THE boss of Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank says vulnerable people trapped in the poverty cycle will be helped to “break out of crisis”, after an essential new support centre was launched in Shepherd’s Bush.

Daphine Aikens, the foodbank’s chief executive, said help was on the way for the most in need as the ‘hub’ – the borough’s third outreach point – was opened in White City.

As well as distributing emergency food parcels, the foodbank will offer advice services and computer access to help the poorest people escape the poverty trap.

Hammersmith and Fulham council has joined forces with foodbank charity the Trussell Trust to set up the Bloemfontein Road centre, which will be known as ‘The Hub @ 75’.

Ms Aikens, who manages the borough’s two other foodbank outlets in Fulham and Shepherd’s Bush, said the charity had recently stepped in to help a woman who had become homeless while heavily pregnant with twins.

“She was sofa surfing just six weeks before she was due because she and her partner hit financial difficulty when her antiques business collapsed and they were evicted from their home,” said Ms Aikens. “Our partnership with Hammersmith and Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau meant that not only were we able to give her emergency food and baby basics, but also housing and welfare advice.

“Working together to provide support can make a real difference to people being able to break out of crisis.”

More than 100,000 emergency food packages were handed out in London last year, according to the Trussell Trust.

It recently supported one user in Hammersmith and Fulham, Gavin, who had fallen into debt and could not pay his bills.

“He is very thin and has eating disorders, as well as a rare bone disease, which means he can get hypothermia easily,” said a spokesman for the trust.

“He needs to have the heating on all the time but he can’t afford it. Like many on low incomes, he doesn’t get any extra money in winter to compensate for the additional costs it brings. “But emergency food combined with help from the foodbank’s in-house Citizens Advice Bureau adviser meant that Gavin is now on his way to paying off his debts and getting back on his feet.”

With the opening of the borough’s third outlet, hundreds of users who are referred to the foodbank will now be able to access support six days a week.

It follows a budget commitment from the chancellor,
Top marks for mayor’s college funding

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has confirmed a £65 million injection in the capital’s colleges and further education facilities to ensure Londoners are best placed to compete for jobs in the city.

It follows a funding pot of £55 million last year in a host of new campus technology hubs and workshops – taking the total investment available for 22 colleges in London to £110 million.

The £65 million has been agreed for seven of those projects to be delivered over the next four years as part of the London Enterprise Panel’s Further Education Capital Investment Fund, launched by the mayor following a successful bid for Growth Deal funding from the Government in January last year.

The majority of the fund has been allocated, with a small amount to be allocated for projects later in the year.

In this latest round of confirmed funding, a £22.5 million grant has been approved for Lambeth College to create a new campus, training hotel, homes, new jobs and construction skills centre at the heart of the Vauxhall Nine Elms regeneration area.

The Ada National College of Digital Skills will also receive £18 million to complete a move to Tottenham Hale in September this year. The project, which continues a major regeneration push led by the mayor and Haringey council, will create a new state-of-the-art college building to support its students into highly skilled digital jobs with higher level apprenticeships.

The funding programme is designed to upgrade and modernise London's colleges and further education services to ensure they are fit for purpose and put students in pole position for the £80 billion new jobs to be delivered in the capital over the next 20 years.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: “As a global city attracting the very best talent, it’s only right Londoners have world-class facilities to ensure they are prepared to compete for the thousands of new jobs being created in business, tech, media and construction. I am pleased to be able to support our colleges as they prepare the next generation who will further London’s position as the best big city in the world.”

Work on the Ada National Digital Skills Centre will now begin as part of a temporary hub being created while the new state of the art building is being built, which is expected to open by September 2018.

Sir Rodney Aldridge OBE, Chair of Ada, the National College for Digital Skills, said: “I am delighted to receive this funding which will allow us to develop the hub campus and build a state-of-the-art centre for our students, the community and London more broadly. This will help realise the college’s mission of offering students a high quality provision for post-16 education in computing-related subjects as well as ensuring they will be ready for the modern workplace and will start to address the digital skills gap for industry.

“The college will provide young people from across the capital, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with new opportunities and an education that will help them realise their dreams of pursuing successful digital careers.”

Clr Joe Goldberg, Haringey council’s cabinet member for economic development, social inclusion and sustainability, said: “The decision by Ada National College for Digital Skills choosing to open its new centre for digital skills in Tottenham is a massive boost for Haringey.

With 147,000 high paid digital jobs unfilled every year the Ada National College for Digital Skills will give young people in Haringey the chance to learn high level digital skills including coding and secure well paid jobs.

This will give opportunities to the next generation to fulfil their potential and ensure Haringey becomes the centre for digital skills in London.”

Richmond upon Thames College has received £30 million of investment in two rounds of funding, which will transform its campus to develop local and national employer links and facilitate a real-life learning environment.

The college’s plans also include a centre to assist the development of specialisms including new technologies for low carbon and electrical vehicle testing, medical sciences, advances in engineering technologies and new construction skills.

Robin Ghurbhuran, principal and chief executive of Richmond upon Thames College, said: “The college is delighted to have secured this significant investment from the mayor. Our approach to partnership working with key stakeholders, in particular the London Enterprise Panel, will deliver a truly exceptional learning and skills experience at the heart of Twickenham capable of building futures and maintaining London’s status as the global city for business, learning and life.

Waltham Forest College is also set to receive £3.5 million towards their project to create a series of construction workshops for students specialising in electrical and plumbing work.

Peter Doble, director of finance at the college, said: “City Hall has funded a commitment to develop the college project which will inspire our learners seeking entry into practical engineering careers.”

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Contacting your council

Hammersmith & Fulham

- **Adult social care**
  - 020 7653 3935
- **Benefits**
  - 020 7653 6681
  - **Cleaner Greener hotline**
  - 020 7653 1100
  - **Council tax**
  - 020 7653 6681
- **Election services**
  - 020 7653 4466
- **Environment**
  - 020 7653 1091
- **Family information service**
  - 020 7653 2450
- **Housing**
  - 0845 313 3935
- **Libraries**
  - 020 7361 3610
  - libraries@hfb.gov.uk
  - e-mail: libraries@hfb.gov.uk
- **Parking control**
  - 020 7171 5778
  - parking@hfb.gov.uk
  - e-mail: parking@hfb.gov.uk
- **Planning permission**
  - 020 7653 6681
  - parkingperms@hfb.gov.uk
- **Planning**
  - 020 8478 3020
  - planning@hfb.gov.uk
  - e-mail: planning@hfb.gov.uk
- **Register office**
  - 020 7653 2140
  - registeroffice@hfb.gov.uk
  - e-mail: registeroffice@hfb.gov.uk
  - surgery: 020 7653 1100
- **Switchboard**
  - 020 8478 3020

Kensington & Chelsea

- **Accessible Transport**
  - 020 7361 2390
  - accessible.transport@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Arts & Leisure**
  - 020 7361 3003
  - artsandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Benefits**
  - 020 7361 3006
  - benefits@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Council Tax**
  - 020 7361 3005
  - counciltax@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Electoral Services**
  - 020 7361 3444
  - elect@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Education**
  - 020 7361 3009
  - education@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Environmental Health**
  - 020 7361 3002
  - environmental.health@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Family Information Services**
  - 020 7361 3302
  - fis@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Housing**
  - 020 7361 3001
  - housing@rbkc.gov.uk
  - e-mail: housing@rbkc.gov.uk
  - e-mail: chelsea.registeroffice@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Parking**
  - 020 7361 3004
  - parking@rbkc.gov.uk
  - e-mail: parking@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Penalty charges**
  - 020 7361 4383
  - parking@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Penalty - permit**
  - 020 7361 4381
  - parking@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Penalty - permit (applications)**
  - 020 7361 3004
  - parking@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Penalty - permit (renewals)**
  - 020 7361 3009
  - parking@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Patient Advice & Liaison Service**
  - 020 8962 4547
  - patient.advice@rbkc.gov.uk
  - e-mail: patient.advice@rbkc.gov.uk
  - e-mail: patient.advice@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Streetline**
  - 020 7361 3001
  - streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
  - streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Social Services**
  - 020 7361 3013
  - socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk
  - socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk
- **Tell Us Once**
  - 020 7361 3940
Falling numbers of childminders a blow for working parents

BY JACK DIXON

SHEPHERD’S BUSH is facing a major shortage of professional childminders that could hit working parents hard, a new report has revealed.

The Family and Childcare Trust said the high cost of living and public spending cuts were leading to a worrying decline in the number of childminders working in the borough.

There were only five childminders for every 1,000 children under the age of five in Hammersmith and Fulham – one of the lowest ratios in the country – according to the trust’s annual childcare survey.

Experts warned that the shortage threatened to derail a government pledge to provide 30 hours of free education for three and four-year-olds, yet working parents in Hammersmith and Fulham may struggle to find the provision they are entitled to.

The trust said working parents who have long commutes and unusual hours often turn to childminders rather than nurseries for morning and evening childcare, but that the number of providers was in steady decline.

It found that many childminders were choosing to work in nurseries and schools because of low wages.

Ms Broome said the decline was a “serious problem” caused mainly by the high cost of living and a lack of outdoor space in inner London.

“It is difficult to deliver childcare from a flat because of outdoor space requirements and proximity to parks is also a factor,” she added.

“In addition, childminder wages alone will not cover a mortgage or rent in the area.”

She said childminders should be prioritised as “key workers” and called for urgent action to boost recruitment by offering small grants and business advice.

Hammersmith and Fulham council already provides free training and resources for childminders, as well as membership to a local childminder network.

The 30 hours free education for three and four-year-olds is not exclusive to childminders and can also be taken up at schools and nurseries.

Sue Robb, head of early years at the charity 4Children, added: “Childminders are an incredibly important source of support for working parents so declining numbers are a real cause for concern.

“In some areas, childminder agencies are being set up to improve business support and training for childminders, and encourage new people into the profession.”

She added: “The council, schools or other childcare providers in the area may want to consider setting up an agency to help re-energise childminding in Hammersmith and Fulham.”

‘Dementia friendly’ call

BUSES and trains must be made safer for the 1,200 people in Hammersmith and Fulham living with dementia, a leading charity has warned.

The Alzheimer’s Society called for urgent action to make the borough’s public transport network more ‘dementia-friendly’.

It said people with cognitive impairment should be given blue badges for parking, while Transport for London staff should receive extra dementia training.

The charity urged the next Mayor of London to make it easier for people suffering with the illness to access travel information and ensure all staff on the network become trained ‘dementia friends’.

Tim McLaughlin, the charity’s operations director, said he wanted London to become the world’s first dementia-friendly capital city.

The Alzheimer’s Society estimates that 72,000 Londoners are living with dementia, including 1,237 in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Charity chiefs say the total societal cost of dementia in London – including health and social care, the work of unpaid carers and police missing person enquiries – is £2.4 billion a year.

Teachers’ housing lifeline

TEACHERS who feared that high housing costs would force them out of London have moved into brand new affordable flats in Shepherd’s Bush.

A dozen flats were built as part of repair work at the Edward Woods Estate and Hammersmith and Fulham council has let several out to tenants at social rents.

Science teacher Lois Hale, who works at Phoenix High School in White City, moved into one of the flats with her partner, Oliver Hopkinson, last week. The 28-year-old is expecting a baby and had feared she would have to move out of the capital because of the high housing costs.

“We thought we would have to leave London to start a family but we don’t have to now. We have the space we need,” she said.

Councillor Lisa Homan, the council’s cabinet member for housing, said the borough’s schools depended on teachers to give children “the best possible start in life”.

The trust’s annual childcare survey was published today.

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Food awards celebrate best London has to offer

THE inaugural Food Awards London will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square where the crème de la crème of the food sector will gather in a celebration of their industry’s success.

The black tie event will take place on March 29.

Irfan Younis of event organisers Creative Oceanic said: “The food and drink industry in the UK employs more than 400,000 people, with a gross value to the economy of £21.9 billion. An industry so large deserves recognition and the Food Awards London are here to do just that!”

“After delivering the Food Awards in Scotland, England and in Wales, this was the next natural step. With the great response we have received, this will be an annual event. We would like to congratulate all of the finalists and thank the public who have put them forward for this recognition.”

The glamorous night promises to be one of the biggest and most memorable event in the food industry, with a range of accolades to be presented to the most deserving professionals and businesses in the field.

HAPPY RETURNS: One of London’s best loved family businesses celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special reception. Sonmez Sami, founder of the Salieri restaurant, cut the cake to mark four decades on the Strand. Family, friends and members of staff were joined by an array of VIP guests to celebrate the occasion. Mr Sami’s daughter Sen said: ‘Salieri is not just a family business but at the heart of the community, bringing together all the local business owners, enterprises and associations that my father has supported over his four decades on the Strand.’

London’s most congested city

LONDON is the world’s most congested city, according to a survey of traffic conditions in more than one hundred cities. Drivers spent an average of 101 hours in gridlock in the capital last year – making it the first city to surpass the 100-hour mark.

It also remains Europe’s gridlock capital for the second year running, according to analyst INRIX revealed in its 2015 Traffic Scorecard.

The UK is among congested metropolitan areas, led by London, span the country – from Avon and North Somerset in the South to Leeds-Bradford in the North.

A 10-mile stretch of the A217 in London was the UK’s most congested stretch for the second year running, costing each driver an average of 110 hours, or 4.5 days, of wasted time in 2015.

The growth of the UK’s economy, the fall in unemployment and the rise in population could be inflationary factors, the report suggested.

Bryan Mistele, president and CEO of INRIX, said: “London is the victim of its own success, with a robust jobs market and a growing economy attracting more people, more businesses and more traffic. More construction and consequently more traffic.

‘Transport for London is tackling this problem with its £4 billion Road Modernisation Plan. Whilst in the short term the higher road charges for the initiative are frustrating for drivers, they are a step towards creating a more sustainable and modernised transport network.

Outside of London, three of the five most congested roads were in Manchester (A580, M60 and A5103) while Newcastle came fourth with the A1/A1M.

A five-mile stretch of the A8 in Edinburgh was the most congested road with drivers spending an average of 43 hours in gridlock last year.

Traffic congestion went up in 61 per cent of cities with Belfast seeing the biggest increase, with drivers spending almost an hour extra on the road in 2015.

Birmingham experienced the biggest decline in traffic delays, with a decrease of 23.5 hours annually, which could be due to the completion of major roadworks and redevelopment projects in the city centre.

Compared to Europe, out of the 13 countries analysed, the UK was ranked in the middle at number six – down one place from last year.

Busking day

FIFTY cities across the UK, along with major world cities including New York, Sydney, Barcelona, Hong Kong, Paris and Toronto, will join London for the most ambitious celebration of street entertainment this year.

The first ever International Busking Day will take place on Saturday, July 23, with each city hosting music, circus, magic, street dance, physical theatre, street art and other entertainment in public spaces ranging from city squares to underground and railway stations and shopping malls to parks.

London’s leading service company all day - every day!

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

Charlie pipes up!

THERE was one clear winner from last week’s Budget – small business. It clearly showed how SMEs have moved from the wings to centre stage of the economy.

In the past SMEs were often in the same basket as the beer drinkers, car drivers and smokers; an easy target for tax rises to fill a hole in the Exchequer’s coffers.

However, the descent of the banking sector-induced recession on the economy revealed that old-fashioned enterprise, led by an army of entrepreneurs and SME business owners, could pull the country up by its bootstraps to get it back on an even keel.

In each of his last eight Budgets the Chancellor has acknowledged the contribution of small businesses to the economy and over that period helped to make the environment a lot more welcoming for start-up entrepreneurs and SMEs.

And the figures back this up. Since the turn of the century, 1.9 million small business have been established, which includes 1.46 million in 2014, delivering a record-breaking 2.5 million private sector businesses in the UK at the start of 2015.

I would hope that those with business ambitions are not distracted by the political arguments over disability benefits, the bedroom tax and the shadow cast by the upcoming EU debate that has dogged the Budget in the days since George Osborne stood up at the despatch box. Behind those headline-grabbing issues is something much more important – how we will be able to encourage entrepreneurs to take the first or next decisive step in business.

Improved tax relief for entrepreneurs who invest in their own businesses and another cut in Corporation Tax, from 20 percent to 17 percent in 2020, along with changes to Commercial Property Stamp Duty are all incentives to build and grow a business. However, the most significant was the changes made to Business Rates, which has the potential to create the next boom in small business growth.

The cut in Business Rates will see 600,000 small firms paying no rates on the properties they occupy with a rateable value of £12,000 and below. Those businesses with premises with a rateable value between £12,000 and £15,000 will receive a tapered release.

This massive change will help hundreds of thousands of small companies that have been restricted by an outdated tax system. But even more significantly it opens the door to micro-home businesses to grow and expand.

The prospect of paying Business Rates will have deterred so many home businesses from transforming from one-man or one-woman bands into job-creating and sustaining enterprises. But now that barrier has been removed these home-based entrepreneurs should be encouraged to go from the kitchen table to their own dedicated business premises.

A huge percentage of small businesses in the UK are run from home. Figures from 2013 put the number at 2.9m – 59 percent of all business in the country that year. Emma Jones, founder of Enterprise Nation, was quoted as saying these businesses contribute £243bn in turnover to the economy. That’s a significant number, about £1 for every 11 quid of turnover.

Many of these enterprises will also be one-person businesses. Moving from home to business premises creates greater opportunity for growth. And with growth, comes employment. The money saved from paying business rates can go towards employing people or taking on apprentices. Just imagine if just half of those businesses each created a new job. And that’s the key to maintaining our economic recovery, creating jobs that keep the economy moving. On the day of the Budget it was announced that unemployment is now 1.68 million, which is down 171,000 since last year and 865,000 since 2010.

It proves the Chancellor’s plan is working, which is providing the spark that can light the fire under the UK’s enterprise masses. Entrepreneurs should harness that fire and rocket-boost the economy forward to the benefit of the whole country.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper.
Mayoral campaign ‘racially charged’

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Conservatives are running the most “racially charged” campaign the capital has ever seen with their attacks on Labour’s candidate for London mayor, a senior MP warned last week.

Chris Bryant described the campaign against Sadiq Khan as desperate and divisive and suggested there was an element of religious prejudice against the Muslim MP.

Labour has previously accused Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith of “coded racism” and has been criticised in the Indian press for “patronising” attempts to win over British Indian voters.

Mr Bryant called on Cabinet minister Chris Grayling to “disown” the Goldsmith campaign to succeed Boris Johnson after the May 5 elections.

But Mr Grayling hit back, accusing elements of the Labour Party of anti-Semitism during last year’s general election.

In exchanges during the business statement in Parliament, shadow Commons leader Mr Bryant said: “I hope that you would also agree that all religious prejudice is equally despicable and would frankly disown the Tory campaign against Labour’s candidate for Mayor of London, which is the most desperate, divisive and racially charged, a campaign London has ever seen.

“You should be ashamed. I’m sure, Commons Leader Mr Grayling said: “Anti-Semitism has featured recently in a number of political activities and events and that is wholly and utterly unacceptable and should always be so. But I simply remind you, you make a comment about the election in London today, I would also remind you that anti-Semitism was also present in elections a year ago, the general election in London, and not from our side of the political spectrum.

“So I hope that you will take the words you said today and make sure they are properly put into root in your party.

“It is not acceptable in any part of our life for there to be anti-Semitism, it must not occur ever, it has occurred, and it should not happen.”

Earlier, Mr Bryant insisted political parties must “call out” anti-Semitism even if it is “inconvenient” to them, in apparent reference to a Labour activist who has been suspended from the party while allegations are investigated.

Vicky Kirby was probed by the party in 2014 after a series of posts on Twitter in which she apparently suggested Adolf Hitler might be a “Zionist God” and Jews had “big noses”. She was subsequently reinstated with a warning and it emerged this week that she had been appointed vice-chairman of Labour’s Woking branch, but she has now been suspended pending an investigation.

Mr Bryant said: “I’m sure you will join me in saying we must do everything in our power to stop religious intolerance and racial hatred infecting our politics and our political parties.

Night Tube ‘to start in July’

LONDON Underground’s all-night Tube service is set to begin in July, Boris Johnson has said.

The London Mayor told the Press Association he was given the approximate launch date by Transport for London (TfL).

Asked if the wait for the Night Tube would end in July, he replied: “Well, that’s what I’m told by TfL – towards the end of the year.”

Passengers will be able to travel through the night on Fridays and Saturdays on the Victoria, Jubilee, Central, Northern and Piccadilly Lines.

Mr Johnson made the announcement as he took the controls of a training simulator on the Northern and Piccadilly Lines.

The mayor claimed the service would be “great news for those looking to work and play through the night”.

It will give the capital another economic shot in the arm, he added.

Mr Johnson met a class of 12 recruits last week at London Underground’s training headquarters in West Kensington, west London.

After chatting to the group, he declared: “They can’t wait to get started.”

But the RMT revealed earlier this week that it has written to London Underground bosses complaining of a lack of consultation over health and safety issues.

Members of the union accepted a pay deal for the new service, but it remains in dispute over conditions, which are being balloted for industrial action.

General secretary Mick Cash said: “There is very clearly some distance to go in terms of getting all of the components in place.”

An exact start date is not expected to be announced until agreements with the unions are in place. The RMT remains in dispute over night Tube safety, and is balloting 1,500 maintenance staff for strike action.

Mr Cash added: “We may have settled the dispute for LU staff on pay and conditions but the idea that all of the outstanding issues have been resolved, not least the safety case and the Tube Lines engineers dispute, is simply not true. There are still significant concerns over staff rosters and those basic operational issues would be fundamental to hitting a start date this summer.”

TSSA leader Manuel Cortes said: “A lot of water will go under the bridge between now and then, including the fact that London will have a new mayor. Night Tube proposals may still go up in smoke.”

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LETHAL diesel-engine cars, vans and lorries will be immediately banned from entering central London if Green Party candidate Sian Berry is elected mayor in May – and the congregation charge will rocket to up to £50 a day.

The Camden councillor bidding to replace Boris Johnson has vowed to take instant and drastic action against the capital’s air pollution which is presently killing at least 9,500 Londoners every year.

With London’s dirty air now causing more deaths than the Great Smog of the 1950s did and is set to send up to 38,000 Londoners every year to an early grave by 2050, Sian Berry said: “The time for half-hearted efforts on air pollution is past.”

She added: “If I’m elected mayor I will immediately exclude the most-polluting cars, vans and lorries from central London.”

Ms Berry said that as London returns to the days of the Great Smog, the environmentally friendly days when it was possible to smell the smoky fog over the city, the Great Smog killed 6,000 Londoners after a period of cold weather, combined with an anticyclone and high fourth degree conditions, collected airborne pollutants, mostly from the use of coal, to form a thick layer of smog.

The Great Smog was the worst air pollution event in the history of the UK and it led to the introduction of the Clean Air Act in 1956. But now as breathing in London has become even more difficult, the Green chief says the capital must be cleaned up urgently.

“London needs a comprehensive plan to bring its air within legal limits as soon as possible, using every tool at our disposal,” said a spokesman for Sian Berry.

“The air pollution estimated to cause more than 9,500 premature deaths in London every year, Sian has set a wide range of actions that she would carry out as mayor to comply with air pollution laws by 2020 at the absolute latest.

“Immediate measures include enforcement of the existing ban on idling for parked vehicles, a higher congestion charge for all but the cleanest vehicles in Central London, and accelerating the programme of replacing diesel buses with hybrids and electric vehicles.

The spokesman said Ms Berry proposed raising the £11.30 congestion charge to £50 for the most polluting vehicles and to £20 for all other cars, vans and trucks.

“In the longer term, Sian will create a much larger Ultra Low Emission Zone, write much stronger car-free policies into the London Plan, commission a cleaner version of the ‘New Bus for London’ and expand the electric car charging network to create 25,000 charging points,” said the spokesman.

Ms Berry said: “Sixty years after the Clean Air Act helped put an end to the deadly smogs that came from coal fires and power stations, we are now faced with a comparable challenge.”

“The time for half-hearted efforts to clean up our polluted air and ensure compliance with existing laws is past.

“If I’m elected mayor I will immediately exclude the most polluting cars, vans and lorries from Central London, and speed up the switchover to electric vehicles.

“London needs a comprehensive plan to bring its air within legal limits as soon as possible, using every tool at our disposal,” said a spokesman for Sian Berry.

“With air pollution estimated to cause more than 9,500 premature deaths in London every year, Sian has set a wide range

This zone into illegally polluted parts of inner and outer London.

Accelerate the programme of replacing diesel buses with hybrids and electric vehicles, ensuring the entire fleet is moved to these technologies by 2020 at the latest and that the Ultra Low Emission Zone can be extended to all of London without affecting bus services.

Maintain and extend scrapage grants and loan schemes for black cab drivers so that all their vehicles are zero-emissions capable by 2018, ensuring there is a suitable charging infrastructure for them to run on electric power in all areas of inner London at least.

Join car owners and those affected by high air pollution in bringing legal action against car makers for cheating on their emissions tests and misleading all of us about the pace of change in the pollution caused by our vehicles.

Begin consultation immediately on introducing emergency traffic reduction measures to protect Londoners from the worst air pollution days we currently experience.

Lobby government for a scrapage scheme for all diesel vehicles, and changes to Vehicle Excise Duty and the new Roads Fund to encourage Londoners to give up car ownership by switching to walking, cycling, public transport, car clubs or at least low or zero-emission vehicles.

Longer term plans

Begin consultation immediately on a scheme to replace the ULEZ that will cover all of London and be effective in complying with the law. This could be combined with the new traffic demand management scheme we will develop to reduce the Congestion Charge.

Put much stronger car-free housing policies in the London Plan to support the trend for lower car ownership in both inner and outer London. This will be supported by our transport policies to improve public transport and make living without a car easier in all parts of our city.

Ensure all planning applications are air quality neutral, requiring new developments to reduce air pollution in the most heavily polluted areas.

Oppose all road and airport expansion in the South East and London, as well as putting together proposals for City Airport to be closed and replaced with a new city quarter for homes and businesses, working with local authorities, businesses, developers and the private sector.

Join car owners and those affected by high air pollution in bringing legal action against car makers for cheating on their emissions tests and misleading all of us about the pace of change in the pollution caused by our vehicles.

Our trees can beat flooding

A BUSINESSMAN is calling for more tree planting to prevent flooding after his company’s research found that planting trees absorbs the same amount of water as around 1,365 Olympic swimming pools every year.

That is almost the same as 10 times the water held in the London Serpentine lake in Hyde Park.

The news comes as the forestry industry launches a petition calling on the Government to step up its tree planting to prevent flooding.

Last week the Environment Agency announced that planting trees around rivers could reduce the height of flooding in towns by up to 20 per cent.

The research, carried out by Treeconomics and Forest Research, was commissioned by the Mayor of London’s office and the Forestry Commission.

The water run-off that is avoided is equivalent to saving the London taxpayer £1.5millon every year.

Kenton Rogers, expert and environmental scientist with Treeconomics said: “Trees are the most simple and cost effective solution imaginable to combat the threat of climate change and changing weather patterns.”

Key findings from the Greater London project

Greater London has a total tree population of 8.5 million (a tree for every Londoner)

Inner London has a total tree population of approximately 1.6 million

Trees across Greater London capture and store 7,270 tonnes of carbon every year, to the value of £63 million

Pollution absorption is calculated at 2,241 tonnes every year across Greater London, valued at a cost of over £100 million per annum

Coffee cup tax could be next

LONDONERS who can’t get through the day without a takeaway coffee in their hand at all times could soon be more to have their caffeine-on-the-go in future.

For it emerged this week that coffee cups could be taxed to prevent tens of millions of being thrown away.

Conservative frontbencher Rory Stewart told MPs there is a “huge problem” with plastic-lined paper cups.

He insisted the plastic bag tax has been successful since it was introduced in England and Wales last October, saying that non-recyclable coffee cups seem to be a “very good thing to look at next”.

The 5p charge on plastic bags aimed to reduce the litter and environmental damage caused by retailers handing out billions of single-use carrier bags, with the environmental pressure growing over the lack of takeaway coffee cups recycled.

Mr Stewart said in the House of Commons last week: “I absolutely agree. It’s a huge problem and there are tens of millions of these things being produced and thrown away.”
Security agencies on alert amid fears of ‘dirty bomb’ terror attack

BY GEOFF BAKER
geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

EXPERTS’ fears are growing that ISIS terrorists are planning a “dirty bomb” nuclear attack in London.

Fears have risen following the discovery by security agencies that an unknown black marketeer is selling stolen nuclear fuel for a bomb – and after an ISIS plot to obtain nuclear material was recently thwarted by police in Belgium.

The concerns link with reports that the SAS have been holding secret exercises to prepare for a dirty bomb outrage in the city and they follow a warning by Scotland Yard’s counter terrorism chief that the Islamist terrorists now have “big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks.”

A dirty bomb attack on London would cause huge casualties and could leave vast areas uninhabitable because of radiation poisoning.

Fears have grown since the Pulitzer Prize-winning US investigative journalism watchdog The Center for Public Integrity (CPI) revealed last month that police had uncovered that ISIS-linked individuals had been staking out a senior researcher at a Belgian nuclear centre which produces much of the world’s supply of radionuclides.

“Radioisotopes are a diagnostic tool used by hospitals and factories around the globe, but they are also capable of causing radiation poisoning and sickness, making them a potential target for terrorists seeking to build a so-called ‘dirty bomb’ that could contaminate the downtown area of a major city, sowing panic and causing billions of dollars in financial losses,” reported the CPI.

“Belgian authorities have since speculated that the group was trying to figure out a way to collect such materials from the nuclear center, perhaps by kidnapping the man or one of his family members as the first step in building a bomb.”

The CPI’s revelation comes on the heels of another investigation in which it discovered Western intelligence that a criminal based in the former Soviet republic of Moldova has made repeated attempts to sell enriched uranium to the black market.

An arrest last year of a mid-level Mark Rowley, Britain’s head of counter-terrorism, warned that ISIS is planning bigger and more ambitious atrocities against Western targets including the UK.

He said: “Terrorists groups are always about impact. Terrorists groups have always wanted to do a grander and more spectacular attack because they have more impact.

“Now you see terror groups with big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks not just the type that we have seen foiled to date.”

Meanwhile, as the security alert remains at severe, MI5 is continuing to warn the public to be on guard and on the look out.

“The terrorist threat is serious and ongoing. Members of the public can help to prevent terrorism by being alert to possible suspicious activities,” said the security service spokesman.

“Terrorists have to live somewhere, and they need to plan and prepare for attacks. They buy and store materials, fund their activities, move around, prepare equipment and weapons and possibly undergo training.

“They may have people helping them – and these people might come and go at strange times of the day and night.

“They may make unusual financial transactions or use false documents to hide their real identities. They may be behaving differently from how you’ve known them to behave in the past.

“Members of the public may spot such activities, and if reported in time, a planned terrorist attack may be stopped before it happens. If you are aware of something suspicious, trust your instincts and report it to the police.

“What might seem insignificant on its own could actually provide a vital link in a wider investigation.”

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“What might seem insignificant on its own could actually provide a vital link in a wider investigation.”
HUNDREDS ENJOY GREEN PARTY

MORE than 200 people attended the early St Patrick’s night party at OLV church on High Street, Kensington on March 12.

The hall was awash with green and the Guinness flowed as everyone enjoyed traditional Irish music provided by the Sean Brady duo.

And, although it was Ireland’s night, this was an international gathering. The Filipino community were very much in evidence and present also were people from around the world. For this special night they were all wearing green in honour of St Patrick, who is also the patron saint of Nigeria.

The Delaney Academy of Irish Dance entertained the 240 guests. Fourteen-year-old Louis Cuddy stole the show with an impressively skilled solo performance. The talented youngster was due to be a contestant in this month’s World Irish Dancing Championships held in Glasgow.

The party was organised by Kensington Friends of the Holy Land and the event raised £2,650 for this charity.

MANAGER MUST GO BUT KPH ‘WILL STAY A PUB’

AFTER a long and passionate battle, KPH manager Vince Power has lost his fight to stay in charge of the popular Ladbroke Grove landmark – but the new owner insists that it will remain a pub.

The Court of Appeal has rejected Mr Power’s bid to keep running the 150-year-old Kensington Park Hotel, despite huge support from the community and Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Mr Power took over the management of The KPH in 2013, with power of attorney from the leaseholder of 40 years, Patrick Burke, who had been too ill to run it himself. But Mr Power has been fighting to keep the pub since the freehold was bought from Punch Taverns by SWA Developments three years ago.

Mr Power turned The KPH into one of the premier venues for the local community, making it a live music venue for top artists including Van Morrison and Mary Coughlan, and his stewardship of the pub and his fight to stay in charge was backed by a large number of locals, including singer and broadcaster Cerys Matthews, comedian Eddie Izzard, former Clash member Paul Simonon, the Portobello Café Society and the action group KPH United.

MP Alan Johnson also backed residents’ campaign supporting Mr Power and in a bid to block the pub getting turned into flats, a coffee shop or an estate agent’s, as was rumoured locally, Kensington and Chelsea council made it an Asset of Community Value.

But last week the appeals court ruled in favour of the new owner, Steven Archer, and Mr Power posted on social media: “I am sad to say that we have lost the appeal. The judge has given us 21 days to vacate the property. Thank you to all who have helped me along the way.”

Last orders for the current management of The KPH will be before April 7. But Mr Archer has pledged that The KPH will stay as a pub and it will not be developed for alternative businesses.

“These last couple of years have been an horrendous time, there has been a lot of misinformation circulating locally about my plans,” said Mr Archer.

“There has been a lot of animosity and I can sympathise with the locals who feared about a developer coming in – but I can assure you that The KPH will 100 per cent remain a pub.

“We’ll be doing our best to get a new manager in there as soon as possible and to refurbish it and I am determined to make it a fantastic and profitable venue.”
Charities should create community hub

**S** the recognised infrastructure organisation for the voluntary sector in the Royal Borough, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) sees many of the challenges that face charitable organisations here.

A recent discussion with other Westway Trust Member Organisations raised the issue of a lack of space for charitable and community activity, something I believe we could challenge by working outside political structures.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has a thriving mix of diverse communities, many of which are supported by services delivered by the local voluntary and community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Many of these services play an important role in supporting local residents to live full and independent lives and also act as a necessary lifeline in supporting people to deal with day-to-day issues such as loneliness and isolation, addictions, poor health, debt and financial crisis.

Organisations are spread throughout the Royal Borough, such as pockets within the borough, but within the north there is a larger concentration due to the level of deprivation there. Kensington and Chelsea Social Council reports through its own database that there is a total of 550 VCSE organisations within the borough for which direct face-to-face services provision, or electronic communication takes place.

Where these organisations are based ranges from council and Westway Trust premises to church halls to independently owned property. The challenge for us all is to understand the importance of offices and other spaces as we fight to retain much needed services in the future. The council’s existing policy for its property portfolio is to realise a high return on its assets and in doing so has a programme of seeking to maximise income from the property it owns.

However, this approach has led to concern about the future adverse effect on the voluntary and community sector.

In contrast, the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework on promoting healthy communities and sustainable development highlights the need for “accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing”.

These competing priorities of maximising income from property whilst retaining space for community provision create a huge challenge for communities which rely on partnership with local government.

Local VCSE sector services will be a vital link between service users and local authorities and the NHS as we support an ageing population to improve their health and wellbeing all in a climate of economic constraint. This will require long-term thinking and well thought out plans from all sides.

This should not be left to politicians alone; this requires strategic thinking from VCSE sector providers on how we can maximise space that will create greater efficiencies across the sector.

I would like to see us create a new voluntary and community sector hub that provides office space, meeting space and space for direct community activity. This space could house VCSE organisations to deliver services that could be aligned in order to utilise community space in a centralised location. Office space functions could be merged to create efficiencies within the system and room hire at affordable rates.

Such a space would need to be cost effective so would need to be supported by other high income generated activities. The challenge is working together to understand how such an idea could come to life. It would require leadership from trustees to look at how services could be more joined up with other local services as well as sharing office space.

**Moving forward**

WE need to explore the possibility of shared space sooner rather than later that will encourage and support a mixed economy of VCSE organisations and services. This should also include the potential for public and private sector collaboration.

Time is of the essence as voluntary sector funding tightens and more and more services come under financial threat.

There is an opportunity here for Kensington and Chelsea to be the leader in building sustainable services and I firmly believe that as a community we should take it.

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**Mums celebrate Women’s Day**

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s children’s centres organised an event to celebrate International Women’s Day at the Holiday Inn on Cromwell Road.

For the past five years volunteer mums from the centres have organised an event to celebrate International Women’s Day and give fellow children’s centre users the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers and indulge in well-deserved pampering activities. The theme for this year’s event was Equality Knows No Borders.

Speakers included Ziauddin Yousafzai (a Pakistani diplomat, best known as the father of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai), Frances Scott (founder of the 50.50 Parliament Campaign which petitions Parliament to debate and take action to get better gender balance) and Antomette Magamba (a children’s centre volunteer who helps to run the Rwandan Sisterhood Association to support Rwandan women living in the United Kingdom).

Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, the Royal Borough’s Cabinet Member for Families and Children’s Services, said: “I would like to thank our children’s centre volunteers for organising such a successful event and for all the great work they do all year round.”

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**Have your say on the Local Plan for Old Oak and Park Royal**

Find out more at opdc.commonplace.is

Join the discussion

@OldOakParkRoyal #opdclocalplan

Contact us
localplan@opdc.london.gov.uk
020 7983 5732

OPDC, City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, London SE1 2AA
Watch out! Kate takes a walk on the wild side

BY GEOFF BAKER

LET’S hope that the Duchess of Cambridge likes snakes, as next month she will be going to the home of three of the biggest in the world, including one that grows to 28 feet long.

Monster snakes inhabit the Kaziranga National Park, where the Duke and Duchess will be visiting on April 12th as part of their first visit to India. Kensington Palace says the royal trip will enable the royal couple to “experience the rich variety of wildlife” which includes the reticulated python, the world’s longest snake.

Although its diet is usually rodents, chickens and the occasional pig or dog, without wishing to cause Kate to go shrieking “I’m a duchess, get me out of here!” it would be remiss not to mention that the python has been known to dine on humans – although such feeding is rare, the last time a fully-grown adult was nabbed by such a snake was in 2008.

Besides that long and winding serpent, other snakes regularly found in the national park are the rock python and the king cobra. Again, zoologists are keen to calm any fears by assuring us that these python’s “rarely” kill humans and prefer to eat goats, antelopes and on occasion crocodiles.

So that’s alright then, there’s nothing like a crocodile-swallowing to make one feel as safe as houses. In fact, this relative tiddler of the python family – growing only to 20 ft – has not been known to have a crack at seizing a human for ages and it was as far back as all of only seven years ago when the last case was reported, when a farm manager was dragged up a tree by a 13 ft specimen after battling with it for an hour.

However, the royal party will doubtless be relieved to know that the farmer survived – he was briefly released from its grip after biting its tail, enabling him to call the police on his mobile phone [I am not making this up].

But both the duke and duchess will be advised by wardens not to try the old tail-biting trick on another creature of the park trip will enable the royal part of their first visit to India.

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But both the duke and duchess will be advised by wardens not to try the old tail-biting trick on another creature of the park.

This fearsomely dangerous ground slider not only grows up to more than 18 ft but it also has the disadvantage of being one of the world’s most-venomous snakes, with a bite that can kill a man in 30 minutes and an elephant within a couple of hours.

Fortunately, the king cobra prefers to eat other snakes. However, if the royal party should come across the cobra – which apparently one will know because this species does not hiss but in fact growls, at a much lower register – we are assured by expert naturalists that “a good defence against a cobra for anyone who accidentally encounters this snake is to slowly remove a shirt and toss it to the ground while backing away”. For those royals not wishing to strip off, another good defence is believed to be a 12-gauge shotgun.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will visit India and Bhutan from April 10th-16th. Their trip will include seeing Mumbai, New Delhi, Kaziranga, Thimphu and Aga.

On April 16th they will visit the Taj Mahal on April 16th, when half of the planet’s press photographers will attempt to persuade Kate to pose on her own – and thus replicate Princess Diana’s famous picture of 1992 which spoke volumes about the sad end of her marriage. And there is about as much chance of that happening as Kate getting dragged up a tree to dial 999.

Surprise surprise, Chinese ignore William’s warning

LAST year amid the Establishment’s mass genuflecting for the visit of the president of China, Prince William pretty much pleaded for Xi Jinping to step in and stop the slaughter of rhinos which goes on to feed the deluded habit of Chinese fancists who believe that the animals’ horns cure cancer and that the Moon is made of cheese.

President Xi assured the prince that he would do so. Guess what? So spectacularly unsuccessful has any intervention been that last week the Duke of Cambridge had to speak out again, re-warning that it will be “devastating for humanity” if the rhinos become extinct – as is looking likely within 10 years.

Speaking to ITV News, Prince William condemned illegal poaching, which is decimating rhino and elephant numbers, and he said it is make or break time to save the rhino.

“In the next five to ten years if there’s not a massive change, a dramatic change, in the way we appreciate and protect these iconic species, there won’t be these incredible animals there, which not only is obviously sad for future generations but I think it would be incredibly devastating for humanity itself when we have sat back and we have lost something we have been responsible for,” he said.

“If we haven’t achieved something in the next five to ten years then it will be almost impossible to do anything after that.”

Because the numbers will be so depleted the damage will be done so badly and clearly the demand won’t have been halted.”

Despite the prince’s admirable stand for the rhino, PR experts believe that instead of addressing the TV audience in the UK, where the number of halfwits who believe in the magic properties of rhino horn is nil, he may have more luck by teaming up with Phuong Vy, Dong Nhi, Thanh Bui and Thu Minh.

Although they are unfamiliar to us Brits, in Vietnam they are the nation’s biggest pop stars and Vietnam has become the biggest new market for rhino horn. And, good news for Kensington Palace, the Vietnamese pop idols are already onside in working to save the rhino. Last summer they and a host of Vietnamese celebrities staged The Call Of The Wild on Vietnamese TV, a two-hour special to raise awareness of the fate of the rhino.

“The special was aimed at Vietnamese youth, who are highly influential in persuading the elders to reject the consumption of rhino horn,” said a spokesman for WildAid, which helped promote the event.

Thanh Bui, who is Vietnam’s equivalent of Harry Styles, last year travelled to South Africa to film for the campaign to correct mediaeval beliefs in his homeland.

“When I arrived in South Africa, being a Vietnamese, I was held for four hours at the airport and was treated like a criminal,” said Mr Bui. “Later, when I witnessed with my own eyes the horrible massacre of rhino in South Africa, I got to understand why.”
Queen’s speech drops an EU hint

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ONE can always trust Her Majesty to wisely point us in the direction of a good idea.

Not that we are suggesting for one moment that the text of The Queen’s recent Commonwealth Day message should be taken to be any sort of comment on the EU Brexit debate; Lord forbid any such misinception, as Downing Street would send the razees round soon as look at you and the last thing that either Her Majesty or your correspondent wants is a David Cameron angrily frowning that we are Maosists.

However, at the risk of repeating the Prime Minister towards even more frenzied anxiety that Coming Out would seriously damage his chances of getting a table at a fave-ourite Italian Olivelocam in Belgravia’s Elizabeth Street, there was sound thinking in The Queen’s speech in praise of the Commonwealth.

Of course ever since the scoundrelly calumny by foul Satanists and enemies of the state that Her Majesty may on some rare occasion have favoured a KitKat in preference to Government-approved Belgian chocolates, the text of anything that The Queen reads is now doubtless blue-pencilled by No 10’s Euro fetishists. But as they were probably distracted at the time by thumbscrewing Michael Gove, perhaps the gagging brigade missed a bit. It’s never too late to live in the Commonwealth, we can always benefit from being open to the ideas and encouragement of those around us. Each of us can always be a positive influence in the lives of others by being willing to contribute and offer support,” read Her Majesty’s speech.

This is an essential ingredient of belonging to the Commonwealth: the willingness to share, to exchange and to act to the common good. By including others, drawing on others’ knowledge, resources, and thinking and work, we lay the foundations of a harmonious and progressive society.

“The greater the diversity of those included in such a shared enterprise, the greater the gain.”

It may be pedantic to read into “working together” and “shared enterprise”, but if the narrative does vote in June to pull out of the race with Frau Merkel for the best spots on the beach, the Commonwealth might be the solution that keeps us out of the workhouse.

Although the Commonwealth’s current market of 742 million offers considerably less than “shared enterprise” than the Commonwealth’s 2.3 billion, a whacking 33 per cent of the world’s population as opposed to the EU’s measly 7.3 per cent. “Just saying...”

Duke’s runabout likely to drive a hard bargain

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

INVESTORS with around £50,000 cash to play with should get up to Cambridgeshire next month to bid for Prince Philip’s weekly lunch club runabout as it could more than quadruple their money in 10 years.

The classic car market is providing a better return than almost everything else at the moment, according to economists. “Not quite in the region of the Commonwealth, but we have studied the investment potential in order for expansion, exporters should look towards potential, rather than existing, customers,” one EU economist’s quote was.

Prince Philip’s speechwriter cannot calculate that, as such, the EU’s Population of 742 million offers considerably less opportunity for “shared enterprise” than the Commonwealth’s 2.3 billion, a whacking 33 per cent of the world’s population as opposed to the EU’s measly 7.3 per cent. “Just saying...”

Duke’s runabout likely to drive a hard bargain

Where to see a royal

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

March 23
■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, will attend ‘Driving Change’ Roundtable Discussion at the Royal Society of Arts, London, Holloway Road N7.
■ The Princess Royal, as Royal Patron, Motor Neurone Disease Association, will attend a Reception at the Royal Society of Arts, Chancery Lane WC2.

March 24
■ The Duke of Edinburgh, as honorary Member, Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, will attend the Smeatonian Society’s 23rd Dinner at The Plymouth, Old Broad Street, London E1.
■ The Countess of Wessex, as Chairman, Women in Business, will attend a Conference Dinner for the UK Women in Business Association, at One Great George Street SW1.
■ The Countess of Wessex, as President, NSPCC, will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.
■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, UK Youth, will attend a Dinner at The London Hilton on Park Lane.

Correction

We are happy to correct a recent article which incorrectly described the average £58 per night accommodation near the new lions in Regent’s Park as a “hotel”. It is no such thing, according to the Zoo it is a “lodge”. The new home for the Asian lions was opened by The Queen last week. The lodges will not be available for booking until May.
Skiffle king who blazed trail for 60s’ teenage explosion

M y old man’s a butcher. … Downton Abbey’s Mr Carson is coming back to the screen, interviewing Beatles and other rock stars about their teenage hero, Skiffle king Lonnie Donegan.

In a new ITV documentary, Jim Carter — Lonnie Donegan and Me, the actor shares his life-long passion, which began aged 11 when he saw Lonnie play at a seaside variety theatre on a summer holiday, as he tells the story of his profound impact on pop culture and a generation of British musicians who went on to conquer the world.

The film features Jim’s lively encounters with some of those seminal rockers who were inspired to take up music by Lonnie Donegan. Sir Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Roger Daltrey and Sir Van Morrison tell Jim how, initially using tea chests, washboards and home-made guitars, they were inspired by Lonnie Donegan to make the music which would set them on the path to superstardom.

Later fans such as Jack White of The White Stripes also reflect on the importance of Lonnie as a figure in the development of popular music.

Though now almost forgotten or remembered for novelty hits like My Old Man’s a Dustman, Lonnie was once the most famous singer in Britain. His high energy and self-styled Skiffle music helped the nation to shake off the postwar greyness of the 1950s and jump-start the teenage music explosion of the 1960s.

"Without Lonnie there might have been no Beatles and the film exclusively airs the earliest known recording of 16-year-old John Lennon, singing one of Lonnie’s hits with his Skiffle group The Quarrymen in 1957,” said an ITV spokesman.

“It also unearthed archive footage from Lonnie’s hit prime time 1960s TV show, Puttin’ on the Donegan, seen again for the first time since it aired. “Jim traces Lonnie’s rollercoaster life and career, meeting Lonnie’s fans and family, including his first wife and his widow, as well as his son. And Jim’s own wife, actress Imelda Staunton, reveals her views on life with a Lonnie Donegan fanatic. Said Jim: “For over 40 years I saw him perform and I was the most exciting thing I’d ever seen. He was the King of Skiffle, he changed music in this country – and for that, Lonnie, I thank you.”

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Sex, drugs and planning control – will new rules save London’s music venues?

LONDON CALLING: The Who play in the capital in 1964, main picture, and

The fight to protect, secure and

UK’s music venues and music fans.

Venue Trust, explained: “This comes into effect on April 6 –

the legislation passed through

Drugs and rock’n’roll, but when

a venue.

A venue.

London’s music venues were

performing at these legendary nightlife.

of venues in nurturing talent and

fermenting innovation, but warned

of the need to “change the way

we talk about” venues.

While recommending practical

steps to change licensing laws and

introduce a ‘night mayor’ to supervise London’s evening economy, it also spoke of the need to “change the way we talk about” venues.

Boris’s super squad of music boffins and industry gurus recognised the role

of venues in nurturing talent and fermenting innovation, but warned that

London’s over-increasing population and housing crisis means

residential development is taking place “cheek-by-jowl” with the city’s

legendary nightlife.

“Although this is a great step forward, there is still plenty to be

done,” said Roger Tichbourne, from the Save London Music campaign.

“Much hard work is needed to ensure we preserve our musical heritage.”

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Wartime hair styles

AFTER years spent growing his hair longer and longer, Harry Styles is now set to be shorn to within a quarter of an inch of his luscious-locked self.

But if you’ve got the money, you may be able to buy his tresses and make your own wig of them.

The One Direction idol is to go into the barber’s chair to get a skinhead look for his new role as a movie star. Styles is to be dramatically re-styled with a Forties

haircut for his part in the World War Two film Dunkirk.

Although Harry’s part in Batman director Christopher Nolan’s drama about the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk is said by movie magazine Variety to be a small one, for the purposes of authenticity he is to be shaven.

Slaphead Styles will star alongside Oscar-winner Mark Rylance and Sir Kenneth Branagh in the movie, for which filming will begin in France and Kent this summer.

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Skiffle king Puttin’ on the Donegan

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EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

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London Weekly News
Reports that TV chiefs are to bring back “Till Death Us Do Part” and its bigoted star Alf Garnett are not quite the sign of politically-correct insanity at the BBC that they would seem.

Following the huge publicity that met the recent release of the “Dad’s Army” film, the BBC is hoping to cash in on nostalgia by re-making a series of its classic comedies of yesteryear, including Porridge, Up Pompey, Steptoe & Son, Keeping Up Appearances, Are You Being Served, Hancock’s Half Hour and “Till Death Us Do Part.”

The news that the BBC is to revive the writings of Alf Garnett raised eyebrows as TV pundits wondered how on earth they would manage that, in this inclusive age.

For those younger readers not familiar with Alf, i.e. anybody born after 1992, when his sequel “In Sickness And In Health” ended, let us quote from his Wikipedia listing, which gives a fair – although toned-down – assessment of his character:

“Alf was reactionary, mean-spirited, selfish, bigoted, anti-Irish, anti-Catholic, racist, misogynistic and anti-Semitic. He was also homophobic, largely because he had a gay black man whom he called ‘Marigold’ as his home help. The home help called him ‘Bwana’.

Alf was a working class man, and was a staunch Conservative, although he didn’t support Margaret Thatcher because he believed that a woman’s place was at home ‘chained to the kitchen sink’ and blamed Thatcher’s husband Denis for not telling her ‘to keep her place’.”

One can understand then how it could be something of an uphill struggle for the BBC to present Alf as the new face of its comedy, revived to front its coming season celebrating 60 years of sitcoms. How, for instance, would a character who regularly and outrageously called Afro-Caribbean people “coons” be allowed onto the modern screen?

This must have been a point that the BBC executives seriously questioned as their Controller of Comedy Shane Allen devised plans for the sitcom series. Surely, one can hear them protest, there will be uproar across the now-enlightened land, not least many of the original “Till Death Us Do Part” scripts would these days break the law by transgressing the rules on hate crime?

But the BBC has got around this dilemma by performing a clever shammy. Instead of recreating one of Alf’s typical episodes – i.e. one that would now rightly offend half of London – it has couched the comeback under the banner of the “The Lost Sitcoms”, which are, as the BBC puts it, “shows for which the original scripts still exist but the original recordings have vanished from the archives”.

In fact, the original recordings did not “vanish” at all, the tapes were wiped, but that’s by the by. What is interesting about the “lost” episode that the BBC has chosen to restore, originally made in 1967 and titled “A Woman’s Place Is In The Home,” is that this episode is probably one of the least Alf-like episodes of all of the “Till Death Us Do Part” series.

We know this because although the video tape of the episode was wiped, the audio tape was not and it can still be found on YouTube. The episode is built around Alf complaining that he has no supper and his efforts to get some fish and chips. There is no racism, no homophobia, none of the usual anti-Jewish jibes, just a lot of sexist and tedious shouting.

Although many will breathe a sigh of relief that the BBC is wisely playing safe by remaking the highly unrepresentative episode, which does not live up to the publicity claim that it is a “classic”, it does beg the question of why is the BBC bothering to screen it at all?

Write way to help stars

EST London amateur lyricists who fancy getting onto the ladder to become millionaires by writing for the likes of Kanye West, Ellie Goulding and Mumford And Sons have just days left before they miss their chance. March 31 is the closing date for lyrics to be submitted by fans for a compilation album being organised by the anti-poverty organisation Global Citizen.

The 12-track Metamorphoses album will feature new songs written by West, Goulding, the Mumfords, The National and other artists, all based on fans’ lyrics. The anti-poverty organisation hosts its Global Citizen Festival every year in New York, organised with help from Coldplay’s Chris Martin. Last year’s event saw Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran and Pearl Jam performing.

This year the Mumfords’ Ben Lovett will curate the album, which will give a big break to unknown songwriters. “Metamorphoses has the potential to break down our preconceptions of the voices of creativity, what different people around the world are thinking and who has the right to be heard,” says Lovett.

“In my own life, I’ve experienced people trying to define me and put me in boxes and categories. Through collaboration we can show people how those lines can be blurred and are ultimately redundant. The artists involved in this project are some of the most genuine artists the world has to offer. “Action John Kanye West, and The National are doing something globally important that is touching people down to their DNA, where these masterfully creative people are going to be interpreting incredible submissions from people across the globe.

“It has been a joy reading all of the submissions we received over the past six months. I’m truly excited to see what we will create together.”

end poverty

To get your lyrics to the stars who may turn them into hits, go to globalcitzon.org
Ben takes tough line as Beverley’s guardian angel

Ben Bradley, a role he has been playing for just over a year. Previously on television he played Nate Roberts in The Bill, Bruno Milligan in Footballer’s Wives, as well as roles in Doctors and Holby City. His many leading roles in musical theatre include Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls on tour and in the West End, Danny Zuko in Grease at the Victoria Palace Theatre and on tour, Tony Manero in Saturday Night Fever at the London Palladium and on tour, Jerry Lukowski in The Full Monty at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Tick in Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical at the Palace Theatre, Bill Sykes in Oliver at the Sheffield Crucible – as well as Franklyn Hart in 9-3 and Stacee Jaxx in Rock of Ages, both on tour.

Queen of British soul Beverley Knight is a singer, songwriter and record producer who has been one of the UK’s most consistent artists since the release of her debut album in 1995. She has sold over a million albums in the UK, scoring several top 10s and four gold certified albums as well as the platinum selling Voice: The Best of Beverley Knight.

To date, she has won three MOBO Awards, an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Urban Music Awards, been three times nominated for Best Female at the Brit Awards, as well as for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize and was also awarded an MBE for her services to music and charity in 2007.

Knight has presented four series of Radio 2 show Beverley’s Gospel Nights and appeared in two series of hit BBC1 show Just The Two of Us as well as appearing on stage with the likes of Prince, Stevie Wonder and Take That. In 2012 she wowed a viewing audience of one billion with a rendition of the song I Am What I Am at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Knight originally played the leading role of Rachel Marron in The Bodyguard at the Adelphi Theatre to great acclaim in 2013. She followed this by playing the role of Felicia in Memphis The Musical at the Shaftesbury Theatre, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical, and recently completed a hugely successful run at the London Palladium playing Grizabella in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Cats. Knight will be releasing her eighth studio album this spring, her first in almost five years, as well as embarking on a solo tour across the UK in May and June.

Thea Sharrock’s production of The Bodyguard received its world premiere at the Adelphi Theatre in November 2012, where it opened to critical acclaim, with Heather Headley as Marron. Due to public demand the show’s run was extended. In 2013 Knight joined the cast and took over the lead role. The show continued to play to packed houses and released a further 300,000 tickets. Alexandra Burke followed Knight as Marron in June 2014 and continues to play the role in the show’s UK and Ireland sell-out tour, which completes its run in June.
Celebration of Motown hit parade

Motown The Musical ***

THE tried and tested formula of the jukebox musical is once again proving to be very popular in the West End – and with the baby boom generation having both the disposable cash and time on their hands, this latest addition is likely to be just as profitable.

Motown The Musical, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, is the new kid on the block and as the name suggests, is filled with classic songs from the world-famous record label, which originally produced acts like the Supremes and Marvin Gaye, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The show is written by Berry Gordy and has the renowned record producer as the leading character in the semi biopic tale of hard fought success against the odds in a world which was still engrained with racism and oppression.

Cedric Neal plays Gordy and is the embodiment of the cool and suave industry leader with a gloriously gravelly voice and the utmost charm. His vision and drive lead many of the artists to achieve huge success and audiences are treated to a multitude of hits, including Dancing in the Street and the fabulous ABC by an extremely authentic Jackson 5 complete with the winner of the cute factor, little Michael.

The story also touches on the relationship between Gordy and Motown superstar Diana Ross, who is played with absolute aplomb by Lucy St Louis. The pair provide the most inspiring elements of an otherwise fairly bland storyline with St Louis’ transformation from school girl to dazzling diva showcasing the actress’ exceptional ability.

Following its success on Broadway, Motown is likely to be a big hit with the more mature theatre-going public in London, who would seemingly prefer to see a show with songs they are already familiar with rather than something original. This show is a hit factory, with song after song shoehorned in, and as long as you’re not expecting an enthralling storyline, it fulfils the jukebox musical criteria perfectly.
UNDER CREWS CONTROL

FOR most people, the Easter Bank Holiday weekend means chocolate eggs, family gatherings and even a brief trip away. But for the Oxford and Cambridge University rowing crews competing in the Cancer Research UK Boat Races on March 27, it is all about winning.

Since the first contest on February, 10 1829, when two old Harrow school friends named Charles Wordsworth and Charles Merivale, challenged each other to a race at Henley-on-Thames, the event has become a feature of the British sporting calendar.

The first women’s competition was held in 1929, and last year, was the first occasion that the men and women’s race occurred on the same Championship course.

With more than 250,000 spectators lining the River Thames last year, it is the 162nd men’s race and the 195th overall, and for the junior ranks.

The four crews racing this year, which is the 162nd men’s race and 71st women’s contest, are called the Blue Boats, named after the award that the universities give racers for competing.

The crews contain a combination of undergraduates, post graduates, returning racers, and Chiswick Bridge – a total of 4.2 miles.

Mark Minshall, 34, is general manager of The Star and Garter wine bar and restaurant in Putney which is located next to the river. He said: “Last year was my first experience of watching the race at the start. “It was very much like a festival and the streets are packed full of people. There is a real carnival atmosphere.”

“For us, it is one of the busiest days of the year and something that needs plenty of preparation.”

The four crews racing this year, which is the 162nd men’s race and 71st women’s contest, are called the Blue Boats, named after the award that the universities give racers for competing.

Eight-crewed rowing boats are used in the competition by the same number of rowers, with a cox who will steer the racers.

Sponsored by Thames Rowing Club

Thames Rowing Club is one of the oldest, largest and most successful rowing clubs in the UK. With members ranging from juniors to veterans, and novices to international athletes, the club has been a feature of the Putney Embankment for 156 years.

Within the last year Thames has won medals at Henley Royal and Henley Women’s Regattas and junior rower Oscar Bird competed for Great Britain at the Junior World Championships.

Thames has a long relationship with the Boat Race. A number of alumni from both Oxford and Cambridge have joined Thames after winning their Blues and for the past two years the club has been proud to host Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club for their pre-race training and fixtures on the Tideway.

OARSOME: The 4.2-mile course starts at Putney Bridge and finishes just before Chiswick Bridge. Winning the toss and choosing the correct bank, depending on the weather conditions, can give the crew a decisive advantage

Scenes for the 1996 film True Blue, which told the story of the 1997 Boat Race ‘mutiny’, were filmed in the Victorian clubhouse. Renovated since then, the stunning hall which featured in the movie is a popular venue for weddings and parties throughout the year, offering spectacular views of the ever-changing river flowing past the balcony and a true slice of Tideway history.

www.thamesrc.co.uk
hello@thamesrc.co.uk
020 8788 0798

By JOANNA KAMENOU

Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club for their pre-race training and fixtures on the Tideway.

The race can be seen live on BBC One and there are also viewing points along the riverside at Putney, Hammersmith, Barnes and Chiswick.

Oxford have been dominant in recent times, with the men and women’s team winning in four of the last five meetings.

The Cambridge rowing crews last won the competition in 2012, when both teams were victorious.

This year, Oxford are favourites once again as Cambridge look to avenge their recent losses.
PULLING TOGETHER: The two university male and female crews.
Inset, Boat Race founders Charles Merivale and Charles Wordsworth

The Spencer is a handsome Victorian Free house adjacent to Putney Common and but a short stroll to arguably the best rowing-watching vantage points on the Thames. During the summer months it boasts extensive bench seating on the common and especially for the Boat Race, a pop up bar at the start line by the river and big screen in the pub.

The Spencer
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This classic is Bourne to run and run

MATTHEW Bourne’s dazzling production of Sleeping Beauty will pirouette its way into the New Wimbledon Theatre this week as part of its nationwide tour, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The production, which has received widespread critical acclaim, adds a haunting Gothic edge to the classic story and sees the beautiful cursed princess Aurora awaken in the modern day; an age with even more mystery than a fairy tale. I had a chat to princess Aurora, Ashley Shaw and her real life partner Adam Maskell, who plays the evil Carabosse/Cabaddoc.

The couple live just down the road in Earlsfield and are looking forward to playing at their home venue as part of the tour.

Ashley tells me about the show. “It’s known as the gothic romance and it’s kind of a different twist on the fairy tale that we all know and love. It’s got a bit of a darker element, some vampires and things like that. It’s an amazing show.”

Ashley is originally from Sydney, Australia but has been dancing with Matthew Bourne’s New Adventure company for many years and having worked her way up from the ensemble has played many of the leading roles in some of his most acclaimed productions, including Cinderella and the Sugar Plum Fairy opposite partner Adam’s Nutcracker.

Ashley said: “I’m really lucky to have played so many amazing parts. His (Bourne’s) work is just perfect for me and it’s what I wanted to do.”

The 55-year-old Bourne, who is originally from Wallham-stow, was recently awarded a knighthood for services to dance, the first ever modern dance figure to be knighted.

His charity, called Re:Bourne, was founded in 2008 and aims to encourage new audiences into the world of ballet as well as inspiring young dancers. He is well known for taking classic works and giving them a contemporary or different twist to help bring ballet to a new audience. I asked Ashley how important she feels this is.

“It’s extremely important because as the world develops I think we need to keep up with that as well. I think, as beautiful as the traditional and classics are, it’s important to change with the times as well and try and tie a younger audience in so we can keep this amazing art form alive and I think that’s what he does brilliantly. He makes it accessible to the everyday man.”

Ashley’s partner Adam was born in Kingston and trained at the Laine Arts theatre school in Epsom. He is playing the maleficent Carabosse, the sorcerer who casts the spell on Aurora to send her to sleep for one hundred years. Adam dances in full female regalia, including a corset for the role, but then changes into her son Cabaddoc for the second part of the story.

Matthew Bourne’s Sleeping Beauty is a radical reworking of the Tchaikovsky classic, with additional elements of dance through the ages but a strong focus on the favourite children’s story. I ask Ashley what the audiences in Wimbledon can look forward to from the production.

“They’ll get fabulous dancing, amazing costumes and set. It’s just a truly beautiful love story and fairy tale with a happy ending.”

Sleeping Beauty runs at the New Wimbledon Theatre from March 22 to 26. For more information you can visit the website atgtickets.com
A FREE show featuring the urban development of Battersea Power station is attracting interested audiences after its world premiere.

The Jerwood/FVU Awards exhibition Borrowed Time features a new video by Alice May Williams, who was listed for the Dazed Emerging Artist 2015 Catlin Art Guide 2015. Her film about the iconic Battersea power plant playfully explores online imagery and combines archive footage from its industrial heyday with computer-generated renders of the future.

Together with Karen Kramer, the emerging talents received major commissions of £20,000 each to realise significant new moving image works. Inspired by the exhibition theme, borrowed time, a reflection on the uncertain nature of our contemporary economic and ecological moment, both artists explore the legacy of power stations. While Kramer captured unique shots of the recovering landscape of Fukushima, Williams dedicated her work to the urban development of Battersea.

Never has there been a time, perhaps, where we have borrowed so much against the future economically – from the loans and mortgages of domestic realities to the sophisticated economics of financial derivatives. And never has there been a moment, perhaps, where that feeling of living on borrowed time, of a clock ticking louder and louder, has reverberated so time, of a clock ticking louder and louder, has reverberated so

POWERFUL VISION OF OUR WORLD’S CHANGING FACE

As the images roll by, origins and-now, a key principle of mindfulness. It is unclear from where or whom these words originate. "As the images roll by, Williams reminds us that Battersea’s marshy riverside location has frequently been a site of flux and transformation; its recent history of power generation paralleled by the various fairgrounds and expos that have happened (or been proposed) near this spot – places of immersion and convergence, as well as places of escape.”

Avoiding romantic notions about the power of nature as a force for recovery or transformation, Kramer’s film, with its apparent contrasts between the pristine environment of Shiretoko and the blasted wilderness of Fukushima, is a reminder of how our reading of the landscape is deeply subjective, and prone to being clouded by myth, or partial knowledge.

The free show runs until April 24 at Jerwood Space, at 171 Union Street, London – four minutes’ walk from Borough station on the Northern Line and Southwark station on the Jubilee line – before moving to CCA in Glasgow. If you would like more information you may like to visit the website – jerwood-space.co.uk.
Book a weekend getaway in Lyme Regis with HIX

Join Mark Hix for a cooking demonstration and 4-course lunch at his Dorset home this spring and stay at HIX Townhouse while you explore the Jurassic Coast.

www.hixtownhouse.co.uk or call 01297 442449 for bookings.
Easter Treat: Goat’s cheese mousse with warm apple and beetroot salad

WHATEVER your Easter tradition, chances are it will involve food – and lots of it. But pleasing the crowd isn’t always as simple as plying them with hot cross buns and chocolate goodies (although this is highly encouraged, as well). If you really want to be the Bank Holiday hostess with the mostest, up the ante by putting on a fancy sit-down spread that will put you at the top of the pecking order. We’re talking fine-dining-standard starter, a striking lamb main with heaped sides of seasonal veggies, and a decadent dessert that will have your guests gasping with delight (and possibly disbelief, if you manage to pull off the presentation too).

Don’t forget the little details... Ensure guests are welcomed and kept topped up with an array of fab drinks, and why not make a little effort with the table decor too? Just a few simple touches – some spring flowers or painted eggs as a centrepiece, can really add to the sense of occasion.

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Feeling inspired? Now all you need are some recipes. Here is one that Mike Bates, executive chef of The Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, whipped up earlier...

GOAT’S CHEESE MOUSSE WITH WARM APPLE AND BEETROOT SALAD

(Serves 6 as a starter)

For the mousse: 200g Pantys-Gawn goats’ cheese (available in Waitrose; but any goat’s’ cheese will do); 250g double cream; 1 leaf of gelatine; salt and pepper.

For the salad: 1 green apple; Baby heirloom beetroot; pinch of salt and sugar; splash of wine vinegar; mMixed leaves to serve

For the dressing: 1 shallot, finely chopped; 50g sherry vinegar; 100g honey; 100g olive oil; 50g sesame oil.

Soften the goats’ cheese by bringing up to room temperature and soak the gelatine leaf in very cold water for 10 minutes.

Whip 200g of the double cream to soft peaks. Place the other 50g of cream and the drained gelatine in a small pan. Heat gently until the gelatine dissolves, and then mix with the cheese to form a paste. Fold this into the whipped cream, season to taste and refrigerate until set.

Serve the mousse with a warm apple and beetroot salad. Ideally, use baby heirloom beetroot and cook each colour separately in their skins in water, with a pinch each of salt and sugar and a splash of wine vinegar. When ready, carefully remove the skins.

Prepare your dressing, by combining all the ingredients, and then soak the beetroot in the dressing. Meanwhile, cut your green apple into matchsticks. Arrange the apple pieces, beetroot and green leaves on individual plates, with a scoop of cheese mousse in the centre.

BELINDA DONOVAN

I sit with Arabella and Ben Wray having a delicious cappuccino and nibbling on a fabulous cake dipped in vanilla chocolate in an après-ski cabin looking out onto the most amazing alpine landscape. No, I am not in a super glamorous alpine resort, but in Fulham, where they talk enthusiastically about their launch of Chel-Ski – where you can come and learn to ski or snowboard just off The New King’s Road.

Next door is Clip ’N Climb, an indoor climbing area for both adults and children which was launched two years ago – and their follow-up has already taken off. Chel-Ski caters for all ages from five up (three and four year olds are welcome during private family slope time and one-to-one sessions) from complete beginners to Olympic downhill racers. The learning process for skiing is ten times quicker than for usual ski lessons and you start by learning how not to stumble getting on skis and dropping your gloves at the start.

Chel-Ski is perfect for corporate entertainment and private parties and French evenings will be starting up soon. Keep an eye out for the fabulous mountain food menu coming soon too!

Regular sessions are available to book as singles or blocks of six or ten – watch for the soon-to-be-available monthly passes!

The stunning alpine cafe with log cabin decor was conceived by Tor Interiors and the mountain landscape is the largest of the largest panoramas ever made of Mont Blanc by in2White.

To book your ski or snowboarding lesson call 020 3829 6961 or e mail the team at info@chel-ski.uk. For corporate enquiries contact their event manager at jo.whitaker@chel-ski-uk.uk.

Clip ’N Climb sessions can be booked online www.clipnclimbchelsea.co.uk.

Serves four

MARK HIX’S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

ASK your butcher for the heart sweetbreads, which are plumper and less sinewy.

250g plump lamb sweetbreads A little olive or rapeseed oil for frying 300-350g asparagus, woody ends removed 2 tbsp capers, rinsed 60g butter 1 tbsp chopped parsley

Put the sweetbreads in a pan of cold salted water, bring to the boil, simmer for a minute; drain. Leave to cool; remove any sinewy membranes and cut them into even-sized pieces. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a pan, season the sweetbreads; fry them on a medium heat for 4-5 minutes, turning them as they are cooking until they begin to crisp. While the sweetbreads are cooking, put the asparagus in boiling salted water for 3-4 minutes until just cooked; drain. Add the butter to the pan with the sweetbreads until it begins to colour; remove from the heat; stir in the capers and parsley.

To serve, arrange the asparagus on warmed serving plates and spoon the sweetbreads, capers and butter on top.
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Any representations about these applications should be made to the Planning Department, 60 Whiteley Street, London W6 0UT within 21 days of the date of this notice. Failure to do so may result in planning permission being granted.

2. BURGESS STREET

Any representations about these applications should be made to the Planning Department, 60 Whiteley Street, London W6 0UT within 21 days of the date of this notice. Failure to do so may result in planning permission being granted.

3. THEITO'S

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4. BURGESS STREET

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Any representations about these applications should be made to the Planning Department, 60 Whiteley Street, London W6 0UT within 21 days of the date of this notice. Failure to do so may result in planning permission being granted.
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate tower crane operations 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 Haldane Road between its junctions with North End Road and No. 5 Haldane Road.

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

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

5. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for 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.

6. The Order would come into operation on the 30th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

7. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 30th March 2016 and last for 07 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

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

(HALDANE ROAD)

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

(LOCHALINE STREET)

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

(BEAUFORT MEWS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

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

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

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Winstowe Road and Fulham Palace Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on Tuesday 29th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 29th March 2016 and last for 07 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Due to a recent change of ownership and re-organisation, the Penge office is looking for a Book-keeper.

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

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

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

Media Sales Executives - Field and Telephone Sales

The South London Press, Mercury and London Weekly News are looking for Media Sales Executives. We need new team members to join our existing sales force to sell advertising solutions to businesses right across London.

Our titles cover South West/East London, Central London and West London along with associated websites. We are looking for exceptional people to join our team at our offices based in Penge SE20.

The roles are varied but the constant will be to service existing customers and grow our business by building good, solid relationships with business owners by helping them to make the right decision when putting together their advertising schedules.

To be successful you will need to have a flexible approach, be innovative and creative, you must be able to work well under pressure and have a very strong will to succeed in what is an extremely competitive industry.

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

The Offer:
- Basic salary
- Bonus structure (paid monthly)
- Opportunity to earn additional commission through special publications
- 5 weeks holiday per annum
- Pension scheme (after qualifying period)
- Fully expensed company car (Field Sales positions only)
- On-going training

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

N ow wonder manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink left Preston’s Deepdale ground on Saturday bemoaning ill fortune after his side were denied their third consecutive win for the first time this season.

The common consensus is that Preston should have had their captain Tom Clarke sent-off for pulling back R’s Tjaron Chery when the in-form attacker was clean through, 30 yards from goal, in the 82nd minute and looking set to add to Sebastian Polter’s fifth minute headed goal.

Instead, much to widespread amazement, Clarke was only shown a yellow card by referee Andy Wooller. To add insult to injury, Preston then equalised through Eoin Doyle’s 92nd minute near-post header.

“He pulled him back, it’s a red card. We all know the rules, it was clear-cut,” said Hasselbaink of the Chery incident. “In fairness, Rangers’ Dutch boss admitted Chery had earlier wasted a great chance to seal an away victory when put through by Polter. But his shot from 15 yards was parried clear by advancing Preston keeper Anders Lindegaard.

Hasselbaink added: “I’m very frustrated not to have won the game. At 1-0, we had a great chance to make it 2-0 but we still should have gone on to win.

“Preston put us under pressure in the first half, but we soaked it up. And when we had the ball, we caused them problems. “In the second half, we did that even better. We created chances, while they didn’t.

“It’s frustrating, because if you look at the whole game, we deserved the three points.

Hasselbaink concluded: “Today we were unfortunate, but if you look at some of the decisions that were made, the gods were not on us.”

There is a growing sense among fans that Rangers are showing real signs of sustained improvement under Hasselbaink.

After the international break, mid-table Hoops will renew after Easter with a top of the game against third-placed Middlesbrough on Friday, April 1.

QPR have earned praise for their much improved communications with supporters following last week’s fans’ forum attended by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, director of football Les Ferdinand and CEO Lee Hoos.

Clive Whittingham, who runs the respected Leith For Words website, said: “The club has improved how it communicates and deals with its supporters. This forum of little over an hour was positively serene compared to the two-hour bickering Phil Beard took in this room a couple of years back when it transpired that not only had the CEO of the time not been responding to supporters’ emails, he hadn’t appointed anybody else to do it either and so one relatively small individual grievance after another was cobbled at him, as it was the only time he’d ever made himself available to receive them.

“QPR are communicating with their fans, be it through Lee Hoos’ supporters’ consultation committee, through fans’ forums, the media team meeting with the fan sites or whatever. None of this was taking place two- and a-half years ago, and it meant an ‘us and them’ attitude built up and often tiny issues were allowed to grow and fester for months, possibly without anybody at the club knowing or caring that they existed. This regular contact means events like this will be calmer, tamer affairs and that’s no bad thing. It also means issues big and small are being dealt with quickly.”

One of the most revealing facts to emerge from the latest forum was Director of football Les Ferdinand’s admission that: “In the Premier League we were in the top half of players in that division and we couldn’t sustain that. At the end of any one season you want to be consistent with two or three players maximum, but we were replenishing with 13 different players. It’s impossible to get everyone right, they had to fit with the budget and some of them will go this summer. I don’t want to bring another 10 players in.”

Ferdinand said the amount of players the club needed to move on from last season meant a lot of personnel had to be brought in on a budget, to keep some sort of a team together while reducing the wage bill.

“We’ll bring you more from the forum in next week’s issue.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, April 1
QPR v Middlesbrough, 7.45
Saturday, April 2
Aston Villa v CHELSEA, 12.45
FULHAM v Milton Keynes Dons, 3.00

Jokanovic will fret over absent strikers

Despite a break from action this weekend, it won’t be totally stress-free for Jokanovic, who must hope that both of his first choice strikers, Ross McCormack and Moussa Dembelé, return from international duty injury-free. McCormack has been called into the Scotland squad (as a replacement for Norwich City’s Steven Naismith) for their friendly with the Czech Republic in Prague on Thursday (March 24) and at home against Denmark next Tuesday (29th), while Dembelé is in the France Under-20 squad, Emerson Hyndman is in the USA Under-23 party for their Olympic Play-Off double-header against Colombia.

Cricket fund is a hit

Individual donations included cash in buckets, the purchase of wrist bands and t-shirts and went all the way up to one fan donating £1,000 for each of former England captain Andrew Strauss’ four boundaries. Newly-promoted SURREY will play their first Specsavers-sponsored County Championship Division One match of the season against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on Sunday, April 10.

Middlesex will open against Warwickshire at Lord’s a week later.

Cricket fund is a hit
**Hiddink on the right course**

GUS Hiddink will have all the time in the world in the summer to get his golf handicap back down to four. Chelsea’s 69-year-old interim manager has not had time to play since taking the reins at SW6 but will hit the greens in the coming days as the Premier League takes an enforced break for international friendlies.

Having overseen a sixth draw at home – 2-2 against West Ham United – since taking over from Jose Mourinho in December, the Dutchman is contemplating striking a few balls as he works out how to finish the season on a high note!

Asked what he will be doing until Blues take on Aston Villa at Villa Park on April 2, he half-joked: “My plan is to hit a very small white ball over the next few days and to hit it as far as I can, which is over 200 yards.

“No, seriously, I’m going to have a rest for a few days and then re-start because the players are going away to do their duties with the national team all over Europe and in South America.

**Sunday feature**

**FABULOUS free-kick by Cesc Fabregas brought Chelsea their first equaliser Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South**

**Focus on Craven Cottage**

By TONY MCDONALD

**Fulham feeling the heat**

WITH Fulham now teetering on the brink of the relegation zone, Slavisa Jokanovic has a two-week gap in which to try and put things right on the training ground.

Saturday’s 1-1 draw at Birmingham City saw Whites drop to 21st position, just one place and five points above the bottom three. Fulham’s next opponents are Milton Keynes Dons contesting a three-way scrap for survival.

At Birmingham, Fulham led at half-time from winning positions this season.

Another worry

As we know, Fulham very rarely do clean sheets. The inevitable Birmingham equaliser came from David Cotterill’s routine right-wing cross, before Michael Morrison out-jumped Whites’ defence to score with a downward header that returning keeper Marcus Bettinelli failed to lay a finger on.

That’s now 24 points Whites have conceded from winning positions this season.

Another worry is that their previously impressive goals-for tally is drying up. They have managed only seven in their last six games, which have all been winless. It could have been worse, though.

**Continued on page 27**

**This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE**

**Continued on page 27**

**Gods against us** says Rangers boss
March
FREE WILLS MONTH
helping great charities

Please see list of participating solicitors on back page

www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/lwn
Charities are paying for people aged 55 and over to have simple Wills written or updated provided they apply during Free Wills Month.

If you’re making your Will as a couple, only one of you needs to be 55.

This is your opportunity to make a lasting difference by leaving:

- A share or percentage of your estate. Half of all gifts left to charities are a share of the person's estate after family and friends have been remembered. These gifts save you having to decide on a precise amount to leave.
- A sum of money such as £500 or £5000.
- Specific gifts, such as jewellery, furniture, shares, collections or property.

Free Wills Month is restricted to people who contact a participating solicitor during March.

Taking part is easy

Just call a participating solicitor for an appointment. See the back of this supplement for a list of firms. You can also see the list on the Free Wills Month website:

www.freewillsmonth.org.uk

An up to date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones. Free Wills Month allows you to provide for family and friends and leave a gift to your chosen charities too.

Free Wills Month is intended for people aged 55 and over. If you’re making your Will as a couple, only one of you needs to be 55. The campaign pays for simple Wills. If your Will is more complex you can pay the solicitor for any extra work.
Age UK is here to help with the challenges people face in later life. We provide vital services, support, information and advice to older people across the UK. A gift in your will could help make sure that we can continue to be there for everyone who needs us.
www.ageuk.org.uk

Arthritis Research UK is the charity dedicated to stopping the devastating impact that arthritis has on people's lives. Please help Arthritis Research UK to transform the quality of life for the 1 in 6 people in the UK affected by arthritis.
www.arthritisresearchuk.org/fwm

The BHF is the UK's number one heart charity. Coronary heart disease is the UK's single biggest killer but we are leading the fight against it. After family and friends, leave endless possibilities with a gift in your Will, and help us continue our pioneering research.
www.bhf.org.uk/legacies

Thousands of abandoned or unwanted, ill or injured pets turn to us for help every year. Our doors are always open to them, and with your support, they always will be.
www.bluecross.org.uk

We're Mind, the mental health charity. We believe no one should have to face a mental health problem alone. We're here for you. Today. Now. Whether you're stressed, depressed or in crisis. We'll listen, give support and advice, and fight your corner.
www.mind.org.uk

Gifts in Wills provide a wonderful opportunity to uphold the memory of the fallen and support the future of the living. With such a gift, you can help us improve the lives of thousands of serving members of the Armed Forces, ex-Service men and women and their families.
www.britishlegion.org.uk

Our courageous volunteer lifeboat crews provide a 24/7 lifesaving service around the UK and Republic of Ireland. They will drop everything at a moment's notice to launch to the rescue – in difficult and often dangerous conditions. Please help us provide them with the training and equipment they need to return home safely.
www.RNLI.org/legacy

Stroke affects the people we love. But together we can conquer it. We help stroke survivors to make the best possible recovery and fund research to end this devastating disease. After remembering your loved ones please consider leaving a gift that could one day conquer stroke, for good.
www.stroke.org.uk/legacy

Guide dogs are life changing, and you can be too. They give people the confidence to enjoy their lives without having to rely on others. By leaving a gift in your Will, you will be helping more people who are blind or partially sighted across the UK.
www.guidedogs.org.uk/giftsinwills

We put our belief into action, reaching out to those who need our help most. We passionately believe that no-one is beyond hope, and anyone can turn to us for the care, compassion and practical support they need to turn their life around.
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/giftsinwills

What will your lasting legacy be?
Call a participating solicitor before 5pm on Thursday 31st March

**ARIF JAKOBS SOLICITORS**  
Khizar Arif  
020 8528 1132  
10th Floor, 88 Wood Street  
EC2V 7RS

**MANCINI LEGAL**  
Caroline Wilson  
020 3837 1368  
5 Chancery Lane  
WC2A 1LG

**ATTWELLS SOLICITORS LLP**  
Nina Gurra  
020 7722 9898  
88 St Johns Wood High Street  
NW8 7SH

**NC LAW**  
Nazmin Choudhury  
020 8879 9400  
384 Garratt Lane  
SW18 4HP

**DAVID TAGG & CO**  
David Tagg  
020 7736 0999  
119 Harwood Road  
SW6 4QL

**FAROOQ BAJWA & CO**  
Patrick Lally  
020 3174 0332  
45 Charles Street  
W1J 5EH

**SWEETMAN BURKE & SINKER**  
Peter Sweetman  
020 8840 2572  
158 – 160 Broadway  
West Ealing  
W13 0TL

**THE LAW HOUSE**  
Eilish Adams  
020 8899 6620  
3 Chiswick Park  
W4 5YA

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

**TULIPS SOLICITORS**  
Kivanc Yuvanc  
020 7263 3311  
754 Holloway Road  
N19 3JF

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**March\nFREE WILLS MONTH\nhelping great charities**

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**It’s all in the planning**

It is helpful to the solicitor, and speeds up the process, if you have thought about your intentions before your appointment. You can download the Will Planner from our website to help you plan ahead.

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On behalf of the charities that will benefit from your kindness and generosity – a heartfelt ‘thank you’

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Free Wills Month : 17 Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold CH7 1XP  
Free Wills Month is organised on behalf of Age UK (1160467 – England), Arthritis Research UK (207711 – England & Wales and SC041556 – Scotland), Blue Cross (224292 – England & Wales and SC037199 – Scotland), British Heart Foundation (229971 – England & Wales and SC039420 – Scotland), Guide Dogs (209917 – England & Wales and SC039179 – Scotland), MADD (219900 – England & Wales), Royal National Lifeboat Institution (209603 – England & Wales and SC037756 – Scotland), The Royal British Legion (213579 – England & Wales), The Salvation Army (254797 – England & Wales and SC039199 – Scotland) and Stroke Association (211313 – England & Wales and SC037799 – Scotland) by Capability Marketing For Charities, a trading name of Ashton Mount Associates, company registered in England & Wales number 2903477. There is no obligation to leave a gift to charity however Free Wills Month is a legacy promotion campaign for the charities listed inside who pay for the Wills to be written in the hope that you will include a gift to one or more of them.

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www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/lwn