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Standards of safety had deteriorated since the previous inspection, with two prisoners

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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BY JACK DIXON
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ZAC Goldsmith promised to build thousands of new homes, tighten security on the streets and clean up the capital’s air when he spoke in an exclusive interview with London Weekly News.

With less than three weeks before polling day, the Conservative candidate for mayor set out his action plan for London, pledging to tackle the housing crisis and the threat of terror.

In a one-to-one with this newspaper, Mr Goldsmith said the upcoming election was not only about “making promises” but delivering the best deal for Londoners.

He said: “I’ve devoted my whole life to campaigning on environmental issues and that won’t change,” he said. “I want London to be the cleanest and greenest city in the world but I want to show that this can be done in a way that doesn’t put people out of business and doesn’t put communities noses out of joint.

There is good environmental policy and there is bad environmental policy. On my watch we will get it right. I will make sure that London does become an exemplar city.”

Mr Goldsmith also said building wouldn’t come at the expense of London’s “quirky” creative spaces, referring specifically to the Parsons Green Depot in Fulham and the redevelopment of Soho.

“I think it would be a tragedy for London to lose those creative spaces and sometimes quirky areas that give London its character and dynamism, and make London what it is.”

“Soho’s redevelopment is a classic example. We’ve got to be really careful not to damage what is an extraordinarily lively and dynamic place. It wouldn’t take much to destroy it.”

Ahead of the vote on May 5, Mr Goldsmith said the election was “not just about promises but who can deliver”.

He said: “I would encourage voters to look at my record. I don’t make promises I can’t deliver. My whole record as a politician is making promises and then following through on them.”

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Zac reveals his blueprint for London
Price boom leaves ‘Generation Rent’ shut out of market

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FIRST-TIME buyers in Shepherd’s Bush will need a six-figure salary to get on the property ladder by 2020, a leading housing charity has claimed.

Shelter said only those earning more than £100,000 would be able to afford an average London property in four years’ time.

The bleak projections suggest buyers may face eye-watering deposits of £138,000, with rocketing house prices set to crash through the £500,000 barrier over the next four years.

Campbell Robb, Shelter’s chief executive, said Londoners on ordinary incomes were continuing to be “locked out” of the housing market.

“With the situation only set to get worse, ‘Generation Rent’ will be forced to resign themselves to a life in expensive, unstable private renting and wave goodbye to their dreams of a home to put down roots in,” he said.

The charity’s latest research showed that the average house price in Hammersmith and Fulham was now above £850,000. It suggested house prices in the borough had shot up by more than two thirds between 2010 and 2015, and that there were now only three boroughs — Lambeth, Hackney and Waltham Forest — where the price of property was growing faster. But while the cost of living continued to soar, full-time wages were only rising by a modest two per cent, the charity said.

Shelter’s research looked at the salary and deposit needed for the average first-time buyer and calculated what they would be in 2020 if they grew in line with projected increases in house prices.

The charity said the figures “came as no surprise” and warned that the outlook would get tougher for first-time buyers unless the next Mayor of London committed to building more affordable homes.

Mr Robb added: “It does not have to be like this. The next Mayor of London has the power to turn our housing crisis around, and with only weeks before Londoners go to the polling booth, the candidates must commit to investing in homes that people on ordinary incomes can actually afford and making renting more secure.”

‘Terrible’ report on ‘Dickensian’ jail

FROM PAGE 1

on suicide watch found in cells that had jagged glass left in broken windows.

Rats were spotted “every day and night” and some prisoners had fashionable their own toilet screens with torn sheets of paper.

Frances Crook, chief executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: “This is another terrible report on Wormwood Scrubs, coming only 18 months after the last one.

“The same tired excuses will be used – that the prison is too old. But if old buildings were the problem we would be tearing down Oxbridge.

“Prisons with too many prisoners and too few staff will fail, no matter how old they are. We cannot go on cramming more and more people into jails without any thought for the consequences.

“The League said its free advice line had received several calls about issues at Wormwood Scrubs.

“On one occasion the charity with concerns that a prisoner had gone six days without receiving his medication, while another said there were CCTV ‘blind spots’ where prisoners were being attacked.

“Juliet Lyon, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: “This shattering report on London’s best-known Victorian jail reveals levels of Dickensian squalor which ought to have been consigned to the history books.

“These inhumane, degrading conditions have no place in a modern justice system.”

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said: “As the prime minister and justice secretary have said, our prisons are in need of reform.

“That is why we are investing £1.3 billion to transform the prison estate over the next five years to better support rehabilitation and tackle bullying, violence and drugs.”

Help service

A NEW service has been launched to help people in Shepherd’s Bush recovering from substance misuse.

The Recovery and Wellbeing Network will offer a range of treatments and support for individuals affected by alcohol and drug-related issues.

The service is being set up by the Turning Point and Blenheim charities, and will also extend into Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

Richard Sheppard, Turning Point’s managing director for public health, said: “The new three-borough service will transform the way in which drug and alcohol services are provided locally. We will work holistically with every individual.”

Firm advice

POLITE passengers are putting up with rough sophistication in Shepherd’s Bush roads by not warning fast drivers to slow down, new research suggests.

A survey of Londoners found that one in three passengers had never asked a speeding driver to hit the brakes, while a quarter said they felt it was too rude for them to speak up.

Eight per cent of drivers said they broke the speed limit because they enjoyed it, while 11 per cent denied the insurance company that carried out the research, said: “We need to arm passengers in Shepherd’s Bush with the confidence to speak up when someone is driving dangerously but we also need to listen when they comment on our driving.”

Plug in and go

SEVERAL new charging bays for electric vehicles have been provided locally. We will work with partners to reduce emissions that help to reduce emissions that residents using electric cars will get tougher for first-time buyers.

The charity said the figures “came as no surprise” and warned that the outlook would get tougher for first-time buyers unless the next Mayor of London committed to building more affordable homes.
School showcases pupils’ musical talent

WESTMINSTER’S Portland Place School held a recital evening to showcase their young and talented musicians. Organised by the music department, pupils ranging from years five to 13 performed solo pieces to an audience filled with fellow peers, parents and members of staff.

The gifted musicians excelled on the evening, performing pieces that were way beyond their years. Audience members were treated to performances of repertoire ranging from Mendelssohn to Menken on a variety of brass, string and percussion instruments.

Director of Music at Portland Place, Richard Brightwell, said: “The recital was a huge success and it was a privilege to hear and see so much talent on show.

“We have an array of exceptionally strong musicians at the school so it was wonderful to show off their abilities to staff, parents and pupils alike. The department is committed to providing high quality musical tuition and I believe that our recital evening proved that.”

The occasion was a resounding success for the independent school, whose musical talent on offer appeared to exceed all expectations.

Year 13 pupil Preston Nyman, who was a member of the audience, said: “This was a fantastic night and it was wonderful to hear such impressive talent coming up from the lower years in the school. I was amazed by the amount of gifted students that we have in the music department.”

College buoyed by inspectors’ ‘good’ verdict

FOLLOWING Ofsted’s short inspection at Westminster Kingsway College in March, the final report has now been published confirming that the college continues to be ‘good’. Westminster Kingsway College is one of the few London colleges to be judged ‘good’ under the new inspection framework.

The college is celebrating with its partner, City & Islington College, which was also graded ‘good’ by Ofsted inspectors in March.

The inspection closely monitored the college, grading achievement and standards, quality of provision and leadership and management, commenting that “senior leaders and managers have continued to work effectively, to ensure that students and apprentices receive good teaching and training to enable them to achieve their qualifications and progress to further training, higher education or employment”.

Andy Wilson, principal at Westminster Kingsway College and chief executive designate of CLGC – the City & Islington and Westminster Kingsway Colleges Group – said: “I am pleased that Ofsted have confirmed that we continue to regard Westminster Kingsway College as ‘good’.

“The inspector recognises the success of the consistent improvements teachers have worked on since our last inspection five years ago. "I would like to congratulate everybody within and outside the college who has contributed to this.”

Mr Wilson added: “We now look forward to working with colleagues in our partner, City & Islington College, as we continue to strive to provide the very best further education experience for our students.”

Be vigilant for rogue traders, says council

As part of national Rogue Trader Week, Trading Standards are urging consumers to be vigilant of cold callers operating in Westminster.

They pose as reputable tree surgeons, builders, roofers, or even sell fish or garden furniture.

Many of these are bogus traders who persuade victims to have unnecessary work done, provide a poor standard of work or supply goods that are mis-described, over-priced or are not delivered.

In some cases these callers may be attempting distraction burglary, posing as trading standards officials, utility suppliers, Westminster Council staff or the police – all with plausible stories to get access to a home.

If you have concerns about someone knocking on your door or a neighbour’s then contact Trading Standards on 020 7641 1111, or if an emergency call the police on 999.

Westminster Council offers a free handyman service for residents over 60 or in receipt of a disability allowance to carry out minor repairs.

Writing for you every week, London’s most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!

Learning from our mistakes

HINDSIGHT, so the saying goes, is a wonderful thing. The thought of looking back and perhaps doing things differently can be a much a motivator as it is a stick to beat ourselves with when things don’t go our way.

It applies as much to those in business as in any walk of life, but sometimes in the early stages of an enterprise we have to go through some trials and tribulations before we can reap any rewards.

I agree 100 per cent with Emma Jones, the founder of Entrepreneur Nation, who recently said that one of the great benefits of running your own business is the ability to learn as you go along.

It’s one of the great adrenalin rushes of entrepreneurialism, which is driven by the desire to be successful and turn an idea into a reality. And that takes work and commitment and the realisation that you can’t rush into things and, although it’s your enterprise, you can’t do it on your own.

The reality is that no business is truly an overnight success and it takes hard graft, time and support from others to make it happen. Some new research by Direct Line Business shares this belief.

Direct Line questioned entrepreneurs of businesses around four years old who revealed that, if they had the chance to go back and advise their younger selves when they started their firms they would advise a greater focus on planning, research and collaboration.

A fifth said they would take more time to get the foundations right and learn from mistakes such as failing to have enough work in place before leaving a full-time job to concentrate on their new firm, not having enough products at launch and not doing enough research on their market.

One in nine small business owners say they would have asked for help from either a mentor or a business partner. To be honest, I would have expected this figure to be higher as it would have helped solve some of the issues mentioned above.

Mentorship, or just good old-fashioned common sense advice from those who’ve been there and done it, should be one of the first things that new entrepreneurs should seek out.

It was a lonely place when I started Pimlico Plumbers. Of course, I had my family and friends around me, but there wasn’t a network of entrepreneurs that had trod the same road.

I was taking first steps along that I could turn to for conversations about things like finances and marketing. But I worked hard and I was lucky.

The harder I worked the luckier I got, but that’s not the case for everyone. Seeking out mentorship should be one of the first things a new entrepreneur does. Going out on your own shouldn’t mean isolation.

This study reveals valuable lessons that entrepreneurs starting out in business should pay close attention to. But it shouldn’t shackle them. Fortune favours the brave, after all.

We all make mistakes and, although they can sometimes be costly, both financially and through lost time, I believe we need to make mistakes so they can be learned from. This is part of what makes businesses better.

And that’s the power of mentorship. Sometimes they don’t even have to be your own mistakes. Listen to those who’ve been there before.

As Winston Churchill said, “those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it”.

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Thousands more using food banks

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THOUSANDS of people in west London are continuing to rely on food banks to survive, latest figures reveal.

Statistics published by the Trussell Trust, which runs the UK’s food bank network, showed that referrals were at record levels.

A total of 4,392 three-day emergency food packages were handed out in Hammersmith and Fulham alone in the last 12 months – up from 3,606 last year. A further 1,802 were provided in the City of Westminster and another 819 in Kensington and Chelsea.

The figures suggest that around a quarter of the emergency supplies were given to children, underlining the continuing challenge for Londoners living in crisis.

Benefit changes and delays were found to be the main reason for food bank referrals, with low incomes also identified as a driving factor.

Roadside art brings Route 66 to capital

THE side of a pub in central London’s Clerkenwell Road was transformed into a riot of colour last week, taking passers-by on a nostalgic road trip to the United States of America.

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of Route 66, Illinois Office of Tourism and internationally renowned street artist Will Vibes unveiled a stunning 52ft wall mural depicting kitsch Americana iconography found on the first stretch of Route 66, starting in Chicago, Illinois.

This particular section of the iconic American highway boasts the highest density of kitschy attractions on the lovingly-called Mother Road, from murals and diners to classic cars and remarkable history.

Route 66 was one of the original highways within the US highway system. It was established on November 11, 1926, with road signs erected the following year. The highway, which became one of the most famous roads in America, originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before ending at Santa Monica, California, covering a total of 2,448 miles.

By the following year the road was established on November 11, 1926, with road signs erected the following year. The highway, which became one of the most famous roads in America, originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before ending at Santa Monica, California, covering a total of 2,448 miles.

More than 41 tonnes of food were donated to the Hammersmith and Fulham food bank, which now runs three outlets in the borough.

Alongside food packages, the service also provides essentials such as washing powder, nappies and hygiene products to struggling families.

Daphne Aikens, manager of the Hammersmith and Fulham food bank, said: “We are still seeing an increase in the number of three-day emergency food supplies provided to local people in crisis in the last year.

“We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the community and hope that one day there will be no need for us in Hammersmith and Fulham.

“But until that day comes, we will continue to offer the best possible service to help local people facing a crisis.”

Ms Aikens said the food bank had recently supported a woman whose benefits had been stopped for a month.

She had an accident at work where she fell down a flight of stairs and caused damage to her back,” Ms Aikens said.

“Although her doctor continues to declare her unfit to work, at her assessment with the Department of Work and Pensions she was declared fit to work.

“Since then her benefits have been stopped, leaving her unable to afford food and vulnerable to debt. That is why the food bank is so vital.”

The Trussell Trust said food bank use was still at record levels, especially in the most deprived areas or where many people were unable to work due to illness or disability.

David McAlice, the charity’s chief executive, said: “Today’s figures on national food bank use prove that the numbers of people hitting a crisis where they cannot afford food are still far too high.

“One million three-day food supplies given out by our food banks every year is one million too many. This many people needing emergency food must not become the new normal.”

Arts festival calls it a day after 53 years

AN arts festival that has been running in London for 53 years has closed down due to a “sudden and significant” plunge in finances.

The City of London Festival was first held in 1962, and saw buildings in the capital’s Square Mile throw open their doors each summer to theatre, music and spoken word performances, as well as other arts events.

Planning was already under way for the 2016 festival, which was due to run for three weeks in June and July. But festival organiser the City Arts Trust has now announced: “With great sadness, and after a long and vibrant history, the City of London Festival will be closing.”

It went on to say the festival had two years ago sought a “new direction” in order to bring in new audiences and raise its profile.

“However, over the years the funding landscape has become ever more competitive and despite achieving support from a range of valued sponsors and supporters it has become increasingly difficult to attract the level of funding necessary to stage the annual festival,” it said.

The Square Mile’s local authority, the City of London Corporation, was the festival’s largest single donor, providing it with an annual £350,000 grant.
Report tells next mayor to prioritise environment

BY LWN REPORTER editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW report calls for London to become a National Park City and the creation of a London energy company to cut household bills and emissions.

London faces huge environmental challenges and tackling them should be one of the next mayor’s top priorities, according to a new report by think tank IPPR – called London: Global Green City.

Around 10 per cent of households in London are classified as fuel poor and London has some of the most energy inefficient housing in Europe, experts say.

More than 215 hectares of green space was lost in London between 2009 and 2012, equivalent to Hyde Park and Battersea Park combined, and nearly two million Londoners live more than one kilometre from a green space. Air pollution in the capital is estimated to have shortened lives by 140,000 years in 2010, or the equivalent of more than 9,400 deaths.

The report looks at how the next mayor can integrate the environment into all policy areas to make London a ‘global green city’, and recommends:

■ Creating a new energy company – Energy for London – to reduce household fuel bills, tackle fuel poverty and cut emissions by boosting solar and other renewable energy and energy efficiency.

■ Designating the capital as a National Park City to promote the protection and enhancement of nature and green space.

■ Creating a Clean Air Zone by merging the current congestion charging and ultra-low emissions zones, ensuring the bus fleet meets air pollution standard by 2019 and expanding the electric vehicle charging network.

■ Making London as a National Park City would provide the overall framework to increase biodiversity and boost green space. The report recommends that the new mayor appoints a Green Infrastructure Commissioner to ensure the priority of green space in planning and housing plans.

Air pollution

The report notes that London’s air pollution impacts disproportionately on lower income groups and children. Nearly 25 per cent of school children are exposed to levels of air pollution that exceed EU and World Health Organisation legal and health limits. The problem is likely to get worse because, by 2030, London’s traffic is estimated to increase by 43 per cent on 2013 levels. The report says that tackling air pollution needs to be one of the mayor’s top priorities.

Laurence Laybourn-Langton, an IPPR research fellow, said: “London needs to think of itself as a global green city, a place where all Londoners can enjoy green space with all the health and wellbeing benefits that flow from this. Our vision of the capital is one with a worldwide reputation as a city where the environment enhances quality of life for all.”

“Our report provides a comprehensive programme to ensure the environment is integrated into all policy areas. This includes a call for the next mayor of London to establish a new London energy company, as a way of cutting fuel bills and carbon emissions, and for the capital to be designated a national park city, as part of a raft of policies to protect and enhance London’s natural environment. The green agenda needs to become more energy efficient and help London meet its climate change commitments by becoming a zero carbon city by 2050.”

LONDON WIDE

See Winston’s Blitz refuge

A REDUNDANT Tube station where wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill secretly took refuge during the Blitz is part of a number of hidden London Underground sites that are about to be opened to the public.

Down Street in Mayfair had a short life as a station from 1907 to 1932 but acted as a bomb-proof bunker for Mr Churchill during the Second World War. It was also an important nerve centre for co-ordinating the country’s railways.

Down Street is one of several sites where London Transport Museum plan to run guided tours. A labyrinth of dark and deserted passageways under Euston station is also being unveiled as part of the latest Hidden London project. Visitors will be able to view a gallery of preserved vintage advertising posters that have been concealed for over half a century.

Clapham South’s deep-level war shelter will also be opened. People will be able to take the 180 steps below ground to a site used during the Blitz by Caribbean migrants arriving in 1948 and even visitors to the Festival of Britain in 1951.

Chris Nix of London Transport Museum said: “Our visitors will have a rare opportunity to see a secret side of London and discover the amazing stories of the people who are connected to these hidden spaces.”

Hidden London will also feature London Underground’s former headquarters at 55 Broadway near St James’ Park. The Art Deco building – which opened in 1929 – is described as the capital’s first skyscraper.

Tickets for all the tours go on sale through London Transport Museum on April 20.

Bike check-up

CYCLISTS who would like to have their bikes checked for free by Dr Bike can pop along to any of the regular monthly bike maintenance sessions organised by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Dr Bike will be at the junction of Kensington High Street and Earl’s Court Road on May 11 and June 8, and another session on King’s Road, at the junction of Royal Avenue, beside the pavilion area by McDonalds, on Wednesday, April 20, May 18 and June 15 and at Notting Hill Gate, at the junction with Kensington Church Street, beside Waterstones, on Wednesday, May 4 and June 1. All sessions will run from 5pm to 7pm.

Books night

CHELSEA Library is holding a family craft session to mark World Book Night on Saturday, April 23, to encourage children and parents to use libraries.

The free event, between 3.30pm and 4.45pm, is suitable for children aged four and older.

World Book Night is run by the Reading Agency, a national charity that inspires people to become confident and enthusiastic readers, to help give them an equal chance in life.

During the night books are given away by members of the public who enjoy reading in a bid to help spread their love of the written word.
Writer one of London’s ‘angry young men’

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON-BORN playwright Sir Arnold Wesker, who died last week aged 83, was a prolific creative force whose work was performed to full houses around the world and translated into up to 20 different languages.

Jeremy Corbyn paid tribute to Wesker in the House of Commons, describing him as “one of those wonderful angry young men” of the 1950s. “Like so many angry young people (he) actually changed the face of our country,” the Labour leader said.

Unusually, while he was still a relatively young man, having produced only six plays, Wesker wrote nearly being written off in some quarters as a has-been. But he confounded his critics in style, writing many more hugely successful plays, more than 40 in all, up until he was in his 70s.

In addition to that he wrote four books of short stories, two collections of essays, a book for young people, three more of non-fiction, a collection of poetry and an autobiography.

Wesker, who grew up in east London, was most famous for his trilogy of plays, comprising Chicken Soup With Barley, Roots, and I’m Talking About Jerusalem. These were written between 1958 and 1960 and were based on his working-class and impoverished Jewish background.

More than 400,000 copies of this work were sold in book form. Among his other renowned works were Chips With Everything (1962), based on his services in the Royal Air Force, and his first play The Kitchen (1957), based on his early days as a kitchen porter and pastry cook. The Kitchen was turned into a musical and produced as a world première in Japan in 2000.

Arnold Wesker was born on May 24, 1932 and educated at Upminster School in Hackney, east London. He had a string of jobs including furniture maker’s apprentice, carpenter’s mate, bookseller’s assistant, plumber’s mate, farm labourer, seed sorter, kitchen porter and pastry cook, plus national service in the RAF in 1950-52.

After that he embarked on his prolific career as a playwright, scriptwriter and author. In his early years, his name was associated, some say erroneously, with a group of playwrights regarded as Angry Young Men. His output was by and large not in that mould and was much more varied than the work norm ally associated with that group. For instance, he wrote Cinders, based on a biography of the “madam” Cynthia Payne, and unperformable experimental work such as Circles Of Perception.

One of his later works was Longitude, which explored the trials of John Harrison, a stow-borne, self-educated genius from rural 18th century Lincolnshire who devised a clock which could tell the time, and hence one’s position, accurately on the roughest seas. Harrison was repeatedly denied the prizes due to him by an establishment possibly more mindful of his background than his achievement.


He was once described as “the ultimate outsider in the British theatre”, but the arts establishment has differing views on his abilities, even though he could pack the houses all over the world.

In 1965, Glenda Jackson, the actress and subsequently an MP, left a theatre where his sixth play, The Four Seasons, was showing, and was overheard to say: “Well, that’s the end of Wesker, isn’t it?”

She apparently passed this remark – which turned out to be hopelessly ill-judged – because that play was a love story and totally unlike his earlier, more naturalistic plays.

But Wesker accepted the criticisms in good part. Once he wrote: “’Amazing’, people say to me, ‘that you keep writing’. It’s not that I keep writing, that I keep going on and on and on, but that there’s so much in life that keeps asking to be written.”

At the time of his 70th birthday, Wesker wrote: “And though, like most writers, I fear dying before I write that one masterpiece for which I’ll be remembered, yet I look at the long row of published work that I keep before me on my desk and I think, not bad, Wesker, not bad.”

His debut novel, Honey, was released in 2005 and he received a knighthood the following year. Wesker’s final work, The Rocking Horse, was a radio play commissioned for the 75th anniversary of the BBC World Service in 2007.

Michael Billington, writing for The Guardian, said of the playwright: “Wesker was a realist who never lost his sense of human aspiration. It is precisely that which makes Roots, first seen in 1959, his most frequently revived play.”

Man will go on trial accused of murder

A MAN will stand trial for allegedly strangling and dismembering Metropolitan police officer Gordon Semple.

Stefano Brizzi, 49, is accused of murdering the 59-year-old officer at his flat on a day between April 1 and April 7. Italian-born Mr Brizzi appeared at the Old Bailey last Wednesday wearing dark sun glasses and a grey tracksuit.

Recorder of London, Nicholas Hilliard QC, set a provisional trial date of Tuesday, October 18. The prosecution alleges that Mr Brizzi dismembered Mr Semple’s body and disposed of it in communal waste bins on the Peabody Estate in Southwark Street, south London.

Mr Brizzi was remanded in custody ahead of a further hearing on April 20.

PC Semple was originally from Inverness in Scotland and had been with the Metropolitan Police for 30 years, working most recently in Westminster.

He went missing on April 1 and his remains were discovered a week later.

Tributes from family, friends and work colleagues have been paid to PC Semple and a crowdfunding website was set up to raise money to support his family.

Letter: station opposition overwhelming

I APPRECIATE your paper’s good work in keeping the proposed King’s Road Crossrail2 station in the public eye.

However, reading your last issue, I think you are being seriously misled in no doubt wishing – a praiseworthy aim – to appear even-handed.

The public eye.

As clear as ever.

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**Victorian invitation**

VISITORS can step back into a London long gone and soak up the heady atmosphere of Victorian life in the capital thanks to an innovative and illuminating initiative.

Special Twilight Tours of 18, Stafford Terrace, which is now owned by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, are offered every third Thursday of the month. Visitors can enjoy this unique house after hours through a dramatised tour hosted by Mrs Sambourne and her parlour maid, Mrs Refle.

The Sambourne family lived in 18, Stafford Terrace, on the edge of Holland Park, for 36 years and decorated their home in the fashionable “Aesthetic” style. The house interiors have remained practically intact throughout the years and can now be seen in all their splendour.

From 1875, 18 Stafford Terrace was the home of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne, his wife Marion, their two children and their live-in servants. He was born in Clerkenwell, the only child of Edward Mott Sambourne and his wife Frances Linley.

The house gives an insight into the personal lives of the Sambourne family and also provides a rare example of what was known as an “Aesthetic interior” or “House Beautiful” style. The Aesthetic Movement of the late 19th century advocated the use of foreign or “exotic” influences in the decoration of the home. This can be seen by the various Japanese, Middle-Eastern and Chinese objects throughout the Sambournes’ home.

After the deaths of Linley and Marion Sambourne, the house was preserved by their descendants. In 1980 it was opened to the public by the Victorian Society.

This organisation had been inaugurated at 18 Stafford Terrace in 1958 by the Sambournes’ granddaughter, Anne, 6th Countess of Rosse. In 1989, its ownership passed to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

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**Tube station revamp meets rising demand**

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MAJOR improvement work is now under way at Paddington Tube station.

It means that Bakerloo line trains will not stop at the station until mid-August. During this time, Transport for London engineers will carry out a major renewal of both the heavily-used escalators serving the Bakerloo line.

TfL says that “by replacing virtually every component, the escalators can be used for a further 20 years and will be more reliable in the coming years as the Tube carries ever more customers.”

Engineers will also continue to dig a new 165-metre tunnel underneath the station so customers can go between the Bakerloo line and the new Elizabeth line platforms, which will become operational from December 2018.

The new pedestrian link will incorporate escalators, lifts, stairs and new passageways in order to make interchanging between the Tube and the Elizabeth line as easy as possible for customers.

Currently around 165,000 customers use Paddington Tube station daily – with 82,000 people using the Bakerloo line. When the Elizabeth line starts running from December 2018, the number of customers using TfL services at Paddington is expected to increase to 248,000.

TfL will re-open the platforms in time for the Notting Hill Carnival on Sunday, August 28 and Monday 29.

David Waboso CBE, London Underground’s capital programmes director, said: “We try to carry out as much of our improvement work as possible when the Tube is closed, but in this case we need a closure period due to the nature and scale of the work. In order to keep disruption for customers to a minimum, we are combining Bakerloo line escalator and Crossrail construction work so that services are non-stopping for the shortest time possible. We thank customers for their patience while we carry out the vital modernisation of this station.”

While Bakerloo line trains are not stopping at Paddington Tube station, customers can still get on the Circle and District lines via the ticket halls from the Network Rail concourse and on Praed Street. Access to the separate Circle and Hammersmith & City line ticket hall is unaffected.

For central London, customers are advised to take: The Circle or Hammersmith & City lines to Baker Street for alternative Tube routes The District or Circle line to Notting Hill Gate and change for the Central line The District line to Earl’s Court and change for alternative Tube routes The Circle line via Bayswater
ARMED police have seized three AK-47 assault rifles of the type used in the terror attacks in Paris in a crackdown on gun criminals across London.

The operation – codenamed Kestrel 2 – was launched last week by the Met’s Trident and Area Crime Command, drawing together a range of specialist policing units to tackle criminals who carry or hide guns.

In the first three days of the operation officers made 30 arrests and seized 14 firearms, including eight handguns and three AK-47s.

Police across the capital carried out weapons sweeps, intelligence-led operations, search warrants and directed patrols by Armed Response Vehicles and Trident officers.

The operation used intelligence and automatic number plate recognition technology to direct armed stops on cars believed to be associated with firearms. Over 70 sweeps were made by last Friday.

“The Met co-ordinated resources from a number of units, including SCO19 armed officers, the Territorial Support Group, Organised Crime Command, traffic officers, search dogs and local police with knowledge of local criminals who have a propensity to carry firearms,” said a spokesman.

“In order to combat the supply of firearms into the UK, Trident is also targeting armourers who use the internet and parcel services to smuggle firearms into the country. Trident is working with a range of national agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach to tackling the issue, including: the National Crime Agency to identify opportunities to disrupt firearms supply and offenders; Border Force, targeting key postal hubs and routes via which firearms arrive in the capital and Europol to facilitate international operations.”

Detective Superintendent Damian Allain, from the Trident and Area Crime Command, said: “Gun crime in London is low in comparison with other world cities, but we are determined to bring it down yet further. Obtaining a gun is relatively difficult to do, but we are not complacent.

“Trident is continuing to have success targeting and prosecuting those who convert or manufacture guns. Possessing a firearm in the UK carries a mandatory five-year prison sentence and criminals know this, which means they often coerce others to store the guns for them and we will always go after these individuals too.

“Individuals prepared to carry guns are a menace to our communities. Guns cause fear, injury and death and we are committed to disrupting their supply and deterring anyone from getting involved in gun crime.

“Operation Kestrel 2 seeks to disrupt gun crime in London. It’s not just about catching people in possession of firearms – it’s about letting them know that police are on the streets, targeting gun crime activity and disrupting their ability to move guns about London.

“Using both covert and very overt tactics we will make it as hard as possible for criminals to carry or hide guns or supply them to others, and we are calling on Londoners to tell police what they know about people in their community who carry guns. We will do something about it. You can remain anonymous by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

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Palmerston’s new paw law for Foreign Office mice

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FIVE years after Larry the cat made himself at home at 10 Downing Street, another Battersea resident has been welcomed into the heart of British politics.

Named after former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, Henry John Temple, Third Viscount Palmerston, this black and white moggy is fittingly rehomed to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to stalk the corridors in search of mice.

In a true rags-to-riches story, Palmerston will take his new position in the Foreign Office, having arrived at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in March as a neglected stray. The two-year-old domestic short hair was found wandering the streets of London, and like many of the 1,025 stray cats brought into the world-famous rescue centre last year, he was found hungry, underweight and with no microchip, meaning his previous owners could not be traced.

Palmerston can now look forward to greeting international visitors and diplomats, befriending fellow political fuss Larry, and most importantly, setting his sights on the rodent population of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, based next door to Downing Street. His political namesake Lord Palmerston served in Government for 46 years and became enormously popular thanks to his assertive foreign policy, and Battersea believes the new Palmerston will be just as confident in his approach.

Battersea’s head of catteries, Lindsey Quinlan said: “Palmerston will have no problems making friends and foes in the Foreign Office. He’s a very confident cat, loves being with people and enjoys a good chin rub. But nothing escapes the attention of this Battersea moggy and we know he’ll have an eagle eye out for unwanted visitors, whiskers twitching and ready to pounce at the right moment, to keep his new home free of rodent interlopers. If his behaviour at Battersea is anything to go by, we predict Palmerston will be a formidable feline, very deserving of his new name.”

Palmerston will follow in the footsteps of Freya, once owned by Chancellor George Osborne, who was a regular visitor to the Foreign Office. When he’s not patrolling the corridors of power he will be residing in the office of Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under-Secretary. He’ll have access to most offices and official rooms and will be looked after by members of staff.

Sir Simon said: “I am delighted to welcome Palmerston to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In his role as FCO Chief Mouser, he will assist our pest controllers in keeping down the number of mice in our King Charles Street building. I hope that Palmerston’s impact will be as considerable as his namesake’s.”

Last year Battersea rehomed 3,107 cats all across the UK, with around nine cats leaving for new homes every day of the year. The animal charity now rehomes more cats than dogs, and runs an annual Purrr Minister competition to crown the top cat in Westminster. This year’s Purrr Minister was won by Pixie and Smudge, owned by Steve Reed MP for Croydon North.

Will passengers stand for ‘no walking on escalators’ rule?

Peter McNaught, Operations Director at London Underground, said: “It may not seem right that you can go quicker by standing still, but our experiments at Holborn have proved that it can be true.”

“This new pilot will help us find out if we can influence customers to stand on both sides in the long term, using just signage and information. Anyone who wants to walk on the other escalators will be free to do so, but we hope that with record numbers using the Tube, customers will enjoy being part of this experiment to find the most efficient ways of getting around.”

However, the research reveals that nearly two thirds of Tube travellers are opposed to the idea of standing on the left hand side on the Underground’s escalators.

The study found that over half of Tube users (54 per cent) literally won’t stand for this new rule if it’s introduced widely across the Underground, claiming they will continue to walk up escalators when travelling.

“If it were to be rolled out across the network, the impact of the new rule would affect the majority of Tube travellers, as only nine per cent of those surveyed claim they never walk up escalators; for 29 per cent it’s the only exercise they get during a working day. The study also explored the circumstances under which London Underground passengers would support a ban on walking; of those polled, 43 per cent claim they would support the new rule during rush hour, whilst just over a third (36 per cent) would support the ban at certain busy stations.

However, 46 per cent of respondents feel a walking ban could lead to “Tube rage” and 14 per cent went as far as to say they would consider an alternative route to work if implemented.

‘Capital sees solar future’

MOST residents believe London should become a pioneering solar city, according to the results of new research conducted by Greenpeace UK.

The independent poll highlighted that nearly a quarter of voters remain undecided in the mayoral electoral race, 70 per cent of undecided voters think it is important the new mayor takes action to ensure the capital plays a bigger role in terms of solar development.

The findings come less than a month before voting day, in which all the leading candidates have stated in principle that they would increase solar capacity. Less than one per cent of London’s 3.4 million households currently have solar and the city trails behind in uptake both at a national and international level.

Diana Vogtel, energy campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said: “It is clear that delivering a cleaner, greener city matters to Londoners at this time.

‘Looking for trouble’: Palmerston, the new Chief Mouser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, settles in after moving from Battersea Cats & Dogs Home.
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Andrew targets national honour

ANDREW Fishwick, leaseholder of The Truscott Arms in Maida Vale, has been named as one of the six finalists in this year’s Licensee of the Year Awards, held by The British Institute of Innkeeping, the leading professional body for the UK’s licensees.

The Truscott Arms is an independently owned pub and restaurant in the heart of Maida Vale, housed in a newly refurbished five-storey Victorian building, which provides a high quality drinking and dining experience in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Mr Fishwick has been running the site with his wife Mary Jane for three years, and believes it is their commitment to providing an exceptional and interesting experience for customers that marks them out from the competition.

Mr Fishwick said: “We are always looking for new ways to engage our customers, and whatever we do, we ask ourselves if this is something we would enjoy – this ensures our customer is at the heart of every decision we make. Internally, we have an ethos that everything should be handpumped, joyful and quality, and measure every drink, dish and event against this.

“We also pride ourselves on being at the heart of our local community, as this is where we believe a pub belongs. We regularly hold events for those in the area, including baby yoga on a Monday, and children’s drama sessions on a Tuesday, and host meetings for our nearby CAMRA Division and PTA committee.

This is the latest accolade for The Truscott Arms, which was named as Sustainable Pub of the Year 2015 by the Sustainable Restaurant Association, and the nationwide Best British Roast Dinner 2014, an honour which has had a huge business impact.

The Truscott Arms is the first pub Mr Fishwick has run, after previously working as a theatre producer for 15 years, and helping to build Park Theatre in Finsbury Park.

This creative experience is clearly influencing the pub’s offering, with the seasonal Eating Sound dinner a highlight of the calendar. For this special event, the Truscott Arms’ chef works closely with a composer to create a five-course tasting menu with a matching score, which is then performed live by a chamber orchestra during the dinner.

After their initial written submission, the finalists have already been through audits on food hygiene ratings, independent social media audits and mystery customer visits – and also welcomed the judging panel to their premises for a full site visit and in-depth interviews.

The six finalists now face a panel judging day in May where they will be quizzed by industry experts in four areas; marketing, industry affairs, finance and people and training. All finalists will be presented with trophies at the BII Summer Event on June 7, when the overall winner of Licensee of the Year 2016, sponsored by BT Sport, will be announced.

Mr Fishwick said: “To win the BII Licensee of the Year Award would be mind-blowing. It’s the single biggest accolade in the pub industry, judged by those who know the sector inside and out. This is our first time entering the awards but we are confident that our offering stands out from the crowd; we aim to excite with everything we do and the feedback we’ve had from customers has been exceptional.”

John Sharratt, chair of the judging panel, added: “Over the 13 years of my involvement with this award it continues to be a privilege to have the opportunity to meet and talk with professional, passionate, successful and inspirational licensees.

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I BII is a registered charity and one of the leading professional bodies for the licensed retail sector, with over 3,000 members.

On yer bike to help beat heart disease

LONDON has been revealed as a city of cycling lovers after the British Heart Foundation found that over a third of those in the capital would choose to jump on their bikes as their preferred form of exercise.

These findings have been released by the nation’s heart charity as it calls for Londoners to get pedalling and sign up to its iconic London to Brighton Bike Ride. Places are still available for the 2016 event, supported by Tesco and Jaffa, which returns on Sunday, June 19.

Starting from Clapham Common, cyclists will travel 54 miles from city to sea, through the beautiful countryside before finishing on Brighton’s seafront. For every mile pedalled and pound raised, cyclists will be helping the BHF fight back against heart and circulatory disease, which is responsible for more than a quarter (27 per cent) of all deaths in the UK.

An estimated 630,000 people in London are living with heart and circulatory disease, which is responsible for over 13,500 deaths each year. Readers can help the BHF fight back against these conditions by signing up to the London to Brighton Bike Ride and raising vital funds for its life saving research.

Over the past 50 years BHF research has helped halve death rates from heart and circulatory disease, transforming treatments for heart attacks and pioneering the surgical techniques that ensure most babies now survive congenital heart disease.

However, the charity says there is still a long way to go. Last year, the fundraisers who took on the 54-mile cycle challenge helped to raise over £3 million for the BHF’s vital research. This year the charity wants to raise even more.

By signing up to the BHF’s London to Brighton Bike Ride and taking part in this iconic event, the money raised will fund the BHF’s research to improve the lives of those affected by heart disease every day.

Nancy Smyth, Head of Events at the British Heart Foundation, said: “The London to Brighton Bike Ride is a fantastic day out. Whether you are a regular cyclist or looking for a new challenge it is the perfect excuse to get out on your bike!

“For over 40 years the event has seen over 600,000 cyclists from all over the UK get pedalling in the fight against heart disease, helping to raise over £65m for our life saving research.”
A s ever, it was the favourite of all of her prime ministers who said it the best. “All the film people in the world, if they had scoured the globe, could not have found any one so suited to the part,” said Churchill in those days long ago when a beautiful woman of just 25 years old, a young wife clearly in love with her dashing navy husband and a doting mother of two, had given up all chance of having any hope of a normal life in order to dedicate her years instead to her selfless duty to be The Queen, writes Geoff Baker.

Churchill’s Hollywood analogy had much precedence to it, for as Queen she has starred in the role. Never co-starring, never out-played, she has been – and remains – the leading lady of our times. And if ever there was an Oscar for the best performance by the mother of nations, Her Majesty would have won it every time.

As the monarch her example has been peerless and faultless, a long warm glow, not just because one of movie icons, but much, much more. Bright prim day she is and the Queen would have won it every time.

Five times a year it has been my privilege to sit with Her Majesty on five occasions and at each event it struck you that when she appears it is like a wave of balm sweeping over everything before her. It’s That Smile. To meet her is to be left feeling soothed in a warm glow, not just because one is in the presence of a queen, but moreover because you are in the presence of a person who seems to be so essentially good. It is that it is that which pick up on this radiance. I’ve observed that women first tend to notice the hat or the hue of whatever bright primary colour she is wearing that day, but blues are first drawn by her aura; she has an extraordinary magnetism, like the charisma of the biggest of movie icons, but much, much more so.

Churchill certainly picked up on the “Lovely and inspiring” - quote.

He also described her “as a lady whom we respect because she is so beautiful and whom we love because she herself”. And it is that self, that huge goodness that is contained in the littleness of her, which has drawn other great men of the best Eliz abeth has seen. She is a Churchillian unwavering admiration and affection.

“I am privileged and proud that we have the world number one leader,” said David Beck ham, who describes her as a Queen, “but that doesn’t get any better than that.”

Paul McCartney has been a great admirer since her corona tion. “To kids of our generation, she was the most attractive young woman, taking on this huge responsibility. She seemed very human. We all felt really proud of her. It just makes her fabulous. I’ve got a lot of time for her.”

Maggie said it – “she seemed very human, and now at 90 more so. Whether it is as Her Majesty or “as Queen”, as my daughter-in-law generation affectionately call her, as Churchill said, she is loved.

And she is beloved because, like many other great-grandmothers of her special generation, she has the spirit of selflessness that is largely unknown in the ways of the world. From the moment of the evening of her coronation, when she said, “throughout all my life and with all my heart, I shall strive to be worthy of your trust”, The Queen has strived and now it seems that almost everyone is so inspired by her dedication.

This week is seeing that gratitude in abundance everywhere; millions of people and疯 anes of tribute and the deluge of media coverage, flowing much more quickly than before, from the more than 1,000 bon dage of the Nation, The Deluge of Commemoration for the 90th Anniversa ry of Her Majesty’s Coronation, the 60th Annivesary of Her Majesty’s Silver Jubilee, and the 70th Annivesary of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee, and the 100th Annivesary of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee.

“The words ‘the brotherhood of man’ have a splendid ring about them and this idea may seem too remote to have any practical meaning in this time in the land and the age, but this great truth will continue to shine out as the light of the peace and the good offices of interlor and inhumanity.

“The words ‘from the thought from which we can draw encouragement. If there is reconsideration, if we can get the climate right – the good effects will flow much more quickly than most people would believe possible.

“Those who know the desert know also how quickly it can flower when the rains come. But who in Britain who saw the parched earth and empty reser vors last summer would have believed that the grass would grow so strong, so green and so soon when the drought ended? When the conflict stops, peace can blossom just as quickly.”

It is a theme that The Queen has repeated often throughout her 90 years; reconciliation, the building of brotherhood, the coming together of all nations, faiths and beliefs in working for peace, and in that she has been the Queen of Peace, building her Commonwealth from the just eight member states when she came to the throne to the 53 of today. She made the same call for peace in her Christmas messages of 1953, 1957 and 1968. On the latter occasion, she put it, this wish that has so much marked the heart of her, particularly well, with words which 50 years on have a resonance for the divided failings of her nation today: “The essential message of Christmas is still that we all belong to the great brotherhood of man.”

This is an ideal of what the Queen is passionate about, her work and which would bring peace and security to families and neighbours at home and around the world.

“Remember that good spreads outwards and every little does help. My hope is that this idea may seem too remote to have any practical meaning in this hard and busing age. Indeed, it means nothing at all unless the brotherhood, starting with individuals, can reconcile rival communities, conflicting religions, differing races and the divided and prejudiced nations of the world. If we truly believe that the brotherhood of man has a value for the world’s future, then we should seek to support these international organisations which foster understanding between people and between nations.

“The British people together have achieved great things in the past and have overcome many dangers, but we cannot make further progress if we resurrect ancient squabbles. The nations belonging to the Commonwealth have in their hands a well-tried framework for mutual help and cooperation. It would be short-sighted to waste this modest step towards brotherhood because we are too busy with the dissections of the moment. “Every individual and every nation have problems, so there is all the more reason for us to pour our utmost to show our concern for others. Rich or poor, we all depend upon the work and skill and individual men and women, particularly those in industry and production who are the creators of wealth and prosperity. We depend now on knowledge, invention and innovation, practical improvements and developments, all of which offer us a better life. Yet we should not be obsessed by material problems. We must also be sure that we re- main spiritually alive. Everything we do now is helping to shape the world in which our children are going to live.

“Our young people need all the help and opportunities we can give them to prepare them for the responsibilities which they will soon have to carry.”

“I have spoken of ‘the brotherhood of man’ and the hope it holds out for the world. This should not remain a vague thought or an abstract idea. Each of us can put it into practice by treating one another with kindness and truth, to be left feeling showered in a wave of balm spread throughout this country and our land will wish The Queen the best of birthday wishes. We would not bring good politics of republicanism to the dark and increasing threat of another belief. There is this, among us who do not wish well for a woman who has only ever shown such good. But for them, and us all, remains the core message that The Queen first sent in 1957, in her first televised broadcast, and which her example and words have repeated ever since: “Today we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest. We need the kind of courage that can withstand the subtle corruption of the cynics so that we can show the world that we are not afraid of the future.

“It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.”

Happy birthday, Your Majesty. As Mr Beckham said, you make us proud and proud. Long may we learn from you, still the best suited to the part.

Where to see a royal

FULL details of events in the diaries of the Royal Family are available from the website www.royal.gov.uk but here’s their schedule for the week ahead.

April 19

■ The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Queen’s Royal Hussars (The Queen’s Own) will give the Royal Henley Regatta Lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly.

■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, Opportunity International United Kingdom, will visit a Head Start Centre at St James’s Palace.

■ The Princess Royal, as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Reception at The Mansion House, Mansion House Street EC4.

■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, Foundation for FutureLondon, will attend a conference at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park EC2.

■ The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Royal Mail Mail Delivery Event to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Royal Mail, William Street, Windsor.

■ The Princess Royal, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will open the new sandpit in the gardens of the Alexander House, Southwick, Berks.

■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, Foundation for FutureLondon, will attend a conference at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park EC2.

■ The Princess Royal, as Chancellor, University of London, will attend a function at the London Chancellor’s Dinner, The Mansion House, Mansion House Street EC4.

■ The Princess Royal, as Colonel, The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons), will attend the Household Cavalry Freedom of the City of London Parade, The Guildhall EC2.

April 23

■ The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron, Shakespeare’s Globe, will attend a conference at the Shakespeare’s Globe, Southwark Cathedral.

April 25

■ The Countess of Wessex, as Patron, London College of Fashion, will visit the College’s East End site at 100 Gunter Road and Golden Lane EC2. The Princess Royal, as Patron, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, will hold a Dinner at St James’s Palace.

April 26

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Chancellor, University of Bath, will attend an Alumni Reception at St James’s Palace.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as President, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Honorary Founder of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, will hold a dinner at the Guildhall EC2.

■ The Princess Royal, as Chair, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, will chair an International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission Meeting at Buckingham Palace.
Half of GPs’ patients don’t need to see GP, says report

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ONLY one in three Londoners visiting a GP should be seen by a doctor, a move which could lead to practices offering 20-minute appointments, according to a think-tank.

The report by the Reform think-tank, found that half of patients that are currently seen by GPs could be seen by other clinical staff.

It also claimed that there was growing appetite for seven-day routine GP services – a claim disputed by GPs.

Reform said that the current model of general practice was ‘out of date’, and called for bigger practices, which it said could help stop ‘millions of unnecessary A&E visits’.

The report’s author concluded that the Government’s pledge to increase the workforce by 5,000 GPs by 2020 was ‘nothing more than a sticking plaster’.

The findings were based on a roundtable held with 22 GPs and other stakeholders.

The report said that GPs currently take around two-thirds of the 372 million appointments at GP surgeries every year – two-thirds of all appointments in practices.

Experts who were interviewed claimed that half of these can be taken on by other staff, including nurses, which they estimate would save over £700m a year and would allow GPs to offer 20 minutes appointments.

The report said: ‘General practice is out of date. The model, based on the 1940s, must address the ever-more complex needs of a growing, ageing and more technologically sophisticated population. It cannot do so in its current state, which affects outcomes for patients and puts significant cost pressures on the system as a whole.’

The authors praised new super-practices, arguing that the ‘quality of GP care increases in line with the size of practices’, citing Care Quality Commission reports.

They also claimed that weekend routine appointments were becoming more popular, citing figures that suggested Taurus Healthcare, a federation serving 185,000 patients in Herefordshire, were filling a higher proportion of weekend appointments.

Alex Hitchcock, report co-author, said: ‘Employing 5,000 more GPs is nothing more than a sticking plaster for an out-of-date model. Bigger practices and new technology can deliver better access and stop millions of unnecessary A&E visits.’

The RCGP disputed the claims made around seven-day services.

Dr Maureen Baker, RCGP chair, said: ‘This support for seven-day general practice services flies in the face of our own research – and the fact a number of surgeries that have piloted seven-day working have had to scale-down services due to a lack of patient demand at weekends.

‘Access to general practice services is undoubtedly important, but patients recognise that prioritising weekend and evening access must not come at the expense of access and services during normal hours. They have better things to do on a Sunday afternoon than have their ears syringed.’

Lines from Shakespeare

A SPECIAL edition Tube map has been produced in which station names have been replaced with characters, plays and modern adaptations of William Shakespeare’s work to mark the 400th anniversary of his death.

Among the changes from the real-life London Underground are Westminster as tragedy King Lear, St Paul’s as Lyndon B. Johnson’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Cannon Street as history play King John.

The map also shows three of the capital’s theatres where Shakespeare’s works were performed – the Globe Theatre, Blackfriars Theatre and the Curtain Theatre in Shoreditch.

Dr Farah Karim-Cooper, head of historical fiction and research at Shakespeare’s Globe, said: “What this wonderful keepsake reveals is that Shakespeare’s work, his characters and themes intersect with each other in fascinating ways.

“To think about navigating the plays in the same way we think about getting around the Underground network is as complex as they are, the works of Shakespeare are entirely accessible to everyone.”

Shakespeare is believed to have died on his birthday, April 23, in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1616.

The map is available to buy online or directly from London Transport Museum and Shakespeare’s Globe.

Choir’s deal

THE NHS Choir has signed a deal with the same record label as Adele Barefoot. The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir won the battle for the Christmas number one against the Canadian pop star last year. The Lewisham leader of the group said he has urged his fans to support them.

He called on his fans to help the charity single get to the top spot.

Following the success of their single A Bridge Over You, which has been signed to Decca Records who will release their debut album titled Something Inside So Strong.
TEETH MATTER

Our smiles play a big role in first impressions, not to mention the fact that being able to laugh and grin freely is part and parcel of being happy, so it's little wonder that being plagued by self-consciousness due to crooked teeth can have a major dent on confidence levels.

However, it's a myth that if you didn't get a mouthful of metal braces aged 13, you've missed your chance altogether - whatever your age, it's not too late to get overcrowded, wonky teeth straightened out by an orthodontist.

If you do want to neaten up your smile, this is what you need to know.

Invisalign works by repositioning teeth little by little, using a series of custom-made clear plastic 'aligners' that are changed every two weeks. Digital scanning technology and 3D software is used to plot the way the teeth should move over a period of weeks - so you can see how your teeth should look at the end of the treatment before even starting.

Alternatively, you can go classic with traditional metal train tracks which are tightened over time to pull teeth gradually into place.

One issue which older people need to be aware of is that their bone may be less able to regenerate to hold the teeth in their new position than younger people. Following treatment, permanent retention may be necessary to stop the teeth moving back.
Despite being dramatically snubbed in the nominations for next month’s BAFTA TV awards in favour of luvvie productions, Britain’s most popular drama Call The Midwife continues to soar above higher-end series and already it has been slated for “the golden spot” this Christmas, writes Geoff Baker.

Although the BBC’s expensive and lavish Wolf Hall has received four nominations for BAFTA gongs and Channel 4’s rave culture series This Is England ’90 is slated for three, the midwife drama that many more millions watch has been left off the list for any drama awards.

Not that Jenny Agutter and her excellent co-host should care, as Call The Midwife has been awarded a much better prize than some old BAFTA trophy – BBC1 has scheduled the Christmas Special of the Nomatus House drama in the prime time top slot for Christmas night, meaning that it will thrill all-comers in the ratings.

However, there will be little of the East End in the special as the nuns and nurses will be transported to South Africa.

“Nomatus House receives an SOS from a tiny mission hospital in the Eastern Cape. Understaffed, underfunded, and with a poor water supply, struggling Hope Clinic is faced with closure. Can our much loved midwives and nuns make a difference to the people whose lives depend upon its work?” says the BBC, which is currently celebrating off-screen information that Call The Midwife has become the UK’s most-watched drama, with 10 million avid followers.

Water bomber Amanda happy to soak up criticism

The increasingly-foxy Amanda Holden could become the first Ms Wet T-shirt star of Britain’s Got Talent if Simon Cowell takes his revenge for the soakings she has given him.

Amanda was bawled out by the top show’s executives after she drenched Simon during auditions for the new series of the competition. She flipped and threw water over Simon after a judges’ spat for which she blamed his inability to back off in the heat.

“Amanda, when he thinks he’s being funny, doesn’t know the rule of three,” said Amanda. “He’s got a rule of ten, where he just repeats and repeats himself and it’s just not funny. I gave him several warnings to stop it and in the end I threw water over him.”

Although Simon thought it was a huge hoot, the programme team were not amused.

“I looked at his make-up girl and she was really cross, but I thought I had got away with it,” said Amanda. “But as I then continued with my criticism, Simon just kept on having a go, so I picked up another glass of water and threw that over him as well.”

“Water bomber Amanda says she still kind of judge a book by its cover and what they are, and they should care, as Call The Midwife has been awarded a much better prize than some old BAFTA trophy – BBC1 has scheduled the Christmas Special of the Nomatus House drama in the prime time top slot for Christmas night, meaning that it will thrill all-comers in the ratings.

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ELL at least that answers one question that has been nagging us for years: Does The Queen like rock & roll?
No, no, not a lot.
ITV has revealed the line-up for The Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration, the huge four-day show which will be staged in Windsor next month, and although it has a vast cast there’s not a rocker among them.

In stark contrast to the Golden and Diamond Jubilee events of 2002 and 2012, when stars including Paul McCartney, Elton John, Queen, Eric Clapton, Ozzy Osbourne, Rod Stewart, Stevie Wonder, Robbie Williams and Ray Davies performed at Buckingham Palace, the new big gig at Windsor Castle has cut out the rock.
Instead of blasting Her Majesty to within an inch of her Majesty by the end of the 10-part series – that ITV pulled the plug on violent production.
So vociferous were the objections – and so dramatic the plunge in the audience from an initial 4 million to just 1.8 million by the end of the 10-part series – that ITV pulled the plug on advanced plans for the second series.

Parents were furious that young children were exposed to murders and violent fights in the series which starred Tom Bateman and Richard E Grant and although Higson and ITV thought they would be breaking new ground with vivid action in the teatime slot, public opinion proved them wrong.

“Ah well, I tried,” said Charlie, who is now swapping jobs to join the cast of the new series of Broadchurch.

The Queen’s 90th Birthday
The national celebratory event will take place in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen in the private grounds of Windsor and will see the best of, shall we say, the safest of British talent join more than 900 horses and a cast of 1,500 performers.
The celebration will tell the story of The Queen’s remarkable life from her birth in 1926, through the Second World War, to her Coronation in 1953 and a reign spanning more than 60 years.
Joining hosts Ant and Dec will also be Jim Carter, who played Mr Carson in Downton Abbey, said to be one of Her Majesty’s favourite dramas, and also actors Damian Lewis and Martin Clunes.
Dame Helen Mirren, who played Her Majesty in The Queen, will also appear, with Beverley Knight, Kyle Minogue, Imelda Staunton and Jennifer Saunders. Another royal favourite, gardener Alan Titchmarsh, will also have a guest spot at the big do, which will feature The Oman Royal Cavalry, Chilian Hussars and Dancers, The New Zealand Army Band, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Azerbajani Dancers and Djigitovka Horses and Riders, State Carriages from The Royal Mews, The South Australian Police Band, The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery, The Fijian Armed Forces Band and Dancers, 100 Military and Commonwealth Pipers and The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.
But there will no Brian May playing God Save The Queen on the roof, as he did at Buckingham Palace in 2002, nor any other loud stuff.

EN years after Jools Holland sprang him from complete obscurity, former hobo Seasick Steve, pictured left, is heading back to London to celebrate with a big gig at Wembley Arena.
Steve, who has sold out the Albert Hall, Hammersmith Apollo and the Brixton Academy since London crowds propelled him to fame and a considerable fortune, is to perform at the 12,500-capacity gig on October 15.
His big London show is a far cry from his days in Tennessee, when he was so poor he hopped freight trains from town to town, looking for work as a farm labourer and on carnival stalls.
“Hobos are people who move around looking for work, tramps are people who move around but don’t look for work, and bums are people who don’t move and don’t work. I’ve been all three,” says Steve, who now has a reported wealth of £20 million and an annual income of £2.4 million since Jools gave him his breakthrough by booking him for his BBC Hootenanny show of 2006.
“When I realised that it was going to be 10 years since I was on Jools’ show and 10 years since you guys in London gave me this job, I decided that we gonna have a party,” said Steve.
“It’s going to be a 10 years out of the dog house party – look what ya done!”

ALTHOUGH concert goers have become accustomed to rising ticket prices, a new charge of £120,000 to see Radiohead is pushing it to a new level.
Last year ITV chiefs risked their arm by scheduling Higson’s adaptation in the prime slot of 6.30 on a Sunday night and viewers more used to seeing the likes of Songs Of Praise and family dramas at that hour let them have it.

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FOLLOWING worldwide acclaim, Tony Award winner Frances Ruffelle brings her celebrated solo show to the Hippodrome Casino next month as part of the West End Women season.

After a sold-out run at The Crazy Coqs here in London last year, the one-woman musical spectacle is likely to be one of the hottest tickets around, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Entitled I Say Yeh-Yeh, the show takes the best aspects of the star’s life in a unique and funny collection of stories and songs. Sharing success and failure, the evening allows the actress to be vicious and frank, with a performance that will strike a chord with anyone who has loved and lost. The highly sought-after performer has just returned from the USA where she played to packed concert halls – and is also set to take her hit show across the channel to packed concert halls – and is also set to take her hit show across the channel to packed concert halls – and is also set to take her hit show across the channel to packed concert halls –

Ruffelle gained iconic status in the French musical Les Misérables, playing the role of Eponine and journey from heartbreak to happiness.

South Bank welcomes a Wonderground full of surprises

London Wonderground will return to the South Bank on May 5 in what promoters are calling “the bawdiest, glibtest, most outrageously bawdy five-year-old in the city,” the magnificent Paradise Spiegeltent being a raucously atmospheric Cornish island bar bringing with it the country’s very finest festival of cabaret, circus, comedy, circus and cabaret.

Joining them is Canadian troupe Cirque Afflonne with the London premiere of their electro-trad circus cabaret epic Barbú – one of the hits of the 2015 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. These two astonishing spectacles spearhead a fantastic programme of cabaret, circus and burlesque featuring a final cameo from cult boylesque variety party Briefs, burlesque superstar Miss Polly Rae in sensual cabaret spectacular Beneath the Sheets, the surreal and hilarious anarchy of the Wild West circus-cabaret The Rauch – featuring a raucous range of circus skills, captivating music and filthy humour from a motley crew of cowboys, brave and belligerent. They are joined by chanteuse Ali McGregor, Alternative Eurovision, Double R Club star Benjamin Louché, cabaret supergroup Bourgeois & Maurice and David Hoyle, astonishing vocals and character comedy from

“Real experiences of my ex, our dog, and my new girlfriend. I write about my old loves and I write about my new love. A lot of women have come up to me after the show and asked me – they tell about their divorces and their break-ups, their unrequited loves and it’s not just women and gay men –

“We all go through these things and I just wanted to share my true feelings and show what’s real – the stories and songs, and hopefully let people know that they’re not alone.”

Ruffelle’s choice of music for the show – and the album of the same name – is a real mixture, with some famous tunes performed in a different and altogether individual way.

“Most of the songs are from my new album but we’ve added a few for this new version of the show created especially for the Hippodrome. I’m always looking for new material and my new album, which was called Like Yesterday, which we’re recording to a little EP. It’s the most beautifully raw and emotional body of work I’ve ever done.”

Ruffelle is modest and wonderfully down to earth about her life and work, but this is her first show. I say Yeh-Yeh

There was a little girl.

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As one third of the nineties pop sensation 911, Lee Brennan enjoyed stellar success, with a multitude of top ten singles and over six million albums sold worldwide.

After the band reunited in 2012 for the reality-documentary series The Big Reunion, the songwriter found further fame and following another successful pantomime season, is about to grab his guitar and take to the stage with the cast of the musical Footloose on their nationwide tour, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The rock ’n’ roll musical dances into the New Wimbledon Theatre from May 2 to 7. I caught up with Lee, who told me how he came to be cast in the show, which is based on the 1984 film version that starred Kevin Bacon.

Lee said: “I’ve always wanted to do musicals, probably since I was about eight when I watched The Wizard of Oz and the likes of Mary Poppins and stuff like that.”

The singer had played 60 shows as Aladdin in Leeds over Christmas and once again relished the pantomime season, which he has been part of for many years.

“This audition just came out of the blue. I’d just moved into a new house and I got a call saying would I go for an audition for Footloose? I’d just seen the film a few days earlier.

“I know the film. I know the songs, I know the storylines, so I had to quickly learn the song and then a bit of a deep South American accent.”

“I learnt a bit of script and did the audition. I’ve never really done an audition before, it’s a completely different world than I’m used to and so I had to sort of fake the confidence.”

The 42-year-old pop star takes over from former X-factor finalist Gareth Gates in the role of Ren, who moves to a small town where dancing is forbidden. He tells me about the part he has to play in the story.

“Ren’s frustrated because he can’t do what he loves doing, which is dancing, so he’s trying to get this law changed to allow dancing in the small town of Bomont and he kicks up a big fuss with the local councillors and stuff. It’s a really fun show.”

The show features classic songs including Holding Out for a Hero, Let’s Hear it for the Boy and, of course, Footloose.

Although Lee is very used to performing to packed auditoria filled with screaming fans all over the world, he admits this new challenge has got him a little jittery.

“I’m so excited to be doing it and I’ve got nervous energy. I’ve found it difficult to sleep properly over the last few weeks because I’m just constantly going through the script in my head.”

Brennan adds: “I’ll wake up singing one of the songs, it’s crazy. I think once I get the first show out the way, I’ll be like ‘right ok this is great, I’m on it’.”

Footloose, starring Lee Brennan, will be visiting the New Wimbledon Theatre as part of its nationwide tour from May 2 to 7.

Diggle’s kingdom proves fine place for Shakespeare

IN honour of the four hundredth anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, My Kingdom for a Stage, a brand new play by Tony Diggle, comes to the Chelsea Theatre later this month.

The play, directed by Andrew Loudon (Carrie’s War, Gertrude’s Secret, Cool Hand Luke), stars Jonathan Coote as Shakespeare and follows the Bard as he sits in the heavens with his peers, exicted by the recreation of his Globe theatre in London and by the 400th anniversary of his death.

With Puck’s assistance, he returns to London, believing that everything is very much better. When he discovers things are not nearly as rosy as he thought, he decides to “torment them (the people of the present day) for this error”.

But Christopher Marlowe and Mephistopheles intervene, pointing out that Shakespeare’s own life was far from rosy itself!

The play compares the Britain of the Elizabethan and Jacobean age with the Britain of Elizabeth II and contrasts Shakespeare the public man, as expressed through the general line of his plays, with Shakespeare the private man.

My Kingdom for a Stage runs at the Chelsea Theatre from April 27 to May 7. For more details you can visit the website chelseatheatre.org.uk
Seagrove revels in Ayckbourn classic

Jenny explains: “This is extremely clever, it really is, with its use of crossover space and kind of consecutive time and different time and just the lines that he writes.”

“It’s what makes it difficult, because as an actor, you want to paraphrase, to make it how you would say it, but if you say it how you would say it, you won’t get a laugh. If you say it how it’s written, you’ll get a laugh. It’s all about rhythm and every good playwright has his own rhythm and Ayckbourn’s is very specific. If you hit it with truth, but speaking the words, the words he’s written, you will get the laugh.”

Jenny Seagrove is perhaps best known for her portrayal of QC Jo Mills in the television courtroom drama, Judge John Deed, but the actress, who is married to West End impresario Bill Kenwright, has enjoyed an illustrious career in theatre and played opposite some of the country’s most celebrated actors in productions both in London and around the UK including Hayley Millis and Tom Conti. Jenny explains that there hasn’t been too much time for back-stage shenanigans, but that, as the cast become more at ease with their performances, she is sure there will be and that she is hoping it doesn’t result in any copying on stage.

In particular she finds the scenes with Nicholas Le Prevost, who plays her husband, are becoming more and more difficult to play straight, but assures me that with the proficiency of the cast of stars, the show will always hold together.

“Everyone one of them is professional. They’ve all got comic timing and they all understand the truth. They’re nice people. I’ve got nothing except just eulogies for every one of them. It’s a privilege to be on stage with them. For example, Matthew Cottle. How many actors can get a near round of applause for trying to open a bottle of wine? It’s genius.”

How The Other Half Loves runs at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket until June 25. If you would like more information, you can visit the website trh.co.uk

American Idiot returns home again

Following on from its critically acclaimed 2015 UK Tour, Green Day’s explosive Tony Award winning musical, American Idiot will be returning to its London home at the Arts Theatre for a limited run from July 8 to September 25.

Double platinum selling artist Newton Faulkner (Jobone) who joins the cast from May 7, and X-factor finalist Amelia Lily (Whatsername) will be continuing in their roles, alongside fellow cast members, Callen Chugg Jones (Theo), Jemma Geranau (Alynthia), Alexis Gerrod (Tiffany), Llandyul Grove (Gerard), Karina Hind (Libby), Emma Housley (Heather), Lawrence Libor (Swing), Lucas Rush (St Jimmy) Steve Rulston (Will) and Alice Stokes (Extraordinary Girl).

American Idiot is the story of three boyhood friends, each searching for meaning in a post 9/11 world. The show features the music of Green Day with the lyrics of its lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong and book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer.

If you would like further information you can visit the show’s dedicated website americaniidothemusical.co.uk

Talk of the town

LAN Ayckbourn has written many of the nation’s best loved plays, classics which have become part of the our collective psyche, writes Nicky Sweetland.

A brand new version of one of his earliest works is currently playing to packed houses at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and its all-star cast are relishing the opportunity of sharing in the glorious art of making of the acclaimed writer.

How The Other Half Loves stars Tamzin Outhwaite (Eastenders, Hotel Babylon), Jason Merrells (Lark Rise to Candleford, Waterloo Road), Matthew Cottle (Game On) and Gillian Wright (Eastenders) – all of whom have become some of the UK’s most popular television actors.

It also features stage stalwarts the Olivier-nominated Nicholas Le Prevost and celebrated actress Jenny Seagrove, with whom I talked about the play and what it’s like to work with such an array of stars.

She said: “It’s wonderful. To make people laugh is the greatest gift, it really is. It’s such a clever show. I love the actors I’m working with. I think they’re all incredibly well cast and talented and you know, what’s not to love? We’re getting very big houses, I’m in the best theatre in London and I’m really, really enjoying it.”

The play is set in the sixties and involves a remarkably clever set, comprised of two apartments overlaid, with action taking place simultaneously in both.

The master of the fast paced farce, Ayckbourn uses the ingenious interwoven stories to depict the fall-out of an illicit affair between a bored middle class housewife and a bawdy rogue. With matrimonial catastrophe imminent and an innocent couple mixed into the deception, an hilarious and confusing catalogue of disasters ensues.

The play has written many of his most famous productions, including twice in Bedroom Farce, playing different characters, and in the 2007 Garrick Theatre production of the three-act comedy Absurd Person Singular, in which she played the snobbish Marion Brexster-Wright.

At 58, the revered actress shows no signs of slowing down and with this new play at the Theatre Royal she shows, once again, her aptitude for comic timing coupled with a sense of prudishness. Does she find the pace of the show tiring?

She lane: “Ask me in two months’ time! This play, more than any other play I’ve done, demands 200 per cent concentration. If you let your mind wander for even 30 seconds you’ll miss something.

“You’ll miss an entrance or you’ll miss a cue or a reaction or something or you’ll get a line wrong, so you kind of jump off the plank at curtain up and you come out the other end, but because you’re making people laugh, it’s great fun.”

It’s obvious, when watching the play, that the cast have the utmost respect for one another, but also that they enjoy the collective performance.

Jenny explains that there hasn’t been too much time for back-stage shenanigans, but that, as the cast become more at ease with their performances, she is sure there will be and that she is hoping it doesn’t result in any copying on stage.

In particular she finds the scenes with Nicholas Le Prevost, who plays her husband, are becoming more and more difficult to play straight, but assures me that with the proficiency of the cast of stars, the show will always hold together.

“Everyone one of them is professional. They’ve all got comic timing and they all understand the truth. They’re nice people. I’ve got nothing except just eulogies for every one of them. It’s a privilege to be on stage with them. For example, Matthew Cottle. How many actors can get a near round of applause for trying to open a bottle of wine? It’s genius.”

How The Other Half Loves runs at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket until June 25. If you would like more information, you can visit the website trh.co.uk.
Shaw can wholeheartedly appreciate. A year on from releasing her debut healthy-eating book, Get The Glow, life has moved up a notch.

Up until her teens, she admits she ate a “typical magazine diet of Diet Coke and low-fat yoghurt” to stay slim, but found herself riddled with digestive problems and energy slumps.

Things changed when she moved to Sydney aged 18 to study, and started working at a healthy cafe. Shaw admits her changes didn’t happen overnight, but inspired, she trained as a nutritionist and returned to the UK with renewed zest, eager to share her knowledge via her food and lifestyle blog. She now has 217,000 followers on Instagram and 39,000 on Twitter, and as well as writing, does talks and supper clubs, and has collaborated on a string of projects, including a special healthy menu for Brown’s Hotel.

So embedded is Shaw and fellow health blogger Ella Woodward’s positive message that comedian Bella Younger has even poked fun at their approach in her popular spoof account Deliciously Stella, where typical posts about the benefits of munching on nutritious trail mix are accompanied with a picture of a bowl of assorted sweets, crisps and chocolate.

“I love it!” says Shaw with a laugh. “Bella is a fan of healthy eating. It’s amazing how well she’s done in such a short space of time.”

The same can be said of Shaw, whose health and self-esteem have vastly improved since she started making changes.

“I felt much more at peace with myself; I realised that life was here to be enjoyed,” she reflects. “Quite a lot of the time, we’re expecting ourselves to be everything, especially as women: you’ve to be the mum or the girlfriend and the business woman, but also remain feminine and beautiful. “You don’t need to add your own self pressure. I realised that when I felt better about myself and put more time into me, I felt happier and it made my life better.

“It’s not an overnight switch, but we could all do to be a bit kinder to ourselves.”

Show yourself some kindness with this recipe from Ready, Steady, Glow...

HEARTWARMING PHO
(Serves 2)

- 1 tbsp coconut oil or butter
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 100g wild or button mushrooms, chopped in half
- 450ml chicken stock
- 1 tbsp tamari
- 2 star anise
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 large carrot or 2 small, julienned
- 3 pak choi
- 1 red chilli, finely sliced, to serve
- 2 spring onions, finely sliced, to serve

**Method**

Heat the oil or butter in a pan, throw in the garlic and ginger and cook for 30 seconds, then throw in the mushrooms and stir-fry for two minutes.

Pour over the stock, tamari, star anise and cinnamon stick and bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes.

Throw the carrots and pak choi into the soup to cook for a further seven minutes while you prepare the eggs.

Gently lower the eggs one by one into a pan half-filled with boiling water. Boil for five minutes for funny yolks and nine minutes for hard-boiled.

Drain and hold under cold running water to stop them cooking and to cool them enough to peel.

Ladle the soup into two bowls, slice the eggs in half and place on top of the soup. Throw the chilli and spring onions over the soup to serve.

When you come across the cinnamon stick or star anise, remove them. They are there to add flavour to the soup, but not to be eaten.
Tuesday, April 19th 2016

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London Weekly News
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(NIGEL PLAYFAIR AVENUE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate works in connection with the elections 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 Nigel Playfair Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 5th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works in connection with the elections would be expected to commence on Thursday 5th May 2016 and Thursday 23rd June 2016 last for 1 day and 4-8pm.
7. The Order would come into operation on the 9th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
8. Works would be expected to commence in phases on Monday 9th May 2016 and last for 9 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
Dated this 13th day of April 2016.
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate works relating to the Tideway development 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 Wolverton Gardens between its junctions with Bute Gardens and Hammersmith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Bute Gardens, Rowan Road, Brook Green, Shepherd's Bush Road and Hammersmith Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 5th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. The Order would come into operation on the 7th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. The Order would come into operation on the 11th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
8. Works would be expected to commence on Thursday 5th May 2016 and last until 1st October 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
Dated this 13th day of April 2016.
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(CARNWATH ROAD / RIVERWALK F)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate works relating to the Tideway development to be carried out in the above named road and footpath, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular and pedestrian traffic in a section the above named road and footpath.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no pedestrians will be allowed to proceed in any direction on the southern section the above named road and footpath.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via the northern section the above named road and footpath.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 9th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. The Order would come into operation on the 9th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. The Order would come into operation on the 9th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
8. Works would be expected to commence on phases on Monday 9th May 2016 and last for 9 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
Dated this 13th day of April 2016.
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
NOTICE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 123(2A) (As Amended)
Land in Marcus Garvey Park, Gorleston Street, London W14 8XS (the “Land ”)
1. The Land shown hatched black on the below plan forms part of an open space held by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (the “Council”). The Land measures 258.5 sq m.
2. NOTICE IS HEREBY given pursuant to Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council intends to dispose of the Land by way of a licence for a term of 12 months for the purpose of temporary use as a footballbh compound to facilitate the carrying out of development at the adjacent property 6-12 Gorleston Street. The Land would be restored to parkland on expiry of the licence.
3. Any objection to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:
Ian Ross
Parks Manager
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Cox The Stable Yard, Holland Park
Ischelore Place, LONDON W8 6LU
No later than the 26 April 2016 (quoting reference “R/R/PARKS/MGP”)
Dated this 12 April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

To advertise in the classified section
Tel: 020 8766 4919
Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

17 Bagnstrom Street, London W6 OHA 2016/01375/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level; alteration of an existing front feature at ground floor level; alteration of an existing rear feature at first floor level; alteration of a window frame at rear elevation.

27 Darenville Street London SW6 8EL 2016/01368/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level; alteration of an existing rear feature at first floor level; alteration of a window frame at rear elevation.

For full details of these applications, please contact the Planning Department, 2nd Floor, 630 Fulham Road, London SW6 3JQ.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PERMITS) ORDER 1983
NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT 13-100 Goldhawk Road London W12 0JQ 2016/01445/FUL

I give notice that Mr Mafiya is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

(a) the erection of a new one-storey extension to the existing building to form an office reception; and
(b) installation of a new window to the rear of the building.

For full details of this application, please contact the Planning Department, 2nd Floor, 630 Fulham Road, London SW6 3JQ.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

(AEGON TENNIS TOURNAMENT)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby give notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic, suspend sections of parking bays, extend Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) D operational hours within part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, and introduce a one way traffic flow system in sections of roads as listed in the articles to this notice.

2. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, from outside the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road, southwards to its southern extremity.

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

4. Whilst temporary works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed in order to facilitate the event/build/breakdown works, the one-way traffic flow system in Westway Road between Margravine Gardens and Barton Road shall be suspended.

5. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between its junction with Comeragh Road and its junction with Barton Road other than in a northerly direction.

6. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Comeragh Road between its junction with Palliser Road and Gledstanes Road.

7. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the traffic management measures listed above extended between Ealing Road, Court Road and Comeragh Road adjacent to No. 2 Comeragh Road and in operation Monday – Friday 9am-5pm will be extended to be in operation ‘At any time’.

8. Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the permitted hours of the existing Controlled Parking Zone D would be extended from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday to 9am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 7pm on Sundays and school holidays from June 20th to July 17th 2016.

9. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload in:

(a) Palliser Road, its south-western kerb line, from its southern extremity northwards to the common boundary of Nos. 7 and 9 Palliser Road;
(b) Palliser Road, its north-eastern kerb line, from its southern extremity northwards to a distance of 50 metres north of its junction with the north-western kerb line of Comeragh Road;
(c) Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, from its junction with the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, north-eastwards to its junction with Gledstanes Road;
(d) Comeragh Road, its north-western kerb line, from a point opposite the south-western kerb line of Palliser Road, eastwards for a distance of 10.00 metres from its junction with Gledstanes Road.

10. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby give notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event, it gives notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event,

The hours of 5am-6am lorry movements escorted along the whole of Palliser Road, traffic may proceed in the opposite direction of coming traffic. The 2016 dates of these exercises are 03rd May to 10th June 2016, and then 26th June to 8th July 2016.

11. 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 the work of an exempted person, together with their working party and any other vehicle or work vehicles.

12. The Order would come into operation on Tuesday, 03rd May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Works for the build/breakdown would be expected to commence on certain dates falling between 03rd May 2016 and 08th July 2016. The tournament dates to which the restrictions described in the articles to this notice would apply fall between 11th June 2016 and 19th June 2016. The dates specified are for information and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Send us your comments about planning applications at our website, or email plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning Home Page.

‘Planning Online’ logo on the Planning Office page for development which may affect the Conservation Area. Please note that the applications are for planning guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
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 to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in 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 Argon Mews.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 20th April 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Wednesday 20th April 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

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

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 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 filming is in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Blythe Road between its junctions with Girdlers Road and Haslitt Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Girdlers Road, Brook Green and Aynhoe Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 4th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 6th May 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of King Street between its junctions with Queen Caroline Street and Angel Walk.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherd’s Bush Road, Goldhawk Road, Paddenswick Road and Dalling Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 4th May 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 6th May 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would suspend a section of the cycle lane in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the cycle lane on King Street shall be suspended between it’s junction with Studland Street and No. 158 King Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the Monday 25th April 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 25th April 2016 and last for 5 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of April 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
**NE** of the biggest pluses to come out of this transitional season for Queens Park Rangers has been the emergence of two promising young players.

Former England opener Robert Green has been frozen out of the first team. To continue having to play, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink became manager in early December, as well as the west London club having sold around its wage bill in the wake of relegation from the Premier League.

Green is out of contract at the end of this season and will soon be the next big name to be heading through the Loftus Road exit door.

In recent months Green's replacement, Alex Smithies, has earned plaudits for a string of match-winning and game-saving performances. Now R's have discovered another good, young prospect between the sticks. Matt Ingram, 22, came in for his QPR debut at Cardiﬁ City on Saturday and impressed by keeping a clean sheet and outstanding performance in his first outing at senior level. The bearded Ingram, signed from League Two side Wycombe Wanderers in January, looked calm, decisive and particularly sharp off his line.

**BELIEVE**

Hasselbaink, who decided to rest Smithies for the game in South Wales, said: “Matt came in and played well. We really believe in him and we really believe he can push Alex (Smithies) all the way. Alex is my number one but it’s fantastic to have that healthy competition.”

“We wanted to give Matt experience of playing in this division – and he showed what he is capable of.

**FAMILY AWARD**

Fulham win first-class match day experience. “It’s a privilege to have won this award,” said Robson, who hit 137 for these offences is a reprimand. The penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension.

Robson ended the first day’s play on 87, scoring a 180-run opening stand with Nick Gubbins. It was his 231 off 345 balls which staked his claim for a Test recall with a magnificent 231 off 345 balls which staked his claim for a Test recall. Robson record-breaker

**FOOTBALL FIXTURES**

Saturday, April 23

AFC Bournemouth v CHELSEA, 3.00

FULHAM v Nottingham Forest, 3.00

QPR v Reading, 3.00

**LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW**

With Tony McDonald

**PLAY it again, Sam! Robson hit double-century Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South**

**MIDDELESEX opener Sam Robson staked his claim for a Test recall with a superb double-century at Lord’s against Warwickshire, who elected to bowl in the opening County Championship match of the season which began on Sunday.**

Robson ended the ﬁrst day’s play on 175, sharing in a 180-run opening stand with Nick Gubbins. It was Australian-born Robson’s ﬁrst century since May 2015. Highest score

And he continued where he left off by achieving his third ﬁrst-class double-century and the highest score of his career on Monday. After despaching Jeetan Patel over the ofﬁce for his ﬁrst six, he was caught by Ian Bell at deep mid-off for a magniﬁcent 231 off 345 balls which brought him 30 fours. At lunch on day two, Middlesex were

Curran is penalised

**SURREY lost their opening County Championship match to Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge by three wickets after the hosts, who were put in bat, set up victory with a score of 446 all out in their ﬁrst innings. The visitors were all out for 225 in reply and, having to follow on, improved to 389 all out second time around. Arun Harinath, who hit 137, and Kumar Sangakkara (83) led the recovery. But Notts reached their winning total of 172-7 in 42.4 overs on day four. Pick of the Surrey bowlers were Ravi Rampaul, who took a ﬁrst innings ‘fifer’ on debut before collecting three more scalps second time up, and Tom Curran, who bagged three and four wickets respectively. It was later conﬁrmed that Curran has received penalties under the ECB’s discipline code.**

Curran was reported by umpires David Mills and Tim Robinson for a Level One breach of the code – showing disrespect at an umpire’s decision by word or action. The penalty for these offences is a reprimand. The penalties will remain on the ECB records for a period of two years and the accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The penalties will remain on the ECB records for a period of two years and the accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The penalties will remain on the ECB records for a period of two years and the accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension. The penalties will remain on the ECB records for a period of two years and the accumulation of nine or more penalty points in any two-year period will result in an automatic suspension.

Surrey begin their home campaign with a CC1 match against Somerset at the Kia Oval from Sunday.
‘Rubbish’ Blues lacking desire

Gary Cahill described Chelsea’s dreadful performance on Saturday against Manchester City as “rubbish” – an understatement if ever there was one.

This Saturday Blues have a chance to regain some self-respect when they travel to the south coast to face Bournemouth.

But the 3-0 loss to City at Stamford Bridge will be one that will live long in the memory of the Chelsea faithful who have seen their side desintegrate from Premier League champions to mid-table mediocrity in a matter of months.

Jose Mourinho’s inability to secure the funds needed to replenish the side in the summer cost him his job, as players simply stopped performing for the Portuguese.

Likeable Gus Hiddink secured a sequence of positive league results which moved the side out of the relegation zone quickly enough.

But once again the players have given up and successive defeats have left the club devoid of any European football next season.

From champs to chumps, the side which Hiddink described as “being in a transition period” is now looking in need of a total rebuld.

Galvanise: Lame duck Hiddink will be able to spend more time on the golf course if he wishes, now that the minimum requirement of league survival has been achieved. But professional pride is something he has in spades, make a number of Chelsea’s players, and now he will attempt to galvanise some of the senior pro’s to aid the influx of kids he will blood in the final few weeks of the season.

Putting not wholly convincing spin on the situation, Hiddink thinks the lack of European football next season might be a blessing in disguise.

“The Premier League, Capital One Cup and FA Cup, not having the chance to play in Europe will give new manager Antonio Conte and directors the chance to build a good team to compete for the top four places in the league,” he said.

Conte will have a clear week between league games to work with his players – something Hiddink agrees will benefit the Italian newcomer.

“If you have a game every three or four days, it is difficult to get the team very well prepared tactically.”

After the previous week’s defeat at Swanssea City, Hiddink was worried that players in a losing team can be a problem. So will he pursue this policy on Saturday?

“Yes. They can gather a lot of experience,” he said.

“Not all of them, because it depends which experienced players we have available.”

Some (experienced) players have come back in who haven’t played for a few weeks but, nevertheless, I will have some youngsters coming in who deserve to play.

“If you see (Rafael) Lothas-Cheek, he is playing and he is growing a bit. He can be even more dangerous of course. It would be easy to have him not start in games like Manchester City and just bring him in for the last 20 minutes. But in our situation, he must get experience against big teams as well.”

It seems that combative Nemanja Matić has become the fall guy making way for Loftus-Cheek. So what’s the problem with Matic?

“Every now and then he has played,” said the Dutchman. “He has made his minutes as well in my period. When you choose a midfield you can play with Fabregas, Matic and an attacking midfield player like Loftus-Cheek did against Manchester City. But you can also play with Mikkel. I have played him from the start and he is doing well. I appreciate Matic as well but they have to accept the situation as it is.

“I can’t complain about anything Matic has done in training. But in some positions you have two strong players and then I have to make a choice. When we play Fabregas with his creative play, then we pick a player to compensate (defensively), like Mikkel, who can cover but is also good at short passing.”

Hiddink admits it’s “partly true” that some players are saving themselves for Euro 2016.

“But I can’t blame the players for having a lack of attitude. Some players might be thinking about it, although I can’t look deep into their brain.”

Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini said his players suffered from reading about Pep Guardiola leaving Bayern Munich to replace him this summer and the impact it will have on players who might come and go at The Etihad.

Is the same thing happening at Chelsea because of Conte’s imminent arrival?

“I can’t read all the minds but the players who are coming in now, including the youngsters, can show their worth,” he said.

“It might have some influence on players’ minds but it’s difficult for me to judge. But anyhow, they must show and give something even when there is nothing at stake.”

“When you play for the title, or in Manchester City’s case a top four place, then they have a little bit extra to bring to each game, plus they have two players to choose from in every position.”

Gary Cahill returned to the side following injury and is expected to keep his place against Bournemouth.

“Is it unbelievably disappointing,” he conceded after Blues were punished by a Sergio Aguero hat-trick.

“I thought we got what we deserved. At times in that game we were rubbish and lacked the desire to get a result. They had it and they punished us for it.”

“We seemed to have a few corners and the next minute they were down our end having a dangerous attack at goal. Maybe it was a lack of concentration from us.

“We started the game OK, had a few chances, put a bit of pressure on and got some corners. But, overall, we can play a hell of a lot better than that.”

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 Fulham head coach Slavisa Jokanovic is very rarely anything less than honest in his assessment of his team’s performance and he certainly didn’t look for excuses after Friday’s 0-0 battering at Brighton & Hove Albion.

After Whites’ worst defeat of the season, Jokanovic said: “We offered Brighton so many opportunities and they didn’t score more.”

After we’d made a few mistakes we started to move the ball and we maintained possession.

Jokanovic admitted: “We’ve given 11 penalties away this season. Of the spot-kick that set Seagulls on the way to their biggest win of the season, after Richard Stearman nudged James Wilson to the ground, Jokanovic admitted: “We’ve given 11 penalties away this season. We need to maintain our concentration for longer periods. We can’t put the referee in the dilemma where he needs to make a call whether it’s a penalty or not.”

Yes, of course, Wilson made a meal of it, but doesn’t every player in that situation these days? At least Jokanovic, unlike most modern managers, held his own player to account rather than point an accusing finger at the officials.

Whites were undermined by familiar failings of situations. It’s very complicated to recover from those situations.

If we want to be competitive next season we have to improve but we also have to be thinking about this season still. We’re not safe away this season. We need to maintain our concentration for longer periods. We can’t put the referee in the dilemma where he needs to make a call whether it’s a penalty or not.”

Saturday for the penultimate home game of the season.

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