Night Tube given safety green light

Anti-social behaviour fears allayed thanks to transport police and station staff

BY JACK DIXON
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Safety fears over the Night Tube have been quelled after London’s transport watchdog revealed it had not received a single complaint about crime on the late-night service.

TravelWatch said the presence of transport police and station staff had eased concerns about anti-social behaviour.

The positive report comes three months after the Night Tube was launched on the Central line – providing a long-awaited late-night travel link for passengers in Shepherd’s Bush and White City. The Night Tube was dogged by fears over crime and passenger safety ahead of the launch in August.

But after 13 weeks without a serious incident, official figures suggest the service has been much safer than expected. John Stewart, deputy chairman of London Travel Watch, said: “We haven’t had any complaints yet about the Night Tube. It’s early days and complaints only come to us when they’re not satisfactorily dealt with by the operator – but it’s a good sign.

Despite concerns over anti-social behaviour and the illegal mini cab trade, London Underground managing director Mark Wild said crime on the Night Tube had been much lower than in the early evenings.

Speaking at the London Assembly’s transport committee last week, he said: “We’ve been very heartened by the fact that it’s a very safe environment. We’ve only had a handful of crimes and they don’t seem to be clustered in remote areas. Certainly the presence of 100 British Transport Police officers is very reassuring.”

Passengers travelling into central London from Hammersmith, Barons Court and Earl’s Court stations will be among the main beneficiaries when the Piccadilly line is added to the Night Tube network on December 16. The expansion will enable night-time revellers and evening workers to travel around London into the early hours of the morning on Fridays and Saturdays.

Mr Wild said London Underground would remain “vigilant” ahead of the launch and ensure the Night Tube continues to be a safe and secure environment for passengers.

“I’ve travelled on it two or three times myself,” he added. “It’s quite a vibrant environment, with a mix of people. But generally it’s very safe, as evidenced by the statistics.

“The presence of our staff is the most reassuring thing. Our stations are already quite bright and well-lit, and we put a lot of effort into additional CCTV and lighting.”

TravelWatch is anticipating a greater number of complaints about noise pollution when the Night Tube is extended to the Northern and Piccadilly lines.

London Underground is working to keep noise levels below 50 decibels but the watchdog warned that exceeding the World Health Organisation standard of 35 decibels risked angering residents.

London Underground has received 37 unique complaints about noise on the Night Tube since its launch in August.

Mr Wild added: “There’s more to do and we are ever vigilant. My commitment is not going to stop there because it’s essential that we are good neighbours. I do realise that running a tube service at night could be disruptive but so far I’ve been very impressed with our response.”
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 behind, Dr Foued 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 amount of fat from other parts of the body to create the desired shape and size.

But he says his philosophy is built on one key goal: to ensure his patients’ complete satisfaction while offering the highest levels of comfort and safety.

Dr Hamza has published numerous scientific articles on the subject and has been involved in several medical projects that have developed into key research papers within the field. Alongside his commitments as a speaker at industry seminars and conventions, he is currently participating in a range of clinical studies and regularly trains new surgeons in body and breast reconstructive and cosmetic surgery.

Above all, though, patient safety remains his priority and his whole team is dedicated to this approach.

He says: “My key goal is to ensure my patients are totally satisfied with the results and offer them the highest level of comfort and safety while under my care.

“However, as with all cosmetic surgery, I highly advise the interested individual to conduct thorough research into the procedure, as it is a life-changing decision – and this sort of fat transfer will ultimately change the way you look.”
Peer quits as council leader

PHILIPPA Roe, Baroness Couttie, has announced her decision to step down as leader of Westminster City Council.

She has taken the decision following her elevation to the House of Lords this year. She was given a life peership in the New Year Honours and is the first woman to have been created a Life Peer for a local council leader in London.

A council spokesman said: “In an announcement to colleagues, she said that since becoming a working peer and now having a greater understanding of the new role, she has decided that the time is right to step down as leader of Westminster City Council and hand over the baton to someone new.”

Baroness Couttie was elected to the council in 2006 and was responsible for co-ordinating the three boroughs’ anti-discrimination and housing portfolios. With her passion for providing ladders of opportunity to local people, she was elected leader in 2012 and in 2015 launched the ambitious City for All vision to create a place of heritage, culture and opportunity where everyone should be able to enjoy the benefits of Westminster’s continuing success.

The spokesman said: “There will be a major group majority leadership election on December 7 and the subsequent appointment of the new leader of the council is expected to be approved at the full council meeting to be held on January 4. I look forward to that time it is business as usual for the council.”

Baroness Couttie said: “It was my intention and hope that I would be able to continue in my role as leader of Westminster City Council at the same time as an elected peer. It has become clear to me that the time is right to step down as leader of Westminster City Council in order to serve the best interests of Westminster, I must hand on the baton to a new leader.”

Donald Trump

The mayor’s future relationship with the president-elect is one of the most pressing questions facing the council in its new leadership, with the potential to have a profound impact on the city’s future. The mayor is a long-time supporter of the US president, and has maintained a close relationship with him throughout his tenure.

In May, the mayor said: “We have a military relationship, intelligence co-operation and, at a time when the world needs it, a deep trading relationship.”

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Mayor facing embarrassing backtrack over president-elect

SADIQ Khan faces having to make an embarrassing backtrack when President Trump makes his expected State visit to London next year.

The mayor of London is set for a sizzling time as the president-elect has warned that he would remember remarks made by Mr Khan about him – statements which he called very nasty.

Mr Trump, who will become the world’s most powerful man when he takes over as president, hit back this year after London’s first Muslim mayor warned after he was elected that the American billionaire’s “ignorant view of Islam” would make the world less safe if he became US president.

Mr Khan said in May: "Donald Trump’s ignorant view of Islam could make our country less safe – it risks alienating mainstream Muslims around the world and plays into the hands of the extremists."

"Donald Trump and those around him think that Western liberal values are incompatible with mainstream Islam – London has proved him wrong."

"We have a military relationship, intelligence co-operation and, at a time when the world needs it, a deep trading relationship."
Stop gambling with lives, Khan tells Tories

BY GEOFF BAKER geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan has called on the government to stop gambling with Londoners’ health and take immediate action on toxic air.

Following a High Court ruling that the government had broken the law by failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution, the mayor now wants to see a package of clean-up measures introduced as soon as possible.

Mr Khan, pictured, has proposed the toughest crackdown on polluting vehicles by any major city in the world. He is consulting on a wide-ranging package of measures which include a new T-charge (emissions surcharge) in the Congestion Charging Zone next year and plans to introduce the Ultra Low Emission Zone in 2019 as well as expand it up to the North-South circular. But he said he needs government help to make London breathe easier.

A spokesman for Mr Khan said: “Even with the most bold and ambitious plans in a generation from the mayor, he has made clear that it would not be acceptable for ministers to ignore their responsibilities and simply pass the buck to the mayor and London boroughs. The High Court ruling stressed that it is the government’s duty to meet the rules in full, and it showed the city’s air quality was not acceptable.

“We need action now to protect Londoners from breathing in toxic fumes. The government has been seriously complacent about this health emergency for the last six years and now is the time for them to stop gambling with our health and show real leadership.

“We urgently need a national diesel scrappage scheme and a Clean Air Act fit for the 21st century. We also need real funding prioritised for London – the muddled funding given to our boroughs is woefully insufficient. It is high time the government took this seriously.”

Barbara Stoll, senior air-quality campaigner at Greenpeace, said: “The mayor has shown great ambition when it comes to dealing with deadly air pollution in the capital but we know that citizens alone will not be able to tackle the problem. The High Court ruling has made it all the more clear that government’s attitude towards the air-pollution health crisis has been woefully inadequate.

“Number 10 must take immediate steps to get the most polluting diesel cars off our streets and hold car companies to account. It needs to provide an adequate plan and resources to help people make the switch to cleaner alternatives.

“It is time for the government to decide if they want to give our citizens the right to breathe clean air, or continue spending valuable resources on treating heart and lung diseases that could be prevented”

Cllr Julian Bell, chairman of London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, said: “Tackling air quality requires immediate attention. With more than 9,400 Londoners dying prematurely every year as a result of air pollution, it’s vital that government take urgent action now. They need to properly equip the mayor and London boroughs with the funding and resources needed to really make an impact and tackle toxic pollution. All Londoners deserve a healthier future.”

Backing for the mayor’s demand also came from Dr Penny Woods, chief executive of the British Lung Foundation. She said: “We need further and faster action to improve air quality. Thousands of early deaths in London every year are attributable to air pollution. The mayor has made a good start in tackling the problem but we need government to make this an urgent priority - it must commit to a new Clean Air Act to restrict the most polluting vehicles and bring emissions down to safe levels.”

Kay Boycott, executive of Asthma UK, said: “Around two thirds of people with asthma say pollution makes their symptoms worse, putting them at increased risk of a potentially fatal asthma attack. No-one should feel a prisoner in their own home because the air outside is so toxic it could kill them. That’s why I hope the High Court decision acts as an urgent wake-up call to the UK government to take action now.

In a letter to Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom, who was defeated in the court case, Mr Khan called for urgent action including: A 21st century Clean Air Act: New regulations would provide the overarching framework for action, drawing the law up to date to cope with the massive air-quality challenges we face today. This would provide an effectively enforceable right to clean air – standards currently enforced by the European Union and the government should introduce new powers to better regulate all sources of emissions, not just road transport, and give powers to local authorities.

National diesel scrappage scheme: Diesel is the biggest and most problematic source of nitrogen oxides emissions. A credible plan will need to include the pace at which diesel vehicles are phased out. A diesel scrappage scheme is essential if converting to cleaner vehicles is to be made affordable for motorists and businesses. It is only right that the government provides this help – given that national policy has encouraged the shift to diesel over many years, it is only right that government takes on more apprenticeships in the years to come.

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Vehicle Excise Duty and other fiscal reforms: Before Clean Air Zone measures to tackle diesel emissions are introduced it is essential that national policy is pulling in the same direction.

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Additional powers: London needs additional powers to manage toxic emissions such as pollution from construction sites and river traffic – for example, additional powers to implement construction and river low-emissions zones similar to those used for road vehicles.

Greater funding for City Hall and boroughs: The government should recognise that London’s air-quality challenges are linked to a national problem and provide the appropriate support. This should include a share of Levies on new construction on extra funding to improve national and city-wide air-quality measures. Additional funding for local authorities should also be made available to implement air-quality grants programmes.

A survey carried out by the British Chambers of Commerce discovered that four out of ten businesses have no understanding of or have not heard of the levy, which is quite worrying. What’s not in doubt is the importance of the levy. Big business has complained that it’s another tax on them, but it’s essential if we are to have enough skilled people to meet the needs of employers.

The funds these big firms will put into the levy pot is the same standard of what happened in early 20th century industries, such as shipbuilding. Hundreds of companies took on more apprentices than they had jobs, because they knew the extra costs would be dumped on local companies, usually in their own supply chain, once they had completed their training.

This altruistic approach has, in the 21st century, been transformed into an inevitable necessity due to the low levels of vocational training happening in recent decades.

But now the Government has taken the issue by the scruff of the neck, we need to make sure that whatever training is delivered is of the same standard and meets the needs of employers.

Two recent reports, by the IPPR and Policy Exchange have added to the concern that quality is being overlooked in the rush to create more chances for young people to gain skills while they earn.

Young people need to be confident that the quality of training they receive is of the same standard, whatever provider or employer they secure their apprenticeship with.

Even though the levy is designed to help create more apprenticeships in smaller firms, without confidence in the system, young people will be naturally attracted to schemes offered by big, well-known companies, even if their offering isn’t up to scratch.
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 Caribbean 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 ferocious 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.

“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 inequality a higher priority and we want to play our full part in helping them achieve that through this manifesto.”

Everyone has right to mental health care

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 raise funds
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, 226 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 365078 or email him at this address: jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FACTS AND STATS

• Black Caribbeans make up seven per cent of the population in Lambeth but account for 17 per cent of people who have serious mental illnesses.

• Just over a quarter of people in Lambeth identify as Black African or Caribbean, but half of residents in high security and two thirds of those in low and medium security psychiatric detention come from these groups.

• Around £70 million is spent on mental health in Lambeth every year, but around two thirds goes into hospital care and only a tiny fraction is invested in prevention.

• Nationwide, black men are 17 times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious mental health illness than white men.

• The UK suicide rate for 16 to 24-year-old women of Asian origin was three times as high as white women of the same age.

ASIAN PEOPLE

• The statistics are inconsistent but experts have suggested that mental health problems are often undiagnosed.

• Asian people tend to have better rates of recovery from schizophrenia than other ethnic groups.

• Suicide is low among Asian men and older people but high in young women.

• Close family ties ingrained into Asian culture may be beneficial in reducing the impact of mental health problems. However, this may lead to stigmatisation and a feeling that people may be unable to seek help.

IRISH PEOPLE

• Irish people living in the UK have much higher hospital admission rates for mental health problems than other ethnic groups.

• In particular, they have higher rates of depression and alcohol problems, and are at greater risk of suicide.

• This may be due to higher levels of social disadvantage among Irish people, including poor housing and social isolation.

SOURCES: Young Minds; The Mental Health Foundation; Lambeth Black Health and Wellbeing Commission
Closing street to traffic will cut killer pollution by third, says research

BY GEOFF BAKER geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CLOSING Oxford Street to all traffic will reduce killer pollution in the area by the 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 the first time as part of the National grooming for Thames this summer, which highlights the most polluted streets, and London mayors Sadiq Khan is being urged by health campaigners to bring forward his plan to ban all vehicles.

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 over a year ago. After just a few hours of the street being closed to traffic, levels of nitrogen dioxide went from a seasonal average of 10 μg/m³ to 6 μg/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, TRL 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, formerly owned by the second-longest-reigning emperor was sold on Wednesday for almost £2 million.

The Supreme Number One is an “exquisitely crafted” musket created for the Qianlong Emperor of the Manchu Qing dynasty.

He was the longest-living and second-longest-serving emperor in Chinese history, sitting on the throne from 1736 to 1795.

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, or 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 tenmoku bowl which is thought to be almost 900 years old sold for £1.085m against a lower estimate of £300,000. An imperial jade from the Qianlong dynasty sold for £1.145m against a £500,000 estimate.

Tea dance is hit with OAPs

MORE than 1000 pensioners dined on high tea and danced to a big band in the Grand Room at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane.

Westminster City Council’s Tea Dance is a free event designed to tackle isolation and loneliness in the borough – and guests, in full evening wear, had a stellar time.

The afternoon spectacular is supported by the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, a charity that helps isolated older people in the city.

The event was staged in London, with full band recitation, and The Three Belles filled the dance floor in London’s largest ballroom and for an evening, with a fancy-dress contest.

A third of last year’s guests said they rarely get out of the house, with 86 per cent saying that they met new people and felt part of their community as a result of the event.

One guest, 104-year-old Lillian, collected a bumper Christmas hamper, donated by Fortnum & Mason, for being the oldest resident in attendance. She said: “I look forward to the Tea Dance every year. It’s wonderful to see nearly 1000 people on the dance floor, with help from the police cadets ensuring everyone has a partner. Thanks to the organisers, the day is very special.”

Local resident Anthony Mann, 88, said: “Absolutely great day out. We are treated like kings. Many thanks to Cllr Christabel Flight and her team who put on a spectacular bash.”

Cllr Flight said: “I hope that the Tea Dance can help to alleviate feelings of isolation, even if only for an afternoon.”

A 1.95m musket.

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There were 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: “When you go home, tell them of us and say ‘for your tomorrow, we gave our today’.”

That was the blessing of Remembrance Day, freedom. And for the privilege of it, there will always be the sounding of the Last Post.
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.
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 serviceman – 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 Yeomany’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 Wellingon 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 1901.

Now based at Fulham House, near Putney Bridge station, it was amalgamated with the Berkshire Yeomany 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 Yeomany 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 Yeomany is the only British Army reserve unit to have received a battle honour since the Second World War - in Iraq in 2003.
Queen rocker blasts the council over leaf blowers

BY GEOFF BAKER
goeflondonweeklynews.co.uk

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 lashed out at 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.

Went 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 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 been down 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 the 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.

“Uneventful 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, one 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.

URN of ashes isn’t with the rubbish

HAS anyone accidentally put a loved one out with the bin bags?

London rubbish clearance company Enviro Waste has launched a public appeal to find the owner of an urn which was discovered full of ashes in a waste bag.

The ornate urn, pictured, was found amongst November 4 after Envirowaste bin men werecataloging what among a week’s worth of collections was worthy of restoration or repurposing.

But the company has no idea who put it out or where and they are losing sleep with worry about how to get the ashes back to their owner.

“The nature of a multi-pick up means that the waste collectors visited multiple sites which makes it almost impossible to track who the urn belongs to,” said a spokesman.

“Envirowaste is appealing to the public for any information on anyone they know in the London area who has lost or misplaced an urn.”

EnviroWaste.co.uk has created a contact page with an image of the urn, for members of the public who may have any information to share: http://www.envirowaste.co.uk/feeds/news/public-appeal-to-reunite-ornate-urn-with-its-owner.aspx

James Rubin, owner of Enviro Waste, said: “It’s very sad to think that someone may be missing a loved one’s remains and even if discarding the urn wasn’t a mistake, I know I would sleep better at night knowing we did all we could to reunite the urn with its owner.

“The urn itself is beautiful and in very good condition so my gut feeling is that it was cherished and probably not meant to be discarded. I hope that our appeal is successful because I’m not sure what we would do with it.”

Call to ban ‘killer lorries’

FOLLOWING recent cycling death tragedies an urgent call has gone to Sadiq Khan to ban 35,000 “killer lorries” from London as soon as possible.

London Assembly member Caroline Russell made the demand after speaking at a vigil held at City Hall in response to the death of Italian prince Filippo Corsini, who was killed in a collision with an HGV in Knightsbridge.

Following the vigil, supporters of the Stop Killing Cyclists campaign cycled to the spot near Knightsbridge Tube where the 21-year-old died, which came only eight days after fellow Italian Luciana Ciciolli was also killed by a lorry as she cycled to work through Battersea.

“These tragic, preventable road deaths are devastating families across London and the world,”said Ms Russell, who cycles regularly and sits on the London Assembly’s transport committee.

“I stand with campaigners to highlight the unnecessary heartbreak of deaths caused by heavy goods vehicles.

“I urge the Mayor to bring forward his star rating for HGVs before the proposed date of 2020. We cannot wait four more years before these killer lorries are taken off our roads. We already know what a dangerous lorry looks like, why not bring forward the removal of the 35,000 zero star-rated ‘off-road’ HGVs operating in London?

“I am also calling on the Mayor to clarify what criteria will be used for his star rating system, at the moment what will be considered a ‘good’ three-star rating is unclear.”

According to recent data – based on London’s roads in 2014 and 2015 – HGVs were involved in 22.5 per cent of pedestrian fatalities and 58 per cent of cyclist fatalities, despite making up only 4 per cent of miles driven in London. A major factor in many of these fatalities was vehicle design and drivers having a limited field of vision.
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 borrowed from market traders and balloons 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,” added Lodge.

The council had kindly agreed to turn off the lighting in the building for 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 everyone 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.

Happy Birthday to a much-loved institution. Local residents arranged for the building to be lit up for the evening.

Local residents put on Victorian dress for the party and a birthday tea, with the obligatory cake, below, was laid out upstairs at KPH

Carnival passport
THE world-famous Notting Hill Carnival is now more world-famous than ever – it’s starring in the new UK passport.

An image of a costume designed by Carnival legend Clary Salandy has been chosen by the Government to illustrate the new passport’s focus on British success in art, culture, innovation, architecture and performance over the last 500 years.

The costume is one of the designs for the band Anthem which celebrated 50 years of Trinidad and Tobago independence and won the Notting Hill Carnival Band of the Year title in 2012.

Clary has been creating breathtaking and award-winning costumes for Carnival for 30 years with her art and design production company Mahogany, formed with her husband Michael Ramdeen. Their magnificent designs have featured in the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics and The Queen’s Golden Jubilee, where they won much acclaim.

Clary, who was awarded the MBE in 2014 for her services to the arts and is also Artistic Director of the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, was surprised when she learned that her design would feature in the passport as an example of what the Government praised as “pioneering work in the creative industries”.

She said: “It was a half-hour photo shoot outside our workshop and we had no idea if it would be included.”

“It is a triumph for the Caribbean community,” said Clary, whose work now features in the passport alongside a watermark of Shakespeare, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, works by painter John Constable and images of longitude clock inventor John Harrison, architect Giles Gilbert Scott, mathematician Charles Babbage, and the Stephenson Rocket.

An evening without Alan Bennett
A NATIONAL treasure will be missing from Kensington Central Library next month when it presents a very special virtual author event, ‘An Audience Without Alan Bennett’.

On Thursday December 1, from 6.30pm to 7.45pm, residents will be able to take part in an authorless evening celebrating Alan Bennett’s work and new book of collected prose and diary entries Keeping On, Keeping On.

The evening will consist of video appearances by the author, and extracts from his new book read by an actor playing Alan Bennett.

“Audience members will be called on at points during the evening to read diary entries aloud, covering themes such as politics, everyday life, being a writer and getting older, in what promises to be an engaging, human, sharp, funny and unforgettable record of life according to the inimitable Alan Bennett,” said a library spokeswoman.

Kensington Central Library has been selected as one of only 20 libraries around the country to participate in the virtual author event. Tickets are free and are available from all Kensington and Chelsea Libraries. Booking in advance is essential.

The evening is supported by The Reading Agency and Bennett’s publishers, Profile Book and Faber & Faber.

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 injury. 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.

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Television chiefs set to dash Harry’s wish for less exposure

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

Instead, all that Harry’s double-plus accomplished PR team can do is to try keep him out of the headlines – a thankless and now impossible task following the prince’s insistence that his Press people issue a 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 grandparents, father, mother, brother and sister-in-law have each in their time issued statements condemning newspapers and, especially, paparazzi.

But the statement from Kensington Palace is an interesting document and is worth reading in full as it indicates a probable end of the especially controversial relationship between Harry and the media.

Since he was young, 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 on anything really regretting any fictional stories that are written about him and he has worked hard to develop a professional 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.

“Soem of this has been very public – the smear on the front page of a national newspaper; the racial undercurrents of comment pieces; and the outright sexism and racism of social-media trolls and web article comments.

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

“Prince Harry is worried 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.

“He knows commentators will say this is ‘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.

“He has asked for this statement to be issued in the hopes that those in the Press who has not made this clear will see this story can pause and reflect before any further damage is done.

“He knows that it will finish combatting this image but, before a few months into a relationship with him, he feels that this is not the case.

“It will be interesting to see whether Harry’s relationship with the media can be patched up after all. Some fear it will not be.

Geoff Baker
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 superm a’amket 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 £8.99 at Selfridges. Buckingham Palace Christmas pudding is priced at £4.95, also less than other top own brands – £6.55 at Fortnum & Mason, £8.95 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, £39.95 at Harrods and £59.99 at Selfridges.

The Queen’s essential festive foods are just some of a whole range of Christmas gifts, 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 in 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 £9.95 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 lamb’s wool, printed with the royal crest and yours for £125.
When Paul McCartney was conducting Press interviews in the 90s for the three album that made up The Beatles Anthology compilation of all of the group's repackaging and remastering of previously unreleased outtakes for the three album that made up The Beatles Anthology, he joked that Scrapping The Bottom Of The Barrel. The Anthology albums, made up of previously unreleased outtakes and different versions of hit songs, pretty much trawled what was left on the shelf and it seemed unlikely that there was much left to put out. And yet Apple's genius for repackaging and remastering proved that the Beatles' supremacy as the world's most successful rock band was unending and successful at least other albums followed Anthology and became hits — including the remix mash-up Love, the soundtrack to the Cirque du Soleil show, the original stripped-back production of Let It Be — Let It Be Nuked — and the compilation of all of the group's chart-toppers which sold millions 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 from 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. They 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 distressed 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 radio and television host Melvin Odoom (series 14). The Christmas special, which will be hosted by Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman, will also mark Len Goodman’s last appearance on the judging panel.

Madeleine Peyroux
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Sunday November 20 One of the defining vocalists of modern jazz, Peyroux is a gifted lyricist and an enchanting performer. Performing alongside a trio of skilled musicians at the Royal Festival Hall will give her the platform to play a starring role this weekend. Often compared to Billie Holiday, the Parisian singer released her latest album Secular Hymns this year.

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'I'll always consider Jamie my boy'

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 13-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 home-made olive oil cake with raspberry coulis, baked especially for the occasion by his daughter Chloe.

'I'm 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 Focacetta, 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
- 40g melted butter, cooled
- 2tbsp double cream
- 50g sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped
- Handful of basil leaves
- Salt
- 1/2tsp black pepper
- 120g baby tomatoes, leave the stalks on a few

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 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.
SLICE of the West End is coming to Penge, when Sean Grennan and Leah Okimo's Another Night Before Christmas has its British premiere at the Bridge House Theatre, avvies Nicky Suerland.

The family musical will star two big names of the London stage with Britain's Got Talent favourite Rachel Wooding (We Will Rock You, Evita, Jersey Boys) teaming up with Olivier winner George Maguire (Sunny Afternoon, Godspell, The Bookshop Opera) to take on the heartwarming tale within the intimate auditorium.

The Bridge House Theatre is within a traditional Victorian pub on Penge High Street and is run by acclaimed director Guy Retallick, celebrated producer Rob Harris and West End leading lady Rachel Tucker, who is currently playing the green witch Elphaba in Wicked at the Apollo Victoria. The award-winning team scored huge success previously at the theatre, with It's A Wonderful Life and A Christmas Carol, 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 young 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 scrappily-bearded “homeless” man to whom she gives her bag of leftover office party food. “She gives him some of her left-over 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 retaining 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 21. See biitheatre.com.

Direction proves a letdown

All My Sons
Rose Theatre, Kingston
**

STAGING a classic play by one of the world’s most revered playwrights is always a brave undertaking – but that’s the task Michael Rudman has attempted at the Rose Theatre, Kingston with a revival of All My Sons, Arthur Miller’s classic play, avvies Nicky Suerland.

The play is set in the aftermath of the Second World War. Miller’s moral idealism is infinitely apparent within this 1947 work, with a general theme of man’s responsibility towards his fellow men but also undertones of greed and ever-increasing social con-sumerism.

We find ourselves in the Keller’s backyard, the epicentre of the local community, with an affulent family whose eldest son went missing in the war and whose surviving boy, Chris, now wants to marry his brother’s former girl.

A mother who refuses to accept the loss of her son, a father whose wartime business dealings are suspect and a young son who has never been able to escape from his sibling’s shadow greet us.

Miller’s ability to swiftly and honestly portray the full depths of each character makes audiences become fully immersed in the story from the outset and it becomes easy to understand the intricacies of the relationships within this seemingly average family.

Sadly, however, the direction of this production detracts from the clever interplay between the close family members, with some inexplicable movements which make it feel as if you are watching a complicated game of musical chairs.

The playing area used is far too small, which means much of Michael Taylor’s glorious set is wasted. There are also some real faux pas, with a stagehand blocking an entering actor and a character seemingly forgetting in which house he resides.

The play itself has flaws and a couple of the incidental characters offer nothing to the action and at times add to the pedestrian nature of some of the sequences. That said, this is a powerful play which raises questions about materialism, family loyalties and the pressure to succeed which are still applicable to our contemporary lives.

Perhaps, after a few more performances, some of the issues will be ironed out to make this a more professional-feeling production.

All My Sons continues at the Rose Theatre until Saturday. For more details, visit rosetheatrekingston.org/whats-on/all-my-sons.

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The Last Five Years
St James Theatre

IT’S slightly unusual for a composer to present his own musical, particularly when it’s been performed successfully on previous occasions, writes Nicky Sweetland.

That is the challenge Jason Robert Brown has undertaken with The Last Five Years at the St James Theatre. The acclaimed song cycle is being performed at the venue, which has just been purchased by Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Really Useful Theatre group and is soon to change its name to The Other Palace. The theatre will become a hub for new musical theatre writing, with contemporary pieces being given a place to showcase.

The Last Five Years perfectly illustrates the need for further development of the art form of new musical theatre, with modern themes and characters being taken out by excellent performers and a story told through song. The musical, which was adapted into a film in 2014, has a feel of Sondheim’s Merry We Roll Along, with the structure taking the form of a journey through time. Cathy (Samantha Barks) is a failing actress who struggles with the jealousy of her husband’s literary success. Jamie (Jonathan Bailey) is a self-absorbed author who begins their relationship with good intentions but eventually succumbs to the needs of his ego.

His story moves from the couple meet to the point of the break-up and Cathy the other way around, with the pair only meeting briefly in the middle for a marriage scene. Other than that, the show is really a collection of solos, telling both sides of the same relationship with little interplay. While both performers work to their strengths, it lacks the flow of a more joined-up plot.

Brown’s direction adds to the stunted pace, with a clunky set hindering rather than helping the action and the elevated projections hugely detracting from the actors’ characterful portrayals. Having said that, Ba St James Theatre with powerful vocals and Bailey is also投资，playing more of a classic musical-comedy role, reminiscent of Dick Van Dyke or Tommy Steele. He’s not the best singer – but with an abundance of charm and a fantastic affinity with the audience, the slightly forced upper register is easily forgiven.

This is a nice show, with lovely bits of music and charming performances, but it just lacks the wow factor.

The Last Five Years continues at the St James Theatre until December 3. For more details, visit stjamestheatre.co.uk/theatre/last-5-years.

BELLOWED British movie Brassed Off will receive a special 21st birthday screening next year, including a pre-show Q&A and the film’s score played live by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band – all on the iconic stage where its famous finale takes place.

The 1996 film, starring Stephen Tompkinson, Ewan McGregor, Tara Fitzgerald and Pete Postlethwaite, comes to the Royal Albert Hall for a one-off performance on Tuesday May 9. That will make it the first British movie to get the venue’s film-and-live-music treatment. Its climax takes place at the London venue, where the proud miners who comprise a South Yorkshire colliery band compete in the National Brass Band Championships.

Stephen said: “I’m incredibly proud to have been part of the team that brought Brassed Off to the screen, and I can’t wait to see it again, in the Royal Albert Hall of all places. The chance to hear the Grimethorpe Colliery Band accompanying the film live will make for an unforgettable evening.”

Lucy Noble, director of events at the Royal Albert Hall, said: “We’re delighted to present this celebration of one of the nation’s favourite movies, in the company of the stellar cast and featuring the band whose experiences made for such a funny, poignant and powerful real-life drama.”

Though the film is set at the Royal Albert Hall and features external shots of the famous venue, the interiors were filmed at Birmingham Town Hall after the makers struggled to get permission to shoot their then-little-known project.

The film’s incidental and mood music will be performed by members of the world-renowned Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Brassed Off was the surprise box-office hit of 1996. It was nominated for three BAFTAs and won nine international film awards.

For more information about the Brassed Off 21st birthday celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall, visit royalalberthall.com.

Bat Out Of Hell rides into London Coliseum

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). For the stage musical, the legendary and award-winning Steinman has incorporated iconic songs from the Bat Out Of Hell albums, including You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth, Bat Out Of Hell, 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-apocalyptic city afloat from the mainland.

Strat, the forever-young leader of The Lost, has fallen for Raven, daughter of Falco, the tyrannical ruler of Obsidian.

Bat Out Of Hell – The Musical will run at the London Coliseum from June 5 to July 22. For more information, visit BatOutOfHellMusical.com.

Bat Out Of Hell II: Back Into Hell – The Musical
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 McArthur 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 The Thames established the level of humour with their hit Women Up and were followed by an equally waggish performance from comedian Sooz Kempner.

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 Molieres 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 Dancer In The Dark, 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 donjuansoho.com.

Stephen Daldry’s multi-award-winning production of JB Priestley’s classic thriller An Inspector Calls has returned to the West End for a limited season.

Hailed the theatrical event of its generation, winning more awards than any other production in history, An Inspector Calls has thrilled more than four million people worldwide.

Daldry said of the production’s return to London: “Each time we have mounted this production it seems more relevant than the last, with the refugee crisis, the European referendum debate and American elections. You can’t fail to see the genius of Priestley’s writing.”

An Inspector Calls is running at the Playhouse Theatre until February 4. For more details, visit playhousetheatrelondon.com/an-inspector-calls.
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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 utility 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, the northbound 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) (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.
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Dated this 8th day of November 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Hammersmith Embankment
Site Known As ‘Fulham Reach’ Land, Shepherds Bush Road, Distillery Road And
Church Road, London W6 7NA
Replacement of all existing softwood windows to double-glazed softwood windows

52 Hammersmith Grove
London W6 7HA
Replacement of all existing softwood windows to double-glazed softwood windows

47 Tabor Road London W6 0BG
Erection of a rear extension involving an additional floor at roof level; elevation of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing maisonette.

37 Broadway Bar And Grill
78 Overstone Road London W14 0QJ
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; elevation of a rear extension at second floor level; and excavation and some external alterations.

46 Avonmore Road
London W14 5RS
Erection of a rear extension at lower ground floor level; and elevation of a rear extension at second floor level.

21 - 27 Seagrave Road London W6 7NX
Complete demolition of no. 222 Shepherds Bush Road and Avenue House; and demolition of an ancillary building including existing boundary.

1A Grimston Road
London W6 6AQ
Submission of reserved matters relating to plans for additional floor at roof level in connection with the ‘Erection of an additional floor at roof level;’

2016/04581/RES

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

37 Aldensley Road London W6 7NX
Complete demolition of no. 222 Shepherds Bush Road and Avenue House; and demolition of an ancillary building including existing boundary.

14 - 16 Peterborough Road London W6 7TG
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level; and excavation and some external alterations.

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

47 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 7DN
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; and demolition works.

2016/04736/FUL

5th December 2016.

26 Castletown Road London W14 9HQ
2016/04606/RES
Submission of reserved matters relating to plans for additional floor at roof level in connection with the ‘Erection of an additional floor at roof level;’

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

30a & 30b Castletown Road London W14 9HL
2016/04722/FUL
Submission of reserved matters relating to plans for additional floor at roof level in connection with the ‘Erection of an additional floor at roof level;’

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

2016/04786/FUL

5th December 2016.

66 Conger Road London W3 7TA
2016/04604/FUL
Submission of reserved matters relating to plans for additional floor at roof level in connection with the ‘Erection of an additional floor at roof level;’

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

2016/04702/FUL

5th December 2016.

Flat 9 45 Nile Street London SW6 6NH
2016/04782/FUL
Submission of reserved matters relating to plans for additional floor at roof level in connection with the ‘Erection of an additional floor at roof level;’

5th December 2016. See below for details of the Planning Inquiry.

2016/04724/FUL

5th December 2016.

14 - 16 Peterborough Road London W6 7RH
2016/04796/ADV
Display of new double-glazed window name signage to replace existing signage and lettering and numbering on the flank walls at ground floor level.

2016/04715/ADV

5th December 2016.

FLAT 4 2016/04795/FUL

5th December 2016.

FLAT 5 2016/04798/FUL

5th December 2016.

FLAT 6 2016/04799/FUL

5th December 2016.

FLAT 7 2016/04800/FUL

5th December 2016.
By Toyn Macdonald

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 earned 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 going.”

“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 us? 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 that is the reality of it. holloway’s love affair with QPR and non-league players.

His return to Shepherd’s Bush as manager Ian Holloway takes on a mixture of free transfers, trialists and non-league players.

R’s achieved an eighth-place finish in Division Two in 2001-02, followed by a fourth place finish the following campaign and ultimately their first promotion to the Championship.

Since leaving QPR over a decade ago, Holloway’s career has been full of ups and downs. He has overseen promotions with Blackpool (2009-10) and Crystal Palace (2012-13), while also enduring relegations with Blackpool (2010-11) and Leicester City (2007-08).

Despite his experiences in the Premier League budget by a considerable margin, his Blackpool side played attractive football but ultimately finished just one point off safety. Tangerines scored as many goals as Tottenham that season (55), also completing a league double but they failed to find the balance between attack and defence, which resulted in them conceding a costly league-high 78 goals.

But Holloway has never been one to dwell on setbacks. A year after dropping out of the top flight, he guided Blackpool to the Championship play-off final in 2012, where they were unlucky to lose 2-1 to West Ham.

A move to Crystal Palace followed in November 2012 and once again, Holloway was back at Wembley at the end of the season, where his entertaining Eagles beat Watford 1-0.

In fact, no manager has won promotion via the second tier play-offs more times than Holloway (his achievements in this respect equaling those of Bruce Rioch, Steve Coppell, Steve Bruce and Sam Allardyce).

But after guiding Palace to the top flight, Holloway left in October 2013 having lost seven of his first eight league games.

He now needs to put his last experience in management quickly behind him. At Millwall, Holloway struggled and despite a decent start to the 2014-15 campaign, in which Lions won four of their first seven games, their form plummeted and he was unable to halt their slide, winning just four more times in the subsequent 33 matches before he was dismissed in March 2015.

Since then he has seen plenty of QPR in action while working as a TV pundit for Sky Sports.

Now he is back in the pressure cooker environment. Who knows what Ian Holloway will do at Rangers three time around.

Whatever happens, it won’t be dull.

Stats courtesy of QPR fan and Opta Stats Editor Jack Supple via www.qpr.co.uk

Pioneers on the pitch and that’s how it works. And it suits us, 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 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 well and they 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 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 go 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 that 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.”

“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.”

But about his own future? “I don’t look at that. I 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.”

Jody Morris’ U-18s, FA Youth Cup winners for the past three seasons, start their defence of the trophy with a home match against Cardiff City at Aldershot on December 17.

Chelsea youngster Jake Clarke-Salter is enjoying his spell on loan to Bristol Rovers. Photo by Ron Newell
**Zouma closer to recall**

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 13-12, 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 Maguire, 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 4-1 hammering of Estonia on Sunday – the first goal Thibaut Courtois has conceded for Belgium since his 3-1 win over Russia in the World Cup qualifier 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. He’s simply down the pecking order and has had a series of loan deals, most recently a disappointing time in Italy with AC Milan.

Viveash expects him to head out of SW6 again on loan in January.

“Marco 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.

“He would be 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 Quinones – 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 baying for it behind the goal, it was great.”

Viveash can see the merits of the Trophy competition: “We have of course 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

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**SPORT**

Tuesday November 15 2016 • SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

**HOLLOWAY RETURNS HOME TO QPR**

**FULLHAM pay respects to war heroes**

FULLHAM 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 Rudderham Town (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 adorned 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 French-born George Wheatcroft, Emir Thompson, William Borland, Fred Waterson, Harry Robb and Roy Sleep, and William Maughan in World War One, and Dennis Higgins, George Fairbairn, Jimmy Temple, Ernest Tucket and Jimmy Tomkins in World War Two.

Piper said: “It’s important to realise how much soldiers sacrificed and it’s important to do everything we can to remember the brave soldiers. The ceremony at Fulham Cemetery is a great way to unite our local community and pay our respects.”

Fans 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 takes 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 respects.”

Striker Woodrow added: “It’s really important that we remember the sacrifices made on behalf of our country. We do try to pass on our respect to all the soldiers who lost their lives in battle. It’s been a hundred years since the Battle of the Somme took place and it’s important 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.”

Toby McDonald