Capital’s cash-crisis dilemma with Met

Unless government pays more for policing, city will face dire consequences

BY GEOFF BAKER
geroff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS are facing a cash crisis dilemma with the Met – unless the government pays more for policing, the city will face dire consequences of cuts which will weaken the already-thin blue line by a 10th.

Following a critical report on the state of the Met by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary, the force has hit back with a blunt message – “We’re trying our hardest but what do you expect on this shoestring?”.

As the Met faces a further throttling of its budget which could see the force which is already 700 detectives short now slashed by up to 3,000 officers, top cops backed by Sadiq Khan are warning that public safety will be put at risk if the government cash cuts keep coming.

The police watchdog’s annual assessment of the Met claims it is not up to scratch at keeping people safe, especially the vulnerable like children, the elderly, the disabled and the mentally ill.

The HMIC report claims: “The Metropolitan Police Service requires improvement in respect of its effectiveness at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

“Our overall judgment is the same as last year. The force works hard to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour but its inadequate approach to keeping vulnerable people safe is a cause of concern to HMIC.

“The quality of some investigations and its management of offenders also require improvement. Its response to gangs is impressive but its wider approach to tackling serious and organised crime requires improvement.”

HM Inspector Zoe Billingham, the author of the report, said: “We’re the Inspectorate of Constabulary, we don’t use language like this usually, but we’re talking about a national crisis in a shortage of detectives. The Metropolitan Police is 700 detectives down and is struggling to recruit detectives”.

But the Met argues that it is in desperate need of more money and officers have been overstretched in dealing with the increasing threat of a terrorist attack on the capital.

The Met says it is “surprised”...
‘Let’s make capital a zero suicide city’

Health chiefs urge action by mayor following alarming figures from borough

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs have urged Lon- don mayor Sadiq Khan to create a “zero suicide city” after official fig- ures revealed record numbers of people taking their own life in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The borough’s suicide rate—one of the highest in the capital—is now around 25 per cent above the London average, according to data from the Office for National Statis- tics.

Latest records suggest as many as 14 Londoners are taking their own life every week, with the number of deaths by suicide rising by a third between 2014 and 2015.

City Hall health officials have called for urgent action to reduce the “alarming” increase in suicide deaths.

The London Assembly’s health committee said the mayor should work towards creating a “zero sui- cide city” where Londoners are able to talk about their problems and seek appropriate support.

Dr Onkar Sahota, chairman of the committee, said: “It is shocking that every week an average of 14 Londoners choose to end their own life.

“Every death is a personal tragedy and has devastating effects not just on family and friends but also on the wider health service.”

Between 2014 and 2015, the most recent available data, the number of suicides in London leapt from 552 to 735—the highest figure for a single year since records began.

Men remain the most likely to take their own life, with only a quarter of suicide cases in London involving women.

But the committee warned that other groups in society are also at high risk, including young people who have been in care, victims of abuse, people leaving the Armed Forces, members of the LBGT+ community and people with men- tal health problems.

Dr Sahota said: “What is partic- ularly alarming is how the number of suicides in London has grown over the years.

“The mayor of London promised to take action on preventing sui- cide in London in his manifesto and we urge him to do everything in his power to deliver on this. Lon- don urgently needs to become a ‘zero suicide’ city.”

According to the ONS data, a to- tal of 162 people took their own life in Hammersmith and Fulham between 2005 and 2015.

As a proportion of overall popu- lation, this is among the highest in the capital.

London Assembly research found that inner London boroughs were particularly prone to high suicide rates, with Camden, Isling- ton and Southwark also recording levels above the London average.

London Weekly News has cam- paigned to improve suicide preven- tion as part of the Change Is Possi- ble mental-health appeal.

Working with the mental-health charity Mind, this newspaper has highlighted the work of the Maytree suicide respite centre, which offers a short residential stay for Londoners in the grips of a suicidal crisis.

The campaign has also pro- filed a new musical about suicide, Catch Me, which opened in the West End in November.

National charity the Campaign Against Living Misery also provides a suicide helpline, currently funded by the tri-borough partner- ship between Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster.

For information about the char- ity, visit thecalmzone.net.
LONDON weekly News Group 
Westminster & City News 
(Established 1857) 
Kensington & 
Chelsea News 
(Established 1888) 
Hammersmith Chronicle 
(Established 2015) 
Shepherd’s Bush Chronicle 
(Established 2015) 
London Weekly News 
(Established 2014) 

BY JACK DIXON  
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON mayor Sadiq Khan has approved Chelsea Football Club’s plans for a £500 million new stadium.

Plans for the revamped Stamford Bridge will boost the club’s matchday capacity by more than 18,000 – from 41,600 to 60,000. It will also include an elevated walkway over the nearby District Line, linking the stadium to Fulham Broadway station.

The mayor said he is satisfied that the new stadium is a “high-quality and spectacular design”. Chelsea’s proposal was given the green light by Hamme-smith and Fulham council’s planning committee in January. The club’s application also includes an investment of £12 million in the local community, as well as a contribution of £3.75 million towards affordable housing in the borough.

The mayor said: “London is one of the world’s greatest sporting cities and I’m delighted that we will soon add Chelsea’s new stadium to the already fantastic array of sporting arenas in the capital. “Having taken a balanced view of the application, I’m satisfied this is a high-quality and spectacular design, which will significantly increase capacity within the existing site, as well as ensuring fans can have easy access from nearby transport connections.”

“I’m confident this new stadium will be a jewel in London’s sporting crown and will attract visitors and football fans from around the world.”

The new stadium has been designed by architects Herzog and de Meuron – who also drew up plans for the iconic Birds Nest stadium in Beijing and the widely acclaimed Allianz Arena in Munich.

Yesterday’s decision paves the way for one of the country’s biggest sporting complexes.

A Abramovich, Chelsea’s billionaire owner, is expected to fork out around £500 million to cover the cost of the project.

Club puts parents and their pre-teenage kids on same page

Elise Paquette outside Ark BurlingtonDanes Academy

URING their children’s unruly teenage years, parents often find it hard to connect with their offspring. While some say this is “all part of growing up”, others believe mothers and fathers must do more to help their kids understand the world.

The growing divide has been particularly noticeable to Elise Paquette, a mother of two, from Shepherd’s Bush.

She is the brains behind Bridging the Gap, an interactive after school club designed to help parents and their pre-teen children on the same page.

Elise has worked with hundreds of parents since launching the initiative in 2013, offering a six-week course for those who feel out of touch with their children.

Youngsters facing the stress of school and the pangs of pre-teenage kids on same page

Several schools in Hammersmith and Fulham are now offering the Bridging the Gap course for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and their parents at the end of the working day.

It was launched at the Ark Burlington Day Academy in 2014 before expanding to the nearby Phoenix Academy.

New courses were given the go-ahead at the Masbrough Centre in Shepherd’s Bush and the Parkview Centre for Health and Wellbeing in White City last month.

The sessions focus on building bonds between parents and their pre-teen children, helping them to become more independent, developing money-management skills and learning how to be safe online.

Other aspects of the programme include understanding how media and peer pressure can influence self-perception, and developing emotional coping strategies for stressful situations.

Elise, who has collected a string of industry awards for her work, says she wants to help “empower” parents to support the adults of tomorrow.

Her key tip for concerned mothers and fathers? Make the effort to take the first step.

“T I M E RE P OR TED"...

“I realised the importance of engagement between children and their parents,” she says.

“Young children won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Bridging the Gap, part of Elise’s Funpact organisation, has won high praise from families – one described the sessions as their “golden family time together” – and the experts are also hugely impressed with Elise’s contribution.

Sue Penmore, Hammersmith and Fulham council’s cabinet member for social inclusion, said there is “no other course like it in the country”, providing a “fantastic helping hand” for struggling parents and their children.

She added: “I hope many more local families can benefit from the course in the future.”

For more information about Bridging the Gap, you can visit funpact.org.
THE star of YouTube hit Chicken Shop Date is campaigning to keep open the youth centre where she created the show.

Amelia Dimoldenberg started the internet dating sensation, which attracts more than 500,000 fans, four years ago while involved in The Cut magazine, a youth project at The Stowe Centre in Royal Oak which was closed threat-ened with closure amid funding cuts from the Conservative-led council.

Amelia, 22, grew up in nearby Edg-ware Road, and credits The Cut – which has already closed after funding was cut completely – with kickstarting her career in journalism.

She said: “I started Chicken Shop Date when I was 18 and working on The Cut. That magazine was the only reason I was able to start the show and we were able to write about any-thing, we had a lot of freedom.

The Stowe Centre provides space for young people to find their voice, You can go somewhere and do differ-ent things, but the area don’t have that space outside home otherwise.

Some young people might not have a welcoming home environment, but at the Stowe you could just hang out with friends outside your flat where people are living on top of each other. It’s invaluable to get out and socialise and when spaces like The Stowe are forced to shut down, where does that leave young people? Beprove on a street corner, causing trouble.”

Amelia, who is a final-year fashion journalism student at Central Saint Martins, says the magazine inspired her to pursue a career in journalism.

Her YouTube channel has almost 40,000 subscribers, with some of her videos hitting 500,000 views. She hopes it’s success could help draw at-tention to The Stowe Centre’s plight.

Westminster council stopped fund- ing the borough’s youth services last September, and locals fear The Stowe may be forced to shut its doors for good.

Amelia, whose father is Labour councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, said: “The Cut magazine gave us some of the oppor-tunities I have today. It sadly doesn’t exist any more but it was so simple that to create great, strong adults you have to be able to give them facilities as young people.

“It was a place to hang out with peo-ple my age and we had all the facilities we needed. We had amazing mentors, our own office, a photography studio and recording equipment, and everything we needed to run a legitimate magazine. I don’t know where else we could have done that.

“It’s so obvious that disenfranchised young people grow up to be adults with so many opportunities and end up in bad situations, and this just seems un-fortunate. Westminster council don’t seem to care about poor young peo-ples.”

Cllr Richard Holloway, Westminster cabinet member for children and young people, said: “Our priority is to protect the most vulnerable in our society, including young people.

“As we deal with shrinking budgets we are looking at new and creative ways to maximise our resources. We have had to take some difficult deci-sions on youth clubs but the establish-ment of the Westminster Youth Foundation will allow us to raise funds in new and innovative ways, and work with local businesses, through their corporate social responsibility plans, to support vulnerable children and young people.”
**£1m Lottery jackpot to aid community**

A £1 MILLION Lottery jackpot is to be pumped into community projects after a mystery winner from Hammersmith and Fulham ran out of time to claim the winnings.

The ticket holder picked the right numbers but failed to come forward and collect the seven-figure prize before the deadline expired on February 23.

National Lottery bosses were able to trace the winning ticket to a machine in Hammersmith and Fulham but failed to find the secret millionaire.

A total of 27 winners were picked out of a special Lotto draw to celebrate achievements of Team GB at the Rio Olympics last year.

Most came forward to claim their prize – but the West London millionaire could not be found.

The search prompted members of the London Corinthian Sailing Club in Hammersmith to take to Twitter to track down the mystery winner.

But the National Lottery confirmed last week that the dead-line has now passed with no sign of the borough’s secret millionaire.

Andy Carter, a winners’ adviser at the National Lottery, said: “We tried very hard to find the ticket holder and it’s a real shame that they have missed out. But there is still one winner – the nation. This money, and all the care/work spent over the 180 days, will now go to benefit projects all over the UK funded by the National Lottery.”

More than 1,000 community projects in Hammersmith and Fulham have benefited from National Lottery funding since 1994.

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**Tumble-dryer blaze: firm in U-turn on safety advice**

**BY JACK DIXON**

**jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk**

THE company whose faulty tumble dryer was found to have sparked a house fire after Shepherd’s Bush has backed down on its safety advice and urged owners to unplug their machines.

Whirlpool’s U-turn follows a major awareness campaign led by the London Fire Brigade.

The watchdog had previously told customers that tumble dryers due for repair could still be used if closely monitored.

But the company’s official advice was met with outrage by fire safety experts and consumer champions which.

Last week Whirlpool finally carried out a u-turn, telling customers with faulty dryers not to use their appliances.

A spokesperson carried out by trading standards urged the company to update its safety advice.

A notice on Whirlpool’s website said: “Trading standards have notified us that updated usage advice should be communicated to affected customers.

“If your tumble dryer is affected by this issue then you should unplug it and do not use it until the modification has taken place”

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**Revamped theatre offering free tours**

The countdown to the long-awaited relaunch of the Bush Theatre has begun, with less than two weeks to go before the doors are thrown open once again.

The popular Shepherd’s Bush venue is due to start a new chapter in its history on March 18 as members of the public are invited inside for the first time in a year.

Theatre bosses have been hard at work over the last 12 months to close the London Road venue in February 2016 for a £4.3 million refurbishment.

The month’s reopening will mark the completion of the theatre’s biggest ever revamp as it seeks to cement its place among the capital’s elite performance venues.

The redeveloped building will include a brand new entrance and front-of-house area, with an outside garden terrace leading to new bars and cafes.

It is set to trigger a significant boost for the Bush, with audience numbers expected to triple over the next six years.

Madani Younis, pictured, the Bush’s artistic director, has driven the theatre’s ambitious redevelopment.

He says the new look will help to create a vision for the Bush that reflects the diversity and vibrancy of London.

Speaking to London Weekly News last year, he said: “With the global political context shifting and the emergence of pervasive right-wing or left-wing politics, it is more important than ever that artists and theatres engage with the audience.

With the redevelopment of our building, we are proud to be able to embrace new voices, who will breathe life into this remarkable building.

It is their stories of joy, love, anger and most of all hope that will inspire the next generation of audiences.”

The Bush is set to come back to a bang in 2017. Between April and November, the theatre will present three new commissions, three world premieres, two European premieres and one production that will tour nationally.

Highlights include a production of Guards At The Taj, by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph, followed by the first European production of His By Taylor Mac.

As part of the Bush’s commitment to diversity, half of the entire 2017/18 programme will be based on works by black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee writers.

In Younis previously told London Weekly News: “With the political climate being what it is, I think it’s important that our cultural venues speak of the stories that we have been representing across the medium more widely.”

The Bush Theatre reopens on Saturday March 18 at 10am, with the building running throughout the afternoon.

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**Council ‘compassion’**

THE leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council has hailed a “compassionate” budget after signing off town-hall spending plans for the next year.

Cllr Stephen Cowan said freezing council tax and cutting charges would ease the financial burden on residents.

The budget was agreed at a full council meeting on February 22, despite opposition from Conserva-
tives.

It includes a cut of £4 million in the council’s share of council tax at its current level – although an increase in the mayor of London’s charge will mean bills going up overall.

Councillors have also set out plans to invest an extra £3.4 million from the council’s education budget into free lunches in primary schools and offering free tours for market traders in Lyric Square and North End Road.

Cllr Cowan said: “It’s not just a smarter budget – it’s a more compassionate budget. We want to be the best council at tackling poverty, the best at reducing crime and antisocial behaviour and to be the best place to do business in Europe.”

The council-tax freeze comes despite the government’s plan to end the council tax benefit, which provides a discount to low-income residents.

The authority says council-tax bills in Hammersmith and Fulham will be the third-lowest in the UK in 2017. But Conservative councillors criticised the Labour administration for “hypocrisy and broken promises”. Cllr Greg Smith, leader of the opposition, said: “This is a sad state of affairs. Labour are failing our borough.”

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**Roadworks set to bring ‘significant disruption’**

DRIVERS have been warned to expect several months of delays on one of the main routes into Fulham and Shepherd’s Bush, as work to replace grade an old metal gas main, which runs underneath Gunter Grove, is due to start soon.

Gunter Grove runs parallel to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and is a busy thoroughfare.

Workers will replace the main with new pipes made of more durable material.

A spokesman for National Grid said: “Where possible temporary traffic signals will be used to minimise the time and extent of the road closure.

“ It is likely there will be significant disruption in the area so it will be important to allow more time for journeys.”

All shops and businesses will remain open as usual during the work and National Grid has promised to “make every effort” to minimise inconvenience for residents. It says the work is “crucial”.

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**LED street lights on way**

A NEW set of environmentally friendly street lights are set to be rolled out across Hammersmith and Fulham.

The LED lamps, which use less energy and produce more natural white light, will replace all street lights in the borough by April 2018.

The lamps require much less electricity to operate and have an extremely long life span compared to traditional lights.

Work has already begun on installing the lights, with the project due for completion in the spring.

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**QPR celebrate unsung heroes**

QUEENS Park Rangers Football Club will celebrate unsung heroes in Hammersmith and Fulham with a special event at Loftus Road.

The club is hosting a community day to recognise the efforts of local teachers, firefighters, police officers and NHS staff.

Invited guests will be treated to a 45-minute half-time presentation at the game against Rotherham United on May 1. Fans have also been asked to nominate their own unsung heroes, with a select few being honoured on the pitch.

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**Commemorate the Great War**

GRANTS of up to £10,000 are being made available to help communities commemorate the First World War.

The Heritage Lottery Fund will hand out £2 million to projects across the country to commemorate the service of those who fought and to encourage applicants to come forward.

The funding is part of ongoing commemorations to mark the war’s 100th anniversary. For more information on how to apply, visit hit.org.uk or follow #HeritageLottery on Twitter.

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**Death crash**

POLICE have launched a probe after an elderly pedestrian was knocked down and killed by a suspected hit-and-run driver in Hammersmith.

The man, 81, was struck by a silver VQ 5 series near the Olympia centre at around 9.30pm on Saturday. He died in hospital on Sunday.

Scotland Yard said the driver failed to stop at the scene and appeared to be drunk in nearby Stanwick Road.
Rise in women bankers ‘could help avoid financial crashes’

BY MARK WAHORN

MORE women are needed in The City because too many male bankers are too ballsy, a new report claims. More women could help avoid financial crashes because testosterone-fuelled male traders take too many risks, according to new research.

A study found a phenomenon known as the psychological momentum advantage made male judo fighters more likely to win – but not women.

This is a state of mind where individuals feel things are going unstopably their way. It is caused, among other factors, by shifts in levels of the male sex hormone.

The economists say the finding may be relevant to The City – where nine in 10 workers are men. Bringing more women into the financial industry could help prevent ‘bubbles’ that occur when investors push up stock prices beyond their actual worth.

The two most famous examples of the 20th century were the ‘bubble’ in American stocks in the 1920s just before the Great Depression driven by the invention of radio, cars and aeroplanes and the ‘bubble’ from the late 1990s.

This was also based on speculative activity surrounding the development of new technology, this time the Internet and e-commerce.

Dr Ze’ev Shtudiner, of Ariel University, Israel, said: ‘We were able to connect our findings to the effect of psychological momentum in financial markets of which 50 per cent are men.

‘Such an effect may lead male traders, driven by an increase in testosterone due to a successful investment, to take exaggerated risks, which, in turn, create price ‘bubbles’.

‘By increasing the number of women in financial markets, it may be possible to stabilize these markets since women have less dramatic shifts in testosterone levels, which can make them less prone to the momentum effect.

‘This argument is consistent with our results that momentum effects are generated only among men, since it is only among them that testosterone levels increase after success.’

The study published in the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization said psychological momentum significantly affects performance among men – but not among women. This may account for exaggerated risk-taking in financial and business endeavours among males.

Dr Danny Cohen-Zada, of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, said: ‘The purpose of our study was twofold: to estimate the causal effect of psychological momentum on performance, given the current market condition, and to examine whether there are any gender differences in the corresponding response.’

In the study, the researchers analysed two different samples of men’s and women’s judo competitions from 2009 to 2013.

In the first, they looked at the two major annual judo events, having a psychological momentum advantage. It turned out they were more likely to win the fight – if they were male.

Dr Alex Krumer, of University of St Gallen, Switzerland, said: ‘We based this study on a cross section analysis of 106 men’s and 111 women’s judo matches in an effort to understand the momentum of psychological momentum is associated with significant increases in the winning probability in men’s contests but not in women’s.’

Based on the head-to-head history of the pairs from the first sample and analysing 225 matches, the researchers then obtained similar results by looking at both the performance of the same pair of judo experts was affected by varied momentum strategies in different tournaments.

As expected, these results also indicated the psychological momentum effect just exists among men.

According to Dr Krumer, as well as helping to avoid problems in the stock market by recruiting more women, the research could also boost business in other ways.

He said: ‘An increased frequency of positive feedback from investors after successful actions may turn into a positive psychological momentum and thus increase productivity. ‘Similarly, managers should exert efforts to reduce the influence of unsuccessful actions of their workers to avoid productivity losses.’

Dr Cohen-Zada believes additional research would be beneficial, focusing on the role of psychological effects on performance in male-dominated positions, including stockbrokers, as well as high-profile managers, politicians and military commanders.

PEOPLE need to wake up and stop assuming that being self-employed is a route to avoid paying tax, because it just isn’t true.

The recession hit millions of people hard, and thousands were forced to go self-employed, including small business owners and freelancers, speeding up a process which was already well and truly in motion.

Self-employment does bring employment benefits, before the recession people would have been hiring from the ranks of the self-employed, he said.

But they have to be seen in the long term. ‘You have to embrace the plans to overhaul the tax system since the recession and the way people work; there has been a shift to freelance, self-employed work.’

The recession hit millions of people hard, and thousands were forced to go self-employed, including small business owners and freelancers, speeding up a process which was already well and truly in motion.

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COUNCILS JOIN FORCES IN BID TO BEAT HEALTH CUTS

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TOWN HALL bosses in Hammersmith and Fulham have joined forces with council leaders in Ealing in a double effort to defend local health services from cuts and closures.

The leaders of the two neighbouring local authorities spoke at a public meeting at Ealing Town Hall as part of a renewed push to protect the NHS.

In January, campaigners claimed to have uncovered details of huge cuts to health services. They also fear the axe will fall on Charing Cross Hospital as health bosses seek to restructure services in the face of growing budget pressures.

The Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospital along with several others in north west London, has denied any plans to reduce the number of NHS jobs and beds in the next financial year. It has also ruled out closing Charing Cross hospital until 2021.

But council chiefs maintain that the NHS is “under attack”.

Stephen Cowan
At the public meeting, Hammersmith and Fulham council leader Stephen Cowan said: “This is not about a clinical assessment of what is needed. This is about the slow undoing of our National Health Service.”

Both Cllr Cowan and Ealing council leader Julian Bell have refused to support a controversial NHS plan that sets out proposals for managing health-care resources for the next five years. Campaigners fear it will pave the way for downgrading Charing Cross Hospital and axing Ealing Hospital’s A&E unit.

The latest developments in the campaign come as demand for local services continues to rise. Official figures revealed that during the second week of January more than 350 people waited for more than four hours in A&E at Charing Cross, with demand at the unit up by almost a third over the last two years.

Cllr Cowan said: “There is real reason for concern about the plan to downgrade A&E at Charing Cross. “With demand soaring and the existing resources struggling to cope, it is both foolish and dangerous to remove vital capacity in the system.”

Eve Turner, secretary of the Ealing Save Our NHS campaign, said: “It is beyond belief that even as they are sending people home early from overcrowded hospitals, the local health bosses are still defending their plans to cut hundreds of beds along with more than 7,750 NHS staff and reduce A&E capacity by 64,000.”

Imperial has repeatedly denied that Charing Cross will be downgraded to local hospital status over the next five years. It has also ruled out any cuts to staff numbers or hospital beds in the next 12 months. A spokesman said: “The trust has no plans to reduce jobs or beds in the next financial year.

“Any proposed changes to services arising from this process will be subject to extensive engagement with staff, patients and stakeholders in advance of any formal proposal or decision.”

Chart-toppers headline charity show

CHART-TOPPING popstars Mumford & Sons headlined a one-off charity fundraiser in Shepherd’s Bush as part of a drive to combat food waste and help the hungry.

The band, famous for hit songs Little Lion Man and Lover of the Light, topped a star-studded bill during the special gig at St Stephen’s Church last week.

Proceeds from the show will go to the Felix Project, which collects leftover food from supermarkets and delivers it free of charge to charities across London.

Its mission is to support organisations who care for the poorest and most vulnerable in society by topping up their food supplies.

Singer Michael Kiwanuka, folk songwriter Lucy Rose and indie bands Daughter, Bear’s Den and Fat White Family were among the other artists performing at the church on Friday.

Mumford & Sons have strong ties to the local area after emerging as part of the West London folk scene in the late 2000s. The band went on to huge commercial success and headlined Glastonbury Festival in 2013.

But they closed last week’s event with a stripped-back acoustic set.

Ben Lovett, a multi-instrumentalist in the band, said: “We are really happy to have been asked to perform at St Stephen’s Church in support of the Felix Project.

“The premise of the Felix Project is one we stand by, not just in its redistribution of resources to those in need, but also in its effort to salvage some of the mindless wastage we create on a daily basis.”

The Felix Project was set up in London last year supplying fresh food free of charge to a wide range of different charities across the capital.

Many of the organisations it partners with face the prospect of giving up their food supplies, including homeless people, women living in refuges and people with complex mental-health problems.

But the charities have often limited food budgets and cannot always provide meals for everyone they support.

The Felix Project has stepped in to plug the gap by collecting surplus food from shops and wholesalers and delivering it straight to the door.

The charity’s Sophie Napper said: “All the money raised from the event will help the Felix Project continue to tackle food waste and food poverty, and expand into new areas of London.”

Magistrates’ court closure ‘could lead to rise in collapsed cases’

LEGAL cases may collapse when key witnesses fail to turn up to give evidence following the closure of Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court, according to a senior councillor.

The deputy leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, Michael Cartwright, warned that a rise in the number of ‘no shows’ could block the path to justice for victims of crime.

Justice ministers confirmed last month that Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court would be closed as part of efforts to streamline the legal system. Adult cases that would previously have been heard in Hammersmith will now take place in Westminster, Hendon and the City of London, while youth cases will be moved to Highbury Corner.

Cllr Cartwright, a former magistrate, said the extra journey time would discourage witnesses from coming to court to give evidence.

He said: “There is evidence from other areas where courts have been closed of an increase in cases collapsing because witnesses find it difficult to travel to the court where the case is listed.”

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Justice ministers confirmed last month that Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court would be closed as part of efforts to streamline the legal system. Adult cases that would previously have been heard in Hammersmith will now take place in Westminster, Hendon and the City of London, while youth cases will be moved to Highbury Corner.

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The deputy leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, Michael Cartwright, warned that a rise in the number of ‘no shows’ could block the path to justice for victims of crime.

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Deputy mayor’s ‘No’ to arming all city’s police

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CITY Hall’s police boss has warned cops prepared to carry guns that she will not back moves for a fully armed Met.

Although 57 per cent of Met officers who responded to a Police Federation survey said they would be prepared to carry a gun “if the commissioner and the Home Secretary made a decision that all MPS officers should routinely carry a firearm whilst on duty”, the deputy mayor for policing and crime, Sophie Linden, says City Hall will not allow it.

Some 41 per cent of police surveyed said there “should be more specialist firearms officers in the Metropolitan Police Service but not all officers should be routinely armed” – and Ms Linden is siding with them.

She said: “London’s police officers have made clear their support for our proud policing tradition where the majority of our officers are unarmed.

“It does remain necessary to have a few highly specialised armed units, in line with the changing threat level, but we would not support any plan to routinely arm London’s police officers.”

The Met’s Police Federation survey revealed that an overwhelming 75 per cent feel that “all Metropolitan Police officers should be issued with a Taser whilst on duty”.

But Ms Linden responded: “Taser should only be issued to fully trained officers and its use must be accountable to the community. How widely this tactic is used is kept under review.”

Last year the Met revealed that it needed an extra 600 armed cops on the street. The force is currently training hundreds of extra officers to bring the Met up to full gun strength.

The chairman of the Met’s federation, Ken Marsh, is seeking talks with City Hall about arming the police.

He said: “We often hear people talk about what police officers want and we can now say with some certainty that our members feel that more Met Police officers should be carrying a Taser on London streets. We can also say that we know their views on the prospect of being armed.

“When police officers carry a Taser or gun, there is a huge responsibility – not to mention cost and specific training and welfare packages for officers concerned – so we need to start to have discussions about what our members are asking for with the new commissioner and the mayor of London.”

Theatre’s ban on in-show snacks

WHO’S afraid of a packet of crisps? West End theatre bosses who have issued a “stop eating” ban on audiences for a new production.

Theatre fans planning to attend the latest run of Who’s Afraid Of Virginia Woolf? at the Harold Pinter Theatre have been told to cut out the snacks.

But theatre-goers are welcoming the ban and are calling on managers to extend it to drinking too.

The Edward Albee play stars Imelda Staunton and Conleth Hill, and recently opened for previews.

In an email to ticket bookers seen by The Stage newspaper, the Ambassador Theatre Group – which operates the Harold Pinter – said no food would be allowed to be eaten during the show.

The email stated: “Out of consideration for the actors and for fellow audience members, we ask that no food be consumed during the performance.”

The email said that food purchased at bars in the theatre may be eaten before the show, or during one of its two breaks. Drinks will be allowed into the auditorium in plastic cups.

A spokesman for the producers, Sonia Friedman Productions, told The Stage that the decision had been taken due to sections of the show being “extremely intense and quiet”.

During a recent interview, Ms Staunton said she would approve outlawing food in theatres, suggesting it distracts from the live performance.

“I don’t know why people can’t engage in just one thing. I don’t understand this obsession with having to eat or drink something at every moment of the day,” she said.

Regular theatre-goers say they could not agree more and in posts on The Stage website they have called for more restrictions.

“I would ban ice in drinks and plastic water bottles, both are a source of irritating noises,” wrote one. Another added: “This needs to become the rule throughout The West End. I don’t understand the need to munch and crunch your way through a performance. The theatre is an event that’s special, it’s intimate, it’s a meeting between audience and performers that is unique each evening. It’s not a football match.”

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS 5
INCE October, the London Weekly News and its sister title the South London Press has been campaigning to raise awareness of mental health problems and the all too frequent failings in the support system that block people’s path to help.

And we make no apologies for highlighting this issue once again on the front pages of our Hammersmith, Fulham and Shepherd’s Bush editions this week.

Suicide is a challenging subject that many of us would rather not confront. But, as the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show, it is a topic we can no longer afford to ignore.

According to the London Assembly, Hammersmith and Fulham, along with inner London boroughs Camden, Southwark and Islington, now have suicide rates 25 per cent above the London average.

This shocking statistic equates to more than 10 suicide deaths for every 100,000 members of the population in these boroughs.

It is more important than ever that people in such a desperate state are provided with the opportunity to access the appropriate support they urgently need to overcome their mental health problems.

This newspaper supports the London Assembly health committee’s call for London Mayor Sadiq Khan to work towards a “zero suicide city”, where everyone, regardless of circumstances, feels comfortable to seek support for their difficulties.

It should be the marker of an open and caring society that it provides a safety net for the most vulnerable. It is absolutely a matter of life and death.

If you would like to support our Change Is Possible mental health campaign you can donate at www.givey.com/changeispossible or contact London Weekly News reporter Jack Dixon on 07973565078 or by email at jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Housing

SOME excellent news. The Labour council’s unwanted proposal to abolish council housing in Hammersmith and Fulham has been abandoned.

Vast sums were being spent trying to persuade council tenants and council leaseholders to back the transfer of their homes to an unaccountable community gateway housing association. But the opposition was overwhelming.

Although they would have denied leaseholders a vote, they faced a legal requirement to win support from tenants with which they had no hope of gaining.

The Conservative government has also refused to write off the debt that would have been required.

An appalling proposal that left many of Labour’s traditional supporters feeling betrayed. Also a scandal that £1 million was wasted on it.

The Conservatives repeatedly called for the scheme to be abandoned – but Labour keep on pouring public money into the doomed project.

While lawyers, consultants and PR men were paid huge fees, the council claimed to have no money for a growing backlog of repairs. The council pushes ahead against the wishes of residents. They prevented proper scrutiny and transparency. What a disgrace. Yet they have not even had the grace to apologise.

Councillor Harry Phibbs

Conservative, Ravenscourt Park

Homelessness

FAMILY homelessness in London is rising at a faster rate than across England, with councils struggling to provide temporary accommodation.

The demand on temporary accommodation is particularly severe in London where the increase in the number of families accepted as homeless has increased by 1.5 per cent compared with the national equivalent of 1.5 per cent since 2011. Data available from 20 of London’s 33 local authorities showed that the gross cost of temporary accommodation reached £661 million in 2014/15 and the level of need met by London boroughs from their own general funds can be estimated at just over one quarter of that cost, or £170 million.

This week Ernst & Young and London Councils teamed up to launch London Ventures, an innovation programme which will focus on how the public, private and third sectors can work together to support some of London’s biggest local public services challenges including combating homelessness.

People become and stay homeless for a whole range of complex and overlapping reasons and solving homelessness is about much more than putting a roof over people’s heads.

Councils are facing unprecedented challenges in the coming years and we know from experience that collaborative and co-operative working with other sectors can provide innovative solutions to these challenges.

Research found that there are high lengths of stays in temporary accommodation in London especially for private sector stays. 29 per cent of families in temporary accommodation had spent less than six months in temporary accommodation, 61 per cent had spent less than two years and 21 per cent had spent five or more years there.

The London Ventures programme is seeking to reduce the cost for temporary accommodation by preventing statutory homelessness and by managing the use of more expensive forms of accommodation.

Temporary accommodation should never be a long-term solution for councils but we’re now seeing an unsustainable amount being spent, especially on private sector housing stock.

Despite all the great work currently underway to prevent homelessness in the first place, unless we see a step-change in how we tackle these issues, local authorities and Londoners will continue to feel the strain.

Edward Lord OBE

Chairman, London Ventures

Devolution

A PROGRAMME which will drive forward the devolution agenda in London has taken another step forward as the search begins for providers to deliver the Work and Health programme.

Over 100 providers gathered at the Drum in Wembley on Thursday (February 23) to hear more about the scheme, which will help disabled people and the long-term unemployed into work.

This follows another market engagement event at City Hall last week which also attracted over 100 organisations.

Whitehall officially passed the budget for the programme to four sub-regions in London, as well as the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, at the end of January.

The funding – which amounts to over £170 million over five years – will be used by councils to help the long-term unemployed and those with health conditions or disabilities enter the world of work in the capital.

Additional funding of around £65 million will also be available through the European Social Fund, taking the total to £335 million.

London Councils, along with the Mayor of London, has long been calling for greater borough involvement in designing future work programmes for local communities. It provides the opportunity to align employment services with other locally run services such as housing, health, debt advice and childcare in order to reduce an individual’s barriers to work.

The agreement between the Department for Work and Pensions and the London boroughs now paves the way for the boroughs to work together in four sub-regions to create initiatives tailored to communities. Londoners can expect the new programmes to begin from spring 2018.

Potential providers will submit proposals in March this year and London boroughs will announce successful contractors towards the end of 2017.

This is a significant moment in London’s call for further devolution and we are pleased to be finally getting the wheels in motion.

I’m delighted that so many providers attended these events and that there’s a real interest in working in new and different ways with boroughs in helping residents with complex needs back into the workplace.

Councillor Claire Kober

OBE, Chair, London Councils
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Cabinet agrees first rise in council tax for eight years

THE first increase in council tax for eight years has been agreed by the cabinet of Kensington and Chelsea council.

The 1.9 per cent increase will – if the budget is approved by the full council tomorrow – contribute some £13.8 million to the authority in 2017-18, money that would otherwise have to be found from reductions in services.

“Overall, the council must find some £3 million of efficiencies or extra income in 2017-18 in order to compensate for reductions in government grants,” said a spokesman for the borough.

“And 2017-18 will be the seventh consecutive year in which such grants have fallen. In fact, by 2017-18 the council’s budget will have shrunk in real terms by about 22 per cent since 2010-11.”

“Fortunately, the cabinet’s strategy for coping with austerity has so far proven highly effective. Thanks to sharing services with neighbouring boroughs, traditional savings and efficiencies and more dynamic stewardship of its property portfolio, just five per cent of the savings required from the Council since 2010-11 have had to come by way of service reductions.”

Sharing the management of services with neighbouring boroughs, policy of continuing to meet the moderate care needs of vulnerable residents which enables residents to stay independent longer and, of course, the fact that some royal borough residents are able to fund their own care.

“Fortunately, the cabinet agreed not to take advantage of the social care precept which can now be added to council bills to help meet care costs, but to keep the option under review for 2018-19.”

The leader of the authority, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown said: “I am very proud of the way we have maintained good-quality services for our residents.

“But after seven years of austerity, we are now facing stark choices.”

“If we are to continue delivering good services we must find some additional money.

“After an eight-year freeze, a modest increase in council tax seems a sensible way to start.”

As well as setting a budget, the cabinet also approved a £397 million capital programme of housebuilding, school improvements and other regeneration schemes.

Child poverty

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham Council has unveiled new plans to tackle child poverty in the borough.

A new strategy will focus on improving children’s services and schools while addressing employment and housing and health issues. The council says it wants to help people manage their budgets and live healthier lives.

A spokesman said: “Working with the NHS, schools and charities we are determined to make a real difference to the lives of children in poverty.”

Grants for volunteers

TWENTY-EIGHT voluntary organisations in Kensington and Chelsea are to receive grants from Kensington and Chelsea council’s voluntary grants programme for 2017-18.

The scheme, which has been running for more than a decade, provides funding for core and project costs – without which many small organisations would struggle to cover their core costs and keep going.

Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, the cabinet member for civil society, said: “The voluntary sector has been providing valuable services to residents for many years and I am very pleased that the council has been able to maintain its level of funding and even approve two new grant applications.

“The services provided by voluntary organisations complement the services delivered by the council. In addition, they provide valuable advice and support to residents who would not be eligible for statutory services.”

To read the cabinet report Allocation of voluntary services grants from Corporate Services 2017-19, visit tbkc.gov.uk/voluntarysectorsgrants.

Anne O’Hora, from the council’s Waste Action team, handing over the cheque to Herve Nounrius, secretary of the Warwick Road Leaseholders Association

Recycler’s £2.5k boost to leaseholders’ association

THE Warwick Road Leaseholders’ Association is richer by £2,500 thanks to the generosity of a Kensington resident who won a cash prize for recycling his rubbish the right way.

The resident, known only as Mr Helman, won the first round of Kensington and Chelsea council’s Golden Ticket recycling prize draw.

He scooped £500 in the draw which rewarded residents for recycling the correct way – and, as the Golden Ticket winner can also nominate a local charity or community group to win £2,500 community prize money, he chose the leaseholders’ association.

The council’s cabinet member for environment, Cllr Timothy Ahern, said: “I am pleased that Kensington and Chelsea residents are entering the Golden Ticket recycling prize draw and that local community groups are also benefiting.

“The council supports this scheme because it encourages people to recycle – and recycle the right way. It is also a great way to help community groups that have made a commitment to recycling. Not only is recycling good for the environment but it saves the council money, so we can put it where it’s needed the most.”

There will be one further draw this year, on Friday March 24. To be in with a chance of winning, put your details on a ticket and pop it in your clear recycling bag or mixed recycling bank.

Tickets are available at the council’s Customer Service Centre and all of the borough’s libraries. Tickets can also be downloaded and printed at www.gov.uk/goldenticket.
‘Night creeper’ burglar jailed for raid at Cowell’s £35m mansion

MUSIC mogul Simon Cowell admitted he is living in “constant fear” after a convicted killer broke into his mansion and stole £1 million of jewellery in a “night creeper” burglary.

Darren February, 33, ransacked the X Factor judge’s four-storey Holland Park home in December 2015 and stole passports and luxury items.

February climbed a wall at the back of the property to get into the garden and tried various doors and windows before forcing open a patio door to get inside.

Mr Cowell said at the time that he thought the burglary had been an “inside job”.

In an impact statement, he said he was “scared” about what could have happened if the burglar had gone into the room of his three-year-old son Eric – and feared he could be targeted again.

Only 10 days after the burglary, February stole his ex-girlfriend’s car and crashed head-on into motorcyclist Kenneth Baldwin.

The 52-year-old was killed in the collision as February fled the scene.

Father-of-two February was jailed for eight-and-a-half years for Baldwin’s death by dangerous driving, not far from Mr Cowell’s home.

He was convicted of the burglary on Wednesday and was jailed yesterday for eight years, which will run consecutively with his current sentence.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Cowell said: “This incident has caused me great concerns about the security of my family.

“I am very concerned about what could happen to my son if the burglar had gone into his room.

“I could not bear to think of the consequences and a lot would have happened if the burglar had come into our room.

“The whole incident has been very traumatic and there is a constant fear that it may be repeated and that it may be worse next time.

“Post the burglary there is no doubt that myself and Ms Silverman (Mr Cowell’s partner Lauren Silverman) and my son’s nannies have become much more anxious over safety issues relating to my son’s care and wellbeing.

“My son was in the house that night and I am naturally very concerned over what could have happened if the burglar had entered my son’s room, as any parent in the same situation would be.”

Mr Cowell initially thought the stolen goods were worth about £2 million but later estimated it to be about £950,000.

“This included watches worth around £200,000 and a diamond ring worth £500,000.

“There were also diamond ear-rings worth £220,000 and a diamond bracelet valued at £83,000.

“The bulk of the haul – worth up to £330,000 – has not been recovered.

“Both Mr Cowell and Ms Silverman’s passports were stolen from the five-bed family home during the raid.

“Sentencing February, Judge Martin Edmunds QC said: “This was a night creeper burglary of a house where the occupants lay sleeping.

“However much you wished to avoid detection, the very act of entering a person’s home at night creates the risk of confrontation and violence.

“Whenver a burglar targets jewellery, however wealthy the owners may be, those items are very likely to have significant sentimental value as well.

“It is all too clear that you targeted wealthy homes in hope of substantial gain.

“This burglary was clearly the subject of planning. That plan was the deliberate targeting of the home of a person you expected to have valuable things to steal.

“This offence and your previous record demonstrates that when you are at liberty to do so, you offend in cruel and damaging ways.”

February, who appeared at Isleworth Crown Court via video link from HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, sat slumped in a chair and made no reaction.

He has a series of previous convictions, including 27 for burglary dating back to 1996 when he was just 12 years old, as well as convictions for assault and driving offences.

Funk heroes Cooper Clarke and Matlock at Portobello arts fest FOR the third year running, Portobello Live! is presenting music, film, poetry and art, with former punk stars John Cooper Clarke, pictured, and Sex Pistol Glen Matlock.

Held over the May Day bank holiday in association with dance label Wall Of Sound and Rough Trade records, this year’s festival also takes a retrospecive look at Rock Against Racism, a movement which sprang into life 40 years ago.

An impressive line-up of new bands and performers, rock royalty and special guests will play out across the stages of Portobello’s iconic pubs, clubs and venues.

This year, Portobello Live! will feature punk performance poet John Cooper Clarke, former Portobello Against Racism activists, along with Pete Wylie (The Mighty Wail), Bandante (The Bad Seeds), Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols), The Egg Youth, The Handsworth Collective and Slade, the exhibition looks back on 25 years of the iconic Portobello Panto, neighbourhood music academy The Rhythm Studio will hold drumming sessions and harmonies from the Portobello Live! Choir will open the festival.

In addition, Rock Against Racism photographer Syd Shelton will reflect on the movement which, 40 years ago, came to public attention through music and marches, or ‘carnivals’, inspired by Notting Hill’s annual event where many RAR artists had their musical and street-fighting apprenticeships,” said the spokesman.

“Not only is it great to be working alongside some of the amazing people and organisations who consider West London home, these important collaborations have presented Portobello Live! with the opportunity to expand and develop, as well as giving it greater visibility in the community,” said Portobello Live! promoter Micky P.

Fireworks Prom back with a bang

Last year’s event at Royal Hospital Chelsea

FOLLOWING the success of last year’s inaugural Chelsea Fireworks Prom, the spectacular event will be returning in 2017 for a special celebration to kick off the summer with style at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on the June 16.

The event will feature the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, as part of the Live At Chelsea Concert Series which donates a portion of ticket sales each year to the maintenance of the hospital.

“The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra is celebrating 30 years since its formation in 1987, and the performance against the backdrop of the stunning Royal Hospital Chelsea will thrill the summer evening audience,” said a spokesperson.

Accompanied by a breathtaking fireworks display, the orchestra will perform pieces fitting to the grandeur and iconic place in British history that the Royal Hospital Chelsea has since it was founded as a military hospital in 1682 by King Charles II.

The programme for the quintessentially British summer concert will include some of the greatest pieces of music in history such as Jerusalem by Parry, Spitfire Prelude by Walton and Rule Britannia! by Arne with a cannon and firework finale.

The programme will also include pieces by composers such as Mozart, Elgar and Tchaikovsky.

As well as the Chelsea Fireworks Prom, the popular indie-pop band Belle & Sebastian will be performing on June 15, and the genre-defying pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi has been announced for June 17 and 18.

Tickets for these shows are on sale now. Standard tickets for Ludovico Einaudi have already sold out.

There are also dining and dining and bar packages available for all nights of the Live At Chelsea Concert Series.

The Quartermaster’s BBQ is a casual dining experience complete with cocktails set on the south terrace of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The State Apartments package offers an unparalleled concert dining experience, taking place in the Royal Hospital Chelsea’s majestic state apartments designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and including champagne and canapes, and a three-course dinner.

The minister said 1,041 fewer people are now claiming the out-of-work benefit compared to the period immediately before the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats formed the coalition government.

Mr Hand claims wages are “growing strongly” while the number of women in employment is at a “record high”.

He said: “It shows that our ongoing welfare reforms are working, continuing to incentivise work and making sure that the system is fair.”

CHICHESTER and Fulham MP Greg Hands, pictured, says the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in his constituency has fallen by 50 per cent since 2010.

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Mr Hands claims wages are “growing strongly” while the number of women in employment is at a “record high”.

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Picture: SWNS

Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell

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Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell
Help our D-Day heroes pay respects to fallen comrades

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DO you know a D-Day hero? The Royal British Legion has launched a London-wide appeal to find every surviving veteran of D-Day, to salute the brave with an offer to take them back free to the beaches of Normandy.

The Legion wants to track down men like Londoner Ken Hay, who fought on the beaches when he was just 18 years old.

The Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge tours for D-Day veterans to return to Normandy and pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

The tours are being funded by the Treasury from fines on banks involved in the LIBOR interest-rate scandal, and will enable a D-Day veteran to return with a family member and carer on a one-night tour.

The 2017 tours will take place in March, April, May and September, and will include Eurotunnel from Dover to Calais, accommodation, visits to Pegasus Bridge, Juno, Sword and Gold beaches, Arromanches, and war memorials, before visits to personally specified cemeteries.

Sadly, there is no database of D-Day veterans so we’re calling on the goodwill of the media and general public to spread the word. If you do know a D-Day veteran, please do let them know about our free tours,” said a spokesman for the Legion’s travel arm, Remembrance Travel.

Mr Hay, now 90, took advantage of the free travel deal in 2015, when he returned to the beach at Arromanches and Pegasus Bridge, and he was warned by the welcome of the veterans traditionally received.

“I was sitting outside in the sunshine wearing my blazer and medals and was approached by well over a dozen people who wanted their photograph taken with me – Americans, French, Spanish and Dutch people. I even got approached in Arromanches by five people from Paraguay,” he recalled.

“But I was disappointed not to encounter any Gendarmerie on the tour – I was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour (the Ordre national de la Legion d’honneur) last year and the Gendarmerie have to salute if they see you wearing the medal.

“It is the French equivalent of a knighthood, so technically in France I’m a Sir!”

Recalling his experiences during the war, Ken tells how, having joined up in 1943 at the age of 17, he joined the Army as an infantryman in the Essex Regiment before being transferred to the Dorset Regiment for the Normandy landings.

In June 1944, Ken travelled to France with his brother, who was a corporal in the same regiment, and the two fought alongside each other.

“There were essentially two prayers – ‘Keep me safe’ and ‘If my number is on the bullet, let it be quick’,” said Ken.

“When you were out on the field there were tracer bullets zinging over your head and they seemed to move in slow motion.

“It dawned on me on many occasions, lying out in a field with my brother, that we were a long way from home, a long way from our mother, who was asleep in bed and our father who was out working. They had no idea we were both under fire in battle.”

In July 1944, Ken was captured by the Germans.

He and 29 others had embarked on a night patrol to blow up a self-propelled gun in what was supposed to be an observation post in no man’s land.

Unfortunately the intelligence they had received was wrong, and the gun was being manned and manned. That was when the firing started.

As well as gunfire, the patrol was bombarded with grenades as the men made their retreat. Five were ultimately captured – Ken was among them.

Following capture, he was taken to Poland to work in a coal mine where he remained until the Russian advance in 1945, when he and his fellow prisoners of war started what has become known as the Long March to Freedom from January 23 to April 20 1945.

Having been repatriated, Ken learned that of the 30 who had undertaken the mission on the night of his capture, 16 returned, five were taken prisoner and nine were killed. Mercifully, his brother made it back uninjured.

The opportunity for veterans to return free to Normandy is too good to miss, said Ken.

He added: “Both the Royal British Legion and the staff at Arena Travel are excellent; they have patience and are very helpful.

“We were accompanied by a tour guide who was an ex-Army officer. He was marvellous, very knowledgeable. Our driver was also superb – not only was he a skilled driver, he helped us to disembark from the coach wherever we travelled, as many of us have mobility issues.”

“I am always lovely to return to France and I return on a regular basis. “It’s quite amazing really – whenever I am there the French still say thank you for their liberation.”

DO you know a D-Day veteran who would like to return to Normandy?

Call Arena Travel on 01473 660800 – and email us at jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk because we would like to feature their story in salute to the heroes of D-Day.

Capital facing builder crisis, warns mayor

LONDON is facing a Brexit builder crisis after new figures from City Hall show that almost 100,000 of the capital’s construction workforce are from the European Union.

Sadik Khan said: “As part of a longer-term plan, the construction sector, in partnership with developers and supported by the GLA, needs to come up with a clear strategy for attracting and training more homegrown talent and developing more modern, higher-productivity construction techniques which are less labour intensive, helping to future-proof the industry.”

The tours reveal that more than a quarter of London’s construction workforce is from the European Union – and their future in the UK will be uncertain if the government goes ahead with so-called Hard Brexit.

The report sets out that of those working in London’s construction sector – the workforce behind building much-needed new infrastructure, affordable homes and office space in the capital – 85,000 are from the EU.

The mayor has set out why he believes these figures underline the enormous contribution that Europeans make to London.

He has been clear that retaining and having access to a highly skilled workforce is absolutely essential to protecting jobs, growth and tax revenues across Britain over the decades ahead,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

“The mayor is also largely concerned about the impact Brexit could have on the housing industry, with the government refusing to guarantee the status of EU workers currently living in the UK.

“Industry experts also suggest that London needs up to an extra 13,000 new workers each year until 2021 in order to plug the skills gap and meet the additional demands on the construction industry, highlighting just how important it is for London to be able to continue to attract the talent it needs post-Brexit.”

Mr Khan said: “When I speak to businesses – both large and small – one of the biggest issues they raise with me is the skills gap. They tell me that maintaining a skilled workforce is absolutely crucial to their future and the future of the whole economy.

“This is absolutely crucial to protecting jobs, growth and tax revenues across Britain over the decades ahead. It is something which is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. While we are working to train up more Londoners to have the skills to work in construction, you can’t escape the fact that Hard Brexit could leave a quarter of the skilled construction workforce in the capital high and dry which would have a crippling effect on our plans to build the homes Londoners so desperately need.”

Mark Farmer, chief executive of Cast Real Estate & Construction Consultancy, said: “It’s very clear that the construction industry is far more reliant on migrant labour than anywhere else in the UK. To safeguard against this, London will require at least short- to medium-term continued access to EU migrant labour and early protections given to its existing migrant workforce.

“As part of a longer-term plan, the construction sector, in partnership with developers and supported by the GLA, needs to come up with a clear strategy for attracting and training more homegrown talent and developing more modern, higher-productivity construction techniques which are less labour intensive, helping to future-proof the industry.”

LONDON W EEKLY N EW S TUESDAY M ARCH 7 2017
Mayor spurns official car

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

STROLL on. Sadiq Khan is leading a new city-wide campaign to get Londoners to leg it by refusing to use a chauffeur-driven limo.

Although other mayors in the capital have official use of a Roller, the mayor of London is setting a best-foot-forward example to do the walk of life by preferring to use Shanks’s pony.

And his team has calculated that if every Londoner follows in Mr Khan’s footsteps, walking or cycling for 20 minutes a day, it would save the 8th greatest bill in planet treatment costs over the next 25 years.

“Whereas the Lord Mayor of London has a Rolls Royce Phantom for ceremonial use and the mayor of Kensington and Chelsea has access to a Bentley, simple-stepping Mr Khan has opted to rely on his plates of meat instead as he promotes his vision to kick-start the health campaign – a cause that is close to his heart as, like thousands of other Londoners, he suffers from asthma worsened by the city’s polluted air.

“There is no mayoral limo, the mayor walks and takes the Tube for a lot of his journeys,” said Mr Khan’s spokesman.

“Terms of his walk to and from work, he usually walks a few minutes to the local bus stop in Tooting before getting the bus and Tube into work every day.

“The mayor’s asthma is one of the reasons he is prioritising tackling London’s air-pollution emergency. He knows from personal experience that the city’s air is damaging people’s health, as he only recently started suffering from asthma as an adult.”

City Hall research has discovered the need for many more Londoners to walk up to the mayor’s new fitness drive. Currently six out of every 10 Londoners don’t leg it enough.

“It is the ambition of the mayor that Londoners walk or cycle for at least 20 minutes every day – currently only 34 per cent of us manage to do this on any given day,” said the spokesman.

“If we all used our legs more it would save the NHS £1.7 billion in treatment costs. This includes 85,000 fewer people being treated for hip fractures, 19,200 fewer people suffering from dementia, and an estimated 18,800 fewer Londoners suffering from depression.”

As part of this new agenda, the biggest ever cycling and walking scheme.

“A major part of Will Norman’s role will be working to deliver this new agenda, the biggest ever focus on walking and cycling in the capital,” said the spokesman.

“In addition to the substantial physical health benefits, the mayor’s new approach will serve to reduce air and noise pollution, improve mental health, help combat social isolation, and bring economic benefits to local high streets across the capital. It will also focus on minimising road danger – directly seeking to address the safety fears people have about cycling and walking more.

“As part of this plan, £2.1 billion will be allocated to a new TfL Healthy Streets Portfolio that will focus on creating more welcoming and inclusive streets to enable more Londoners to walk, cycle and use public transport more often.

“This includes doubling the average annual spend on cycling announced in the TfL Business Plan, taking London’s cycling spending per head to the same levels as Denmark and the Netherlands.

Mr Norman said: “Working with Sadiq to make physical activity a bigger part of Londoners’ everyday lives could have a truly transformational impact on our city. It will not only substantially improve Londoners’ health but also be huge if we can make our streets more appealing, encouraging more people to be more physically active as part of their daily routine.”

Dr Ashok Sinha, chief executive of London Cycling Campaign, said: “The mayor is absolutely on the right track by promising to reduce car dependency and make it easier for people to walk and cycle, including by tripling the extent of protected cycle lanes and enabling every borough to have a major walking and cycling scheme.”

“Our bold new approach will focus on making walking and cycling a genuine long-term alternative to car use across more of London”

Sadiq Khan
Royals ready to help American President get out his niblick

**Geoff Baker**
on how the Queen looks set to fix up a foursome for Donald Trump

P ITY Her Majesty. As if the Queen hasn’t got enough to do with overseeing arrangements for President Trump coming to stay, now it seems that she may have to fix it for him to have a foursome.

Stop snickering at the back there. We are of course talking about helping Mr Trump to get out his niblick (**).

I said stop it.

To put it another way, on top of checking every other detail for the state visit, now Her Majesty is set to delegate three members of her family to help the President shoot an albatross (***) and avoid an angel-raper (****).

Still confused? That’s the problem with golf, the terminology is often baffling.

As plans and proposals for the President’s visit go to and fro between Buckingham Palace and Washington, one option which has arisen is whether he will want to get a round in.

President Trump is renowned as a keen golfer and it has been suggested that he may like a game during his stay, as it is likely that he would far more enjoy addressing the ball than addressing both Houses of Parliament.

Although many excellent courses are available, one thought is that, as we are plainly going to be rolling out every last bit of red carpet to make our key trading partner feel welcome, if not hopefully generous with business deals, he might relish playing on Her Majesty’s own course at Balmoral.

As many golfers know, much business is often done between holes and a relaxing game on the exclusive and stunning course at Balmoral may be just the trick for persuading President Trump to sign some new trade deal. Especially if he wins the game.

But who among the Royal Family could help him do that? Step forward Prince Andrew. Although the Duke of York is not always celebrated as the most over-worked of the royals, he could be key on this important occasion, especially if he partnered the President.

Prince Andrew is not only the Royal Family’s most avid golfer, he is very good at his game – having got down to a handicap of four in recent years, an accomplishment that would technically entitle him to turn pro, and was captain of St Andrews in 2003.

So a pairing of Prince Andrew with President Trump – who reportedly plays off three – could be the dream team, especially if they came up against Prince Charles and Prince William, both of whom have played golf a bit but who are thought to be high-handicap players, playing off around 24.

There is one slight problem to this.

Technically for a foursome, the two lowest-handicap players should play against each other. Therefore it would be Andy and, for instance, Charles, versus Donald and William.

But would it be worth the risk of possibly losing a much-needed trade deal if Andy and his brother thrashed Donald and William 5 and 4 (five holes up with four to play) on Her Majesty’s nine-hole course?

However, what’s the harm in a little rule-bending if billions in trade is at stake? Besides, it could be somewhat tenuously argued, as the higher-handicap team (Charles and William) would get many free strokes (you’re snickering again), it would be an entirely fair match.

Technically.

(*) Niblick – the old name for an iron with a heavy, lofted head, such as a nine-iron, used especially for playing out of bunkers.

(**) Shooting an albatross – the very rare score of finishing a hole three under par, eg scoring two on a par-five hole.

(***) Angel-raper – golfing term for a tee shot mishit so high that it could imperil an angel.

William in running to be LGBT chum of year

PIONEERING Prince William is in the running for a prestigious award as LGBT Chum of the Year after his important anti-bullying call in defence of the community.

The Duke of Cambridge, who appeared on the cover of *Attitude* magazine in July, has been added to the shortlist of nominees for the Straight Ally award by the British LGBT Awards.

He is up against James Corden, Ariana Grande, Anne Hathaway, Thierry Henry, Annie Lennox, Macklemore, JK Rowling, Sir Patrick Stewart, and Emma Watson.

The nominees are public figures who have made it part of their mission to advance LGBT rights. And as the first member of the British Royal Family to have been photographed for the cover of an LGBT magazine, William has broken new ground.

Attitude arranged a meeting at Kensington Palace between Prince William and members of the LGBT community. At the meeting, Wills learned about their experiences with bullying.

After the meeting, he said:

“No-one should be bullied for their sexuality or any other reason and no-one should have to put up with the kind of hate that these young people have endured in their lives.

“The young gay, lesbian and transgender individuals I met through *Attitude* are truly brave to speak out and to give hope to people who are going through terrible bullying right now.

“They’re sense of strength and optimism should give us all encouragement to stand up to bullying wherever we see it.

“What I would say to any young person reading this who’s being bullied for their sexuality: don’t put up with it – speak to a trusted adult, a friend, a teacher, Childline, Diana Award or some other service and get the help you need. You should be proud of the person you are and you have nothing to be ashamed of.”

The award winners will be announced in May.

To vote for Prince William, go to britshlightbawards.com
Why Windsor Castle could be trump card

OURTIERS facing the potential security nightmare of President Trump staying at Buckingham Palace during his forthcoming state visit are believed to have proposed a win-win alternative – that he stays at Windsor Castle instead.

The Donald is understood to be keen to take up Theresa May’s invitation for him to visit London this year – but ever since she asked him to come and stay at the palace, all manner of protests have kicked off.

The original plan was for President Trump and the First Family to sleep over for a few nights at the palace and ride from there in an antique royal coach to Parliament, where he would address members of both the Commons and the Lords.

However, this pitch has somewhat been queered by Speaker John Bercow making it more than abundantly clear that he doesn’t want President Trump in his House and by hundreds of thousands of women who intend to strenuously demonstrate in fetching pussyhats along the route of the palace to Parliament.

On top of that, security planners have warned that the cost of policing the visit, which would involve deploying the SAS, MI5, MI6 and thousands of cops alongside President Trump’s own massive security detail, could be more than £30 million.

Clearly then, from Mrs May’s point of view, having President Trump kip down at Buckingham Palace presents all sorts of risks of turning into a publicity disaster at best, and premiers on both sides of the Atlantic are believed to be currently thinking “Who needs this?”

However, with an adroit shimmy, all could be made well – if President and Mrs Trump stay at Windsor Castle instead.

If, the argument goes, he was to helpfully discover that his busy diary meant that he could only manage a long weekend break, but he still wanted to meet the Queen, then by rights he would have to go to Windsor, because that’s where Her Majesty goes every Thursday afternoon for a few days.

As, it has now been discovered, that White House officials are briefing that President Trump isn’t that fussed about addressing Parliament anyway, going to Windsor would not matter ceremonially. But switching the venue would provide major advantages.

First, it’s a castle; built as a fortress to defend against far more formidable foes than legions of women wearing tea cosies and much easier to be tightly secured against Islamist extremists who it is feared could attempt an attack on President Trump if he rode in a carriage up The Mall.

Second, Windsor is permanently protected by the Castle Guard of a large number of crack troops who could easily be augmented with the addition of SAS troops and police snipers without much effort.

Third, Windsor is the Queen’s principal weekend retreat. Buckingham Palace is merely Her Majesty’s working-week office, to which she has to trudge for meetings with ministers and investitures. But as Mrs May plainly wants to make a fuss of President Trump and make him feel special, how better to achieve that than staying in the Queen’s very own private gaff, as if one of the family? It’s an upgrade.

Fourth, the historic trappings of Windsor are said to be far more mind-blowing and impressive than Buckingham Palace. The castle’s lavish early-19th-century state apartments were described by the art historian Hugh Roberts as “a superb and unrivalled sequence of rooms widely regarded as the finest and most complete expression of later Georgian taste”.

Fifth, there is precedent – an important consideration in diplomacy – as the castle has often been used for state banquets and official entertaining, and in recent years it has hosted visits from President Mbeki of South Africa, King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Chirac of France.

Sixth, President Reagan – the president whose style President Trump’s is appearing to most resemble – stayed there in 1982, when the former film star and Her Majesty went horse riding in Windsor Great Park; President Obama also visited the Queen at Windsor.

And finally, Sir Elton John, one of President Trump’s favourite rock stars, lives just over the road and may be up for popping in to do a spot of Captain Fantastic cabaret.

Yes, Sir Elton did refuse to perform at the Donald’s recent inauguration but he’s a bit of a royal favourite and he might have a change of heart for the Queen, with whom he bizarrely once danced – to Rock Around The Clock – at Prince Andrew’s 21st birthday party.
St Patrick’s Day celebrations will be biggest yet – mayor

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Sadiq Khan is planning more than just a drop of the Irish for this year’s St Patrick’s Day celebrations, vowing to make them the largest ever seen in the city.

The capital’s mayor has pledged to make the festivities the most impressive showcase of Irish culture and talent yet, bringing Londoners from all communities together for a celebration of the contribution Irish people have made to the city for centuries.

Kicking off on St Patrick’s Day (Friday March 17), Irish culture, food, dance and festivity will pop up across the capital for a three-day extravaganza, all inspired by the Emerald Isle and energised by London’s large Irish community.

“Key attractions include cinemas around the West End staging the latest Irish short films, comedy, drama and family workshops, an Irish cultural trail in Camden Market which will lead Londoners down a path of music and markets, as well as a lecture from Irish author and journalist Mary Kenny on Perspectives on Irish Feminism at City Hall,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

“Tasty tipples will be the focal point of the celebrations in Hoxton as 40FT Brewery hosts a range of independent brewers and distillers from Ireland. To top it all off, there will be well-known Irish names reciting their favourite poetry on the Tube, Irish musicians busking on the Underground and Ireland’s foremost folk band, Kila, raising the roof at Camden Market, as well as a treasure hunt to explore the history of Irish Londoners.”

The festival will culminate in a climactic finale on the Sunday with the world-renowned parade and stage line-up.

With famed presenter and comedienne Dara O Briain enlisted as the parade’s grand marshal, the colourfully costumed Irish marching bands, energetic dance troupes and spectacular pageant will begin at Green Park, passing from Piccadilly to Whitehall.

Master storytellers Macnas will be one of the centrepieces of the parade with their world-class theatrical spectacle.

Trafalgar Square will host the closing concert and focal point of the festival on the Sunday with “a world-class line-up of Irish culture and community on the main stage”. Holding the show together will be award-winning Irish comedian Jarlath Regan and the house band of RTÉ’s Late Late Show.

The schedule will include performances from Liam ÓMaonlai, Lisa Lambe, Jack L and The Rusangano Family, emerging trad innovators from Belfast.

#1The Irish collective will also present a fusion of Irish music with other world music and dance, and Trafalgar Square will bounce and jig to Irish dancing showcases from the Maguire O’Shea Academy of Irish Dance.

The event will close with a big singalong finale, which will feature, among others, the unique voices in Ireland, as yet unannounced.

Mr Khan said: “I’m incredibly proud to host the biggest St Patrick’s Festival London has ever seen, an opportunity for Londoners from all backgrounds and visitors to the capital to immerse themselves in the festivities and experience Irish culture at its best and biggest.”

“For me, that’s what occasions like this are all about – people from all communities embracing and celebrating each, showing that London is truly open... open to people, open for business and open to new ideas. I believe the Irish community here embodies that spirit and those values and represents London at its outward-looking and inclusive best. A Very Happy St Patrick’s Day to everyone celebrating here, in Ireland and around the world.”

Gary Durning, creative programmer of London’s St Patrick’s Cultural Festival, said: “This is a jam-packed programme – one of our biggest and best yet. It presents an experience which is diverse, energetic and creative as this great city’s Irish community. Through music, song, dance and community, we’ll bring that very special experience of Irish culture and craic to the heart of London.”

The full programme is at london.gov.uk/stpatricks.

Schools ‘need an extra £335m’

Sadig Khan is demanding an extra £335 million from the government to fund schooling – or else London pupils “will be hit hard” by spending cuts.

“Mayors warn that this cuts to school funding will “significantly hit pupils across the capital, underfunded schools the resources to match London’s high overall performance. Seventy per cent of London schools face reductions in funding under the government’s new proposals for the national funding formula, currently under consultation. This comes alongside the threat of an eight per cent real-term shortfall in funding per pupil across the country by 2019-20, as a result of £3 billion worth of cuts.

“The capital’s schools are the highest performing in the country but are already under considerable financial pressure and experiencing severe problems recruiting and retaining teachers due to the expense of living in the capital,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

London Councils, which represents the 33 boroughs in the capital, estimates an extra £335 million would ensure no school across the whole of England loses out in the new formula.

Mr Khan, said: “At a time when our capital’s schools are already dealing with looming budget cuts and struggling to recruit teachers, it is completely unacceptable that the government has chosen to hit London’s children the hardest.

“As a mayor for all Londoners, I want to see our young people get the best chance in life possible, with funding going into local schools rather than expanding a selective system.”

“London has reaped the benefits of investment and become an international beacon for education, with a proven track record in supporting disadvantaged pupils. However, these proposals risk undermining everything our excellent teachers have worked to achieve. A miniscule portion of the budget would ensure no school across England has to lose out in this formula, and I am committed to working with education leaders to fight strongly for a fairly funded school system and nurturing our capital’s young talent for generations to come.”

Cliré Claire Kober, chairman of London Councils, said: “An extra £335 million from government would ensure no school in the country loses funding as a result of the new national funding formula.

“It has been our long-held belief that investing in education would give all schools the tools to match the educational success that London has achieved.

“When the impact of introducing the new formula and wider cost pressures are taken into account, every school in the capital will face budget squeezes in the years ahead.

“The consequences of poorly funded schools will reverberate across the capital and affect all Londoners, which is why we are pressing government to review its stance on schools funding.”

Cops’ new crackdown on drivers who phone

The Met has warned motorists that it will be using officers in unmarked vans and stop on high buildings throughout London to crack down on drivers using mobile phones – including those texting while stationary.

As new penalties of six points on the licence and a £200 fine are now in force, police have launched an undercover campaign to target mobile-phone use by drivers, in targeted operations to prosecute offenders and drive home the risks and consequences of distraction driving,” said a police spokesman.

“The campaign is set up to coincide with the new penalties implemented by the Department for Transport which have raised the penalties for using a mobile phone while driving. Those caught will now be given double the previous penalties.”

The spokesman said the RTPC will deploy unmarked vans and spotters on high roads to check drivers’ use of handheld mobile devices at all times.

“Using a hand-held mobile phone while driving means a driver’s attention is distracted from the road and is, after speeding, probably the most dangerous thing a driver can do – leading to people being killed and injured on our roads.

“You’re slower at recognising and reacting to hazards if you are driving and using a mobile phone.

“Making a call or sending a text is distracting and can have very serious consequences.

“The grief of a family who have lost a loved one following a traffic collision is immeasurable. Is a phone call to text message really that important? The only thing drivers should be concentrating on is driving.”

Siwan Hayward, Transport for London’s head of transport policing, said: “The number of people killed or seriously injured on London’s roads continues to fall – however, distraction remains one of the key sources of road danger.

“The rising trend of collisions involving the use of hand-held mobile phones is deeply concerning to us.

“This is why we are stepping up our activity with the Metropolitan Police Service and other partners to address this issue and make our roads safer for everyone.”

Between April 6 2016 and February 27 2017 there was a total of 9,560 mobile-phone offences within the Metropolitan Police area.
Mystery of Big Ben bong revealed

THE mystery of Big Ben’s distinctive bong has been uncovered by scientists.

For the first time, the famous bell has been vibration-mapped to reveal why it produces its distinct harmonious tone.

And it is all because Big Ben is thicker than other bells of a similar size, weighing more and as a result has a higher pitch than expected for its diameter.

The team from the University of Leicester’s Department of Engineering measured the structural dynamics of Big Ben in an unprecedented level of detail after being given exclusive access to the iconic structure as it struck the hour.

The study was part of a BBC Four documentary on sound – Sound Waves: The Symphony Of Physics, which was broadcast last week.

The scientists used a measurement technique called laser doppler vibrometry by creating a 3D computer model of Big Ben and then using lasers to map the vibrations in the metal of the bell as it chimed.

Using two scanning laser doppler vibrometers, the team characterised Big Ben without touching it, providing high-density vibration measurements without any loss of accuracy or precision.

Technical specialist Martin Cockrill said: “Aside from the technical aspects, one of the most challenging parts of the job was carrying all of our equipment up the 334 steps of the spiral staircase to the belfry.

“Then to get everything set up before the first chime, we were literally working against the clock.”

“Many of the vibrations in the metal of Big Ben are too tiny to be seen by the naked eye.

“But this is what we were able to map using the lasers and not just one or two points on the surface. We were able to get more than 500 measurements across the surface which just wouldn’t have been possible with previous technologies.”

Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster. The tower is officially known as Elizabeth Tower, renamed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II in 2012.

Mr Cockrill said: “This was such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, one which was perfectly matched to our skills and resources.

“You cannot just glue sensors to a national treasure such as Big Ben. Our ability to do the whole thing quickly without touching the bell was key to the whole project.”

Graduate engineer Max Chowanietz led the team from a technical point of view, undertaking the measurements, with two other members of the team, Chris Howe and Amy Stubbs, doing the legwork.

Max said: “It was a privilege to be part of such a unique project, especially so early in my career.”
You read it here first, as they say.

Fifty years on from the release of the album generally rated to be the most influential of all time, The Beatles are finally releasing Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band as they had first intended it to sound.

And that means that the anniversary reissue of the seminal album will now include Strawberry Fields Forever and Penny Lane among the tracks.

Although the two classics were the first songs that John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote for the record, they were pulled because back in the Sixties The Beatles had a rule that songs that were singles should not appear on their albums.

Consequently most of their big hits never did. Hey Jude, for instance, was left off The White Album for the same reason as Strawberry Fields Forever and Penny Lane did not make it on to Pepper, because the band’s record company, EMI, demanded songs for a new single.

But now, at long last, the original songs are to be reinstated for the big birthday re-release on June 1.

And as the advertising tag line for the ‘new’ album is bound to be “It was 50 years ago today” and as many from that era, including the surviving band members Sir Paul and Ringo Starr, are now greyling a bit – Sir Paul will be 75 in June and Ringo is 77 the month after – wags are suggesting that it is renamed Sgt Salt & Pepper.
N AME an artist who has done more to shape the direction of modern music and you'll be hard pressed to pick out anyone with such a significant contribution under his belt as John Mayall.

He is one of the most prolific British musicians of all time and one of the most influential. Apart from his own work, he has mentored more than one fifth of the world's music's longest-serving veterans. But if there is one style that grants the player the opportunity to age gracefully, it is certainly the blues.

“TALK ABOUT THAT”

“TALK ABOUT THAT”

“TALK ABOUT THAT”

“A certain maturity sets in after you’ve been playing for so long,” Mayall said in a 2011 interview with No Depression magazine, when asked how his approach had changed over the decades.

“You know yourself better and what works, and I think the experience you have with your tools of the trade – which in my case are keyboards, harmonica and sometimes the guitar – shows over time as you become more assured.

“You express yourself through the music and the longer you play, the more assured you get and the more refined your expression is.”

There have been fewer greater champions of the blues during the 20th – and 21st – centuries.

But Mayall has never quite received the kind of popular acclaim that his incredible body of work deserves.

In fact, in the minds of part-time fans, his fame has come more from the musicians he has mentored than his own work.

The likes of Eric Clapton, Mick Taylor and Fleetwood Mac’s Peter Green all featured in various line-ups of his legendary 1960s supergroup John Mayall And The Bluesbreakers, and the icons of the era casually drop his name as a key influence on the scene.

Alongside his work with some of rock’s future greats, Mayall found fame across the Pond. He was heralded for his innovations in jazz and rock as well as his beloved blues, and scooped a Grammy for his 1993 album Wake Up Call, which featured guest appearances from Taylor, Mavis Staples and Buddy Guy.

Lauded with critical acclaim throughout his career, Mayall was appointed OBE for services to British music in 2005 and was inducted – albeit long overdue – into the Blues Hall Of Fame last year.

This crowning moment came eight years after Mayall officially retired the Bluesbreakers name. But he is now touring again as a trio with bass player George Rjab and drummer Jay Davenport. And his songs remain as dynamic and bold as ever.

Despite being an ever-present at each turning point in the genre’s illustrious history, Mayall has resisted the lures of technology.

His current shows are stripped-back blues affairs, often with very little equipment on stage.

“We sometimes play on the same bill with other acts that have mountains of equipment – two giant keyboards, speakers all over the place, you know, banks of monitors all over the stage, and we have virtually nothing,” he says. “We’re pretty minimalistic.”

Even without the fully charged stage set-up behind him, Mayall remains one of the most powerful players in the game.

John Mayall and his band will perform along with special guests the Buddy Whittington Band at the Cadogan Hall on November 2 and 3.

JOHN MAYALL at Cadogan Hall, Chelsea

Nadiya’s return

EVERYBODY’S Favourite Great British Bake Off winner, Nadiya Hussain, is to become the new Keith Floyd.

Well not quite, as she hasn’t turned to the bottle. But she has been signed by the BBC to “do a Floyd” or a Rick Stein and follow in the coast-to-coast cooking series of many a chef by hosting her own culinary road trip, an eight-part series called Nadiya’s British Food Adventure.

“It’s a brand new series for BBC Two, which sees her travel the length and breadth of the country seeking out all that is great about British food today. In each episode Nadiya visits a different region to discover some of our most exciting food pioneers, before taking us into the kitchen to create her own delicious recipes,” said a salivating BBC spokesman.

After winning The Great British Bake Off in 2015 and exploring her Bangladeshi roots in The Chronicles Of Nadiya in 2016, this series sees Nadiya on a voyage of discovery across Britain, from the Highlands of Scotland to the coasts of Devon and Dorset, to find and taste the very best that the country has to offer.

And, if you cook a bit, you could find yourself on the show.

“Nadiya wants to find inspiration from local heroes who are creating unique ‘food stories’ and reviving artisan food traditions, meeting the passionate farmers, growers and fishermen who are the backbone of the British food scene,” said the spokesman.

Nadiya said: “Our country’s regional cuisine is much more than tried and tested traditional dishes – there are quirky and clever food producers out there who are reinventing British food in unique and exciting ways.”

ITV to focus on Victoria’s ‘modern dilemma’

GOOD news for Her Majesty – ITV is setting aside two hours on Christmas Day to grab the attention of the Queen and other alleged fans of its hit drama Victoria.

Filming has begun on the second series and the marathon Christmas special, in which we’ll see Queen Victoria facing the struggles of motherhood.

“As well as much drama in Buckingham Palace, the series will include trips to France and Germany, touch on tragedy in Ireland and war in Afghanistan, and see Victoria and Albert discovering sanctuary in the Isle of Wight,” said an ITV spokesman.

The hugely successful drama’s creator, Daisy Goodwin, said: “In a series one Victoria married the handsome prince but in this series she and Albert get down to the serious business of living happily, sometimes stormily, ever after.

Victoria is the only queen regnant to marry and give birth while on the throne and the challenges of being head of state as well as a wife and mother are legion.

“The drama of Victoria’s dilemma is a modern one – how do you have a successful marriage and a happy family when you are holding down an important job. Can you really have it all?”

One supposes that if you ruled more than one fifth of the world’s population for 64 years, the answer to that may be ‘Yes’.

Jenna Coleman plays Queen Victoria on ITV
To celebrate the opening of a newly branded performance space with a theatrical party is a clever move by producer Paul Taylor-Mills. If this sensational shindig is anything to go by, there is an exciting future for The Other Palace. The Wild Party runs at The Other Palace until April 1. For more details, see theotherpalace.co.uk/theatre/wild-party.

Of course, more than 60 years since Hancock’s Half Hour began, acclaimed impressionist James Hurn will be performing three classic episodes of the renowned series at the London Museum Of Comedy and voicing all of the characters himself, writes Nicky Sweetland. The beloved radio comedy, which also became a hit television series, was written by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson and starred Tony Hancock as an exaggerated version of himself – Anthony Aloysius St John Hancock, a down-at-heel comedian living at the dilapidated 23 Railway Cuttings in East Cheam.

In his new stage show, Hurn will recreate three classic episodes – Sunday Afternoon At Home, The 13th Of The Series and The Missing Page.

Hurn is an actor and impressionist best known for appearances in BBC Two’s Dead Ringers and BBC One’s Scoop, The Slammer, Spoof and Mrs Bradley Mysteries and as Jacobson in Band Of Brothers, directed by Tom Hanks. He has also put his vocal talents to work in shows such as Channel 4’s Scent: The Coach, The Cash And His Lovers, where he took the title role, and Blairstown where he provided the voices for many British politicians and George Bush.

Hurn is also no stranger to the stage and has performed in numerous theatre roles, including the extremely popular London West End show The 39 Steps, and starred as the voices of David Beckham and Prince William in BBC Radio 4 play The Bid. Hurn will be performing the Hancock’s Half Hour episodes in the style of a radio show in front of a live audience, bringing to life the classic days of radio comedy.

He said: “I perform it as if I’m all of those actors in front of the microphone and in front of a live audience as if it’s one of the recording days of a radio piece.”

It’s not just the old guard whom Hurn can take off. More recently the impressionist has turned his talents to a much more contemporary voice in the shape of the new American president, with his videos of Donald Trump gaining a huge following on social media.

Hurn said: “For any impressionist or comedian it’s like a goldmine – there’s so much material there. He’s brilliant at the comedy himself – a bit like George Bush – he’d just make up words and so for anyone who does comedy it’s a goldmine.”

Hancock’s Half Hour heralded a change in the format of television situation comedy and was seen as a forerunner for the style of show we see today, with a focus on character development and a stellar cast of household names including many of the Carry On alumni.

Hurn has long been an admirer of the series and after learning of the 60th anniversary of the show decided to have a go at recording an episode.

The YouTube video elicited a hugely positive response and so the stage show took form. Following a successful tryout in Kentish Town, the talented performer decided to take the show out to a wider audience.

As well as the revered comedian Tony Hancock, Hancock’s Half Hour starred Sid James, Bill Kerr, Hattie Jacques and Kenneth Williams.

Hurn has had to extensively revoice the characters in order to perfect each nuance and to be able to switch from one to another at lightning speed.

He said: “It takes a lot of practice, especially when you’re playing all of the characters within a half-hour piece; you’ve got to be very quick.

“You can’t leave big pauses to get your brain into gear, while you think about how the next voice sounds.”

Although Hurn found changing his voice to make it resonate with feminine guiles for his impression of Hattie Jacques a challenge, he admits it was the Cockney twang of Sid James which has proved the most difficult to master.

“Whenever you hear people doing Sid James it’s always quite generic Cockney but I’d never really thought about his voice before, so I read his autobiography and discovered where he came from,” said Hurn.

“When he was originally from South Africa, so when I started, I would say his lines in just a South African accent and I then added the East End twang and lowered it.”

“Sid James used to smoke, so I had to emulate that. There were lots of layers to Sid James’ voice.”

The virtuoso vocal artist also performs many of the sound effects with his voice, including the opening of car doors and doorbells chiming, in the highly energetic piece of comedy theatrics.

Hancock’s Half Hour: One Man, Many Voices will be at the Museum Of Comedy on March 12. For more details, visit website museumofcomedyticketsolve.com/#/shows/873567074.
YOU must have been living under a rock for the last 18 years to have not heard of Calendar Girls – and now the inspirational tale has been given a new lease of life by Tim Firth and Gary Barlow in their tremendous new musical version.

The pair have cleverly captured the enduring appeal of the very British story of heroism.

And unlike in the smash-hit film – which starred Helen Mirren and Julie Walters – and subsequent stage play, Firth and Barlow have ensured the community are at the heart of the action, which gives a more definitive depth to the beloved account of a group of women who bare all for a charity calendar.

Firth’s ability to marry comedy and tragedy are fully apparent throughout – with lines which will have you crying with laughter one minute and sobbing in your seat the next – and when coupled with Barlow’s gorgeous melodies, the collaboration becomes a masterful piece of musical comedy.

The real boon by the continued involvement of the real Calendar Girls. But it is also helped by the cohesion of the music and lyrics and the outstanding group of actors they have gathered to portray the true story with guts and gusto.

Double Olivier Award winner Joanna Riding proves her calibre once again with a profound portrayal as Annie – whose husband John (James Gad- das) is diagnosed with leukemia – and breaks the hearts of the audience not once but twice when she first sings Scarborough, recounting their holidays together, and then Kilimanjaro, a song about the mountain she now has to climb as a widow.

Her gregarious best friend Chris – played with a generous helping of frivolous froth by Claire Moore – takes it upon herself to provide a distraction.

And after ca- joiling their friends from the local WI group, the famous calendar shoot takes shape.

Unlike in the film, the photo session becomes the finale of the show, which enables each of the colourful characters to fully establish themselves prior to the big reveal.

Claire Machin’s fraught single mum, Sophie-Louise Dann’s voluptuous society wench and Debbie Chazen’s vodka-loving wallflower all emerge from their struggles to come into full bloom.

Michelle Dotrice provides comedy gold throughout as the aged Jessie, with her What Age Expects what more mature theatre-goers an anthem.

And Josh Benson and Ben Hunter give an insight into the other end of the age spectrum with highly amusing portrayals of angsty teens.

Robert Jones’ picturesque design perfectly captures the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales, with homely household cupboards set into the hills and fields of sunflowers injecting a bright and hopeful backdrop which encapsulates the sentiment of this wonderful heartwarming show.

The Girls is running at the Phoenix Theatre. For more details, visit website thegirlsasmusical.com.
Join a new community of friends at The Flying Yogi

The latest gem in Goldhawk Road, Shepherd’s Bush, is The Flying Yogi (TFY), a boutique studio offering yoga and Pilates classes for the growing number of local residents. It is open to all, whether totally new to yoga or Pilates or for people looking for a studio close to home. Pregnancy yoga classes will soon start.

TFY is owned and run by Polish-born Kasia Poremna, who has lived in West London for 18 years. Alongside her passion for yoga, which she has been teaching for many years, Kasia is a former architect and interior designer. She designed the studio herself, creating a beautiful haven of calm, simplicity and relaxation – the perfect place to nurture your wellbeing and your fitness.

The studio holds several classes per day, seven days a week. As well as running TFY single-handedly, Kasia teaches many of the classes herself.

Kasia said: “I’m loving a challenge which is helping regenerate the area and bring to it more awareness of healthy and balanced living. At The Flying Yogi we want to get to know our students and build a community of friends who get on their mat together.”

Kasia, pictured, is joined by a team of thoughtful, learned, attentive teachers who teach a variety of different styles of yoga and Pilates.

The studio is also equipped with a state-of-the-art heating system, which uses the most up-to-date technology to offer ‘radiant’ heat – gentler, more hygienic and less sweaty than that often used in hot yoga and Pilates.

There are different pricing options to meet varying needs and schedules. New students can enjoy unlimited classes for 10 days for just £25. Giving even better value is the range of class bundles and subscriptions on offer, reducing the cost per class to as little as £5.80.

Have three dishes ready, one with the flour spread out on it, one with the beaten egg and the third with the breadcrumbs.

Season the stuffed breasts and coat them in the flour, dusting off any excess, then put them through the egg and finally through the breadcrumbs.

Pre-heat about 8cm of vegetable oil in a thick-bottomed saucepan or electric fryer to 160°C to 180°C.

Deep fry the chicken for six to seven minutes until golden.

Serve with a vegetable such as creamed or leaf spinach or a mixture of seasonal vegetables.
Don’t make home security the last thing on your list

OME security is 43rd on the list of things we think about when moving house – with Brits more concerned about whether their new neighbours will be able to see them sunbathing in the garden.

A poll of 2,000 adults reveals the top 50 things people consider when changing address.

The top priority is easy parking, followed by concerns over the council-tax banding.

But the issue of home security comes extremely low on the list, beneath considerations such as what supermarkets are nearby and how much decorating is required.

Family minded Brits are also far more concerned about how close they’ll be to mum and dad than how safe they’ll be in the new property.

And once settled into their new home, 70 per cent don’t bother to install a burglar alarm and 16 per cent don’t lock the doors and windows when they leave the house.

Nigel Fisher – managing director of home-security specialist Yale, which conducted the study – said: “We weren’t expecting home security to be the first thing on people’s minds when moving house but it has come much lower in the top-50 list than we’d have predicted.

“On the one hand it is reassuring that ‘what the local crime rates are like’ has appeared in the top 10, as this would suggest some level of concern about safety. But we would always advise checking out the local neighbourhood for signs of well-maintained buildings.

“In addition, check door locks are up to insurance standards, and check windows and front doors for signs of break-ins.”

Broadband speed is a key consideration and 48 per cent factor in how noisy the neighbours are likely to be, while the ‘class’ of neighbours is important to 22 per cent.

One in five don’t want to move into a property which has young children next door and many check if the neighbours could see them sunbathing in the garden.

Whether or not a king-size bed will fit in the master bedroom and the sofa will fit through the patio doors also feature in the top-50 list.

More than a third admit the last time they moved house they were more preoccupied about where things would go in the new property than home security.

A further 64 per cent admit they don’t have much outside lighting, 57 per cent don’t have any trusted neighbours to keep an eye on the property and 73 per cent don’t think to put lights and radios on timers when they go away.

Mr Fisher said: “Home Office figures have highlighted that you are almost twice as likely to be burgled in the first 12 months of being in a new home, so security should be at the forefront of people’s minds when moving.”

### MAIN MOVING PRIORITIES

1. If parking outside is going to be easy
2. The council-tax banding
3. How much it would cost you in total
4. How noisy the neighbours are
5. How recently the boiler was fitted
6. What the local crime rates are like
7. Where the nearest supermarket is
8. What the neighbours are like
9. Do the radiators work properly?
10. Whether there are local regular buses
11. Broadband speed
12. Proximity to the nearest GP surgery
13. Is the home energy efficient?
14. How far away my friends live
15. What types of supermarkets are nearby
16. How long is the new commute?
17. How much decorating to do before the house felt like your own
18. What the removal costs would be
19. How far away from parents I’d live
20. Changing my address on everything
21. Whether I could fit all of my belongings in the new house
22. Will there be enough plug sockets (and where you need them)
23. Whether the property is close enough for existing friends to still visit
24. Whether the immediate neighbours have young children who are likely to scream
25. Whether the carpets will need replacing straight away
26. Is there space for a dishwasher?
27. The ‘class’ of the neighbours
28. Whether the sofa will fit through the patio doors/front door
29. How good the phone reception is
30. Whether there are large imposing trees overlooking the property
31. If my current furniture will look good in the new house
32. Switching all the utility suppliers
33. If the garden is a suitable size for the dog to run around in
34. How much is the building insurance
35. Proximity to the nearest primary/secondary schools

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Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for the following: FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT THE FOLLOWING SITE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OR DETAILS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

24 LONDON WEEKLY NEWS TUESDAY MARCH 7 2017

13 Donorilee Road London SW6 6EL 2016/0259/FLU Installation of a rear dormer roof extension at second floor level over part of the rear elevation; raising brickwork to rear roof extension; forming of rooflights to the rear dormer roof extension; external alterations to the rear dormer roof extension; and installation of a roof light to the existing dormer roof. I give notice that Mr Wah Piow Tan is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Flat Ground Floor
30 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 9JU 2017/00606/VAR Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2015/0324/FLU: erection of a rear dormer roof extension; reduction in the size and increasing the height of the existing dormer roof extension; installation of new doors and windows to the rear of the flat roof extension; alterations to the roof level above the flat roof extension; and external alteration to the side of the rear dormer roof extension.

30 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 OTU 2017/00607/FUL Erection of a rear roof extension; addition of a new door to the left hand side of the rear of the building to the rear roof extension; and installation of new windows to the rear roof extension.

Flat Second Floor
Hammonds Road London W6 0PH 2017/00521/FLU Erection of an additional floor at roof level to the rear of the building; installation of a roof light to the existing dormer at roof level; and replacement of an existing dormer roof.

2 Normand Mews London W6 7ER Replacement of 2no windows with new ones to the front and rear elevations of the building; installation of a roof light to the rear dormer roof; and alteration of the existing dormer roof and windows.

201 King Street London W2 5SF 2017/00721/FUL Erection of a single storey rear extension at second floor level over part of the rear elevation in connection with the conversion of the existing garage to residential use; installation of a roof light to the rear dormer roof; and alterations to the existing dormer roof.

301 Shepherds Bush Road London W12 9EY 2017/00674/FLU Erection of a rear roof extension; alteration of the existing dormer roof and windows.

201 Queensbeam Road London W12 8AX 2017/00765/FLU Erection of a roof extension at first floor level; alteration of the existing dormer roof at second floor level; and alteration of the existing dormer roof.

5 Queensmead Road London W12 8AA 2017/00745/FLU Erection of a flat roof extension at second floor level over part of the rear elevation above a flat roof extension at first floor level; and alteration of the existing dormer roof.

66 Hammersroad Road London W12 8AF 2017/00746/FLU Erection of a rear roof extension; alteration of the existing dormer roof and windows.


Outside 66 Queensmood Road London W12 8AA 2017/00747/FLU Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Outside 201 Shepherds Bush Road London W12 9ER 2017/00665/FLU Installation of a telephone kiosk.


Outside 201 Shepherds Bush Road London W12 9ER 2017/00664/FLU Installation of a telephone kiosk.

London W6 9NH Installation of a telephone kiosk.

London SW6 7SX Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Installation of a telephone kiosk.

Standing in connection with the enforcement of the Liberal-dominated council tax.
Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (KENSDONG AND CHELSEA) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008
A4 GLA ROAD (CROMWELL ROAD VARIATION ORDER 2017
2. The general nature and effect of the Order will be to amend the hours of operation of the bus parking bays:
   a) Opposite No. 35 Cromwell Road, from No Stopping Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm except buses max 20 mins return in 40 to 40
   b) Opposite No. 29 Cromwell Road, from No Stopping Mon - Sat 8am - 7pm except buses max 20 mins return in 40 to 40 Stopping At Any Time except buses pick up or set down only
3. The road which would be affected by the Order is A4 Cromwell Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
4. A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London’s reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
   • Transport for London
     Streets Traffic Order Team
     (RSM/IP/STOT)
     Palestra,
     197 Blackfriars Road
     London, SE1 8BJ
   • Director for Transport and Highways
     Transport and Highways
     Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
     Room 114
     Council Offices
     37 Pembroke Road
     London W8 6PW
5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.
   Dated this 7th day of March 2017
   Mufu Durowoju
   Network Impact Management Team Manager
   Road Space Management - Operations,
   Transport for London
   Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8BJ

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(CARNWATH ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate sewer lining works to be carried out in the above named road; it made an Order the effect of which will prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Carnwath Road outside the Piper Building.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Peterborough Road, Sullivan Road and Broomhouse Lane.
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 will come into operation on the 11th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works will commence on Saturday 11th March 2017 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
   Dated this 2nd day of March 2017
   Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
   Chief Transport Planner
   Transport and Highways
1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above Order under section 6, 32, 35 and 124 of and Part I to IV of schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

2. The general effect of the Orders that comes into operation on 07 March 2017 is to enable the parking places and restrictions on waiting by vehicles (yellow lines) on the Becklow Gardens Estate to be enforced under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This means that Penalty Charge Notices could be issued by the Council’s Civil Enforcement Officers to vehicles that contravene the parking places and restrictions, and vehicles may be removed (towed away) or immobilised (clamped) in certain cases, in the same way as on the public highway. The same rights of appeal to an adjudicator would also apply.

3. The parking restrictions on the Becklow Gardens Estate will operate (without any changes) as follows:
   (a) the parking restrictions to operate Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm;
   (b) every vehicle must be parked wholly within a marked parking bay (vehicles are not permitted to park in any other areas on the estate, including footways);
   (c) parking permits to be issued in accordance with on street parking permit charges as set by the Council in respect of motor vehicles that is to say a passenger vehicle or goods carrying vehicle the overall height of which does not exceed 2.28 metres.

4. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for making the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made.

5. Any person wishing to object to the Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
   Transport and Highways Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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Dated this 2nd day of March 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Saturdays was a special occasion at Queens Park Rangers – and one former hero in particular was at the centre of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the club’s greatest triumph.

Mark Lazarus received a standing ovation from fans as he made his way to the centre-circle holding a replica of the League Cup trophy Rangers won in 1967 and a commemorative replica white shirt bearing his name.

In last week’s LWN, former right-winger Lazarus recalled his personal satisfaction in scoring the winning goal against West Bromwich Albion that earned Rangers’ name in the history books in the first Division Three side to win a Wembley cup final.

Ten minutes into last Saturdays’ 2-1 victory over Cardiff City, QPR supporters apologised in memory of another all-time favourite who graced the Loftus Road turf with style and guile. Stan Bowles is fighting a losing battle with Alzheimer’s but the fans will continue to express the club stage a benefit match that would at least help pay towards his ongoing care.

Although Bowles and Lazarus never played in the same team, they have shared a table at a number of club reunions. And Lazarus has sympathy for Bowles’ plight. “I’ve been on the same table as Stan at five or six dos and we get on quite well. I feel sorry for the state he’s in. I said Lazarus is not the greatest player to pull on the QPR shirt. 

According to Lazarus, that distinction belongs to his former team-mate and fellow 1967 cup winning captain Barry Hayles, who the superstar who had his coveted No 10 shirt to Bowles when he left for Manchester City in the early 1990s. “Without a doubt, Rodney is the best I ever saw,” he said.

“We always knew he was capable of from his brief time at Fulham. He was a natural footballer and he was a joker. He’d bounce the ball up and down on his knees, flick it up, turn his back on it and volley it in the back of the net. But that wasn’t how (Fullham manager) Vic Buckingham liked to play, so they clashed.

“I made a lot of goals for him – one season he scored 47. He would do things in training that were amazing – flicks, nutmegs, the lot – and on the pitch he made opponents look silly.

“He was well liked in the dressing room, one of the lads. I had a very good relationship with Rodney and his dad Bill.

“Rodney was a great player. You can’t compare him to Stan Bowles, because there is no comparison. Yes, Stan was a very good player – I played against him – but he wasn’t half as talkative.

“Stan was more of a passer. But Bowlesy couldn’t do some of the things that Rodney could. In terms of skill, Stan wasn’t fit to lace Rodney’s boots.

QPR fans idolised Lazarus for his skillful endeavour, combative style and flamboyant reputation as one of the game’s great characters who ignited the crowd.

“I used to love watching football with a smile on my face and wanted the fans to enjoy the game, too,” he said. “I’ve read that I used to do a lap of honour around the goal each time I scored, but don’t call it a lap of the crowd. I’d celebrate by running along the touchline, shaking hands with the fans, or bowling and waving to them. It was a way of showing my appreciation. I enjoyed the adulation and support.

“In between two stints with Leyton Orient at opposite ends of the Metropolitan Police Force league, while playing for Brentford and Crystal Palace, plus an unhappy five months at Division One Wolves.

Stepney-born Lazarus was one of eight brothers from a family of Jewish origin, his grandfather on his mother’s side was a bare-listed champion of the East End. In the 1950s, Lazar’s elder brothers Lew and Harry fought for British titles in the welterweight and middleweight titles under the name of Lazar.

Mark Lazarus turned out for Fulham and Chelsea’s youth teams, and the same Hammers at Wembley on Sunday side with Jimmy Greaves. But it was while Lazarus was appearing for non-League Barking that their rival at the time, fellow London Club Stock, spotted the uncompromising winger’s talent. That’s when Lazarus was forced to quit as an undefeated amateur boxer and concentrate on football.

When Stock became manager of QPR, he brought Lazarus across the capital to Third Division O ne Wolves.

“With the manager who runs the family business, Mark Lazarus & Son Removals & Storage, following his dad’s retirement, Smithy was brilliant all afternoon.

“It means a lot to me that I always receive such a great reception and am made very welcome whenever I go back to QPR. I wasn’t the greatest or prettiest of players but I was one of the most exciting to watch.

“Hope our fans remember me as a player who had a lot of heart, who would never back out of a challenge and would get there in time where it helps. And for being exciting and uplifting, someone who would get them roaring when I had the ball at my feet. Above all, an entertainer.”

Lots of positives for Hoists

HAMMERSMITH Hills Hoists rugby league team are preparing for the 2017 season, which begins tonight at Stock construction, which means that playing for the club remains free of charge.

The Hoists held their registration night on Thursday, March 9 (6.30pm) at Belushi’s bar (28 Hammersmith Broadway, W6 7AB), where they are welcoming any new members who are interested in joining London’s most famous amateur rugby league club.

If you are interested in getting involved in rugby league this year in any capacity, Hoists welcome all newcomers. For more details, contact the club via Facebook (facebook.com/hoistsrlfc) or Twitter (@hoistsrlfc), or email hillshoistsrlfc@hotmail.com.

EUROPEAN im migrants, didn’t have a Jewish upbringing, nor mains proud of his heritage.

“I’m sure certain managers must have encouraged their left-backs to try to wind me up but I didn’t retaliate.

“And I tried to ignore derogatory comments from the crowd, although I did snap once while playing for QPR at Halfax Town. I went to the bar and was having a good quality drink when Alc Stock dragged me away. And, as he did so, he gave me a slap around the ear and told me to get back on the pitch.”

Lazarus gives an insight into the shame that led to verbal assaults he had to endure on the football field:

“Things are looking positive for the men in green and gold.

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QPR and Cardiff line up before Saturday’s game to join the Loftus Road crowd in a minute’s applause for the deceased members of Rangers’ 1967 League Cup-winning team (Tony Hillshoistsrlfc)
Conte dismisses inter link
But Blues’ coach admits he’s missing absent family

“This kind of award is better to give to the end of the season,” he said. “And I hope to give this award to one of my players, all of my players. This season, until now, all my players are playing very well and deserve the best. But it’s important in this case to finish the right way and try to win. Only if you win will people remember you.”

Unlike their main rivals, Chelsea have had the luxury of preparing for league fixtures and FA Cup ties without the hindrance of a European campaign. It’s a double-edged sword for Conte.

“Yes, yes, I miss European football,” he said. “For me and my players, yes. The Champions League, I think, must be an appointment for us every year. It must be our house, the Champions League.

“For this reason, we are putting our strength into playing in the Champions League next season. They have to go into the Europa League, which is a bit different to the Champions League. But now this league is very, very difficult. To win the title and find a place to play the Champions League is not easy.”

While it’s odds-on that Chelsea will be back in the Champions League next season, the question is: will Conte still be head coach at Stamford Bridge?

With his family still in Italy, the lure of home is never far away.

And Inter Milan are sniffing round the former national and Juventus boss.

Conte, however, is well briefed when it comes to defusing speculation.

“I think my situation is very clear,” he said in response to the Inter link. “I have a contract with Chelsea. We are trying to build something important with the club, for the present and for the future.”

Was there any offer at all?

“Me, personally? No,” was his reply. However, he did not say if the club had received an inquiry about his services. The fact his family is still in Italy is something Conte admits he is not happy about.

“The only problem for me this season was the family missing me. For sure, my family stayed in Italy. I’m working for the future to try to bring them here and to stay together. Family is missing me, this is the truth.”

Chelsea are not known for keeping their managers to the end of their contract but Conte hopes he’s the exception.

“Every coach, when you start working at a new club, you hope to stay many, many years because it means you are working very well,” he said.

“You have the possibility to improve your players, to improve your team, and to grow together. I think this season we are doing this. We are putting a great foundation down for the present and, above all, for the future. In this moment, it’s a transition at Chelsea. A season where a lot of players who won a lot here have changed teams.

“So it’s normal for every coach to hope to stay many years in a club, to work to improve your players and reach great results, and to win. But you know, especially with things fresh from Ranieri… you have to be ready for anything. But if you ask my opinion, I hope to stay and work for and win a lot for this club.”

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

By Paul Lagan

THE race to catch Premier League leaders Chelsea will take a break this week — as most of the chasing pack will be in FA Cup mode as a spot at Wembley in the semi-finals looms close on the horizon.

Blues faced West Ham United last night, although LWNT went to press before the result at the London Stadium was known.

Chelsea take on Jose Mourinho’s Manchester United at Stamford Bridge on Monday (7.45pm) in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup, while Arsenal (away to Middlesbrough) and Tottenham Hotspur (home to Millwall) are also in contention for semi-finals places.

Of Blues’ main Premier League rivals, only Liverpool, who entertain Burnley on Sunday, have a league fixture this weekend, while Manchester United host Stoke City tomorrow (Wednesday). Even if City are successful, and Blues lost to the Hammers, the Blues from SW6 will still be five points clear of their closest title challengers when hostilities resume.

Resemble their championship bid with a visit to Stoke on Saturday, March 18 — the day before City and Liverpool clash at the Etihad and Spurs face Southampton at White Hart Lane.

Antonio Conte and midfielder N’Golo Kante won London Manager of the Year and Player of the Year awards respectively last week but the head coach would prefer accolades like these to be handed out when the campaign is over.

“We are going to test ourselves and we are going to find out where we are in this moment.

“I am not such a romantic man. I always want to win the game, so I am always disappointed when we don’t come away with three points.”

“We can be relatively satisfied as we are around the top six. There is a gap between us and the top six teams and it is our target to keep fighting to the end of the season. We are still in a position to keep fighting.”

The 20,000-plus at Craven Cottage on Saturday, where Preston’s five-goal run came to an end along with their faint promotion hopes, certainly got full value. Sone Aluko shot the home side in front on 22 minutes but defender Chris Martin — set up by the adventurous Ryan Fredericks — netted his 10th Championship goal of the season at the last minute to double their lead.

Tom Barkhuizen exposed some familiar defensive frailties when he stole in on the blindside and pegged it back to 2-1 midway through the second half but Neeskens Kebano scored the winning goal from time to seal a well-earned three points and Fulham’s fourth win in five Championship matches.

Koakan and Sessegnon were satisfied with our performance. We moved the ball and created many chances.”

“When Preston scored their goal we were in trouble for a few minutes but we found a solution. The team showed character and we are ‘bravely’ Tony McDonald