Exposed: residents’ tower block terror

Councillor lifts lid on drug dealing, harassment and violence

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A FOUR-YEAR reign of terror endured by residents of North Kensington – who are daily threatened and frightened by gun-toting drug dealers – has been exposed by a leading member of the council.

Councillor Pat Mason has broken the silence which has long surrounded an era of misery and intimidation suffered by parents and children living amid “drug dens, violence, guns and harassment” at the 13-storey Hazlewood Tower off Golborne Road.

Cllr Mason is blowing the whistle in what he says is a shocking indictment of Kensington and Chelsea Council’s Tenant Management Organisation (TMO), the police and the courts, who he says have all failed to protect residents at the 74-flats from bullying dealers – who threatened to cut the throat of an elderly tenant of the “terror tower” if he spoke out against them.

“For four years and counting, residents and families at Hazlewood Tower have suffered the activities of two drug dens,” he says.

“This includes people visiting the Tower to buy drugs, addicts smoking cannabis and shooting heroin on the stairways, and the harassment and threats of violence against any resident who complains to the TMO or calls the police,” said Cllr Mason, who represents the Golborne ward.

“One resident bravely stood up against those running the drug dens and has supported court cases against them brought by the TMO and himself – only for the dealers to respond with violent assaults against him.”

“Incredibly, one of the dealers he helped bring to court threatened him inside the court. Like other residents, he has suffered years of extreme anti-social behaviour, all-night noisy drug-fuelled parties, sleeplessness and severe stress from drug dens on the Tower landings.

“The police, TMO and the Courts have failed to protect residents at Hazlewood Tower.

“Although the RBKCC, police and the Met’s Trident team say there is no connection between the year-long gang war that has been raging across North Kensington and three adjoining boroughs, and the drug den activity at Hazlewood Tower, residents find it difficult to make that distinction when a firearm was recently discharged outside the Tower entry door and a shotgun was fired outside the nearby Holmefield House.”

Despite putting himself at risk of serious injury or worse at the hands of the drugs thugs, Cllr Mason, who is also Chair of the RBKCC Crime and Disorder Committee, has tackled them face to face.

“I visited Hazlewood Tower twice recently and saw drug-dealing and people trying to gain access to buy drugs from one of the dealers. On that occasion I chased them out, then phoned the police,” he said.

Kensington and Chelsea council is calling for local artists to submit proposals for this year’s Portobello Road Wall Arts Project.

The theme for the commission for the 100m wall is Moving Image, Film and North Kensington. The wall has previously featured work by Peter Dunn, Nadia Hammond and Fiona Hawthorne. Hawthorne captured a particular aspect of the distinctive life and the vibrancy of North Kensington and celebrated the legacy of Notting Hill Carnival with her wall Aspects Of Carnival, above. SEE PAGE 4
IT literacy project ‘a holistic answer to lots of problems’

Jaya Lalwani, right, with Citizens Advice colleagues and TechTalk volunteers

We are living in a digital age where our friends and family are at our fingertips 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We only need to tap a few buttons to pull up the latest headlines, check the football scores, watch a film or listen to music.

But there are thousands of Londoners who remain disconnected from the technological revolution. While servers, spreadsheets and hashtags are now second nature to most of us, many still find themselves frozen out of the digital world.

“People go online for news - and they expect to be able to find it, and know where to find it and how to find it. They want that to be true, and it's failed them,” said Jaya Lalwani.

“IT literacy project ‘a holistic answer to lots of problems’

But it is available to anyone, of any age, living in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Run entirely by volunteers, the project is based on personalisation, support starting with a one-to-one interview.

Citizens Advice ‘digital champions’ then guide people on a tailored programme of training to bring their computer skills up to speed.

“The service is primarily there to help jobseekers and the elderly, who for various reasons have never learned how to use a computer,” said Jaya.

Jaya says the multi-faceted set-up enables the library to function more as a community centre – and the unique prototype is now being used as a role model for other Citizens Advice centres across the UK.

People may check in just for digital support but end up staying to take part in one of the many other bespoke sessions and events at the library.

“It’s the idea that someone is there that is helpful, that is familiar to them, that makes them happy to come and ask you because they have seen you talk to others,” said Jaya.

“TechTalk has only been up and running at Avonmore Library since March 2015 but it has already helped around 500 people to get online.

“The service is primarily there to help jobseekers and the elderly, who for various reasons have never learned how to use a computer. It makes people very comfortable to know that they just have to come to one venue to find multiple solutions to multiple problems.

Most people don’t want to admit that they can’t do something, explains Jaya. But when they are asked the question and offered the right support, they are extremely determined.

“They want to know that they are going to be supported, that they are not going to be left on their own in front of a computer and three clicks later they are not going to know what to do.

“It’s the idea that someone is there that is helpful, that is familiar to them, that makes them happy to come and ask you because they have seen you talk to others.”

“Some of our clients don’t have email, they don’t have an email address, they don’t know how it works – they don’t even know where to start,” said Jaya.

“IT’s kind of a holistic answer to lots of problems, a one-stop-shop solution for them to come in and get some digital support. “It makes people very comfortable to know that they just have to come to one venue to find multiple solutions to multiple problems.

People may check in just for digital support but end up staying to take part in one of the many other bespoke sessions and events at the library.

“It’s the dedication of our volunteers coming in and being motivated to help,” says Jaya.

“Quite a few of our digital champions are clients who actually came in originally with a problem of their own.

“It’s that circle of people coming through the door and saying ‘We really like what you do here’.

“It helps with their confidence, with their CV development, their ability to stand up and speak or lead a group session. We’re so proud of that.”

Ross Noble at Richmond – review on page 20
Council urged to fund project to overcome child mutilation

BY GEOFF BAKER
geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTOn and CHELSEA
Council will be pressed this week to provide £150,000 a year to save thousands of children at risk of genital or bar
baric mutilation which is practised in secret in the royal borough.

The Labour Group of councillors are calling for the cash to fund pro
jects aimed at preventing female genital mutilation, a savage cultural ritual which is inflicted on girls aged from a few days old to their teens.

FGM is illegal in the UK and those carrying it out or helping it to take place, who are usually women, can face up to 14 years in prison.

But official medical research estimates that 1,644 women in Kensing
ton and Chelsea have suffered the butchery, which is most common among families from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The practice, which attempts to control women's sexuality, is also rife in neighbouring boroughs.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, an estimated 1,645 women have under
gone FGM, representing 31.9 cases per 1,000 population. This constitutes the fifth highest level of estimated prevalence of any local authority in Eng
land and Wales. Estimates for West
minster suggest that 2,619 women in the area have undergone FGM, repre
senting 24.5 cases per 1,000 popula
tion.

The total number of maternities in the Tri-Borough from 2005 to 2013 to women who had undergone FGM is estimated to have been 7,210.

But thousands more are now at risk and the Labour Group is urging the Conservative-led Council to pick up funding for prevention as initial Department of Education cash for the campaign against FGM is running out.

The Labour councillors have sub
mitted a motion to the next Full Counci
l meeting of Kensington and Chelsea Council on Wednesday (25th January) calling on the Cabinet to commit to permanently funding the Female Genital Mutilation Early Inten
vention project whose continued existence is threatened.

The innovative project brought to
together midwives, specialist social
workers, therapists and health adv
ocates from the communities affected to identify families where children are most at risk from FGM.

The aims were to prevent the prac
tice taking place, and to support women who have undergone FGM in the past. “It is a particularly impor
tant issue in RBKC and the Tri-Bor
ough area due to the ethnic make-up of the Inner London boroughs,” said Councillor Harrison Littler, the Group’s spokesman for Family and Children’s Services, who is proposing the cash plea.

“It is estimated that 12,850 resi
dents of the three Borou" "ges originate from countries where FGM is tradi
tionally practised.”

Cllr Littler added: “Preventing FGM forms a major part of the safe
guarding duties we have towards children in London.

“The practice has such a devastat
ing impact on girls that the only ac
ceptable type of intervention is to prevent it happening in the first place – that’s why this project, with its focus on early intervention and build
ning trust and good will over time in affected communities is vital.

“Every case of FGM we prevent through this work is a priceless and life-changing victory for a child we have a responsibility to protect. The original funding is running out, and we believe we have a moral obligation to ensure this outstanding work can continue.”

Cllr Judith Blakeman, who is sec
onding the motion, said: “We’ve been
campaigning for action on this issue since the 1990s. It has taken so long to get these services in place that it would be disastrous to lose them now.”

The full text of the motion Reads:

“This Council commends the work of the FGM Innovation Project which has brought together midwives, spe
cialist social workers and community activists to identify girls at risk of FGM and work with communities and families to prevent the practice across the Tri-Borough area.

“Further, this Council congratu
lates those involved for their suc
cesses and particularly on being shortlisted for an award from the Royal College of Midwives.

“This Council recognises that the initial funding for the project has come to an end and that further fund
ning is being secured on an ad hoc basis, at levels which have already re
quired some elements of the project to be cut.

“This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to commit to securing the fu
tures of this vital safeguarding work by bringing the funding of it into ex
isting budget frameworks, with the co-operation of neighbouring Bor
oughs where appropriate.”
Kensington and Chelsea council is calling for local artists to submit proposals for this year’s Portobello Road Wall Arts Project.

The theme for the commission for the 10m wall is Moving Image, Film and North Kensington.

A council spokesman said: “The wall has been chosen as the site for artwork as it falls in between two of the most vibrant and well-known market areas in London – Portobello Road Market and Golborne Road Market.

“However, the wall is an effective ‘dead space’, marking for many visitors the end of their journey along Portobello Road.

“The project aims to help regenerate the Golborne area through creating a visual link between Portobello Road Market and Golborne Road Market. The project hopes through this to encourage visitors to continue their journeys further up Portobello Road to discover the vibrant Golborne area.”

The wall has previously featured work by Peter Dunn, Nadia Hammonds and Fiona Hawthorne.

Locally based artist Hawthorne captured a particular aspect of the distinctive life and the vibrancy of North Kensington and celebrated the legacy of Notting Hill Carnival with her wall Aspects Of Carnival.

The multimedia artwork was a celebration of life in the Portobello area through 14 striking panels, portraying the people who live there, capturing diversity and with a focus on carnival.

Aspects Of Carnival was the seventh in the series of 10 original art installations which have featured on the Portobello Road North Wall since the project began in 2009.

Now the council is seeking new art for the wall. Submissions should be sent to the council by noon on Friday February 10.

“Submissions will be judged on their ability to be striking, impactful and reflect the local area so that they capture the attention and engage pedestrians,” said the spokesman.

The successful work is planned to be installed during June and will remain in place for 12 months.

For more details about the Portobello Road Arts Project, email arts@rbkc.gov.uk or see rbkc.gov.uk/portobelloroadarts.

Above and below, art from previous installations

Artists are asked to submit proposals for this year’s Portobello Road Wall Arts Project

Artist Albrecht Kueh with mayor of the royal borough Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford at the current installation at Portobello Road

Picture: Andy Aderinto

Let’s make Sloane Square even better

SLOANE Street has an international reputation as a high-end retail destination. It’s also a thriving residential area. It’s a fabulous street boasting some fine architecture and it also has the wonderful Cadogan Place Gardens which are much loved by residents and the many visitors attracted to the area each day.

Despite this praise of Sloane Street’s virtues, the council thinks the street has drawbacks and could, with some alterations, be improved. It competes with some of the finest shopping streets in Europe and needs to present an attractive face to both shoppers and residents.

This could be done by reducing the dominance of traffic and improving what some refer to as the public realm but many people might recognise as the pavements and street furniture.

We’re not alone in believing things could be better still – The Cadogan Estate, the biggest local landlord, has a long-term interest in the success of the area. With its funding there is an unparalleled opportunity to make some changes.

We’ve just distributed a document to the local community designed to consult on options for improving Sloane Street. We know from previous communications that many local people saw benefits in improving the streetscape with better paving, lighting and more greenery. However, we picked up concerns about the impact any change might have on traffic, public transport and parking.

Having listened to these concerns the highway designers have developed some initial concepts into a design that we believe will make the road more attractive while keeping its character intact and, very importantly, avoiding any negative effect on traffic flows.

In essence we want to rejig the space to make more room for pedestrians on wider pavements. We want to add more greenery with high-quality planting and we also want to reduce traffic speeds and introduce sustainable drainage measures.

There are a number of public exhibitions planned where local people can find out more about the project and see a model of what the street might look like if everything goes ahead. There will be staff on hand to answer questions.

The exhibition will be held at 129 Sloane Street, SW1X 9AT, and will be staffed and open to the public on:

- Thursday January 26 from 2pm to 8pm;
- Friday January 27 from 10am to 2pm;
- Saturday January 28 from 10am to 2pm;
- Saturday February 4 from 10am to 2pm.

I’d encourage as many people as possible to pop in and find out more. It’s really important to us that we have your views and if you have received the consultation document please complete it and return it to us. Closing date is Monday February 27. You can find out lots more by going to sloanestreet@rbkc.gov.uk.

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

KENSINGTON and CHELSEA VIEWS TUESDAY JANUARY 24 2017

Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, Nick Paget-Brown, comments on the plans for alterations to high-end retail destination and thriving residential area.

The Exhibition at Portobello Road

Artists are urged to get in frame for Portobello project

Artist Albert Kueh with mayor of the royal borough Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford at the current installation at Portobello Road

Picture: Andy Aderinto

Above and below, art from previous installations
Your Health  Your Care

A public event for residents of Kensington and Chelsea and Queen’s Park and Paddington

NHS West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is holding an event in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

When:
Tuesday, 31 January 2017
from 6pm to 8.30pm

Where:
Small Hall, Kensington Conference and Events Centre, Hornton Street, Kensington, London, W8 7NX

There will be:
- Open-plan stalls
- Health and social care experts giving advice
- Talks from NHS and social care leaders
- A lively Q and A panel

To RSVP visit:
www.improvingcareforlocalresidents.eventbrite.co.uk, email your name to communications@nw.london.nhs.uk, or call 020 3350 4224.
New action group insists: fight to stop Heathrow expansion goes on

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FURIOUS campaigners in Hammersmith and Fulham have vowed to lead the fight against Heathrow expansion as protestors prepare to challenge ministers over their decision to give the go-ahead to a controversial third runway.

A new pressure group, called h&fnothirdrunway, will meet for the first time next week in a bid to rally support against the plan.

The Government announced in the autumn that it was backing the creation of an extra runway at the UK’s largest airport, despite major concerns over noise pollution.

New flight paths created by the additional runway are likely to pass directly over Hammersmith and Shepherds’ Bush – a prospect which has angered many residents.

Campaigners are now beginning a new chapter in their bid to block the runway and are appealing for members of the public to show their support.

Christina Smyth, who headed Hammersmith and Fulham council’s airports commission in 2015, founded the new group with fellow campaigner Victoria Timberlake last year.

She said: “The campaign against a third runway continues and we really want to get as much local support as possible.”

John Stewart, the chairman of the airports campaign organisation H&F, will speak at the group’s first meeting in Hammersmith on Monday (January 30).

And organisers hope dozens of residents who fear the impact of a third runway on their day-to-day lives will turn up to discuss their concerns.

“We are really lucky to have John Stewart as our guest speaker,” Ms Smyth added. “He has expert knowledge after campaigning for many years to protect the rights of residents living under Heathrow’s flight paths.

“Anyone is welcome to come along, whether they are members or not. It is time to get involved.”

A number of environmental organisations, pressure groups and local councils have threatened legal action in the wake of the Government’s commitment to Heathrow expansion in October.

It came after the Howard Davies Commission recommended the option to ministers in 2013.

Hammersmith and Fulham’s own airports commission concluded two years ago that Heathrow expansion would have a severe detrimental impact on quality of life for people living in the borough.

The first meeting of h&fnothirdrunway will take place at Holy Innocents Church in Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith, on Monday, January 30 at 7.30pm.

Protestors from Hammersmith and Fulham campaigning against Heathrow expansion in the Prime Minister’s Maidenhead constituency last year

Garage sites fit for new

MORE than 16,000 new homes could be built across London on land occupied by unused or rundown garages owned by councils, according to new research.

A study of local authority-owned lock-ups in the capital revealed 24 councils own a total of 4,640 – with 41 per cent empty or in disrepair.

Demolishing them and replacing them with affordable one-bedroom flats could go some way to solving the London housing crisis where the average home now costs £475,000.

The figures were revealed in a Freedom of Information request by property crowdfunding platform Property Partner.

Researchers worked out that the 22,000 empty council-owned garages in London covered a total of eight million square feet.

If they were replaced with developments made up of 500 sq/ft flats, it is estimated 16,000 affordable homes could be built.

The London Assembly says between 49,000 and 80,000 new homes are needed every year to cope with the projected population growth of a million in the next ten years.

Dan Gandesha, CEO of Property Partner, said: “This is just a snapshot of publicly owned land in London which is clearly surplus to requirement, underused or undeveloped.

“When we have a crisis in affordable housing not just in the capital but in the UK, it begs the question whether councils in Britain should either sell off the land for development or build new homes themselves.

“Under Heathrow’s flight paths, are not even rented to those who should have a right to them – local authority tenants – then it could be argued that this is a wasted opportunity.”

The worst offending boroughs are Ealing, Havering, Brent and Enfield, which have respectively 74 per cent (1,480 empty garages), 72 per cent (1,469), 71 per cent (1,234) and 70 per cent (2,008) lying idle.

The most expensive garage was in Chelsea, which sold for £670,000 in what is believed to be a record for a garage in the capital.

Ooops, has anyone mislaid their OBE?

HAS anybody gonged in the recent New Year’s Honours thrown their medal away already?

If so, contact London bemmen who found an OBE medal in the rubbish.

The waste clearance company EnviroWaste found the medal during a routine waste haul and is appealing to the public for any information that could help reunite the medal with its owner.

The medal is in a black leather presentation box, with OBE printed in gold on the lid, and also contains some of the paperwork that could help the search.

The OBE, complete with its presentation box, found by bennem last week

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Teenager dies after assault

A TEENAGER was killed just yards from Wembley Stadium in the early hours of Friday morning.

The victim, believed to be 19, is thought to be the first teenager murdered in London in 2017.

He was found collapsed near a block of flats in Wembley, north London, just a few streets away from the national football stadium.

He was treated at the scene, near a Novotel Hotel, by paramedics at 1.15am but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Scotland Yard said he had been assaulted but further inquiries were under way to establish exactly how he died.

A man in his 20s was arrested on suspicion of murder and was taken to a north London police station.

The scene was cordoned off by officers as investigations continued.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: “Police in Brent were called at 1.15am on Friday, January 20 following reports a man had been assaulted. Officers and London Ambulance Service attended and a man in his late teens suffering from assault-related injuries.”

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Why should I go to a public event about health and social care?

The NHS and your local council are holding a joint public event for residents of Kensington and Chelsea, and Queen’s Park and Paddington. Here’s why you should go...

HEALTH and social care in your local area is changing. NHS West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are holding a joint event called Your Health, Your Care to tell you about plans to bring health and social care closer together – and give you the opportunity to ask questions about these plans.

The doors will open at 6pm for you to browse open stalls offering health and social care advice, and locally tailored information on how to choose the right NHS service for a particular need.

From 6.30pm, there will be a series of short talks from health and social care staff. These talks will be followed by a lively Q&A session, where residents, patients and carers can ask questions in a public setting – and really listen to the answers.

Dr Fiona Butler, chair of NHS West London CCG, said: “We are really looking forward to Your Health, Your Care on 31 January. It will be a great opportunity for us to hear from patients, carers and the public, and an opportunity for them to get some detail from us about how we will improve services in the CCG area.”

NHS West London CCG has already set out its priorities for joining up health and social care in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), which was drawn up between eight CCGs and a number of local councils.

This shared North West London STP been submitted to NHS England for approval, and it has been published in its current form on the CCG website.

The plan is a blueprint for essentially doing five things: driving an overall improvement to the health and wellbeing of our population; making sure the hospital services you use most are safe, sustainable, and smartly run; helping people over 65 stay fit and independent; tackling the roots of mental-health problems in our community by guaranteeing strong preventive care in the early stages of illness; and giving patients with long-term illnesses such as asthma or diabetes, and their carers, reliable health education from our clinical experts to help them live successful, dynamic lives.

Attendees at the event will have the opportunity to ask questions about the reasons for these plans, how the plans will work in practice, and what benefits can be expected as a result.

Councillor Mary Weale, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s cabinet member for adult social care and public health, said: “This is a chance for users of these services to put questions to those who plan and deliver them.”

Booking is recommended as seating is limited.

● RSVP online: improvingcareforlocalresidents.eventbrite.co.uk
● RSVP by email: communications@nw.london.nhs.uk
● RSVP by phone: 020 3350 4224
● Or give feedback online using our digital engagement tool: healthiernw.london.commonplace.is
Time to share memories of life at prep school

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FORMER Kensington Prep girls are being invited to share their memories of school life to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the institution’s move to Fulham.

Kensington Prep is compiling a school memories book with anecdotes, photos and memorabilia to celebrate the anniversary of the school’s move in 1997.

“The school would love to hear memories of former pupils about their childhood at Kensington Prep,” said a spokesman.

Former pupils are asked to email their memories to alumnae@kenprep.gsdt.net or write to Memories, Kensington Prep School, 596 Fulham Road, London, SW6 6PA.

Kensington Prep School traces its history to Chelsea High School, the first school founded by the Girls’ Public Day School Company, now the Girls’ Day School Trust.

It opened in January 1873 at Smith Street in Chelsea with 20 girls under headmistress Miss Porter.

In 1879 it moved to Cromwell Road in Kensington and was renamed Kensington High School.

The original Chelsea High School continued functioning until 1894.

In 1888 Kensington High moved once more, to Lytham House in Kensington – but it was destroyed by a bomb in 1941. The school was relocated to Phillimore Gardens as a temporary measure for the duration of the Second World War while the management searched for a better location.

In the end, the senior school was closed several years after the war ended. The junior school remained open and became Kensington Prep.

The award-winning Kensington Prep is now an independent day school for girls aged four to 11.

The school is set in more than an acre of grounds with netball and tennis courts and a pond for environmental studies and has some of the best facilities of any prep school in London. The school is non-denominational. There are 290 girls in classes of about 20 girls.

The school offers traditional values combined with innovative teaching and is at the forefront of IT.

It has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark for the second time and there are iPad tablets and laptops in the classroom. There is also an IT suite. The school has also just introduced a new digital learning platform and parent portal.

There is a now a large library at the heart of the school, a state-of-the-art science lab and dedicated specialist rooms for art, design technology, music and drama.

THE annual winter concert at DLD College London proved “the best yet”, with 20 students rewarded for their outstanding achievements and a spectacular display of talent showcased.

Parents, teachers, staff and students gathered in the atrium of the Westminster Bridge-based college to enjoy the show and to applaud the students for their hard work and dedication.

MC Michael Brett welcomed guests and introduced the prize winners. An abundance of musicians took to the stage. From pianists and singers to bands and the ukulele group, the atrium was filled with music and superb poetry and prose readings.

This academic year, the college also raised money for Crisis at Christmas which helps people who are sleeping rough. A presentation was held by the student council to demonstrate the importance of helping those less fortunate and who may not have somewhere to live or eat.

A student who showcased her excellent musical talents was also presented with an award.

Dayanan Chumburidze, 16, gave a beautiful rendition of Warrior’s Song by Stephen Heller on the piano and captivated the audience with her ability. The GCSE student then went on to collect her certificate for her regular attendance and contribution to concerts and events including judging the recent DLD’s Got Talent show.

College principal Rachel Borland said: “The entertainment has been exceptional. Every year we say it couldn’t get better and every year it does.”
Never done yoga before?
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Our knowledgeable and nurturing teachers will take care of your every need.
We host a variety of traditional and heated yoga and Pilates classes in Shepherd’s Bush.

Advertisement feature
Make 2017 memorable

IT’S the time of year when New Year’s resolutions tend to transform from hopeful dreams to forgotten memories.
But if you’re looking for the perfect way to beat the January blues, there’s no shortage of exciting health, fitness and beauty experiences to keep your personal goals for 2017 bang on track.
Still struggling to shift the extra pounds put on over the Christmas break? Nursing a holiday hangover and feeling overwhelmed by the cold, wet weather? Or even finding it tough to get inspired during the miserable month of January?
Then now’s the time to put the wheels in motion for a new you in 2017.
At the start of each year we often make resolutions to find a new job, spend more time with our friends and family or get back in the dating game.
But by far the most popular promise we make to ourselves when the New Year arrives is to focus on our health and fitness.
It’s not just joining the gym or going for a run that can help to make us feel better at this time of year, though.
Simply being good to ourselves – trying out a new hairstyle, enjoying a spa day, having a massage or relaxing the mind through yoga – can have a huge impact on our overall wellbeing and help to keep us focused on those all-important targets for 2017.
By finding the right fit for you, there’s no reason why your New Year’s resolution has to be a struggle at all – and it could just give you the boost you need to make 2017 a year to remember.

An intuitive life coach
I AM an intuitive life coach and clairvoyant reader with more than 17 years’ experience.
I want people to gain clarity and understanding of their present so that they are able to move forward empowered and to create the future that they desire.
I have performed at the Oxford University Ball for the RAF and Media Com to name a few.
I regularly travel internationally to accommodate overseas clients.
My services include tarot, face-to-face, phone readings, chakras, grounding and cleansing.
I am available for all events – corporate, private, weddings, balls, birthdays, stag and hen nights and more.
For more information please visit
www.delialewis.com or call: 07708 242 494 or email
delialewis84@gmail.com.

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THE future of the Notting Hill Carnival is now solely in the hands of just one man – Sadiq Khan.

That is the clear message of the in-depth and exhaustive report on Europe’s biggest street festival published by the London Assembly, which states that now the mayor of London should “get a grip” on the carnival which Kensington and Chelsea councillors, Westminster Council, the organising trust, the Met, the local MP and residents have all failed to control properly.

The Assembly’s in-part damning report, Notting Hill Carnival – Safer And Better, reveals that the festival which attracts more than one million people has become far too big an event for it to remain any longer in the demonstrably incapable hands of local authorities and organisers.

The carnival, which for 50 years has been lauded as a community event, is now set to become a London event, with Mayor Mr Khan at the helm of it.

While praising the great work and tireless efforts of Carnival Trust chair Pepe Francis and his tiny team of organisers, the report makes it clear that a massive cash infusion – possibly up to £7 million – is now needed from the Mayor’s Office in order to prevent the ostensibly joyous and celebratory event from descending into a dangerous and overcrowded orgy of disorder, drug-taking and violence which puts public safety at risk.

With more than 60 bands, 50,000 performers, 2,000 police officers, 2,000 stewards and the number of revellers equaling the population of Birmingham, the carnival, its report warns, “is now at tipping point”.

Add to that the 386 crimes committed last year, the 90 arrests for possession of weapons, the 135 attacks on people, the more than 1,000 casualties treated and the stabbings which very nearly resulted in four deaths and it is easy to see why the London Assembly members warn that the carnival now “risks people’s safety and reputation”.

The report by the Assembly’s police and crime committee states that one option for Mr Khan to consider is to request in the current free-for-all on the lines of London’s New Year’s Eve fireworks – with paid ticketing for all events and limiting the number of tickets.

“One of the most obvious risks for the carnival is overcrowding. This is made all the more acute because of the carnival’s high attendance figures and its street-based location. Very few other events in London are comparable to the carnival in this respect,” says the report.

“The London Assembly has always taken the view that the number of participants is too high to continue at the present level, and we have now been forced to conclude that the numbers cannot continue at present levels unless changes are made in the near future.”

Limiting the numbers of people permitted to attend the carnival is an option that was floated to the Assembly committee by the Met – but this has been opposed as impractical by members of the Labour group of Kensington and Chelsea councillors, the report states.

“The mayor and the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime are well placed to help carnival organisers get a grip on public safety at the carnival: there is proven success with enhancing public safety at events such as the New Year fireworks.”

But funding from the Mayor’s Office could cover the £7 million policing bill and, the crime committee urges, provide the money needed by organisers, the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust, to hire of more stewards who would be given greater powers.

“Unfortunately, the LHNCET suffers from a lack of support and capacity to deliver. It is run by volunteers, with little funding or staffing resource,” the report states.

“IT has come a long way and we congratulate its members who work so hard to make the carnival happen every year. It admits, however, that it still struggles and it is now time to provide it with a greater level of support.

“The mayor should now provide advice and guidance to the LHNCET to help it on a more formal and financially sustainable footing. This will in turn improve its ability to deliver a safer and more secure carnival.”

The report states: “If change has to come, change must not shut our ears to the concerns being raised. We need to improve the arrangements for safety and crime reductions at the carnival so that its success becomes the headline story, not its crime and disorder. The answer lies in giving those in charge of the carnival greater responsibility, ownership, capacity and capability to make the carnival a success and make sure it remains what it set out to be: a celebration of an exuberant culture.

“The London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust has come a long way but admits that it struggles. It cannot be right that the group organising one of London’s most high-profile events is staffed by volunteers and is not receiving the support it needs.”

Mr Khan is expected to report back with his proposals for the future of the carnival in May.

In the meantime, the last word from the report should be that of Mr Francis, chairman of the organisation, who told the police committee: “Yes, I am very concerned under my watch that something disastrous could happen in the carnival.

“Ladbroke Grove worries me when we come up there on an evening, especially if we get there after 7pm, which I tend to try to not do, trying to get there before to make sure that we are all safe.

“I am open to any change that will improve the health and safety of people.

“If change has to come, change has to come. However, change has to come with proper dialogue and very good discussion and planning.”
Dirty air blamed for violent crime

BY GEOFF BAKER
goeff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SCIENTISTS have made a shock new explanation for the surge in violence across the city – the dirty air.

Following recent research which revealed that pollution increases the risk of dementia, now another study suggests that London’s toxic air may also be the link to the rise in violent attacks.

US researchers studying how air pollution affects the brain say it could contribute to violent crime and now leading clean air campaigner Caroline Pidgeon says it is “vital” that the Mayor of London orders an urgent investigation into whether the capital’s filthy air, already causing the deaths of up to 10,000 a year by worsening lung and heart conditions, is responsible for the rise in violence in the capital too.

According to research by Evan Herrnstadt of Harvard University and Erich Muehlberger of the University of California, there’s something in the air which could be making people turn nasty.

Comparing more than two million crimes reported to the Chicago Police Department over a 12-year period with pollution data, the researchers found no correlation between air quality and property crimes such as burglary and robbery. However, violent crimes, including murder, rape and assault, rose 2.2 per cent in areas dealing with increased air pollution.

“This discrepancy across crime types may suggest that the primary mechanism is physiological, that is, the pollution might make people more irritable and impulsive, thus leading to more violent crime,” claim the researchers.

In their research paper Air Pollution and Criminal Activity the scientists say “This paper provides the first quasi-experimental evidence that air pollution causally affects criminal activity. Consistent with evidence from psychology on the relationship between pollution and aggression, the effect is unique to violent crimes – we find no effect of pollution on the commission of property crime.”

Critics of the study have suggested that aggression could have been caused by lead in petrol as lead poisoning is associated with attention deficit disorder, impulsiveness, aggression and, according to one paper, psychopathic behaviour.

However, lead was banned in fuel in the US on January 1 1996, six years before the air pollution study began.

The US findings tie in with official statistics for London, where last week City Hall issued a toxic air red alert in eight boroughs, including Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham.

As the city’s air quality has increasingly worsened in recent years, burglary rates have not increased but incidents of violent attacks have soared.

In Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, named by Public Health England in December as London’s two worst blackspots for air pollution, violence is on the increase whereas burglary is not.

Figures from the Met reveal that in the 12 months to November 2016, reports of some 7,965 violent attacks in Westminster rose by 11.5 per cent compared the previous year. But reports of residential burglary fell by three per cent. In heavily-polluted Kensington and Chelsea, incidents of violence rose by four per cent in 2015-Member 2016, with 3,303 attacks up from 3,177, but burglary fell by 9.7 per cent to 653 incidents in the 12 months to November 2016.

Now calls have gone out to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to launch City Hall’s own research to discover if the capital’s increasingly-deteriorating air quality is linked to the increase in violence.

Caroline Pidgeon, the Liberal Democrat member of the GLA’s General Assembly and a leading campaigner on air pollution, said: “The link between pollution and violent behaviour might seem far-fetched, but there is a growing body of evidence which suggests there is a direct connection.

“Understanding the possible connection between air pollution and violent crime is vital if we are to tackle both these scourges that face the capital. The Mayor of London is not only the elected Police Commissioner but he also has a legal responsibility to tackle health inequalities in the capital. On both these grounds the Mayor should not hesitate in ensuring the potential link between air pollution and violent crime is properly investigated.”

Witnesses to killing ‘should do decent thing’

THE police chief leading the hunt for Salim Coulter’s killer has urged witnesses to “do the right thing” and come forward with information after detectives made three more arrests.

DCI Noel McHugh renewed his appeal for anyone with information to help police track down the gunman.

Salim, 24, of White City, was shot outside Jerky’s restaurant in Walham Grove, Fulham, last month.

Detectives have launched a wide-ranging investigation and have made several appeals for evidence and information.

Last week a 22-year-old man was arrested, on suspicion of murder, as he boarded a plane for Algeria at Heathrow Airport. Officers also apprehended a 23-year-old man and a 20-year-old man on suspicion of the same offence.

All three remained in police custody last week as Met chiefs stepped up their inquiries.

It comes a month after police arrested and charged 30-year-old Omar Hus ton with Salim’s murder.

DCI McHugh, who is leading the investigation, said: “While one man has been charged and a further three arrested, we still need to speak to everyone who witnessed events on the day of Salim’s murder and to everyone who may have any knowledge of his fatal shooting.

“We have spoken to a number of people so far but I believe there are still more people out there that can help us with our investigation, and I am urging those people to do the right thing and to speak to us.

Anyone with information can contact police on 020 8785 6099 or 101.
ERE in London we pride ourselves on our principles of tolerance and understanding. We live, after all, in the most diverse and multi-cultural city on the planet – a fact of which we should all be proud.

Most of us live in perfect harmony and demonstrate to the rest of the world every day how we can all prosper by pulling together. Sadly, however, it is the actions of a vocal minority that often warp our understanding of community relations.

This week we again report on incidents of vile racial hatred targeting members of the Muslim faith.

In Hammersmith a woman wearing a hijab was screamed at and spat on as she sat in a restaurant and ate fish and chips. Only days later a man from Fulham was sentenced for orchestrating a campaign of hate promoting white supremacist views and Islamophobic rhetoric.

It is barely six months since thousands of people marched through the streets of the borough in the name of unity after spiteful xenophobic graffiti was scrawled across the Polish Social and Cultural Association building in Hammersmith in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Hammersmith and Fulham council is to be commended for the strong and active stance it has taken against these racist attacks.

But as Nahella Ashraf argues on the front page of our Hammersmith edition today, we should be prepared to confront more of these outrages in the months to come.

We cannot leave all the work to our community leaders. The onus must be on all of us to stand up to bigots when they publicise their intolerance.

The diversity and mix of faiths in London should be the mast to which we nail our colours.

Now more than ever it is essential that we fight for the freedoms we once took for granted.

ILL-JUDGED ATTACK ON 4x4 DRIVERS

YOUR recent article announcing a war on 4x4s in a bid to improve the dreadful air quality of much of Kensington and Chelsea not only unfairly scapegoats SUV drivers but it is also ill-judged.

Although it has long been accepted that 4x4s do indeed “gas guzzle”, one cannot just blame the pollution of the royal borough on those who have worked hard to afford such vehicles – what about the pollution caused by the incessant stream of builders’ trucks and HGVs which residents have had to endure for years now?

Not only do big lorries represent a far more intimidating presence than 4x4s to other road-users, in particular cyclists, they are hardly the greenest of vehicles and I would contend that they have been responsible for worsening much of the bad air quality during the recent boom in development of many K&C properties.

Lord only knows how bad the builders will make things when lorries and tipper trucks are hurling up the King’s Road once the controversial development for the new Chelsea Crossrail begins. I should imagine that we shall all be choking on the pavements and will be forced to shop wearing masks.

RBKC Council takes air pollution very seriously and it is to be commended for its pioneering scheme to plant hedging alongside busy roads in order to absorb many of the noxious fumes. Perhaps this inspired idea could now be extended with hedges running up the centre of all of the borough’s most polluted routes? A two-mile wall of privet running the length of the King’s Road would be most welcome.

Mrs B Chambers
Chelsea

ADVICE ON STAYING HEALTHY IN WINTER

ONE of the most effective ways to keep yourself well during winter is to stay warm.

Keeping warm over the winter months can help prevent colds, flu or more serious health conditions such as heart attacks, pneumonia and depression.

Cold homes have a significant impact on your health, so it is important to keep your home warm as well as your body. As temperatures continue to drop it is vital we all look after ourselves and our families in the right ways.

The chances of becoming unwell over this period are higher if you’re vulnerable to cold-related illnesses because of one or more of the following: you’re over 65; you’re on a low income and can’t afford heating; you have a long-term health condition, such as heart, lung or kidney disease; you are disabled.

If you are 65 or over, have reduced mobility, or have a health condition, you should heat your home to at least 18°C. Make sure you also wear enough clothes to stay warm.

If you’re under 65 and healthy and active, you can safely have your house cooler than 18°C if you’re comfortable with this temperature. You can also use a hot water bottle to keep warm whilst in bed.

Food is a vital source of energy, which helps keep your body warm. If possible try to make sure you have hot meals at least once a day and hot drinks regularly throughout the day.

It is well known that exercise is good for your overall health but it can also be efficient in keeping you warm during winter. If you can stay active, even at a moderate level, then it can bring health benefits.

It is important to dress appropriately during the winter and wearing lots of thin layers helps to maintain body heat better than one thick layer. Clothes made from cotton, wool or fleecy fibres are particularly good at maintaining body heat.

Dr Tim Spicer
Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group chairman
Mental health must be priority

It’s important to see the Prime Minister talking about mental health and it shows how far we have come in bringing the experiences of people with mental-health problems up the political agenda.

Mental health should be at the heart of government, and at the heart of society and communities – it’s been on the periphery for far too long.

We welcome the announcements around a focus on prevention in schools and workplaces, and support for people in crisis.

The proof will be in the difference it makes to the day-to-day experience of the one in four who will experience a mental-health problem this year.

Mental health is everyone’s business and we need to see our employers take the lead.

It has been neglected for decades – we need to see it make a priority for decades to come to make sure everyone with mental-health problems can live the life they want to lead.

Paul Farmer
Mind chief executive

Apprentices mean cheap workforce

To continue to thrive, London’s businesses and workforce need the skills to drive the economy forward. But that requires skilled and experienced workers who can fill the significant gaps in the skills required to do this, notably in construction and the creative industries.

Apprenticeships are widely viewed as a solution to London’s skills crisis; a crisis which may worsen in the context of Brexit. They should also provide an alternative route to decent and well-paid, skilled employment opportunities.

The government’s commitment to an apprenticeship levy and the new mayoral administration in London offers an opportunity to make sure apprenticeships in London do both of these things. It is vital this opportunity is not squandered.

The traditional view of apprenticeships is that of school leavers being taken on by a business to learn a trade. The reality is very different with around half of apprenticeships in London being carried out by over-25s, many “apprenticeships” effectively part-time in-work training for those already employed. All too many apprenticeships do not lead to permanent, quality employment and there is still evidence that apprenticeships are not effectively a means for some employers to access cheap labour.

Unlike in other countries, such as Germany, apprenticeships remain comparatively low-status in the UK. Some of the apprentices that commit to an apprenticeship are amongst the most hard-working – but the data round table told us how they were actively discouraged by schools and families from taking up apprenticeships. This is due to no small part to the low pay and low-skilled nature of many apprenticeships.

For the status of apprenticeships to change, and for them to be a viable route to up-skilling London’s workforce and affordable option for potential apprentices, this needs to change.

Without existing apprenticeships there are particular issues of diversity and equality of opportunity, outcomes and pay levels. Apprentices and those from a black and ethnic-minority background are more likely to work in the low-paid health and retail sectors, with apprenticeships forming a route into work for people with disabilities has also been too slow. The focus on numbers of apprenticeships rather than quality and outcomes means widening inequality and unfairness within the apprenticeship system.

The Skills for London tool can play a significant role in improving the apprenticeship offer in London and should consider how hurdles experienced by women, disabled people and those from a BME background can be overcome, particularly by exploring the feasibility of flexible and part-time apprenticeships.

Over the next few years, there is an opportunity to give the concept of apprenticeships a new lease of life and use them both to benefit London and the Londoners who make up apprenticeships.

Fiona Twy cylinder AM
London Assembly economy committee chairman

Poorest are being hit the hardest

As you report, Hammersmith and Fulham council is freezing its share of our council-tax bills this year.

But I’m afraid our total council-tax bill will rise for the third year in a row.

That is because the new mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, increased the precept by 1.5 per cent – which is 14.02p for those on band D.

Back in 2006 the then-Labour council increased its share by another 1.5 per cent (on £10,000, much bigger increases in earlier years) for the coming financial year. The then-mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, increased his precept by 3.5 per cent. The upshot was that the total for a band-D household went up by £15 to £20.

In 2006 the Conservatives were elected and cut the council tax by three per cent in the following financial year, 2007-08. Then by another 1.5 per cent for 2008-09, then another three per cent for 2009-10, then by another three per cent for 2010-11. A pattern was starting to emerge.

There was a freeze in 2011-12 but then a cut of 3.7 per cent in 2012-13, another three per cent in 2013-14 and another cut of three per cent in 2014-15.

For the couple of years the reduction in bills was unfortunately partially offset by Mr Livingstone’s tax hike put up the precept by 5.3 per cent in 2007-08 and another two per cent in 2008-09. Boris Johnson became mayor of London and for his first year at City Hall the precept was frozen and then cut.

Labour won control of Hammersmith and Fulham in 2014 promising to cut council tax at a faster rate than the Conservatives managed. Each year the Labour group leader Cllr Stephen Cowan had stood up saying that the three per cent council tax cut did not go far enough.

In 2015 it was only managed a one per cent cut, then in 2016-17 a freeze. However we still enjoyed a fall in our bill for 2016-17 because in his final budget as mayor of London, Mr Johnson cut his share – the precept – by 6.4 per cent.

Sometimes people say that the sums involved are trivial. But they are not cumulatively to those on a tight budget. This year the band-D bill is £1,004 – just over £200 lower than 2006. For some that’s the difference between whether they can afford a holiday or not.

Another claim is that it is “impossible” to cut the council tax any further. But in Wandsworth the band-D council tax is £680. In Westminster it is £960. So the increase we will see this year represents a very regrettable change in direction – and one that hits the poorest the hardest.

Cllr Harry Phibbs (Conservative)
Ravenscourt Park ward

Capital’s tech sector is amazing

I AM so proud to be helping to shape the tech sector across Brexit.

Our great city rightly has a reputation as a world-leading hub for technical innovation and digital entrepreneurship.

While London tech sector may not be on the scale of Silicon Valley, in terms of inventiveness, creativity and an ability to turn bright ideas into profitable products or services, it is still amazing.

I am a huge fan of our country’s tech companies and our tech professionals. I was once told that if the tech sector were asked to fix the European Union, they might well have suggested retirement.

Sadly that was not an option but I do hope the voice of our tech sector will be heard as our future outside the EU takes shape.

With that in mind, I was very pleased to be asked by the tech body, techUK, to become a member of its independent Brexit advisory panel.

The panel will work independently of techUK and is being asked, as they say, of leading experts across different disciplines, to continue to advise on how we can maximise the flexibility that enables our tech sector to continue to attract customers and talent from all over the world.

On skills, we need to ensure we continue to create our pool of domestic talent while remaining open to attract the best in the sector from across the world, no longer discriminating against those from outside the EU.

As well as the opportunities, these are legitimate concerns for the sector and for London.

techUK hopes that we will play our part in ensuring the negotiators do not overlook these concerns when the fine detail of any deal begins to be laid down.

And of course London’s tech firms will always have one rather potent card up their sleeve – their ability to innovate.

If ever the politicians, economists and mandarins are struggling to find a solution to the Brexit problem, my money will be on the tech folk to come up with it.

If and when someone in Brussels or London says “That would be impossible”, I expect a tech entrepreneur in Shoreditch to say “Have you tried this?”.

A tech solution making what some may have deemed impossible, possible.

Syed Kamall
Conservative MEP for London
Forget Brexit – proposed poll could send royals on hustings

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ANS of the public being consulted for their say-so by politicians who need their hand held to cross a road will doubtless be knocked out with delight to learn that plans are afoot for yet another furious argument-inciting referendum, this time on the matter of Rexit.

Members of the royalty-wrecking party Republic are quietly planning to push for a referendum on the future of the monarchy the instant that Her Majesty passes over to that realm in the sky.

Although many Brits are fed up with the back teeth with the recent stream of requests of how to govern from those who have already elected to do the job, the popularity of DIY government is set to rear its controversy-inducing head again.

The UK’s republican movement is preparing to mount a campaign for a referendum on the monarchy whether or not to abolish it or to continue with King Charles – when the Queen dies, an event which most of Britain hopes will be many years off.

At a meeting of the Alliance of European Republic Movements in Madrid, Republic’s chief executive Graham Smith revealed the drive for Rexit.

He told anti-monarchy delegates: “When the Queen dies, the moment she declares dead, Charles is King. So there is no gap. And there is certainly no official plan for a referendum. He is King immediately. The coronation would be about six months later.

“So that will be an opportunity, after the funeral and before the coronation, for us to do some campaigning and say ‘Hang on a minute, this is the 21st century, if we are going to have a Head of State, who is King now? Perhaps we want to have a vote’.

“Then if we have that vote, it can’t just be ‘Do you want Charles?’ It has to be ‘Which person do you want?’ and it has to be a free and fair election.’

These comments follow others by Mr Smith at Republic’s annual conference in 2015 against portraying the Queen’s death as an “opportunity” for anti-monarchs.

But in Madrid he admitted: “It is an opportunity to campaign but it is not going to be an easy campaign. We are going have to work hard to get that referendum.

“That (the Queen’s death) will make a big difference. In the UK a lot of support for the monarchy is to do with the fact that we have had the same Queen for a very long time and most people can’t remember a time when she wasn’t on the throne.”

Although Mr Smith said in Madrid “We are going to get to that point where there are no monarchies left in Europe and that’s a dream I want to make happen in my lifetime”, polls revealed that only 20 per cent of Brits feel the same.

However, in the highly unlikely circumstance that any government should back Republic’s drive for a “which person do you want?” Rexit, chaos and bitter rows could result – as we saw during the independent Scotland referendum and the Brexit vote.

For instance, according to the results of an Ipsos Mori poll of last year, although Her Majesty reigns supreme over all her family in popularity with the public, with an approval rating of 80 per cent, the Prince of Wales scored only 60 per cent – 13 points behind that of Prince William.

Constitutionally the Republic idea could threaten crisis as it has been established for us that when one monarch passes, the crown then passes to the next in line – not to whoever the public most favours at the time.

Technically, a “which person do you want?” plan for the next monarch could lead to a repeat of the Boaty McBoatface farce which last year surrounded the poll for the public to name a new polar research vessel, and Britain could end up with Katy McCuteface as the head of state.

We can imagine the fallout and confusion that would result if the royals were forced by a hare-brained idea to go to the hustings and launch individual “vote for me” campaigns to the public – “Charlie Isn’t Working, Vote Andrew”, “Can She Fix It? Yes Anne Can”, “British Rule is Harry’s Game”, or “It’s The Eugenie, Stupid”.

But undaunted by the impracticality, let alone the unpopularity of a

Geoff Baker

Save nearly £5,000 on your version of ‘the most famous ring in the world’

THIE many Chinese fans of Royal London will be delighted to learn that we can save them £4,965 on their apparently feverish purchase of “the most famous ring in the world”.

Recent reports have it that royalists from Beijing and Moscow are desperate to own replicas of the engagement ring once given to Diana, Princess of Wales, by Prince Charles. The famous sapphire and diamond ring, now worn by the Duchess of Cambridge, was purchased for an undisclosed sum by Prince Charles in 1981.

Given its history, the ring is now considered priceless but replicas are available and Garrard, the Mayfair jewellers preferred by the Royal Family for almost 300 years, has recently been inundated with requests from Chinese and Russian couples for whom it is a must-have gift.

“The Diana Ring is our most popular piece of jewellery,” said Joanne Miller, the company’s chief executive told The Daily Telegraph. “In one week alone in December we had three orders for them, and had to work flat out to make them in time for Christmas.”

Although the esteemed jeweller stresses that it would never create nor sell an exact replica of The Diana Ring, which would be bad form, copies start at £1,500, with prices rising for those who require a sapphire of the same size as the original.

The Daily Telegraph cheekily suggested that the Alhambra Street jeweller might be a port of call for Prince Harry, should he wish his squeeze Meghan Markle to one day wear a “Hers and Hers” ring that matched the one worn by the Duchess of Cambridge.

Although we at Royal London consider the likelihood of two royal brides wearing a ring of the same design to be somewhat fanciful, if Harry harboured such a bizarre wish then he – and the Chinese buyers – need look no further than his granny’s own shop.

For the Royal Collection Shop, the home of official royal gifts and souvenirs commissioned by Buckingham Palace, is currently selling a ring which is remarkably similar to Princess Diana’s.

Although it is not quite of the same quality as the original – the Buckingham Palace Sapphire Ring being designed of a “sapphire-coloured stone set with sparkling crystals in a hypoallergenic metal” – the popular item is available at Her Majesty’s store at a significant saving, priced just £35.
William heads up children's charity

PRINCE William has stepped forward to lead one of London’s most important but lower-profile charities, the Metropolit an and City Police Orphans Fund.

It is hoped that with the prince behind it, the key charity will achieve more public support and awareness like that which he has brought to his other good causes, which include mental health, conservation and action on addictions.

Every day Londoners trust their lives to the safe hands of the Met – but when tragedy strikes the orphans fund is there to care for those left behind when officers lose their lives or are seriously injured.

“We are proud and delighted to announce that HRH the Duke of Cambridge has agreed to be the patron of our charity beginning this month,” said a spokesman for the fund.

“The Orphans Fund began in 1870 as an orphanage, which we believe makes it the oldest police charity in the world. In 2020 we will be marking the 150th anniversary. The orphanage closed in 1937 and became the present fund, which makes 2017 the 80th year.

“We hope to mark these occasions with functions for the orphans and their families who are children of deceased or severely injured Metropolitan and City police officers.

“It is especially pleasing the Prince William will be our patron at the time of these anniversaries. Our first royal patron was Queen Victoria and we are privileged that the charity’s links with the Royal Family are to continue.

“The charity is mainly funded by the interest and dividends from the money that was invested when the orphanage was sold, by a percentage of the contributions serving officers make to the Metropolitan and City Police Benevolent Funds and public donations.

“In 2015 it was able to give more than £1 million to the kids of deceased colleagues. To back the fund, go to met-cityorphans24sq.com.

Princess' kindness celebrated

DIANA, Princess of Wales once urged: “Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

Therefore it is fitting that in the year which marks the 20th anniversary of her death, she is to be remembered with National Kindness Day.

The Diana Award, the charity established by the government in order to continue her excellent work, is to run the big day on a date in March in order to inspire new generations by the example of the queen of compassion.

The charity has also announced a special Legacy Award marking the 20th anniversary of the death of the princess – a project which has the support of her sons The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

“This award will be presented to 20 exceptional young people, aged nine to 18, from across the world for their selfless commitment to transforming the lives of others across the world at a special Legacy Ceremony in May,” said a spokesman for the charity which has trained 2,000 anti-bullying ambassadors, awarded 47,000 who are making a difference to the lives of others and has trained and mentored 2,000 young people.

Visit diana-award.org.uk to nominate someone for a Legacy Award.

“Twenty years since her death it’s heartening to know that her legacy lives on through the lives of thousands of young people across the world.

“Our theme for this 20th anniversary year is centred on Princess Diana’s values of kindness, compassion and service. We know there are truly exceptional young people across the world who deserve to be recognised. We urge the public to nominate them for The Diana Award.”

The Diana Award will also be launching a commemorative website celebrating Princess Diana’s legacy – dianaslegacy.co.uk – and members of the public will be invited to add their thoughts and memories of the much-missed great woman to the website.

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LONDON theatres are offering new apprenticeships to young people seeking careers in the spotlight.

The London Theatre Consortium of 14 leading theatres has announced plans for a fourth year of its apprenticeship programme offering up to a further 12 apprenticeships across the group this year.

In a new development, the LTC will work with the National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries to offer the apprenticeship qualifications and will pilot a new apprenticeship training hub at the Lyric Hammersmith.

The announcement comes as the consortium published a new report on the programme’s first three years which sets out how an investment of £800,000 has created 56 entry-level apprenticeships into theatre across a broad range of disciplines including technical theatre, costume, community arts, venue operations, producing and administration.

“The report shows how apprenticeships can help arts organisations to diversify their workforces and to create new routes into a career in theatre,” said a spokesman for the consortium.

“Sixty two per cent of apprentices to date have been from non-white-British backgrounds and 27 per cent have a disability, most hidden.

“The programme was also effective in reaching people from socioeconomic backgrounds that are not currently well represented in theatre staff teams.

“All apprentices were paid at least the adult National Minimum Wage, regardless of their age, to make sure that no-one was barred from taking a role for financial reasons.”

As well as college and workplace training towards an accredited qualification, apprentices were given mentoring support, help to plan their careers and next steps, and provided with opportunities to build their contacts and networks.

Of 48 apprentices, 23 have gone on to further employment in the arts and 11 will shortly complete their level-two qualifications.

“Apprentices reported that their self-confidence, organisational skills and work readiness improved enormously. Employers reported that managing an apprentice had encouraged them to reconsider their standard working practices to support better inclusivity and access,” said the spokesman.

The programme has been co-funded by CCSkills’ Creative Employment Programme, AGÉ, City Bridge Foundation, LTC employers and the LTC itself.

LTC director Emma Rees said: “We worked really hard to find talented young people who we don’t usually hear from when we are recruiting.

“Almost everyone working in the arts will say at some point that they owe their position to someone who saw something in them and believed in them. That’s brilliant if you’re there to be ‘spotted’ but impossible if you’d never find yourself in that position in the first place.

“We decided we needed to be proactive and to go out and look for talent and potential – and we found it.”

Sam Maynard, education manager of Donmar Warehouse, said: “Working with apprentices makes me question a lot of practice that is taken as read within the organisation, and I think that is a really good thing for the culture of an organisation.”

Sian Alexander, executive director of the Lyric Hammersmith, said: “The cultural sector is a real UK success story in terms of growth and economic development and London is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world, yet the workforce of the theatre sector is still under-representative of London’s diversity.

“From the start, we have seen this collaborative programme as an important way to diversify the workforce, to reach and train young people from backgrounds that are currently under-represented in the theatre sector.

“Working together has been key to this. I don’t think the London theatres could have embraced apprenticeships on the scale that they have, and with the success they have, if it hadn’t been for that collaborative approach, as part of the London Theatre Consortium.

“Although the funding climate makes it harder now, we are committed to continuing to work together to maintain the momentum we have achieved and to create open and accessible opportunities for talented young people from all backgrounds in our theatres.”

Recruitment for the fourth year of apprenticeships has now begun, with apprenticeships starting in March 2017.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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Dancing strictly on limits for Ore

AFTER triumphantly lifting the Glitterball Trophy as the winner of Strictly Come Dancing late last year, BBC Sport presenter Ore Oduba has got the bug for ballroom and is about to embark on the live UK tour, which will visit London next month, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The 31-year-old broadcaster is astonished that alongside his partner, World Show Dance champion Joanne Clifton, he won the coveted title, and said: “I was that shocked. I didn’t think, for a second of the whole series, we could win. It wasn’t why I’d signed up to do the show and even after all of it, the intention was just to have an amazing time. By the end of the final I was just beaming because I’d had one of the best experiences of my life.”

Oduba grew up in Wimborne, Dorset, and had virtually no dance experience before the challenge of taking part in the Saturday night hit programme.

He laughs and tells me: “I think there’s a club in Bournemouth called Elements and I spent a few nights there in there, but otherwise my experience of dancing was slim to nought and only in freestyle.”

“I danced at my wedding but none of the shapes had any sort of mirroring of Latin and ballroom. I wouldn’t have wanted to embarrass myself on the dance floor with any of that. I didn’t have any experience, so for me doing Strictly was the opportunity to learn to dance from the best in the world.”

Joanne is currently starring in the tour of the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie and Ore will dance with her sister-in-law, Karen Clifton, for the stage spectacular.

“I’m just so lucky to have gone from having one incredible woman as my dance partner to another. It’s a cliché to say, but I felt like I was part of the family from day one.”

Ore said: “It’s been a seamless transition from one to the other. Karen is similarly just so clever, a truly inspirational dancer, and I’m loving now being in her arms. Of course I miss Jo, like you would with any friend, but I want her to be happy and I know she is so happy doing musical theatre. She’s a star and she’s going to fly.”

The tour will also feature the other two finalists from the 2016 series, Louise Redknapp and Danny Mac, as well as Daisy Lowe, Lesley Joseph and former chancellor Ed Balls, who will be grooving along to Gangnam Style once again.

The troop of acclaimed professional dancers will also join the cast for the festival of dance, which will be judged and commented on by Anita Rani, Karen Hardy, the show’s producer Craig Revel Horwood and the now retired head judge Len Goodman.

There promises to be some spectacular group numbers as well as dances, which will be very familiar to fans of the television show.

Ore tells me: “We are doing numbers that the audiences will have seen before. There are a couple of changes, but I’ll keep the surprise. We are doing numbers that I love doing and I can’t wait to do them again and I can’t wait to show people on an even bigger stage.”

The Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour will culminate in performances on February 9 and 10 at the SSE Arena Wembley and on February 11 and 12 at The O2. For further details, visit www.strictlycomedancinglive.com.

Here’s proof it’s a mad, mad, Maddix world

COMEDIAN Jamali Maddix will bring his critically acclaimed unflinchingly funny debut hour, Chickens Come Home To Roost, to the Soho Theatre next month following a sold-out run in Edinburgh.

The creator of his own Viveland show, Hate Thy Neighbour, is an exciting new talent that over the last 18 months has cemented his path to worldwide success.

The young comedian, whose many fans include Spike Jonze, takes a dark, frank and honest look at life through the eyes of a self-confessed miscreant, whose upbringing, friends and family have given him a distinctly considered and shrewd outlook on issues of race, economics and the law.

In a show based on personal choices and the salvation of a past life, Jamali is now trying to deviate away from his trouble-making days to become something akin to vaguely respectable as he considers his current lifestyle against those of his peers, and how different opportunities and choices can lead to extremely different outcomes. His natural confidence and charm allow him to tread gracefully across more sensitive topics, leaving many of his contemporaries behind.

Jamali has also appeared on some of the most popular TV panel shows, including Live at the Apollo, 8 out of 10 Cats and The John Bishop Show, as well as being one of the faces for the Viceland TV channel with his own series, Hate Thy Neighbour. Other TV credits include Alan Davies As Yet Untitled (BBC), Safe Word (TV’2) and Lise At The Comedy Store (Comedy Central).

Within his first two years of performing, Jamali won the Comedy Café New Act of the Year Competition and the Charlie Student Comedy Award, and at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe he joined a long list of comedy stars as part of the prestigious Pleasance Comedy Reserve. Since then he has supported Jim Jefferies at London’s Hyde Park and has performed at many of the UK’s biggest festivals, including Bestival, Altitude, Bentfield and Latitude.

Jamali Maddix will be at the Soho Theatre from February 27 until March 4. For more information, visit the website www.sohotheatre.com.
PLAY about a terrorist attack in London might not be everyone’s idea of an entertaining evening out at the theatre – but Stuart Slade has scored a real triumph with his rom-com-come-tragedy BU21 at Trafalgar Studio2.

Following an acclaimed run at Theatre503, the play, which focuses on a group of survivors, gets the elements of comedy and tragedy spot on, with a powerful and sometimes gruesome set of tales.

It is told anecdotally by a mishmash of West Londoners.

We are given the news that a plane from New York to London has been blown out of the sky over Fulham by a shoulder-mounted rocket launcher, leaving whole streets and communities felled in its wake.

An office worker has lost her mother, a brash city banker his cheating girlfriend, and a young Asian man his father in a clever twist which ultimately tests our stereotypes.

There is also a victim who has suffered life-changing injuries and a caricatured working-class chav who has gained celebrity status after an appearance on television in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, alongside a dithering socialite struggling to come to terms with the vision of horror she faced when one of the victims landed in her back garden. Nothing and no-one is spared the trauma, with all of the repugnant details po-tently depicted – burned and severed flesh described as “like pulled pork” and a body described as “meat” – but the telling never feels irreverent and instead adds necessary realism to set the tone.

Dan Pick’s virtually bare stage, save for some plastic chairs and a tea trolley, further allows the focus to be the story and the impact of the horrific event, with the actors’ intricate emotional journey fully exposed with the audience in such close proximity.

Alex Forsyth steals the show as the arro-gant, laddish banker, uncomfortably break-ing the fourth wall and including audience members in his rantings, while Florence Roberts and Graham O’Mara illustrate the fact that an event of this magnitude doesn’t discriminate between class.

Hard-hitting, traumatic yet extremely amusing, BU21 encapsulates the pessimistic British sense of hu-mour – and with a fictional horror story, which is entirely plausible, it leaves you laughing with a disquieting sense of foreboding.

BU21 runs at Trafalgar Studio2 until February 18. For more details, visit atgtickets.com.

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AMALUNA – performed by Cirque du Soleil
Royal Albert Hall

*****

I’VE heard great things about Cirque du Soleil but the return of their celebrated show Amaluna marked my first experience of the famed circus practitioners, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Although I’ve always loved acrobatics and juggling – I actually own a unicycle – I was put off from the art form by the uncom-fortable wooden seats, sawdust and the chill of an unheated big top.

It turns out that my resistance to the art form is unfounded, however, and the performance by the world-renowned masters of calisthenics proved one of the most thrilling theatrical experiences I’ve ever experienced.

Loosely based on Shakespeare’s The Tempest, Amaluna is packed with breathtaking aerial stunts, astonishingly acrobatics and stunning symbolism.

With a thumping rock soundtrack and dazzling stage effects, the love story becomes a spectacle – and when the clowing expertise of Mainha and Papulya is added to the mix, you are greeted with all of the elements of a traditional circus but with a whole lot more pizazz.

Highlights include an asym-metric-bar routine performed by a troupe of feisty goddesses, an aerial hoop display executed 30 feet above the cavernous auditorium, and a mesmerising water sequence which is driven by the narra-tive of the central character’s burgeoning love.

There are themes of female empowerment woven into the plot, with 70 per cent of the cast made up of women and the awesome band entirely propelled by girl power.

A theatrical spectacular that is not to be missed, Amaluna continues at the Royal Albert Hall until February 26. For more details about the show, visit royalalberthall.com.
Melodic, direct and brimming with emotional urgency, the long-awaited return of indie architects British Sea Power is here at last.

"Throughout their colourful lifespans as a band, the Brighton outfit have taken a broad and panoramic perspective that has drawn on historical events while mirroring the ageless wonders of the natural world.

Their comeback album – Let The Dancers Inherit The Party – continues in the band's grand tradition, covering subject matter that spans the astronomical glory of the star-sprangled night sky to the twisted methodology of media manipulation.

A contemporary record for troubled times, the album alludes to a world full of chaos and disorder while setting out an agenda of optimism and hope.

"It was made to a background of politicians perfecting the art of unabashed lying, of social-media echo chambers, of clickbait and electronic Tonka toys to keep us entertained and befuddled," says guitarist Martin Noble.

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

Musically, it's British Sea Power’s most direct album to date – and perhaps the first to hold on to a coherent sense of mood throughout. Recorded last year – part in London, part in Sussex, part on the Isle of Skye – it follows the band's string of five LPs on the iconic Rough Trade label.

So committed are they to the cause that BSP now hold the proud honour of being the longest continually signed band in the label's history.

While Rough Trade have been a vital factor in the band's rise to fame, so have their fans.

The new album was actually licensed from the band's own Golden Chariot label to Caroline International – and funded entirely by its remarkably dedicated audience.

Donations were collected via a 'pay-in' programme, with pledges enabling the listener to cash in on anything from a limited-edition box set of the album to a £1,500 tattoo that allows entry to all of the band's future shows.

British Sea Power may be big thinkers. But their faith in their fans demonstrates again a fascination with the individual in a global age. "There wasn't a plan to create an album with any particular subject matter but we've kind of ended up with a case of 'think global, act local,'" explains Noble.

"An album where individuals are dealing with their domestic and personal lives against a background of uncontrolable international lunacy."

Let The Dancers Inherit The Party follows the 2013 album MACHINERIES OF JOY – a record praised by influential music magazine Q as "a triumph of sophisticated rock engineering."

In the four years since, British Sea Power have kept busy, releasing two film soundtracks, a reissue and a compilation.

They even found time to pen the theme music to BT Sport's coverage of the European Football Championships last summer.

All the while they have enthralled fans by playing gigs in ever more bizarre and unconventional locations, winning praise from celebrity followers including Doctor Who, Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes – Peter Capaldi, Daniel Radcliffe and Benedict Cumberbatch have all declared an interest.

2017 may be the year of calm after the international storm that was its predecessor.

But British Sea Power are set to ride their own musical wave all the way to the top.

British Sea Power will perform at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire on Wednesday April 12. The new album, Let The Dancers Inherit The Party, is out on March 31.
NOTHING the world holds could match the love waiting for me in Mexico City, Morrissey once said. Of all the cities the legendary singer has performed in – as the frontman with The Smiths and later as a solo artist – he has singled out the South American capital as a home from home.

While he complains of toxic derision from the music Press in Britain, the boy who famously carried “a thorn in his side” is full of love for his Mexican cousins.

And, it seems, the feeling’s mutual. In Mexico, Morrissey has always been a prophet with honour. His songs of love, loss and longing, loaded with powerful imagery, have found a huge audience and chimed with generations raised on rancheras.

One band in particular – a Mexican supergroup comprising some of the country’s best-known musicians – has begun to monetise this fandom.

Mexitriss, a bootleg tribute band of the most unusual variety, are in the midst of a UK tour taking to many of the stages graced by their hero over the years.

Combining Morrissey’s often morose lyrics detailing the trials of a frustrated English existence with upbeat mariachi music might seem something of a mismatch.

But Moz’s famous songs are reimagined with tenderness and attention to detail by skilful instrumentalists.

Andy Wood, director of the La Linea Festival in London, approached Mexican musician Camilo Lara with the initial idea three years ago.

“It just felt like time,” he said. “I had a sense of the feeling for Morrissey in Mexico and the way that his music could connect with so much in Mexican music.”

Mexitriss released their first album – No Manchester – last year (the title is now a cultural colloquialism for “Are you kidding me?”) after the band found stylistic similarities between the Smithsonian compositions.

The First Of The Gang To Die – probably Moz’s most overtly Mexican track, including its tragi-comic mobster hero Hector – is an obvious starting point. But the band also take on all manner of the singer’s hits, featuring versions of The Last Of The International Playboys, Suedehead and The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get among others.

Lara said: “I always thought that there were these invisible lines between what Morrissey and Manchester represents and what Mexican pop culture has.”

“I think for the people that know the songs, I’m sure that they will be amazed that they can go into these directions of cumbia and boleros, and sound actually as if they were written in that style.”

Having said that, it’s the words, the playful turns of phrase and trademark wailing that are trickiest to translate.

“We try to get a glimpse of the poetry in Morrissey’s work and to capture the history, the anger and the happiness at the same time. That has been a challenge.”

The band performed their first show in April 2015 but have shot to notoriety in less than two years.

A sold-out main-stage debut at London’s La Linea Festival was soon followed by an emotional gig in Manchester, the spiritual home of Morrissey’s music.

And triumphant shows in New York and Los Angeles – where the singer now lives – have established Mexitriss on the international stage.

Their success is both a marker of Moz’s enduring appeal as an artist and his mythological musical status.

But it also goes to show that true greats never fail to inspire others to new and remarkable feats of invention.

Mexitriss perform at the O2 Shepherd’s Bush Empire on Saturday January 28. The album No Manchester is out now.
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As OPDC’s roots are in the area, you will take a leading role in working closely with local residents, community groups, businesses and organisations to understand local aspirations and concerns, and ensure that they are clearly understood and captured in our plans.

We are committed to being an inclusive employer and we are happy to consider flexible working arrangements and welcome applications from candidates seeking part time work as these roles are open to job share.

In addition to a good salary package, we offer an attractive range of benefits including 30 days’ annual leave, interest free season ticket loan, interest free bicycle loan, childcare voucher scheme and a career average pension scheme.

To find out more about either of these roles, please go to www.london.gov.uk/jobs Closing date for both roles: Sunday 5 February 2017 at 23:59.

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**London’s diversity is its biggest asset and we strive to ensure our workforce reflects London’s diversity at all levels.**

We welcome applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.

www.london.gov.uk/opdc
Public Notices

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate deck repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload on Hammersmith Bridge.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via XXXX.
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 11th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 11th February 2017 and last for 9 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Water Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bloemfontein Road at its junction with Bloemfontein Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Ellerslie 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 will come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate telecommunication works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Edith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Holland Road, Caverswall Street, Eynham Road and Glenroy Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Fulham Palace Road between A Block Guinness Trust Buildings and Yeidham Road.
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 would come into operation on the 13th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 13th February 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Nascot Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wood Lane, Caverswall Street, Eynham Road and Glenroy Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate telecommunications works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Addison Crescent.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Addison Park.
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.
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Dated this 20th day of January 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 80, Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

1. This designation may be called the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.

2. This designation is made on 13 December 2016 and shall come into force on 5 June 2017.

3. This designation shall cease to have effect on 4 June 2022 or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

REQUIREMENTS TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

APPLICABILITY OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence in the area described in paragraph 4 unless:

i. the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;

ii. the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;

iii. the house is subject to an Intern or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;

iv. it is exempt under paragraph 88 of the Act;

v. the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building to an extent as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006.

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to subparagraphs (i) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, a managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 8JJ

Phone: 020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.

Time: 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

If you want to make comments on these applications, you can also inspect details of the applications via our website at www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. You can also inspect applications at the following locations (Revised description).

Hong Street London SW6 9LR 2017/00080/FUL

Erection of single storey rear extension at first floor level to part of the existing rear elevation.

Mitford Road London W6 2UH 2017/00108/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear dormer window.

Kensington High Street London W8 9AA 2017/00106/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Davies Street London W12 9QH 2017/00089/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Old Street Road London SW6 6JW 2017/00079/VAR

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear dormer window.

Dawes Road London SW6 7WJ 2017/00075/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

If you want to make comments on these applications, you can also inspect details of the applications via our website at www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. You can also inspect applications at the following locations (Revised description).

Hong Street London SW6 9LR 2017/00076/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear dormer window.

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear dormer window.

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.

Erection of a single storey rear extension at first floor level.
Queens Park Rangers goalkeeper Alex Smithies is laying claim to the title of penalty-saving king after his latest heroics earned his side a 1-1 draw in Saturday’s feisty West London derby with Fulham.

When Smithies dived low to his right to push Chris Martin’s spot-kick around the post at The Loft end, it was his sixth save from 10 penalties faced in QPR colours.

And it’s the third time this season that Fulham have failed to convert from 12 yards against their local rivals. Back in October, Smithies denied Tom Cairney – and then Soon after, Aluko wasted his golden chance to make it 2-2 when he fired against a post in the fifth minute of time added on in SW6.

QPR manager Ian Holloway said: “Alex made a great save for us. He’s a top goalkeeper and his record at saving penalties is fantastic.”

Televising replays indicated that justice was eventually seen to be done.

Referee’s assistant Mark Pottage couldn’t even blame the bright Shepherd’s Bush sunshine for his decision to raise his flag in front of the shaded stand to alert referee Keith Stroud to what he saw – or what he thought he saw.

Aluko was running at pace just inside the penalty area, hotly pursued by Jake Bidwell, when he hit the deck in the sixth minute. Did the full-back unintentionally clip the winger’s heels? If so, there was only the slightest contact. Holloway, never one to sit on the fence in these situations, was in no doubt: “It was never a penalty. How can the referee give them a penalty like that?”

“I’ve never seen anything quite as embarrassing in my life, to be honest. Am I allowed to say that? Yeah, because I can. I thought it was soft to say the least and maybe some of our lads are too honest. That’s never a penalty in my book.

“We’re all standing here on the side being judged and hopefully Mr Stroud will be too, because that was an awful performance from a referee.”

After Smithies’ latest penalty save, Irish youngster Ryan Manning celebrated signing a new contract by netting his first goal as a professional during QPR’s first-half equaliser and a first double over Fulham since the 1979-80 season.

It was, though, a game neither side deserved to lose and a fair result. “It was a proper derby, wasn’t it? The fighting spirit from both sides was great to see” Holloway.

“It was a really tough game. Fulham are a really good side. It was difficult for us. We had to do things a bit differently to what we normally do. Our shape was good but we didn’t quite get right enough to them and that’s credit to Fulham.

“But we more than matched a good side who have been together a long time. Our spirit was fantastic. That’s a big point for us today. Onwards and upwards for us now.

“I’m disappointed we didn’t win the game. We needed a second goal really but it wasn’t to be.

“Judge to get a draw rather than get beaten but I wanted all three points.

“We’re still a new group with a new manager. We’re learning as we go but I can’t fault the boys. I’m very, very proud of our lads. They gave it everything and we’ve kept our old run going.

“Something is growing here. There’s a real unity in this group. The fans were magnificent. I hope they like what they’re seeing from us. I really think they are.

“That’s four games undefeated, with three wins, and we are moving forward. We’ve got to keep this going now.”

Rangers, now 17th in the Championship, hope to get back on the winning trail when they entertain third-bottom Burton Albion in W12 on Saturday. The Brewers have not scored in their last three matches and have lost seven of their last eight. Their only victory in 14 away league matches came last month at Rotherham United.

Patrick Bamford has left Chelsea and moved to Middlesbrough in a £6 million move, while Nathan Ake has been recalled from his loan spell at AFC Bournemouth.

Other Chelsea players out on loan are Fankaty Dabo, Charlie Colkett and Islam Feruz, who will all be making Swindon Town their home for the rest of the season.

Colombian striker Joao Rodriguez is now on loan at Courtlu, and goalkeeper Nathan Blake has joined Solihull Moors.

Lucas Piazon and Alex Kiwomya have extended their loan spells at Fulham and Crewe Alexandra respectively, while Dion Conroy stays at Aldershot Town until the end of the season.

Bamford joins Boro

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Tony McDonald

**WIN a place on Blues legends tour thanks to LWN**

*You can join two talented Chelsea legends, Colin Pates and Gary Chivers, in an unforgettable tour of Stamford Bridge for free if you are the winner in our great competition. London Weekly News Sport has joined forces with our friends at Chelsea FC to offer one lucky winner two tickets to this fantastic opportunity to have a look around the inner sanctum that is Stamford Bridge on Sunday February 12 at 2.30pm.*

*During the Legends Tour you will have the chance to spend time with Pates, who went on to become a teacher, and Chivers, who tried his hand as a black cab driver, and hear their experiences first-hand, as they take you around the dressing rooms, Press room, tunnel area, the dugout and much more.*

**The tour includes:**

- Behind-the-scenes tour, including access to the dressing rooms and players’ tunnel;
- Personal anecdotes from both players;
- Signed personalised photo of the legends;
- Q&A session;
- Access to the Chelsea FC Museum (chelseafc.com/club/stadium-tours-museum.html);
- Museum guidebook and audio guide.

**All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning this great competition is to answer correctly the following question:**

**Which player went on to become a teacher and which a London taxi driver?**

Send your answer, by email only, to paul.lang@slp.co.uk.

The deadline for entry is noon on Friday February 3. You have to make your own way to and from Stamford Bridge, as this is a ticket-only competition, but it will be well worth it.

If you don’t win but still want to go, of course you can. Just buy a ticket. Prices are £10 for adults. Spaces are limited, so book online now by phoning 0371 811 1955 or email tours@chelseafc.com.
**Perfect’ Pedro hits top form**

And striker Costa happy to show staying power for Blues

By Paul Lagan

PEDRO believes that Chelsea have had the perfect weekend and that the next two Premier League games, against Liverpool and Arsenal, could determine the destination of the title.

The 29-year-old Spanish midfielder, a £21 million purchase from Barcelona in the summer, said: “This is probably my best season for Chelsea. It is good and this win was important, I’m happy to stay with us and to play with Chelsea.

“For us, now, it’s very important to concentrate on the present and not to try to see too far into the future.”

Asked if Chelsea’s attacking talisman would be offered a new contract, the coach said: “I don’t know, this decision is something you have to take together with the club. But, I repeat, I don’t see any problem with Diego and his contract.”

CHELSEA’s defence of the FA Youth Cup continues to run smoothly. Having dispatched Birmingham City 5-0 last Wednesday, the under-18s were due to host Sheffield Wednesday in the fifth round at Aldershot last night.

At Birmingham, a hat-trick by Mason Mount and strikes from Cole Dasilva and Reece James were more than enough to secure Chelsea’s second consecutive 5-0 victory in the competition, having previously swept aside Cardiff City by the same margin, although coach Jody Morris felt that they should have scored more.

“I’m pleased,” said Morris. “There were some really good individual performances throughout the team and, collectively, we dominated the game from start to finish. It was similar to our league game last weekend (a 0-0 home draw against Aston Villa), only this time we ended up taking some of our chances.

“That was probably the only side of this game I was a little disappointed with. We could have got double figures if we had taken our chances properly, although you can’t really moan too much after a 5-0 win.”

Chelsea’s under-23 development squad romped to an impressive 4-0 victory at Leicester City. Mukhtar Ali netted a brace, with Dominic Solanke and an own goal making up the score.

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**London Weekly News**

Tuesday January 24 2017

**SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427**

By Paul Lagan

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