Firm urged to act after tower blaze

MP leads calls for manufacturer to recall faulty tumble dryers

**By Jack Dixon**

Whirlpool is under increasing pressure to recall millions of faulty tumble dryers after a huge fire at a tower block in Shepherd’s Bush sparked national outrage.

MPs, lawyers, fire chiefs and local government officials turned up the heat on the company following last month’s blaze.

Customers were warned against “playing Russian roulette” with the manufacturer’s “death trap” models.

More than 100 flats were evacuated and two were completely destroyed after one of the company’s dryers caught fire at Shepherd’s Court on August 19.

No one was seriously hurt in the blaze but 26 families spent several days in temporary accommodation and nine are still unable to return to their homes.

Whirlpool’s current safety advice is that dryers that are due to be repaired can still be used if closely monitored.

But Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter has led calls for all faulty products to be recalled immediately.

Speaking in the House of Commons, he said: “I simply do not understand how that advice can be continued.

“It is not right that these dryers, with their known faults, continue in use even if there is somebody in the house that is...
A big conversation kicks off in the ‘human library’

LONDON is often described as the world’s most diverse city, a melting pot of different cultures, races and religions. But how well do we really know each other?

“Sometimes it is not until you actually sit down and have a conversation with someone that you gain a better understanding,” says Ann-Marie Ruddock, who is heading up a new initiative in Hammersmith and Fulham that aims to break down our negative misconceptions.

The 55-year-old, who works as a project co-ordinator at the Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre, is masterminding the launch of the borough’s first ‘human library’.

Instead of selecting books from a shelf, visitors pick a real-life person to speak to about their experiences.

From unemployment to depression, visual impairment to abortion, individuals representing all kinds of different groups in society have signed up to take part in the project.

Ann-Marie says she hopes to kick off a big conversation between people from all walks of life.

“The idea is to challenge discrimination, stigma and prejudice, all of those negative preconceptions about particular groups that we sometimes have,” she says.

“Sometimes it only takes a 15 or 20-minute discussion with someone to absolutely destroy those preconceived ideas you had prior to meeting that person.

“For example, we have someone who is HIV positive who is keen to be involved because he just wants to have a platform to talk about living with HIV and quash any myths that are out there.”

The human library initiative began in Denmark in 2000 but is now being rolled out around the world.

The Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre has secured funding to run its own project for 10 months, including a series of workshop events in community centres, schools and local libraries.

Fifteen people have already signed up as ‘books’ for the launch event at Lyric Square on September 28.

“We loved the idea and found that it wasn’t happening in Hammersmith and Fulham so we applied for funding through the Big Lottery,” says Ann-Marie.

“The best way to challenge ideas is through dialogue. It’s about awareness, information and spreading knowledge.”

Ann-Marie, who lives in Fulham, spent much of her career in the music industry.

She became a chart-topping pop star in the 1980s as the lead singer with the group Amazulu, who had a string of hits including Too Good To Be Forgotten and Excitable.

The group also released a cover of the ska standard Wonderful World, Beautiful People – a mantra that is now driving her work with the human library project.

“I believe very strongly in volunteering and the whole community helping each other,” she said.

“We get so much of our information from the media and sometimes that can be really biased.

“It’s sad actually because it can be quite negative towards these people. I do believe in the mantra of walk a mile in my shoes before you judge me.”

The first Human Library event took place at a Lyric Square on Wednesday September 28 between 11am and 4pm.
**Cancer event**

A BREAST cancer awareness event is taking place in Shepherd’s Bush for women with learning disabilities and their carers.

The information and advice event is being supported by the Yarrow housing group, Hammersmith and Fulham council, Hammersmith and Fulham Mencap and the Imperial College NHS Trust. It takes place on Monday, October 31 at the Elen Centre between 2pm and 5pm.

**Nappy days**

MORE than 200 professional exhibitors will take part in the event – from breastfeeding tips to first aid advice.

The exhibition, supported by parental support website MadeForMums, takes place between October 21 and 23.

**Cut above**

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham salons have been nominated as finalists in the London Hair and Beauty awards.

Nara Health and Beauty, The Bridge Comedy Club, Pomegranate Pe’Dour Nail Bar and Bliss Spa London were named among the capital’s top specialists.

Winners will be announced during a black tie ceremony at the London Marriott in Grosvenor Square on October 2.

**Mobile raiders**

POLICE have warned people in Fulham to be “aware” after a series of incidents involving moped riders stealing mobile phones.

Local officers reported two incidents in the last two weeks – one involving a man who had been snatched from his hands.

Sergeant Kevin Fagan, a member of the Safer neighbourhood Team for Fulham Reach and Palace Riverside, tweeted: “Please be aware of your surroundings.”

**Weed warming**

PAVEMENTS around the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham are so covered in weeds that they are threatening to resemble a scene from The Day of the Triffids, according to a local councillor.

Councillor Harry Phibbs compared the borough’s streets to the science fiction novel in which mankind succumbs to an invasion of murderous plants.

He highlighted problems in Overstone Road and claimed that weeds growing through cracks in the ground were now “out of control”.

**We’re on TV**

FULHAM streets are set to appear on the small screen after scenes from the new series of ITV’s G Ambachers were filmed in the borough.

Cats, costumes and props helped to transport Kempson Road back in time for the 1950s scene.

Earlier episodes of the series were shot at Fulham Town Hall as it was transformed into a police station and cells.

**Regional round-up**

**Makers urged to recall tumble dryers**

FROM PAGE 1

awake and alert because we know … that if one catches fire then there may be nothing you can do to prevent your own property and your neighbour’s properties from burning down.”

The Local Government Association backed up the call and said that lengthy repair programmes were putting the lives of millions of customers at risk.

It said three fires a year in England and Wales were being caused by tumble dryers.

Councillor Jeremy Hilton, chair of the LGA’s fire services management committee, said: “People using faulty tumble dryers are unwittingly playing Russian roulette and leading manufacturers need to recall affected models as soon as possible to protect their customers.”

“These defective products are endangering lives, causing thousands of pounds of damage to homes and making people homeless. People’s safety must be the priority.”

The worst damage was caused by the fires on the eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th floors of the building on the Charecroft Estate.

The London Fire Brigade has demanded that Whirlpool changes its safety advice to protect customers after law firm Leigh Day is running a major campaign, Expect It’s Safe, to promote product safety.

Solicitor Thomas Jervis, who is representing the family whose allegedly faulty dryer sparked the blast, added: “Until companies are made to recall dangerous faulty products there is the possibility that this could happen again.”

“We urge the Government to do all they can to ensure that manufacturers are held to account and that faulty products are recalled swiftly.”

Meanwhile, local councillor Sue Fennimore, who rushed to the scene during the fire and has been working to support affected residents, said it was a “disgrace” that Whirlpool had not instructed its customers to stop using its dryers.

She added: “Their failure to warn residents has left the council and the London Fire Brigade to pick up the pieces.”

“I don’t want anyone else to face the heartbreaking that Shepherd’s Court residents had when they lost their homes and possessions. If Whirlpool won’t act, the Government must stop dithering and take action to protect customers across the UK.”

A Whirlpool spokesman said: “The safety of consumers is our number one priority and we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the tumble dryer modification programme is carried out in a safe and timely manner.”

“We urge everyone who owns an Indesit, Hotpoint or Creda dryer manufactured between April 2004 and September 2015 to contact Whirlpool if their dryer is affected and then register for a free modification if it is.”

“The London Fire Brigade has warned gummed-up tumble dryers are a potential fire risk, so we urge everyone to ensure that their tumble dryers are modified and then register for a free modification if it is.”

“Whirlpool won’t act, the Government must step in and demand that Whirlpool instructs its customers to stop using its tumble dryers.”

**Stars line up to salute sketch-show star Felix**

BY JACK DIXON

HAMMERSMITH is to host a special tribute to the life of comedy actor Felix Dexter.

Greats from across the entertainment world will take to the stage next month to honour the former Saturday night star, who died of cancer in 2013.

The one-off performance is taking place at Hammer smith Town Hall in October to mark Black History Month.

Money raised from the event will go towards building a theatre and education centre in the actor’s home country of St Kitts in the West Indies.

The Felix Dexter Charity and Memorial Foundation is appealing for Londoners to get behind its campaign.

Geoff Schuman, the charity’s chairman and a close friend of Dexter’s, explained: “He broke down the barriers which many performers had not been able to and was close to his own television series when he was struck down with cancer.”

There are a lot of events happening during Black History Month but I hope people will choose to go to this.”

Dexter died at the age of 52 after struggling with multiple myeloma – a cancer that attacks the white blood cells.

Comedy actor Felix Dexter died at the age of 52 after struggling with multiple myeloma – a cancer that attacks the white blood cells.

**Artists sought for ‘cover-up’**

ARTISTS are being invited to help create a “virtual gallery” in Fulham as part of the Tideway ‘super sewer’ project.

The Society of Fulham Artists and Potters is leading a project to plaster the 24-hour-a-day sewers around the sewer construction site with colourful artworks.

Organisers are asking local artists to contribute their paintings, drawings and sculptures of the area.

They hope to brighten up Carnwath Road, which is being used to build a drive site for the huge underground tunnel.

Patricia Watson, the society’s chairwoman, said the super sewer project provided a unique chance to show off Fulham’s artistic talent.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to make this section of Carnwath Road both attractive and offer wide exposure for local artists and their work,” she said.

“All the artists’ details will be on the Carnwath Road community website so interested residents can look them up and get in touch.”

The society plans to arrange the artwork on display every two years. The deadline for entry to the first round of entries is Friday September 30. For more information or to download an entry form visit www.sofap.co.uk

The main construction work on the tunnel is due to begin this year and is expected to take until 2022 to complete.

Workmen will be on the site 24 hours a day for 29 months of the total period, Tideway has said.

**Borough puts art on agenda**

TOWN Hall bosses have set out plans to make Hammersmith and Fulham one of the top destinations for arts and culture.

Councillors are leading a drive to promote creativity and innovation as part of the borough’s “connected borough” project.

Over the next six years, officers will work to open up the arts to more people from a wide range of backgrounds.

They also want to make the creative sector at the heart of the local economy, creating new jobs and fuelling growth.

Hammersmith and Fulham council revealed the arts strategy at a cabinet meeting earlier this month.

The local authority will consider setting up a dedicated trust to take forward its long-term “vision” for arts and culture in the borough.

Other projects include developing libraries as “cultural venues” and working with the Lyric theatre on a “cultural education partnership”.

The council is also looking to build bridges between existing community groups in the arts and culture sector.

Councillor Andrew Jones, the authority’s cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: “A thriving arts scene is good for the health of people and places. The arts can enhance personal wellbeing, build education and skills, regenerate run-down areas and make communities more cohesive. The borough is already home to a vibrant arts, culture and creative economy scene. We want to make it even better.”
It's official, none of us want to suffer air pollution poisoning

BY GEOFF BAKER
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LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has revealed that Londoners are overwhelming backing plans not to be poisoned to death by heavily-polluting lorries and buses.

The Mayor’s Office has announced that Londoners have backed the Mayor “in record numbers” to press ahead with expanding the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and introduce a major early crackdown on the most polluting vehicles to clean up the capital’s filthy air that kills thousands of people every year.

Mayor Khan has published consultation results obtaining the views of a record 15,000 Londoners – the highest number of responses to a City Hall consultation ever.

“Londoners gave him their overwhelming backing on a bold and comprehensive package of measures to tackle air quality in London,” said the Mayor’s spokesman. The Mayor is leading the way in taking urgent action to help end London’s ‘public health emergency’ after revealing that the equivalent of almost 23,000 people die each year as a result of the air they breathe in the capital.

The consultation found 81 per cent supported the charge, which would apply to all vehicles with pre-Euro 4 emissions standards – typically those registered before 2005 – and will cost an extra £10 per day on top of the existing Congestion Charge.

Other results of the consultation show that:

■ The majority of Londoners believe air pollution is a problem in the capital, particularly in central London.
■ 77 per cent want the ULEZ to be expanded further and 60 per cent London-wide for heavier commercial vehicles.
■ Londoners want to be better informed when pollution is at its worst.

Since the consultation, the Mayor has already implemented a new programme of air quality advice and alerts following strong demand from Londoners. On the day before high and very high air pollution days, alerts will now be displayed on road signs, at bus stops and station entrances.

Mayor Khan said: “A record number of Londoners responded to our consultation, which demonstrates they feel just as strongly as I do that cleaning up the capital’s killer air has to be a major priority.

“The equivalent of 9,500 Londoners die each year as a result of the air they breathe in our city, I refuse to sit back and do nothing.

“Both the previous Mayor and the Government failed to get their act together to meet legal pollution limits and that’s why I have put forward some bold, hard-hitting measures to tackle this issue. I will now work with the consultation findings in more detail before deciding on the next steps.

“Londoners were clear they supported my proposals, with a clear majority in favour of not only introducing the ULEZ earlier in 2019, but extending it beyond central London.

“They are also strongly in favour of the T-charge-charge and most importantly, Londoners were clear that the Government needs to do its bit to help meet the new ULEZ standards and that it should expand a second ULEZ. The Government now needs to listen to Londoners and work with me to deliver a national diesel scrappage scheme.

“The consultation found the majority of Londoners is being used by City Hall officials to shape the next round, which will start next month and consider other London-wide schemes.

That round, which will be for 10 weeks, will include a more detailed and specific consultation, including reflecting comments made in the first round – ready for implementing in 2017.

The Mayor has instructed TFL to take the lead in working with the Government and introducing the first of a series of ‘Low Emission Bus Zones’ – prioritising the greatest buses on the worst polluted routes.

The Mayor has also said he only wants TIL to procure double-decker buses from 2018.

Sharing rewards of hard work is good for all in business

In the past, disclosing how much you earn was the height of bad manners. Members of the upper classes, who often had less than they portrayed, didn’t need to talk about money in the first place. But they were also quick to start playing the fruits of their labour.

However, times have changed because the vast majority of people have to work to earn a few bob and most take pride in the reward they get for their toil. I’m not saying that people are throwing wads of cash down on the working class upstarts who proudly display the earnings of their labour.

But while I agree with the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee that it’s important to not have an ever increasing gap between the top and the bottom earners; it’s not the job of politicians to curtail the earnings of business leaders.

They’ve got enough on their plate dealing with the EU, nuclear power stations and the like without getting involved in business remuneration.

After all, the bosses of large companies have board members and shareholders to answer to. If they’re happy to ratify their wages then so be it. If they disagree, then they can exercise their rights to object and, in some cases, prevent executive pay rises.

I, of course, don’t count the crooks in suits from the City in this, who make a fortune playing with other people’s money. They should be watched like a hawk, but those in private enterprise should be able to earn what they can, as long as there is the money in the business to do it.

And it should also filter down to others in the workforce. If a business does well, then so should its employees. A rising tide lifts all boats; and I am convinced that when people realise they too (and their families) will benefit more, the harder they work, they will also do better for the business. I think that’s what’s currently called a vicious circle, and a good one at that.

Sports centre celebration

LITTLE Venice Sports Centre, operated by Everyone Active in partnership with Westminster City Council, held a free open day on September 17 to celebrate the recent £200,000 refurbishments.

“Investment into the brand new gym has seen 60 new stations of cardio and strength equipment installed, as well as two new Wattbikes and a brand new Omnia frame for functional training. A new group exercise timetable has also launched with five extra hours of classes using the brand new facilities,” said a spokesperson.

“The Everyone Active centre opened its doors to the public with a range of exciting activities on offer. Visitors were able to take part in group exercise taster classes including Zumba and Small Group Training. There was also the opportunity for free Personal Training sessions and access to all the brand new equipment.

“Youngsters could enjoy face painting, a bouncy castle and a soft play area and a raffle was held to win a host of amazing Londoners, all sweetened with funds to the Anthony Nolan Trust.”

“We were delighted to be holding an open day to showcase our new facilities,” says Everyone Active Centre Manager Louise Williams.

“The refurbishments have provided new and exciting ways for customers to use the centre and experience a range of activities and workouts.”

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Seaside respite for Fola’s friends

BY FRANCESCA EVANS
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GRIEVING friends of a Notting Hill schoolboy who died of stab wounds in a violent incident in the street have been comforted by a West Country town which gave them a weekend break and organised a sea memorial tribute to the popular teenager.

A group of 33 of Fola Orebiyi’s pals spent the break in the Dorset seaside town of Lyme Regis, the location of the Meryl Streep movie The French Lieutenant’s Woman.

The trip was organised by youth worker Zoe LeVeque who took the teenagers back to her hometown to help them cope with the loss of 17-year-old Fola, who died after suffering a stab injury in the neck on Portobello Road in July.

The group stayed at Lyme’s youth club The Hub and took a fishing trip with local man Harry May during which they released white balloons out to sea in memory of Fola.

At the time of the incident, Zoe was working with the charity Urban Partnership Group (UPG), which aims to promote safety and build the health and wellbeing of the community in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

UPG are delivering the first health youth community champions project on The Edwards Woods Estate, working with 14 to 19-year-olds on the estate to promote leaders and role models within their social groups.

“Just as the project was launching tragedy struck the closely knit community in and around the estate,” said Zoe.

“As we were already involved with a youth project on the estate we requested to respond specifically to the event, targeting Fola’s close friends. UPG received some additional funding from Hammersmith and Fulham council and so we began our memorial group.

“We have been able to support the young people with weekly specialist youth work sessions and grief counselling from a child psychologist. Enabling the young people to come together once a week under the guidance of a professional team of staff to work through the trauma.”

During the weekly sessions, the teenagers planned their trip to Lyme Regis, as well as a music fundraising event to be held in west London later this year headlined by a top grime artist. Money raised from the event will go towards the creation of a special garden on the estate in Fola’s memory.

“We felt it was important to keep them focused on positive ways to honour their friend, whilst supporting them through a very difficult and protracted grieving process,” Zoe added.

“The destination for our trip was inspired by my love for the town, having spent my teenage years living there. Lyme is a bit magical I think.”

“Having worked so closely with this group from the start of this ordeal, my colleagues and I have gained huge respect for them. They are not the stereotype of kids one would assume to become affected by knife crime. The way they have supported each other and Fola’s family, especially his little brother, has been very moving. The bravery and strength of character every one of them has shown in the face of this horror has been humbling to witness.”

“Two youths, aged 15 and 16, have been charged with murder and possession of an offensive weapon in connection with Fola’s death.

Many people, including several of his close friends, witnessed the immediate aftermath of the horror, with members of the public rushing to his aid before the emergency services arrived. They were unable to save Fola.

“The death of Fola sent shock waves across London and has devastated his loving family and wide circle of adoring friends. He was loved by all on the estate and known locally as a good, sensible boy who enjoyed school and loved to play football with his little brother Bakola.”

Fola was an A-level student with aspirations to attend university and study accounting. A talented young footballer, who also loved maths, he studied at Holland Park School and then moved on to The Chelsea Academy.

Zoe added: “The summer holidays were approaching fast and many of the young people had already broken up after exams.

“There were obvious concerns around safety and community tension. Often when serious youth violence occurs, both victim and alleged perpetrator groups are from part of the same local neighbourhood.

“As we were already involved with a youth project on the estate we requested to organise their trip to the town.

Lyme Regis mayor, councillor Owen Lovell, with friends of Fola Orebiyi and Zoe LeVeque, who organised their trip to the town.

Friends of Fola Orebiyi enjoy a boat trip in Lyme Bay

Teenagers from west London enjoy the view from Lyme’s famous Cobb wall

What would you ask?

COME AND TALK TO THE COMMISSIONER

We are inviting you to meet the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe. Don’t miss your opportunity to talk to him, listen to his vision for London and share your thoughts and ideas.

Tuesday 4th October 2016

6.30pm – 7.30pm (doors open at 6.00pm for refreshments)

Vue Cinema, Westfield Shopping Town, White City, London W12 7GF

Please be aware that places are limited, and allocated on a first come, first served basis, so please arrive in plenty of time.

Visit www.met.police.uk/hammersmithandfulham www.met.police.uk/kensingtonandchelsea

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**Minister’s home in a prime spot**

**BY LWN REPORTER**
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**The London home in which Sir Winston Churchill lived and died has been put up for sale for nearly £23 million.** Churchill passed away at 28 Hyde Park Gate in 1965 when Labour won the General Election.

The minister’s home in a prime spot

The couple moved back to Number 10 in 1951 when Churchill once again became Prime Minister but returned to Hyde Park Gate in 1955.

While in retirement, he divided his time between the London property and Chartwell, his country retreat in Westerham, Kent.

Churchill suffered a severe stroke on January 15, 1965, and passed away at Hyde Park Gate nine days later.

The MP Nicholas Soames, Churchill’s grandson, wrote about how the family had driven from Susseks to London “where Grandpapa was lying unconscious after his stroke”. His death provoked a nationwide outpouring of grief, with more than 300,000 people queuing for up to one mile to pass his coffin when it was on display at Westminster Hall.

The great statesman’s final home is now owned by the philanthropist Donatella Flick. The Italian was married to Gert Flick, the Mercedes heir, and bought the property when they divorced in the 1990s.

When she moved in, the home was a wreck and it underwent a nine-month renovation, which included new plumbing, rewiring and decorating.

The grand home has now been put on the market with agents Strutt & Parker for £22.9 million.

Strutt & Parker have described it as an “exceptional and very special” seven-bedroom family home, situated on a “prestigious and sought-after street”. On top of the seven bedrooms, the 5,763 sq ft home has four bathrooms, a family room, dining room, sitting room, and huge drawing room with double-height ceiling. The home is 105 times more expensive than the average home in the UK, and around 18 times the price of a typical home in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Previous residents on the street, which is opposite Kensington Gardens, include Robert Baden-Powell, Nigella Lawson and Virginia Woolf. It has also been home to a number of embassies and consulates.

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**It’s official, we’re Europe’s favourite place for shopping**

**LONDON has beaten Paris, Milan and a host of other consumer capitals to be crowned the world’s top shopping destination for Europeans, a major new study reveals.**

More Europeans have visited London to shop than any other city, according to an Expedia survey of 11,000 people across 11 countries.

Over a quarter of Europeans has taken a shopping trip to our capital, compared to just one in five to Paris, 15 per cent to Milan and 13 per cent to New York.

And despite uncertainties thrown up by the Brexit vote, London is also seen as the top city for value.

One in ten consumers across Europe agrees that the capital’s shops gives the best bang for your buck, with preferential Euro/Sterling exchange rates influencing travellers.

London is also set to continue dominating retail tourism despite voting to leave the EU, as the destination most Europeans would like to visit if given the opportunity.

One in five people across the continent is planning a visit, with shopping tourists most likely to come to London for clothing, toys, home-wares and even garden ornaments.

It seems that the love is somewhat unrequited, however, as Brits are the least likely nationality to have headed on holiday with retail therapy in mind, with six in ten saying they have never done so.

Expedia has launched a ‘Shopping’ campaign, working with bloggers and customers to capture footage of the best shopping spots and hidden markets worldwide.

Those in the UK who do hit the shops on holiday end up spending significantly less than the typical person in Europe when shopping abroad, averaging £3.46 per holiday versus £4.11.

At the other end of the scale, the French spend more on average than any other European nation – a whopping £531 per person, with much of this going on keeping their style up to date by buying clothes, shoes and souvenirs.

Even though Brits are more frugal than the average European when it comes to shopping on holiday, three pounds of every 10 spent on a holiday overall – including flights, accommodation and food – still goes on buying goods to bring home.

This money most often goes on clothes (59 per cent) and footwear (40 per cent), suggesting that for Brits, the shoes cruise has overtaken the booze cruise (38 per cent) in popularity.

Some less traditional shopping destinations are growing in popularity, with Florence in Italy and Dubai in United Arab Emirates topping the destination wish list for a growing number of Brits.

And our choices are becoming more ‘bazaar’ - more than a fifth of us prefer to spend our money in market places and flea markets when we shop abroad.

Alex Platts, for Expedia.co.uk, said: "The world looks to London when it comes to shopping, with the city clearly associated with quality, value and seemingly even garden ornaments.

"However, there’s a whole world of unique goods and wonderful experiences out there, from high fashion in Milan to flea markets in Marrakech."
**Case study: Patrick’s story**

PATRICK slept on the streets of London for 18 years before seeking help from St Mungo’s. He had turned to drugs to help manage his complex mental health problems.

“When I became homeless I was in a very dark place due to a traumatic experience in my past,” he said. “I started using substances to forget about what happened to me and cope with the severe anxiety and loss of confidence I faced.

“It was after that I stayed in a St Mungo’s hostel. I isolated myself, I’d had enough and they offered me talking therapy and psychotherapy. I had never told anyone what happened to me before. If it wasn’t for St Mungo’s I’d probably be dead by now.”

■ specialist supported housing to aid the recovery of people with mental health problems
■ improved support upon discharge from hospital to prevent patients returning to the streets
■ new legislation on homelessness to prevent rough sleeping

St Mungo’s recent Stop the Scandal report flagged up an “alarming rise” in rough sleeping and revealed that four in 10 people on the streets have a mental health problem.

The letter said: “We believe this requires urgent attention from across government and the NHS. With the right support and routes off the street, people can look after their mental health and rebuild their lives.

“Better still, the right mental health services can prevent people from sleeping rough in the first place. But right now, only 26 per cent of homelessness outreach workers say people sleeping rough are able to access the mental health services they need.”

The charity says the number of people sleeping rough with a mental health problem has tripled over the last six years. In addition, 61 per cent of staff working in homelessness services say those people cannot access the mental health services they need.

Howard Sinclair, chief executive at St Mungo’s, said: “Rough sleeping is dangerous and ruins lives and people with mental health problems are particularly at risk.

“After five years of dramatic rises in rough sleeping, the need for urgent action could not be clearer.

“The time is right for the Prime Minister to lead a new, ambitious national rough sleeping strategy. It must deliver mental health assessments and professional support to people on the street, specialist supported housing to help their recovery, and ensure people don’t sleep rough longer in mental health hospitals.”

He added: “We welcome the support of these 50 people and together urge the Prime Minister to show leadership and take action in line with the life chances agenda she highlighted in her first speech.

“Precisely what vulnerable has to sit right at the heart of this government’s plans.”

**We make a right song and dance about the London arts scene**

Talk of the Town

NICKY SWEETLAND AND KATE GOULD REPORT, PAGES 18, 19 AND 20
From fad to verse. Paul's poem stars in pop mart

BY GEOFF BAKER
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The V&A is to hold a 1970s music memorabilia market next month and rock and pop fans who attend with old relics could discover they’re in the money – especially if they have anything like Paul McCartney’s £20,000 poem, pictured above, or John Lennon’s £10,000 shirt, pictured below.

The V&A’s exhibition – You Say You Want A Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970 – the Kensington museum will celebrate the 1970s with a day of free talks and events on Saturday 8 October.

The 70s: What’s Not to Love will include talks and interviews with “key players” from the period and cultural historians, with subjects ranging from the punk explosion to Glastonbury during the decade, glam rock and the development of electronic music.

BBC Four’s People’s History of Pop team will be at the V&A for the day, inviting the public to bring along their own music memorabilia from the 1970s to the present day and tell their story about it – and they could discover that the relic from their pop fan days is worth a fortune.

Pop memorabilia is a big money market, with rare items fetching thousands of pounds. For example, Britain’s leading memorabilia dealers, Tracks, is already used by the Royal Parks and a number of other London boroughs.

The licensing scheme is voluntary and no park is overwhlemed by park trainer explosion.

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council is launching a crackdown on personal fitness trainers who use Holland Park to exercise their clients – because there’s so many of them you can’t see the wood for the trees.

From October 1 personal fitness trainers who use the park will be required to hold a licence – with fees of up to £1,200 a year.

The council is introducing a licence scheme for a number of reasons including to protect the parks trees and benches. Trainers will be encouraged to fix resistance bands which can cause damage and memorial benches which can be used as training equipment causing wear and tear.

“In addition, the move will ensure that all personal trainers using Holland Park have a recognised industry qualification and are fully insured.”

It will also manage the growing number of personal trainers using the park and ensure that areas are not monopolised but are accessible to all Holland Park’s visitors.”

Fitness training licences are already used by the Royal Parks and a number of other London boroughs.

The proposed pricing structure is in line with Royal Park charges for Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The annual charge for a fitness instructor running between one and six sessions a week for three to 10 people is £850 a year.

The annual fee to train 11-20 people for seven sessions a week is £1,200. The personal trainer’s licence for running between one to six sessions a week for two or fewer clients is £350.

The move is supported by the Holland Park Liaison Group, which includes local councillors, representatives from the Friends of Holland Park and local resident associations.

The licensing scheme is being managed by Quadrum Id Verde, the council’s grounds maintenance contractor, on behalf of the royal borough.

Initially, licences will only apply to Holland Park and run from October 1 to March 31, 2017. From April 1 next year the scheme will be extended to cover all of Kensington and Chelsea’s parks.

Trainers can make licence applications from Thursday, September 15. Application packs are available from Holland Park Sports Booking Office or from the website www.rhkbc.gov.uk/personaltrainers.

The scheme is linked to the council’s parks strategy, launched in June, in which one of the priorities is to “provide a balance of leisure facilities and quiet space across the borough, so that its parks and open spaces can be enjoyed by all and no park is overwhelmed by activity”.

Lottery grant for museum

KENSINGTON’S Leighton House Museum, the former home and studio of eminent Victorian artist and President of the Royal Academy, Lord Leighton has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £337,000 towards the planning and development of the final phase of its restoration programme.

In 2010 the major restoration of Holland Park museum was completed to bring the historic house back to its original glory recreating the exotic interiors that Leighton devised and furnished them as he intended.

Following this project, the museum will utilise the third and final phase concentrating on the extensions added to the east end of the building, first in the late 1920s and then in the mid-1950s, long after Leighton’s death.

Public areas will be increased by over a third with new facilities including an additional exhibition gallery, new learning spaces and the restoration of the original fabric of the building lost within the later extensions. To mark the beginning of this new chapter in the history of the museum, Kensington and Chelsea Council has announced Viscount Linley as Patron of Leighton House Museum and its sister museum, 18 Stafford Terrace.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, the council’s cabinet member for arts, said: “Our ambition is to secure a long term future for the museum and allow greater access and enjoyment of this special place for residents of the Royal Borough and visitors from all over the world.”

Sir David Verey, Chair of the Friends of Leighton House said: “With the Design Museum opening just a short walk from Leighton House, the timing could not be better as a new cultural scene begins to emerge in Kensington.”

Drug deaths a record high

The number of people killed by drug abuse in London is at its highest level this century.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show 298 people died due to misuse of illegal substances in 2015 – the highest since 1999.

The rate of drug deaths has been increasing since 2012, but the capital still has the second lowest mortality rate in England and Wales, with the East Midlands coming top.

The highest death rates are now in the North East, North West, Wales, and Yorkshire and Humberside.

This is in stark contrast to 1993, when records began, and London had the highest mortality rate, accounting for 23 per cent of all drug deaths.

In 2015 that had halved to 12 per cent of all drug deaths as illegal drug use has become more widespread.

Haringey, Westminster and Lambeth have seen the most deaths – from 2013 to 2015, 43 people died in Haringey and 42 in both Westminster and Lambeth.

There were fewer than 20 deaths in the period in most of the outlying boroughs, and in Merton, Barking and Dagenham and among the small population of the City of London; the number of deaths was in single figures.
The Houses of Parliament are riddled with rats, mice and gulls – and the cost of controlling the vermin has risen to almost £2,000 a week.

New figures reveal that the Westminster renovation cannot come soon enough, with up to £8,500 spent every week on tackling pests such as flies, moths and pigeons.

The bill to the taxpayer has risen by 48 per cent over the last five years to a massive £100,157.

Officials put the increase down to more out-of-hours work to fit around MPs’ business and visitor tours, as well as intensive moth treatment to protect artwork – the winged creatures have been munching through the irreplaceable parliamentary art collection.

Pest controllers using birds of prey are also employed for eight hours a week to deter “feral pigeons and herring gulls” from ruining the crumbling stonework.

The figures were revealed as a parliamentary committee recommended that urgent repairs must be carried out.

The Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster estimates that it will take six years and should start in 2023.

Kevin Higgins, membership manager at the British Pest Control Association, said: “Moths will lay eggs in anything, so from a curator’s point of view they need to be very careful.”

“Damage can be very expensive indeed and they may not be able to repair it at all. “There should be regular checks on clothing in the building – especially on robes – and carpets should be vacuumed regularly.”

“Any sightings of pests should be immediately reported to a pest specialist who should respond quickly.”

Mr Higgins said the building’s age could be causing many of the pest problems and warned bin areas should be kept scrupulously clean.

The cost of pest control is split 60-40 between the House of Commons and the Lords, with the lower house paying the larger share.

In 2011/12 the total costs were £69,890 – around £1,134 a week.

But they rose to a high of £110,358 in 2014/15, before dropping slightly the next year to the most recent figure of £103,157.

Last year pest controllers patrolling the 250,000 square metre building placed 923 moth-monitoring devices.

They also placed 1,755 mice bait stations, 128 rat bait stations and 102 electric fly control units.

In a report, the Government said: “The increase in costs in 2014/15 is attributable to increased out-of-hours work to fit around the business of the House and increased visitor tours, and to intensive moth treatment which was carried out in the Palace of Westminster in the summer of 2014.”

It added: “The Parliamentary Estate is made up of a large number of buildings of various ages, covering approximately 258,000 square metres close to the River Thames in central London.

“It is therefore vulnerable to populations of animals, which can cause significant damage to the fabric of the buildings and health and safety issues.

“Controlling these pests is a major undertaking and is conducted by a full-time pest control technician provided as part of the Houses’ pest control contract and a contract for bird control.

“All pest control on the estate is undertaken in accordance with appropriate regulatory standards.”

A LONDON charity is leading calls to protect endangered pet monkeys after complaints that cruel owners are keeping them in bird cages and plying them with fast food and sugary drinks.

Four Paws UK warned that hundreds of domestic primates in the capital were suffering due to poor treatment.

It called for an outright ban on keeping monkeys as pets after the RSPCA revealed the extent of the neglect. The animal welfare charity said rescue groups were now typically unable to meet their social, dietary and environmental needs, the RSPCA said.

The capital is among the UK’s worst danger zones for welfare complaints about monkeys, with 23 cases in the last four years.

Cordelia Britton, at Four Paws UK, which is based in Southwark, said: “The public would be shocked to know the extent of the situation, which sees around 5,000 primates being kept as pets across the country. It is clear the needs of these complex wild animals cannot be met even in the most basic ways in a domestic setting and the suffering caused to the animals in these unnatural environments is unacceptable.”

Marmosets, capuchins and squirrel monkeys are among the primates being kept as pets in London. A network of animal welfare charities have now come together to call for their protection.

The Born Free Foundation, the Captive Animals Protection Society and the Wild Futures Monkey Sanctuary have all joined Four Paws and the RSPCA in a nationwide awareness campaign.

The University of West London has won the lottery, pocketing £179,000 from Lotto and Heathrow Airport to fund a Heathrow Archive and Exhibition.

The university has received £79,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project to host and maintain Heathrow Airport’s historical archive.

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The items from the archive are irreplaceable, dating back to the 1940s and including historical travel brochures, pamphlets, old uniforms, photographs and film footage. The Archive was originally held in Heathrow’s oldest passenger terminal, Terminal 2. Following the refurbishment of Terminal 2 in 2009, the Archive was moved to ensure it was preserved”, said a university spokesman.

UWL hopes to open the exhibition by 2019 and visitors will be able to appreciate the Heathrow’s fascinating past.

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Accessibility updates and a number of step-free route options mean James can take his son to see his grandparents every weekend. To see his full story search Tfl Accessibilty and see if you could take more journeys than you think.

@TflAccess - tfl.gov.uk/accessibility - 0343 222 1234*
Follow our simple lifestyle tips to help keep your eyes and vision healthy.

Regular check-ups
Get your eyes tested every two years even if you think your vision is fine. Some eye conditions, for example open angle glaucoma, may not show any noticeable symptoms so regular check-ups are vital.

Quit the habit
If you smoke, you have another good reason to kick the habit. Smoking is directly linked to blindness. Current smokers are up to four times more likely to develop macular degeneration (the UK’s leading cause of blindness) compared to past smokers or non-smokers.

It’s all relative
Talk to your relatives about your their eye health as some eye conditions have genetic links such as glaucoma or squint. It is important that you share this information with your optometrist or eye health professional.

Be cool in the sun
Protect your eyes when it is sunny or when you’re in high glare areas such as near snow or water.

Cumulative UV exposure can increase your risk of developing cataracts and macular degeneration.

When choosing sunglasses make sure that they are safe as well as stylish! Look out for the CE, UV 400 or British Standard marks – this ensures they provide a safe level of protection from the sun’s damaging UVA and UVB rays.

Contact care
If you wear contact lenses make sure you look after them properly.

Thoroughly wash and dry your hands before touching your contact lenses or your eyes and only ever clean your contacts using the contact lens solution recommended by your practitioner.

Never shower, sleep or swim with your contacts lenses in because this can put you at risk of developing a serious eye infection which could lead to blindness. Also, don’t wear them for longer than recommended by your practitioner or the manufacturer.

Don’t forget to wear protective eyewear when playing sports such as squash – to protect your eyes from flying balls.

Enjoy sport safely!

There are easy lifestyle choices you can make that will help protect your vision.

Protect your eyes
If you work with hazardous or airborne materials at work or home wear safety glasses or protective goggles to protect your eyes from injury.

Keep fit and healthy
Regular exercise is essential to help you stay fit and healthy and contributes a great deal to maintaining good eye health.

IT’S AMAZING WHAT WE CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES

An eye test can help keep your eyes healthy and detect a range of health conditions.

13.8 million people don’t have one regularly. Book yours today.

Source: YouGov plc online omnibus survey of 13,000 people. July 2016. A regular test is at least once every two years. ©2016 Specsavers. All rights reserved.
Look after your sight: have a test

Why are sight tests so important?
Many people think that a sight test is just about checking whether your vision needs correcting with glasses or contact lenses. But there are other important reasons to have regular sight tests.

A sight test is a vital check on the health of the eyes and can detect a range of common eye conditions. Many of these, if found early, can be treated successfully, avoiding potential sight loss.

A sight test can also spot other health conditions such as high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, diabetes and increased risk of stroke.

Who needs a regular sight test?
Everybody! Sight tests should be part of everyone’s health care routine just like going to the dentist or having a smear test.

And remember, children are never too young to have an eye check. Special tests have been devised to help optometrists examine even the youngest children.

How often should I have a sight test?
Most people should have their sight tested every two years, unless advised otherwise by their optometrist. Certain groups may need their eyes checked more frequently. These include: people with a family history of glaucoma, those aged 70+ and diabetics. Speak to your optometrist for individual advice.

What happens during a sight test?
Sight test appointments usually last 30 to 40 minutes. Your optometrist will tailor the examination according to your individual circumstances, taking into account factors such as your age, medical history and lifestyle.

Tests performed during your eye exam might include:
- Using a retinal camera or ophthalmoscope to examine the retina, blood vessels and nerves at the back of the eye, assessing your visual acuity by asking you to read letters from a Snellen chart and measuring the pressure inside your eye.

How much does a sight test cost?
Costs vary but normally start around £20. However, over 30 million people in the UK are entitled to a free sight test paid for by the NHS. And, if you regularly use a computer at work you may be entitled to a test paid for by your employer.

Do I qualify for a free sight test?
Those entitled to a sight test paid for by the NHS include the following groups:
- Aged 60 or over
- Under 16 or under 19 still in full time education
- Diagnosed as having diabetes or glaucoma

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Eye care charities, organisations and health professionals from across the UK are joining together to promote the importance of eye health and the need for regular sight tests.

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*Exclusions apply. See website for details.
New way to make some extra dough

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A CHARITY initiative is helping Londoners escape the unemployment trap by delivering bread.

The scheme aims to help people who are struggling to find work take the first steps towards starting their own bakery businesses.

The Breadwinners Foundation – a new charity set up to run the project – is offering “fresh bread and fresh starts” for hundreds of Londoners in search of employment.

It wants to tap into the growing demand for high-quality food delivered to the door while giving aspiring entrepreneurs a push in the right direction.

The “breadwinners” are able to buy freshly-made loaves from partner bakeries at cost price and then deliver them to customers at a profit.

Charity bosses hope the new recruits will reinvest the cash into growing their own businesses.

Breadwinners teamed up with several established bakeries to launch an innovative enterprise scheme in a handful of London boroughs last week.

And it now wants to roll the idea out across the capital.

Mariika Chaplais, project director at the Breadwinners Foundation, said: “A lack of opportunity, understanding and an unfair recruitment process forces thousands of people into low pay and long-term unemployment.

“Stuck at the bottom of the labour market, there is often no way out.”

Ms Chaplais said the Breadwinners platform would provide an innovative business model for unemployed Londoners to launch their start-ups, with training and equipment provided.

It comes as official figures reveal the extent of the employment crisis in London, particularly among young people.

Around 40 per cent of unemployed adults are under 25 years of age while youth unemployment remains higher than pre-recession levels.

Individuals can be referred to the foundation by charities such as St Mungo’s, Café from Crisis and the Refugee Council. They are then paired with an artisan bakery in London and given a delivery bike and trailer.

Ms Chaplais added: “Breadwinners and our pioneering partner bakeries are working together to not only offer jobs to those struggling to find employment, but a chance for them to really take back control of their lives and finances, learn transferable skills and create a business they can grow, invest in and be proud of.”

Tory councillor attacks PM over grammar schools plan

A CONSERVATIVE councillor has attacked the Government’s “unfair” grammar schools policy after claiming that proposed reforms will only benefit high flyers in the classroom, writes Jack Dixon.

Councillor Caroline Pfske said there were “glaringly obvious” contradictions in the Prime Minister’s plans.

Theresa May has signalled her intention to support selective state education and over-turn the ban on new grammar schools.

While she has indicated that these schools should reserve a proportion of places for pupils from poorer backgrounds, the announcement has sparked a political row over the future of secondary education.

And now the PM is facing criticism from the grassroots of her own party over the issue.

Cllr Pfske, who serves as a governor of the West London Free School in Hammersmith, called for academic selection to be kept out of education.

“This is a policy announcement entirely focused on selection. It focuses on providing a better education for the already more academically able,” she wrote in an online blog post.

“Surely the unfairness of focusing better education opportunities on the already most academically able is glaringly obvious to all. I think we have a classic example of the tail wagging the dog.”

Mrs May set out her position on grammar schools earlier this month in a major speech highlighting the need for more “meritocracy” in education.

But Cllr Pfske, the Hammersmith and Fulham Conservatives’ spokeswoman for education, argued that more schools should seek to adopt a grammar school “ethos” without the emphasis on selection.

“This would mean we have more schools which teach academic subjects to all pupils and ensure they are taught rigorously with all pupils building up and retaining extensive knowledge.

“And we would have the tools needed to ensure strong discipline and behaviour.”

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“And we would have the tools needed to ensure strong discipline and behaviour.”

The Government is expected to set out its education reforms in detail in a forthcoming Green Paper.

In her speech, Mrs May said: “We know that grammar schools are hugely popular with parents. We know they are good for the pupils that attend them. Indeed, the attainment gap between rich and poor pupils is reduced to almost zero for children in selective schools. And we know that they want to expand.

“There is nothing meritocratic about standing in the way of giving our most academically gifted children the specialist and tailored support that can enable them to fulfill their potential.

“In a true meritocracy we should not be apologetic about stretching the most academically able to the very highest standards of excellence.”
Boundary shake-up could present London MPs with election battle

Proposals revealed by the Boundary Commission show that two new constituencies would be created in Hammersmith and Fulham.

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

M Ps could face a fight to keep their seats in Parliament after electoral commissioners revealed plans to redraw the constituency boundaries in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The borough’s current MPs – Greg Hands and Andy Slaughter – would have to contest brand new seats in 2020 if the proposals are approved.

Election officials published draft plans for the shake-up this week as part of a government move to cut the number of MPs from 650 to 600.

Five seats could be wiped out altogether in London, with the number set to be reduced from 73 to 68.

Hammersmith and Fulham would retain two MPs under the plans but new boundaries have been proposed in a bid to even up the number of voters in each constituency.

Mr Hands’ seat of Chelsea and Fulham, and Mr Slaughter’s Hammersmith constituency would be replaced with two new electoral areas.

Most of the borough would fall under a seat known as Hammersmith and Fulham, while three of the northern wards would be absorbed into a constituency called Ealing Central and Shepherd’s Bush.

The two seats would be among the largest in London with between 76,000 and 78,000 in each.

Announcing the proposals on Tuesday, September 13, the Boundary Commission said it had tried to retain existing constituencies where possible.

Sam Hartley, Secretary to the Commission, said: “Today’s proposals mark the first time people get to see what the new map of parliamentary constituencies might look like.

“But they are just the Commission’s initial thoughts. During the next 12 weeks we want people to take a look and tell us what they like and don’t like about our proposals.

“Parliament has set us tight rules about reducing the number of constituencies, and making them of more equal size, and we now need the views of people around the country to help us shape constituencies that best reflect local areas.

“The new Hammersmith and Fulham constituency is set to include six wards from the existing Chelsea and Fulham seat and six from the Hammersmith seat.

“Three wards in the north of the borough – Askew, Wormholt and White City, and Shepherd’s Bush Green – would become part of the Ealing Central and Shepherd’s Bush constituency.

“Mr Slaughter said the review was “wholly dishonest and undemocratic”, and that London would be under-represented.

He added: “The very restrictive rules governing the review mean that there are some very odd-shaped and anomalous new constituencies. The clearest example is of College Park and Old Oak, which has been pegged onto a Brent constituency.

“I will be making strong representations on this and many other issues which I believe disadvantage my constituents.”

Mr Hands, a Conservative minister in the new Department for International Trade, said he was proud to have served the constituency but that he would be reviewing the proposals before commenting further.

“I am very honoured to have represented Chelsea and Fulham as its MP since 2010. In 2015 this increased to 63 per cent,” he said.

“I am proud to represent both Chelsea and Fulham in the House of Commons. The Boundary Commission’s proposals would split the constituency down the middle. The Chelsea part becomes Kensington and Chelsea and the Fulham part becomes Hammersmith and Fulham.

“The Commission now starts a lengthy, two-year process of consultation and I will be making a submission to the consultation at the appropriate time.”

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MPs Greg Hands, left, and Andy Slaughter could have to contest new seats.
UK and a half centuries after his death, Prince Albert has re-joined the ranks of Britain's most popular royals.

Thanks to the ITV series Victoria, Albert is rapidly becoming almost as popular as William and Harry as millions are riveted to the royal love story that is now the new Downton Abbey.

Toucning even Ross Poldark as the new man to watch, as played by actor Tom Hughes Prince Albert has become the nation's latest fascination with TV critics hailing the smouldering royal love story with such headlines as "Magnificent Albert maintains the sex factor."

Britain loves nothing more than a good royal soap opera and according to respected historian Jane Ridley, as Victoria and Albert's marriage progressed it became even more gripping.

"The marriage of the two first cousins - the young Queen and the clever, handsome German prince - was a love match. Over 17 years, nine children were born: four boys and five girls. Paintings and photographs projected an image of a virtuous, devoted young couple surrounded by obedient, fair-haired children."

"Though sexually infatuated, the young couple were locked into a power struggle. Albert took over more and more of Victoria's work as queen as her pregnancies forced her to step aside. Victoria was conflicted: she admired her 'angel' for his talents and ability but she deeply resented being robbed of her powers as queen."

"There were terrible rows and Albert was a terror by Victoria's temper tantrums. Always at the back of his mind was the fear she might have inherited the madness of George III. While she stormed around the palace, he was reduced to putting notes under her door."

"Though she was a prolific mother, Victoria loathed being pregnant. Repeated pregnancies she considered 'more like a rabbit or a guinea pig than anything else and not very nice'."

"Breastfeeding she especially disliked, finding it a disgusting practice. And she was not a doting mother - she thought it her duty to be 'severe'. She didn't do affection."

"Relations with her eldest son Bertie, later Edward VII, were especially fraught. From the start he was a disappointment for Victoria. Like all the royal princes, he was educated at home with a tutor. Bertie did badly at lessons and his parents considered him a halfwit."

"Victoria remarked: Handsome I cannot think him, with that painfully small and narrow head, those immense features and total want of chin."

"When Bertie was 19, he spent time training with the army in Ireland and a prostitute named Nellie Clifden was smuggled into his bed. When the story reached Albert, he was devastated and wrote Bertie a long, emotional letter lamenting his "fall"."

"He visited his son at Cambridge and the two went for a long walk together in the rain. Albert returned a few days later; a sick and thin man, and weeks later he was dead. Albert probably died of typhoid. Another theory is that he suffered from a back ailment, but few years afterwards Victoria blamed Bertie for his death. She could not bear to live near him. 'I never can or shall look at him without a shudder', she wrote to her friend."}

The loss of Prince Albert dealt Britain's royal family a hammer blow from which it almost never recovered, says fellow historian Helen Rappaport.

"When Prince Albert breathed his last at 10.30pm on the night of Saturday, December 14, 1861, at Windsor, a telegraph message was sent with the news to the lord mayor that the great bell of St Paul's Cathedral should toll out the news across London."

"Everyone knew that this sound signified one of two things: the death of a monarch or a moment of extreme national crisis such as war," Ms Rappaport revealed.

"People living in the vicinity of the cathedral who had already gone to their beds that night were woken by the doleful sound; many of them dressed and began gathering outside St Paul's to share the news with shock and incredulity."

"Only the previous morning the latest bulletin from Windsor had informed them that the prince, who had been unwell for the last two weeks, had rallied during the night of the 13th. The whole nation had settled down for the evening reassured, hopeful that the worst was now over."

"Most of the Sunday morning papers for the 15th had already gone to press and did not carry the news, although in London one or two special broadsheets were rushed out and sold at a premium. For most ordinary British people the news of Prince Albert's death came with the mournful sound of bells, as the message was relayed from village to village and city to city across the country's churches."

"Many still did not realise the significance until, when it came to the prayers for the royal family during morning service, the prince's name was omitted. But it was still hard to believe."

"The official bulletins from Windsor had suggested only a 'low fever' - which in Victorian parlance could be anything from a chill to something more sinister like typhoid fever. The royal doctors had been extremely circumspect in saying what exactly was wrong, not just to the public but also Albert's highly strung wife, and very few had any inklings of how ill he was."

"How could this have happened, people asked themselves; how could a vigorous man of only 42 have died without warning?"

"The impact of Prince Albert's death, coming as unexpectedly as it did, was dramatic and unprecedented. The last time the nation had mourned the loss of a member of the royal family in similar circumstances had been back in 1817 when Princess Charlotte, daughter of the Prince Regent - and heir to the throne failing of William IV - and heir to the throne failing of William IV, had died shortly after giving birth to a stillborn baby boy. Public grief at this tragedy had been enormous, and it was no less with the death of Albert."

"His might not have been a young and beautiful death like Charlotte's but its impact, both publicly and politically, was enormous. It was seen as nothing less than a national calamity, for Britain had in effect lost its king."

"The prince's death plunged the queen into grief so profound that it would dramatically alter the shape of the British monarchy, not just for the rest of Victoria's reign but in the way in which it has come down to us today."

"The public response in the days immediately afterwards bear many parallels with the outpouring of grief that followed the death of Princess Diana more than a century later. And, in a sombre precursor of princes William and Harry following Diana's coffin in 1997, the loss was made equally poignant by the portrait of Albert's all-female funeral at Windsor of two of his young sons, Bertie (20) and Arthur (11)."

"The whole country was swathed in black; shops were shuttered, blinds drawn, flags at half mast, theatre performances and concerts cancelled. The middle classes put themselves and their children into black, and trade at the funeral warehouses boomed as never before. Even the poorest rural cottager donned some form of black, if only an arm band. That Christmas, 1861, was one of the gloomiest ever seen in England."

"It would take time, however, for the far more significant, political impact of the prince's death to unravel. During their 21 years of marriage Victoria and Albert had done much to rescue the ailing monarchy from the lingering dissolution reputation of the Hanoverians and reinvent it as a democratic and moral example for the new age."

"The royal family had become popular again and accessible to ordinary people, thanks to an example it set of the simple domestic virtues of monogamy, bourgeois decency and family life. It was an image that Albert had assiduously promoted, right from the first popular magazine illustrations of the royal family enjoying Christmas at Windsor, German-style, with decorated fir trees."

"Albert had been all in all to Victoria: husband, friend, confident, wise counsel, unofficial secretary and government minister. There was not a single aspect of her life on which she had not deferred to his advice and greater wisdom. Indeed, so reliant was she on his opinion in everything that she would even consult him on what bonnet to wear."

"Victoria's descent into a crippling state of unrelenting grief rapidly created problems. It soon became clear that her retreat from public view and her intense sorrow would endure well beyond the usual two years of conventional mourning. Without Albert she felt rudderless. To lose him, as she herself said, was 'like tearing the flesh from my bones'."

"The isolation of her position as queen was profound. 'There is no one to call me Victoria now,' she wept, in response to the grinding loss of intimacy, affection and political love that she now felt."

"Albert had been Victoria's one great, abiding obsession in life. With no strong man to support her, with a helpless heir, Bertie, who had caused her nothing but anxiety, to raise in their absence, she retreated into a state of pathological grief which nobody could penetrate and few understood."

"Worse, she imposed the most rigorous observance of mourning on her family and her entourage and became increasingly intractable in response to every attempt to pull her out of her self-imposed purdah. Her observance of the rituals of mourning became so fetishistic and so protracted that there was a danger of her sinking so totally into her grief that she and the monarchy - would never recover."

"The only thing that interested Victoria now was her single-handed mission to memorialise her husband, turn Albert into a tragic heroic figure of the Victorian era."

"And like a grieving mother, she imposed not just the mourning period but even their visual stamp not just on the second half of her reign but on our perception today of the Victorian era."
What will be left to rule when Charles ascends the throne?

BY GEOFF BAKER
geof@londonweeklynews.co.uk

POOR King Charles; it’s looking increasingly likely that when the Prince of Wales finally gets to be able to call himself that, he will become king of very little.

The remnants of the empire on which the sun once never set are so positioning themselves to break away from being answerable to the British monarch as head of state that fears are growing that when Charles is crowned he won’t be left with very much.

In a Brexit-style rebellion, the principal nations which currently acknowledge The Queen as the boss are all preparing to get their coat and leave the party once Her Majesty’s reign is over.

At present there are 16 countries that have The Queen as their reigning constitutional monarch; Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, The Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and us.

But republicanism is growing and constitutionalists are steeling themselves for a breakaway that will inevitably be dubbed “The Charlexit”.

As we all know, Australians have been moaning about having to show allegiance to the Crown pretty much ever since the first of them got shot of their leg-ions. The idea first floated down there in 1901 and although recent royal visits have boosted the popularity of the monar-chy, much of the support for royalty is believed to out of respect for The Queen and her many recent anniversaries.

But a poll conducted last year by the Australian Republican Movement carried a blunt message from Australian voters: 51 per cent would prefer an Australian head of state to ‘King Charles’ when the time comes for him to replace his mother.

The poll asked ‘When Prince Charles becomes King of Australia, will you support or oppose replacing the British monarch with an Australian citizen as Australia’s head of state?’

Just 27 per cent of voters opposed replacing King Charles with an Australian head of state. Oops.

Meanwhile, things aren’t looking too clever in neighbouring New Zealand, which looks to be drifting closer to becoming a republic, as a new poll has revealed a majority of Kiwis want to ditch the Queen as their head of state in favour of a New Zealander.

The poll by campaign group NZ Republic shows that only about a third, or 34 per cent of Kiwis, want to carry on with a British head of state. A substantial majority of 59 per cent want to sever the country’s centuries-old ties with Britain.

Forty-four percent want a directly elected New Zealand head of state and 15 percent want a leader elected by MPs.

Just over two years ago, 44 percent of New Zealanders asked the same question wanted a change from the Queen.

Apparently, the change of heart is OUR fault.

NZ Republic says the swing has been caused by Brexit.

Over in Canada, where debate between monarchists and republicans has been raging since 1867, support for a King Charles is looking just as bleak.

A May 2015 Forum poll, taken immediately after the birth of Princess Charlotte, found that 39 per cent of respondents favoured ‘abolishing the monarchy upon the death of the Queen’, 54 per cent opposed Prince Charles succeeding his mother on the throne and 73 per cent of Canadians ‘agree the Head of State of Canada should be Canadian-born and live in Canada’, an in-crease from 63 per cent who had the same view in 2013.

It’s little wonder then that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are to be dispatched to Canada shortly, with the back-up of Prince George and Princess Charlotte, to boost the flagging appeal of the royal family.

Although sending in the Cambridges, the royal equivalent of the SAS, is likely to have a dramatic effect on the Canadians, they could have their life’s work cut out for them if the re-publican malarkey continues, as it’s spreading.

Besides the major nations above, other states are joining the break free movement. In Barba-dos the authorities are saying that republican-ism is long overdue and they want to invoke it shortly – although an upcoming visit by Prince Harry may delay things a bit - and soon Grenada is to vote on whether to have one of its own as head of state.

In Jamaica the government has pledged to introduce a constitutional amendment to “replace Her Majesty The Queen with a non-executive president as head of state” and in St Vincent and the Grenadines the most recent poll recorded that 43 per cent of voters favoured a breakaway.

It’s all looking a bit grim for King Charles.

Sixteen countries have the Queen as their reigning constitutional monarch. They are:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Belize
- New Zealand
- Saint Vincent & The Grenadines
- Canada
- Papua New Guinea
- St Kitts and Nevis
- The Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Grenada
- Saint Lucia
- United Kingdom
- Barbados
- Jamaica
- St Kitts and Nevis
- Tuvalu
MUSICAL ADVENTURES

Björk
Royal Albert Hall, Kensington
Wednesday September 21
Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith
Saturday September 24
Scottish alt-rockers return to London on the crest of a wave following the release of their acclaimed ninth album, Nordic. Dense, driving instrumentals power the Mogwai bandwagon but there are moments of real beauty buried within. The four-piece completed two decades as a band last year but show no signs of slowing.

Ed Harcourt
Village Underground, Shoreditch
Wednesday September 21
Perennial behind-the-scenes man goes centre stage with latest solo effort having written for the likes of Paloma Faith, Marianne Faithful and The Libertines. The W imbledon-born singer-songwriter, who most recently worked with Sophie Ellis-Bextor, models himself on moody frontmen Tom Waits and Nick Cave on his seventh studio album, Furnaces.

Temple
Camden Assembly, Camden Town
Sunday September 25
Kettering rock band who stormed the circuit in 2014 following the release of debut album Sun Structures. Dazzling psychedelia inspired by the spirit of the 60s and akin to modern-day trendsetters Tame Impala and Unknown Mortal Orchestra. The four-piece are primed for new material after winning admirers while touring across the country.

DAVID bowie’s remarkable final album may have failed to claim the prestigious Mercury music prize but, in the minds of many, Blackstar was the unri
capped masterpiece of the last 12 months.

With his trademark theatricalitiy, the Brixton-born icon offered up one final act of showmanship as he released his last ever long-player in January, only days before passing away after a secret struggle with cancer.

After nominating Blackstar among the 12 best of the year, a panel of esteemed judges failed in their duty to give the album the top billing it richly deserved last week.

So Capital Nights decided to pay special tribute to London’s greatest musical hero one final time.

Because with all the fanfare around its release, some of Blackstar’s unquestionable genius has slipped through the net unnoticed.

Never before has an artist confronted the subject of their own mortality with such honesty, dignity and, at times, discom
ing precession.

“Look up here, I’m in heaven”, Bowie sings on the haunting Lazarus, his final single, before adding on the closing track, I Can’t Give Everything Away: “I know something’s very wrong”.

No performer has ever mastered the art of reinvention with such success as Bowie, who began his career as a floppy-haired folk singer before his fa
umous adventures in glam rock, electronic and experimental pop.

On Blackstar however, style is thrown aside for substance. There’s no room for posturing as Bowie comes face to face with his own impending death.

Conceptually, nothing could match the gargantuan Blackstar this year. And while Bowie may have finally been laid to rest, there’s no doubt whatsoever that his final album—a goodbye gift to his adoring fans—will live on forever.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 2016

Why Bowie’s swansong was the real album of the year
Boy George is to journey back to his formative years for a BBC Two documentary next month, as the centrepiece of BBC Music's My Generation season looking at the 1970s.

My Generation is a year-long landmark season of programming charting the history of popular music across the decades from the mid-1950s to the noughties through the memories of the people who were there.

On BBC Two Boy George’s 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia looks back to September 1982 when an unknown George Alan O’Dowd — aka Boy George — appeared on the BBC’s Top of the Pops with his group, Culture Club, singing Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?

The next day, the British press went wild. Totally bewildered by his appearance, they asked ‘Was he a boy or a girl?’ in hand-wringing horror. British teens on the other hand loved it and sent it to Number 1 in the charts; the rest of the world would soon follow resulting in Number 1’s in 25 countries.

‘To date, Boy George is a Brit and Grammy Award-winning artist who has sold over 100 million singles and in excess of 50 million albums. He is also the author of two bestselling autobiographies, a fashion designer, a Broadway producer and, arguably, single-handedly the public figure who did most to usher in a new era of sexual tolerance in Britain at a time when being gay was not widely accepted,” said a BBC spokesman.

“In this film George will recall, revisit and assess how the 1970s moulded the person and artist he would become. This is his musical, social and sexual coming of age, when he discovered the power of his own sexuality before setting about turning that persona into a popstar.

Set against a backdrop of social discord, disenfranchisement and sexual repression — the Seventies was also conversely the decade that revelled in colour and creative chaos giving the world glam rock, disco & punk, and the young George O’Dowd was at the birth of them all.

The documentary includes contributions from contemporaries like Martin Degville (Sigue Sigue Sputnik), Andy Smith (As A Adult Nightlife), DJ Princess Julia and pop star Marilyn this is, as George said “the last ever bonkers decade”, and it totally and completely shaped him.

Boy George says: “I think of the ’70s as being this glorious decade where I discovered who I was and discovered all these amazing things… punk rock, electro music, fashion, all of that.

“And yeah of course there was that dark side to the ’70s, the rubbish, the strikes, the poverty and I’d get totally bewildered by his appearance, they asked ‘Was he a boy or a girl?’ in hand-wringing horror. British teens on the other hand loved it and sent it to Number 1 in the charts; the rest of the world would soon follow resulting in Number 1’s in 25 countries.

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International star Ed Harris will make his London stage debut later this year, when he reprises his role of Dodge in Sam Shepard’s Pulitzer & Obie prize winning play, Buried Child, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The multi award-winning actor, who is perhaps best known for his film and television work including The Truman Show and The Hours, will be joined by Amy Madigan, who will also reprise her role of Halle, in the play, which received critical acclaim for its New York run earlier this year.

The New Group’s Buried Child, directed by Scott Elliott, will transfer to London’s Trafalgar Studios for a strictly limited season from November 14 to February 18.

Buried Child launched the career of one of America’s greatest living playwrights, Sam Shepard. The play was first run almost 40 years ago.

Halle (Madigan) and Harris met on the set of the 1984 film Places in the Heart, and have since featured in another ten films together, including Harris’ directorial debut Pollock.

Harris directed, starred and co-wrote the screenplay for Appaloosa. He has been lauded for his performances in A History of Violence (National Society of Film Critics Award), The Hours (Oscar, Golden Globe, SAG and BAFTA nominations), The Truman Show (Oscar nomination, Golden Globe Award) and Apollo 13 (Oscar and Golden Globe nominations, SAG Award).

Most recently, Harris completed filming on Dean Devlin’s thriller, Geostorm, with James Franco’s film adaptation of Steinbeck’s In Dubious Battle, and starred opposite Franco in The Adderall Diaries.

Buried Child will run at Trafalgar Studios from November 14 – February 18, 2017 - www.BuriedChildPlay.co.uk

Dead Funny

Producer Nicola Burns has gathered together a host of stars, for a revival of Terry Johnson’s celebrated play Dead Funny, which opens at the Vaudeville Theatre later this year.

The comedy returns to London for its 21st anniversary and features Katherine Parkinson, Ralf Little, Emily Berrington and Rufus Jones.

The play received high praise when it was last performed on the London stage in 1994, a production that starred Zoe Wanamaker and David Haig.

The story follows Eleanor, who wants a child and her husband Richard, who runs a comedy society. When British comedy heroes Frankie Howard and Benny Hill turn up their toes in the same week the society gather for a celebration of hilarity and laughter. But Eleanor’s grin masks a grimace. When your marriage is deadlier than either Morcambe or Wise it’s hard to see the funny side of things.

Producer, Nicola Burns, said: “A revival of this wonderful play is long overdue. Life, it’s as funny as it is moving and needs an outstandingly talented cast. So for the 21st anniversary production, here they are…”

Dead Funny opens at the Vaudeville Theatre on November 3 - www.nimaxtheatres.com

Brigade museum

A Pop up museum dedicated to the London Fire Brigade is to open this autumn.

Located on the Brigade’s iconic site at Lambeth Fire Station it is the first free pop up museum of its kind in the capital.

Alongside modern day fire engines, visitors will have a rare opportunity to see the Brigade’s video and photographic archives, highlighting the history of Lambeth and its very own historic building, 8 Lambeth Embankment.

The Brigade’s museum had been located on Southwark Bridge Road since 1966. However its doors closed for the last time in September last year following the sale of the site.

The museum will be housed in the old workshop space behind Lambeth Fire Station. Alongside the museum, the old workshop space will be open with further pop-ups and events, to be announced in the coming months.

Amongst the museum’s artefacts currently in storage for safekeeping are over 400 firefighter tunics and trousers, around 350 helmets and vintage fire engines.

Jane Ruiz, museum curator, said: “We are hoping the pop-up museum will particularly appeal to local people in Lambeth, who will be able to find out all about the history of the fire service in the area.”
Talk of the town

Vanities the Musical ****

With three rising stars of the West End led by the burgeoning directorial talent of Racky Plews, Vanities the Musical, on paper, has all of the potential of becoming one of this season’s smash hits. After watching the opening night at the intimate Trafalgar Studios 2, I can happily report that it doesn’t disappoint, writes Nicky Streetland.

The chick-flick-style musical is based on the play by Jack Heffner, which enjoyed an unusually long off-Broadway run. The play has been adapted into a musical by David Kirshenbaum, who admits that the characters ‘are clearly of a time, place and milieu very different from London 2016’.

Yet despite the obvious sociological differences, the show, which depicts a very specific enclave of American society, triumphantly explores the intricacies of female friendships, with adorable characters and some really quite beautiful music.

Act one invites us into the superficial world of three American teenage girls, who have a penchant for cheerleading and an over zealous need for social acceptance.

We follow them as they progress to college, watching snippets of meetings as they grow from small town country girls into sorority sisters and beyond.

It’s funny and sweet, and completely one dimensional, but that’s not to say it isn’t good. In fact it’s the type of frivolous fun which will lighten even the darkest of autumn evenings.

The innocent trio of 1960s teens is reminiscent of the adolescent troika in the 2004 film Mean Girls, with Ashleigh Gray’s blinkered Kathy leading her cohorts, Lauren Samuels as the ultra popular Mary and Lizzy Connolly as simple minded Joanne, in some thoroughly engaging and wonderfully preformed numbers.

Racky Plews has been blessed with this strong cast, who are also able to command the stage when performing alone and even make the somewhat drawn out scene changes infinitely watchable.

After the interval the tone begins to change and we are given a much greater depth to both the storyline and the characters, with the three women finding their earlier expectations of life unfulfilled, leading to a desperate search for a meaning to their existence as they approach their thirties. We are then treated to some simply exquisite performances from all, with heartwarming moments interspersed with comedic brilliance.

An interesting array of bouffant toupees help to establish the passage of time and, as you would expect, there is a preppy fairy tale ending, but all in all this is a lovely piece of theatre, offering perky fun with no pretension and plenty of pom-poms.

Vanities the Musical continues at Trafalgar Studios 2 until October 1, visit the website atgtickets.com

Lord of the dance opens city academy

Young dancers in London will soon be kicking up their heels and tapping their toes like never before, as the world-famous hoofer, Michael Flatley launches his very own Dance Academy in the city.

The renowned Irish dancing hero has embarked on the venture in a bid to give the capital’s children and teenagers a positive mentoring environment that builds self-confidence while instilling an appreciation of rhythm, movement, music, fitness and culture. The classes aim to teach the unique style of Irish Dance, making it possible for all ages and abilities to learn the skills and to get involved.

Young people of all levels, from beginner to advanced are invited to join whether it is just for fun or if their dream is to perform on stage.

Flatley said: “After touring the world for over 30 years and seeing the joy on people’s faces, I’m delighted to open the first ever Michael Flatley Dance Academy that will teach my unique show style Irish Dance technique to children and dancers of all ages and genres.”

Classes will be taught by experienced Lord of the Dance performers James Breen and Sarah Redmond, along with Simona Mau rriello and Ellie O’Sullivan, all of whom have had many years of on-stage training with Flatley in his productions. They were also personally selected to perform on Michael’s final tour in the spring of this year that marked his retirement from the stage after 20 successful years. There will also be guest teachers during each term.

The classes begin this week, with a myriad of venues across the city to choose from including YMCA John Innes Centre in Wimble don, St Luke’s Hall in Chelsea and Westside School in Hammersmith.

If you would like any further information you can visit the website www.michaelflat leydance.com.
Talk of the town

ANYONE who goes to the cinema regularly will know how much music is as much an integral and important part of a film as the actual movie itself. It can and does set the mood and tone of the story that is being played out on the screen in front of us - sometimes without audiences even realising.

Right from the beginning when silent movies were first introduced, music was an important part of the experience as a pianist was often employed to play in the cinema as the images were projected on the big screen. In the absence of voices the music helped to tell the story and set the scene.

To celebrate the importance of music in film, Southbank Centre is to present a year-long festival in which the music will emerge from the background and become the star for the night as famous and unforgettable soundtracks are brought to life by some of the finest orchestras around.

Beginning in October, Film Scores Live will feature some of the most iconic films together with the music that helped make them famous. It will include both Oscar winners and modern cult classics all of which will be accompanied by live performances from the UK’s leading orchestras in the spectacular setting of the Royal Festival Hall (RFH).

The season has been put together by Southbank Centre’s director of music Gillian Moore who tells me although presenting films with live musical accompaniment has been done there before, it’s the first time the organisation has dedicated an entire season to it.

‘One thing we know how to do really well here is to present classical and orchestral music,’ she says. ‘We have in the past had musicians perform live as an accompaniment to films and it’s always been successful so we thought we should do a whole season.

‘Music is absolutely crucial to film as it can change perceptions. For example if you take a scene of a forest and play pastoral music it can feel like a magical place but if you show the same sequence but with dark threatening music it can give you a completely different perspective.

‘What’s also interesting is that many people associate certain pieces of music with certain films and vice versa. Some are incredibly distinctive so it will be an amazing experience sitting in the RFH and hearing the music played right there by an orchestra.’

Gillian and her team have chosen a broad selection of films for the season ranging from Stanley Kubrick’s sci-fi classic 2001: A Space Odyssey to the iconic 1916 film The Battle of the Somme, the epic 1927 silent movie Napoleon and a Valentine’s Day special screening of David Lean’s Brief Encounter, featuring a newly commissioned orchestral soundtrack.

The series culminates in a dedicated Alfred Hitchcock Weekend between June 23 and 25 next year celebrating the life and work of the iconic director. It will include the London premiere of Vertigo with a live orchestral accompaniment, as well as Hitchcock’s early silent film The Lodger and the cinematic masterpiece Psycho, with Bernard Herrmann’s spine-tingling score performed live by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

‘It was quite difficult in many ways to choose because there is such a lot of great film music out there and there are a great many films with iconic music and for which when you hear the soundtrack you automatically think of that film,’ says Gillian.

‘The films we chose were done so very carefully - there is no point showing a film and hearing its music live if the score isn’t something special. It had to be of some intrinsic interest.

‘So many films are produced each year and their scores merely provide a function but don’t necessarily stand out. However there were obviously ones which jumped out at us as must haves. For example Psycho - its music by Bernard Herrmann, who was one of the great composers, is iconic. In the shower scene you don’t actually see what happens, it’s the music that tells you through the stabbing music of the string instruments. It’s clever and actually crucial to the telling of the story in that scene.

‘Then of course there is 2001: A Space Odyssey. We are starting with this one as in many ways it is the most successful of all in the way it uses its music.

‘It’s very long and there is almost no dialogue but quite a lot of music. It uses Johann Strauss’s The Blue Danube which has become completely synonymous with the film. It’s so exciting and gripping and I think to see it on a bigger screen, there will be nothing like it.

‘And then there is Under The Skin. If you listen to it, Mica Levi’s BAFTA award winning score works perfectly with the movie.

‘One of the other highlights for me will be Brief Encounter which we are showing on Valentine’s Day - what could be better than the most romantic film on such a day.

‘It will feature a newly commissioned orchestral soundtrack performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and an introduction from Celia Johnson so we are really excited.

‘However the film features Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No 2 at various points and it was the film which was largely responsible for making this piece of music so famous. And to celebrate that there will also be a complete performance of it before the screening of the film.

‘And then there will be Paul Thomas Anderson’s Oscar-winning film There Will Be Blood with Jonny Greenwood’s evocatively discordant score which will be performed live by the London Contemporary Orchestra.

‘Although the season features movies which are aimed at adults, Gillian says that 2001: A Space Odyssey is suitable for teenagers and she hints that more could be added as the season gets underway for younger members of the family.

‘And she hopes if it’s a successful season could become a regular feature of Southbank Centre’s programming.

‘It’s thrilling to hear and see music being performed right in front of you especially a big symphony orchestra and some of the movies we will be showing have some huge scores,’ says Gillian.

‘It adds another layer to the experience - to be able to see and hear the magnificence of the RFH’s organ or the orchestra and choir under the film will enhance the experience enormously.

‘But as well as that it’s also a really good way to encourage people to see and hear classical music, break down any perceived barriers about the genre and dip their toe into film as the actual movie itself.

‘Many people won’t have seen or heard classical music performed live and so to see the musicians in front of you will be quite something. And it may encourage some to come and see some of the many orchestral concerts we stage.

‘It’s going to be a great season.’

Film Scores Live takes place at the Southbank Centre from Sunday, October 2. Visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk for full listings.
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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**
**SECTION 14(1)**

**PARSONS GREEN LANE**

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Parsons Green Lane between its junction with New Kings Road and No. 2 Parsons Green Lane.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be available during Phase 1 & 2, via Parsons Green (western section) during Phase 3 and via Munster Road, Fulham Road & Parsons Green during Phase 9 & 10.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the 3rd October 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 Monday 3rd October 2016 and until 31st January 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of September 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**
**SECTION 14(1)**

**BROOMHOUSE ROAD**

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Broomhouse Road between its junction with New Kings Road and No. 2 Broomhouse Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Hurlingham Road during Phase 4.

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 31st October 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 Monday 31st October 2016 and last for 14 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of September 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
44 Fulham Palace Road  
London W6 9PH  
2016/03891/FUL  
Retention of an internally illuminated ATM surrond to the front elevation.

44 Fulham Palace Road  
London W6 9PH  
2016/03892/ADV  
Retention of an internally illuminated ATM surround to the front elevation.

Ravenscourt Park  
Tea House  
Ravenscourt Park  
London W6 9LP  
2016/03719/FR3  
Alterations to existing kitchen ventilation extract ductwork, provision of new pitched roof and flat roofs, external repairs and maintenance works.

11 Orbain Road  
London SW6 7JZ  
2016/03783/FUL  
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; alterations to the pitched roof at the rear elevation.

Land Adjacent To  
Jepson House  
Pearsall Road  
London W9 1BH  
2016/01960/FUL  
Demolition of existing structures and redefinition of the rear boundary to provide affordable (social rent) residential units within a 3 - 5 storey building, including the provision of cycle parking, hard and soft landscaping, access works and protection of electricity sub-station.

Suite 6 Burlington  
48 Rigault Road  
London SW6 4JJ  
2016/03754/FUL  
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of a terrace at new roof level; replacement of windows and entrance door to front elevation; excavation of front garden to form lighting, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

24 Doneleer Street  
London SW6 SEN  
2016/03805/FUL  
Erection of a first storey extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of new windows at second floor level; alterations to the existing back addition.

3 Burnfoot Avenue  
London SW5 6EB  
2016/01955/FUL  
Excavation of front garden to form lowlights, in connection with the creation of the basement, to form a x 1 bedroom self-contained flat; erection of an external staircase to front elevation from basement to ground floor level for access to new residential unit.

White City One Media Village  
Wood Lane Road  
London W12 0LU  
2016/03859/ADV  
Display of internally illuminated projecting signs at the front, east and elevations; display of an internally illuminated entrance sign at Maze Centre and White City One.
Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A41 GLA ROAD (GLOUCESTER PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STopping) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purposes specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable telecom installation works to take place at A41 Park Road.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:

   (1) turning right from A41 Gloucester Place onto A41 Park Road,
   (2) stopping at the eastern kerbline of Gloucester Place between its Junction with Huntsworth Mews and A41 Park Road.

The Order will be effective at certain times from 08:00AM on 24th September 2016 until 03:30PM on 25th September 2016 for article 3(1) and from 08:00AM on 24th September 2016 until 02:30PM on 18th October 2016 for article 3(2) or when the works have been completed whichever is sooner. The prohibitions will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.

At such times as the traffic prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via A41 Park Road, Wellington Road and Prince Albert Road, A41 Park Road southbound to normal route of travel.

Dated this 20th day of September 2016

Mufu Durowoji
Network Impact Management Team – Manager, Road Space Management – Operations Transport for London Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

PUBLIC NOTICES

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1) (NEW KINGS ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload during phases 5 & 10 in a section of New Kings Road between No.233 New Kings Road & No.54 New Kings Road and extending into Parsons Green to No. 30 Parsons Green.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Munster Road, Fulham Road & Parsons Green during Phase 9 and Phase 10.

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 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 7th 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 Monday 7th November 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and information purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of September 2016
Nicholas Ruston-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(CHESSON ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

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

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Chesson Road between its junctions with North End Road and No. 1 Chesson Road.

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

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

5. The Order will come into operation on the 26th September 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works are expected to commence on Wednesday 28th September 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of September 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

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

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bishop Kings Road outside Nos. 16 to 23 Rugby Mansions.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via North End Road, Hammersmith Road and Earsby Street.

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

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

6. Works are expected to commence on Thursday 29th September 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of September 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
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Middlesex target title as Batty is handed a call-up by England

MIDDL ESEX hope to beat main rivals Yorkshire this week to claim their first County Championship since 1993. The top two meet in a four-day showdown at Lord’s, starting today (Tues, 10.30am), with Middlesex holding a nine-point lead over the White Rose, who are looking to win their third successive championship.

Third-placed Somerset, who are a point behind Yorkshire, are the only other club that can win the title, although the Cidermen need to beat Notts in their final game at Taunton today and hope the Middlesex-Yorkshire result goes their way too.

There are two possible outcomes of a fascinating finale:

— If Middlesex beat Yorkshire, they will be champions, regardless of the result of Somerset’s match.

— If Yorkshire beat Middlesex, they will win the title provided they also win at least the match at the number of points Somerset take.

— If Middlesex and Yorkshire draw, then Somerset will win the title if they win at least 23 points.

Somerset can win the title with fewer than 23 points if Middlesex do not earn maximum bonus points in a draw with Yorkshire.

Should any teams finish level on points, most wins determine placing, then fewest defeats. All three have won five games. Somerset would have fewer defeats than Yorkshire if both win and Somerset would also have more wins than Middlesex if they win and Middlesex draw.

Middlesex, who drew their penultimate fixture last week against Lancashire at Old Trafford, will be hoping for a Lord’s wicket conducive to producing a result, after five of the six Championship matches at the Home of Cricket this season ended in a draw.

They are boosted by the news that the ECB have turned down a request by Yorkshire to include Jonny Bairstow, who is being rested ahead of England’s tour of Bangladesh. Joe Root is also unavailable for the same reason.

MIXED emotions for Surrey skipper Gareth Batty. Delight at being called up for England’s tour of Bangladesh quickly turned to despair at his club’s bitterly disappointing eight-wicket humiliation by Warwickshire in Saturday’s Royal London One-Day Cup final.

Surrey were bowled out by the Bears for just 136 as they suffered a second successive Lord’s cup final defeat.

“Fundamentally, you can’t put in a performance like that and expect to win too many games.

“Any side would have found that difficult to defend. We just didn’t turn up, we fell of a cliff,” admitted Batty, who got a Lord’s final duck for the second year running.

“It was obviously a tired surface but it certainly wasn’t a 136 all out surface, as Jonathan Trott showed. He stuck to his guns and played beautifully.

“We could have applied ourselves for longer periods but, when it goes as wrong as that, all the analysts in the world will be able to pick whatever they want out of it.”

Trott made an unbeaten 82 as Warwickshire knocked off the runs in the 31st over. It was one of the most one-sided Lord’s finals ever. There have only ever been three lower first-innings scores and Surrey never looked like making Lord’s history with the lowest first-innings score to win a final – the mark Worcestershire failed to reach in the first one-day final in 1983.

Surrey old boy Laurie Evans’ superb one-handed catch to dismiss Jason Roy off Chris Wright was one of the best seen in recent years on the famous old ground.

Surrey actually got off to a flying start with a 45-run opening stand between Jason Roy and Steve Davies.

But their early scoring rate of eight an over had already been slowed when Roy was removed by former Surrey old boy Laurie Evans’ stunning one-handed catch. Off-spinner Batty, who turns 39 in October, has been called up by England 11 times after playing his last Test. His Surrey team-mate, all-rounder Zafar Ansari, is also included in the 17-man England tour party to Bangladesh.

Surrey off-spinner Gareth Batty is back in the England squad after an 11-year break Picture: Rob Newell

Hasselbaink starts recovery operation

IT may take a while for the mental scars to heal at Queens Park Rangers after back-to-back defeats by Championship favourites Newcastle United and surprise early leaders Huddersfield Town.

Newcastle’s 6-0 romp at Loftus Road last Tuesday was their biggest-ever away league win and Rangers’ heaviest-ever league defeat in the club’s history.

It was their worst result in a 12-year run. Defender Kyle Bartley, in August 2012, and Barnsley, in January 1950 (they were beaten 6-0 by Arsenal in the FA Cup in 2001). It is the first time QPR have conceded six goals in a home league match since losing 6-3 to Coventry City in November 1963.

But it’s a measure of the unpredictable nature of the Championship that even after such a miserable week, QPR are only four points off the play-off berths. While they were losing at Huddersfield, Newcastle suffered a shock 2-0 defeat at home by Wolves… who had lost 4-0 on their own patch to Barnsley in midweek.

Newcastle settled for six goals in west London but hit the bar in the last minute and could easily have had notice that many from 28 efforts on target.

The truth is, though, while Newcastle and QPR compete in the same league, the clubs are now a world apart in terms of finance and the money they can, or cannot, afford to invest in players and the difference in quality they can attract.

Newcastle will no doubt win promotion, if not the division, but their ability to spend millions more than their rivals doesn’t fully excuse this totally inept, tactically clueless and embarrassingly weak performance by Rangers.

The scale and pitiful manner of the defeat has provoked a reaction from question manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink’s ability to get the best out of a low budget squad. His dark mood was summed up by the team’s performance in Saturday’s 2-1 defeat at Huddersfield, a scoreline that flattered the Visitors and which leaves his side 16th in the second tier after eight games.

“It was very difficult, confidence was low,” Hasselbaink said. “The players need a lift.

“I must say that Huddersfield are a good side but the performance was not the one we expected.

“We were second best, we didn’t get the reaction that I thought we would get (after Newcastle).

“It was a little bit better thereafter but we weren’t as fluid as we can be with the ball. And without it, we didn’t react as quickly as possible.”

Hasselbaink continued: “We need a lift. Confidence is low but that can change in an instant. Only we can fix the situation we’re in – no one else.

“The group is good. We just need to go back to basics and work from there.”

The only positive QPR can take from a traumatic week was the impact made by substitute Idrissa Sylla, who scored his first goal for the club with 14 minutes left on the clock at Huddersfield.

“I was pleased to see Idrissa get off the mark,” Hasselbaink added. “He was also unlucky with two other chances. There is some good defending to deny him.”

Idrisa, who came on after 57 minutes of the Newcastle debacle, will surely be given another chance to prove himself in tomorrow’s home League Cup tie against Sunderland.

QPR deserve credit for slashing ticket prices for the visit of the Premier League strugglers. In acknowledgment of the 50th anniversary of the club’s 1967 League Cup triumph through to the FA Cup final, senior over-60s and young adult (18-21) supporters can purchase advance tickets until 5.00pm today (Tues) for just £16.70. Junior U18s tickets are priced £5.00, while under-16s can enter home matches for free when accompanied by a full-paying adult.

As QPR went to press, Rangers reported that they had already sold 11,700 tickets for the tie.

It’s a big to get back on track in the league when they host Birmingham City on Saturday.

Tambling’s story

CHES LEA GEND Bobby Tambling has an autobiography out called Goals in Life.

Tambling, 75, was Chelsea’s record goalscorer before Frank Lampard took that mantle.

LWN Sport interviewed Tambling and you can read next week what Bobby said about the great Chelsea side of the 60s, that infamous night out in Blackpool when the players were sent home, and who he thinks might even break Lamps’ record.

Goals in Life costs £18.99 and is available in the Chelsea Megastore and all good bookshops.
Liverpool gave the returning David Luiz and his team-mates plenty of headaches. Right: Diego Costa is congratulated by Nemanja Matic after his late goal.

David Luiz will play in tonight’s League Cup match at Leicester City and will hope the result goes a little better than Friday’s shocking 2-1 home defeat to Liverpool in the Premier League.

Head coach Antonio Conte had no option but to play Luiz, who was re-signed for Blues from Paris St-Germain last month after a two-year stint in France.

John Terry struggling for fitness following an ankle injury against Swansea City the week before, Luiz was thrust straight back into the Chelsea defence. He played reasonably well in a side that collectively played awfully for the first 45 minutes.

A Diego Costa toe-poke in the second half restored some credibility but, in truth, Blues were tactically and physically blown away by their north-west visitors.

Goals from Dejan Lovren and a substitute strike from Jordan Henderson were Chelsea’s undoing. He played reasonably well in a side that collectively played awfully for the first 45 minutes.

In 2011, Liverpool were Luiz’s debut opponents – and that too was a home defeat.

Conte said after this encounter: “Liverpool controlled the game in the first half with a lot of possession, changing position. Their second goal was amazing. The first one was a quick free-kick and we must pay attention to this sort of thing because they started better than us.”

“Normally you have a line to defend the free-kick but they played short and quickly. We didn’t organise the line quickly, so that’s why they had two or three free players at the back and they scored a goal.”

“This is the Premier League. When you make a mistake and don’t pay attention, particularly from the free-kick, you pay. The second half we controlled the game and almost scored a second goal to draw. Of course, it is not a good night for us but we’ll keep fighting for the next games.”

Belgium goalkeeper Courtois was not a happy man after Blues’ first defeat of the season saw them slip from second place to third, now two points behind leaders Manchester City.

“We didn’t start well,” was his frank assessment. “In the first half we didn’t have the duels, we didn’t have the second ball, everything was for them. They pressed us and we couldn’t cope with it. It was very hard and we gave two goals away.”

“The second half was a bit better, we scored and had some pressure but I don’t think we had a big chance.”

The first goal was a set-piece that they took quickly. Everybody ran to the first ball and they ran to the second ball, put a good cross in and it was a good goal. Everyone was a bit shocked, we didn’t start well and then they scored the second when we didn’t defend well. We tried to come out but when we tried to get better, they scored the second.”

“It came from a throw-in. Maybe we didn’t follow the man. The ball goes to Henderson and with no pressure on him, he makes a world-class goal. Then it’s difficult to create chances.”

LWN Sport went to press before Tuesday’s third EFL Cup third round match at Leicester and the trip to The Emirates on Saturday to play Arsenal could prove one of the most decisive matches of the season, a chance for Blues to prove that they are genuine Premier League title contenders.

Courtois said of those two games: “We know how Leicester play, it’s very hard there as well,” he said.

“That cup is important because we want to win a trophy this year. It will be a hard game and we should react after two disappointing games, at Swansea and losing at home to Liverpool.

The next league game away at Arsenal we should try to win like last season.”

SPURS left-back Ben Davies is being touted as a January target for Blues.

It’s believed Conte is looking to reinforce his defence even further after signing Spain’s Marcos Alonso in the summer and the Wales Euro 2016 hero, 23, has been identified by Chelsea’s hierarchy as a possible replacement for Cesar Azpilicueta at left-back, allowing the Spaniard to revert to his preferred right-back berth.

A fee of £25million might just be enough to tempt Spurs to part with Davies, who cost them £10m from Swansea City two years ago.

A HAT-TRICK from goal machine Martell Taylor-Crossdale and a strike from Harvey St Clair were enough to rout north London and Under-18 Premier League leaders Arsenal 4-2 on Saturday.

Jody Morris’ side have now won three of their five league matches this season.

Taylor-Crossdale, a 16-year-old scholar, is the league’s top scorer with eight, having hit seven in pre-season.

That form earned him a run-out for Carlo’s tour. The price is £80 and can be purchased at www.chelseafc.com/tours or by calling 0371 811 1955.

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