PRINCE William joined local children to plant Flanders poppy seeds at Kensington Memorial Park – and called for more help in protecting fields of remembrance for future generations.

The Prince was welcomed by The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Mrs. Elizabeth Rutherford on Thursday, to mark the occasion of the park becoming a Centenary Field.

The Centenary Fields project aims to protect playing fields, parks and green spaces as living memorials to those who lost their lives during World War I.

Kensington Memorial Park was created in the 1920s and established as a memorial to the
Meet London doc behind the beautiful backside

A celebrity icons like Kim Kardashian and Amber Rose push the boundaries of what it means to be beautiful, it seems that Londoners are going to ever greater lengths in the pursuit of perfection.

The march to cosmetic stardom might include a pair of puffed-up lips, a nip and tuck around the eyes or even an inflated chest. But now one London doctor is helping women to sculpt their dream bottom into a peachy piece of art.

Meet the man behind the beautiful, Dr Foud Hamza. He’s been practising cosmetic surgery for more than 20 years and is recognised among the top practitioners in the field.

Based in Westminster, Dr Hamza has made a career out of helping women assemble their perfect body.

His latest creation, the Venus Lift - named after the Greek goddess of love, prosperity and beauty – is said to be the safest and most natural method ever devised for enlarging the buttocks.

Sagging or flat bottoms are among the biggest insecurities women face in our image-obsessed world, says Dr Hamza, who consults day-to-day from his Harley Street surgery. But he claims a thousand squats a day won’t match up to going under the knife when it comes to sculpting the perfect bum.

“Many women take pride in the appearance of their body, and especially their bottom,” says Dr Hamza. “The name of the procedure – the Venus Lift – derives from this goddess as the dexterity and ability to perform this procedure is prized on perfection. It is designed to tailor the patient’s bottom to the exact way they imagined it.”

Dr Hamza says he doesn’t use any implants or silicone, like traditional surgeons, instead making efforts to consider the whole body before getting to work.

“The bum looks and feels 100 per cent natural after the procedure,” he insists. “And the patient doesn’t have to worry about any hard bits or, even worse, a fake-looking bum.”

Through years of studying the relationship between the beauty of the body and the “harmony” of its curves, Dr Hamza has developed a specialist sculpting technique. Unlike classic liposuction, he remodels the necessary part of the body and the “harmony” of its curves, Dr Hamza has developed a specialist sculpting technique. Unlike classic liposuction, he remodels the necessary part of the body and the “harmony” of its curves.

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Bright future for Westway

FROM PAGE 1

Canopy that hosts the vintage clothing market next to Portobello Green has been preserved by local demand. Portobello’s profile will be raised with a heritage sign of Portobello Green visible by drivers on the Westway flyover.

Some 13 affordable one to three-bedroom flats will be built on the Acklam car park to meet local housing demand. Independent retailers will occupy the ground level and a green courtyard will be created for new residents and those at adjacent Norfolk Mews.

Proceeds from housing will help the Trust meet the overall scheme’s costs, which will also be funded by cash and borrowings.

Westway Trust Chief Executive, Angela McConville said, “Portobello has a unique appeal as local people and the millions of visitors every year appreciate. It is this character and distinctive-ness that we want to preserve and celebrate in our new proposals.

“We have listened to local people and their views are reflected in our plans to provide improved spaces to enhance the area’s cultural life and benefit the community as well as providing much needed affordable housing.”

Brendan O’Keefe, Managing Director, of Epic ELM C.I.C., a local youth service organisation, said, “In this scheme I see a variety of different opportunities for young people to get their careers going and I hope we can get involved in supporting that work.”

Chris Garland, Vice Chair of Swithbrook Residents Association, said: “With the re-visualization and re-packaging of the Portobello Green and Westway development plan, The Westway Trust are to be congratulated and I am delighted to say, in having created something excellent and inspiring.

“For not only have they created something that captures the sense and spirit of the area, but and perhaps most importantly, they have brought it into the 21st Century. For this is a plan that acknowledges, but does not dwell on or live in the past. It recognizes change, and the need for it, and where the area is going.

“It moves with the times, by creating something that re-invents, enhances and embraces the ‘Now’ in a way that will upgrade the area and its culture, in a manner that is long overdue.

“Of course there will be those who are against change, any change, but those who generally love, understand and live in this area, and look to the future, will recognize the style and visionary aspects of this wonderful new plan and the great benefit it will be to the people and business of this area.

Micky P, from local arts festival Portobello Live!, said: “Portobello Live! is happy to be working with the Westway Trust, and having seen their plans for the redevelopment of Westway Estate around Portobello Road, it’s clear they have listened to the community and will enhance the heritage of our much loved area.

“The future looks very exciting and will undoubt-edly encourage a lot more people to visit.”

Andrew Kelly, Director of Westway Community Transport, said: “Having had a look at an early version of the new presentation it’s clear to me that Westway Trust have listened to the feedback they got last year. I think what they are trying to create will inevitably be a tremendous enhancement to the local environment for residents and traders alike.”

A public exhibition of the Portobello proposals will be held 12th November – 19th November and Sunday 20th November under the Westway at 1 Thorpe Close and is likely to be followed by a planning application at the end of the year. More information can be found on the Westway Trust website westwaytrust.org/portobello

VIEW FROM THE WESTWAY TRUST, SEE PAGE 4

FROM PAGE 1

Servicemen of the local neighbourhood who fought in World War I.

“Remembrance week is a timely moment to remember them and re-dedicate the park with Centenary Field status,” said a council spokesman.

Prince William met local children from Barlby Primary School who showed him their work on Remembrance. He then planted the poppy seeds with children from St Charles RC Primary School as a mark of remembrance before unveiling a plaque and dedicating the park as a Centenary Field.

The Mayor said: “When Kensington Memorial Park was opened ninety years ago the then Mayor spoke of his hope that it would be used by successive generations for recreation and health. His words were well-chosen as today it remains a popular and well-used amenity for local people at all times of the year.

“Today’s ceremony serves to remind us why this space is styled as a Memorial Park. It is a great honour to have The Duke of Cambridge with us as we reaffirm our commitment to maintain it as a fitting living memorial and a local outdoor space for all to enjoy.”

Prince William said: “In the two years remaining until the anniversary of the first Armistice Day, Fields in Trust will be working with more local authorities to secure more recreational spaces as Centenary Fields. They will succeed, but only if they have help, so I urge others to support this important cause and protect these living spaces of remembrance for generations to come.”

Centenary Fields is a UK-wide programme providing an opportunity to commemorate the centenary of World War I. It gives land owners the opportunity to dedicate space to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their lives during the conflict, but also to ensure that future generations have valuable green space to enjoy as a living legacy.

Centenary Fields protected through the programme can be parks, recreation grounds, or gardens which contain war memorials or have links to WWI. Centenary Fields is the programme from Fields in Trust in partnership with The Royal British Legion running from 2014-2018. To date, over 150 landowners have expressed interest in securing their site forever as a Centenary Field for public recreational use.
A ‘tipping point’ in providing care for frail elderly people?

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW by Councillor Robert Atkinson

The finest indication of the value of a society is how it treats its vulnerable and elderly and there is a growing recognition that in Britain, while our old people are now living much longer... and also that the average pensioner population is now more prosperous than the working population we have a very serious problem with the care of the frail elderly.

All over the country both privately run and local authority care homes are closing because of the financial crisis. Local authority financing and because private care homes are no longer financially viable once required to pay their staff a living wage.

The Care Quality Commission last month that social care is “approaching a tipping point” and that more frail elderly will fall or become ill enough to require hospital admission unless something is done to provide local authorities with sufficient money to care properly for people in their homes.

Because Government has, until now, refused to recognise the crisis in vulnerable and frail people’s care we have thousands of people stuck in unsuitable and hugely expensive acute hospital beds for want of anywhere else for them to go. I refuse to use the ugly short-term bed blocking because of its implications that the elderly are both without value and are becoming sick enough to require hand term ‘bed blocking’ because of it’s implications that the elderly are both without value and are something done to provide local authorities with sufficient money to care properly for people in their homes.

This crisis with care of the elderly is particularly important in RBKC, where 50 per cent of households are made up of single people and of these more than 50 per cent are people already of pensionable age.

In RBKC, the self styled “richest local authority in the universe” we are lucky in that, almost uniquely we as a local authority can still currently provide support services to those with moderate needs of care. But even in the Royal Borough the system is breaking. The homecare contracts for looking after people in their homes have to be kept under constant review with 37 complaints made last month in Acklam road in August/September alone. Having put their faith into third party providers the Royal Borough now struggles to monitor the service and shortages it’s collective head to find alternatives should the current contractors fail to maintain recent and fragile improvements in care and safety. Nationally, the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has seen a 25 per cent rise in complaints about the home care received in England over the past year.

Complaints about home care received by the Ombudsman include care workers being late for or missing appointments, not staying long enough and not doing what they should – including not giving people the dignity they deserve. Importantly the data also reveals those people receiving care in their own home are less likely to be supported by a representative when making a complaint than those living in residential care.

Dr Jane Martin, Local Government Ombudsman said: “Our complaints show that for people receiving care in their homes, it’s often the little things that mean so much to them in maintaining their dignity, independence and a good quality of life. Consistency of care is vital to those who rely on these services.” Carework has always been underpaid and underappreciated and in the post Brexit world we have to wonder where are we now going to find the staff to do the jobs that the English refuse to consider?

During the year the LGO nationally received a six per cent increase in complaints and enquiries about all areas of Adult Social Care (to 2,969). The LGO has also seen a 21 per cent increase in complaints and enquiries about care arranged privately with independent providers (self-funded care) and a 19% increase in the number of independent providers about whom it has received a complaint.

70% of detailed investigations upheld were about care planning – the area with the most significant upheld rate.

The medical advances of recent years in prolonging life expectancy and quality of life for the elderly have been miraculous. But we are nowhere near achieving what government has now provide properly for the frail old age that awaits us all.

Cllr Robert Atkinson
Labour Group Leader RBKC

African Caribbean arts and culture under the Westway

Christian Tillery, Westway Trust Director of Cultur, Learning and Heritage, discusses the future for the Grove Roots Revival with Niles Hailesone, Director of One Voice Collective and they agree that celebration of the African-Caribean contri-

LADROKE Grove was one of the first places in the UK where African-Caribbean people settled and it became the archtyp of modern multicultural Lon-

While it is important to celebrate cultural heritage, it’s also crucial to recognize that we have a duty to learn from the past and to use that knowledge to build a better future.

The Grove Roots Revival was a nine-day program of cultural activities with a strong focus on community education and engagement. The event included a series of community-led performances, West African djembe and bata drumming workshops, presentations and discussions. There was an opening ceremony, a fire ceremony, a prayer gathering and other events, and a community conversation. A presentation by the Ladbroke Grove photographer Charlie Phillips, an art exhibition entitled “Women of Colour” by Toby Laurent Belson, and African Yoga with Pablo Imanu, among others.

I spoke to Grove Roots Revival’s instigator and One Voice Chair Niles Hailesone about why the event is so important. He told me, “The idea came about through the process of One Voice Community Collective’s daily community engagement in various capacities on a grassroots level,”

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Mental illness is often described as the health problem that doesn’t discriminate – it can affect anyone at any time.

But research has shown that there are in fact huge inequalities in the way that certain groups experience mental health problems and access support. The statistics are shocking. According to the Mental Health Foundation, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be diagnosed and admitted to hospital than white people. They are also more likely to experience negative outcomes from their treatment and to give up on mainstream services – a process that leads to social exclusion and a further deterioration of their mental health.

Here in London, the inequalities are particularly stark. A report by Lambeth council’s Black Health and Wellbeing Commission in 2014 identified many of the difficulties faced by Black African and Caribbean people in desperate need of mental health support.

While black Caribbeans make up seven per cent of the population that are registered with GPs in the borough, they account for 17 per cent of people with serious mental illnesses.

Around a quarter of people living in Lambeth identify as Black African or Caribbean, yet half of all residents in high secure psychiatric detention come from these groups.

Why is it that minority ethnic groups make up such a disproportionate section of mental health service users in south London?

“BME communities live in more poverty and deprivation, including poor housing, and are more dependent on social security at a time of vicious welfare cuts,” says Raza Griffiths, who is leading a project to create a mental health ‘manifesto’ highlighting the difficulties faced by black and ethnic minority communities in Lambeth and Southwark.

“We get racism in the services that impact on our lives and face cuts to services. Some of our worst experiences are within mental health services.”

Raza says this leads to a “well-placed distrust” of formal mental health services among minority groups and “circles of fear” that compound the problem.

When individuals are not provided with the support, they become demonised, marginalised and discriminated against – leading to higher rates of arrest and sectioning.

In fact, for many ethnic minority groups, their first point of contact with appropriate mental health services is through the police or the courts.

“The distrust of mental health services means our symptoms can become worse as a result of not getting the right support, but this is not because we are not knowledgeable or are careless, it is because we have an understandable fear of engaging with mental health services,” adds Raza. “Mental health services have a duty to make themselves safe and healing spaces for all our communities.

“But many people experiencing mental distress find we have nowhere to go. This is a disgrace in a supposedly developed country.”

Raza is leading the manifesto project on behalf of Kindred Minds – a support service for black and ethnic minority groups provided by Lambeth and Southwark Mind.

It aims to flag up stumbling blocks in the housing and welfare systems that contribute to inequalities, while identifying areas for improvement in policy and the provision of mental health services.

Raza also wants to draw together an action group of local policy-makers – health bosses, councillors and representatives from the voluntary sector – in a bid to amplify black and ethnic minority voices in south London.

“This is a big agenda that will take time,” he says. “But in the course of talking with different groups, we are bringing people together and helping them recognise that we all have a common agenda and that we need to unite to get our voice heard.

“The Government has made noises about the need to give mental health and race inequalities a higher priority and we want to play our full part in helping them achieve that through this manifesto.”

If you would like to support our Change Is Possible campaign, there are several ways to get involved...

Share your story
Do you have personal experience of living with mental health problems? Has a friend or family member been affected? Your story could help inspire others to donate towards our campaign.

Help us fundraise
Could you support our appeal by organising a fundraising event or setting yourself a sponsored challenge? Every penny could be crucial in helping us reach our campaign targets.

Donate to our campaign
To make a donation to our appeal, you can visit the dedicated website www.givey.com/changeispossible

Alternatively, you can write to Lambeth and Southwark Mind, 4th Floor, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. They will be pleased to help.

• For more information about getting involved with our campaign, please contact South London Press reporter Jack Dixon on 07973 865078 or email him at this address: jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk
Closing street to traffic will cut killer pollution by third, says research

BY GEOFF BAKER
geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CLOSING Oxford Street to all traffic will reduce killer pollution in the area by a third – and London mayor Sadiq Khan is being urged by health campaigners to bring forward his plan to ban all vehicles.

New research has discovered that air pollution on Oxford Street drops dramatically when the street is closed off to traffic, reducing the health risks that come with poor air quality and account for 9,500 premature deaths in the city.

On a recent Sunday, Oxford Street went vehicle-free from Oxford Circus to Marble Arch for our最重要 Pedestrian Day.

Experts from King’s College measured the street’s air quality on the day and compared it with the average reading for September and October’s Sundays, finding that levels of nitrogen dioxide were down by nearly a third after only a few hours of the street being closed to traffic.

Oxford Street is one of Europe’s most polluted streets, breaching the annual legal EU limit for nitrogen dioxide just one week into this year. After just a few hours of the street being closed to traffic, levels of nitrogen dioxide went from a seasonal average of 80 mcg/m3 to 60 mcg/m3 – demonstrating a reduction of nearly a third.

Exposure to high levels of nitrogen dioxide can cause heart disease, stroke, lung disease and cancer. Mr Khan has committed to make Oxford Street vehicle-free by 2020.

Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, says this new evidence demonstrates why that commitment is so important and is urging the mayor, TFL and Westminster Council to take action before Crossrail opens in 2018, bringing an estimated 150,000 more people a day to the street.

Joe Irvin, chief executive of Living Streets, said: “Oxford Street is Europe’s busiest retail street but also frequently breaches legal limits for NO2. These latest findings show how much we stand to gain by making it vehicle-free, improving our air quality and health.

“Putting walking first throughout London’s centre will help create a world-leading city where people have the freedom to breathe fresh air, experience our iconic streets and stay healthy – not just during one-off days but all year round.

“Recently the government’s plans for tackling the UK’s air-pollution crisis were judged illegal by the High Court.

“Dr Gary Fuller, King’s College London, said: “Clearly the Sunday closure of Oxford Street led to a big improvement in air pollution for the shoppers but the pollution didn’t reach zero.

“There was still traffic on the surrounding roads.

“This shows that solving London’s air-pollution hotspots requires action over a wide area.”

A HIGHLY significant firearm made for China’s second-longest-reigning emperor was sold on Wednesday for almost £2 million.

The Supreme Number One is an "expertly crafted" musket created for the Qianlong Emperor of the Manchu Qing dynasty.

He was the longest-living and second-longest-reigning emperor in Chinese history, sitting on the throne from 1736 to 1796.

The musket was sold by Sotheby’s in London, with the auction house giving it an estimate of £1 million to £1.5 million.

It was the first time a firearm with an imperial reign mark had been offered for sale publicly and there was a high level of interest in the saleroom and over the phone.

The gun, described as one of the most significant Chinese treasures ever to come to auction, was bought for £1.95 million following a 10-minute battle – making it one of the most expensive firearms ever sold.

Robert Bradlow, senior director, Chinese Works of Art, Sotheby’s London, said: “This remarkable object epitomises the pinnacle of imperial craftsmanship during the Qing dynasty. Today’s result will be remembered alongside landmark sales of other extraordinary objects that epitomise the pinnacle of imperial craftsmanship during the Qing dynasty.

“Over the last 10 years we’ve seen the market for historical Chinese works of art go from strength to strength, with collectors drawn from across the globe and exceptional prices achieved whether the sale is staged in London, Hong Kong or New York.”

The Qianlong Emperor would regularly hunt with the musket, later in his life extolling its quality in an “eloquent” poem. It has gold and silver decoration, and bears four Chinese characters on the barrel inscription, and the breech of the barrel to denote its peerless ranking.

This makes it unique among the existing guns made by the imperial household for the Qianlong Emperor. It also has the imperial reign mark on the top of the barrel.

In 1798, one year before his death at the age of 88, the emperor wrote a poem, about shooting a deer, in which he praised the precision of his musket.

The Supreme Number One is closely related to six celebrated, named imperial Qianlong muskets in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing.

Sotheby’s held three separate Chinese sales in London on Wednesday, with a number of items selling for staggering prices.

A rare tennouko bowl which is thought to be almost 900 years old sold for £1.085m against a lower estimate of £300,000. And an imperial jade from the Qing dynasty sold for £1.145m against a £500,000 estimate.

Tea dance is hit with OAPs

Oxford Street, one of Europe’s most polluted streets

London Weekly News Group

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More information is available at www.newmarket.travel/slp16874
We’re there some tears of fear among those that fell with pride and the pain of loss on Sunday, when Whitehall snapped to attention at The Cenotaph as The Queen led the nation in remembering the boys who never came home?

Well that there may have been, for as Her Majesty stood in the winter sun blinking back emotion and London came to total silence, in that reflection may have been a dread that other young men and women may yet go to join The Minstrel Boy.

In the spring, 800 British troops will be sent, with tanks, to the Baltic States’ border with Russia. In Iraq, 1,000 of their comrades have already been deployed to stand against a menace to freedom.

This year, the 100th anniversary of The Somme, Remembrance Sunday had a greater significance as the storm clouds of war threaten to gather in our life again.

Will any of the ranks of the young who marched to the salute of the veterans one day in some sad tomorrow join the colleagues of those veterans who died in terrible numbers in two world wars and in the many other conflicts that came after them?

We pray not, for there is a name on every poppy that was on proud display in Whitehall and on millions of chests all over the land, and no more are needed to further humble us in thanks for the sacrifice that those with courage will make for freedom, that most cherished prize.

It is always overwhelming to witness the two minutes of silence of such a Sunday; they are moments of mourning, but there is a celebration also in the glory of gratitude for those of whom John Maxwell Edmonds wrote the epitaph:

“Went the day well? We died and never knew. But, well or ill, Freedom, we died for you.”

That was the blessing of Remembrance Day, freedom. And for the privilege of it, there will always be the sounding of the Last Post.

HM The Queen at the Cenotaph

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On a sparkling Christmas Eve in a frost-dusted Edwardian London, Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker doll discover a magical world, where she battles with the Mouse King and meets a handsome stranger. As the air grows colder, Clara and her valiant Nutcracker take a hot air balloon ride across London to the glistening Land of Snow where her adventure really begins.

See the English National Ballet’s magical production of Nutcracker in the iconic London Coliseum this festive season where over 100 dancers and musicians bring Nutcracker to life with exquisite dancing, beautiful sets and Tchaikovsky’s glorious score played live.

From the sound of the orchestra tuning up, to the final bows and cheers, a trip to English National Ballet’s Nutcracker is an unforgettable Christmas treat.

Nutcracker is on a national tour from Wed 23 Nov 2016, and comes to the London Coliseum from Wed 14 Dec 2016 – Sat 7 Jan 2017. For more information, visit www.ballet.org.uk

London Weekly News has 3 family tickets (2 adults and 2 children per ticket) to see a performance at the London Coliseum between Wed 14 Dec 2016 & Sat 7 Jan 2017. For your chance to win, simply answer the competition question, complete your details on the entry form provided and send it to: NUTCRACKER competition, London Weekly News, 6th Floor, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge SE20 7TS. Closing date for entries: Tue 22 Nov 2016.

Q. Who does Clara battle with?

A. The Mouse King

ENTRY FORM

Name .............................................. Address ..............................................

Postcode .............................................. Daytime Tel ..............................................

Mobile .............................................. Email ..............................................

T&Cs: Prize is 3 x family tickets (2 adults, 2 children per ticket) to see Nutcracker at the London Coliseum, valid for Mon-Sat performances from Wed 14 Dec 2016 – Sat 7 Jan 2017. Tickets are subject to availability, non-transferable and not for resale. Exclusions apply. Usual London Weekly News competition rules apply.
Politicians representing all parties wait to place their wreaths on the Cenotaph

Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

The march past of veterans and their families begins

Staff with the latest travel info to help you find your way (Problem solved)

London Overground staff are now equipped with devices to help you with real-time information on route disruption, departure times and station facilities. This is just one of the ways TfL reinvests all its income to run and improve your services. Search London Overground Improvements
Honour, emotion and respect.
Scenes from the Cenotaph in Whitehall at Sunday’s Remembrance Parade.

Photos by RICHARD AUSTIN
Regimental flags laid up at Westminster Abbey

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Armistice Day is circled in red on the calendar of every service man – but the occasion took on a special poignancy for one regiment this year.

Alongside their traditional duties during the Remembrance Sunday service, members of the Royal Yeomanry’s Command and Support Squadron were also celebrating a truly one-off event.

More than 50 troops proudly paraded through central London as the squadron’s regimental flags were laid up at Westminster Abbey.

The iconic cavalry standards – known as guidons – will take pride of place inside the Abbey, symbolising the dedication and service of generations of army reservists.

It was the first time in more than 50 years that the Fulham-based troop, which is also known as the Westminster Dragoons, had been chosen for the historic event.

And it may well prove to be among the greatest honours of the current troop’s time in service.

Sergeant Major Paul Dryden said: “It was certainly one of the most significant events in my 30 years in the army reserve. It was an amazing day.

“The guidon bears the history of the regiment and carries our battle honours. It’s very important for Remembrance and a highly significant honour for ours to be laid in Westminster Abbey.”

The historic laying up took place during the 3pm Evensong service on Saturday afternoon after the Dragoons had marched from Welling-ton Barracks down Birdcage Walk and onto the Great West Doors where they were inspected by the Lord Mayor of London Andrew Parmley.

Around 50 reservists from the squadron marched to the Abbey before taking part in the service.

The parade was led by the squadron’s commanding officer, Major Andrew Alderson MBE, who also headed the Remembrance Sunday procession as it marched to All Saints Church in Fulham the following day.

“It was a great honour to be a part of this truly special occasion,” he said.

The squadron, which is descended from the Westminster Dragoons, has enjoyed a long history with the Abbey since its formation in 1801.

Now based at Fulham House, near Putney Bridge station, it was amalgamated with the Berkshire Yeomanry in 1963 and a guidon was made for the new regiment.

This first banner was laid up in the Abbey before being presented back to the squadron in 1982.

Recruiting across the capital, Command and Support Squadron is now London’s only army reserve armoured corp unit, offering those with a taste for adventure the chance to train as a renaissance soldier in their spare time.

Both the Dragoons and the Berkshire Yeomanry were raised for the Boer War and the regiments served mainly in South Africa, the Middle East, and north west Europe to earn their battle honours.

The Royal Yeomanry is the only British Army reserve unit to have received a battle honour since the Second World War - in Iraq in 2003.

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s principal Act of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial in Sloane Square. It was led by the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Rutherford who was joined by councilors, other civic leaders, members of the armed forces (past and serving), cadets and representatives of many community organisations.

The ceremony was followed by a Service of Remembrance in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street.
Queen rocker blasts the council over leaf blowers

BY GEOFF BAKER
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ROCK star and local resident Brian May has blasted Kensington and Chelsea Council over street cleaning outside his home, calling councillors “idiots” and “a disgrace”.

Writing on his website – brianmay.com – the legendary Queen guitarist has hammered the Council over the noise and fumes caused by workmen collecting leaves and he is calling for all councillors to be sacked over the “horrible intrusion”.

In a post headlined “Leaf Madness, another RBKC failure” he wrote: “Back in the insanity that is London. Was woken up by a horrible noise of leaf blowers.

Grew out to see an army of SIX men in orange jackets disturbing the peace with the awful noise of the blowers, dust and leaves being blown into my garden, and petrol fumes.

“There used to be one man, Billy, who swept up the leaves in our road. He did a truly wonderful job. No noise, no fuss, always a smile and a hello, and the road was spotless after he’d done it. Not a single leaf would you see.

“Today we have six men and a lorry – and they are creating a horrible intrusion into our lives, and, in addition, the job is disgracefully badly done.”

The rock musician posted photographs of leaves still on the pavement after the workmen had cleaned it and added: “This is what the road looked like after the invasion of this nonsensical exercise. Leaves everywhere, nicely compressed ready for people to slip over on, and break their backs.”

In a furious rant against the Council he goes on: “Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea council members … you are idiots. The whole lot of you ought to be sacked and we should start again.

“This in addition to the granting of endless basement building projects to people who are doing it solely for profit, at the expense of the quality of life of Kensington residents. Yes, RBKC: you are a disgrace.”

It is not the first time that Brian May has launched an angry attack on the Council. Earlier this year he announced on his website his plans to leave Kensington because the scourge of basement developments meant staying there was “a living hell”.

In an open letter to the Council he was highly critical of the local authority, saying that he was objecting “in the strongest possible terms” to proposed basement extensions to two houses on his road.

He wrote: “Along with my wife [the actress Anita Dobson] and many of my neighbours, I have now been fighting for over seven years against the unbearable disruption to our quality of life by the building of basements to properties in our area, for which RBKC (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) has given permission.

“In our opinion, these permissions are a complete betrayal of our council’s duties in taking care of the residents of the Borough.”

He added: “Ten years ago, the crescent area was a quiet oasis in London, with properties that all of us worked our whole lives to acquire.

“The tree-lined street was peaceful, giving many of us the environment we needed, working often at home.

“We imagined we could rely on the borough council to ensure this area remained protected from harmful developments.

“But in recent years the peace we all treasured has been shattered by successive unreasonable building schemes, involving piling rigs, massive removal of earth, and the deployment of huge machinery.

“The result has been unbearable noise, dust, polluting fumes, constant heavy traffic and loss of privacy, making life in our houses and gardens impossible for over seven years, and without any prospect of this misery ending.”

He continued: “Anticipating permission for these new basements to be constructed, we are now planning to sell up, quitting Kensington entirely, and to move out of London. It’s a massive disruption, an upheaval, we’ve been trying for years to avoid, but we’re now at breaking point.

“In the coming months, I will not be backing off an inch in the fight against the basement building barbarians. I will be battling on, for common decency, and the quality of life of the remaining residents of the crescent; but I may do it from a home where I don’t wake up to being persecuted every day of the week.

“Despite warning that he may move, the guitarist is still living in Kensington, where he is currently recovering from an illness that caused him to cancel a UK tour with singer Kerry Ellis, planned for next month.
Happy Birthday to a much-loved institution. Local residents arranged for the building to be lit up for the evening.

Birthday party for a grand old building

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NORTH Kensington may be losing its beloved library but that didn’t stop the party when locals gathered to celebrate the 125th birthday of the grand old building.

Ladbroke Grove residents who have protested against the council’s decision to close the library and rent the building to the Notting Hill Prep School were fancy-dressed in Victorian outfits for the occasion.

“The building was decorated with banners painted by local children, bunting donated by the Party Shop on Kensington High Street,” said party organiser Sophie Lodge.

“There was a memory book for people to record their memories of the library and everyone enjoyed a sumptuous birthday tea laid out upstairs at the KPH, followed by a series of talks and thoughts about the beautiful Grade 2 listed building, with a slideshow showing photos of the area through the years.

“The final birthday present to the building was to see it lit up by a wonderful lightshow and series of projections arranged by local residents. The council had kindly agreed to turn off the streetlight outside the building on the evening, in order that the projections could be properly seen.

“This was a completely uplifting event brought together by the local community to celebrate a beautiful building that has belonged to every-body for 125 years. Whatever the future of the building, it is so heart-warming to know there are so many people who care.”

“Huge thanks go to the KPH for allowing us to use their space – and Nuline, whose generous donation showed everybody that the heart continues to beat strongly in this community.”

Kensington and Chelsea Council is planning to close the library in 2018 and move facilities to a new and improved library for North Kensington 50 metres away on Lancaster Road, as part of the Westway Project.

Shock rise in number of dogs being abused

BATTERSEA Dogs & Cats Home is seeing a shock rise in the number of dogs needing a new home and staff say they are “devastated and heartbroken” by the number who have been beaten up by their owners.

Over the last two months the world-renowned sanctuary has seen the number of calls from people looking to rehome their dogs soar to 3,186 - almost double last year’s figures for September and October.

“One such was Zara, a puppy who came to us terrified and in pain when she was brought here last month. She had been abused by her owner, she had a broken leg and a serious wound to her ear,” said a Battersea spokeswoman.

“The home’s expert veterinary staff are giving the three-month-old German Shepherd round-the-clock care and fortunately she is responding well to treatment. Despite her dreadful injuries, Zara’s trusting nature means she has formed bonds with her carers and shown herself to have a friendly and inquisitive nature.”

Battersea says that although some dogs are brought to them because owners are dealing with house moves or evictions, on many occasions the animals have become targets for domestic violence.

Battersea’s Intake Manager, Steven Craddock, said: “While working at Battersea is hugely rewarding, it can be devastating too - especially when we see tragic cases like Zara’s.

“All too often, animals come through Battersea’s doors with serious injuries sustained through neglect, cruelty and ignorance. Some have come from puppy farms and have never been properly socialised; others have been used for repeated breeding and are left with shocking health problems as a result.

“In September and October this year, we’ve seen a huge spike in enquiries from people wishing to rehome their dogs and while they’re doing the right thing by bringing their pets in to us so we can find them a new home, it’s heart-breaking to see the state that some of these dogs arrive in.”

Battersea’s Community Engagement teams are now holding workshops in prisons, schools and communities across London to educate people on what it means to take on a pet and to discuss the serious animal welfare issues the Home deals with on a daily basis, including backstreet breeding, animal cruelty and neglect, and puppy farming.
Television chiefs set to dash Harry’s wish for less exposure

Prince Harry looks set to have his dear wish for less exposure dashed as television chiefs believe he is too much of a marketable personality to ignore.

Harry is said to have long complained of the media glare of the spotlight when he was younger and now wishes to have a quieter life, focused on his work for the Royal Family.

However, the attention has not dissipated, with the Americans looking for a lasting story about Harry, who has a significant following in the country.

The US enthusiasm for a lasting story will be helped by the fact that such a love affair would be the first time that the Americans would have a foot in the palace since all of that unfortunate business between Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson. Therefore, a US television drama based on Harry’s romance would be a sure-fire winner.

Prince Harry has hit out at the Press over their treatment of his girlfriend, the American actress Meghan Markle.

Instead, all that Harry’s friends and family can do is try to keep him out of the headlines – a thankless and now impossible task following the prince’s insistence that his Press people issue the furious statement last week, which confirmed his relationship with Ms Markle in terms that some of the media may take to be taunting.

Of course, Harry is not unique in his indignation at media coverage. His grandmother, father, mother, brother and sister-in-law have each given the green light to production of a love affair that would be the first time such an event has been extended to him by the Press.

The statement from Kensington Palace is an interesting document and is worth reading in full as it indicates that the Americans would have got a sure-fire winner.

Naturally, it might be said by courtiers brazen enough to make such an obvious point to the world’s most eligible man, that such a lack of privacy has quite possibly been exacerbated by a lot of clubbing and playing strip billiards with young women in Las Vegas.

But it is very difficult to instruct any 32-year-old bachelor, let alone one with such a zest for living, to best avoid attention by staying at home darning socks and collecting stamps.

Applications close this week for the job of Beekeeper at the Tower of London. The successful applicant will earn £30,000 a year and will be expected to start work in February.

Not everyone can apply for the position of yeoman warden – to give the post its proper name – and to have a chance you need to be a bit more special than have the ability to look OK in a wool cap, skirt and red stockings.

Applications are being considered by Historic Royal Palaces and are appointed under the authority of the Constable of HM Tower of London.

Historic Royal Palaces said: “You need to be a former warrant officer or, in exceptional circumstances, a staff sergeant in the Armed Forces and have at least 22 years’ service and hold the Long Service and Good Conduct medals.”

The successful applicant will be a beaver-tackled beekeeper with an eye for the bygone and a talent for persuading the public to come to the Tower to meet the bees.

Applicants should enjoy meeting a awful lot of new people every day – around 7,600 a day as the Tower of London clocks up some 2.7 million visitors a year.

Yesman warders job is rare opportunities as there are usually only about 40 Beekeepers serving at any one time.

Although having to direct more than 7,000 people a day is demanding enough, you could also be called upon to conduct other duties, including guarding the Crown Jewels and watching over any prisoners who may be sent to the Tower.

Although London’s other prisons are overcrowded, there has not been a prisoner in the Tower for ages. The last long-term prisoner was Rudolf Hess, deputy leader of the Nazi Party, in 1941 – although the Kray twins were sent to the Tower for a few days in 1932, for failing to report for National Service.

While £30,000 a year is not the largest of salaries, the job has tied accommodation going with it and, if lucky, the successful applicant might be promoted to the post of ravenmaster, the chap who gets to use Sam every day to let the ravens out of their cages before he crosses his final bridge to breakfast at the birds who are the real bee-eaters of the Tower.

Jobseekers keen on protecting the Royal Family and their heritage are also interested in another key post coming up for grabs – head of operations and security at the Tower – for which £65,000 a year will be paid to “an outstanding individual with a distinguished military career”.

Harry’s wish for less exposure may have to be put on hold, with the Americans looking for an enduring story of his royal relationship with Ms Markle, who has been subject to a wave of abuse and harassment.

“Some of this has been hidden from the public – the nightly legal battles to keep defamatory stories out of papers; her having to struggle past photographers in order to get to her front door; the attempts of reporters and photographers to gain illegal entry to her home and the calls to police that followed; the gratuitous tributes offered by papers to her ex-boyfriend; the bombardment of nearly every friend, co-worker and lover one in her life.”

“Prince Harry is worried about Ms Markle’s safety and is deeply disappointed that he has not been able to protect her. “It is not right that a few months into a relationship with him that Ms Markle should be subjected to such a storm.”

“Prince Harry has no wish for less exposure as he believes it is worth the price she has to pay and that ‘this is all part of the game’. He strongly disagrees. This is not a game – it is her life and her work.”

“Has asked for this statement to be issued in the hopes that those in the Press who have been driving this story can pause and reflect before any further damage is done.”

“Has known for a number of years that the Americans would have got a sure-fire winner.”

“Prince Harry has been very aware of the warmth that has been extended to him by members of the public. “He feels lucky to have so many people supporting him and knows what a fortunate and privileged life he leads.”

“He is also aware that there is significant curiosity about his private life.”

“He has never been comfortable with this, but he has tried to develop a thick skin about the level of media interest that comes with it.”

“He has rarely taken formal action one way or another, but has recently been discussing fictional stories that are written about him and has worked hard to develop a positive relationship with the media, focused on his work and the issues he cares about.

“But the past week has seen a line crossed. His girlfriend, Meghan Markle, has been subject to a wave of abuse and harassment.”

A RARE opportunity has arisen to become one of the Queen’s most select bodyguards – if you’re sharpish.

Warders are employed by Historic Royal Palaces and are appointed under the authority of the Constable of the Tower of London.

Historic Royal Palaces said: “You need to be an officer or warrant officer or, in exceptional circumstances, a staff sergeant in the Armed Forces and have at least 22 years service and hold the Long Service and Good Conduct medals.”

“We particularly welcome applications from black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates as these groups are currently under-represented in our workforce.”

We are looking for exceptional communicators who thrive in a busy customer-service environment, and who enjoy meeting new people every day.”

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THE Queen is to become a grocer for Christmas – selling a range of her own-brand festive foods from Buckingham Palace which will rival Harrods, Selfridges and Fortnum & Mason.

The Palace shop is to become the poshest of the posh stores with a new line of mince pies, Christmas cake and Christmas pudding – but Her Majesty’s prices are a cut below the rest of the upper crust.

The Queen’s store, run by the Royal Collection Trust and dubbed the supermam ket by wags, will soon be introducing the new range that will be sold under the Buckingham Palace label.

Surprisingly, although the palace shop is not exactly in the Lidl league, the prices are lower than those of London’s other top stores. The Queen is to sell Buckingham Palace Christmas cake at £16.95, which compares very nicely with Fortnum & Mason’s own brand at £29.95, Harrods’ version at £24.95 and £39.99 at Selfridges.

Her Majesty wins the “bake off” price war with her new mince pies too – £7.95 for the palace brand, as opposed to £10.95 at Fortnum & Mason, £8.95 at Harrods and £8.95 at Selfridges. Buckingham Palace Christmas pudding is priced at £4.95, also less than other top own brands – £5.55 at Fortnum & Mason, £8.50 at Harrods and £11.99 at Selfridges.

But such is the demand for Her Majesty’s pudding with brandy, port and walnut that the first batch has already sold out.

The palace shop is also selling Christmas bubbly – again at prices which are very competitive in comparison to those at other stores favoured by the well-heeled. Buckingham Palace vintage champagne is going for £40 a bottle, compared to £85 at Fortnum & Mason, £38.95 at Harrods and £59.99 at Selfridges.

The Queen’s essential festive foods are just some of a whole range of Christmas gift items which the Royal Collection Trust is selling with the Buckingham Palace label.

There are Palace gin truffles and brandy butter, both at £3.95, Christmas chocolates at £5.95 a box and assorted royal-themed Christmas-tree ornaments from £8.95 to £25.

Royal fans can even fool their friends into thinking that they’re on the most special of card lists this year, with Buckingham Palace Christmas cards at £8.95 for six.

The trust said: “Designed exclusively for the Royal Collection Trust, these Christmas cards depict the iconic Buckingham Palace facade, among a snowy winter’s scene featuring the animal most famously associated with Her Majesty, our famous corgis.”

Somewhat more expensive is the £50 tag for the red velvet Buckingham Palace Christmas stocking, luxuriously embroidered with gold thread and just the thing for anyone expecting right royal presents from Santa.

A wander through the Buckingham Palace shop reveals that there are some big bargains to be had, most notably the book French Porcelain In The Collection Of Her Majesty The Queen by Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue – Sir Geoffrey’s three-volume catalogue, with its 2,400 illustrations and 1,000 specially commissioned drawings, was the winner of the 2010 Apollo Book of the Year crown. But perhaps the interest in French porcelain has tailed off a bit, as the price has been dramatically slashed from £500 to £95.

But that is just a fraction of the £1,000 which the trust is asking for another book, The Queen’s Mulberries, of which only 100 copies have been printed.

However, for those not wanting to go round the mulberry bush looking for royal presents to go under the tree this Christmas can find gifts for all sizes of pocket for all members of the family – from a Buckingham Palace Guardsman children’s sleepsuit (£12.95), the Buckingham Palace dog bowl with royal crest (£25) and a new range of palace tea bags in a variety of flavours (£6.95), to a whopping £2,500 for the handmade Queen’s 90th-birthday carriage clock, of which a limited edition of only 100 have been created.

But this season’s big seller is tipped to be another new item coming soon to Her Majesty’s store – the Buckingham Palace luxury winter blanket, made of 100 per cent Merino lambswool, printed with the royal crest and yours for £125.
SARs from the music world are to join London this week in a defiant stand against terror - one year on from the horrific attacks in Paris. While the world was in mourning last November, the murders at the Bataclan Theatre came as a particularly sickening blow to musicians.

As footage emerged of the gunman bursting into the venue and laying siege to the audience, it felt to the industry as though its whole way of life was under attack.

In the midst of the mayhem that night was Nick Alexander, a merchandising seller. He had toured with some of Britain’s biggest bands and was known as a friend and confidant to the stars.

Nick, who had been running the merchandising stall for US rockers Eagles of Death Metal that night in Paris, was one of the 89 people to perish inside the Bataclan. He was just 35 years old.

Throughout his career in the business, Nick worked with people of all ages and backgrounds from all over the world, brought together by a mutual love of music.

He was passionate about his art and a dedicated professional, winning the respect of renowned artists and forging lasting friendships.

Nick’s job enabled him to travel the world, to meet new people, and to live and learn every day for 14 years. The number of tributes paid to him from across the globe after his death was testament to his reputation.

Now, one year on from the dreadful events of November 13, 2015, many of the musicians who Nick adored – and came to call his friends - are uniting to remember and celebrate his life.

A special memorial gig - “A Peaceful Noise” is taking place at the Shepherd’s Bush Empire tonight, featuring Nick’s former tour-mates Maximo Park, Gaz Coombes and Frank Turner. Proceeds from the event will go towards the Nick Alexander Memorial Trust – the charity set up by Nick’s sister Zoe to help young musicians gain a foothold in the industry - and the Sweet Stuff Foundation, which works to support disabled performers.

“We were overwhelmed by the response from the community,” said Zoe, recalling the hundreds of messages of support her family received in the wake of the atrocities.

“The positivity and solidarity in those messages was clear – music fans would not let this terrible act divide them. They would stand up for the liberty and freedom music had brought them, and use it as a force for understanding and tolerance. A Peaceful Noise is our response to try to harness this positivity, to pay tribute to the Paris victims with a positive message of understanding, to celebrate the unifying force of music, to raise money for two music-related charities and pay forward the love and goodwill within the community.”

Organisers say the show will bring together a host of musicians for a unique and eclectic one-off, around 12 months to the day since the Paris attacks shook the world.

Nick was a music lover, born and bred. And going to gigs had been a huge part of his life.

He managed merch for Geordie rockers Maximo Park, who are headlining the event, and had been close friends with Frank Turner, who has also been booked to play.

In a recent interview with NME, Frank said: “I first met Nick when I was on tour, opening for The Automatic in 2006.

“He was doing merch for them, I think, I hung out in the same circles back then.

“Nick was a solidly lovely human being, just one of those people who’s clearly one of the good guys - warm, kind, friendly and unpretentious.

“The circumstances of his death meant it would have had an impact on the music industry regardless – but the fact it was Nick, a guy who had worked with countless bands, was a particularly hard blow.

“The Paris attacks felt very personal.”

Frank remembered the shattered atmosphere backstage as he finished a set at the Glasgow Barrowlands on the night of November 13, 2015. He was afraid to perform the following evening.

He said: “It made a lot of people nervous for a time. Certainly it was scary going on stage in Newcastle the following night. I think it also made people defiant, though - there was a sense of identity among music fans and workers, an idea that we wouldn’t be cowed by this and that we’d remember those lost.”

Maximo Park said: “Nick was our merch guy a few years ago and we were extremely shocked at the news of his death and the other lives that were stolen.

“The A Peaceful Noise show is not only a tribute to the victims of this senseless attack but it will also raise money for charities that promote music in the community and help ill or disabled musicians.”

A Peaceful Noise takes place at the O2 Shepherd’s Bush Empire tonight (November 15), including performances from Maximo Park, Frank Turner, Gaz Coombes and Fran Healy.

Dancers return in bid for glory

EVEN at Yuletide there will be no getting away from Strictly Come Dancing. And the BBC has lined up six former stars of the show to dance off in a cha cha around the Christmas tree for a golden-oldies special.

Having another crack at tripping the light fantastic are Olympic presenter Denise Lewis (series 2), pop star Frankie Bridge (series 1) and writer and actress Melvin Odoom (series 14), choreographer Ainsley Harriott (series 13), television presenter Gethin Jones (series 13) and radio presenter Nick Grimshaw (series 12), with former Strictly presenters Len Goodman and Claudia Winkleman also marking their appearance on the judging panel.
FREE SEMINAR

Wednesday 30th November 2016
6.30pm - 8.30pm
7.00pm Start
Venue: Second Floor Beaufort House
354 Kings Road, London SW3 5UZ

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Pane al Pomodoro

Gennaro Contaldo thinks everyone should bake their own bread

I post pictures every day - lots of people want to know where you are and what you’re doing,' reasons Gennaro Contaldo, pouring his morning coffee with one hand and scrolling through his busy Twitter feed with the other.

'I find pleasure when I look on my Instagram, Twitter and Facebook; in a way I’m in touch with everyone, and I feel like its one big family. There’s so many nice people in the world. I want to meet them all!'”

Sitting in the idyllic garden of his East London family home, the 67-year-old chef and restaurateur - widely credited as the maestro who taught Jamie Oliver all he knows about Italian cooking - is in great spirits.

When he’s not posing for selfies with his 15-year-old twins Olivia and Chloe - ‘It’s everyday, everyday, everyday, and I don’t get fed up, I enjoy it, I like it’ - the passionate foodie splits his time between cooking demos on his popular YouTube channel, training chefs, TV work (he regularly appears on Saturday Kitchen and has his own series, Two Greedy Italians on BBC Two) and penning cookbooks, as well as his brand ambassador duties for Bertolli.

‘I’m a person who has to move all the time,’ he cries in that familiar accent. ‘As soon as I’m finished here, I’m going to Jamie’s Italian at Shepherd’s Bush to see my chefs, and then I have a Facebook Live, which is fantastic, and then I have cookery school.’

It’s exhausting just hearing it - does he ever slow down?

‘Slow down?’ he retorts with a chuckle, serving me up a delicious slice of homemade olive oil cake with raspberry coulis, baked especially for the occasion by his daughter Chloe.

‘My own worst enemy. When there’s so many nice people, why do you want to slow down? If I feel I can, I will do it. When I can’t, I’ll stand back.’

His latest literary venture, Gennaro’s Italian Bakery, pays homage to his lifelong passion for baking, recalling the hours spent as a young boy at his uncle’s bakery in Minori on the Amalfi Coast, and memories of tucking into freshly baked bread in his family home.

Gennaro hopes his collection of easy-to-create recipes will encourage more people to take the plunge.

‘Everybody should make their own bread!’ he enthuses, throwing his hands in the air.

‘You can even go into a supermarket and buy a mix, just add water and bake it,’ adds the chef, who left Italy for London aged 20. ‘The secret is to use good flour, that’s all.’

The book features a hearty mix of regional and traditional fare with a modern twist, from Parmesan Breadsticks and Pumpkin Bread to Focaccia, Pizza, Brioche and Biscotti (‘Just like Nonna used to make’).

The foreword goes to his protege, Oliver.

‘Jamie is incredible,’ gushes Contaldo, who first met 41-year-old Oliver when he worked under him at London’s Neal Street Restaurant in the Nineties. ‘When you show him how to do something the Italian way, he takes it in straight away; and when he does it, he does it better than me!’

While he’s heavily involved with Oliver’s ever-expanding Italian restaurant chain, creating dishes and training chefs, the veteran foodie’s friendship with Oliver goes far beyond the kitchen.

‘Jamie considers me his London father, and I’ll always consider him my boy,’ Contaldo confides. ‘I have six children (as well as the twins with current wife Liz, he has three from a former marriage), and the sixth one is Jamie.

‘My father always believed, which he was right to, that Jamie was my son. He died believing that.

‘I had to learn from him how beautiful and wonderful the world is,’ Contaldo continues, as he talks about Oliver.

‘And I learned that to give is much better than to receive, and to help is incredible.

‘This is his philosophy and mine as well. The world is beautiful so let’s enjoy it.’

● Try Gennaro’s Pane al Pomodoro
(Tomato Loaf) from his new Italian Bakery book

(Serves 4-6)

125g flour
7g baking powder
45g grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for sprinkling
1tsp fennel seeds
3 eggs
45g melted butter, cooled
2tbsp double cream
50g sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped
Salt
1/2tsp black pepper
Handful of basil leaves

Preheat the oven to 180C fan/200C/400F/Gas mark 6 and line a 19 x 9cm loaf tin with parchment paper.

Combine the flour, baking powder, grated Parmesan and fennel seeds and set aside.

Whisk the eggs, melted butter and cream together in a large bowl until well combined and creamy. Stir in the sun-dried tomatoes. Fold in the flour mixture and mix with a spoon until it is all well incorporated. Stir in a little salt (careful, the mixture can be quite salty), black pepper and basil leaves. Pour the mixture into the prepared loaf tin. Push a few baby tomatoes into the mixture, sprinkle a little grated Parmesan over, and place the tomatoes with stalks on top, pressing slightly, for decoration.

Cover with foil and bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for a further 10 minutes until golden.

Check by inserting a wooden skewer as you would for a cake; if it comes out clean, it is ready. Remove from the oven, leave to cool, then remove from the tin, slice and serve.
A SLICE of the West End is coming to Penge, when Sean Grennan and Leah Ockman’s Another Night Before Christmas has its British premiere at the Bridge House Theatre. ativities Nicky Sweetland.

The family musical will star two big names of the London stage with Olivier winner George Maguire (Wicked, Guys & Dolls, We Will Rock You), and are likely to have another hit on their hands with the new family musical performed by the popular London stage stars.

It’s Christmas Eve – and for Carole, the festive season can’t be over soon enough. To her, this time of year is full of overindulgence, over-priced everything and unfulfilled hopes and wishes. George, who plays a very familiar yuletide character in the musical, said: “It’s a modern Christmas tale. It’s about a social worker who’s very disillusioned and has given up on Christmas. She’s lost the Christmas spirit and has set tied down to do an anti thing on her own.”

Walking home from her office party she meets a scruffy-looking “homeless” man to whom she gives her bag of leftover office party food. “She gives him some of her leftover dinner from her Christmas party, which is a nice gesture, and later on finds him in her house. Her house is locked down by her modern security system, so they are forced to spend the night together.”

Who is he? A half-crazed burglar as she believes, or a man with an unusual attachment to reindeer?

The musical had its world premiere in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2007 followed by a number of productions around the US. But this will be the contemporary Christmas story’s first staging in the UK. The writers have allowed the south-east London company to give it a more British twist, playing to the cynicisms of modern-day Londoners while maintaining the spirit and magic of the festive season with a local feel.

George said: “There’s something special about doing a Christmas show and hopefully touching people, especially in a venue like the Bridge House. It will funny, moving and entertaining all at the same time – and of course it’s Christmassy. It’s modern musical theatre with a bit of an American feel to it but it’s a whole mix of genres, with some storytelling songs and rock ’n’roll. It’s fun to sing and Rachel’s (Wooding) got a beautiful voice, so in the small venue it will really take people on a journey.”

Another Night Before Christmas will also feature voiceovers from both Tucker and West End regular Oliver Thompsett (Wicked, Guys & Dolls, We Will Rock You), with tickets for the musical likely to be in huge demand. With its celebrity friends and local regulars, the Bridge House Theatre has gone from strength to strength since it opened in 2014. George said: “The off-West End scene is thriving. It’s hard for new writing to be seen in the West End, so it’s great that we can put on new material in smaller venues and that it can get a chance. For a pub like the Bridge House to open a theatre is a risk but I think the local people love it.”

Another Night Before Christmas will be at the Bridge House Theatre from November 28 to December 23. See bhtheatre.com.
A NEW musical will be blazing a trail into the West End next year, as the eagerly awaited Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical rides into the London Coliseum, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The world premiere of Jim Steinman’s Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will open at the London Coliseum in June.

As with many great works of art, the genesis of the Bat Out Of Hell album occurred across a number of years. One of the songs was written while Steinman was an undergraduate at Amherst College in the late 1960s. In the 1970s, Steinman wrote a theatrical musical that was presented in workshop in Washington DC in 1974 and featured many of the songs that would ultimately appear on the Bat Out Of Hell album, which was released in 1977.

Bat Out Of Hell became one of the best-selling albums in history, shifting more than 50 million copies worldwide. Sixteen years later, Steinman scored again with Bat Out Of Hell II: Back Into Hell, which contained the massive hit I Would Do Anything For Love (But I Won’t Do That) and Two Out Of Three Ain’t Bad, as well as two previously unreleased songs, What Part Of My Body Hurts The Most and Not Allowed To Love. The show will star Christina Bennington and Andrew Polec who were introduced by the legendary Meat Loaf at the launch at the London Coliseum.

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical is a romantic adventure about rebellious youth and passionate love, set against the backdrop of a post-cataclysmic city adrift from the mainland. Strait, the forever-young leader of The Lost, has fallen for Raven, daughter of Falco, the tyrannical ruler of Obsidian. But Out Of Hell – The Musical will run at the London Coliseum from June 5 to July 22.

For more information, visit BatOutOfHellMusical.com.
HE great and good of the West End theatre scene gathered at the Hippodrome Casino for the third annual West End Wilma Awards. The dazzling ceremony celebrated another hugely successful year for the theatrical blogger, whose website has continued to grow in popularity and acclaim.

Among the guests was best-selling novelist Martina Cole, Tony-nominated actress Tracie Bennett, and Lesley Joseph, who had been ousted from the Strictly Come Dancing ballroom the previous week and who had alternated the role of Miss Hannigan with judge Craig Revel Horwood in the recent touring production of Annie.

Winners included the smash hit Kinky Boots, which is currently playing at the Adelphi Theatre, as the best West End musical and its star Matt Henry, who garnered the London Weekly News-sponsored gong for the best actor in a West End musical.

Other winners included Kerry Ellis, who claimed the accolade of best cabaret performance for her show at the Hippodrome Casino – the gong was presented by last year’s winner and current Wicked star Rachel Tucker – The Rocky Horror Show, which won the prize for best touring production, and Natasha J Barnes, for her memorable performance as Sheridan Smith’s understudy in Funny Girl at the Savoy Theatre.

West End favourite and stagey broadcaster Tim McInntryne conducted proceedings and there were star turns from some of Theatreland’s most beloved performers, with irreverent comedy songs the order of the day.

Four Femmes On ThES Ambled established the level of humour with their hit Women Up and were followed by an equally waggish performance from comedian Sooz Kempen.

Winner of best actress in a West End musical, Mazz Murray, had the gathered glitterati rolling in the aisles with her impromptu rendition of My Favourite Things. And former The Phantom Of The Opera star Kieran Brown provided an apt finale with his charity single No Awards For You.

The single has been released and all proceeds from the sale of the song will be donated to the Autistic Society to help pay for the staging of more relaxed performances of theatre shows, helping to make theatre accessible to all.

See westendwilma.com for the full list of award-winners and details of the charity single.

Tennant to star as cruel seducer

DAVID Tennant will make a return to the West End in March to play the title role in Patrick Marber’s Don Juan In Soho. The ex-Doctor Who star will lead the cast in the production, which will be presented at Wyndham’s Theatre for a limited 11-week run. Loosely based on Molier’s tragicomedy Don Juan, this savagely funny and filthy modern update transports the action to contemporary London and follows the final adventures of its debauched protagonist – a cruel seducer who lives only for pleasure.

Tennant has worked extensively in theatre, television and film, winning numerous awards for his work including the Critics’ Circle Award for best Shakespearean performance and the National Television Awards’ gong for outstanding drama performance. He was last in the West End playing Benedict in Much Ado About Nothing. His film credits include Danger In The Darker, St Trinian’s II: The Legend Of Fritton’s Gold and Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire. Don Juan In Soho premiered to great acclaim 10 years ago at the Donmar Warehouse and will run at Wyndham’s Theatre from March 17 until June 10. For more information, visit DonJuaninSoho.com.
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 (AS AMENDED)
ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
NOTICE OF MAKING OF ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION RELATING TO:
24 DOVEHOUSE STREET, LONDON, SW3 6LB

NOTICE IS GIVEN by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, being the appropriate Local Planning Authority, that it has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO).

The Direction was made on 7 November 2016 and applies to:
145 DOVEHOUSE STREET, London, SW3 6LB

The Direction applies to the development described as below and referred to in the said Order:
I. Development consisting of a change of use of a building from a use falling within Class A3 (restaurants and cafes), A4 (drinking establishments) or A5 (hot food takeaways) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, to a use falling within Class A1 (shops) or Class A2 (financial and professional services) of that Schedule and being development comprised within:
Class A, Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the said Order and not being development comprised within any other Class
II. Development consisting of a change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage-
(a) from a use falling Class A3 (restaurants and cafes) to the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987
(b) to a flexible use falling within Class A1 (shops), Class A2 (financial and professional services), Class A3 (restaurants and cafes) or Class A1 (business) of that Schedule,
for a single continuous period of up to 2 years beginning on the date the building and any land within its curtilage begins to be used for the flexible uses being development comprised within Part 4 Class D of Schedule 2 of the said Order and not being development comprised within any other Class

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within this address unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and the relevant site plans may be seen at the offices of the Council within the Customer Service Centre, the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX during normal office hours or can be viewed in the on the Council’s website at www.rbkc.gov.uk.

Representations may be made concerning the aforementioned Article 4 Direction between 7 November 2016 and 23 December 2016. If you would like to make representations, the Council would prefer to receive your representations by email at planningpolicy@rbkc.gov.uk. You may also send representations by post. Please address these to the Executive Director, Planning and Borough Development, Policy Team, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX. Whether using email or post please follow the following reference on your representation - “Representation for the Immediate Article 4 - 145 DOVEHOUSE STREET”.

The Direction became in force on 7 November 2016 and subject to the further consideration of any representations received during the consultation period and thereafter must be confirmed by the Council before 7 May 2017.

Dated: 7 November 2016
Signed:
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (KING STREET)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend the eastbound cycle lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the eastbound cycle lane on King Street shall be suspended between Studland Street and No. 170 King Street.
3. An alternative route for cycle traffic in article 2 would not be in provided.
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 23rd November 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 23rd November 2016 and last for 7 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of November 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (MUNSTER ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit northbound 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 northbound, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Munster Road between its junctions with Fulham Road and Feldon Street.
3. 2 alternative routes for northbound traffic in article 2 would be provided;
(i) For vehicles travelling westbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Fulham Road, Durell Road and Westway Avenue,
(ii) For vehicles travelling Eastbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Rostrevor Road, Swift Street and Feldon Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 3rd December 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 3rd December 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of November 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (DEVONPORT ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate tower crane operations to be carried out in the above named road; it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Devonport Road between its junctions with Goldhawk Road and Devonport Mews.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Scott’s Road and Godolphin 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 22nd November 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works will commence on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 and last for 2 days. Back up dates are scheduled for either the 29th/30th November, 6th/7th or 13th/14th December 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of November 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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Proposals for the provision of prominent sign, lettering and number on the front elevation to the site.

13 and 15 and 17 Coniger Road London SW6 3TA

Part demolition of site along the site's western boundary; erection of new boundary wall with a glazed screening; installation of photovoltaic panels on proposed flat roof extension; installation of new windows and doors to all elevations.

66 Coniger Road London SW6 3QP

Proposals for the provision of prominent sign, lettering and number on the front elevation to the site.

10a and 10b and 10c Coniger Road London SW6 3TA

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66 Coniger Road London SW6 3QP

Hammersmith Embankment

Site Known As ‘Fulham Reach’ Land Known As ‘Fulham Reach’ Road, Distillery Road And Adjacent Sections Of Thames Path, River Thames And Highway Lane Land WD 6BN


52 Hammersmere Grove London W6 2DE

Replacement of all existing sheeted windows at first floor level over part of the upper ground and ground floor levels with double-glazed windows and doors.

ARK Conveyor Primary Academy 66 Hemlock Road London W12 7GF

Variation of condition 2 to allow the installation of new awnings and external roller blinds to existing windows.

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

14 - 16 Petersham Road London SW18 1NU

Proposals for the provision of prominent sign, lettering and number on the front elevation to the site.

20 London Road London SW4 4AE

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Chelsea youngsters starting to impress at all levels

**By Toyn Macdonald**

**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

OFTUS Road will be buzzing for the first time in a long while on Saturday (3.00pm), when new manager Ian Holloway takes charge of Queens Park Rangers against Norwich City.

Unveiled last Friday as Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's replacement and Rangers' sixth manager in less than five years under owner Tony Fernandes, the 53-year-old Bristolian has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract.

More than 10 years after leaving the West London club, he returns for his third spell, having served previous five-year terms in W12 as both a player and manager.

Having QPR blue and white in his DNA probably enabled Holloway the nod over bookies' favourites Tim Sheppard and Paul Clement. The board know what they are getting from one of the game's great characters and so do the fans.

Holloway made 170 appearances (five goals) as a tenacious, no-non sense central midfielder between 1991 and '96 and led the club from League One to the Championship in 2004.

"I feel honoured, privileged and proud," he said, "It's a huge moment for me and I am delighted to be back here."

"I feel this is the right time for me. I feel like I'm back home now and I can't wait to get the job done."

"I care deeply for this football club and I want to help Les (Ferdinand), Lee (Hoos) and our wonderful owners create something we can all be proud of."

"Does anyone know this club better than me? Probably not. Has it changed much? Maybe. But I know what it means to everyone out there." 

Holloway's managerial career is chequered but no one can question the passion and commitment he will bring to the job.

"People would die for this club – and good luck to them."

"But we more than acquitted ourselves very well. A lot of the younger players will have learnt from this. We had four of our best ones away with England but it is nice to finish with our best performance in front of a paying crowd for Chelsea, and they are thinking they are some bright players for the future."

But Viveash is unsure Blues will compete against lower division sides again next season.

He said: "I don't make the decisions, I am a coach, but I am sure the powers that be will discuss and they will look at the programme. This year it suited us to go on tour in pre-season and other so-called big clubs didn't do it but there are a couple of under-23s teams that have qualified by playing four or five senior players, and good luck to them!"

"With all respect, as an under-23s team, we hope one of those goes quite far in the competition, while the league teams will be hoping that they won't – and that is the reality of it."

"What we have found is that there is support for the competition. We have had three excellent games. All three of them were different. For us, it has been a worthwhile exercise but the decision as to whether we compete in this competition against next season is not mine to make."

Viveash spoke of the benefits for his young players: "You learn that when playing league football you get punished for very little mistakes. Concentration and staying focused is a key part.

"Even though Oxford's goal was a yard offside, it is (a lack of) concentration that gets him in. We were very tired at that stage. We are talking about kids against men and they have worked tremendously hard to defend so well for long periods of football."

"With Conte now firmly fixed on a back three system, will Viveash aim to follow Conte's 3-4-3 formation?"

"No, not really," he said. "We have played 3-4-3 a lot in the past 18 months, before the manager was here. We work systems that suit the personnel that we have. But obviously, when you have Kurt coming into your programme, then it is good to put him into that system."

"We played 3-4-3 in four games at the start of the season, so last year the U18s, 21s all used different personnel. We fluctuate between three or four systems, it depends on personnel and what is available."

"Pressure on the point of the development squad is to bring them up to first team consideration. Blues have 38 players out on loan but some, like Tammy Abraham, currently starring for Bristol City in the top half of the Championship, are banging on the head coach's door."

"We are very young in the U23s league," said Viveash. "And for us to have another body behind the main striker like Ike Ugbo, who is only 17, helps. If it was Abraham or Dominic Solanke, it is different, as they don't really need that, but the need is there and how it works. And it suits our midfielders, because we have a lot of talent in there."

"So what of Abraham?"

"He is scoring a few," said Viveash. "It is obviously very great when that happens. But it is not just Tammy. Kasey Palmer is playing in the Championship as well, at Huddersfield, a team that are flying very high, so those boys are ready for the next stage of their development. It is great for them to go out and experience senior football and they are doing well in it."

"It is also great for Charlie Colkett and Jake Clarke-Salter, the pair at Bristol Rovers in League One. I watched them against Swindon and they both performed pretty well, and it is different stages of where players are at. This is a different group. We have a couple from this group that in January will probably be looking to move on loan at the older end."

"But it is what you do when you are out on loan. You could have envisaged Tammy hitting the ground running but what Tammy has is a massive enthusiasm for the game. He just loves playing football and scoring goals, and you can see by the goals he scores. We have reminded him that most of them are tap-ins but it doesn't really matter. He is a nice kid, Tammy, and he is learning a lot about Championship defending.

"I don't know where he will play next season, that's not for me to decide. He has passed through my programme now, so it's for the powers that be to decide those things. These decisions are made by senior people, not coaches."

And what about his own future? "I don't look at that, just look at the next game. I am in a really good job with a good group of kids. They want to learn. This year's group is very young but they want to learn and I enjoy the role. We will see what happens in the future but at the minute I am enjoying what I am doing."
Zouma closer to recall
Young defender making progress after injury

By Paul Lagan

KURT Zouma is inching his way towards a return to first team action and could, depending on the fitness of returning international stars, even figure in the squad on Sunday when Blues head to the North-East to face Middlesbrough in the Premier League.

France centre-back Zouma, 22, is playing again following his anterior cruciate ligament injury last season. He came through a successful 90 minutes for the development squad (under-23s) in their 1-1 draw against Oxford United in the Football League Trophy at The Bridge last week.

After seeing his side win the penalty shootout 3-2, U23s manager Adi Viveash said of Zouma: “He has been a privilege to work with.

“He is a fine young player and has been tremendous with the boys. He works very, very hard every day. He gives good advice but you have still got to remember that he is very young and he has got to get into a (first team) defence that is performing excellently at the minute. But he gives the manager another quality player and that, I imagine is important for his squad.”

Chelsea U23s finished bottom of the trophy group that also included Swindon Town and Exeter City but the experience will have done much for Zouma’s confidence and fitness.

Viveash said: “And that was a proper game for Zouma in terms of fitness, because he was playing against first team players like Maquiere, before Thomas and Hennings came on.

“He got a few whacks in the mouth but, pace wise, he certainly looked quick and strong, which is what people say when they look at his game. He is jumping above the crossbar like he always does and, in the main, his distribution was good, so he will have benefited from the Oxford game.

“We are pleased to have helped him on his road to recovery and now it is up to the powers that be to decide what happens with him. And that will include a full-time return to the first team squad, something that Viveash is confident Zouma is ready for against Scotland on Friday, will be keen to add to his England tally of four goals.”

In-form Eden Hazard scored in Belgium’s 8-1 hammering of Estonia on Sunday – the first goal Thibaut Courtois has conceded in the Red Devils’ World Cup qualifying campaign – but Chelsea boss Conte will have fingers crossed that there will be no undue concern over the fact that his playmaker left the field in the 74th minute with what appeared to be a knock to his knee. Last Wednesday, Hazard skipped Belgium in their 1-1 friendly draw with Holland in Amsterdam, where Courtois and Michy Batshuayi remained on the subs’ bench.

Nemanja Matic and Branislav Ivanovic played for Serbia in their World Cup qualifier against Wales which ended 1-1 at Cardiff City Stadium on Saturday, while the next night Asmir Begovic’s Bosnia and Herzegovina – in the same Group H as Belgium – also had to settle for a 1-1 draw after conceding a 95th minute equaliser to Greece in Athens.

N’Golo Kante was an 88th minute substitute for Group A leaders France as they came from behind to beat Sweden 2-1 in Paris on Friday night. Victor Moses scored a brace and John Mikel Obi also notched a goal for Nigeria in their 3-1 win over Algeria in World Cup qualification at the weekend. But Baba Rahman’s Ghana suffered a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Egypt that leaves their qualifying hopes in jeopardy.

ZOUMA had another Chelsea first team squad player for company in last week’s U23’s game against Oxford United in Dutchman Marco Van Ginkel.

He, too, played 90 minutes but it’s not an injury that is keeping him out of the senior side. Kante’s simply down the pecking order and has had a series of loan deals, most recently a disappointing stint in front of goal in World Cup qualification at the weekend. But Baba Rahman’s Ghana suffered a disappointing 1-0 defeat to Egypt that leaves their qualifying hopes in jeopardy.

“Marcus had an injection in the knee,” he said. “He trained in pre-season with the loan players and he has been with us for a couple of weeks now and he is a bit further ahead. He just needs match fitness. Marco will be getting ready for January and then I imagine he will be looking to play senior football, as he has done previously.

“Were he out on loan now if he hadn’t needed the injection. But for the time being we are just helping him build up his fitness levels and his match minutes and he will certainly be ready for January.”

As for the much lambasted Checkatrade Football League Trophy, where Chelsea were the only Premier League club to enter a U23 side, it’s the end of the road for this season, having lost two and drawn one.

After the 1-1 draw against Oxford – Chelsea’s goal came from Josimar Quintero – Blues won a remarkable 34 spot-kick marathon.

Viveash said: “They practice penalties every day. When it gets to that stage, you are quite confident because all the boys have taken part in three Championship penalty shootouts but it is different doing it in front of 200 at Cobham compared to 6,000 at Stamford Bridge.”

“I am obviously disappointed they had to go through that, because I thought they deserved to win the game in normal time. But for learning and development, you can’t beat the pressure of penalties.

“We would have liked to finish it a bit earlier but they were mentally strong and we came out on the right side of it. It is a lottery at that stage but for their development, with the Oxford fans buying for it behind the goal, it was great.”

Viveash can see the merits of the Trophy competition: “We have obviously played a very young team in it. Against Oxford, we obviously needed the power of the three players that had first team experience (left-back Aina Olna also being on the bench)

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FULHAM are hoping to win three consecutive league matches for the first time this season when they resume their play-off bid against Sheffield Wednesday at Craven Cottage on Saturday (3.00pm).

Impressive back-to-back victories in the Championship, at home against Rotherham United (2-0) and last time out at Brentford (2-0), have propelled Whites to eighth place in the table, just two points off the coveted top six.

With momentum in their favour, they could have done without the fortnight’s interruption for international fixtures.

Although the Fulham team took part in a period of silence prior to their win over Brentford in memory of soldiers who lost their lives in the two world wars, the players’ shirts were worn against Wednesday in the first home game since Remembrance Sunday will be emblazoned with poppies and auctioned off to raise funds for The Royal British Legion.

On Friday, Fulham players Marcus Bettinelli and Cauley Woodrow joined local school children at Fulham Cemetery to pay their respects to soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The remembrance ceremony, led by Fulham FC Chaplain, the Reverend Gary Piper, included presentations and poems on the Battle of the Somme read out by Year 6 pupils from St John’s Primary School.

The pupils researched the Battle of the Somme, which ended 100 years ago this month, as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Living Memory project which equips communities in the British Isles with the resources to discover, explore and remember the soldiers commemorated in UK cemeteries.

Fulham lost a number of players during the two world conflicts, including George Wheatcroft, Emerson Thompson, William Borlond, Fred Waterson, Harry Robotham, Robert Stuart, and William Maughan in World War One, and Dennis Higgins, George Fairbairn, Jimmy Temple, Ernest Tuckett and Jimmy Tomkins in World War Two.

Piper said: “It’s important to realise just how much the sacrifices mean. I think it’s really important that we do remember the brave soldiers. The ceremony at Fulham Cemetery is a great way to unite our local community and pay our respects.”

Pro-keepers have a reputation for caring about only themselves, so it was heartening to read the comments of the Whites duo.

Goalkeeper Bettinelli, said: “It’s an opportunity for us to reflect and to show our gratitude and respect, for everything our brave soldiers did for the freedom we enjoy, and sometimes take for granted today. The children spoke and read out lovely poems and visiting the war graves is really moving. What we do compared to what they’ve done is nothing, so it’s only right to say thank you and show our respect.

Stiker Woodrow added: “It’s really important that Marcus and I visited the cemetery, and met with children from a local primary school. It was really moving and for us to show our appreciation, and to reflect on what they lost their lives in battle. It’s been a hundred years since the Battle of the Somme took place and it’s essential we remember the sacrifices made by so many, for what we have today. This information needs to be passed on to future generations, so we don’t forget. It was particularly pleasing to see so many young children take part.”

Gary Cahill celebrates his goal for England against Scotland Photos by Rob Newell
Kurt Zouman- inching his way back to fitness

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HOLLOWAY RETURNS HOME TO QPR - Page 27

TONY MCDONALD