge and through Vauxhall Cross, one of the capital’s most intimidating gyratories and a major barrier to cycling in south London. It opened in November.

Last month, Transport for London counts show that 3,394 cyclists a day used Vauxhall Bridge in the morning and evening peak periods (7-10am and 4-7pm). This compares with 1,967 a day at the same time periods in February 2015, before the cycle track opened – an increase of 73 per cent. The general rise in London cycling over the same period was 10 per cent. The counts found that 2,753 of these cyclists, 81 per cent, used the cycle track, rising to 93 per cent in the evening peak.

TfL also has conducted “before and after” journey time monitoring for motor vehicles at Vauxhall. Of the six main road approaches to Vauxhall, journey times in the morning peak are now back to what they were before the cycle superhighway works started – or are quicker than before.

**Wildlife pond bags the cash**

HOLLAND Park’s wildlife pond is in line to receive a grant from Tesco and Groundwork’s ‘Bags of Help’ initiative to help carry out vital restoration work to the pond.

Anyone who shops in the Tesco stores in the Holland Park and Kensington area is being asked to vote on whether an optional charge of £2.00 or £4.00 should be made available to the project. The grants are the proceeds from the 5p charge for plastic bags which the Government introduced last October.

The Ecology Centre has applied for the grant in order to create a new wildlife pond. The project will involve digging resulting in low water and oxygen levels which made it difficult for children to pond dip last summer. In addition algae and bacterial blooms developed which has affected diversity of the species living in pond.

The new pond will address all these issues. It will be a shallower pond as this type of design makes for a better habitat for wildlife

To cast your vote all you have to do is drop a Tesco in store in the Holland Park area and vote Holland Park Wildlife Pond. For more information visit www.tesco.com/carer-bags/.

The wildlife pond is used by local schools and community groups. In the spring and summer weeks and after school classes use the pond as part of their sessions on lifecycles and habitats. Over 350 children visited the wildlife area for educational visits.

The new pond will also be open to the general public over the course of the year through events like family open days and free walks.

**Women’s day of activities**

TO mark International Women’s Day today, Tuesday, March 8, and encourage women to be active, Kensington and Chelsea council’s sports team is running free activities in Holland Park. The activities include

a buggy workout session aimed at mothers. Other sessions include park gym at noon, Tai Chi and cardio tennis at 1pm. Each session lasts an hour. Everyone taking part will receive a water bottle which will entitle them to ten per cent discount in the Holland Park Cafe or a free coffee when purchased with a cake or pastry.

For more information contact the sports development team 020 7938 8181 or you can email sportandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk

**Find funding**

SPACEHIVE, an organisation that specialise in helping people set up crowdfunding opportunities, is running a free workshop at Holland Park Church on Thursday, March 31.

Crowdfunding can be used to raise money for a project or venture through contributions from a large number of people and Spacehive has experience of helping people get to know how crowdfunding works.

For more information email info@spacehive.com

**MUDDY MISSION**

Military 5K assault course, Dorking, Surrey

Saturday 18 June 2016

Go on a muddy mission to help find a cure for Parkinson’s.

parksinson.org.uk/getmuddy2016

**NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**

Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, lets us in on the art and craft of political speech writing

‘Lefties and gentlemen…’

B y the time you read this, the Council’s annual Budget meeting will have taken place. It’s usually a bit of a political bun fight and right now I should be writing my Budget speech, only things are not going well. The problem is Jeremy Corbyn.

For the last hour I have been in search of the perfect joke that captures the future shape of the Labour party is led by the supremely rebellious former backbencher. But the choice is bewildering. There are whole websites devoted to the topic.

Should I choose a joke about a leader, and shadow chancellor for that matter, who are still prisoners of ideolo -gies long ago falsified by history? Of those this is my favourite: “A horse walks into a bar. Yes, the breakdown of capitalism starts with agrarian chaos.”

Or I could just find a joke that captures the future shape of foreign policy under a Corbyn government. Of those, this one raised the biggest smile: “What happens when James Bond retires? He will continue to be a state-sponsored terrorist whose actions disgrace us all.”

Then I thought I’d try one of my own: “Mr Mayor I had an email the other day from Jeremy in Islington. It said ‘I’ve been elected by a huge majority by a lot of Twitter trolls who don’t really understand local government finance anymore than I do. ‘They’ve asked me to ask you what are you going to do about your massive reserves? Perhaps you could let Robert, or is it Emma or is it Judith know.’

But it is just so difficult to choose. John Bercow once said that half the battle is what you leave out, so perhaps I will resist altogether the temptation to poke fun and instead focus on the positive. And I do have some serious positive things to say in my speech.

The council tax in Kensington and Chelsea has just been frozen for a seventh year and of the vast savings required of the Council since the onset of austerity in 2010, just six per cent came by way of reductions in actual services to residents. The rest was found through sharing management with our neighbours, by driving up income from our property portfolio and by old school savings and efficiencies.

So from a resident’s perspective these things are much as they were. We still have a single parking zone, rubbish continues to be collected twice a week, our schools remain excellent, so too do our exam results and we are the last borough left that still meets the ‘moderate’ needs of those requiring adult social care.

I could go on but sadly I have a speech to write.

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk
London puts extra focus on cameras to cut crime

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE number of CCTV cameras on the streets of Hammersmith and Fulham has almost trebled in the last three years, new figures reveal.

A huge increase in council-sponsored surveillance means the borough is now among the UK’s most watched areas.

Between 2012 and 2015 more than £2.4 million was spent on CCTV and the number of cameras leaped from 452 to 1,150.

Freedom of Information requests revealed that hundreds more cameras were installed in an effort to curb crime and make the streets safer.

But civil liberties campaigners have called for urgent action to slash spending on CCTV and protect personal freedoms.

Charles Farrier, from the No CCTV campaign, said: “Local councils love spending money on CCTV – it is a vote winner. They do not care about freedoms and liberties.

“Digital technology is becoming more and more intrusive and we are seeing a massive increase in surveillance that is happening invisibly.

“We think there needs to be a proper debate about whether cameras are the right way to go. Councils should stop wasting money on this technology.”

While spending on CCTV has declined in most parts of the country, London councils have increased their network of cameras by around 70 per cent, according to a report by the Big Brother Watch group.

It collected data from hundreds of Freedom of Information requests to compare the number of cameras used by local authorities between 2012 and 2015.

Westminster remains the highest-spending council having pumped £7.3 million into anti-crime surveillance – although it has reduced its expenditure from £11.8 million in 2012.

Kensington and Chelsea council spent just over £900,000 on a small network of 58 cameras.

But Hammersmith and Fulham now has the second highest number of cameras in the country after spending more than £2.4 million expanding its network.

The council installs and maintains town centre cameras and those used on housing estates.

Its CCTV unit, based at Hammersmith Town Hall, was recognised by the Met Police last year after helping officers CCTV played an important part in protecting people from crime.

“We have a zero tolerance approach to crime and our award-winning CCTV team do a fantastic job of keeping Hammersmith and Fulham residents safe,” he said.

“Cameras installed over recent years have been in response to close local consultation with residents and the police who identify locations suffering from crime.

“In addition to our CCTV network we are funding a record 44 police officers to work with residents and tackle crime.

The Big Brother Watch report – ‘Are They Still Watching?’ – found that CCTV spending had dropped by almost half across the country, largely due to budget cuts.

However, the number of cameras on the streets of London rose by 71.8 per cent – from 8,105 to 13,924.

The growing network of cameras is being used to keep an eye on pubs, clubs and bars, as well as monitoring the flow of people and traffic.

Big Brother Watch did not call for a shut down of CCTV operations but suggested placing temporary cameras in problem areas for a short period of time until crime issues were resolved.

Daniel Nesbitt, research director at Big Brother Watch, said councils should be more open about the reasons why cameras were installed and how much it would cost.

“Once this kind of information is released on a regular basis it will be possible for citizens to decide for themselves whether or not the cameras are actually helping in their area,” he said.

“This kind of transparency will become even more important as authorities begin to introduce new and potentially more invasive technology, such as facial recognition software and 3D cameras.

A spokesman for the Met Police said more than 200 officers had been trained as ‘super recognisers’ to work with neighbourhood teams and intelligence units to identify suspects caught on CCTV.

“CCTV is a vital forensic tool and is important in the fight against crime,” the spokesman said.

“While DNA or fingerprints will show the suspect being at the scene, CCTV will show the crime happening. It helps us find other evidence or witnesses and helps the courts when assessing the sentence.

“Whilst not every crime is captured on CCTV, the MPS is committed to capitalising on those that are by using dedicated support units, utilising ‘super recognisers’ and maximising our IT resources.”

THE last new gun that famous Soho firearms manufacturer John Wilkes built will go under the hammer next month.

The piece, which is in a new and unfired condition, has been displayed in Wilkes’ premises at 79 Beak Street, London W1 for a number of years prior to the company’s closure in 2003, will be offered in Gavin Gardner Ltd’s sale of modern and vintage sporting guns and rifles, which takes place on Wednesday, April 13, at Sotheby’s auction house in New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

Blast from the past to go under the hammer

ARTIST’S IMAGINATION

Have your say

on proposals for a new dedicated cycle lane at Hammersmith gyratory

Proposals include:

• Separating cyclists and traffic with a segregated two-way cycle track on the north side of Hammersmith gyratory to help improve safety for cyclists

• Separate traffic signals for cyclists and motor vehicles, allowing cyclists to move ahead of vehicles

• Extend the eastbound two-way cycle track on King Street allowing cyclists to reach the gyratory on a more direct route

• Provide a two-way section of cycle track on Queen Caroline Street allowing cyclist’s easy access to Black’s Road and Hammersmith Bridge Road

• Increase the size of the island at the junction of Hammersmith Broadway and Butterwick to help improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

These proposals are primarily intended to improve safety for cyclists.

You can have your say and view our detailed proposals at tfl.gov.uk/hammersmith-gyratory. Details of our drop-in sessions can also be found on the website.

The consultation closes 15 March 2016.
**Children’s art on show**

PUPILS at independent London schools were among those given a unique opportunity to showcase their artwork at the highly prestigious Saatchi Gallery.

The inaugural Alpha Plus Group Art Exhibition, at the gallery in Duke of York Square, King’s Road, saw the coming together of all the group’s independent schools to showcase gifted and talented work from sculpture to photography.

Art leaders across ten of the Alpha Plus schools across the country worked closely together on the landmark project, which saw 40 pieces of artwork, four from each school, taking pride of place at the inspiring Saatchi Gallery.

The exhibition was unveiled by Alpha Plus chief executive Julian Drinkall. Also key to the proceedings was Oliver Meyer, head of art at Wetherby Senior School, who was integral to devising and implementing the project.

Mr Drinkall said: “The Saatchi Gallery is internationally renowned for showcasing the very best in contemporary art, and we were thrilled with the opportunity presented. There was a terrific buzz at the opening ceremony and private viewing event.

“The standard of the work produced by the pupils is excellent and surpassed all expectations. The exhibiting children will undoubtedly derive much confidence from having their work take pride of place in such a highly regarded venue.”

Mr Meyer added: “The pupils really rose to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed using their creativity to the full to create exceptional pieces of artwork. The standard was extremely high and it was very difficult to narrow the exhibiting pieces down to only four per school.”

**Khan’s TV fee goes to charity**

LABOUR’S London mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan earned £1,500 for appearing on BBC’s Have I Got News For You but donated the money to charity, his office said as it published details of his earnings and tax contributions.

The figures released by Mr Khan’s office show he has been paid a total of £3,250 for media appearances since 2005 and declared no other income apart from his roles as an MP, government minister and councilor.

The information was published after Mr Khan’s Tory rival Zac Goldsmith revealed he made £10 million from trusts, asset sales and salary over the past five years – and paid more than £4.5 million in tax.

Mr Khan’s release showed that in 2014/15 he had an income of £6,401 as Tooting’s MP, excluding pension contributions, and received £1,500 for his appearance on Have I Got News For You.

He paid £16,557.40 in income tax and £4,168.56 in national insurance contributions (NICs).

A statement on his website said: “The 2014/15 media appearance fee was for Sadiq appearing on Have I Got News For You.”

He added: “Sadiq donated the full £1,500 fee direct to charity: the Evening Standard’s Dispossessed Fund. However, as this was his choice, he has to declare this as income in order to pay the tax due.”

The information was prepared by Mr Khan’s personal chartered accountant from the returns submitted to HMRC.

**A moment of Madness**

The enduringly popular Madness are set to headline their own festival this summer after announcing a one-day spectacular in London.

The group will take to the stage on August Bank Holiday in the event titled House of Common.

They will head to Clapham Common to put on a show alongside 20 other hand-picked, like-minded bands and DJs. The outdoor event will feature a line up specifically curated by the band, ending with an exclusive headline performance from Madness themselves.

Announcing the show, Madness said: “We are honoured and privileged that London has found us a place where for one day every week we can have our very own festival. Hereby name that day House of Common. See you in Clapham Madheads. For the love of the common people.”

**Festival fun**

THE Find Your London festival celebrates London’s outdoor spaces, from gardens to parks, high streets to marketplaces.

This 11-day festival, from March 28 to 28, features more than 100 varied events across London. To find out what’s on offer, visit the website london.gov.uk

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**Historic opportunity for us to put women plaque where they belong**

FAMOUS women are being poorly represented by London’s blue plaques network, it was claimed this week.

Only one in eight of the capital’s blue plaques – which mark the homes and workplaces of key figures from history – honour women, English Heritage claimed. The organisation is now calling for more female nominations.

Sufragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole and novelist Virginia Woolf are among the women who have been honoured with a blue plaque here in London since the scheme began 150 years ago.

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Art leaders across ten of the Alpha Plus schools across the country worked closely together on the landmark project, which saw 40 pieces of artwork, four from each school, taking pride of place at the inspiring Saatchi Gallery.

The exhibition was unveiled by Alpha Plus chief executive Julian Drinkall. Also key to the proceedings was Oliver Meyer, head of art at Wetherby Senior School, who was integral to devising and implementing the project.

Mr Drinkall said: “The Saatchi Gallery is internationally renowned for showcasing the very best in contemporary art, and we were thrilled with the opportunity presented. There was a terrific buzz at the opening ceremony and private viewing event.

“The standard of the work produced by the pupils is excellent and surpassed all expectations. The exhibiting children will undoubtedly derive much confidence from having their work take pride of place in such a highly regarded venue.”

Mr Meyer added: “The pupils really rose to the challenge and thoroughly enjoyed using their creativity to the full to create exceptional pieces of artwork. The standard was extremely high and it was very difficult to narrow the exhibiting pieces down to only four per school.”

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**Khan’s TV fee goes to charity**

LABOUR’S London mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan earned £1,500 for appearing on BBC’s Have I Got News For You but donated the money to charity, his office said as it published details of his earnings and tax contributions.

The figures released by Mr Khan’s office show he has been paid a total of £3,250 for media appearances since 2005 and declared no other income apart from his roles as an MP, government minister and councilor.

The information was published after Mr Khan’s Tory rival Zac Goldsmith revealed he made £10 million from trusts, asset sales and salary over the past five years – and paid more than £4.5 million in tax.

Mr Khan’s release showed that in 2014/15 he had an income of £6,401 as Tooting’s MP, excluding pension contributions, and received £1,500 for his appearance on Have I Got News For You.

He paid £16,557.40 in income tax and £4,168.56 in national insurance contributions (NICs).

A statement on his website said: “The 2014/15 media appearance fee was for Sadiq appearing on Have I Got News For You.”

He added: “Sadiq donated the full £1,500 fee direct to charity: the Evening Standard’s Dispossessed Fund. However, as this was his choice, he has to declare this as income in order to pay the tax due.”

The information was prepared by Mr Khan’s personal chartered accountant from the returns submitted to HMRC.

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**A moment of Madness**

THE enduringly popular Madness are set to headline their own festival this summer after announcing a one-day spectacular in London.

The group will take to the stage on August Bank Holiday in the event titled House of Common.

They will head to Clapham Common to put on a show alongside 20 other hand-picked, like-minded bands and DJs. The outdoor event will feature a line up specifically curated by the band, ending with an exclusive headline performance from Madness themselves.

Announcing the show, Madness said: “We are honoured and privileged that London has found us a place where for one day every week we can have our very own festival. Hereby name that day House of Common. See you in Clapham Madheads. For the love of the common people.”

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**Festival fun**

THE Find Your London festival celebrates London’s outdoor spaces, from gardens to parks, high streets to marketplaces.

This 11-day festival, from March 28 to 28, features more than 100 varied events across London. To find out what’s on offer, visit the website london.gov.uk

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**Historic opportunity for us to put women plaque where they belong**

FAMOUS women are being poorly represented by London’s blue plaques network, it was claimed this week.

Only one in eight of the capital’s blue plaques – which mark the homes and workplaces of key figures from history – honour women, English Heritage claimed. The organisation is now calling for more female nominations.

Sufragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole and novelist Virginia Woolf are among the women who have been honoured with a blue plaque here in London since the scheme began 150 years ago.
£730,000 fund encourages local projects to prosper in crowdfunding

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW £730,000 scheme to support London community projects has been unveiled.

London mayor Boris Johnson announced the funding package as part of what he described as “a world-leading civic crowdfunding initiative”.

Crowdfunding allows anyone to propose an idea and for members of the public to fund it. If enough people pledge just a small amount, an idea can quickly become reality.

The mayor’s partnership with Spacehive – the world’s first crowdfunding website dedicated to civic projects – means community organisations have the chance to pitch an idea that benefits their local community and attract financial pledges from the members of the public and the mayor.

Mr Johnson will pledge up to £20,000 towards the best crowdfunding campaigns that can demonstrate the most local enthusiasm.

Projects could help to make a High Street a better place to visit or do business in, improve or establish a local market, give a new lease of life to a forgotten local space or empty building, improve access to healthy and affordable food or create a new cultural feature that attracts people to the area.

Ideas need to be crowdfund-ing on the mayor’s Spacehive page by May 1 to be considered for a pledge, but it is recommended that projects are posted as early as possible to allow for public awareness, debate and refinement before a full campaign begins. A series of workshops for groups interested in putting forward ideas will be held in London throughout March.

Mr Johnson, said: “This is a unique opportunity to empower Londoners to come together and make a huge difference in their community by pitching great ideas that matter to them. I look forward to seeing a whole raft of innovative solutions to local issues that will help to make the city an even better place to live, visit and work in.”

The mayor has already delivered two successful rounds of crowdfunding through his High Street Fund, investing a total of £600,000 in 37 projects. In the last round, the mayor backed 20 schemes with £285,000 worth of pledges. These were matched by more than £430,000 worth of pledges from the crowd, with over 2,200 backers from local Londoners to businesses.

The latest round of civic crowdfunding was launched last week by Daniel Moylan, Chairman of the Mayor’s Design Advisory Group and London Enterprise Panel (LEP) SME Working Group member at the PeER Gallery in Hoxton.

The mayor has pledged £19,000 towards the gallery’s plans to replace its shopfront after the project raised £25,000 from 187 backers through Spacehive.

Other successful civic crowdfunding campaigns run through the mayor’s Spacehive include:

**Peckham Coal Line in Southwark** – The mayor has pledged £10,000 towards the group’s target of £66,000 in order to transform unused coal sidings on the railway line between Queens Road Peckham and Peckham Rye station into a 1km stretch of elevated green space. The campaign attracted 928 backers, including Southwark Council and Sustrans, bringing the wider community together from businesses to local people.

**Good Food Catford in Lewisham** – The mayor has pledged £14,000 towards the group’s target of £33,000 in order to bring a vacant high street shop back into use as a community grocery store, selling affordable local and surplus vegetables grown in community gardens and allotments as well as providing workshops, training and advice on healthy eating. The campaign attracted 344 backers.

Mr Moylan said: “Civic crowdfunding has the power to transform the way City Hall and Londoners come together to shape the places in which we all live, work and play. Using Spacehive for this pilot has allowed us to combine our grants with funds from individuals, businesses and organisations, meaning we can make great projects happen faster, tapping into the wealth of creativity and enthusiasm within communities across the city.”

Chris Gourlay, Founder of Spacehive, said: “A community coming together around a successful campaign is incredibly powerful. You will meet new people, build new relationships and find the skills to get things done that you never thought possible. A pledge from the mayor will really help you on your way and there are many more people and companies who will want to be a part of a great idea.”

To date, over £575,000 has been pledged to 37 local projects. This represents a pioneering new relationship between City Hall and Londoners that realises the creativity and enterprise of local communities and businesses.

For instructions to submit your idea and to view previous examples, visit: spacehive.com/initiatives/mayoroflondon

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**How the programme works**

The programme is part of the London Enterprise Panel’s £20million London Regeneration Fund, which was launched by the mayor following a successful bid to government in January 2015 as part of the LEP’s Growth Deal. The fund gives local authorities, traders’ associations, workspace providers, and community groups the chance to come forward with exciting proposals that will help new and traditional places of work thrive in a rapidly changing city.

In February 2016, the programme was recognised at the World Government Summit as one of the top 11 innovations in global government thinking. The programme is a four-stage pilot to test how City Hall utilise new technology in a positive way to promote transparent and participatory democracy for Londoners.

Over his two terms, the mayor’s dedicated regeneration funds have invested £189million and levered in about £131million in matching funding that has helped more than 85 high streets adapt to changing circumstances and thrive. This funding has also seen almost 1,000 shopfronts improved, 1,577 jobs created, and training and support received by over 3,000 businesses and young people.

Spacehive.com launched in 2012 and is the world’s first crowdfunding platform for civic projects. The London based start-up has successfully funded 157 projects across the UK worth £4.7 million. Over 700 projects are currently in development and Spacehive is working in partnership with cities across the UK including Manchester, Cardiff, Hull as well as 15 London boroughs, and the Mayor of London.
Pianist helps homeless centre to tune of £18,000

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Kind-hearted theatre-goers have raised thousands of pounds for a homeless hostel in Westminster after American concert pianist Mona Golabek made an impassioned appeal to audiences at the end of her one-woman show in the capital.

The American performer’s very public appeal on behalf of the Cardinal Hume Centre, which is based in Arneway Street, off Horseferry Road, helped to generate more than £18,000 during her sell-out five-week run at the St James Theatre.

Ms Golabek’s show, called The Pianist of Willesden Lane, was inspired by the true story of her mother, who was one of many thousands of young Jewish children who fled Nazi persecution in the late 1930s just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Ms Golabek’s mother arrived in London on the so-called Kindertransport, which was responsible for bringing many thousands of Jewish youngsters to safety as the Nazis tightened their grip on mainland Europe.

The Cardinal Hume Centre, which will benefit from the funding boost, works with homeless young people and families with housing problems, employment, housing, education and skills, and legal status.

Every person who comes to the centre has different needs. It says: “We offer a holistic service, all on one site, that reflects the individual so that people can make informed choices about their future.”

The centre welcomes people from all backgrounds in line with Cardinal Hume’s founding ethos of offering sanctuary.

Ms Golabek, whose mother Lisa Jura fled her native Vienna in 1938 and spent the war years in a hostel in Willesden Lane with other young refugees while pursuing her dream of becoming a concert pianist, ended every show by telling the audience about the work the centre does.

She said it had been a great privilege to perform at the St James Theatre and share the story of her mother. She said the performances had been made even more meaningful by giving her the opportunity to tell the audience about the Cardinal Hume Centre, a centre like where her mother, “as a young frightened teenage refugee”, found herself upon arriving in London prior to the start of the Second World War.

She told audiences: “I am proud to speak about this centre to the world, a place that provides so much precious help. Now more than ever, we must never forget our humanity, and the Cardinal Hume Centre is such a shining example of that humanity.”

Ms Golabek has appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, the Kennedy Center and the Royal Festival Hall alongside major orchestras worldwide. A Grammy nominee, she has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Avery Fisher Prize and the People’s Award of the International Chopin Competition and has been the subject of several PBS television documentaries.

Ms Golabek’s mother won a place at the Royal Academy of Music after seeing a notice in the Evening Standard before emigrating to Los Angeles, where she raised her family.

Fulham FC welcomes Bristol City to Craven Cottage in the Sky Bet Championship on Saturday 12th March, kick-off 3pm

This fixture is the Club’s annual Primary Schools’ Day with an exclusive special ticket offer priced at just £15 for adults and £5 for juniors, a saving of £15 on an adult ticket and £10 on juniors. Adults will also have the chance to obtain a free adult ticket for every 10 junior tickets purchased for the match.

To qualify for this special price, teachers or parents will need to complete a form which can be found online at: www.fulhamfc.com/primaryschoolday.

Club mascot Billy the Badger will be on Stevenage Road pre-match handing out foam fingers to junior supporters in attendance alongside a balloon modeller.

Last year almost 1,000 primary school pupils and teachers attended the match and this year the crowd is expected to be bigger and better. The school bringing the highest number of attendees to the match will win a Training Ground Experience and representatives from the school will be invited on to the pitch at half-time to be presented with a Fulham gift.

Fulham FC Captain, Scott Parker said, “Primary Schools’ Day is brilliant opportunity for schools in our local communities to enjoy an afternoon out at Craven Cottage. Our junior supporters help create a wonderful atmosphere and we’re delighted to welcome young fans and their families at our matches. We’ll look forward to welcoming the winning school to the Training Ground for an unforgettable experience.”

For more information on Primary Schools’ Day please visit: www.fulhamfc.com/primaryschoolday

Tickets for Fulham FC v Bristol City are now on general sale. To purchase match tickets, call the Fulham Ticket Office on: 08432 081 234 or online at: www.fulhamfc.com/tickets

Crossing safety delay ‘shameful’

The Liberal Democrat candidate to be the next Mayor of London has challenged Boris Johnson over pedestrian crossings which present a danger to the blind and partially-sighted.

London Assembly member Caroline Pidgeon has been campaigning for years for the Mayor’s Office and Transport for London to make all crossings in the capital accessible.

In guidance published by the Department of Transport in 1995 it clearly stated that pedestrian crossings should either have an audible sound and/or a rotating cone to assist blind and partially sighted people to safely cross the road.

But 11 unsafe crossings still remain and Mr Johnson has now admitted that they will remain a danger for at least another year – which Ms Pidgeon says is “shameful”.

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But 11 unsafe crossings still remain and Mr Johnson has now admitted that they will remain a danger for at least another year – which Ms Pidgeon says is “shameful”.

“Transport for London has been incredibly slow in ensuring this guidance is fully implemented, it was always claimed that the guidance would finally be implemented at all pedestrian crossings by March 2016,” said a spokesman for Ms Pidgeon.

“But it now turns out that this pledge made by Boris Johnson will not be met and it might be another year before every pedestrian crossing finally meets this basic safety standard.”

Ms Pidgeon said: “The Mayor, who is chair of Transport for London, should have ensured many years ago that national safety standards for pedestrian crossings were met for every pedestrian crossing that TfL is responsible for.

“It is quite frankly shameful that there are any pedestrian crossings in London which still don’t have basic safety features for blind and partially sighted people 21 years after the national guidance was first published.”

In response to questioning by Ms Pidgeon, Mr Johnson said: “The 11 remaining locations listed are due to be upgraded as part of capital improvement schemes.

“At this point it is not possible to specify the exact date at each location as the scheduling of works are dependent upon each borough’s programme. However, these sites are scheduled to be compliant by the end of March 2017.”

Among the pedestrian crossings singled out for concern are these in Westminster: New Bond Street, Conduit Street, Bruton Street, Davies Street and Brook Street.
Building network of community groups

BEFORE I talk about the insightful discussions we have been having with member organisations, I wanted to take the opportunity to pay our respects to Anthony Perry who sadly passed away recently.

For those who don’t know him, Anthony was the first chief executive of Westway Trust (then known as the North Kensington Amenity Trust). He did so much for the Westway community. He promoted carnival by giving space and funding support to the Carnival Pioneers, developed Acklam Hall and oversaw the development of the sports centre. His legacy in this part of London is truly heartfelt and his spirit will undoubtedly live on for many years here.

The Trust is 45 years old this year and we will celebrate this milestone later in the year. We plan to honour Anthony’s memory at this time.

Anthony was probably most well-known for his deep relationships with local people and groups. He recognised the importance of understanding community needs when developing proposals for the land. We want to build on his approach and develop stronger relationships with people locally. To that end, over the past few weeks I have been meeting with small groups of Westway Trust’s member organisations for informal discussions about our plans for the future and to get their ideas on how new spaces we’re creating under the Westway might be used.

Our member organisations, made up of charities, residents’ associations and other community groups, are a key part of how Westway Trust is governed and how we ensure strong links to the community. Three of the twelve places on our board are reserved for trustees elected by our member organisations and they have a voting role at our annual general meeting. I’ve also been reminded by these meetings that our member organisations are a vibrant and varied group that represent a huge cross-section of people. From faith groups to mental health charities and arts organisations to older people’s groups they bring us into contact with many different perspectives. I’d met most of these organisations already but it has been energising to be able to talk to them at such length and to share ideas and ambitions.

There was an almost universal agreement with the principles of our strategy for the future, built on four pillars of enterprise and economic vitality; health and wellbeing; arts, heritage and culture; and environmental improvements. It was wonderful to hear one organisation in particular relating their story of how they are working with us in all four areas. It was also clear that as part of our ongoing engagement with the community we need to work harder to share this vision with more of the community more often and I’ve asked my team to look at ways that we can do that in the coming months and years, including using some of the great ideas we’ve been given in recent months.

We also discussed our progress in revising ideas for the part of the Westway estate which sits either side of Portobello Road. Again, there was agreement that the status quo was not an option and about the motivations for the proposals – to support a thriving market and vibrant independent retailers, to create more space for arts, culture and community activity, to open up and improve the public and green spaces and to improve the sustainability of the estate. It was great to start getting some ideas for how we might use the new spaces with suggestions made for an outdoor performance space; multi-cultural, multi-purpose arts buildings; a volunteer force involved in greening projects at Portobello Green; affordable exhibition space; and arts exchanges with other areas.

We will add these to the many other ideas we receive as we ask similar questions to those who live close to the Westway in the weeks ahead. But it’s clear that local needs are varied and flexibility is key, not just to adapt for current uses but also to changes in the future.

It’s been clear that far from just an opportunity to inform the work of Westway Trust that our member organisations have valued a chance to meet and talk with other community groups in the area. I think the Trust can play a facilitatory role as a network for local community work and we’ll be building on that idea to create more ways for groups to meet and share ideas in the future.

Our membership already includes more than fifty local organisations but that is only a fraction of those around the Westway. We want to build a great coalition of community-focused local organisations so I urge any local leaders reading this to become a Westway Trust member and help us to plan for the future.

LOVERS of the London pub trade’s heritage can join historian and author of scholarly works on the history of pubs, Mr Brandwood for a tour of three varied public houses on Monday, March 14, starting at 6.30pm.

This informative ‘pub crawl’ turns the spotlight on pubs with interesting historic interiors, starting at the Lamb in Bloomsbury, sited in a Georgian building and refitted by the Victorians. The party will then walk through the area’s fine early Georgian streets to a 1930s rebuilt pub, the Duke in Rogers Street. You will end at one of the great pubs of the 1920s, the Cittie of Yorke in High Holborn, where the idea of a great bar room hall was recreated by the wine merchants, Henekyes.

The walk will aim to explain something of the development of the London pub and how it has changed.

Mr Brandwood is an architectural historian with a special interest in historic pubs on which he has published extensively with the support of English Heritage and the Campaign for Real Ale.

How will you be remembered?

March is your chance to leave a lasting legacy by including a gift in your Will to one or more of the charities sponsoring Free Wills Month.

Free Wills Month enables people aged 55 and over to make or update their Will for free. This offers you peace of mind as you provide for loved ones.

It also provides an opportunity to do something truly memorable by contributing to the work of one or more great causes.

Appointments are limited, so don’t delay.

ARIF JAKORS SOLICITORS
Khizar Arif - 020 8528 1132
10th Floor, 88 Wood Street
London EC2V 7RS

FAROQ BAJWA & CO
Patrick Lally - 020 3174 0332
45 Charles Street
London W1J 5EH

FRANK BRAZELL AND PARTNERS LTD
Simon Levy - 020 7485 8626
Busworks United House, North Road
London N7 9DP

TULIPS SOLICITORS
Kivanc Yuvanc - 020 7263 3311
754 Holloway Road
London N19 3FJ

The campaign pays for simple Wills. If your Will is complex, you can pay the solicitor for extra advice. There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.
Boris orders more buses at the double

BY LWN REPORTER

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson was in Northern Ireland this week confirming the order of Wrightbus for another 195 of the iconic New Routemaster buses.

Mr Johnson’s spokesman said: “Billions of pounds are invested by Transport for London on products and services from businesses outside the capital every year – and the deal with Wrightbus will safeguard 300 manufacturing jobs, as well as support a supply chain of companies across the United Kingdom.”

The mayor shook hands on the latest order during a visit to the Wrightbus chassis plant that was created as a direct result of orders for the distinctive London buses. He toured the factory floor and met the team building the iconic red people carriers.

The mayor’s team said: “Transport for London has a productive relationship with businesses in Northern Ireland and in 2015 they spent £93 million with suppliers based there.”

Mr Johnson said: “I am absolutely delighted to be able to confirm a further order for these superb buses. They are a masterpiece of British engineering and design, and they prove that we are capable of building a bus in the UK with cutting edge technology that simultaneously delivers jobs and growth around the country.”

The production of 1,000 New Routemaster buses in Northern Ireland by the family-owned Wrightbus Group – which employs 2,000 local people – has sustained 300 jobs, created 100 brand new jobs and supported 120 apprenticeships. This week’s order was made at a reduced rate of £319,000 per bus, which is comparable to the cost of a standard hybrid bus.

London prepares to celebrate orchestra anniversary

THE Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is celebrating its 70th birthday this year with a host of special events which will culminate in a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall in September.

For its platinum year the orchestra, which has been at the forefront of music making both within the UK and on the international, national and international scene, will visit both the US and Europe as part of the commemorations programme of events in celebration of the momentous anniversary.

The Royal Philharmonic has, over the past decade extended its reach to fourteen UK residencies; performing more concerts and to a wider breadth of audiences than any other orchestra in the country.

Managing director Ian Mackay says: “The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is renowned the world over for its versatility and ability to adapt to changing styles of music making and presentation.

Following a 16-concert tour of the US, Vasily Petrenko will debut with the orchestra to conduct Mahler’s magnificent Symphony No. 2, Resurrection, at the Royal Albert Hall on March 22.

Other significant events include a tour of Spain and the second Pinchas Zukerman Festival, to be held at the orchestra’s home, London’s Cadogan Hall. NASA will then play a part as the RPO performs The Planets – An HD Odyssey across the UK at seven venues, including the Royal Albert Hall.

This exciting multi-media event features the latest astounding high-definition images beamed back by Voyager and the Mars Rover.

In the week of the orchestra’s founding date, on September 19, the RPO will host its 70th anniversary gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall, featuring prestigious artists Martha Argerich, Charles Dutoit and Pinchas Zukerman.

This promises to be a thrilling event in a venue which has played an integral role in the orchestra’s success.

Mr Mackay says: “The RPO enters its eighth decade at the very forefront of the UK’s orchestral scene confident that it has the skill, resource and determination to meet the challenges ahead.”

Expert view on how we build homes

DEVELOPMENT expert Nicholas Boys Smith, the founding director of Create Streets, is to set out the group’s research into links between built form and popularity, wellbeing, density and value – as well as making the case for a more predictable, more popular development model.

Mr Boys Smith has lectured on Create Streets’ findings at various universities and presented them in a wide range of speeches and media. He is a commissioner at Historic England, a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Buckingham. An occasional columnist on Building magazine, he has been described by the Architectural Journal as a leading figure on issues to do with the built environment.

Create Streets is a social enterprise that encourages the creation of more homes in conventional, terraced streets rather than complex multi-storey buildings as well as more constructive, public influence on the planning and design of property systems. They do this through research, arguing for policy change, and consulting to councils, developers, communities and landowners.

According to Mr Boys Smith, former Chair of the National Trust, “Create Streets speaks London’s language.”

Create Streets’ core argument is that more conventional development would be more popular, thus reducing resistance to new development, and possibly better correlated with good wellbeing outcomes; can easily provide the density required to solve the housing crisis; and is actually a better long-term investment.

Mr Boys Smith’s talk takes place at The Gallery, 72 Convent Street, Farringdon, on May, starting at 6.30pm. Visit www.londonsociety.org.uk for more details.

Cheers! Pilot pub re-opens

THE Pilot pub in Chiswick has re-opened following an extensive refurbishment.

Owners Fuller’s, whose brewery is nearby, said that “under the watchful eyes of manager James, this is a leading refurbishment of the hostile in Wellesley Road that sees the pub retain its traditional pub feel with a few modern touches, creating a light and airy space”.

Fuller’s said: “The new menu will continue to boast fresh, home-made food, including delicious seasonal dishes, with ingredients from local suppliers. The bar is stocked with an exciting array of beers, including Fuller’s new real ale, Montana Red, alongside Frontier craft lager and London Pride.

“The vast array of spirits boasts over 15 varieties of gin, including unique infusions in conjunction with fellow Chiswick resident Sipsmith. This, together, with an extensive wine list and soft drinks, means there is a beverage for everyone.”

Adam Sykes, operations manager, said: “The Pilot is a great pub and this refurbishment has breathed new life into this beautiful period building. We’re looking forward to welcoming customers to the new look pub over the coming weeks.”

London Weekly News Tuesday, March 8th 2016 editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON WIDE
Kimberley’s race mission

A WOMAN from Maida Vale will tackle the London Marathon to raise funds to support the work of Diabetes UK – and in solidarity with her partner who has diabetes.

The London Marathon, on April 24, will see dozens of Team Diabetes UK runners take to the streets to run the 26.2-mile course.

Kimberley Salt, aged 30, is taking on the race because her partner Igor has type one diabetes and she witnesses his daily battle with the condition. She says she wants to raise funds for Diabetes UK because of of the monthly requirements of the contest and how she was educated in managing his diabetes and was able to meet other children with the same condition. He left the camp less scared that his diabetes wouldn’t stand in his way.

“It is so important that those sorts of resources are kept available. Providing education to children for conditions such as diabetes enables them to find the courage and belief that it won’t rule their lives. I am fit and healthy and I am very lucky that I have no ailments. I dream of a world where my partner and others like him can enjoy the world diabetes-free.”

Claire Lubbock, Diabetes UK fundraising manager, said: “The London Marathon is an amazing event to be a part of. The months of training and dedication from Kimberley will be turned in April into a one-of-a-kind way to see London at its best. Together with the rest of Team Diabetes UK they will raise vital funds to help people living with diabetes.

“Every penny raised will help us to support the 3.5 million people diagnosed with diabetes in the UK so please give generously to back Kimberley and support her amazing effort.”

If you have a place in the London Marathon but haven’t selected a charity yet, email events.fundraising@diabetes.org.uk

To find out more about signing up to future fundraising events for Diabetes UK, visit www.diabetes.org.uk/London-Marathon or call the events fundraising team on 0345 123 2399. To sponsor Kimberley visit www.justgiving.com/KIMBERLEY-SALT

Turkish takeaway takes the top prize

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON’S Ambience, a homely and family run restaurant serving Turkish-style kebabs in trendy Wimbledon, has bagged top spot – and a national TV campaign – in a contest to find the ten best takeaway restaurants in Britain.

The awards, run by online food ordering platform hungryhouse.co.uk, singled out Ambience, run by Tanser Ozdemir, for the top prize.

Ambience managed to beat off stiff competition, thanks to their consistent five-star ratings, rave reviews and the site’s highest return rate over the last 12 months. Mr Ozdemir said:

“We’ve worked hard to meet the requirements of the contest and we’re ecstatic to be named the UK’s number one for 2016. To win this level of exposure for our restaurant is something we can only dream of and we can’t wait to welcome more people down.”

The success of Ambience is thanks to recipes handed down throughout the years by the close-knit family, who have a passion for sharing the food they know and love with others. Their enthusiasm has encouraged many residents of south-west London to bring the taste of Turkish into their living rooms.

Food has always played a large part in owner Mr Ozdemir’s life. He said: “I was always the favourite friend at school, with all my friends wanting to come round and have mum’s food. We had food falling off the table and it would be recipes they weren’t used to – they could never get enough.”

Leeds haunt Thai Sabai took second place, boasting recipes brought over directly from Southeast Asia by head chef Jury, while Cafe Zecchino in Glasgow landed third place.

To conclude the winners hungryhouse listened to the public and what they have been enjoying over the last twelve months, as we decided to crown the winning restaurants through a panel of judges.

Other London takeaways to feature in the top ten were Good Earth, Chinese (Chelsea); Pezzata’s Italian (Chalk Farm) and Saki, Sushi (Queens Park, London).
A SEA of red remembrance will meet The Queen when she attends this year’s Chelsea Flower Show as it marks Her Majesty’s 90th birthday with one of the most spectacular exhibits in its history, writes Geoff Baker.

The centrepiece of the show at the Royal Chelsea Hospital will be a magnificent display of tens of thousands of red poppies, knitted and crocheted by a grassroots community movement started by two Australian women in memory of their fathers who fought in the Second World War.

Initially, Margaret Knight and Lynn Berry wanted to crochet 120 poppies to lay at a war memorial in Melbourne to mark the centenary of Anzac Day in 2015. But the idea captured the hearts and enthusiasm of the public and working with award-winning landscape designer Philip Johnson, a tremendous display of more than 300,000 poppies was laid down in Federation Square.

Now there are even more poppies and they will now be installed by Johnson’s team on the walkway to the flower show as Chelsea pulls the stops out to make The Queen’s 52nd visit to the show the most dazzling of her lifetime, with the creation of a huge floral arch at the Bullring entrance, an exhibition of photographs of Her Majesty’s many visits and numerous other exhibits with the royal birthday theme.

But the star of the show is expected to be the woollen poppies, which follow the installations of the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red ceramic poppies which moved the nation and the world when they were created for the display at the Tower of London in 2014.

“We are working at a feverish pace to make sure the installation is perfect for its unveiling to the world in May. I feel incredibly privileged to be doing this,” said Lynn Berry. “There are so many elements to the project. There is of course the poppy, or many thousands of poppies, supplied by a remarkable community aged from two to 102 from many different cultures, interest groups, community groups, schools, libraries, retirement villages and so on.

“We could have stopped after Anzac Day. We achieved what we set out to do and it was magnificent. But we didn’t. And so we have been working to create another work of art to be unveiled to the world at the Chelsea Flower Show. It’s another mammoth feat of superhuman endeavour. It sounds kind of epic and in many ways it is epic, representing thousands upon thousands upon thousands of woman and man hours. Teams of people working harder than ever to create another masterpiece to honour our heroes, our loved ones, our families, our friends.

“This tiny personal project started out to pay tribute to my gorgeous dad Wal Beasley and Marg’s wonderful dad Stan Knight, who were our personal heroes. But that is just one story of a project that is rich in stories. Every single contributor has done so for their own reasons, personal and private and or shared with the community at large. The dedications are a testament to that. Everyone has a story behind their poppies. I love that.”

“The field of poppies will be breathtaking,” said a spokesman for the Chelsea Flower Show.

“Philip Johnson’s beautiful exhibit will use 300,000 individually-crocheted poppies that will cover more than 2,000 square metres of the grounds of the Royal Hospital. The Chelsea tribute will honour all of the Commonwealth servicemen and women who have fought across all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations over the last 100 years. This is the first time that the RHS Chelsea Flower Show has connected into the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in such a dramatic way.”

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COURAGEOUS PRINCE TO DO BATTLE WITH STINKING WILLY

FARMERS’ hero Prince Charles has again won thanks from landworkers for leading a new campaign against the threat of stinking willy, or ragwort as it is more politely known.

The Prince has prompted the Government’s adviser for the natural environment in England to mobilise against the invasion of the common yellow wild flower which also goes under the aliases of cankerwort, beneweed and staggerwort.

Following a series of letters from Prince Charles asking Natural England what plans it had to stem the alarming spread of the reeking weed, which is poisonous to many animals, the nature and landscape protectorate is to launch a drive to publicise “better management of the highways and embankments” and get ragwort ripped up.

Although the weed provides a home and food source for at least 77 species of insects, it is a big worry to farmers as it will easily kill a cow or fell a horse. Fearing that there was insufficient awareness of the plant’s poisonous dangers to cattle and other livestock, the Prince has been lobbying Natural England to face the threat and now the quango is to change its staff training programme so that the menace of the ponging flower is tackled, winning Charles the praise and gratitude of the Tenant Farmers’ Association and the Country Land and Business Association, gladdened that they have a champion who will take on the bureaucrats.
EVERY two hours of every day one man in the UK will take his own life. That is the shocking statistic of men’s mental health.

William to shine some light into dark world of men’s mental health

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADNESS is an epidemic that shamefully sums up the misery for many of the men living in Britain today.

Some will be bankers, others students, others young men in prison and others firemen and police officers. Some others are ex-soldiers, some are farmers, some homeless, some medics. All of them have just had enough of too much; depression, poverty, stress and of the constantly-forlorn hope that things will get better.

Suicide is now the biggest killer of young men aged between 20 and 45, according to sad figures compiled by the Campaign Against Living Miserably (Calm). In 2014, there were 4,623 male suicides in Britain; 88 a week, 12 a day.

The problem is everywhere; last year the British Medical Association expressed its shock that one in seven medical students has considered suicide during the course of their studies.

In the same year the Police Federation and the Fire Brigades Union announced their deep concern that suicides among officers and firefighters are on the increase as the mental health of emergency services workers worsens.

Last year too, more than 30 suicide prevention charities warned the Government that not enough is being done to tackle the growing problem of young men taking their own life.

Jane Powell, chief executive of Calm, said there was “no effort to get a handle on the scale of the issue, no support for the suicidal”.

She added: “The figures stay the same because nationally we don’t do anything about it. We don’t look at the position of men in society – we might know that more men take their lives, but this isn’t taken into consideration.

“We don’t look at suicide prevention messages with men in mind, and certainly not with any level of sophistication. Putting a man holding his head on a sheet isn’t going to work.”

But what might help to work is the offer of a hand from Prince William – and his wife and his brother – to give the problem the greater awareness it needs.

The Duke of Cambridge is reported to be set to front a campaign on mental health issues that affect young men, which is said to be readying for a launch in the spring.

This could be key to getting the Government to pull its finger out about addressing a great national concern. For although the young prince is no more a mental health expert on mental illness than any other Tom, Dick or his brother Harry, what he and the other young royals bring to the table is the ability to generate massive national and international publicity.

Like his revered mother before him, William has the clout and the public status to bring the spotlight with him, when he talks, people listen, just as they did when Princess Diana changed public opinion with her subtle but caring campaigns on the issues of HIV/AIDS and land mines, and just as they have to the admirable good intentions that lie behind the forscially-inactive role of other rich people, the loss of their crucial role as spokesman for the needy is incalculable.

Who would pay as much attention if it was the Leader of the Opposition making a stand, as William and Kate did for much of last year, on child mental health problems? How many action-promoting headlines would be generated if Republic’s CEO and mouthpiece Graham Smith made a stand on young men’s suicide?

The answer to that is very few and important attention would be lost as the majority asked, “Graham who?”

ROYAL ROLES: The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry are joining Prince William in bringing publicity to the nation’s need for greater awareness of mental health issues

The Princess Royal, as President, Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, will attend the Exhibition Out There: Our Post-War Public Art at Somerset House.

March 9
The Princess Royal, as Renter Warden, the Fishmongers’ Company, will attend a Court Dinner at Fishmongers’ Hall, London Bridge.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend a Lecture entitled Kings In Exile: The Residences of French Royal and Imperial Exiles in Britain, 1875 to 1920, at Stationers Hall, Ave Maria Lane EC4.

March 10
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Freeman and Liveryman, the Fishmongers’ Company, will attend a Court Lunch at Fishmongers’ Hall, London Bridge.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, the Butler Trust, will hold the Annual Awards Ceremony at St James’s Palace.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, the R E Public Brigade to have done with the royals, for the first family to be turfed out of Kensington Palace and be reduced to the leisurely but so
Could sexy Sabrina put The Archers back on target?

B BC chiefs fear that the recent “Albert Squaring” of The Archers has turned off too many listeners sick of hearing about the grotesque wife-bullying plot looking for a new character to join the show and lighten the gloom at Ambridge.

Cue Sabrina Thwaite, as depicted by the BBC as “the super-fit yummy mummy”, has been the saucy talk of the village for years – but only the saucy talk as the soap’s bosses have never let her be heard by the saga’s six million fans.

But now we hear that the silent character is to be cast and heard at last, in order to provide a seductive distraction from the disastrous Rob and Helen Titchener storyline, which has become so dark and sinister that many stalwart listeners have switched off.

Although the mental abuse of Helen by the psychopathic Rob has generated news headlines for The Archers and has justified the aim of controversial editor Sean O’Connor for the soap to have a social function – i.e. warn the public of domestic violence and abuse. Refuge stands to deservedly benefit even more in September, when the cash-in BBC will be releasing The Story Of Rob and Helen CD and audio book, from which it is hoped that some – if not all – profits will be donated to the crucially-important charity. But the country soap was not meant to be Panorama and there is now much concern that The Archers has gone too far with its campaigning, however admirable and necessary it is. However, now that O’Connor has slapped back to EastEnders to be as gritty and society-bettering as he likes, insiders say there are frantic plans behind the scenes to make The Archers “tighten up and stop soap-boxing”. The moles at The Bull say one favoured plan is to majorly expand the character of Sabrina, the wife of rich but tedious accountant Richard, who is thought to have all the attributes to become the new “coy” of Ambridge: sexy, provocative and, one potential story idea suggests, entirely capable of a carry-on with one, or even two, of the younger male characters and more besides. Although Sabrina has never been heard, a Twitter account under her name – and a highly non-farmer photograph – has been running for years and is believed to be the work of The Archers production team, who has had her regularly posting about that she may enjoy “a bit of rough” with her long-time admirer Eddie Grundy.

Eddie to cheat on Clarice with Ambridge’s scarlet woman? That would boost the ratings.

I T’S been a long coming of age for indie pop heartthrobs the Mystery Jets – but it seems their musical maturation is finally complete.

West London’s Eel Pie Island may have been the scene of the band’s opener just over 13 years, five studio albums and a cycle of line-up reshuffles, the Jets have upped sticks and gone independent.

Or so they would have us believe on their latest offering, Curve of the Earth, which features some of their most melodramatic work to date.

Singer Blaine Harrison, who turned 30 during the writing of the album, says its astrological themes aligned with his own thoughts on growing up.

“When we released our first two albums we were running around London like a pack of wolves, going out with the wrong women and experiencing everything the city had to offer,” he says. “We still love it – but we have a sense of perspective now.”

“There are friends of mine who might be 10 years into doing this and feeling far more honourable and worthwhile than playing in a band and they’re starting to think about kids.”

“So on this album I’m asking where I fit into all of that, along with the feeling at the back of our mind about whether we can sustain it forever – do we have to get proper jobs?”

Arriving on the crest of a wave in the early 2000s alongside a glut of British guitar bands making rock music to dance to (Franz Ferdinand, The Futureheads, Razorlight), the Jets channelled seductive teen indie with a fashionable edge of 80s glam pop.

It was a winning combination that led to them being nominated for a Brit, winning Tour of the Year at the NME Awards, and landing a headlining slot at Reading and Leeds.

But on Curve of the Earth, after a four-year break, Harrison and co are at their most musically ambitious.

Some of the tracks, the singer reveals, were penned while looking out across the sea from a beach hut on the south coast. Although the songwriting escapade was almost stricken by disaster.

“I was there one time with my dad, going through some songs,” he recalls. “We were sitting watching the sea and very quickly noticed the waves were getting bigger and bigger.

“Then the phone started ringing and it was relatives telling me to get out of there because there were flash floods coming – the worst seen in that part of England for 60 years, it turns out – and we just had enough time to pick up the guitar and rush to the nearest B&B.

“It all started as pretty airy-fairy notions about the moon and ageing, and then ended up being shaped by the very real event of almost being washed away by the sea.”

The band’s first UK gigs since the album tour included an electric performance at the Brixton Academy last month – a homecoming of sorts – and the band are back in London to headline the Goose Island 312 Day beer festival at Hoxton Docks on Saturday, March 12.

MUSICALY AMBITIOUS: The Mystery Jets. Below left: their latest album, Curve of the Earth.

Lee's Comedy Vehicle on the road again but will his audience last the ride?

LOVED and loathed in equal measure, few comedians can claim to divide opinion quite so sharply as Stewart Lee. His stand-up – delivered in the thirty-year-old guise of an embittered and Chris Moyles – as well as ‘popular’ comics Michael McIntyre and the Observer columns, he has

THE new series of Made In Chelsea returns to the screen this month, with TV bosses promising “there is no doubt that series 11 will be different”. What? There’s not going to be anyone actually ordinary in it, is there?

Sadly, it would seem not. The show’s producers at Monkey TV have somehow resisted the temptation to sign up anyone from a Big Mac counter and instead has added newcomers Jessica Molly Dixon and Olivia Bentley to its line-up of the privileged.

“Nineteen-year-old Jessica is a strong-willed lingerie entrepreneur,” says E4, exciting curiosity about what constitutes strong-willed lingerie.

“Having just moved in with Tiffany Watson, she is also friends of mine who might be 10 years into doing this and feeling far more honourable and worthwhile than playing in a band and they’re starting to think about kids. But that hasn’t stopped the London residents by announcing that the V&A’s forthcoming exhibition of Records & Rebels of The Sixties would involve an experience that will “replicate the effects of LSD”.

But before the excellent museum’s many friends cancel bookings for the September event from fear that they may freak out and “get the horrors”, we are assured that there is no danger of anyone being made to see lizards on the walls at the You Say You Want A Revolution show.

Although light shows, videos and high-tech head sets will work together to give visitors the “immersive experience” of being at a Sixties “happening”, a V&A spokeswoman said “it will not feel like you have just dropped a tab of acid”. In fact, anything could happen; will we even have one couple by the end?”

The nation waits agog.

HOSE chaps at The Times really ought to try taking more tobacco with it. The Thunderer recently shocked Kensington residents by announcing that the V&A’s forthcoming exhibition of Records & Rebels of The Sixties would involve an experience that will “replicate the effects of LSD”.

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However, the show will gloriously feature the music and artefacts of many who did. Among the things to be on display will be Jimi Hendrix’s guitar, Mick Jagger’s stage costumes and George Harrison’s uniform donned for The Beatles’ Sgt Pepper album. The music for the show will be taken from John Peel’s personal record collection, thus making it the best soundtrack in town.
HAMEFULLY, my trip to the New Wimbledon Theatre marked my first ever visit to The Rocky Horror Show, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The film version frightened me when I was a child and so I've shunned the classic musical ever since. But if the current touring production is anything to go by however, I've spent the last 30 years missing out on the most joyful theatrical experience – and so will endeavour to see the madcap musical many more times in the future.

Written by Richard O'Brien, the show started its life at the Royal Court in 1973 and is couched as a tribute to the early science fiction and horror B movies. The ground-breaking comedy style of the piece has since paved the way for the likes of The Book of Mormon and Avenue Q, which possibly wouldn't exist had it not been for The Rocky Horror Show.

The story follows an innocent couple called Brad and Janet who, after getting caught in a storm, find themselves at the home of a transvestite inventor whose latest creation is about to be born.

The Frankenstein-like architect, Frank N Furter, is played by Liam Tamne who is a revelation as the libidinous rogue, giving the virginal couple their first taste of the forbidden fruits. hugely funny, ravishingly racy and with a glorious voice, Tamne commands the stage and, quite rightly, completely steals the show.

On stage, Tamne's nubile subjects, Brad (Ben Freeman) and Janet (Diana Vickers), are absolutely adorable as the cutey be-trothed pair. Vickers plays the virtuous Janet perfectly, with sumptuous vocal clarity and a delightful wide-eyed innocence, with Freeman's nerdy Brad, physically and facially totally on point.

The eponymous creation, Rocky (Dominic Anderson) is mesmerising as the manmade man with shimmering pectorals, glistening glutes and a favourably fluid delivery, while Kristian Lavercombe and Kay Murphy are deliciously dashingly as Riff Raff and Magenta.

With a fantastic supporting cast, impressive design and simply wonderful music, the opening night at The New Wimbledon had a party atmosphere and was greeted with a well deserved standing ovation by the rapturous audience.

The show, that is immensely pleasing both on the eye and the ear, is filled with fantastic performances from all the characters involved.

Yes, I could quite happily do The Time Warp again and again.
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My life with a comedy legend

T he recent Academy Awards saw Leonardo DiCaprio finally scoop the prize in the Best Actor category after his sixth attempt, but he’s in good company, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Many esteemed performers before him have also taken knock-backs before eventually winning the coveted accolade. One such legend is about to be immortalised by a new West End play which will see his son take to the stage in an affectionate and intimate portrayal of his life with an icon. The show is entitled A Twist of Lemmon and charts the relationship between the eventual Oscar-winning actor Jack Lemmon and his family, in particular his son Chris — who I spoke to at his New England home a few weeks ago.

The play is based on a book of memoirs which Chris had published in 2006. The success of the book, which has a foreword by Kevin Spacey, who credits Lemmon as the inspiration for his acting career, spawned a book tour which then led to the stage adaptation. Lemmon junior tells Jack’s story in his father’s voice and chronicles his life from birth until his death in 2001 at the age of 76.

Chris tells me: “The show is obviously enormously special to me, you know, it’s a whole kind of a life statement and something that I’ve spent years and years developing and working and trying to get just right. Now I think we’re pretty close. I think we’re there and so I’m taking a huge plunge and I’m bringing it to what I consider to be the most discerning theatrical audience there in London and with my fingers crossed in the hope that you all like it.”

Chris is a decorated performer in his own right, having trained classically as a musician—and has appeared in more than 25 feature films. His acting career never reached the dizzy heights of his father’s however, whose filmography reads like a top ten of the 1950s and 60s. Jack Lemmon was part of the golden age of film and counted Marilyn Monroe and Walter Matthau as contemporaries. Chris remembers glamorous showbiz parties at his father’s house in Hollywood where the likes of James Cagney, Gregory Peck, Shirley MacLaine and Walter Matthau would while away the evenings.

The show was first toured in the US as part of the preparation process and Chris has made some notable improvements in the narrative structure of the play itself, so it’s turned out to be a win win situation.

The writer was obviously very close to his father but there is no doubt Jack Lemmon put his career first and family second. Their relationship is the focal point for this extremely moving story but Chris is also keen to examine the humorous aspect, for which Jack Lemmon is perhaps most well known.

“He was awfully funny wasn’t he? I think even more so off screen than on, so it’s very funny. The whole point of it is, make them laugh, make them cry all at the same time. Pop really believed, what was his famous line? ‘Drama’s hard, comedy’s harder and being funny in a drama is the hardest thing of all.’

“That’s what I attempt to do and I’ve been told by reviewers and audience members alike that I’m succeeding. (laughs). He was a human leprechaun and it was my duty to reflect that. He was just so much fun and being around him, he was just infectious.”

A Twist of Lemmon runs at the St James Studio from June 1. For more details visit the website stjamestheatre.co.uk
It’s my kind of musical

It’s my kind of musical to search for more excitement in a town where jazz and liquor are the standard currency.

The former soap actress brings some lovely cheek and vigour to the role alongside Sophie Carmen-Jones, who plays her nemesis, another merry murderer, Velma Kelly. Carmen-Jones gives an added vulnerability to the cunning convict and shines with her gutsy, I Can’t Do It Alone.

Charged with getting the pair released from the clink, Partridge as the sleazy lawyer Billy Flynn gives a good account and former real life prison warden Bailey is masterful as the crooked custodian.

As is expected from the Chicago brand, the choreography and music are really top notch, with songs like All That Jazz and All I Care About lifting the audience into an excited frenzy and giving the musical that patented, humorous, tongue-in-cheek look into life as a prison inmate in the 1920s, which fans of the show all know and love so well.

A D Richardson is a marvel as Mary Sunshine and sings like an angel – and other than a few stum bled lyrics in the performance I watched, Neil Ditt charms as the hapless mechanic Amos.

There were a few technical issues and nervous performances when I watched Chicago on its opening night in Wimbledon, but with a such a strong cast and solid basis, I’m sure the minor hitches will have been ironed out for the remainder of the tour.

Hugh Grant has received the BFI Fellowship, the highest honour the institute can bestow for his outstanding contribution to film. The actor and producer, who is best known for global smash hit Four Weddings and a Funeral was presented with the award at the glittering annual BFI Chairman’s Dinner, which took place at the Corinthia Hotel.

Known around the world for his Englishness and charm, Grant continues the great British comedy traditions of studios like Ealing, perfecting a screen acting style which seems effortless but requires incredible skill and artistry. He said: “This is such a lovely surprise and a great honour and I’m very grateful to the BFI for thinking of me.”

The award was presented to the star by film producer and Co-Chairman of Working Title, Eric Fellner, at the BFI’s Chairman’s Dinner, hosted by BFI Chair Greg Dyke. Mr Dyke said: “We are delighted to honour Hugh Grant with a BFI Fellowship.”

Huge from the outset, I must confess to being a big fan of Chicago the musical, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I’ve seen it a number of times and even know the Hungarian verse of the Cell Block Tango, so when I found out the tour was coming to town, I hurried to the New Wimbledon Theatre with a huge amount of anticipation.

The production boasts an all star cast with X Factor winner Sam Bailey as prison warden Matron Mama Morton, Celebrity Big Brother housemate John Partridge as the suave Billy Flynn and former Coronation Street star Hayley Tamaddon, who plays the leading role as tricky murdereress Roxi Hart.

Chicago is the type of show which divides audiences. Its simple design and sleek costumes can leave some searching for something more. I feel, however, the classic musical, based on the play of the same name by Maureen Dallas Watkins, a reporter who wrote about the colourful criminals she came across as part of her journalistic career, needs no accoutrements and instead relies on the great music, potent dancing and an engaging story.

Tamaddon plays the good time girl Roxi, whose dull marriage forces her....

Chicago **** New Wimbledon Theatre

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Tamaddon plays the good time girl Roxi, whose dull marriage forces her...
Talk of the town

Stand-out shows tipped for glory at the Oliviers

Gypsy and Kinky Boots will lead the charge at this year’s Olivier awards – with the musicals gaining eight and seven nominations respectively.

The nominees were announced last week by previous winners Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton.

The glittering ceremony which will take place at The Royal Opera House on April 3 and is likely to be a star-studded affair, with many celebrity nominees and their stagey friends in attendance.

Staunton is herself among the named few and receives a nomination for her portrayal of Mamma Rose in the Chichester Festival theatre revival of Gypsy at the Savoy Theatre. It’s the acclaimed actress’s 11th Olivier nomination, with her co-stars Dan Burton and Peter Davison being nominated as Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical and Lara Pulver nominated as Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical.

The feelgood musical Kinky Boots has also gained a fist full of nods, with the show’s leading men Killian Donnelly and Matt Henry both receiving a nomination for the Best Actor in a musical category and Amy Lennox nominated as Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

The Best Actor and Best Actress categories reflect the incredible wealth of talent that has graced the West End stage in the past year. In the Best Actor category there are nominations for Kenneth Branagh, Kenneth Cranham, Benedict Cumberbatch, Adrian Lester and Mark Rylance. The nominees for Best Actress are Gemma Arterton, Denise Gough, Nicole Kidman, Janet McTeer and Lia Williams.

Dame Judi Dench earns her 15th Olivier Award nomination for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, having previously won six awards and one special award, the most of any performer. Also nominated in that category are Michele Dotrice, Melody Grove and Catherine Steadman.

Public tickets for the event – the awards’ 40th anniversary – are available for MasterCard cardholders at the website

The nominees for MasterCard Best New Musical demonstrate the diversity shown on the London stage this year – with nominees Bend It Like Beckham, In The Heights, Kinky Boots and Mrs Henderson Presents.

Shakespeare’s Globe has reason to be celebrating with the transfers of their productions of Farinelli And The King and Nell Gwynn receiving 10 nominations between them. The transfer of Farinelli And The King is nominated for Virgin Atlantic Best New Play while Nell Gwynn, which transferred to the Apollo, is nominated for Best New Comedy.

English National Opera has received four nominations in the opera categories while the Royal Opera House receives three. English National Opera’s production of The Force Of Destiny is nominated for Best New Opera Production as well as receiving recognition in the Outstanding Achievement in Opera category for Tamara Wilson and the English National Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

In the dance categories there are nominations for the Barbican, London Coliseum, Royal Opera House and Sadler’s Wells.

Voting for the Magic Radio Audience Award, the only category voted for entirely by members of the public, will close at noon on Friday, March 11. This year there are 16 eligible long-running shows and votes can be cast via

The awards ceremony will be broadcast on ITV and Mellow Magic and on the Olivier Awards’ new YouTube channel worldwide outside the UK.

GUARDIAN: Imelda Staunton in Gypsy had West End audiences enthralled

Talk of the town

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Clean-living Calgary transforms our diets

By Gemma Dunn and Kate Whiting, Press Association

WITH her trim figure, long blonde hair and blue eyes, Calgary Avansino looks the epitome of a healthy Californian. But she’s made Britain her home for the past 16 years, where, as part of the burgeoning clean-eating brigade, she’s transforming our daily diets.

New cookbook Keep It Real is packed full of wholesome advice from the mum-of-three (to Ava, Harriet and Remy), who arrived here in the winter of 2000, to discover coconut water and quinoa were unheard of, let alone available in local supermarkets.

Now, of course, they’re ubiquitous, but we’re still making bad decisions about what we put in the trolley.

“I think we’ve lost a reality check about what real food is, because we’re so used to going down the grocery store aisles and seeing 50 cereals and 20 salad dressings. It’s actually, none of that is real food,” says the journalist, who, unsurprisingly, looks much younger in her 40s than you’d expect.

“So, what you’re used to doing - you have to stop that habit. Think about food in terms of where it comes from, what it’s made from, what goes into it, and start caring about what we put in our bodies in a different way.”

Avansino, who started her career in journalism as the assistant to British Vogue’s editor-in-chief Alexandra Shulman and is now a contributing editor, has a simple set of rules for how to ‘keep it real’, which include: ditching diets, embracing plants, and eliminating sugar.

“When I talk about a plant-based diet, it doesn’t mean you have to be a vegan or veggie at all; if you want to eat lean, good cuts of meat, that’s fine. You just have to look at what else you’re eating,” she says. “I’m not saying make three-starred Michelin meals, I’m just saying chop some spinach.”

It was really important for Avansino that her book be published post-January, so it wouldn’t be part of the “diet, diet mentality”.

“This is forever. You have to change how you think about cooking and the food you put in your kitchen. It should be a great thing – not a de-rivational thing.”

So that means you can indulge in your favourite food, be that pizza or brownies, but she says: “You just can’t have all the time.”

“Especially with women, there’s this mentality where if I eat something naughty for breakfast then I think, ‘Oh well, this day is shot, I might as well eat crap all day’. But think of every meal as a fresh start. Don’t ever beat yourself up about something you did write-off move on and start with the next meal, day or whatever it is. Don’t make food the enemy.”

Exercise is also really important – a self-confessed yoga bunny, when she started at Vogue, she would arrive fresh-faced from a morning workout to find her colleagues nursing coffees and giving her odd looks. In her book, she says we must make an effort to move our bodies every day.

“I don’t find exercise a burden – it’s not exercise, it’s just something more levelled and calm and less stressed. I have really good ideas when I’m working out.”

The whole family go hiking when they’re back in California – or walk around the parks in London. She’s bringing up her children to make healthy choices, but she’s careful not to micromanage them so much that they can’t indulge at birthday parties.

“I always try to teach them moderate – just choosing what you want most and enjoy it.”

And that sounds like good advice for us all.

Try some of Calgary’s healthy and nutritious dishes for yourself...

CALEGARY’S CAULIFLOWER COUSCOUS

(Serves 4 as a main or 6-8 as a side)

1 large cauliflower (about 750g after trimming)
3tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
Grated zest of 1 lemon
Salt and pepper

Serves 4 as a main or 6-8 as a side

1/2 pomegranate, seeds removed and rinsed
1 x 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
60g pistachios, toasted and roughly chopped

Grated zest of 1 lemon
1/2 pomegranate, seeds removed (optional)
Juice of 1/2 lemon

Potatoes
C hives … … ............................… … … … … … .1 bunch
Chives
Parsley… … … … ..............................… … … … … ..1 0g

Shallots… … … ...0.1 Kg
Garlic……………………………………………………..0.1 Kg

Parsley… … … … ..............................… … … … … ..1 0g

Salt and pepper

Core and cut the cauliflower into medium florets. Blitz the florets in a food processor until they resemble couscous. Do it in two batches if the food processor is more than three-quarters full. Don’t over-blend, otherwise it will become puréed - that’s baby food, not couscous.

Add two tablespoons of olive oil and fluff with a fork, then season with salt, pepper, turmeric, cinnamon and nutmeg. Toss all together, add pomegranate and toss to combine. Enjoy with additional olive oil, salt and pepper if necessary. Pour the lime juice over the top.

WINE & DINE

By Gemma Dunn and Kate Whiting, Press Association

The food and drink page for West London

Belinda Donovan

Gilles has been the chef to the French Ambassador for 17 years and loves every minute of living in Fulham. He’s worked as chef to the French Embassy for 17 years, describes Fulham as a “fabulous village” and he and his wife and three daughters, aged 17, 14 and nearly 10, feel they’re living in the village community complete with the delights of being woken up by birdsong.

Gilles’ daughters especially enjoy walking to the local shops and saying hello to their neighbours on the way.

Gilles showed me round the superb entertaining spaces at the French Embassy, only a stone’s throw away in Notting Hill Gate, where he told me he feels he is serving his country when he produces culinary delights for the French Ambassador.

The land that the French Embassy sits on used to belong to Kensington Palace.

Gilles takes pride in using French ingredients to showcase how wonderful French produce can be, while entertaining at the embassy. He enjoys serving best quality French fruit and vegetables which are obtained from Arungis, the world’s largest market.

It’s the lemon season at the moment and a great favourite of his to cook with is the Cedra lemon. At this time of year he also likes cooking with artichokes, especially Japanese artichokes and other root vegetables.

Gilles greatly enjoys cooking with Welsh lamb. Apart from lamb, he says he is in love with French Normandy beef, which has a great flavour exquisite. We thought the lamb was so good that it is something many French people are now resident in Fulham! On his nights off, Gilles enjoys more than anything to have a quiet night in cooking up his family’s favourite dishes and who needs to go out when such a superb standard of cuisine is served up at home?

Gilles’ favourite cookery writer is Michele Bras, who has been voted worldwide by other chefs as their favourite cookery writer, too.

Cote de boeuf and bone marrow, Japanese artichokes and pan-fried girole, puff potatoes

Ingredients for four people:
1 cote de boeuf ........................................ 1.8 Kg
Bone marrow ........................................... 2
Japanese artichokes ................................ 0.5 Kg
Lemon .............................................................. 1
Giroles ............................................................ 0.3 Kg
Shallots .......................................................... 0.1 Kg
Garlic .............................................................. 1
Parsley ........................................................... 10g
Celery ............................................................ 1/2 bunch
Chives ............................................................ 1
Potatoes .......................................................... 500g
Salt from Guerande .................................... 10g
Butter ............................................................. 100g

Ask your butcher to separate the marrow from the bone. Seal the marrow for one night in water and leave in a fridge.

Vegetables: Leave the “cote de boeuf” out of the refrigerator at least 2 hours before cooking. Cut both ends off the Japanese artichokes and leave them for ½ hr in water. Clean the mushrooms and pan fry them in vegetable oil. Leave to rest and drain.

Peel and dice the shallots and the garlic. Wash and chop the parsley. Peel the celery and cut into short sticks (four to five sticks). Soak the marrow for one night in water and leave in the fridge.

Vegetables: Leave the “cote de boef” out of the refrigerator at least 2 hours before cooking. Cut both ends off the Japanese artichokes and leave them for ½ hr in water with lemon juice. Clean the mushrooms and pan fry them in vegetable oil. Leave to rest and drain.

Peel and dice the shallots and the garlic. Wash and chop the parsley. Peel the celery and cut into short sticks (four per bundle), cook in boiling salty water. Blanch the ed vegetables and the string tied celery sticks with them. Peel the potatoes, slice them into 3mm squares. Cook in a fryer at 120 degrees for 5mins and give them a second fry at a much higher temperature of 190° for 30 seconds straight away. The difference in temperature will make them puffed. Leave on the side.

Slice the bone marrow in slices of 5mm.

Cote de boeuf: Season the cote de boeuf with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pan fry the cote de boeuf on both sides in a hot pan with vegetable oil and butter; roast it for 12mins at 180°C for medium rare. Let it rest on a rack for at least 15mns.

De-glaze the frying pan with a bit of water and let it reduce until a syrupy consistency. Pan fry the Japanese artichokes with the butter, girolles, shallots, garlic and minced parsley. Season to taste. Flash cook the bone marrow slices in a hot oven, seasoned with Guerande salt. Warm up the celery bunches with a mix of butter and underline. Flash fry the potatoes in a 170° fryer for 4 mins.

Plating: On a copper tray place the mushrooms and artichokes in the middle, cover with slices of beef with bone marrow on top and the celery bunches around and puff potatoes. Serve the sauce on a side.

Enjoy with a Saint Emilion.
TOYS & GAMES

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ROYAL ALBERT sugar bowl and jug, Puce Pink, size medium £10. Tel: 020 8858 7568.

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GARDEN RAIN BUCKET round with tap, garden tub, square £3. Tel: 020 8852 8449. Flymo ELECTRIC MAINS GRASS STRIMMER unused, £30. Tel: 020 8852 8449.

FURNITURE

DOUBLE PINE BED with mattress and pine headboard, 3 months old, very good condition £100. Buyer collects. Streatham area. 700-5799.

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ROYAL ALBERT sugar bowl and jug, Puce Pink, size medium £10. Tel: 020 8858 7568.
London Weekly News 23

Tuesday, March 8th 2016
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(LOCHALINE 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 Lochaline Street between its junctions with Fulham Palace Road and No. 2 Lochaline Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2, shall be via Wilsont Road, Manse Road and Parkley Street.
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 Tuesday 29th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the shorter.
6. Works were expected to commence on Tuesday 29th March 2016 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside those dates.
Dated this 26th day of February 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Leisure

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Public Notices
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works in the above named road, it has 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 vehicle shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Haldane Road between its junctions with North End Road and No. Haldane Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Hartmere Road, Tournay Road and North End Road.

4. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the one way system working in Haldane Road would be suspended.

5. 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 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.

6. The Order would come into operation on the 12th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

7. Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 29th February 2016 and last for 8 months. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM COUNCIL FOR 2016 / 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has determined to collect within each Valuation Band as indicated in the Schedule below:

It should be noted the amounts above are before: council tax for single person occupants - council tax support

Dated: 24th February 2016
Nicholas Pallace
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

VARIOUS ROADS TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians during the 2016 Universities Boat Race on the River Thames, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would be to impose temporary restrictions on vehicular traffic as shown in Articles 4 and 5 of this notice.

2. The Order would come into operation on the 23rd March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

3. The temporary restrictions of this order do not apply in respect of:

(a) a vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes,

(b) anything done with the permission of a police constable in the execution of his or her duty,

(c) a vehicle or trailer authorised by an officer of the Council to be used in connection with the said Boat Races.

4. On the day of the 2016 Boat Race, when instructed by the Council employees and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed across, stop, wait, load or unload on Hammersmith Bridge.

5. For the duration of this order and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, there shall be no entry for vehicles.

6. The Order would come into operation on the 19th day of February 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Dated this 19th day of February 2016

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

2016/00629/FUL
Installation of a security alarm for the rear of the property; alteration of the rear facade; installation of a new window to the rear of the property; alteration to the external walls to include rendering to internal walls.

2016/00654/FUL
Installation of folding signboard stanchions to the rear loading bay and installation of protective canopies; replacement of existing windows in the rear elevation; construction of a new flat roof.

2016/00777/FUL
Demolition of the existing building with the exception of a replacement part one, part two, part three and part four plus basement single family dwelling.

2016/00782/FUL
Erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at lower ground and upper ground floor level; formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a single storey rear extension at the side of the existing building; installation of new frontage windows and french doors to the main flat roof at front elevation; alterations to the front fenestration at ground floor level.

2016/00786/FUL
Review of the proposal and amendments to the plan and plan variations. No further representations will be considered after 27th March 2016.

If you have any comments about the applications, please do so by 27th March 2016. Please note that representations should be made in writing to the Council.

The Planning Officer at the Council is Leonard Aron, Planning Officer (Hammersmith & Fulham) and can be contacted at: London Square, 26-30 Shopping Centre Ariel Way, Hammersmith, London W12 7GA.
Media Sales Executives - Field and Telephone Sales

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A proven sales background in publishing is preferred, however we are also interested to talk to people who are highly motivated and keen to learn.

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If you would like to know more, please contact Karen McLean by email at karen.mclean@slp.co.uk. 
- I look forward to hearing from you.

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Book-keeper

Capital Media Newspapers Ltd is the parent company of some of London’s oldest local newspapers, South London Press, The Mercury series and London Weekly News series based in South London and we are also Pulmans View from series in Dorset.

Due to a recent change of ownership and re-organisation, the Penge office is looking for a Book-keeper.

The successful candidate will be an all-round accounting person who can deal with the Purchase Ledger, the Credit Control and Sales Ledger as well as other sundry accounting functions.

Along with the relevant qualifications to do this job, the successful applicant will have an excellent work ethic, able to work to deadlines, prioritise work load during busy times and roll up sleeves to help during quiet periods.

Contact Karen Sheppard
Tel: 020 8768 4903
Email: karen@slp.co.uk

Learning Support Assistants

City Heights E-ACT Academy is a newly-established 11-18 secondary academy in Tulse Hill. It is part of the E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust and also has strong ties to the Lambeth education family.

We are looking to increase our team of Learning Support Assistants for September 2016.

We welcome applications from both experienced LSAs as well as those with Autism experience to work with our ASD students.

There will be a Recruitment Fair on Saturday 12th March from 10.30am-12.30pm when you will have the opportunity to look around the academy and meet the Principal and Assistant Principal (inclusion).

If you would like to apply please visit our website at www.cityheightse-actacademy.org or for further information please email Ollie at work@chea.org.uk

Closing date: 22nd March 2016

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Closing date: Friday, 18th March 2016.
Interview date: w/c 21st March 2016.

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Acacia Learning Ltd, based in Forest Hill, currently have a vacancy for two Sales and Marketing Co-Ordinators.

Please visit www.acacialearning.co.uk (visible on News & Events page) for more information and email your CV and a covering letter identifying how you are suitable for this role to admin@acacialearning.co.uk by 5pm Monday 14th March with the email subject ‘Sales and Marketing Co-Ordinator’.

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45 Chestnut Grove, Balsall, London SW12 8JZ
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Candidates need to be flexible to be on the rota of the school and there is nofixed commitment.

Relevant experience is required for the senior post & desirable for the other roles. A minimum GCSE grade C in English and Maths.

Further information and an application pack is available from the school’s website www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk or by contacting Shaheen Sayah on 02084797857.

Closing Date: Wednesday 16th March, 2016 at noon
INTERVIEWS: Week Commencing 27th March, 2016

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In London Weekly News

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Classified Section
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Rangers in need of derby day delight

There will be little more than bragging rights at stake when Queens Park Rangers and nearest rivals Brentford meet at Loftus Road in a mid-table Championship battle on Saturday.

Hopes by fans of both west London clubs that they would compete for a play-off place have now been extinguished. The teams are deeply entrenched in mid-table mediocrity – it’s two places and one point above the Bees before the midweek games that precede this Shepherd's Bush showdown.

For Rangers, it’s another chance to end an extraordinary almsyram record in London derbies. Before this season’s failure to win any of their last four capital clashes, Hoops had managed only 17 wins in 70 derbies with eight London clubs since the Premier League was formed in 1992. Only Crystal Palace have a worse top-flight derby record in that period.

For Brentford, this is an opportunity to complete a rare league double over their closest neighbours following their 1-0 win over Chris Ramsey’s men at Griffin Park last October – their first competitive victory against them in 50 years.

Owe fans

Having already been battered home and away by Fulham (an aggregate loss of 7-1), and gone down 2-0 at Charlton on the opening day of the season, QPR owe their long-suffering fans a good performance on Saturday.

Anything less than three points will be unacceptable against a Brentford side on a wretched run of only one win in their last six matches – the worst form of any Championship club. They lost at home to second-bottom Charlton on Saturday, having Slumped to defeat at third-from-bottom Rotherham in their previous outing.

But QPR have not managed two consecutive league wins since they saw off Leeds United and Reading before the Christmas decorations went up on December 3, and last Saturday’s 2-0 defeat at lowly Milton Keynes Dons scuppered hopes of building upon their previous weekend’s home win against Birmingham City by the same margin.

A more encouraging sign for Rangers followers is to cling to is that they have lost only two of their last 10 league games, although manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink took no crumbs of comfort from losing four times to just one place above the relegation zone. MK Dons, without a win in four games, were the better side after the break and won thanks to goals from Dean Lewington (45+) and a Ben Reeves penalty in stoppage time.

Hasselbaink said: “The first half was OK, we had control. But then the second half wasn’t. It was not – it’s not how we’ve been doing things, especially during the last few weeks. “It wasn’t how we’ve defended, and how we’ve played. It was without intensity, without ideas and without commitment. “We never came out of the blocks in the second half. We just never got started. We never did the things that we are good at. “We lost the second balls, and they played off them. We didn’t anticipate.”

The storyline could have been worse for the visitors had keeper Alex Smithies not explained MK Dons’ first penalty, taken by Josh Murphy, diving low to his left.

Hasselbaink refused to make excuses following the enforced substitution of defender Grant Hall, who suffered a foot injury.

Change things

“We don’t know yet (about the extent of Grant’s injury) but we will have a look,” he explained. “Hopefully it’s not too bad.

I had to change things – that’s just how it is. That’s not an excuse. We’ve got two initiatives in his name will be erected, but that the Foundation can invite to help fund a new statue of Cohen, who has for many days at The Cottage, where he delighted visitors with anecdotes and history and tradition of Fulham are each at the heart of the club’s work in the community. “George Cohen and Craven Cottage are each at the heart of the history and tradition of Fulham Football Club,” Khan said. “Mr Cohen continues to inspire us at Fulham, as well as everyone who loves the game of football in England. “It’s only appropriate that Mr Cohen be celebrated and honoured here at Craven Cottage by the club as well as our fans who can take part in the effort to recognise a legendary member of the Fulham family and make a difference in the good causes that Mr Cohen supports.”

Fans worldwide will also give the opportunity to contribute in a multitude of different ways, including a personal engraving on a brass plaque that will adorn the stone plinth on which the statue will stand, along with ‘money-can’t-buy experiences’ involving the Fulham team.

Bob Hopes, chairman of the supporter-led group that proposed the statue to Fulham earlier this year, said: “We’re delighted that this honour is being paid to George Cohen MBE, a true gentleman who has given so much to the supporters of Fulham, England and the world of football. Our committee are fully committed and would like to invite all supporters to join us in funding this exciting project.”

Fulham already have a statue of former Fulham and England inside-forward Johnny Hayes outside Craven Cottage, which was unveiled in 2008.

By GEORGE! Fulham legend George Cohen takes on George Best during a first division match against Manchester United at Craven Cottage in the mid-60s.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, March 12

FULHAM v Bristol City, 3.00

QPR v Brentford, 3.00

Everton v CHELSEA (FA Cup/F), 5.30

Fulham fans have been invited to help fund a new statue in honour of World Cup-winning defender George Cohen.

Kensington-born Cohen spent his whole career with Whites, making 459 appearances between 1956 and 1969.

The great George Best – who enjoyed a spell with Fulham later in his illustrious career – once described Cohen as “the best full-back I ever played against.”

His 37 full international caps earned between 1964 and 1967, included every game of the glorious 1966 World Cup tournament.

Former right-back Cohen, 76, had to wait until 2000 to be awarded the MBE in the New Year’s Honours, along with four of his Wembley team-mates from that epic final against West Germany.

Now, 50 years on from his most celebrated achievement, the man who is arguably England’s greatest-ever right-back will be immortalised in bronze at Craven Cottage when his statue is erected in October of this year.

Fulham FC has commissioned sculptor Douglas Jennings to create a statue of Cohen, who has for many years been a fantastic ambassador for the club’s work in the community.

He remains a host of his own George Cohen Lounge on match days at The Cottage, where he delights visitors with anecdotes and tales of his former playing days along with insightful analysis of the club’s most recent performances.

As part of the fundraising process, two initiatives in his name will be launched with the aim of improving men’s health through local dementia care and health preventative programmes.

The statue and the dementia and men’s health programmes managed by the club’s Foundation will require significant funding. Fulham chairman Shahid Khan has pledged to match every single pound raised to ensure that not only the statue is erected, but that the Foundation can deliver initiatives supporting George’s chosen cause.

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ITALIAN national coach Antonio Conte is all but a done deal as the new permanent Chelsea manager – he is expected to meet with owner Roman Abramovich in Monaco this week to finalise terms.

But London’s director of football Michael Emenalo is believed to be sending out Tottenham Hotspur’s coach Mauricio Pochettino as a possible replacement for Gus Hiddink should Conte opt for a new challenge elsewhere when his stint as national coach ends after the Euro 2016 championships are over. It would be a return, but, if somewhat expensive, coup for Abramovich.

Spurs’ chairman Daniel Levy would have paid substantial financial compensation for the loss of the Argentine, who has transformed the north London club into title contenders. In another bizarre twist that only the likes of Emenalo could conjure up, there is also the prospect of re-signing Romelu Lukaku from Everton.

The Belgium was signed for £8million from Anderlecht in 2011 but failed to make an impact in west London and Everton before the Toffeesmen splashed out £25m to take him to Goodison, where he has become something of a cult hero.

Now, Emenalo is making his already fragile reputation on bringing the 22-year-old striker back to SW6 for the remaining two months of the term.

It would be a significant and expensive admission of guilt by the hierarchy at Stamford Bridge but also a signal to Chelsea’s youngsters that if they don’t make the grade first time out, there is still the outside chance of a successful career in this part of west London.

CHELSEA’S FA Youth Cup semi-final, first leg has had a time change.

The cup holders’ match against Blackburn Rovers will now take place at Ewood Park on Friday, March 18 at 7.45pm, rather than the original kick-off time.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £1 for concessions.

A date for the return leg at Stamford Bridge has yet to be set.
Crunch week for Chelsea

By LWN reporter Paul Lagan
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THIS is a week like no other for Chelsea as their season hangs by a thread.

Mid-table mediocrity is the best the Premier League champions can hope for following a 1-1 draw at home to Stoke City that leaves them in 10th place, 10 points adrift of the top four.

At Stamford Bridge tomorrow (Weds) Blues must overcome a 2-1 deficit against Paris Saint-Germain to progress in the Champions League.

Then on Saturday evening they face the daunting prospect of an FA Cup quarter-final trip to Goodison Park, where they were well beaten, 3-1, by Everton in the league last September.

A 1-0 win against the much-fancied French side is all that’s needed for Blues to reach the quarter-final of Europe’s elite club competition.

But PSG’s hungry strike-force of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Edison Cavani and Angel Di Maria will surely look at Chelsea’s current weakened back four and feel they will simply be too strong for them.

It will be a daunting prospect for out-of-sorts Baba if he is handed the left-back berth. The Ghana defender was ruthlessly hauled off at half-time by Guus Hiddink in the recent win at Southampton and was dropped for winger Kenedy in the 2-1 victory at Carrow Road against relegation-haunted Norwich City last Tuesday.

Although a minor injury to Kenedy saw him recalled to the side for the draw with Stoke, he had another fraught match.

Same defence

With no sign of a return for the injured John Terry, which would allow Branislav Ivanovic to revert to right-back and Cesar Azpilicueta to take Baba’s place, it looks like the same defence that conceded a late equaliser to the Potteers will face PSG, too.

Meanwhile, PSG decided to rest half their first team for their 0-0 draw against Montpellier, a tactic that was not lost on Hiddink.

He said: “PSG played with only half their normal team at the weekend to prepare for the match against us.

“They have a very broad squad. If you see their beautiful bench with a lot of first 11 players, then they have the luxury to rest a lot of them. That might tell you something.

“One Chelsea player missing from Saturday’s Stoke match was Diego Costa. The Brazil-born Spain striker is in a rich vein of form, scoring for fun and was much missed.

Hiddink revealed he had a slight tendon problem and was not risked.

Costa was the first half behind the dugout with his colleagues, but got bored and ended up watching the second period with the Chelsea fans in The Shed.

Hiddink said of his No 1 striker: “Diego Costa had little problem on a tendon but that is why I decided not to risk worsening the situation. But I think he will be OK for Wednesday.”

Bertrand Traore was offered his first start at Stamford Bridge and despite performing poorly, managed to notch a spectacular goal with a rasping left-foot drive from 20 yards to open the scoring six minutes before the break.

Hiddink said of the 20-year-old from Burkina Faso: “In Traore you can see in parts of the game that he has the quality. He has shown that already. But it’s a little bit different when you start the game at Stamford Bridge.

“The young players also have to get control and dominate their nerves. And you could see that in the beginning.

“But he showed with the goal that he has the capacity to do a lot.”

Asked if he was ahead of Loic Remy and Pato as the man to stand in for Costa when needed, Hiddink gave a diplomatic answer: “All the strikers compete among themselves. We have some strikers now who can compete in a healthy way. If they can show what they can do in training, then it will be rewarded.”

Hiddink has conceded that a top four finish, already very unlikely before the Stoke match, is now out of reach after dropping two more points.

“I think getting into the top four now is almost impossible, especially when other teams are also knocking on that door – such as West Ham (the next league visitors to SW6 on Saturday week), with their 3-2 win at Everton. It’s very respectful that they are knocking on that door as well.

“But, as I have said before, we have to win all our remaining games. We know where we were in December – one point off the relegation zone. Amazingly, we got safe in a relatively short period of time. But also, going into the middle of the table is normally not good enough by Chelsea’s standards.

“But we can go into a beautiful March and April and I am referring to the upcoming Champions League and FA Cup matches against PSG and Everton respectively.”

It was, of course, during Hiddink’s last spell as the helm that Chelsea beat Everton to win the 2009 FA Cup final.

Of the Stoke fixture which ended a three-match winning sequence, although not his team’s run of 12 without defeat in the league, Hiddink added: ‘We are frustrated, as we conceded a late goal. You can say that we started a bit sloppy in the first half and after 15/20 minutes we got more energetic and composed. We scored a beautiful goal through Bertrand Traore.

In the second half, I think there was one key moment when we did not get the reward of a penalty for the foul on Oscar. It was a clear penalty. I’m not often saying this, but it would have been given as a freekick had it been outside the penalty area.

“But we must not say that Stoke were not pushing us. They got encouraged by that let-off. They have some creative players in their attacking part of the team. So at the end I think it was a fair result.”

More FULHAM on page 27

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

This week at

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY MCDONALD

Paying the penalty again

PENALTIES could decide Saturday’s vital match at Craven Cottage between Fulham and fellow strugglers Bristol City.

Ahead of the midweek games played after LWN went to press, the two teams were locked together at the wrong end of the table on 37 points apiece. Whites held 19th position, one point behind City, thanks to their far superior goals tally.

Intriguingly, Fulham have had more penalties awarded against them – 10 – than any other Championship team this season, while the Cherries have the next worst record (shared with QPR) of six pens conceded.

On Saturday, Ross McCormack got Fulham out of another spot of bother when he converted from 12 yards in the 52nd minute to earn Whites a 2-2 draw at Reading.

It was McCormack’s third successful penalty of the season and his 17th goal of the league campaign keeps him in touch with the second tier’s leading scorer, Burnley’s Andre Gray – whose pen to beat Blackburn Rovers sent his team to the top of the table – on 21.

McCormack’s coolly taken penalty into the bottom corner of the net, having sent Reading keeper Ali Hadji the wrong way, was only worth one point instead of three, because Fulham had gifted their latest penalty to the opposition earlier in proceedings.

In an end-to-end encounter, Moussa Dembélé put Whites in front with a volley from six yards but Hal Robson-Kanu levelled from the spot after he was needlessly fouled by Fernando Amorebieta. Robson-Kanu headed the hosts in front four minutes before half-time, before McCormack again saved the day.

Unnecessary mistakes

Unlike most pro managers who shamelessly offer embarrassing excuses for the ill-judged actions of their players, Fulham head coach Slavisa Jokanović had no complaints about the penalty awarded against his side after Amorebieta’s reckless challenge.

He said: “We opened the game very well but then made some unnecessary mistakes. We showed some character in the second half but we need to be more solid. In the last 15 minutes they pushed us.”

The Serb was, however, pleased that his players produced the right response following their previous outing, the 2-0 home defeat by Middlesbrough.

“Against Middlesbrough we didn’t believe we could change the situation. Today we tried to do that. That is what I expect.

“We dominated the beginning of the game, created chances but weren’t clinical enough. I don’t remember them having chances in the first half but they scored two goals. If you need to score three goals to win, it’s complicated.”

With teams below Fulham picking up wins, leaving them just five points above the relegation zone, the draw at Reading could prove important. Jokanović added: “If you cannot win three points, it’s better to take one. In front of me is a very important job. I know I will find difficulty in this job but I’m here to fix the problem.”

Before bidding to complete a league double over Bristol City on Saturday (Whites hammered them 4-1 at Ashton Gate last October), Fulham face Burnley at Craven Cottage tonight (Tues).

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More CHELSEA on page 27