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Meanwhile, more than 110,000 people have signed a separate petition on the Change.org website, calling on London mayor Sadiq Khan to declare the capital independent from the UK and apply to join the European Union. London voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU.

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Statistics show only 10 officers live in borough where they work

POLICE chiefs are facing calls to recruit more officers from their local area after figures showed that almost half of all bobbies on the beat are living outside London.

City Hall statistics revealed that only 10 officers working in Hammersmith and Fulham actually live in the borough, with more than 40 per cent of its 538 officers settling outside the capital.

The numbers were disclosed by the Green Party’s London Assembly Member Sian Berry, who called on the Met to recruit more community-based officers.

It comes only weeks after the borough police team sought to reassure residents about local police provision following the decision to close Fulham police station.

Ms Berry said: “Police officers need to have a real understanding of London’s diverse boroughs and communities. We have to recruit and retain more officers who don’t just look like the people they serve but who come from and live in our communities.”

The statistics for Hammersmith and Fulham are mirrored in other London boroughs, with 51 per cent of Westminster and 46 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea officers living outside the capital.

Ms Berry said she was worried by the lack of “local bobbies” and called on the Met to take action.

“In many inner London boroughs only a tiny number of officers actually live amongst the communities they serve every day,” she added.

“In 2013 the Met recognised that the number of officers based outside London was something they needed to change but the lack of progress since then concerns me.”

Ms Berry also speculated that the high cost of living in Ham

Call to recruit more home-grown police

Statistics show only 10 officers live in borough where they work

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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Fishing trip left music promoter hooked on riverside festival idea

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MUSIC promoter Jeff Barrett has carved out a colourful career working alongside rock’n’roll icons Oasis and some of the biggest names in the business – but it was a simple fishing trip that inspired him to launch an exciting new festival in west London.

The former record shop owner, who worked for the iconic Factory and Creation labels at the height of the ‘Madchester’ era, is bringing live music to Fulham Palace this summer.

Mr Barrett, 54, is a co-founder of the Caught By The River Thames festival – a two-day celebration of music, literature and the natural world that is set to attract thousands of revellers in August.

The line-up features an eclectic mix of live music, poetry readings and literary debate, with top rock groups sharing a stage with the likes of TV naturalist Chris Packham. It is the latest in a series of Caught By The River events he has launched since starting a nature blog with a friend 10 years ago.

Mr Barrett, who lives in Shepherds Bush with his wife and two daughters, told the London Weekly News: “I had been doing music a long time and 10 years ago I decided I needed to do something else and found myself going fishing a lot.

“After spending years in dark rooms with no windows listening to loud music, I was quite surprised by how much this change of scenery inspired me. I found myself engaging with simple things like running water.

“I was out fishing with my friend Andrew and he suggested starting a fishing blog. I said I couldn’t imagine anything more boring – I didn’t even know what a blog was!”

The blog has developed into a free, non-commercial website with writings on the natural world contributed by top authors on a daily basis.

After that it was a simple step to merge the site with music. A recent Caught By The River event in Cornwall proved a huge success and quickly led to even bigger ideas.

“We have always wanted to do a festival in London,” he added. “We wanted to do it as close to the river as possible but initially we thought it would have to be Caught By The River Lea because the Thames would be too difficult.

“We couldn’t find a space that was wide open – until a friend of mine said he had some dates booked at Fulham Palace.

“I had never even been there before but when we met her and walked through the courtyard I suddenly realised we were on the Thames Path. We had found the perfect site.

“It is the only site in London where we could have done it. It ticks all the boxes.

“The 5,000-capacity festival comes to Fulham Palace over the weekend of August 6 and 7, with headline performances from US indie group Low and Welsh rockers Super Furry Animals. But the bill also features talks with nature expert Chris Packham, writer Will Self and London-born rapper-come-poet Kate Tempest.

Mr Barrett, who also heads up his own label, Heavenly Recordings, added: “You will be hard pressed to find a better line-up at any festival stage this summer. Super Furry Animals are one of the greatest live groups I have ever seen.

“With festivals you rarely get to go somewhere totally new. But this is such a brilliant site – it has a ‘pinch yourself’ quality about it.”

Mr Barrett says the festival is set to be a fantastic celebration of the world around us – a scenery that city-dwellers often miss in busy London.

“If you are going to do something new it is bloody brave. Things are expensive and there is so much competition,” he added. “But what we are offering is a really unique line-up in a really unique location. You do not have to invest in all of it. You can come in and out and then go home. I think that is what makes us a bit different. People either do exclusively literature or exclusively music. But this is where it all comes together.”

For more information about Caught By The River Thames, you can visit the website caughtbytherivertames.com.
Drivers faced major delays during the evening rush hour on the London Rail network.

**Children with Down’s Syndrome will be given the chance to emulate their football heroes after bosses at Queen’s Park Rangers pumped £20,000 into the club’s pioneering Tiger Cubs team. Global Relief Initiative, the company owned by QPR vice-chairman Amit Bhatia, is set to fund the cubs for the 2016/17 season. The club provides weekly training sessions for children and adults living with the condition as part of its programme of community work. Mrs Bhatia said: “It is clear how much the kids love their football and the positive impact the project is having on their lives.” Members of the team are pictured at Loftus Road with QPR mascot Jude the Cat.**

**Fears funding shake-up could cost teaching jobs**

**BY JACK DIXON**

Jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TEACHING jobs could be at risk in Shepherd’s Bush schools if plans for a government shake-up of education funding are introduced this year, town hall bosses have warned.

Council chiefs suggested some local schools may even be forced to close due to the controversial changes which are due to come into force.

Ministers are expected to launch a nationwide consultation on the new “National Funding Formula” this summer.

It would rebalance the way cash is handed out to councils, with some of the money set aside for London schools redistributed to other parts of the country.

Hammersmith and Fulham council is fighting the plans, which it says could see key funding for the borough’s schools “sliced” by up to 10 per cent. It warned that cuts on this scale could “threaten jobs”, limit the range of subjects taught and “damage the long-term viability of some schools.”

Councillor Sue Macmilan, the council’s cabinet member for children and education, said: “We know that the tremendous work undertaken by teachers, governors, parents and carers each and every day makes our schools thrive. Any cuts to funding will make that work more difficult.”

Cllr Macmilan said she had been talking to local school leaders for several months but called on parents, guardians and teachers to unite behind the council’s campaign to stop the plans.

“Just as Hammersmith and Fulham council invested in education for many years, it is right that the government should invest in education outside London – but not at the expense of our schools,” she added.

“It is really important that as many people get involved in the consultation. The council is determined to do all it can to safeguard funding for all schools in our borough.

Appealing directly to “all those who care about our local schools”, she said: “The arguments we make when the government announces its plans will be made all the more powerful with your support.”

The Department for Education is drawing up plans that it says will make school funding fairer.

The new funding formula is expected to set a national rate that schools will be awarded for each pupil, with additional cash provided for those with extra needs.

But Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Teachers’ Union, has warned that the proposals would impose “huge funding cuts” on many schools and that those based in cities were likely to be hit the hardest.

She said: “We need a proper debate on the best way to fund our schools, based on an acceptance that education needs investment and that there is a proper role for local authorities who are best placed to oversee where funds need to be directed.”

A spokesman for the Department For Education said: “We are committed to making funding fairer to address the historic unfairness in the system – so areas with the highest need will still attract the most funding.”

“Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds will attract significant extra funding to their schools under the national funding formula, so areas such as London will still attract significantly more than the national average.”

In our recent consultation we also proposed to include an area cost adjustment in the national funding formula to increase funding for schools in areas of higher cost. The introduction of a national funding formula will mean that every child, no matter where they live in the country will be funded according to need.”

**Bobbies live off the beat**

**FROM PAGE 1**

mersmith and Fulham – where the average price for a house is just under £1 million – may be forcing officers further out. “There are now very few boroughs which are affordable to a first-year police constable,” she added. “In most, the average rent is over 50 per cent of take home pay.”

Fulham police station closed earlier this month as part of the Met’s “modernisation” plan to focus resources in Hammersmith.

The former traffic cop joined the force in Birmingham city centre in 1992 and worked on a number of different teams targeting criminals. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2001 and managed neighbourhood policing and probationer development units.

As detective inspector he led response teams, traffic departments and offender management operations. Chief Inspector Sheikh has a Masters degree in criminology.

**Bobbies live off the beat**

**FROM PAGE 1**

It is understood that no other vehicles were involved.

**Road accident**

**COMMUTERS endured further disruption last week as rail strikes and storms brought trains to a grinding halt.**

There was no Southern service at all between Clapham Junction and Milton Keynes last Tuesday (June 21), due to a strike called by the RMT union. Industrial action over a dispute regarding the role of train guards caused problems for passengers who usually pick up the route at Imperial Wharf, Shepherd’s Bush or Brompton or Kensington Olympia stations.

And passengers were forced to find an alternative route for the second time in three days when heavy rain and thunderstorms caused a backlog of delay.

The Clapham Junction to Milton Keynes line was suspended for the first time of the day on Wednesday (June 22) following the deluge overnight.

Heavy rain led to flooding of the line at Wandsworth Common and Imperial Wharf, setting back services for the rest of the day. The most severe flooding affected the lines into Waterloo via Surbiton into Victoria from East Croydon.

**New police chief arrives**

MET officers have welcomed a new chief inspector to the Hammersmith and Fulham borough police team.

Farooq Sheikh said he was “extremely excited” to be joining the force after making the switch from West Midlands Police.

Chief Inspector Sheikh will take up the post of operations and response manager but he also has a role to play as the borough’s lead on investigating professional standards.

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**MP at school**

HAMMERSMITH MP Andy Slaughter is used to getting a hard time from voters – but he says the toughest test of all comes from school children.

The Labour MP, who represented the Miles Coverdale and Greenside primary school in Shepherd’s Bush, has used his position to encourage pupils to show an interest in politics.

He said: “The research and preparation the pupils undertake makes these visits much the toughest test of all post thoughtful grillings I get.”

**Council plants a bright idea**

BUDDING gardeners are being encouraged to brighten up their neighbourhoods as part of a plan to make Hammersmith and Fulham the country’s greenest borough.

Town Hall bosses have urged residents to plant flowers and shrubs at the bases of trees in residential streets.

Herb patches, butterfly gardens and flower patches are among the suggestions proposed by council chiefs.

They have also scrapped the use of potentially harmful glyphosate weed killers as part of the drive to improve environmental standards, while investing in street cleaning and recycling collection programmes.

Council leader Stephanie Cowan said the move was a “small but important tactic” in meeting the authority’s ambition to become the “best and most environmentally friendly borough in the country”.

The move was welcomed by the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, which manages several green spaces in the borough.

Cathy Maund, the association’s chairwoman, said: “Through our work we are able to show there is an increasing interest from people who are keen to improve their local areas.

“In a borough as densely populated as Hammersmith and Fulham all green space is at a premium, however small.

“So we would be happy to assist people who want to adopt and plant up a tree pit.”
Pupils are class act with help for Africa

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PUPILS at Portland Place School in Westminster have raised an impressive £7,000 ahead of a trip to Eastern Africa to help rebuild and improve educational facilities.

Thirteen pupils from years 11, 12 and 13 and the accompanying teachers, will be flying to Babati, Tanzania, later this month to work alongside the charity Livingstone Tanzania Trust.

The group’s initial target of £5,000 was truly smashed and the £7,012 raised will go towards building a girls’ toilet and renovating a classroom.

To raise this substantial amount, the school rallied together and put on some innovative fundraising activities.

One of the most successful events raised over £300 from selling Valentine’s Day roses; an initiative that was the brainchild of the year 11 girls. Year 7 pupils also helped out by selling their homemade volcano cakes, after the cakes had been submitted for assessment. This imromptu sale raised just over £300.

Other fundraising drives included a non-uniform day, when Portland Place pupils dressed as their favourite safari animals, sponsored sileces, car boot sales, sponsored runs and the design and sale of mugs, all of which contributed to the total kitty.

This is not the first time the school has helped those less fortunate. In 2013 pupils and teachers visited the country and the funds they had previously raised were used to re-build a classroom which had crumbled.

Headmaster at Portland Place, David Hyman said: “Congratulations to all the pupils who are going on the Tanzania charity trip. They have certainly exceeded their target and should be incredibly pleased with their efforts. We are at Portland Place are so proud of their dedication to this worthy cause and it’s great that we have such thoughtful pupils who are willing to sacrifice their time to help other children less fortunate than themselves.

“This isn’t too late to donate to this great cause. To sponsor Portland Place School for the trip visit uk.virginmoneyfri

The Livingstone Tanzania Trust operates in the Babati district of the Manyara region. It aims to empower people to meet and exceed their basic needs and improve quality of life. The Trust facilitates change at a grassroots level by developing innovative ways to address the education and enterprise needs of the community.

Sex workers make point

The campaign for the decriminalisation of prostitution will be taken to the heart of Parliament next month when sex workers meet at the House of Commons.

Campaigners have chosen the Commons as the venue for the launch of a new film that highlights the lack of protection for those working in the sex industry.

The launch on the Commons’ Terrace on July 6 will be supported by actor Michael Sheen, who played Prime Minister Tony Blair in the Bafta-winning movie The Queen.

The film, titled Mum, has been made to lead a social media campaign highlighting the situation sex workers face when they are not allowed by current law to work safely together.

The campaign ‘makeumnsafar.com’ has the support of celebrities, including Stephanie Beacham, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Doon Mackichan and Indira Varma, who have given their voices so they can tell the stories of sex workers, and of actress Sarah Solemani, who is hosting the launch evening.

Working together with the English Collective of Prostitutes and mothers Meriem Adib and Claire Cattrell made the film because, with 66 per cent of austerity cutting targeting women, there is far more important than ever to keep sex workers safe from violence.

“Finding ways of leading this central, but hidden, truth about prostitution: that most sex workers are mothers working to support families. If that one indispensable fact framed proposals for change in law and policy, we’d get financial support for the non-criminalisation and austerity,” said Nick Adams of the English Collective of Prostitutes.

“Under the current laws thousands of women are raised, prosecuted and even imprisoned each year. We can’t work with friends for safety and we risk arrest if we report violence. The decriminalisation of sex work is urgent and overdue. We hope that this film will feed into the groundswell of public support that is demanding change,” Sheen said: “Women working in the sex industry have very little protection. So this project was something I wanted to support. We need to be grown up about sex work, and deal with the reality and not what we would prefer to be the case. I think decriminalisation is the only responsible way to move forward.”

Web’s wonder

A UNIQUE violin made from a material imitating spiders’ silk enables its acoustics to be customised – creating a whole new sound.

Spiders’ silk is strong and elastic. When a creature is caught in a web and is struggling to get free the web resonates or vibrates, sending the spider a message that it needs to produce the silk to cross the web and make a meal out of its prey.

Luca Alessandrin, of the Dyson School of Design Engineering at Imperial College London, has developed a composite material and made a prototype violin which exploits the resonating properties of spider’s silk.

Classrooms in Tanzania will benefit from Portland Place support

No one knows what the referendum vote will lead to

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The ramifications of the country made on Thurs-
day, June 23 will be felt for generations to come.

Nobody knows for certain what will happen, which for many, no matter which way they voted, will be a concerning prospect.

The decision is not the first time of its kind. The giant 90-foot Stronger In pipes up!

On the morning of the result, I received a call from my general manager to ask about the campaign for the UK to remain in the European Union.

I’d like to think I did my bit in my own backyard as the majority of Londoners agreed – as 58.9 per cent voted to stay in the EU.

The question from my general manager was about whether I wanted the sign taken down.

I told him to keep it where it was as I hadn’t changed my mind about what I thought was best for the UK.

Of course, it will be changed back to a sign promoting the best independent plumbing company in the United Kingdom, but on that day, and this week, they would be needed to go full steam ahead with the completion of our canteen extension.

And that forward looking business attitude I think is a microcosm of what needs to be done around the country in the days, weeks and months to come, as we get to grips with what for me is genuinely a very sad and unfortunate outcome.

But it is the will of the people and as such we must endure the inevitable downsides of the decision and move on to make the most of the undoubted talents we have as a country.

And that, now, for Plumbers, who are facing the inevitable downsides of the decision and move on to make the most of the undoubted talents we have as a country.

Brexit shock? Keep calm and carry on

The Queen has made a new £2.1million deal to ensure the Palace of Westminster is fit for the future.

The Queen opened the final phase of a £2.1million project to modernise the Palace of Westminster today.

The 15-month project is expected to cost £2.1million and will be completed by the end of the year.

The project involves the replacement of the current dilapidated roof with a new, modern structure.

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Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper.
Day democracy failed Londoners

BY JACK DIXON AND GEOFF BAKER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THOUSANDS of angry Londoners who voted overwhelmingly in Thursday’s referendum to stay in the European Union are expected to stage a major demonstration in Trafalgar Square today.

More than 150,000 have so far signed a constitution-challenging petition calling for London to break away from Britain and remain in the EU in protest.

At the weekend, scores of anti-Brexit protesters gathered in Trafalgar Square to vent their frustration at the result of Thursday’s momentous vote.

Demonstrators descended on Westminster armed with EU flags and banners proclaiming “Yes to EU” – apart from Gibraltar.

They brandished anti-Brexit slogans, including one sign saying “So long ‘Great Britain’” and others which simply read: “F*** Brexit”.

Meanwhile, an e-petition calling for a second referendum reached 3.6 million signatures and is now set to be considered for a debate in the Commons. The surge of support for the petition was ‘the government’s Parliament.uk website crashed repeatedly on Friday.

As the implications of Thursday’s vote began to sink in, hundreds of Londoners took to the streets on Friday, marching across London Bridge to the Shard.

An estimated 650 people made their way through the streets in protest at “anti-migrant” rhetoric of the Leave campaign and chanting “refugees are welcome” before gathering outside the headquarters of Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation - publisher of The Sun and The Times.

London was the only region in England and Wales to vote in favour of remaining in the union.

Barnet was London’s most Europhile borough after almost 79 per cent of its turn-out voted in favour of Remain. It was the area most in favour of remaining in the EU apart from Gibraltar.

But Brexit campaigners hailed “independence day” in Hammersmith and Fulham following the landmark result.

Councillor Greg Smith, leader of the Conservative opposition in Hammersmith and Fulham and a champion of the Vote Leave campaign, said: “It was a fantastic demonstration of democracy in action, with over 31 million people taking part in the referendum and the British people clearly deciding to take back control and leave the European Union.

“I passionately believe this is the right choice for our country: re-establishing sovereignty, re-enforcing the principle of democracy and setting out our stall as a truly global player.”

Leading Brexit campaigner Harry Phibbs, a councillor in Ravenscourt Park, said: “I am exhilarated by this result after an exhausting campaign. It means so much to me that my children will grow up in a self-governing democracy - an independent nation that can be confident and outwardly looking towards the entire planet.”

Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter, who supported the Remain camp, said he was “very proud” that the borough had supported Britain’s EU membership, while Chelsea and Fulham MP Greg Hands delivered a message to EU nationals in west London: “The UK has opted to Leave, but I hope you don’t.”

Councillor Stephen Cowan, the leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, who backed Remain, said: “The result is a shock to many and so on this particular day, this administration wants to send a very clear and warm message of welcome to the thousands of EU citizens that have made our borough their home.

“We are deeply grateful for the businesses they have started, the hard work they do and for how our culture has been enriched because they have chosen to live with us in our beautiful corner of west London. We will do everything we can to ensure all Hammersmith and Fulham’s EU residents feel as welcome each and every day thereafter, as they did yesterday.”

He added: “What happens next for our country and its relationships with other countries is unknown.

“But we in Hammersmith and Fulham will continue to work hard to support local businesses and do everything in our power to fight for the prosperity and well-being of all who live here.”

Was it the weather what lost it?

AS London recovers from the shock Brexit vote, sociologists have posed the theory that the storms and floods on polling day put off younger voters – those more likely to have voted Remain – from voting.

Along with other cities that have a large young and affluent population, like Oxford and Bristol, London voted to stay in, with 59.9 per cent of the capital wanting to remain part of Europe.

But as the referendum was decided on a vote-per-head basis, experts have speculated that not enough young Remain voters went to the polls because they were deterred by the prospect of getting wet as they made their way to the polling stations.

“The weather played a big hand in which way the referendum vote went,” said Dr Shamender Talwar, a leading west London social psychologist.

“The under-35s were most likely to vote Remain. But because of the bad weather on polling day a lot of the younger voters didn’t want to go out in the rain.

“It’s human nature for that age group; they saw the rain and thought ‘I’ll vote later when it’s stopped’ – but then when it had stopped they didn’t want to go out and vote because they had their mates round and couldn’t be bothered.

“Whereas the older voters, especially the pensioners, their attitude is that they’re not going to be put off by a bit of rain – even when everywhere is flooded that age group consider it a ‘bit of rain’ – and they went out to vote. And that demographic was most likely to vote Out.

“So it could be that we’re out of Europe because of the weather. How British is that?”

Leave campaigner Boris Johnson emerges from his home on Friday and meets the press corps.

Pictures: SWNS

A pensive London Mayor Sadiq Khan prepares to talk to the media on Friday in the wake of the EU referendum verdict
Swimmers go for gold in Fulham

FULHAM was the scene of a super-successful swimming gala earlier this month – hosted by the Virgin Active health club.

The venue staged the regional heats of the nation’s biggest swimming gala for children aged six to 16, with a delighted team from Kingston taking first place.

The Fulham heats were one of 12 taking place across the country, with over 2,000 youngsters taking part.

Virgin Active, one of the UK’s leading health club operators, with over 56 clubs, teaches more than 25,000 children to swim – making it the largest swimming club in the UK.

On June 11 around 160 children took part in the Fulham gala, with swimmers attending from West London, Chiswick Riverside, Islington, Angel, Wimbeldon, Kingston and Crocklewood.

Everyone who competed in took home a medal and Kingston, the winning team, were awarded the championship trophy and a £500 prize for the team to spend with Speedo.

Top local performers on the weekend included H Meyrieux (Fulham), who won the girls 9yrs/50m breaststroke in 52.73 seconds. F Quickenden (West London) won the boys 100m IM (open age group) in 1:30.28.

A win for the Fulham team was achieved by J Ferguson who won the girls 6yrs/25m backstroke in 30.5 seconds.

The free events have been supported by Speedo, the Swimming Teachers’ Association and swimming’s governing body the ASA.

Virgin Active founder and swimming enthusiast himself Sir Richard Branson said: “Swimming is such a brilliant sport that can be enjoyed by all ages and fitness levels. I’m thrilled that so many of our younger members have been so inspired to compete in this summer’s Swim Gala Series at Virgin Active. They really are making waves across the country!”

Glen Heide, European Head of Junior Programming at Virgin Active added:“The Swim Gala Series is back and bigger than ever in 2016. It’s exciting to see so many children getting involved in the competition, keeping active as well as showing improvement in their swim skills and confidence.

However, he tested positive on a breathalyser at the crash scene on May 27. The test revealed he had 121 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath when the legal limit is 35 micrograms.

At an earlier hearing at Hammersmith Magistrates Court, Simon Stanyer, prosecuting, said: “Quite simply, he comes to the police attention because of a road traffic accident involving the defendant’s motor vehicle and other motor vehicles.

“It appears he was driving in the middle of the road and the accident occurred. “When officers arrived he’s co-operative. He is asked if he’s had anything to drink in the last 20 minutes and he replied No.”

Mr Stanyer said: “He is fully co-operative throughout and then he blows as per the reading you have already heard, which is an incredibly high reading.”

The businessman ditched a corporate job to launch the frozen yoghurt firm with a friend.

Defending at an earlier court hearing, Matthew Humphreys, said: “Clearly it is a very high reading. Mr Pollock is a businessman, he runs his own frozen yoghurt operation. He previously, ironically, worked as a lawyer.

“The evening of the incident he had been celebrating having been made a partner in a further, separate business venture. By his own admission he had drunk in the region of six to eight pints and, by his own admission, he was extremely foolish in getting into his car and driving.”

Pollock pleaded guilty to the charge and was handed a community order yesterday at Hammersmith Magistrates Court.

Chair of Magistrates Nina Toller, taking into account his guilty plea, handed Pollock 200 hours of unpaid work within the next 12 months and a 30-month driving ban.

Pollock was told if he completed a drink-driving awareness course by March 22, 2018, the ban would be reduced to 23 months.

Pollock, of Ladbroke Grove, was also ordered to pay £55 in costs to the CPS and a further £85 for victim surcharge.

Drink-drive yoghurt firm founder banned from roads for 30 months

BY LWN REPORTER
ed@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A FROZEN yoghurt tycoon who drowned a gallon of beer in celebration of a business deal was banned from driving for 30 months.

Martyn Pollock, 34, the founder of Drink Drive Frozen Yoghurt, which counts Keira Knightley, Simon Cowell and Taylor Swift as its customers, drank six to eight pints before smashing his Land Rover Defender into a row of cars.

Pollock, who had been celebrating after being made a partner in a new venture, initially told police at the crash scene in Palace Gate, Kensington, that he had not recently drunk.

However, he tested positive on a breathalyser at the crash scene on May 27. The test revealed he had 121 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath when the legal limit is 35 micrograms.

At an earlier hearing at Hammersmith Magistrates Court, Simon Stanyer, prosecuting, said: “Quite simply, he comes to the police attention because of a road traffic accident involving the defendant’s motor vehicle and other motor vehicles.

“It appears he was driving in the middle of the road and the accident occurred. “When officers arrived he’s co-operative. He is asked if he’s had anything to drink in the last 20 minutes and he replied No.”

The suspect is described as a white man, about 5ft 10in, of medium build, with black and grey hair.

Crash rage

A MOTORIST was left shaken after two thugs smashed his car windows in a fit of road rage.

The moped-riding culprits smashed the windscreen and side window of the victim’s car.

PC Dave Lowery said the attack happened after the two men refused to give details following a collision in Acton, west London, on Wednesday.

He tweeted: “Nasty road rage incident on Churchill Road. Two males on a moped attacked the car after refusing to give details.”

He added: “The victim from the road rage incident is shaken up but safe and well.”

Police seek sex attacker

A SEX fiend who tried to rape a 15-year-old schoolgirl in broad daylight before fleeing on a stolen bicycle is being hunted.

Police say the victim was grabbed as she walked to school and forced into a side street before a passer-by intervened.

The brute snatched a bike from a teenager boy before riding off from the scene in Islington, north London.

Police say he rode a short distance along nearby Highbury Hill at around 8.20am on Wednesday, June 8 before abandoning the stolen bicycle and making off on foot.

Police searched the area but the suspect could not be found and nor could the teenage cyclist.

Detective Constable Ben Lucas, of the Met’s Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command, said: “Our investigation is progressing well. We have already spoken to a number of witnesses who have come forward to provide information; I would thank them for their assistance so far.

“However, we are still keen to trace the teenage male cyclist as he would have got a very clear view of the suspect and could provide us with vital information.”

“With the help of another witness we have created an e-fit of the suspect. We hope this will help identify him and I would urge anyone who recognises the e-fit to contact police as soon as possible.

“We continue to provide support to the very young victim and her family. This was a terrifying ordeal that took place in daylight as she walked to school and I am keen to identify and arrest the suspect as soon as possible.”

The suspect is described as a white man, about 5ft 10in, of medium build, with black and grey hair.

Rising value

A RARE copy of the Proclamation of Irish Independence which marked the start of the Easter Rising is expected to sell for £150,000 next month.

The original document, believed to be just 50 in existence, played a big role in one of the most important moments in modern Irish and British history. It declared “the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unification of Irish destinies to be sovereign and indefeasible”.

Sotheby’s will be auctioning it on July 12 in London. They have given it a guide price of £100,000-£150,000.

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Pope has faith in young footballers

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DISADVANTAGED young footballers from London’s pioneering TUFF FC have made the biggest signing in world soccer – now the Pope is in their squad.

The Kensington-based soccer scheme, which has been acclaimed for fighting gang culture and radicalisation through football, signed the Holy Father in front of a crowd of 80,000 in St Peter’s Square on Wednesday.

Pope Francis agreed to become patron of the team when he sprang a surprise on the young footballers at The Vatican by showcasing them to the world – immediately boosting the number of their supporters with 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

In an emotional display of his own support for the project, the Pope hugged and blessed a delegation of the players, signed a football for them and beamed with delight as they presented him with his own TUFF FC shirt, No 13 with ‘Francis’ on the back.

The delegation from The Unity of Faiths Foundation – Iqra I from Hayes, Karena T from Kensington, Beth C from Acrington, Khaled M from Southall and Humberto Carlos C from Islington, TUFF FC founders Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior and TUFF’s head of football development Ben Corbyn, son of the Labour Party leader – had been expecting a meet and greet with the Holy Father in private in the Vatican Hall.

“But he shocked us all by taking us out on the steps of St Peter’s instead to introduce us to this massive crowd,” said Dr Talwar.

“With TV cameras all over the place, he made sure that the whole world would see us. We couldn’t believe it, this was the Pope’s weekly audience and suddenly we’re up on the platform with him. We were beyond speechless,”

But Dr Talwar revealed that TUFF’s big moment almost didn’t happen.

“We were 15 minutes late arriving, for some reason I had got the time wrong in my head. Can you believe it? An audience with the Pope and you get the time wrong?”

Thought I’d blown it but all of a sudden a priest appeared and led us to meet him. We thought we were going to the hall, as we’d been told, but suddenly we were out in front of this huge crowd and the Pope started hugging the kids.

“He was so into what TUFF is doing, he knew all about us. He was asking about how we’re helping to stem radicalisation in London and how TUFF works with stopping kids joining gangs.

“One of the kids tossed a ball to him, he tossed it back, then he took it again and signed it. Then we presented him with the shirt.

“TUFF founders Anna Prior, back, and Dr Talwar, right, introduce young players to the Pope

We couldn’t believe it, this was the Pope’s weekly audience and suddenly we’re up on the platform with him. We were beyond speechless.

With TV cameras all over the place, he made sure that the whole world would see us.

Dr Shamender Talwar

“We’d had ‘Francis’ put on the back but it was a number 13 shirt, which had been the first one out of the box, and I thought I’d blown it again but it turned out that 13 was his lucky number.

“He loved the shirt, he said ‘this is beautiful, this comes with a lot of heart and love’. Then we said to him, ‘Holy Father, we need you to be our patron’ and said yes. He said, ‘Yes, but you must pray for me’. One of the kids replied, ‘Of course we’re going to pray for you’ and he started hugging them all again.

“The kids just went crazy afterwards, they thought they had stepped into a different world. Can you imagine, these kids who had got into football in order to escape gangs and radicalisation and now they’re on the steps of St Peter’s with the Pope, and he’s hugging them and posing for a selfie!”

Ms Prior added: “The Unity of Faiths Foundation, TUFF, is a secular, apolitical, charitable foundation. TUFF’s sports projects help youths from all backgrounds come together to play football through British values. Be it a child in poverty, a child in the throes of going into gangs or a child exposed to radicalisation, we are here to help them with their identity and feel it’s proud to be British.”

Pope Francis is not the only world leader to support TUFF FC. Prime Minister David Cameron has invited the players to Downing Street next month and his aides say the PM is eager to play in a five-a-side game outside No 10 to demonstrate his support for the scheme.

And President Obama is also joining the TUFF supporters’ club. He has invited the players to The White House in September and organisers are keen to arrange a game with the TUFF players in the White House lawn in September.

One for the TUFF FC photo album

One for the TUFF FC photo album

The Pontiff signs! A souvenir to treasure

Pope Francis embraces the TUFF FC party, led by Dr Shamender Talwar, right, Anna Prior and Ben Corbyn, back

One for the TUFF FC photo album

Pope Francis is excited to receive his complimentary TUFF FC football shirt

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We promise to never put a healthy cat to sleep
BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk  

THREE quarters of London’s LGTB+ community still feel the need to lie about their sexuality or gender identity, according to new research.

Following Pride in London at the weekend, a survey of more than 1,000 LGTB+ people also discovered that people who are LGBT+ are six times less likely to hold a partner’s hand in public than the rest of the population, and that LGBT+ respondents are five times more likely to have been bullied at work because of their gender.

The chair of Pride in London, Michael Salter-Church, said: “Great progress has been made in the name of LGTB+ equality in a short time, but these figures show the striking reason why Pride is still as important as ever. People in Britain who are LGBT+ still face the need to filter their true selves, and hide affection to their loved ones. At its heart, Pride in London is a community of people who are, and always have been, proud of who they are. We do not want anyone to feel like they have to hide their identity because it is still illegal to do so.”

Marketing director of Pride in London, and deputy chair at Quadrangle Research, Alison Camps said: “As well as changing laws we need to change hearts and minds. Pride in London gives us an incredible day to celebrate who we are, and give people the confidence to be proud. This is what this year’s campaign #nofilter is all about. We will recognise those people who must live life under a filter, fight for them, and celebrate a day of #nofilter.”

A VACCINATION could soon be offered to every schoolboy to help tackle the rising rate of some cancers in men, a Government minister revealed on Thursday.

Health chiefs are poised to drop their opposition to extending the jab to protect adolescent males of all ages regardless of gender.

The likely move follows growing alarm over cancers of the mouth, throat and head, as well as penile and anal cancer, amid growing evidence that they are caused by HPV.

The NHS spends more than £300m a year treating head and neck cancers, while giving the vaccine to all boys would cost just £22m, supporters say.

Health minister Jane Ellison has revealed that the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is investigating the change, with its verdict due early next year.

New jab for male cancers

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Health minister Jane Ellison has revealed that the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is investigating the change, with its verdict due early next year.

Mrs Ellison, who has previously described giving the HPV jab to girls only as “a little odd” – “I understand the wish for it to be available to all adolescents regardless of gender.”

The looming move comes after a Commons debate heard that men are six times more likely than women to have an oral HPV infection – yet they are not vaccinated.
Campaigner ‘just a servant of the people’

BY ZOE WALKER
AND JACK DIXON
ed@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pioneering race rights campaigner who helped to launch London’s famous Notting Hill Carnival.

Sam King MBE, the first black Mayor of Southwark, died at St Christopher’s Hospice in south east London earlier this month at the age of 90.

He was described as a “principled and inspiring” community leader for the capital as senior politicians rushed to pay tribute last week.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn referred to Mr King as a “legend”, adding: “London is a better place thanks to him and his family.”

A tireless campaigner for the rights of black people, he played a major part in shaping the London of today.

He was one of the co-founders of the world-renowned Notting Hill Carnival in 1966 and worked for the Brixton-based West Indian Gazette before becoming the first black Mayor of Southwark in 1983.

Mr King also established the Windrush Foundation – an organisation set up to pre-
serve the memories of West Indian pioneers who made the long journey to Britain by sea to help rebuild the country after the end of the Second World War.

He was awarded an MBE for his outstanding service in 1998 on the 40th anniversary of the Empire Windrush’s first docking.

Despite his long list of achievements and awards, Mr King’s granddaughter, Dione McDonald, said he remained a man who valued people above all else.

“Grandfather was a humble man. He would attribute the accolades to those around him and the project he was working on,” she said. “When the Windrush Foundation was established he always tried to highlight the work of the charity itself and the hard-working individuals involved. He was an old-school politician known for saying: ‘I am just a servant of the people’.”

Born in February 1926 in Portland, Jamaica, Mr King grew up on his father’s banana farm as one of nine children.

He joined the Royal Air Force in 1944 and completed his training in Yorkshire before serving as an engineer near Folkestone in Kent.

At the end of the war he returned to Jamaica but emigrated permanently in 1948 to contribute to the rebuilding of post-war London.

Arthur Torrington CBE, project director at the Windrush Foundation, said: “Sam was a giant with a voice that commanded respect and provided a positive message to all about the contribution of the Caribbean community and the wider benefits of migration.

“We need to give our gratitude to men and women like Sam who made sacrifices and laid the foundations that we take for granted today in the community.”

Mr King died in the company of his family at St Christopher’s Hospice on Friday June 17. He is survived by his second wife, Myrtle, his two children, Michael and Althea, a son as well as three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ms McDonald added: “He slipped away gently and peacefully, surrounded by loving family whilst singing gospel hymns and reading bible scriptures.”

A funeral is expected to take place in July.

Judge criticises drink-drive rugby star’s defence counsel

ENGLAND rugby star Danny Cipriani was found guilty of drink-driving on Friday, ordered to pay more than £7,500 and banned from driving for 18 months.

The 28-year-old Wasps fly half, of Grand Drive, Merton, denied driving whilst under the influence but was convicted at Westminster Magistrates’ Court. DISTRICT Judge Howard Riddle criticised his defence for using “smoke and mirrors” by claiming the breathalyser was inaccurate, adding the evidence against Cipriani was “overwhelming”.

Cipriani’s eyes were glazed, he smelt of alcohol, slurred his words and could not stand up straight when he was stopped by police in Fulham after crashing his black Mercedes into a taxi at 5.30am on June 1 last year.

He said he was “shocked” to discover he was over the limit despite having downed a glass of champagne and two Guinness and cocktails during a boozy 4am breakfast.

Cipriani told the court he had been at Sushi Restaurant Eight Over Eight in Chelsea with other rugby players after being crowned man of the match following England’s thrashing of the Barbarians on May 31 last year.

The star’s case was based on his belief that the breathalyser used by police and produced a reading of 67 micrograms and therefore find a guilty verdict.

In his judgement Judge Riddle said: “I am reluctant to conclude that Mr Cipriani is lying. He may have had more than he realised, the measures may have been more generous than he believed, his memory may have been clouded by alcohol. He may, and this is not uncommon, genuinely have come to believe what it is in his interests to believe.

“However, cumulatively, the evidence is overwhelming that he had more to drink than he has told me.”

The court heard from his lawyer that Cipriani has no previous convictions for drink-driving and supported charitable foundations. Philip Lucas defending, said: “He needs no introduction to you, he has been driving for over 10 years and has no previous convictions for drink-driving. I submit that he earns around £3,200 a week.”

Cipriani was ordered to pay a fine of £4,500 plus £3,000 towards court costs as well as a £120 victim surcharge and was banned from driving for 18 months.

He could get his licence back as soon as August 24 next year if he completes a driver awareness course by June 24, 2017.

Sam King, pictured left, and above with Maurice Brown and Laurence Philpotts with Boris Johnson at the Windrush Foundation’s ‘We Were There’ exhibition at City Hall in 2008

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Selfridges withdraws ‘slave’ item

SELFRIDGES was forced to stop selling a candle moulded into the shape of a ‘liberated black slave’ after the wax work was branded offensive.

The luxury department store deleted the item from their online store after Twitter user Lola Adeyemi slammed the item and its negative connotations.

While the £39 candle made by Cire Trudon is supposedly not made to be burned, Ms Adeyemi said that the implication of the delicate wax work is that customers could set it alight.

She said in an online petition: “It is offensive to see this candle – the official name being ‘liberated slave black bust’ – on sale at this store, and even more strange to imagine anyone wanting to light such a candle and watch it burn down.

There are so many uncomfortable, unpleasant and offensive connotations to this item.

She said as a British black woman she was shocked to spot the item for sale.

It is a wax replica of a portrait by Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux in the 1870s.

She later Tweeted to comment and responded on Twitter: “We hear you and we agree that this candle could be viewed as inappropriate.

“This will be removed from sale.”

A small boat covered in red and white roses was towed down the Thames as a tribute to tragic MP Jo Cox last week.

Grieving husband Brendan Cox and the couple’s two young children sailed down the Thames on a barge to Westminster.

The barge towed a smaller boat, named Yorkshire Rose, adorned with hundreds of red and white roses. Dozens of red roses were in tribute to the MP’s dedication to her party, while the white roses were there to mark her home county, Yorkshire.

The Tolitella came ahead of a rally in Trafalgar Square on Wednesday afternoon, which was attended by thousands of people. The memorial gathering fell on what would have been the MP’s 42nd birthday for which she had been planning a party.

Speakers at the event included journalist Mariella Frostrup, one of Mrs Cox’s closest friends, actor Bill Nighy and campaigner Malala Yousafzai.

The cast of Les Miserables performed one of Mr and Mrs Cox’s favourite songs. Pictures: SWNS

Mayor demands better pollution warnings to combat ‘silent killer’

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is ordering “killer air alerts” for the capital in a bid to save asthma sufferers from having to avoid strenuous physical activity.

The Mayor, who himself suffers from breathing problems brought on by the city’s air pollution, has hit out at the lack of warnings when the air was so bad that those at risk should have been told to stay off the streets.

Londoners should have been better informed, he said, of more than 100 occasions during the last two and a half years about the dangers to their health from the capital’s filthy air, according to worrying new figures.

The Environment Agency has highlighted the fewest of the new figures, Mayor Khan has directed Transport for London urgently to develop a package of alerts to better inform Londoners when air quality is at dangerous levels.

The statistics, from King’s College London, show that the Saharan Dust episode in April 2011 was one of the 49 times air pollution climbed to moderate or higher that year. During the episode, the London ambulance service reported a 14 per cent rise in 999 calls for patients with respiratory issues and a higher than normal volume of calls from people with breathing difficulties, asthma and heart problems.

There were a further 48 episodes of particularly poor air quality in 2015 – while this year has seen 22 incidents to date.

During these episodes, current Government advice is that adults and children with lung problems, adults with heart problems, and older people, should avoid or reduce strenuous physical activity. Government advice is that even healthy Londoners need to consider taking action during very high or very high periods of air pollution.

The previous Mayor, Boris Johnson, did issue basic information on the capital’s air quality online, which contained limited alerts and advertising through the Breathe Better Together campaign and the publication of information on the Greater London Authority’s website.

Sadiq Khan is clear that these basic interventions did not go far enough, said the Mayor’s Office.

The European Union has established the legal framework which enables London to tackle pollution. Nearly half the long-term health impacts of poor air quality are caused by pollution outside London. This includes diesel fumes and industrial emissions transported from the continent.

Some 75 per cent of the cardiovascular hospital admissions associated with small, dangerous particles known as PM2.5 result from sources outside London. The Mayor believes that air pollution is a problem that can only be solved by close working with our European partners.

With the latest medical research suggesting that the equivalent of nearly 10,000 Londoners are dying every year because of London’s toxic air and the capital failing to meet the legal requirements for pollutants such as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Mr Khan is more determined than ever to implement hard-hitting measures in the capital that will lower pollution levels at a fast rate.

He will launch a formal public policy consultation in a matter of weeks on a major package of measures to tackle air pollution in London.

He is also working with Transport for London to develop a campaign that will see Londoners kept more informed about the state of the capital’s air. Proposals currently being considered include roadside signs on the most polluted roads to alert Londoners when the air is dangerously bad, promoting the use of the free airTEXT service and a more effective use of social media and traditional media. He will announce details of this campaign shortly.

The Mayor said: “The previous Mayor failed to consistently send out strong enough messaging regarding the quality of London’s air despite ongoing pleas from health campaigners.

“These figures show that on numerous occasions, Londoners could have been given better, higher profile warnings and taken action to limit their exposure during episodes of extremely high pollution.”

Kay Boycott, Chief Executive of Asthma UK, said: “It is vital that Londoners with asthma know when pollution levels are high so they can take the steps they need to keep themselves safe.

“We fully support the Mayor’s plans to improve air quality in London. According to the latest figures toxic air affects nearly 600,000 people living in the capital with asthma. We need significant investment into asthma research to find solutions to this invisible killer.”

Free art on the riverside

RESIDENTS and visitors to London Bridge this summer may be in for a surprise – a month-long programme of free art installations in unexpected spaces will be in place throughout August.

The series aims to draw attention to many of the fantastic gardens and open spaces in the London Bridge area. The installations will pinpoint gateways to this world-famous area where people from around the globe come to do business, live and visit, revealing and shedding new light on the creative offering that London Bridge has to offer, which includes the HMS Belfast, the View from the Shard, the National Theatre, the Fashion & Textiles Museum, Tower Bridge and Scoop More London.

A photo scavenger hunt with performances from Denton Jazz, Ben Bermesond, Shad Thames and London Bridge – called Heritage Lives – will take place on Thursday, June 28 and Saturday, June 30.

Revealed 2016 coincides with the London Bridge City Summer Festival.
EVICTED Big Brother contestant Marco Pierre White Junior was fined last week after he admitted being in charge of a car while four-times the drug-drive limit after taking cocaine at a party.

The eyes of the 21-year-old model, son of celebrity chef Marco Pierre White, were like pin pricks and his behaviour was erratic and twitchy when he was spoken to by police.

On Tuesday, June 21, he appeared at Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court after being the first celebrity to be voted out of the “reality” TV show after just 11 days in the house.

Plain-clothes officers in an unmarked Volvo drove into the back of his ex-fiancée’s BMW X5 in Hammersmith, the court heard.

White claimed he was sitting in the car trying to open the bonnet but was not actually driving. He said he had drunk up to five lattes that day but a drug test found him to be four-times over the drug-drive limit.

Now it appears that his father will have to pay a £400 fine, a £40 victim surcharge and £55 costs because White Jr lives off a family allowance.

Police say blood tests revealed White Jr, who does not have a licence, had more than 200 microgrammes of cocaine per litre of blood while driving a grey 2005 BMW X5.

Carly Loftus, prosecuting, said: “When the officers arrived they found on the tailgate was Marco Pierre White Jr and Miss Kimberly Melville-Smith.

Miss Kimberly Melville-Smith confirmed she was in the driver but the other driver believed it was actually the male. Officers noticed his eyes were looking like pin pricks and he was rather erratic and twitching and couldn’t stand still.

“The test came back positive for cocaine. Mr Pierre White was four times over the drug-drive limit.”

Later he admitted using the Class A drug.

Ms Loftus said: “He said he had been offered some cocaine at a party on four to five days earlier. He admitted taking it but said he had not taken anything since then.

“He said he had four to five lattes that day, that’s why his pupils looked the way they did.”

He told officers he had been sitting in the driver’s seat of Ms Melville-Smith’s car trying to lift a lever to release the bonnet after the car got into difficulties when they were returning from his dental appointment.

Miss Loftus said: “Miss Kimberly Melville-Smith stated at the station that he was sitting with the engine on with the car in park.

“He confirmed he was in the front seat and pulled a lever to lift the hood and he noticed another car, which he believed was a police car, had hit Miss Kimberly Melville-Smith’s car.

“He didn’t believe sitting in the driver’s seat while it was parked was wrong.”

The heavily tattooed model wore a grey hoodie over a white T-shirt and black jeans when he arrived an hour late to court.

With his hair tied up in a bun and a nose ring in, he spoke only to confirm his name and address and to plead guilty. He smiled and put his arm around his lawyer when he learned he had got away with a fine.

District Judge Karim Ezat said: “He has no income whatsoever. He is provided for by his family.”

Carl Newman, defending White Jr, said: “He had got into the driver’s seat and was trying to find the lever to open the bonnet for the engine. At this point the car was struck by another car.

“The car that struck Mr Pierre White’s car was an unmarked police car with plain clothes officers in. His vehicle was struck by another. It wasn’t moving and he wasn’t at fault. He is supported by his father and he is available to pay a fine after speaking to his father.”

The legal limit of cocaine in blood is 50 microgrammes to allow for accidental exposure or having traces remaining in the blood long after any effects have worn off.

Pierre White Jr was arrested in North End Crescent, Hammersmith, on April 20.

White Jr split from his fiancée Ms Melville-Smith after his on-screen romp. The Channel 5 show is being investigated after Ofcom received 344 complaints over White’s on-air romp with 30-year-old actress Laura Carter.

The glass that won’t topple your tipple

CACK-HANDED London drinkers prone to spilling their pints need fear no more as lager scientists have developed an “untippable” glass.

The so-called Mighty Pint Glass is fitted with high-tech smart technology, which unlike regular pint glasses is no pushover.

Listed on gadget website Firebox, a two-pack of the “unhumpoverable” plastic pint pots are advertised for £24.99—a small price to pay for keeping a drycroft.

The description says: “Spilling a pint is a weird experience. Even if you rectify your clumsy-handed behaviour quickly and get your drink upright, there still seems to be an extraordinary amount of liquid everywhere. It doesn’t add up.

“Now you can continue your wonderful, expressive commentary on life’s difficulties in the knowledge that you won’t be derailed by your own inability to pick something up carefully.”
Golden gift works wonders for David, dedicated royalist

A ROYAL enthusiast was delighted after the Queen accepted a gold bar he sent her in celebration of her 90th birthday – after she previously turned down a £50 note.

David Vaz, 43, posted the cash to the monarch with a letter saying “treat yourself to favourite cup of tea”, as she became the country’s longest serving head of state in September last year.

Despite being flattered by the gesture she returned it, saying she was unable to accept gifts of a “financial nature.”

But she took a shine to the ingot and thanked Mr Vaz for his generosity as Buckingham Palace confirmed receipt of the prized package.

A letter signed by the Queen’s lady in waiting, Susan Hussey, read: “The Queen wishes to thank you for your card with which you sent a small piece of gold for Her Majesty on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

“The Queen was very touched you have given her a present and I am to thank you for your thought for Her Majesty at this time.”

Mr Vaz, a cleaner at Property Services Solutions in Romford, bought the gold bar for £40 on eBay as, in his view, the perfect present to mark the Queen’s 90th birthday.

Hearing Her Majesty was pleased with the gift, Mr Vaz said: “I am amazed and delighted.

The card to know what to get the Queen but at least she has accepted it and I am really thrilled.”

He said he was thrilled to get her gold because it’s fit for a Queen.

“I thought she’d send it back if I got it wrong,” he added. “But I imagined she might like it.

I thought she’d send it back if I got it wrong,” he added. “But I imagined she might like it.

But the Queen politely declined his £50 gift but accepted his gold present.

Surely Her Majesty’s ministers have not forgotten Her Majesty’s birthday?

WILL the government act in the present crisis?

BY GEOFF BAKER

This is a very sensitive matter and after the hellish week that No 10 has had, Downing Street could very much do without the question being asked, but has the Government forgotten The Queen’s 90th birthday?

(Any mud? Did you not see the Patron’s Lunch, the flaming beacons or the spectacle of all The Queen’s horses at Windsor with the expert commentary of Ant or Dec? Where have you been all year?)

Yes, the bunting’s all been up, yes, loyal toasts and speeches have been made, yes, there was the Flypast and the guns salute in the parks, but what about a present?

What have we been asking No 10 for more than three months now, has the Government forgotten the nation’s present for Her Majesty for her 90th birthday?

You would think it’s a relatively simple question, easily answered with a “we’ve bought a nice set of spoons” or “we sent a George Formby box set”, but no, everything has been ignored.

Perhaps it’s a State secret and only David Vaz knows about the Government’s gift?

Both the Daily Telegraph and Mail on Sunday have reported that the Government is expected to announce a hat for the Queen’s 90th birthday.

But what is the right thing to do was giving a present on her official birthday. Apparently that’s the right way of doing things – we did check – by the book.

Fair enough, if that’s the form we’ll heed it and we shut up for a bit. Then, shortly before Her Majesty’s official birthday on June 11th, we rang again and asked if a decision had been made.

Again, No 10 did not know but it added that details of the gift would be announced soon. Well it must have been announced on the back of a fag packet left in a bus shelter in Bermondsey, because we never saw the notice.

So we phoned No 10 again last week, in writing this time. Again, no reply, perhaps one is meant to submit a Freedom of Information request?

But why all the secrecy? Other loyal governments have declared their gift – like the Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet which announced on June 30th that they had ‘bought’ Her Majesty a £15,000 donation to The Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation in Melbourne, the proceeds of which The Queen is patron and where the money will go towards the cost of ‘a non-invasive ventilator for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit’.

Surely our Cabinet has not forgotten in all the rush with this Brexit business? Is, as you read, some poor unfortunate getting sent down to Selfridge’s with the proceeds of a whip-round to buy HM a new hat? Is the chief of staff in Downing Street now scouring eBay for a hundredweight of Corgi Chews?

We wait, as ever, to hear.
Thanks a billion (or three), Charlotte

BY GEOFF BAKER

Here’s an interesting fact to make them splutter over their cornflakes at Kensington Palace: the double act of Prince George and Princess Charlotte is now worth more to the British economy than all of Britain’s musos put together.

Did you read that right? Yep, you did indeed, the brother and sister duo with not five years of age between them. Their Grace and Princess Kathryn are now of greater value to the economy than all of Britain’s musos put together.

Adle Ed Sheeran, the Stones, McCartney. One Direction, ed up all of the billions that they generate, lump it together with what accrues from all of the records sold by everybody British, add in concert sales, music publishing, export sales and the worth of all of the efforts of the more than 100,000 who are employed in the music industry and still George and Charlotte beat them hands down.

Somebody is missing a trick here, it’s astonishing that George and Charlotte have not been offered their own record deal; ‘Baa Baa Black Sheep’ by The Kid Royals [you need a snappy band name in this business] would top the charts for months on the basis of these stats.

Why is there not a Ministry of Baby Sound? Somebody at the Department of Trade should get on this, there’s a fortune to be made.

According to the music industry’s official body, UK Music, the economic contribution of the business to the British economy is worth £3.5 billion a year.

“This is made up of: £16 billion from musicians, composers and songwriters; £284 million from recorded music; £262 million from live music; £2.25 billion from music publishing; £1.7 billion from music representatives; £180 million from music producers, recording studios; £14 billion in the value of exports and 10,600 full-time jobs,” said UK Music on the recent release of an in-depth report into the record business’s contribution to the economy.

UK Music chief executive Jo Dipalolo said: “This shows for the very first time exactly how much music in all its guises contributes to the UK economy in terms of GVA, exports and employment. It shows that British music is a substantial contributor to the economy. Our music might be fun, but it is also a formidable asset to the UK.

“Government has said it wants to support the creative industries but until now they have not had the precise data to hand. They do now.

“A realistic picture of how the industry is made up will lead to a better understanding of what investment and regulatory environment is needed to help our industry thrive. It is a great UK success story, but now it can be even better understood and developed.”

But good and great though it is, it is nothing compared to the contribution made by the princess and her brother.

According to that mighty judge of all things financial, Forbes magazine, pound weight for pound sterling, the royal siblings have far bigger selling power that almost anything else in the market.

Forbes reports that, according to the experts at London-based Brand Finance, Princess Charlotte is worth £3.2 billion to the economy “through her ability to drive sales of the adorable cardigans, dresses and coloured tights she’s known to wear”.

“Demand for items Princess Charlotte wears will surge massively on our site,” said a spokesman from online childrenswear shop Alex and Alexa.

“We saw an increase in customers searching for pale pink cardigans and floral dresses after the first shots of Princess Charlotte were released last year and this grew again after the release last month of the adorable shot of The Queen with her grandchildren.”

But Mum the world when it comes to the biggest money-spinner and it is little wonder that the Mum concerned – the Duchess of Cambridge – is now regarded at the jewel in the crowns’ crown. For the ‘Kate Effect’ on fashion sales, estimated by Time magazine in 2012 to be £1 billion, has now jumped up almost five-fold and is now estimated to be worth £4.7 billion.

“The unofficial endorse- ment of Charlotte, George and their mother Kate, in particular, has a profound financial effect running into millions annually,” said Brand Finance chief executive David Haigh as questions rise of whether Michael Eavis is planning on booking the Cambridge family to headline next year’s Glastonbury.
Laura Mvula's explosive comeback single, *Phenomenal Woman*, gives little indication of the tumultuous struggle that lies behind her second album, *writes Jack Dixon*. A jaunty ode to her musical heroines, the track is as colourful, breezy and light as anything the 30-year-old has attempted thus far.

But it doesn’t tell the full story of a challenging two-and-a-half years for the Birmingham-born singer. A period that left some fans fearful she might not return to the studio at all.

Mvula has been more than a little candid in promoting *The Dreaming Room*, her new LP which was released to critical acclaim earlier this month. The recording process has been a labour of love, she says, after an exhausting struggle with anxiety and depression, and the fall-out from a difficult divorce.

Severe panic attacks were an obstacle to work and at times she wondered whether the album would ever be completed.

Thankfully for her many adoring fans, Mvula fought the toughest of uphill struggles and crossed the finish line in one piece. The track, *Overcome*, recorded with Chic icon Nile Rodgers, perhaps more adequately sums up the story.

“When your heart is broken down down down; And your head don’t reach the sky; Take your broken wings and fly,” she sings.

For Mvula, who shot to fame in 2013 after the worldwide success of her debut album *Sing To The Moon*, the pain is all part of the craft. “I find my therapy in music-making,” she said in a recent interview with the BBC. “I’ve been like that since I was quite young, whether I was listening to music, making it or playing it. Expressing myself through sound is how I make sense of things.”

Mvula was raised in the Birmingham suburbs – her mother from St Kitts, her father from Jamaica. Gospel and soul music was always her primary influence and as a young woman she sang with her aunt’s group Black Voices before going it alone.

The poignant and primal were packaged to devastating effect on the achingly beautiful *Sing To The Moon*, an album that earned her the Best Female Act and Best R&B or Soul Artist at the 2013 MOBO Awards. Smash single *Green Garden* demonstrated her talent for fishing out a catchy hook, while the deeply personal ballads *She and Father* showed Mvula was unafraid to bare her soul.

Her experiences over the past two years have been poured directly into the album’s follow-up, another immersive and rewarding listen. It was all part of a deliberate effort, she says, to be more open, more direct – and find her feet outside the bounds of her comfort zone.

“It’s important to be exposed,” she says, “to put things out rather than deal with them just in your own mind. I was fearful of being judged but I found (talking about her anxiety) to be really freeing. “The biggest lie is that you’re the only person that’s struggling with it. I didn’t realise how many people suffer with this kind of illness. The most important thing is to talk and get it out.”

Laura Mvula will perform at Somerset House on Sunday July 10 as part of the venue’s Summer Series.

Adele’s festival wonder show worthy of a legend

WHERE next for London’s homegrown heroine Adele after her storming Glastonbury headline performance on Saturday night?

It was a landmark moment for the 28-year-old – arguably the capital’s most successful musical export of all-time – as mud-clad campers swooned over hit after hit.

The Tottenham-born singer has amassed every accolade in the book before she has even hit 30 – but this will surely top the lot.

Her unstoppable rise to superstardom has seemed inevitable since she first burst onto the scene a decade ago. But Glastonbury, as it so often does, has rubber-stamped the singer’s legendary status. She is now a great, for good.

It was something special to watch The Rolling Stones command a crowd that stretched as far as the eye could see back in 2013, but Adele mastered the same feat here all by herself.

Festival fans witnessed thousands of performances at Worthy Farm over four days of revelry – but no artist could possibly have matched the awesome power and heart-melting emotion of Adele Laurie Blue Adkins.

With this milestone show, the BRIT School graduate, who was born in Tottenham before moving to Brixton and West Norwood as a young girl, staked a bold claim to be the world’s biggest solo artist. Her roll-call of hit singles already feels like a stroll through pop’s hall of fame. *Rolling In The Deep* and *Rumour Has It* have the necessary bombast to bolster a 100-minute headline set, while the epic ballads *Someone Like You* and *Hello* have secured their place in history.

Repeat Glastonbury headliners Muse and Coldplay could only throw up their hands and surrender to the singer’s dominance of the entire weekend. This was Adele’s moment and no one could get close.

It simply begs the question, what worlds does she have left to conquer?
I s Jake Bugg to get the offer of a lifetime – to be Keith Richards?

Following reports that Harry Styles has been cast to portray Mick Jagger in the forthcoming film based on Robert Greenfield’s classic book *A Season In Hell With The Rolling Stones*, now movie producers face a much tougher task, finding the right star to play The Human Riff.

The role is a hard one to cast, not just because the actor will have to walk, talk and play guitar like Keef in the way that Keef walks, talks and plays guitar like nobody else on the planet, but also because most of the action in the movie will centre on Keef.

Greenfield’s excellent book chronicles the summer of 1971 when the Stones left London and moved to the South of France to create their greatest-ever album, *Exile On Main Street*, which was recorded in the basement of Keith’s house, Nellcote in Villefranche-sur-Mer.

While the other Stones rented homes in nearby parts of the south of France, Greenfield was based in Keith Richards’ house and it was there where the writer for *Rolling Stone* magazine noted all the action. It was an interesting time for the Stones. Mick had just married Bianca, the band needed a big hit album as they were facing huge tax bills in Britain, Keith was fighting to get clean of his heroin habit and his relationship with Mick was stretched by his new friendship with country star Gram Parsons and his sax-playing partner-in-crime Bobby Keys.

Keith is key to the whole story of the making of *Exile*, it was very much his album, made on his terms – recording from early evening until five in the morning – made at his house with all of his family and friends around him. Nothing got done on that album until Keith turned up in his own time. Any film about it is going to be not so much a film about the Stones as it is a film about Keith, he was the star of that whole show," said a film producer who is an expert on Stones lore.

So whilst all the reports about the film so far have been obsessed with who is to pay Mick, the far more crucial question is who will play Keith? For starters, it needs to be somebody who knows his way around a guitar.

Jake Bugg, who opened for the Stones when they played *The Park In London* in 2013, is said to be one in the frame for the part. Besides his resemblance to Keith Richards, he can sing in that slightly-nasally, higher pitch of the Stones’ musical director.

"But if he got the part he’d need a vocal coach to get rid of his Nottingham accent and the producers would probably want him to lose some weight as Keith was pretty lean back then," said the Stones movie expert.

Others said to be under consideration for the role include *Spider-Man* star Andrew Garfield, who also looks somewhat like the master of the Dartford blues delta, Robert Pattinson, star of the Twilight vampire movies and James Bond star Ben Whishaw. Ben, who played the new Q in the *007* movies *Skyfall* and *Spectre*, has form as Keith Richards. He played the riffmeister in *Stoned*, Stephen Woolley’s film of the rise and fall of the and one of his long-time ambitions is to write a biography of Douglas Bader," one of his close friends tells us.

However, the Stone’s big wish may have to go on the back-burner for a bit as he and the rest of the band have been held up in a recording studio in West London, believed to be Metropolis in Chiswick, where Queen, Michael Jackson, U2, Lady GaGa, Amy Winehouse, Adele and Rihanna have all recorded and mixed albums.

The Stones’ new studio album, their first in 10 years, is said to be a return to their roots with a number of blues covers of songs by Howlin’ Wolf and Little Walter in contention to make the final cut.

“They sound so authentic it’s frightening,” Ronnie Wood recently revealed.

“Keith is key to the whole story of the making of *Exile*, it was very much his album, made on his terms – recording from early evening until five in the morning – made at his house with all of his family and friends around him. Nothing got done on that album until Keith turned up in his own time. Any film about it is going to be not so much a film about the Stones as it is a film about Keith, he was the star of that whole show," said a film producer who is an expert on Stones lore.

Keith Richards is the Rolling Stones’ ‘musical director’ original founder of the Stones, the tragic blues purist Brian Jones.

Meanwhile, is Richards set to go into print again, this time as the biographer of one of Britain’s great air aces?

Following the huge success of his autobiography, *Life*, and his children’s book *Gus And Me*, he is said to be wanting to write another tome, on the life of Douglas Bader.

Group Captain Bader was an RAF pilot who lost both legs in an air crash in the 1930s. But his injury did not prevent him becoming one of the top aces of the Second World War, in which he was credited with downing up to 32 enemy planes. After the war his life and heroism was celebrated in the film *Reach For The Sky*, in which he was played by Kenneth More.

The film, in which Bader was portrayed as the archetypal dashing English hero, was controversial with the great fighter as it whitewashed over some of his habits, like his prolific use of bad language.

Now we hear that Keith is keen to write the full story of the airman, who after the war once expressed an interest in becoming Prime Minister, proposing that immigration should be halted and that all betting shops should be banned on account of “they breed protection racketers.”

“One of Keith’s favourite films is *Reach For The Sky*...
Mayfair home a little bit on the costly side

BY LWN REPORTER

LONDON’S most luxurious one-up-one-down has gone on the rental market for a whopping £25 per week.

The two-storey Grade II listed apartment in Mayfair has marble tiles and top-of-the-range kitchen appliances following an expensive refurbishment. But at 36 sq/ft it is around a third of the size of the average UK home and only suitable for a couple with few possessions or someone looking for a pied-a-terre.

On the ground floor is an open plan living room and Pecorino Italian kitchen and marble bathrooms.

The property is the perfect pad for one looking for a pied-a-terre. But at 36 Shepherd Market, tucked away behind Piccadilly, Park Lane and Curzon Street.

While a bumper price for such a small property, the duplex apartment is less than half the price of a typical Mayfair home in the Cotswolds.

The upper floor has a bedroom and an en-suite shower room with marble tiles.

The property at 36 Shepherd Market was put on the lettings market this week for £325 per week. This makes it one of the cheapest rentals in Mayfair – but more expensive than a five-bedroom detached property is the perfect pad for a young professional or as a pied-a-terre.

The property, which has its own private entrance, is tucked away behind Piccadilly, Park Lane and Curzon Street.

For sale: 36 Shepherd Market

fair rental, which is around £1,250 per week.

It has come onto the market at a time where the capital 20-29 year olds now pay a staggering 57 per cent of their post-tax salary on rent.

It is on the market with Pastor Real Estate, which is calling it the “smallest Grade II listed duplex apartment in London”.

Susan Cohen, head of lettings at Pastor Real Estate, said: “36 Shepherd Market is a delightful property available to rent in the heart of Shepherd Market, overlooking the square. For rent at £325 a week, this characterful property is the perfect pad for a young professional or as a pied-a-terre.”

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POLICE held a terror suspect as he tried to board a passenger jet at Heathrow Airport last week.

Scotland Yard confirmed that a 29-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possessing information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

The suspect was held as he was about to board a flight to Saudi Arabia on Monday afternoon, June 20.

A house in west London was later searched by anti-terror police in connection with the inquiry.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: “He was initially detained under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act and subsequently arrested.

“An address in west London is being searched by officers from the Met’s Counter Terrorism Command, SO15.

“A number of electronic devices have been seized for further examination in connection with this investigation. Inquiries are ongoing.”

LONDON’S infants are getting fatter because they are tucking into larger portions at each meal time rather than snacking throughout the day, a study carried out in the capital found.

On average they are munching the equivalent of an extra spoonful of baked beans per meal than their healthy weight counterparts. Each meal is on average just 11 calories more and as they have five meals a day it soon builds up.

University College London scientists said over a month kids fed “super sized” meals were getting an extra two day’s worth of energy each month.

The debate has ranged over whether portion size or eating more often throughout the day was fuelling the childhood obesity epidemic.

To answer this question UCL scientists looked at the eating habits of 2,564 British children aged four to 18 months.

And they found “over-sized” meals and not eating more often was to blame.

They urged parents to consider portion size when feeding their young children as overfeeding could be storing up trouble in the future.

The children were part of the Diet and Nutrition Survey of Infants and Young Children and their weight and frequency of eating were supplied by parents. They found overweight children were consuming larger meals than the healthy weight children – on average 141 calories versus 130 calorie, respectively at each meal.

But they were not eating any more frequently throughout the course of the day.

For every extra 24 calories consumed during each meal, there was a nine per cent increased risk of becoming overweight or obese.

The research was presented at the European Obesity Summit in Gothenburg.

Stars pitch in for good cause

STRIKERS and hoovers will share a pitch for the very last time in August as the annual Les Mis versus Phantom football match plays its final game.

The award-winning charity match between the two longest running musicals in the West End will raise money for the Macmillan Cancer support and Brake, the road safety charity, and will once again feature a family fun day, with performances from West End stars and appearances from some legendary sporting heroes.

Gareth Southgate will manage the Les Misables eleven, while the England women’s manager Mark Sampson will be in charge of the Phantom of the Opera footballers. They will be joined by celebrities from the world of sport and entertainment for the game, which promises to be highly charged and hotly contested.

Players include star of Hollyoaks Danny Mac, X Factor winner Sam Bailey, former Tottenham and Norwich City star Paul McVeigh and actor Ralph Little.

The pre-match entertainment will feature a whole host of West End superstars, including Kerry Ellis, Eva Noblezada, Lauren Samuels and Daniel Boys.

TUESDAY JUNE 28 2016

A little food for thought

For sale: 36 Shepherd Market

fair rental, which is around £1,250 per week.

It has come onto the market at a time where the capital 20-29 year olds now pay a staggering 57 per cent of their post-tax salary on rent.

The average across England is now 47 per cent.

The property, which has its own private entrance, is tucked away behind Piccadilly, Park Lane and Curzon Street.

While a bumper price for such a small property, the duplex apartment is less than half the price of a typical Mayfair home in the Cotswolds.

The upper floor has a bedroom and an en-suite shower room with marble tiles.

The property is the perfect pad for one looking for a pied-a-terre. But at 36 Shepherd Market, tucked away behind Piccadilly, Park Lane and Curzon Street.

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Last remaining family tickets (Under 11’s go free)
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Passionate and gritty musical for Karimloo

RAMIN Karimloo and Norman Bowman will be dancing into danger this autumn as they join the cast of Murder Ballad at the Arts Theatre.

The musical, which stars the first Lady of the West End, Kerry Ellis, will have its UK premiere in October and also features the acclaimed actress Victoria Hamilton-Barritt.

Fresh from his recent success on Broadway, where he was nominated for a Tony Award in 2015 for Best Actor in Les Misérables, Karimloo returns to the West End to play the role of Tom in Murder Ballad opposite Ellis. Considered by many to be the biggest musical theatre star of his generation, Ramin said of Murder Ballad: "I saw it in New York and thought it was an incredible show.

"Really passionate and gritty. When I heard it was to get its West End premiere with Sam Yates directing I knew I wanted to be part of it. Really excited to be working with this cast and being back in the UK for it."

This will be the first performance in London for Ramin since his triumphant return to Les Misérables in 2011, following his hugely celebrated run as the Phantom in the sequel Love Never Dies, for which he was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actor.

He is joined by Norman Bowman, who has been delighting West End audiences for years, with highly acclaimed performances in Guys and Dolls, Mamma Mia, Mack & Mabel, Finding Neverland and many more. Norman will play the role of Michael opposite Ellis and Hamilton-Barritt.

Sam Yates will direct the musical, which is set in New York and sees Sara (Ellis), torn between her dangerous ex-boyfriend Tom, played by Karimloo, and her reliable husband Michael (Bowman). Led by a sexy bartender (Hamilton-Barritt), who serves as the show’s narrator, Murder Ballad documents the details of the torrid affair with vibrant pop-rock tunes.

The cast will perform together for the very first time on Sunday, at West End Live in Trafalgar Square. Murder Ballad will play at the Arts Theatre from October 5 until December 3. If you would like any further information, you can visit the website murderballadmusical.co.uk

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O LLOWING huge success on Broadway, the smash hit Disney musical Aladdin officially opened at the Prince Edward Theatre this week and with its magical staging, heart warming story and celebrated musical score, promises to be this summer’s family favourite, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The classic rags-to-riches story has been told in many forms, but the 1992 animated Disney film, which featured the voice of the late Robin Williams, gave the mystical tale a new lift. With Academy award-winning songs by Alan Menken and witty lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, the musical masterpiece became a staple of many households and its transfer to the stage, first on Broadway and now to the West End, seems a natural progression.

Turning a beloved animated movie into a live action stage show has its risks, however, but following tremendous success in New York, the formula has been tried and tested and the show comes to London as a polished and utterly mesmerising production.

With breathtaking staging, dazzling choreography and some outstanding performances, Aladdin is a real delight. A golden cave of wonders, a glittering Genie and a real magic carpet, when coupled with a hilarious script with an appeal for all ages, leads to a perfect platform for pleasure.

Dean John-Wilson is adorable as the street-rat-turned hero Aladdin and Jade Ewen makes the turned hero Aladdin and perfect princess, but it’s Trevor Dion Nicholas who steals the show as the larger than life, all-powerful Genie, with charisma literally shining out from every pore. according to our theatre critic Maybanks.

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Also hugely impressive are the three hapless stooges, played with absolute puissance by Stephen-Rahman Hughes, Nathan Amzi and Rachid Sabitri, who combine to make an utterly hysterical trio and the exceptionally evil Don Gallagher (Jafar) and Peter Howe (Iago), whose collective cackles help to recreate the cartoon style context.

Whether you have a young family, or if you just want to rediscover your own inner child, Aladdin is a spellbinding treat and will leave you feeling ‘shining, shimmering’ and ‘splendid’.

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Trevor Dion Nicholas plays genie in Disney’s Aladdin

Picture: Disney

Jade Ewen (Jasmine), pictured left and above with Dean John-Wilson (Aladdin), stars of Disney’s Aladdin. Far left: Trevor Dion Nicholas steals the show as the larger than life, all-powerful Genie, with charisma literally shining out from every pore. according to our theatre critic Nicky Sweetland

Pictures: Helen Maybanks

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Former Sugababe Jade Ewen said playing her childhood heroine in Aladdin in the West End was the fulfillment of a dream. Ewen, 26, won rave press night reviews for her turn as sassy Princess Jasmine in the screen-to-stage adaptation of the 1992 Disney classic. After the curtain fell to a standing ovation at the Prince Edward Theatre last night, she told the Evening Standard: “I watched Aladdin on video as a kid and I just wanted to be her so much. I loved A Whole New World and I’d practice it in front of a mirror.”
WILLIAM Nicholson’s heart-breaking drama, Shadowlands, is set to enthral audiences at the Richmond Theatre next month as part of an acclaimed national tour, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The story follows the author CS Lewis and his relationship with American poet Joy Davidman, in what begins as a formal meeting of two very different minds, but slowly develops into a feeling of connection and love.

The role of CS Lewis was made famous by Sir Anthony Hopkins in the 1993 film version and is played by Stephen Boxer in this new production, which has received rave reviews on its trip around the county. Stephen re-read The Chronicles of Narnia, along with a number of the author’s theological studies before talking on the role and has enjoyed the challenge of making the character his own.

Stephen said: “It was a clean sheet of paper on which I wrote the character. It’s a story of people who meet late in life and fall in love, which is quite singular in some ways, but I’m sure a lot of people can relate to it. “It’s also the story of two cultures coming together, American and English, quintessentially American. She was sort of brash and forward and shot from the hip. He was repressed and didn’t tend to talk about feelings. He may have written about the theory of feelings but talking about them wasn’t his strong suit.”

Stephen Boxer is perhaps best known to London audiences for his Shakespearean stage work, but he also formerly appeared as Joe on BBC1’s daytime soap opera, Doctors. He recently played Captain Rivers in the stage adaptation of Pat Barker’s Booker-prize nominated novel Regeneration.

Although Shadowlands is initially a tale of love, the true story turns to tragedy when Davidman is diagnosed with cancer and the couple prepare for her impending death.

The devastating journey inspired Lewis to write of his reflections on the bereavement in A Grief Observed, a book which has become a manual on how to deal with the death of a loved one. Alastair Whatley directs the play, set in 1950s Oxford, with Amanda Ryan portraying the outspoken Davidman opposite Boxer’s shy and retiring Lewis in what promises to be a touching and stylish production.

Shadowlands is a two-tier play. On one hand, it is a story of love found later in life and the meeting of minds and hearts.

On the other, it is a reflection on the nature of God, faith and theology. Both are engaging to watch, and fascinating to think about.

Shadowlands runs at the Richmond Theatre from July 25 to 30.

If you would like any further details, you can visit the website atgtickets.com.

Stephen Boxer, Amanda Ryan and Shannon Rewcroft (back) in Shadowlands

Amanda Ryan stars as Joy Davidman and Stephen Boxer plays CS Lewis in Shadowlands

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HAMILTON, the Broadway musical which has won 11 Tony Awards, including best musical, will have its London premiere in October 2017, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The critically-acclaimed show has broken box office records on Broadway and has become a cultural sensation. It will reopen the Victoria Palace Theatre, which is currently undergoing an extensive multi-million pound refurbishment.

Creator Lin-Manuel Miranda said: “The support Hamilton has received from our British fans has been incredible – I have been reminded of their love, which is just as our King George would want it to be! I’m thrilled the show will be shared with UK audiences starting in the fall of 2017 at the beautiful Victoria Palace Theatre.”

Renowned theatrical producer, Cameron Mackintosh said: “Just occasionally in life the stars align as they have now, and I have the perfect theatre available for one of the most brilliant, original and entertaining musicals I have ever seen. The moment I saw Lin Manuel’s remarkable Hamilton I knew that this was a musical with a phenomenon story and score which will be performed somewhere in the world as long as people want to go to the theatre.

“Looking back with my friend Jeffrey Seller again is an added bonus. My major redevelopment of the Victoria Palace will bring new life to a much loved building and I have no doubt Hamilton will do the same for the musical theatre.”

Hamilton, now on Broadway at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, has book, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, is directed by Thomas Kail, with choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler and musical direction and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire, and is based on Ron Chernow’s biography of Alexander Hamilton.

Hamilton is the story of America’s founding father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington’s right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation’s first Treasury Secretary. The show’s score blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway – the story of America then, as told by America now.

Hamilton’s creative team previously collaborated on the 2001 Tony Award-winning Best Musical In the Heights, which is currently enjoying a very successful run at London’s Kings Cross Theatre.

You can get more information and register for priority booking on the website hamiltonthemusical.co.uk

Lipkin gambles on classic show

SIMON Lipkin will join Hollywood star Rebel Wilson for a limited run in the musical Guys and Dolls at the Phoenix Theatre.

The acclaimed stage actor will play hapless gambler Nathan Detroit in the show, from June 28 to August 21.

A joyous and vibrant celebration of Prohibition-era New York, Guys and Dolls first premiered on Broadway in 1950 and captured the optimism and energy of post-Second World War America. The hugely popular musical, which won a Tony Award for Best Musical and New York Critics Circle Award for Best Play for its Broadway run at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

Guys and Dolls opens at the Phoenix Theatre on October 4, with previews from September 22, and runs until November 19. If you would like more information you can visit the website GuysandDollsTheMusical.co.uk

Look out for Stoppard’s Travesties

A MAJOR new revival of Tom Stoppard’s Travesties, starring Tom Hollander, is set to come to the London stage later this year.

Menier Chocolate Factory has announced the first London revival in over 20 years of the dazzling comedy of art, love and revolution, which received the New York Critics Circle Award for Best Play for its Broadway run at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

Travesties opens at Menier Chocolate Factory on October 4, with previews from September 22, and runs until November 19. If you would like more information you can visit the website menierchocolatefactory.com

Stunning pictures from the Broadway production of Hamilton, which is playing at the Richard Rodgers Theatre before coming to London P = Pictures: Joan Marcus

Jonathan Groff, left, is King George in the hit musical Hamilton on Broadway Picture: Joan Marcus

America’s life story a sensational success
Razor clams with Bath chaps and Dorset garlic scapes

Serves four

I’ve always loved the combination of razor clams with cured pork, in the form of bacon, a spicy sausage such as chorizo, or Bath chaps, which is the cured jowel. The garlic scapes add not only flavour, but a vibrant green colour and asparagus-like texture. These are available from www.southwestgarlicfarm.co.uk

Ingredients

12 or so large razor clams
½ glass of white wine
120-150g Bath chaps or a piece of streaky bacon, cut into rough 1cm squares
70-80g unsalted butter
12 or so pieces of garlic scapes
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Rinse the razor clams in cold water, then place in a large saucepan with the wine and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Place on a high heat for about a minute, or until they are just tender. Add the razor clam meat, season and cook on a low heat for a minute or so until hot. Heat the shells briefly under a heat for a minute or so until hot.

Heat the shells briefly under a heat for a minute or so until hot.

Remove the meat from the razors, cut away the dark sack in the centre and give them a quick rinse where the sack was opened, then take off the stove. Place on a high heat for about a minute, or until they are just tender.

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Heat the shells briefly under a heat for a minute or so until hot.

Add the garlic scapes and some Culatello ham, which is like Prosciutto, but owing to a six-year process in the foothills of the Eponine mountains, has a golden highlight on the edges and a beautiful sweet flavour. Both were served on rustic oak platters and accompanied with an excellent Prosecco.

I then sampled two bite-size pasta dishes, to get an idea of the range of vittles available, and was thrilled by first tortellini stuffed with roasted aubergine, salted ricotta and tomato (tart and sumptuous) and then Tortellaccio, stuffed with fresh ricotta and wild mushrooms, with a fondue of Parmesan sprinkled with poppy seeds (creamy, peppery and a real delight).

Both were served perfectly al dente and I supped on a smooth and fragrant glass of Gutturnio Riserva, which proved to be the perfect partnership.

I then had to try a pizza, stone-baked in the specially built oven, which is itself a beauty to behold, with its aquamarine crazy paved tiles making it a fabulous feature of the interior. I was offered a Margherita with three-hour roasted creamy tomatoes, burrata buffalo mozzarella and fresh pesto, which was simple, yet fulfilling and far too much for me to consume on my own, but as the restaurant also offers a takeaway facility, I was able to pop into a carrier to take home for my housemates.

If you would like further information, or take a look at the menu, you can visit the website pizzicotto.co.uk

Pizzicotto in Kensington – an organic food oasis, writes Nicky Sweetland

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Contact - 0207 622 9300 or learningladders34@btconnect.com for an application form

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**PART-TIME TENANTS AND RESIDENTS SUPPORT OFFICER**

Salary £20,000 pro-rata (20 hours per week) 6 months temp contract

The SGTO is a borough wide community organisation that supports tenants and residents in Southwark. The post holder will need to have an in-depth knowledge of social housing issues.

You will need excellent communication, literacy skills including good IT skills. You will need to demonstrate the ability to support existing Tenants and Resident Association (T&RA) in achieving their aims by providing practical resources and advice. The post holder will be responsible for supporting Tenants and Residents in setting up new groups and associations.

You will have to demonstrate skills of Community Engagement and Capacity Building.

The post also includes working with Tenants & Resident’s Associations to increase the involvement of all their members by producing their own information leaflets and newsletters through training and community development support. You will attend late and weekend meetings on a regular basis and ensure that groups adhere to the recognition criteria and follow good practice, and be aware of information and resources available to them in order to achieve their aims.

The SGTO is a voluntary group funded through the Tenants and Residents Movement via the local authority.

APPLICATTONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY 6pm Friday, 1st JULY 2016 FOR AN APPLICATION FORM, email: info@sgto.co.uk

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**Alton & Co. (Chartered Accountants)**

**SE11**

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Public Notices

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility maintenance works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the eastbound lane 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 the eastbound lane of Bloemfontein Avenue between its junctions with Bloemfontein Road and No. 2 Bloemfontein Avenue.
3. An alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Bloemfontein Road and Ellerslie Road or Uxbridge Road, Loftus Road and Ellerslie Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 6th July 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 6th July 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates. Dated this 24th day of June 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate telecommunication works to be carried out in the above named road, 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 Farm Lane between its junctions with Walham Grove and Halford Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Halford Road, North End Road and Walham Grove.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 16th July 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 16th July 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates. Dated this 3rd day of June 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

I give notice that an application has been made to the Council of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

The operation which may affect the character or appearance of a listed building or the character or appearance of the Conservation Area

Application for Premises Licence

31 Delveno Road London SW6 4AH

2016/02647/FUL

Excavation of front garden (paralleling the rear of the property) and rear gardens, in connection with the construction of a basement.

Partial discharge of condition 64.

2016/02722/FUL

Application for Premises Licence

21 Grove Street London W6 7RF

2016/02633/FUL

Excavation of a rear extension; erection of a rear addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level on top of back existing addition; erection of a single storey addition; erection of a single storey addition at first floor level.

Application for Premises Licence

Erection of a single storey front extension to the rear of the existing back garden at 40 Grove Street London W6 7RF.

2016/01910/FUL

Application for Premises Licence

11 Ashes London W12 9SP

2016/02708/FUL

Erection of two larger dormer windows to replace existing dormers on the rear roofslope; installation of a rooflight in the rear roofslope.

Application for Premises Licence

30-40 North End Road London W6 0DR

2016/02274/LBC

Submission of reserved matters relating to layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping for Plot K (30 x 1 bed, 3 x 2 bed, 9 x 3 bed) pursuant to condition 1 of outline planning permission 2015/02650/VAR dated 13th October 2015.

13 Aldbourne Road London W6 6RH

2016/02733/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension.

Application for Premises Licence

132 Munster Road London W14 9NU

2016/02173/FUL

Conversion of a three bedroom flat to a single bedroom flat.

Application for Premises Licence

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

36 Rowan Road London W7 7DT

2016/02334/FUL

Erection of a single storey side dormer roof extension (Amended description).

Application for Premises Licence

38 Fulham Road London SW6 6RH

2016/02447/FUL

Application for Premises Licence

Erection of a single storey side dormer roof extension.

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Application for Premises Licence

Erection of a single storey side dormer roof extension.
POLISH international Ariel Borysiuk has joined Queens Park Rangers from Legia Warsaw for an undisclosed fee.

The midfielder, who will turn 25 at the end of July, has agreed a three-year contract at Loftus Road and is Rangers’ first summer signing. “I am delighted we’ve signed him, because he is a player I really wanted to bring to this football club,” manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink said.

“I believe Ariel’s game is built for English football. He likes to get stuck in and stamp his authority on games. He’s young, committed and plays with great passion.

“Most of his good work goes unnoticed but when he was young, you miss him – and that’s a good quality for a defensive-minded midfielder.” Hasselbaink added: “The fact he chose us, when he had a good number of good options elsewhere, shows me what he is all about.”

“He has experience of playing in different countries and that will help him. I feel he’s very well equipped to play in this country.”

Big tradition
Borysiuk readily admits the lure of playing in England was a big factor in his decision to swap Champions League for the Championship.

“I am very delighted to join QPR,” he said. “This is a great club with a big tradition.

“I had some options but when he was young I dreamed about playing in England and when there was an option with QPR, I didn’t need much time to think about.”

“Malan hopes Eoin Morgan, his Lord’s team-mate whom he captains in the county white ball game, picks him for the England side.

One Middlesex player who will play no further part in their bid to reach T20 finals day in August is Mitchell McClenaghan. The New Zealand bowler has sustained a stress fracture to his pelvis. As the injury requires a minimum of six weeks’ rest, it will rule him out of the remainder of the tournament.

Middlesex are also without their England opening batsman Nick Compton. A statement on www.middlesexcrcc.com reads: “Following a challenging start to the 2016 season, both physically and mentally, it has been agreed that the best way forward is for Compton to spend some time away from the game.”

Two back-to-back wins in the space of 24 hours saw Middlesex leap to second place in the southern group of the T20 Blast.

Those consecutive T20 wins leave Malan’s outstanding form has earned him a call-up to the England squad for the one-off T20 game against world champions Sri Lanka at Southampton next Tuesday (July 5).
CHELSEA has refused to say how the EU referendum result will possibly affect its ability to compete at the highest level of European football – or if it will even be able to attract the caliber of player needed to address an alarming fall from grace in the Premier League.

Friday’s vote to exit the European Union will have ramifications about how Blues will recruit, whether in the form of attracting young players from within the EU or buying in talent from outside the organisation. LWN Sport requested a comment from Chelsea in respect of its numerous operations as a consequence of the referendum result.

Their response?

“There is no comment from us. If this changes we will let you know,” a spokesman said.

At least the Premier League decided to issue a statement, albeit saying nothing of consequence. Their spokesman said: “The Premier League is a hugely successful sporting competition that has strong domestic and global appeal. This will continue to be the case regardless of the referendum result. “Given the uncertain nature of what the political and regulatory landscape might be following the ‘Leave’ vote, there is little point second guessing the implications until there is greater clarity. “Clearly, we will continue to work with Government and other bodies whatever the outcome of any process.”

Benefited

Chelsea’s Spanish star Cesc Fabregas is one player who benefitted from the ability to move between two EU countries at a young age. Clubs who are outside the EU cannot buy overseas players under the age of 18. The exception for EU countries allowed Arsenal to snap up Fabregas from Barcelona when he was 16, in September 2003. He is also considered to be a homegrown player, having been registered with Arsenal for three seasons before his 21st birthday.

Since Premier League rules demand clubs must have at least eight homegrown players in the squad, that makes Fabregas even more important to clubs like Arsenal, and of course Chelsea.

While Chelsea and the Premier League nervously await how Brexit might affect the domestic game in England, Fabregas believes that the league will be damaged by the UK leaving the EU.

Speaking from France, where he is playing for his country in the Euro 2016 finals, the midfielder said: “It’s a very disappointing decision and I think very negative for many people. Personally, I see it as a mistake. I didn’t expect it – I went to bed optimistic and woke up to this news.

“I think it’s damaging for the Premier League. It’ll be harder to sign players, the salaries will change if the pound gets close to the euro. It’s a decision that will create many complications – just not in football, but in the daily lives and future of all people.”

Chelsea’s all-time favourite overseas player and one of the club’s true greats, Gianfranco Zola is also concerned by the EU exit result: “It is inevitable it will affect the football world,” the Italian said.

“It will be more difficult to come and play here for a lot of footballers and it could cause problems taking into account that clubs from other countries may have a slight advantage.

“In any case, we are talking about something so important it will cause a shock in every world market, not just in England.”

On Monday evening Fabregas came face to face with his new club manager Antonio Conte as Spain took on Italy in the last 16 knockout stage of Euro 2016.

Before the game (the result of that match and England’s evening clash with Iceland were not known before LWN went to press), Fabregas said: “I met Conte briefly and he made a very good impression.

“He is a great coach, a winner. He told me what he wants from me, what he wants to do at Chelsea and various other things that will remain private.

“I really want to start working with him. Now I hope he can get to work at Chelsea as soon as possible.

“I sort of knew about Conte before our meeting. I liked his work and, obviously, had followed their victories in Italy, but it wasn’t a team I watched every single week. Now I’ve studied them more carefully and I liked what I saw.

“He did a great job with the national team too, so I am very confident.

“I see he has created a great team unit with Italy. It might be missing your classic individual talents like Alessandro Del Piero or Francesco Totti, and they have lost Claudio Marchisio and Marco Verratti to injury, but it is a very compact group.

“That has always been one of Italy’s strengths and today it is true more than ever. From the outside it seems as if Conte chose a definitive group to go all the way and they are all following him.”

Chelsea’s Belgium duo of Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard faced Hungary on Sunday night and Hazard was inspired mood, scoring a fine individual goal as the side he captains thrashed the Magyars 4-0 to set-up a quarter-final against Wales on Friday.

But across the Atlantic, the dream is over for loaee Juan Cuadrado whose Colombia side lost 2-0 to Chile in the semi-finals of Copa America.

CHELSEA should have some cash coming in after former centre-back Jeffrey Bruma joined Germany’s Wolfsburg from PSV Eindhoven, who paid Blues £2.5million for him three seasons ago.

Having negotiated a 30 per cent sell-on clause in the deal, and with Wolfsburg believed to have paid £4.5m, Chelsea will have a bit extra pocket money to spend.