Under-threat A&E is busier than ever

Unit at centre of NHS closure plan now treating thousands more emergencies

BY GEOFF BAKER
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HEALTH chiefs’ plans to shut down the A&E at Charing Cross Hospital have been hit by new figures which reveal that the much-needed unit is now treating thousands more emergencies than ever before.

Hammersmith & Fulham council’s leader Stephen Cowan has warned that it would be “dangerous” for NHS bosses to continue with their bitterly opposed aim of closing the current A&E as this would put the health of local residents at risk.

Official figures show that the under-threat A&E department saw almost 500 more patients in February two years ago, an increase of 493 on February 2015.

“Over the last four months, Charing Cross Hospital’s A&E has seen 3,000 more patients than in the corresponding period two years ago – or an average increase of 24 cases every day,” said a council spokesman.

But health chiefs are still trying to push forward their plan which may see the axing of A&E at both Charing Cross and Ealing hospitals – and Cllr Cowan is still leading the fierce fight against the proposal, arguing that the increasing numbers of residents needing emergency treatment are not just going to vanish.

“The dedicated staff at Charing Cross Hospital continue to deal with more patients than ever before, while the threat of the axe hangs over this much-needed resource,” said Cllr Cowan.

“There is no logic at all behind the plan to downgrade the hospital and remove its A&E department, when figures from the trust show that the borough has never needed its medical expertise and care more than now.

“This irrational and dangerous plan for the future of the NHS in the borough seems to expect that seriously ill or injured people will simply disappear.

“A&E at Charing Cross Hospital is saving lives every day, and any plan to close it down puts the health of local people at risk, and must be stopped.”

However, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust continues to insist “there have never been any plans to close Charing Cross Hospital”.

It adds: “Far from relaunching the service strategy for north west London, agreed in 2013 following a review of the A&E and changing demands, the trust’s dedicated heart-attack and stroke unit, trauma centre and major trauma centre. And this is all within the context of increasing financial pressure.”

“It’s more important than ever that the NHS and local authorities work closely together to develop better and more integrated ways to help local people stay as healthy as possible and to get fast access to the right care when and where they need it.

“As such, we do believe health and care services need to continue to work together to develop a new service for north west London, agreed in 2013 following a

KIDS’ BUNNY RUN RAISES £1,007

The Circus of Horrors celebrates its 21st anniversary as it brings its latest incarnation, Never-ending Nightmare, to the big top on Shepherd’s Bush Green on Saturday.

“The spectacular features an amazing amalgamation of bizarre, brave and beautiful acts,” said a spokesman.

The show will feature Dr Haze the Undead ringmaster and former tax inspector Hannibal Hollmuenz who is now a Guinness World Record sword swallow. The circus will also star his wife Anastasia IV, a woman who performs a bizarre act while suspended only by her hair.

The circus is coming to town this weekend and it promises to be horrible.

The dedicated staff at Charing Cross and Ealing hospitals – or an average increase of 24 cases every day.”

“Like the rest of the NHS, we are working hard to respond to growing and changing demand, especially to support frail and elderly patients with a range of health problems.

“We also want to continue to offer the residents of north west London the very best in specialist health care, as we do, for example, at the trust’s dedicated heart-attack centre, stroke unit and major trauma centre. And this is all within the context of increasing financial pressure.”

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Three preceding months up more than a quarter on the position two years ago,” said a council spokesman.

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Nurse’s epic 800-mile bike journey in aid of hospital

A SHEPHERD’S Bush nurse will take on the biggest challenge of her life as she and a friend cycle 800 miles from Budapest to Basel in aid of the world-renowned renal and transplant department where she works at Hammer smith Hospital.

Claire Salter and her friend Lucy Plumridge will cycle more than 50 miles a day for more than two weeks in support of Imperial College Healthcare Charity, which raises money for the lat er’s hospital and four others in London.

Starting on Saturday, the duo will head west from Budapest in Hungary along the banks of the river Danube to Basel, passing through Slovakia, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. If the cycle challenge wasn’t tough enough on its own, the pair will also be carrying everything they need to eat and sleep with them.

Claire, a high-dependency nurse in the hospital’s renal transplant unit, said: “This is definitely the biggest thing I’ve ever done. People think we’re mad for doing this.”

“It’s going to be tonnes of fun but really tough. The hardest aspect of the challenge will be the physical side above anything else. But to be honest, we’ll have little choice but to carry on going.”

The two friends have chosen to cycle an 800-mile stretch of the famous EuroVelo 6 cycle route from west to east, making it even harder as this involves a gradual ascent all the way to their finishing point.

Claire, 27, said: “Most people tackle the whole of the EuroVelo 6 route over eight weeks, starting in France and heading east. The way we’re doing it is unconventional – and unlike most cyclists, we won’t have a support team around us to carry gear and food. “We’ll be loading up our bikes with two panniers, sleeping bags and a tent for the two of us, aiming for each of us to carry no more than around 15kg of gear.”

The pair will be rising at around 4.30am every day in order to get back on the road as early as possible. But it won’t all be toll and hard work as they plan to celebrate Claire’s birthday on Monday with plenty of cake.

Claire and Lucy have been friends for the last 12 years and their “Tour de Slum” – a combination of their surnames – is the latest in a series of grand adventures.

“We were on our way back from the Annapurna Base Camp trek in the Himalayas last November when we realised we didn’t have any big adventures to look forward to, which is when Lucy suggested doing a cycle tour of Europe. I then suggested we ride to raise money and awareness of the charity and the renal unit’s work,” said Claire.

“I tend to get bored with typical holidays, I much prefer going on adventures. Even though I’m more into my running and Lucy is the cyclist between the two of us, we’re both really excited about taking on this challenge.”

“We are expecting it to be very difficult though. We’ll likely be cycling into the wind a lot of the way but hopefully the weather won’t be too cold.”

Although the two have now raised more than £1,100 of their £3,000 target, training together has been difficult.

Claire said: “So far we’ve only trained together once but we have scheduled in a 100-mile cycle for the weekend before we start where we’ll fully load up our bikes to get a real feel for the weight of it all.”

“It’s just been hard to sync our schedules together – Lucy works 9am to 5pm and I’m on night shifts most of the time until we fly to Hungary for the start. “Sometimes I’ve cycled to Richmond Park, done a few laps and then cycled home, which is about 30 miles. I’ve also dragged my poor dad along with me cycling on a few occasions. He recently told me he would never go cycling with me again.”

For more details about Claire and Lucy’s challenge and to support them, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/toursedum. You can follow the progress of Claire and Lucy on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram on @toursedum.
Prominent builders press government on Crossrail 2

BY GEOFF BAKER
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DOZENS of builders are pressing the government to give the green light for Crossrail 2, bringing closer the prospect of a station in the King’s Road area. The builders have already written to the Chancellor to “show how vital Crossrail 2 is to unlocking new, good-quality homes and commercial space.”

Although the majority of Chelsea residents oppose a Crossrail 2 station in the King’s Road, 60 housebuilding and property-industry leaders, including Taylor Wimpey, British Land and all of the g35, London’s largest housing associations, have written to the Chancellor, Transport Secretary and Communities Secretary to “show how vital Crossrail 2 is to unlocking new, good-quality homes and commercial space.”

The mayor’s spokesman said: “The industry leaders say the new railway would transform transport capacity and connectivity for underdeveloped areas of the capital.”

“The case for Crossrail 2 is strong, the benefits are national and the opportunity should be taken. With it, private-sector investment would follow, delivering new homes, new jobs and the best public spaces.”

Melanie Leech, chief executive of the British Property Federation, said: “Crossrail 2 will stimulate regeneration up and down the route from the Solent to the Wash, opening sites for new housing and employment.”

A swift decision from government on Crossrail 2 would provide a vote of confidence for our industry as we support most, if not all, UK economic activity, through our provision of homes, offices and commercial space.”

Mr Khan said: “It’s no secret that London and the South East need new homes, and the government can clearly show its long-term commitment to tackling the housing crisis by backing Crossrail 2.”

“Key housebuilding and property leaders are clear that this vital project will unlock areas across the region and bring up to 200,000 new homes where they are desperately needed.”

“It’s time for the government to take note of the huge transport, economic and housing benefits, and give us the go-ahead to progress.”

Last month more than 70 business leaders hailed the infrastructure project as being of national importance. It will support 200,000 jobs, and generate 60,000 supply-chain jobs across the UK, including 16,000 apprentices, boosting the national economy by up to £130 billion.

Anyone for real tennis? Yes please, say kids

CHILDREN at two primary schools have taken up King Henry VIII’s favourite sport – real tennis – in an imaginative partnership initiative between Queen’s Club and Hamnersmith & Fulham Council.

A dozen kids aged 10 to 12 have learned a shedol of new words, from derades (a spectator window) to tambour (a buttress which deflected tennis balls) as they absorb the mysteries of the historic game.

Cllr Sue Pennimore, cabinet member for social inclusion, said: “The real tennis project at Queen’s Club is a fantastic bridge between history and sport.”

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a sport that they would not have otherwise encountered.”

The Queen’s Club outreach project is in its second term of supporting Normand Croft community school and Sir John Lillie primary in real tennis and squash. Twice a week the young players have the chance to use the club’s famous indoor court, which was constructed in 1866 – the year of the club’s formation.

The rare chance to experience the unusual sport has also fuelled studies of the Tudors in the children’s history lessons. Backed by the Queen’s Club Foundation and The Dedanists Foundation, which are jointly funding the initiative with the Queen’s Club, school PE teachers have been accompanying groups of young players to the famous court.

Initially the pilot project covered squash. But now there is no stopping the juniors from learning the finer points of a game which initially gained popularity in England in the early 1400s.

Queen’s Club coaches share their skills, with an impact also being felt in the classroom. The positive on-court experiences are having a hugely beneficial impact when the children settle down to their lessons on returning to school, said Victoria Kovacs, PE teacher at Normand Croft.

Matt Treweeke, of Sir John Lillie, agreed. “They are gaining confidence which transmits to many different areas of their school day. Being able to use the facilities at Queen’s Club to teach our students is a valuable experience.”

So successful has the project been in introducing the young pupils to sport that plans are already being made to extend it beyond the summer.

Snarl-up concerns prompt early warning over racing cyclists

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council chiefs are so worried that residents may get snarled up in a forthcoming cycling race that they are giving motorists a 16-week warning to get out of the way. Prudential RideLondon returns to the royal borough’s streets on Sunday July 30 – and councillors are already flagging up to drivers who may get caught up in road closures.

“The annual mass-participation cycling event will once again attract many thousands of amateur and professional cyclists to the streets of London and Surrey,” said a council spokesman.

“While a great spectacle and exciting challenge for those taking part, many of whom are riding to raise money for good causes, the event does cause major disruption to roads and public transport.

“Residents, community groups and businesses planning any activities on Sunday July 30 need to be aware that there will be significant traffic disruption in the borough.

“Last year, roads in Kensington and Chelsea were closed from 5am and reopened at about 8pm.”

Final details of timings and road closures for this year’s event are not confirmed but the route is likely to be the same as last year which will mean the following roads will be closed: Knightsbridge, Brompton Road, Cromwell Road, King’s Road, Ashburnham Road, Cremorne Road, Cheyne Walk and Chelsea Embankment.

The spokesman said: “Other local roads will also be affected and have restricted access. It is expected there will be additional disruption this year as a result of ongoing gas works on Fulham Road between Beaufort Street and Edgith Grove.

“This work cannot be suspended on the day of the event. However, the council is working closely with National Grid and TFL on plans to help minimise the level of disruption.

“As the route for the event goes through East, Central and West London before heading out to Surrey it requires more than 100 miles of road to be closed which will have a major impact on getting round the capital.

“If you are planning any special events such as a wedding, or making a journey to or from an airport, it will be advisable to plan ahead.

“The event organisers also have a helpline which can be contacted for more information on 0345 894 9773 or you can email helpdesk@ridelondon.co.uk.

“Tim Coteridge, the royal borough’s cabinet member for transport, said: ‘Prudential RideLondon is really growing in popularity. It’s a huge event involving thousands of amateur and professional cyclists.

“With so many roads closed across London and the borough, the best way to minimise disruption is to put the date in your diary and plan ahead. If you are a very resident or a community group who has other plans on Sunday July 30 to check the event organiser and TFL’s websites for the latest information.

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Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, Nick Paget-Brown, writes for you

city's fraud team and they decided to take a close look themselves.
When our fraud officers visited the property they found another family living there. So we had a situation where, between July 2013 and March 2015, a woman was paying £12,849 in rent to the council while collecting £29,295 in rent from the people to whom she was subletting. Easy money for her – but taken from the public purse and completely illegal.

She now has a criminal record and has relinquished the keys to the Old Brompton Street property. According to the judge it was only her previous good character and early guilty plea that kept her out of prison. We’re not quite finished with our former tenant just yet though and will look to recover money from her by a proceeds-of-crime confiscation hearing.

Subletting deprives people who genuinely need social housing of a home and we are always on the lookout for any sign that a property is being misused.

We often act on information received by neighbours, members of the public or other statutory authorities.

You can help be our eyes and ears. If you have any reason to believe that social housing is being used in this way please contact our fraud team – the officers will take it from there.

You can get in touch by calling 020 7361 2777 or emailing investigations@rbkc.gov.uk.

To contact the leader of the council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk.

£50 to attend carnival?

Ticketing of London’s previously free New Year’s event was introduced by City Hall in order to protect public safety as the crowds had grown too large for emergency services and authorities to handle. Last year, 130,000 people from 100 countries paid £10 a head to see the 15-minute firework display that the trust was confident would prove to be a key moment in the year’s celebrations. But something that can be forgotten in the house-price frenzy is that about a quarter of households in the borough live in social housing.

That is homes managed by the Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation or housing associations.

The rents for these homes are set at affordable levels and mean that we have a good mix of people. Social housing is an important resource and one that must be protected and used properly.

Unfortunately, some people seem to think that it’s a way to make a fast buck.

I’m talking here about people who manage to sublet this precious social housing, in a very desirable part of London, and then sublet it at the local market rent which is much, much higher than social rent.

For example, a couple of weeks a woman was given a nine-month suspended sentence after she pleaded guilty to subletting a council property.

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Clearing our air

ONDON’s air needs cleaning up so that our health and wellbeing can improve. Air quality in London and Kensington and Chelsea has not improved since 2005. It’s a situation which kills 9,000 Londoners prematurely each year and causes chest and respiratory difficulties for two million more, many of whom are young children and babies. In RBKC, carbon emissions have increased by eight per cent since 2005 while they have decreased by an average of 18.8 per cent elsewhere in London.

Some of the most dangerously polluted and unhealthy roads in the UK and Europe, the Cromwell Road and the Westway, are to be found in the royal borough.

Engines which run on diesel contribute significantly to this situation by increasing levels of vehicle exhaust emissions. This is beyond simply motor vehicles on the road. Diesel trains passing through RBKC, like the Paddington line which brings commuters from Dalgarno ward, also contribute. So does the use of diesel-powered electricity generators on the numerous construction sites across K&C.

Now the Labour mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced measures to reduce our air pollution. From this October, an extra £10 air quality charge, or T-Charge, will be applied to the most polluting vehicles entering the present congestion zone. From April 2019 the same vehicles will be charged an additional £12.50 to enter the planned ULEZ or ultra-low emission zone. Sadiq is also investing £440m to remove public transport buses by 2018 and introduce 12 low-emission bus zones. These zones are expected to reduce emissions by 50 per cent.

These measures are in addition to Sadiq’s plans to protect schools in the most polluted parts of London which were announced in January this year. Under this scheme the mayor is investing £1 billion in working with schools to improve our children’s health. Sadiq’s vision of healthy streets for London aims to get us out of our cars and walking and cycling more. It is a vision that will improve the health and wellbeing of all us living in the city.

The Conservative government needs to step up to Sadiq’s pace if we are to significantly impact the environmental and public-health crises caused by our dirty air. Theresa May swiftly needs to introduce national diesel scrappage funding to encourage us to move away from its use.

Our own Conservative council should be doing more too. The Labour group has been consistently calling for stronger measures to tackle air pollution. It believes in the health and wellbeing of all that live in the royal borough and in Westminster.

It’s a vision which connects the strong environmental and public-health gains for all of us. The least polluting forms of transport, cycling and walking, should be prioritised. Our roads need to be redesigned and a 20mph speed limit introduced to allow this transition. Installing more green roofs and screens is also essential to target the most polluted areas and help the most vulnerable.

Both nationally and locally, Conservative administrations have a vision to take air pollution and our health as seriously as does our Labour mayor.

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WARNING PRICES TOO LOW!!

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Points of view

**Musicians join forces to help the homeless**

**MUSICIANS AGAINST HOMELESSNESS HAVE LAUNCHED THEIR 2017 CAMPAIGN TO RAISE MONEY FOR HOMELESS CHARI TY CRISIS. ROCK AND POP STARS INCLUDING SHAUN RYDER AND CAST ARE BACKING THE CAUSE, WHICH LOOKS TO HAVE AN EVEN BIGGER IMPACT THIS YEAR.**

Former Oasis guru Alan McGee launched the campaign in 2016. It was publicly supported by celebrities such as Lily Allen, Liam Gallagher and Irvine Welsh. More than 500 bands played more than 100 MAH benefit gigs around the UK.

But Alan expects even more gigs and household names to get behind this year’s drive which coincides with the 50th anniversary of his band's first gig.

He said: “Last year the response was incredible but more people need to know about us now. We are getting people talking and taking action on homelessness in the best way we know how – through music and community.”

“This problem will not go away. Statistics show a significant rise in the people sleeping rough on British streets – 4,134 in January in England alone – which is an absolute disgrace.”

Happy Mondays and Black Grape star Shaun said: “To see so many people in this day and age homeless and hungry is unbelievable. This is not Victorian Britain.

“As usual it’s the people who are not in a position to speak for themselves or be heard who get left behind and ignored.

“It’s become so common to see homeless people on the streets that maybe it’s not a shock when you walk past. Or maybe it’s so shocking that you have to look away, and try not to think about it.

“The sad thing is it’s not the public’s problem – but they’re the ones most likely to help the homeless than anyone in one government. If I found myself in a desperate and vulnerable position where I’d have to trust the decisions being made in Parliament, I’d be seriously worried.”

Alan said: “The homeless situation in the UK is sickening and shocking but there is a growing awareness of the desperation people at the bottom have to endure, thanks to Ken Loach’s film *I Daniel Blake* and the musicians who back us.

“The safety nets people have relied on are slowly and consistently being taken away. Cuts to benefits and unfair sanctions are callously putting the most vulnerable at risk of homelessness.

“I know people who have jobs but have to couch-surf because they can’t afford to rent or get on the housing ladder.”

This year’s MAH gigs will run throughout September.

Alan said: “Music brings us together regardless of politics or social standing. It’s a great leveller and a vital tool for making people understand the pointlessness of ‘throwing people on the dole’.

“The Homelessness Reduction Bill is a step in the right direction. But without the necessary funding to enable local councils to prevent homelessness it will be ineffective.

“To apply to play, host or organise a MAH gig visit Musicians Against Homelessness on Facebook – facebook.com/mahgigs.”

**Drinks spiked**

**LIKE YOUR CORRESPONDENT, I BELIEVE MURDERERS HAVE ENDURED THE FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE OF HAVING MY DRINK SPIKED.**

It was an experience made more terrifying because I had no recollection at all of what happened to me between my last memories in a club and waking up in the next morning home in bed. I shudder to think what could have happened to me.

I have no idea what sort of person thinks it is “funny” or “clever” to spike somebody else’s drink. I imagine that the sort of yobboes that do this have half an eye on taking sexual advantage of their victim because they are not man enough to get a partner without drugging one.

That aside, I also wonder if the perpetrators of this wickedness are aware that spiking a drink for whatever reason is a major breach of both health & safety & criminal action.

Of course, catching the perpetrator is quite another thing. But should the illegal action of this and the possible dire consequences now be a lesson that is taught in all schools? Boys especially need to be instructed from an early age that it is wrong to treat women in this way.

I would also like to see the powers that be taking much stronger action against those who manufacture and sell such date-a-drugs as GHB. As present this very dangerous drug is categorized as only a class-C drug. Given the dangers of its misuse, could it not be upped to category A?

**Susan Davies**

**Dog owners**

**I WAS HORRIFIED TO READ THE BAD STORY OF BEA, THE TINY YORKSHIRE TERRIER WHO HAD BEEN TAKEN TO A VIETNAMESE HOME OWNER TO BE PUT DOWN AT JUST FIVE WEEKS OLD BECAUSE SHE WAS BLIND.**

According to your report, a breeder wanted shot of the little mite because, being blind, she was no use to him or her as she could not be sold in that condition.

Thank goodness that the fine people at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stepped in and saved Bea. I have no doubt that she will now be offered scores of new homes.

I have no doubt too that the government ought to tighten up the law on dog breeding.

Battersea says that the world of breeding is unscrupulous and the case of Bea does point to that.

As Battersea says, dogs are not commodities. And yet we so often treat them as such.

Is it not time for dog licences to now be reintroduced but on a much tougher system whereby potential owners and their homes are vetted and only those who show the right degree of responsibility are allowed to own one?

**Peter Clarke**

**Bank closures**

**I READ THAT LLOYDS BANK IS TO CLOSE 100 BRANCHES, CAUSING SOME 200 STAFF TO LOSE THEIR JOBS.**

While I have every sympathy for the bank staff, I must admit that I choked on my cornflakes when I read Lloyds’ explanation for the closures.

“These branch closures are in response to changing customer behaviour and the reduced number of transactions being made in branches,” said a spokesman, using pretty much the same words that other banks have employed to excuse other closures.

What the banks never say though is that these “changes in customer behaviour” – ie online banking, a cashless, card-dependant society etc – are changes which the banks themselves encouraged us to make.

It was the banks, not us, who championed and promoted banking online. They really ought to have seen this consequence coming.

It doesn’t take the wisdom of Solomon to work out that if you invent a system whereby you don’t have to actually go into a bank, a pretty soon people will stop going to banks. And yet once again, we the customers, are to suffer for banks’ lack of foresight.

It was the same with the big crash. The banks should have seen that coming too.

And yet they guessed ignorance and the customers had to bail them out to the tune of billions.

Why is it that banks are allowed by our authorities to get away with so much? Why do we time and again take a “there, there, never mind” approach to their cack-handed business sense?

Perhaps all banks should be nationalised so that our money, and banking services, are controlled by those who can be regulated?

**Judith Walker**

**Dementia plea**

**THIS YEAR’S DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK WILL BE PART OF ALZHEIMER’S SOCIETY’S BIGGEST EVER AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN IN ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND.**

The United Against Dementia campaign will run for four weeks from April 24 and conclude in Dementia Awareness Week (May 14 to 20).

Dementia is set to be the 21st century’s biggest killer, with someone developing it...
your letters and emails

every three minutes, which is why Alzheimer’s Society is calling on people to forget their differences and come together to urgently find a cure, improve care, and offer help and understanding.

Because public understanding is so poor, people with dementia often feel – and are – misunderstood, marginalised and isolated but with the right support and understanding they can continue to live fulfilling lives and make a contribution to their communities.

Alzheimer’s Society staff, volunteers and supporters are busy arranging local events across Greater London and across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Backing the campaign will be high-profile supporters, who will be announced soon. Unite with us now at alzheimers.org.uk and show your support for Dementia Awareness Week on social media with #DAW2017

UnitedAgainstDementia

Morwenna Darby

EC4

MPs defy Hunt

I WAS very pleased to see our local MPs Victoria Borwick and Greg Hands openly defying their own Tory colleague Jeremy Hunt by joining the protest against the threatened closure of the children’s and babies’ heart unit at the Royal Brompton.

It is outrageous that the Health Secretary should be even considering closing the congenital heart diseases department at this distinguished hospital, which has led the world in its work in this field.

For many parents who have been worried out of their wits by illnesses threatening their children, the excellent staff of the Royal Brompton often represent their only hope and their marvellous work has saved many, many young lives.

Mr Hunt and his Department of Health need to be sharply reminded that nothing is more precious than a young life, certainly not savings. I hope that the action of Mrs Borwick and Mr Hands in making such a public stand against his misguided policy will bring him to his senses and show that he too has a heart.

Patricia Brooks

Fulham

Knife attacks

THE number of knife attacks in the capital has now reached sickening proportions.

Every day there is a new report of a young person getting stabbed, often with fatal results.

While I appreciate that it is extremely difficult for the supply of knives to be policed, as many of the weapons used in these attacks are ordinary kitchen knives, surely as a society we can do our bit to lessen the risk by banning from all sale, online or in shops, the huge variety of hunting, ornamental and trophy knives which are easily bought?

Nobody in his right mind needs to own a samurai sword or a machete – nobody in London is an actual ninja and there are no sugarcane plantations to be waded through on the way to the bus.

The authorities have rightfully taken recent action to ban the sale and possession of the hideous “zombie knives” – now this should be extended to all fancy blades.

The few collectors that there are may moan and bleat about such action – just as handgun enthusiasts did when the government banned them some years ago – but their protests count little against the number of lives that may be saved.

Peter Preston

Shepherd’s Bush

Thank you

MAY I through your columns extend my deep thanks to the young man with dreadlocks who ran after me in Kensington High Street last Monday to return the purse that he saw that I had dropped.

I did not get his name and had little time to thank him as he sped off to catch a bus. Often the youth of today are castigated and written off as a bad lot but I was heartened to see that good British values of honesty and decency are still very much alive and kicking among our young.

Whomever you are young man, you are a credit to your generation.

Betty Evans (aged 74)

Battersea

H

ERE’s something that ought to worry you a lot.

A few days ago the GLA sent me some figures on the strength of the Met. In a nutshell, they reveal that the thin blue line is now so thin that it could function as a cigarette paper.

The figures showed an astonishing, shocking and troubling decline in the numbers of officers now serving in the crime-ridden borough that is Westminster.

I shouldn’t imagine that the capital’s publicity arm, London & Partners, will do much shouting about this now that the visitor season is upon us. Nor do I expect that City Hall’s PR department to crow about it as part of its London’sOpen campaign, because – as another department within City Hall is clearly anxious for me to tell you – London is now open, wide and gaping, for crooks, villains and bad people, those people who will do you harm.

London is open for crime because over the past seven years the number of officers serving in Westminster has fallen from 1,628 in 2010 to 1,290 now.

That’s a loss of 439 cops in Westminster, a 26 per cent drop in the strength of the force.

It’s the same all over the shop: in Hammersmith and Fulham the number of police has fallen by 19 per cent over the same period, in Kensington and Chelsea the Met is down by 15 per cent.

Feeling a little less safe all of a sudden? You ought to be because although the authorities – by which I mean various ministries of deceit and their lickspittle supporters on the councils – have been telling us for ages that crime figures in the capital have fallen in recent years, what they neglect to mention when they are putting this line which contradicts the evidence of our own eyes is that the incidence of violent crime has soared.

Call me, as many often do, stupid, but in my simplistic world I would have thought that when society is becoming more violent, more youths going out tooling up with knives, when more guns than ever before are being smuggled in and when more women are getting sexually attacked, the thing you want is more police, not fewer.

I don’t know about you but the way it works with crime, especially violent crime, down my way is that the very first thing I’d do is call the police. That’s what we all do isn’t it, dial 999? We call because we need help because we can’t cope with what confronts us on our own. So it’s not exactly reassuring to know that Central London is 26 per cent less safe than it was seven years ago.

What I don’t understand is why Sadiq Khan appears to be the only person in any position of authority who is bothered by this. Sadiq has repeatedly kicked off with warnings that if the Met becomes any more depleted – a racing certainty given the requirement set by the government for it to find a further £400 million “savings” – then the force will no longer be able to guarantee public safety.

But nobody else seems to be as bothered as clearly Sadiq and me are about this. I haven’t heard the Prime Minister issue any such warnings, Home Secretary Amber Rudd seems to be rather quiet on the subject. Is that because this pair are responsible for the more police cuts that are going to come and they just don’t care as long as the books get more balanced?

I have written repeatedly about the dire consequences that face us if we do not get a grip on funding the Met and I shall continue to protest until something is done about it – because with more than 400 fewer cops on the streets of Westminster, and more to be made redundant yet, the chances of you or I becoming the victim of violent crime the next time we’re up west are raised alarmingly.

In the Conservative manifesto that got this government elected, it pledged – on page 58 – “your local area should be a safe place to grow up, work, raise a family and retire. We will continue to cut crime and make your community safer”.

It didn’t say “your local area with the exception of Westminster, Hammersmith, Fulham, Kensington, Chelsea and many other Central London boroughs”.

So why is this weakening of our first and most trusted line of defence being allowed to go on? Don’t people keep promises any more?

The same manifesto makes all sorts of boasts about toughening up sentencing and coming down hard on the bad men – including crowing in one headline “there are around 3,000 more adult male prison places today than in 2007”, as if that is anything for a civilised society to be proud about – but anyone of any sentiment and certainly any police officer will tell you that the best solution for crime is prevention, not retribution.

And crime prevention is far more easily accomplished if you have more people doing the job, not fewer. My cat could tell you that and I somewhat resent that those in power over us clearly have less intelligence than him.
Glastonbury crew bring a bit of rock’n’roses to RHS flower show

By Geoff Baker

glff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will have rivals for attention at this year’s Chelsea Flower Show as the Glastonbury crew move in for a bit of rock’n’roses – led by DJs Chris Evans and Zoe Ball.

The DJs are among five BBC stars who will be revealing their own garden designs at this year’s event – with Chris hosting a three-hour rock gig live from Chelsea just before Her Majesty makes her traditional tour on the eve of the opening of the flower show.

And Chris will be bringing along “television royalty” for the show – The Great British Bake Off Queen Mary Berry.

BBC Radio 2 is taking part in the world-famous flower show as part of its 50th-anniversary celebrations, with its top team displaying their “feel good gardens of the senses”.

“Gardens provide havens to calm the body, relax the mind and make us feel better. The gardens will uplift the senses and encourage people to lose themselves among a feast of sights, scents, sounds, flavours and textures, designed to make them feel happier, calmer and generally better about the world,” said a BBC spokesman.

“The five BBC gardens will show how plants can enrich and indulge one of the five senses – touch, taste, smell, sight and sound.”

The gardens will also celebrate BBC Radio 2’s 50th anniversary and are named after different BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Shows. On Monday May 22, Chris Evans will do an outside broadcast from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show from 6.30am to 9.30am.

He said: “I’m beyond thrilled to be taking the Radio 2 Breakfast Show to Chelsea in May and to work with Mary Berry on one of the Radio 2 Feel Good Gardens. We’ve spent a lot of time at Chris hosting a three-hour garden show and gardening bonkers for a very special show at the world’s most prestigious horticultural happening. We cannot wait.”

Lewis Carney, head of Radio 2, said: “Radio 2 is delighted to be broadcasting from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show to kick off our 50th-anniversary celebrations.

“We know many of our listeners take great pleasure from the great outdoors and I’m looking forward to seeing how the designers of the BBC Radio 2 Feel Good Gardens interpret the spirit of Radio 2 and our presenters in flower and vegetable form.”

The five BBC Radio 2 Feel Good Gardens are:

● The Chris Evans Taste Garden by designer Jon Wheatley, who has asked friend of the Radio 2 breakfast show Mary Berry to help celebrate the tastiest plants growing in UK gardens, by growing on allotments in many communities. Plants that excite and stimulate your palate and enhance your lifestyle and health and wellbeing feature in this garden.

● The Zoe Ball Scent Garden. This is designed by Tamara Bridge, 2015 RHS young designer of the year, and Kate Savill. Tamara and Kate have asked fragrance designer Jo Malone to help create the garden, which will include aromas that transport visitors to a time or place such as woodland walks, rain on warm paving, fresh earth and new leaf growth, or freshly cut flowers from the garden. Jo Malone and Jo Whitley will visit the show in the build-up to help with plantings.

● The Aninka Rice Colour Cutting Garden. This is designed by Sarah Raven. Every square inch of space will be filled with flowers, flowers and more flowers. The gardens show different combinations of colours, rich fruit and vegetable form.

● The Jeremy Vine Texture Garden. This is designed by Matt Keightley and is an immersive tactile garden which features bold geometric forms juxtaposed with a soft and elegant planting pallet. Varying material finishes and plant structure seemingly evolve through the space to create a garden people want to interact with and relax in.

● The Zoe Ball Listening Garden. This is designed by James Alexander Sinclair and aims to reproduce the feeling when you stand too close to a speaker stack at a concert; the sensation of feeling music through your whole body. While you can’t hear the sound of music in the garden, it is be visible in water patterns in water features and felt through the floor. The music will be from the last 50 years of Radio 2.

The BBC Radio 2 Feel Good Gardens are half the size of the big show gardens and will have the backdrop of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Suspended jail term for tenant who sublet home

Kensington and Chelsea council tenants who illegally sublet their homes have been warned that they could be bunged up for it.

A royal borough resident who illegally sublet her council house was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to nine months’ imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered to complete a rehabilitation requirement programme for two years.

Lisa McDermott failed to declare that she was no longer residing at Hunter House, Old Brompton Road.

At an earlier court hearing she had pleaded guilty to dishonestly failing to disclose not using the property as a main and principle home and subletting contrary to Section 1 and Section 3 of the Fraud Act 2006.

The deception was uncovered during a visit by the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation and a subsequent visit by the royal borough’s fraud team.

It was established that McDermott was no longer resident at the property and instead another family was living at the address.

From July 31 2013 to March 30 2015, the rental income the council received from McDermott totalled £12,849 and the sublet income she received from the family totalled £29,295.

Investigations also established that in July 2013, McDermott, along with her husband, purchased a house at Wynter Street, Battersea.

In sentencing her, the judge, Mr Recorder M Chawla QC, said that in his view the offence was so serious a community order would not be appropriate and crossed the threshold of custody.

In mitigation he said that McDermott was of previous good character and he gave her credit for the early guilty plea.

During the course of the investigation prior to criminal proceedings, McDermott relinquished the keys to the property at Hunter House.

A timeline has been set to recover the money at a proceeds of crime confiscation hearing.
We’re set to pay through nose so we can breathe cleaner air

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS whose breathing may be eased by the introduction of Sadiq Khan’s new clean-air fee are set to pay through the nose for it.

Road haulage chiefs have warned that the £100 daily charge for non-compliant heavy diesel vehicles, including buses, coaches and HGVs, to drive in the ULEZ from April 30, 2020, will mean the capital has the toughest emission standard of any city.

"I am introducing a new T-Charge this October and, subject to consultation, I want to introduce the Ultra Low Emission Zone in Central London in 2019. This will mean the capital has the toughest emission standard of any city worldwide.

"The scale of our air-quality challenge is so big that I need to go further. I want to announce my intention to consult on these proposals in good time, to make sure those affected by new charges will have time to make sure they need to adapt to our low-emission requirements." he said.

Chairman of trustees is ‘privileged’ to take up role

THE Barons Court Project has announced the appointment of a new chairman of trustees.

Hammersmith resident Andrew Mananow has been elected to lead the project’s board and help the service develop.

Andrew, pictured, is general counsel and company secretary of ASOS.com. He has 10 years’ experience in both corporate and compliance roles in global businesses.

Andrew heard about the Barons Court Project through a Christmas appeal.

He then decided to become “a friend of the project,” donating monthly to help its work with people who are homeless or at risk of mental health problems.

He visited the project last summer at one of its open days and was impressed by the work it does.

Andrew said: “It will be a privilege to be able to work with the trustees and use their experience and external viewpoint to lead and guide the project in these challenging economic and political times.

Michael Angus, director of the project, said: “We are delighted to have a local resident as our new chairman. “To have someone so passionate about the issues of homelessness and mental health but with a very useful external experience is fantastic.

“We are very much looking forward to working together and taking the project forward.”

The project is set to hold its annual family-friendly matchday celebration outside Chelsea Football Club on May 8.

Reservations for the project said: “In order to hold that vital collection we need to win a popular vote.

“People vote for us that would be awesome. Voting is open until April 26.”

You can vote for the project at chelsea fc/the-club/foundation/foundation-fundraising/match-day-collections.html or go to the website baronscortproject.org.

"Followings the mayor’s announcement on new chairmen, our chief executive of the Road Haulage Association, "But don’t let the mayor’s quest for clean air turn the nation’s capital into a ghost town.

"The hundreds of restaurants, shops and tourist attractions that make London one of the world’s major tourism destinations are massively reliant on an efficient delivery network. That must not be jeopardised.

"The majority of hauliers entering the capital on a regular basis are already using trucks that meet the Euro 6 standard — but many are not.

"They will be facing an additional £24,000 per year in fines. Many will be forced out of business while others will have no alternative but to pass the additional cost on to their customers.

"The knock-on effect will be an increase in prices for consumers, including the millions of tourists who come to London each year.

"The road freight industry is responsible for the movement of 85 per cent of everything consumed in the UK. Yet once again we are the ones getting penalised through a crucial job keeping the economy – especially the economy of London – moving.

"To impose a £100 fine a day on these operators who simply cannot afford to incur the new, cleaner engines will see jobs lost and hauliers put out of business.” Andrew said.

Alex Werner, head of History collections at the museum, said: “We know from the Great Smog of 1952 that London has a history of polluted air and the smog eventually led to government legislation, introducing the Clean Air Act of 1956 bringing ‘smokeless zones’ to London and other British cities. It’s an ongoing issue, especially for people living and working in Central London.”

Jonathan Grigg, professor of paediatric and environmental medicine at Queen Mary University, said: “The mayor of London is to be congratulated in bringing forward the date of the ULEZ.

“Reducing diesel emissions in the congestion-charge zone will help reduce exposure to toxic soot particles and gases. To maximise the effectiveness of this initiative, the government must now act to remove the toxic fleet of diesel cars, vans and buses from all our roads.”

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS 9 TUESDAY APRIL 11 2017
Ex-mayor branded repulsive in row over ‘punishment’

BY GEOFF BAKER
geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FORMER London mayor Ken Livingstone has been denounced as repulsive in the wake of the row raging over the decision not to expel him from the Labour Party following his remarks about Hitler and Zionism.

And Labour has been blasted by Jewish leaders “punishing” Mr Livingstone.

The row began after Mr Livingstone said: “Let’s remember when Hitler won his election in 1932, his policy then was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism – this before he went mad and ended up killing six million Jews.”

Joe Glasmann, head of political and government investigations at Campaign Against Antisemitism, said: “Ken Livingstone has been portraying Jews as Nazis for decades.

“His claim that Hitler acted in support of Zionism, along with his constant repetition of that distortion, has been a repulsive spectacle.

“We felt sure that the Labour Party, hobbled by antisemitism as it is, would reclaim some of its former self and expel him.

“Labour has long had a moral duty to expel Ken Livingstone but instead it has allowed his vile views to gain support in the party. The verdict confirms our worst fears: that it is possible to husband and broadcast such repulsive beliefs and still remain a Labour Party member has shocked even us.

“This surely represents the last of the death throes of the Labour Party’s long relationship with the Jewish community. The Labour Party had this one last chance to prove that it is not beyond salvation. Today’s decision is the party’s final act of indulgence of his views anywhere in the Labour Party.”

Mr Livingstone has also been condemned by his deputy leader Tom Watson and by the Chief Rabbi. Mr Watson said he found it “incomprehensible” that an elected Labour Party member on the disciplinary panel found Ken Livingstone guilty of such serious charges, and then concluded that he can remain a member of the Labour Party.

He added: “When I read the words of Chief Rabbi Mirvis, who says that ‘the Labour Party has failed the Jewish community, it has failed its members and it has failed all those who believe in zero tolerance of antisemitism’, I can’t disagree with him.

“I wish I could but I can’t. I am ashamed that we have allowed Mr Livingstone to cause such distress.

“It isn’t just Jewish people who feel disgusted and offended by what Mr Livingstone said and by the way he has conducted himself over this matter, and it isn’t just Jewish Labour members who feel ashamed of any indulgence of his views anywhere in the Labour Party.

“This shames us all, and I’m deeply saddened by it.”

Constables rewarded for helping suicidal man

THREE Westminster police officers who rushed to the aid of a suicidal man have been recognised for their lifesaving actions.

PC Ryan Allister, PC David Hammond and PC Adam Rawlings were each awarded a Royal Humane Society Certificate of Commendation for their actions.

During the afternoon of August 3, 2015, PC Allister and PC Laura Smith were flagged down by a passing motorist who reported seeing an injured male in Islington.

At the scene, the officers found the pavement covered with blood and saw a man running towards them shouting that he wanted to kill himself.

The officers conducted a risk assessment and placed the male on to the floor to assess his injuries. He struggled to free himself from the officers as they tried to administer first aid.

PC Rawlings and PC Hammond attended to assist their colleagues and set about making local inquiries.

They ascertained that the male had been disturbed and then attempted to commit suicide by cutting his wrists.

The officers, who were now covered with blood, had to restrain the man for 20 minutes until a lone paramedic arrived and initiated treatment.

It was a further 40 minutes until an ambulance arrived.

The male was subsequently detained under the Mental Health Act and transferred to hospital.

PC Smith will receive her award at a future ceremony.

Supt Ray Rogers, from Westminster, said: “These officers showed true professionalism and initiative to prevent a vulnerable man from harming himself any further, which could have proved fatal.

“They worked well together as a team to bring the incident to a safe conclusion.”
THREATENED CHARING CROSS A&E IS BUSIER THAN EVER

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Health chiefs’ plans to shut down the A&E at Charing Cross Hospital have been hit by new figures which reveal that the much-needed unit is now treating thousands more emergencies than ever before.

Hammersmith & Fulham council’s leader Stephen Cowan has warned that it would be “dangerous” for NHS bosses to continue with their bitterly opposed aim of closing the current A&E and as this would put the health of local residents at risk.

Official figures show that the under-threat A&E department saw almost 500 more patients in February than it did in the same month two years ago.

There were 3,289 people seen by the department during the month – an increase of 493 on February 2015.

“This continues a trend which saw patient numbers in each of the three preceding months up more than a quarter on the position two years ago,” said a council spokesman.

“But health chiefs are still trying to push forward their plan which may see the axing of A&E at both Charing Cross and Ealing hospitals – and Cllr Cowan is still leading the fight against the proposal, arguing that the increasing numbers of residents needing emergency treatment are not just going to vanish.

“The dedicated staff at Charing Cross Hospital continue to deal with more patients than ever before, while the threat of the axe hangs over this much-needed resource,” said Cllr Cowan.

“There is no logic at all behind the plan to downgrade the hospital, and remove its A&E department, when figures from the trust show that the borough has never needed its medical expertise and care more than now.

“This irrational and dangerous plan for the future of the NHS in the borough seems to expect that seriously ill or injured people will simply disappear.

“A&E at Charing Cross Hospital is saving lives every day, and any plan to close it down puts the health of local people at risk, and must be stopped.

“However Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust continues to insist “there have never been any plans to close Charing Cross Hospital.”

It adds: “Far from relaunching proposals for changes at Charing Cross, the North West London Sustainability and Transformation Plan made a clear commitment that there will be no reduction in Charing Cross’ A&E department or wider services within the lifetime of the plan that runs until April 2021.

“Like the rest of the NHS, we are working hard to respond to growing and changing demand, especially to support frail and elderly patients with a range of health problems.

“We also want to continue to offer the residents of north west London the very best in specialist health care, as we do, for example, at our dedicated heart attack centre, stroke unit and major trauma centre. And this is all within the context of increasing financial pressures.”

“It’s more important than ever that the NHS and local authorities work closely together to develop better and more integrated ways to help local people stay as healthy as possible and to get fast access to the right care when and where they need it.

“As such, we do believe health and care services need to continue to change along the lines set out in the service strategy for north west London, agreed in 2013 following a full public consultation.

“We made further commitments through the STP that we will work jointly with communities and councils to design new models of care as set out in the strategy and that we will first progress and test new out-of-hospital models before looking to reduce acute hospital capacity.”

Dr Tracy Batten, chief executive of the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, has outlined the trust’s “plans for a new Charing Cross Hospital on the same site in Fulham Palace Road” in correspondence with Fulham & Chelsea MP Greg Hands.

Dr Batten informed Mr Hands that “highlights for the site’s plans” include: 
- £150 million redevelopment;
- a wide range of specialist and planned care, including day case surgery and treatment, one-stop diagnostic clinics, outpatients, chemotherapy, and renal dialysis;
- integrated care and rehabilitation services, especially for elderly people and those with chronic conditions;
- an emergency centre;
- existing partner services to be co-located, including mental health and cancer support;
- as well as a redevelopment of the Charing Cross site, the trust’s strategy proposes a significant redevelopment of the St Mary’s site, and a smaller redevelopment of the Hammersmith site, where Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital would remain co-located.

FIVE Queens Park Rangers fans were given the full VIP treatment at Loftus Road to mark their volunteering roles in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Nominated by fellow supporters as part of the football club’s community programme, the quintet were wined and dined in the directors’ box, then had the best seats in the stadium to enjoy the 5-1 victory over Rotherham United.

At half-time there was a standing ovation from 13,000 QPR fans as the quintet were presented with trophies and certificates on the pitch, as a club thank-you for their selfless contribution to community life.

Among those overwhelmed by their reception in the stadium was Julie Wilkins, who’s worked at local hospitals for 40 years and gives up her spare time to help patients with hearing loss and support her daughter through a chronic illness.

“It was a great honour to be nominated, especially as my family, work and QPR are the things I enjoy in life,” said Julie.

“It was a fantastic day, and we were looked after really well by all the staff at QPR.

“My work involves the diagnosis of hearing and balance conditions and the subsequent rehabilitation. It is very rewarding to help someone hear again.

“I am also in charge of the service, and I give extra hours to ensure my service runs smoothly.”

Another “unsung hero” was Kevin Smith, a community police officer whose school and youth-club workshops warn of the dangers of knife crime, and who also volunteers at Hammersmith BMX Club.

“I really don’t feel like an unsung hero but what an honour to be one of the chosen few to receive this award, especially from a club I’ve supported all my life,” said Kevin, from the youth office at Shepherd’s Bush police station.

“My role is very varied, working with young people in Hammersmith and Fulham and working closely with the youth-offending team, youth workers in local youth clubs and the borough’s three professional football clubs.

“Every school holiday I run Safe Camp at Phoenix Academy for children aged eight to 16. This is a free activity camp for young people who live or go to school in the borough.

“I also mentor young people, listening to their concerns to see if I can guide them along the right path.

“My role is very varied and rewarding as I’m giving back to my community I’ve lived in all my life.”

The other three “unsung heroes” were:
- George Sharp, a nine-year-old who came third in the Junior Great South Run, raising £400 for QPR in the Community Trust;
- Mark Foster, who has worked hard to add seniors’ and women’s teams to his local football club Wrasbury Village, as well as serving the Scouting movement;
- Mick Geraghty, who organises chair football sessions in hospices and dementia care homes.

The Rotherham game was also a chance for QPR’s community trust to celebrate its partner community groups, with a host of organisations represented on the pitch, from Imperial College and the London Fire Brigade to Old Oak Community Centre and Wormholt Park primary school.

More than £12,000 was raised for the QPR Tigers Cub, a football team for children and young people with Down syndrome, via the eighth annual 13-mile Tiger Feet walk from the training ground to Loftus Road.

“QPR has the community at its heart, and we wanted to show our gratitude to those unsung heroes whose contribution to the community often goes unnoticed,” explained Lee Hoos, Queens Park Rangers’ CEO.
CityWest Homes is set to axe six estate offices

BY GEOFF BAKER geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CityWest Homes, the organisation that runs Westminster council’s 21,000 council and leasehold homes, is set for massive cuts to its network of estate offices in local communities, the claim Labour councillors.

But CityWest says changes in its services will be an improvement.

Labour councillors say from plans set out to councillors this week it appears that CityWest - is looking to close all of its free-standing estate offices, leaving only the four area service centres remaining.

This is a part of a service redesign aimed to cut more than £5 million in costs and encourage more people to use online and phone services.

CityWest has confirmed that it plans to close six estate offices – at Church Street, St John’s Wood, Little Venice, Westbourne Park, Paddington Green and Charlewood Street.

Westminster Labour councillors are opposed to these massive cuts to CityWest’s presence in local communities.

“While many residents may not use the office all the time it is important to know it is there when needed, and there remains a significant proportion of residents who either lack regular internet access or whose lack of confidence communicating in English makes phone or internet contact more difficult,” said Cllr Adam Hug, the Labour group leader.

“CityWest says that it wants to see staff spend more time out and about on our estates, yet basing them all out of centralised area service centres will see staffing time spending further from the communities they are supposed to be managing.

“CityWest have talked about possibly holding drop-in sessions or surgeries in areas hit by the cuts to estate offices. However, this will not be enough to deal with the needs of vulnerable residents looking for face-to-face contact with their housing officers when they need it.

“Westminster Labour will stand with local residents who want to fight to save their local estate offices that are valued by their local communities.

“If estate offices are ultimately closed, Westminster Labour are demanding that CityWest Homes and Westminster council ensure that they are replaced by a permanent base for estate teams to work from in a nearby community building that is both accessible and has a staff member present to assist resident inquiries. 

“Furthermore, CityWest must commit to protecting the future of the residents’ halls whose operation may be hit by the cuts to estate offices.

“These drastic estate office closures are yet another sign of the retreat of council services from our local communities.

“Many of our estate offices are valued part of the community and in particular older and more vulnerable residents would really feel their loss. CityWest Homes and Westminster’s Conservative council need to think again.”

Shadow cabinet member for housing Cllr Tim Roca said: “Shutting offices which had more than 13,500 visits in a nine-month period last year alone before having a website fully functioning and ready is only one among a number of concerns we have with the closure and redundancies envisaged by these proposals.

“It is clear these cuts are being foisted on CityWest Homes by Westminster’s Conservative council, and there needs to be much more time spent listening to what residents need rather than what the council wants.

“But City West Homes said in a statement: “CityWest Homes is changing the way it delivers services to residents to improve, modernise and simplify customer services. The changes follow an independent review into customer services, which showed low usage at a number of sites and four per cent of resident contact about housing issues is by telephone or online.”

“Services are being redesigned to focus on a new and larger contact centre and more online services to deliver a more efficient service to more people.

“Twenty seven additional staff to a total of 42 will move into a new contact centre, CityWest Homes, which will be in place to resolve the majority of queries on the first call. It will provide a service to every resident queries.

“New online services such as ordering repairs and managing rent or service charge accounts will be available later in the year. As part of the changes, frontline services currently available at six estate offices are due to be replaced by regular drop-in sessions at community locations such as older people’s hubs and in particular new contact centre, CityWest Consultancy’s, which will be out and about on estates more.

“The times and venues for these sessions will be shaped by residents in a series of meetings and workshops to ensure they best meet the needs of local residents in each part of the city. The first phase of this local engagement will begin this month.

“The estate offices affected by the proposed changes are St John’s Wood, Paddington Green, Little Venice, Lillington and Longmoore, Westbourne Park and Church Street.

“More home visits for vulnerable residents – who are unable to get out of the house or who don’t have internet access also form part of the proposal.

“Face-to-face services will continue from four area service centres at Little Venice, Lillington and Longmoore, Westbourne Park and Church Street.

“Up to 60 per cent of queries currently raised via estate offices are passed on to other teams to resolve, and will be resolved quicker and more efficiently by telephone.

“We propose changes to estate offices are due to be in place by June and September this year.”

Jonathan Corrie, executive of CityWest Homes, said: “Improving our customer services while maintaining a service for those who need them most is our priority. By changing the way we deliver housing services in line with how people prefer to contact us will ensure a better and more efficient service for more people.

“We know it’s important for people to have a point of human contact for their housing needs and will continue to offer this through our local teams but from different locations including community venues in line with the requirements of local people and our four area service centres.”
A celebration of community and kindness

WESTMINSTER residents came together to mark Easter at a celebration of community and kindness organised with the popular #ShareTheMiracle campaign.

Pupils from the St Barnabas CE Primary School entertained those attending the Pullen Day Centre in Pimlico by performing a medley of songs and hymns.

The children then gave out Easter gifts, including flowers and cards, to the audience.

Cllr Iain Bott and Cllr Christa-Rose, both deputy cabinet members, helped to organise the event. They also attended. A spokesman for Westminster City Council said: “The day was part of the ShareTheMiracle initiative, that promotes building stronger communities through acts of kindness and gift-giving. “They help organisations and individuals to build new friendships and strengthen links within their communities.”

ShareTheMiracle began in 2013 and the initiative aims to “transform communities through giving, receiving or even witnessing kindness including promoting gift-giving across communities at Easter”. The Pullen Day Centre user Betty Pennicott said: “The children were all so enthusiastic. “Some of the little girls on the front row were very good. “It was wonderful to hear them singing.”

Cllr Heath Acton, cabinet member, public health and adult social service, said: “This event helps show what make Westminster a city for all. “Children and older people came together to mark Easter and create something that everyone enjoyed. “Events like this show the excellent work day centres do to help people come together as a community and make sure no one feels isolated.”

TV presenter cycled drunk in Chelsea, court is told

THE presenter of an ITV cycling programme rode around a Chelsea square drunk and then failed to stop for a police officer, a court heard.

Richard Cunynghame, 36, who starred in TV4 programme The Cycle Show, was charged with cycling along Sloane Square while drunk, ending up in Chelsea Square last month.

He appeared at Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court last week, also facing a charge of ignoring a police officer when he was asked to stop on March 22.

The court heard that he only stopped when officers made contact with his bike in their car. The presenter was wearing a dark suit, white shirt and dark tie. Cunynghame spoke to confirm his name, age and address.

Cunynghame, of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, pleaded not guilty to one charge of being drunk in charge of a pedal cycle, and one charge of failing to stop for a police officer.

For the defence, Philip Vollom said: “The issues are he certainly wasn’t drunk. The certain issue is whether he was in control of the bike, and he was in control of the bike.”

“The court heard that he didn’t consider his time in control of the bike to be a case where there was not drunk. “The certain issue is whether he was in control of the bike, and he was in control of the bike.”

“Indeed he wasn’t over any limit in any event. We say the officers didn’t ask him to stop at all until they brought him to a physical standpoint by making contact with his bike with a police vehicle.”

“It may well be they did ask him to stop but it was not heard.”

District Judge Karim Ezzat said: “You have pleaded not guilty in relation to these two offences and your trial will take place on July 6 at City of London Magistrates’ Court. “I release you on bail to return to court on that date.”

On social media, Cunynghame – who has competed in downhill racing at a national and international level – describes himself as “bicyclist, writer, presenter, film maker, rambling, rational daydreamer”.

In 2012 he won a gold medal at the Downhill National Championship in Moelfre, Wales. As well as bike riding he also produces, writes and directs films and documentaries on the world of downhill bike racing.

He has also worked as a commentator for the UCI Downhill World Cup Series at locations around the world and written articles for Dirt Mountainbike Magazine on a freelance basis.

Council welcomes new service promoting good sexual health

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council has welcomed the launch of a newly commissioned sex service.

Support and Advice on Sexual Health (SASH), a partnership between Metro, Naz, Marie Stopes and London Friends led by Turning Point, opened its doors last week.

“SASH will promote good sexual health while continuing to offer accessible and responsive services to those with specific needs including HIV, sexually transmitted infections and extra-marital pregnancy.

“SASH is designed to be accessible, relevant, practical and personal and to ensure that people are not deterred from accessing services.”

The SASH service will be available from four main hubs across West London:

- Kensington and Chelsea – Earl’s Court Health Centre, 2b Hogarth Road, SW5 0PT;
- Hammersmith and Fulham – 30 Black’s Rd, Hammersmith, W6 9DT;
- Westminster – 209a Harrow Road, Westminster, W2 5EH;
- Westminster – 31 Wardour Street, W1D 6PT.

See wellbeing.turning-point.co.uk/sexualhealth for more details.

WESTMINSTER residents are being asked to have a ‘once-in-a-generation’ say on what sort of city they want to live in.

Westminster City Council is launching a wide-ranging public consultation to identify the best way forward to manage the future growth of Westminster, including the height of skyscrapers.

“The feedback received during the course of the consultation, which will run for eight weeks, will help inform the council’s plans for the city which will be set out during the statutory consultation on the City Plan later this year. As part of this consultation there will be a series of public events taking place,” said a spokesman.

The council’s cabinet member for planning and public realm, Cllr Daniel Astaire, said: “As our city grows, this will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for all to have a say on how we live and work and visit the area to shape its future. We cannot stand still. London’s population is expected to grow by almost 25 per cent by 2041. That means we have to act now to find the best way to manage that growth and ensure that Westminster remains the centre of a leading world city. “Protecting the character of Westminster, as well as the World Heritage Site, is paramount. However, there is an important balance to strike to ensure we do so while delivering the jobs and homes that will continue to position Westminster as the centre of London.”

To take part, go to westminster.gov.uk.

New funding to help kids affected by parents’ conflict

WESTMINSTER City Council has received new funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to help children affected by conflict between parents.

The council received £40,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions in 2016 and was one of 12 local authorities to pilot a local family offer aimed at providing greater relational support.

A further £50,000 of funding is to be provided in 2017, to continue to develop this family relationship work.

Cllr Richard Holloway, pictured right, cabinet member for children, families and young people, said: “Conflict between parents, whether together or separated, has been proven to have a long-term negative impact on children.”

“We strongly believe that a child’s life chances should not be defined by their family circumstances and it is right that support should be on offer for parents who want it.”

“This additional funding will make a difference in Westminster, where we have already begun work with local providers at family hubs to improve our offer for families.”

The outreach service, delivered by national charity Family Lives, is based in the Portland Centre and commissioned by the council.

Jeremy Todd, pictured left, chief executive of Family Lives, said: “Understanding the complexity of family relationships and the factors affecting them is key to helping children get the best start in life.

“Ensuring families can access support, whether they are parenting together or apart, is an important part of this.”
Cambridges our secret weapons in bid to beat post-Brexit fallout

HAVE the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge been signed up to save us from the worst effects of Brexit? It certainly looks like it.

The government is believed to have recruited the young royals to be our secret weapons to guard against everything falling to pieces when we say “ta-ra” to Europe.

Which makes sense, as the popularity of the Duke and Duchess soars higher than anything else that the government can throw at Europe and short of finding a new Beatles we’re going to need the pair to prop up Britannia’s image abroad and help us out in the highly uncertain years ahead.

Although Prince William recently caused much controversy when he skipped turning out for parade at the annual Commonwealth service at Westminster Abbey – as he was otherwise busy partying in Switzerland and plunging dad dancing to a new depth of silliness – it is believed that once he returns to work as a full-time royal in the autumn, after ending his stint as a helicopter rescue pilot, then he will be getting his skates on.

Government ministers are understood to be much favouring the Duke and Duchess – especially the Duchess – as the UK’s beaming faces of “soft diplomacy”, far more capable than men from the ministry of persuading a Europe which is hounded off with us quitting the team that Britain is not half as bad as they currently believe in Brussels.

The prince charming’s globetrot was launched last year – shortly after the Brexit vote in June – when he was deployed to Germany on a UK sales pitch, which centred on the importance of making Angela Merkel feel giddy with enthusiasm for the Brits.

Germany and Britain, the prince proclaimed, shared “a partnership of genuine friendship and of massive mutual benefit”.

Although this was news to the millions of Brits who had voted to get their coat, the dashing prince put a smile on her face by adding: “This partnership will continue despite Britain’s recent decision to leave the European Union. The depth of our friendship with Germany will not change.”

Full marks for optimism there and his same top charm scoring was repeated last month when William and Kate popped over to Paris for another crucial meet and greet. Side-armed by Kate looking typically stunning in an evening gown topped off with jewellery borrowed from the Queen, at a black-tie do with French President Francois Hollande William reiterated the exact same message that he had sold to the Germans.

“This deep friendship between the United Kingdom and France, forged in sweat and blood, is one that will endure,” he said.

“The visit will come at a time when the UK will be looking for support from EU allies in its Brexit negotiations,” reports the Spanish media, which has expertly spied what’s going on.

But from the Cambridges’ perspective, it looks like they are set to have their work cut out at persuading the rest of Europe that the UK intends to be still in the gang, sort of, because although Germany, France and Spain will have been glad-handed come the summer, there’s an awful lot of the EU to cover yet, and making weekend trips to the 24 other countries is going to keep them busy for ages.

While it may be tempting, for the exhaustion levels, to skip out a visit to somewhere politically lesser, like Romania for instance, the royals’ travel agents at the Foreign Office can really afford to leave any EU state out of William and Kate’s long and winding roadtrip because every nation will be required to agree the terms of the Brexit agreement that Britain is seeking, and if any country is made Kate-less it could sway the vote and leave us scuppered.

And even if all of the EU states get the royals coming to tea, that’s not even the half of it – because once Europe has been importantly charmed, then there’s the Commonwealth to sort out, and there’s 52 countries to visit there.

The Foreign Office will be wanting to hedge its Brexit bets. In case a trade deal with the EU falls apart it will understandably be looking to bolster ties with the Commonwealth countries which make up one third of the world’s population, some 2.3 billion people, who represent an awful lot of potential customers.

Which means that Prince William, who was dubbed “work shy” recently, is going to have his work cut out selling the “deep friendship” line to much of the planet. Here’s hoping that he at least gets to keep the air miles.

Geoff Baker

Kate looked stunning when she attended a black-tie do with William in Paris last month

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Paris in March to give assurances that the UK’s relationship with France will not change because of Brexit
A Boutique corporate-hospitality company has asked artists to reimagine London in the 22nd century, creating images of how the capital could look in 2117. In the images, London is transformed with hovering buses, a flying Gherkin and a digital Big Ben. Team Tactics has transformed London into a city of the future, inspired by sci-fi films like Blade Runner and The Fifth Element.

The company commissioned the images to coincide with the launch of its new competitive team-building activity, Game of Zones. Inspired by the classic 1990s gameshow The Crystal Maze, the new activity sees participants race around London across four zones – Futuristic, Medieval, Industrial and Ocean – completing interactive and fun challenges.

Tina Benson, managing director at Team Tactics, said: “The images were really amazing for us. It’s so interesting to see how advanced we might be in 100 years’ time, especially considering how far we’ve already come.”

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NEW UltraClear SuperClean lenses

Stay cleaner for longer

Anybody who wears glasses will understand the constant effort to rid your lenses from annoying fingerprints and mystery smudges.

UltraClear SuperClean is our new enhanced anti-reflection and scratch-resistant treatment, with some great added benefits – which all help to reduce annoying reflections, attract less dust, stay cleaner for longer, and make cleaning easier.

Perfect for everyday situations – like wearing your glasses in the rain, reflections when you’re driving, or those persistent finger smudges.

They’re good at protecting your wallet too – get them free with glasses from £69.

5 key properties:

- **Smudge-resistant** - Fingerprints can be annoying on lenses. They look unattractive and affect the clarity of vision. UltraClear SuperClean lenses are smudge-resistant meaning fewer smudges, such as pesky fingerprints build up on the lenses. Fewer smudges mean less cleaning.

- **Super scratch-resistant** - With everyday use, it’s easy to scratch or damage an uncoated lens – so Specsavers has always included scratch-resistant lenses as standard. UltraClear SuperClean offers even more durability and far greater protection against scratching.

- **Anti-static properties** - An anti-static layer makes the lens less likely to attract dust. This reduces the build-up of dust and other particles that find themselves on your lenses, so they don’t have to be cleaned as often.

- **Super hydrophobic** - The lenses also have greater water-repelling properties, giving improved visibility and making them easier to clean.

Ask your optician about UltraClear SuperClean for your next pair of glasses.

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SICK OF SMUDGES?

NEW UltraClear SuperClean lenses stay cleaner for longer

UltraClear SuperClean lenses attract less dust, repel more water and resist more smudges than standard lenses. They’re good at protecting your wallet, too – get them free with glasses from £69.

Need an eye test? Book online at specsavers.co.uk
A COLLEAGUE of mine told me to contact you regarding a problem I have with my son who is I believe on drugs of some substance. I have tried many places and asked many people for help but no luck.

Last year I was washing his jeans and I found a bag which smelt like marijuana. I confronted him and he only denied by saying it belonged to a friend of his but did not want to talk about it after that. I then wanted to keep a close eye on him for his every action. But I felt I should trust him.

But a couple of months back I had found a packet of some drugs which was not marijuana when cleaning his room. I again asked him about this packet but he went on some bizarre story and switched at me for checking his room.

I am a single parent and I have worked extremely hard to bring up my son. I have tried to give him all he needs so he does not go into crime etc because of where we live in the estates.

But I did not expect this. I must have failed somewhere for him to now be on class-drugs. A drug. I have been working so much that I might have forgotten to keep an eye on my son all these years thinking he was going well at school.

I have daughter who is seven years old too. His mother does not bother to see our kids any more. In fact it’s been eight years. I have had to be their mum and dad and it’s not easy.

Can you please help us? I believe my son is a drug addict and fear his addictions will destroy him and our family.

Dear John
North Kensington

Dr Talwar says that a parent must understand and believe it’s not their fault that their child might be a drug addict – but it is their fault if they don’t do anything about it.

First, you must understand and believe it’s not your fault that your son might be a drug addict. But it is your fault if you don’t do anything about it.

Your only job right now is to be a good parent to your son. A parent should always be there to teach you, to be a mentor, to help with decisions, and to be stern when needed. So the next part is easy. Be realistic! Go to your son as a parent who wants only the best for him.

Don’t be emotional and ask random or maybe stupid questions.

In fact, never, ever ask your son a question that will make it easy for him to lie to you. Because you will be his patsy and that will hurt you even more.

Let’s be straight. Forget all the hogwash, ego-based questions dancing wildly inside your brains – ones like “How could this have happened to you?” or “Why could you do this to me?” I gave you everything.

I hate to tell you but both the questions to you and the answers he gives are irrelevant at the moment.

Here’s what you can do to be a good parent.

Follow the five steps below:

1. Find out what’s happening in your son’s life.
2. Work at convincing him you really want to help him.
3. Apologise for not seeing it earlier.
4. Act like you truly give a damn. Truly, truly, love you son right now! Expect either acceptance or denial.

Now a couple things may happen when you confront your son about drug use. First, he could be truthful and tell you everything. That would be wonderful. Together, you’ll have a common starting point for help.

The second reaction, denial, has a tougher response but still a very winnable playing field. So let’s look at each reaction possible in further depth.

Acceptance is possible

Naturally, the easiest route is open communication. He’s truthful, accepts it, and together you find a therapist and a peer-driven self-help group that allows everybody to contribute to a game plan, or a manageable way to confront the problem.

Now even if he fails a few times, which he may, it doesn’t matter. You stay with the game plan, you continue to be supportive with love, and take it one day at a time, exactly as your son will have to beat this addiction, one day at a time.

Denial is more likely.

OK, so what do you do if he denies everything? Easy answer! Be stern.

If your son is under the legal age of adulthood, go to your local drug store, buy a drug testing kit and force him to comply with your wishes.

If not, take him for a physical exam and let a doctor do a drug test.

Most states allow you to go to court and ask for an order to place him in the joint custody of the court. After it is granted, your son will be forced to take a drug test and the result will have must bigger legal ramifications.

Again, most kids fold quickly when they realise this is now the real deal. Most kids don’t want a judge taking over their life.

I have dealt with many who have been too frightened to do this with their children. They thought the ramifications would destroy chances for the child becoming a normal, well-rounded adult with anything like this on his or her record.

Boy, were they wrong. They almost lost their children. Now if they had to do it over again, knowing what they know now, it would be court.

Finally, what if your son is lie? What if he is legal in most states, and he refuses to do anything you ask?

Easy answer! Be stern! If he refuses your love, refuses your help, refuses your restrictions for continuing to live under your roof in a safe environment, threaten to kick him out.

Now some parents are not comfortable with my suggestion to boot their son or daughter out of their home.

They tell me “He has no place to go” or, better yet, “No, I can’t kick him out, he’ll only get worse”.

All of the above comments and any other excuses you can drum up are an exercise in being a full-blown moron. It’s only a threat to kick them on to the streets.

But John, over and above everything you are a single parent and have tried your best with looking after your children.

Don’t lose heart because it’s not easy what you are going through. Take some of my advice above it could save your family and, most importantly, his life.

Dr Talwar

Week by week, Dr Talwar is addressing common mental-health problems and ways to overcome them. If you or someone you care for has mental-health issues, send your questions to drtalwar@londonweeklynews.co.uk.
EVERY once in a very long while an idea comes along that makes you think “Yes! I’m so glad to be alive!” And the latest in precious few of these is becoming the new sensation first London and next the planet – star-free showbiz where the punter is king.

Everything about this, well almost everything, we love. Even the way they are billing it knocks the nail on the head: “In a world gone mad, it’s time to go La La.”

The O2 Academy at Islington has just started this brand new night which we heartily recommend to everyone. La La Land headed up by the masters of Massaoke.

“Think live band, glitter cannons, giant balloons, lip-sync battles and anthems from the 80s, 90s, 00s with massive celebrity guests,” said a spokesman for the very best night out since the birth of rock’n’roll.

Admittedly, the “massive celebrity guests” line is a bit disappointing because the whole point of the wonder which is Massaoke is that you don’t need celebs. As with most things in this sick star-obsessed life, it’d be better without them and their egos sucking all of the attention out of the arena. But that minor gripe aside, Massaoke is the bees’ knees.

Previously known as Friday I’m In Love, this popular singalong club night allows punters to belt out their favourite indie and pop anthems en masse, the whole crowd singing along as one, backed by a live house band with lyrics projected on to the wall.

Or as the event’s PR Alex Karol put it, deliciously: “Forget the movie. La La Land is the evolution of the club night where the crowd become the star of the interactive show; part club, part live-gig and all spectacle.

“A land where DJs perform with live musicians and the crowd roar a Massaoke singalong band. A land of rock-star glamour, glitter cannons, video projections, giant balloons, lip-sync battles and the greatest rock and pop anthems of the 80s, 90s, and 00s where our hard-earned Friday nights are made unforgettable.”

Massaoke began a couple of years back, to immediate success. But this will be the year when the entertainment version of the Brexit and Trump vote phoney goes crazy.

The movement is already well ahead in its march for world domination, the Massaoke band has returned to the capital to launch La La Land after a 10-week Australian tour and sell-out run of the Edinburgh Fringe 2016.

The late-night event has been a runaway success, playing to more than 75,000 people in the last year alone. Dozens of celebrity guest stars including Al Murray – ‘The Pub Landlord, Fatman Scoop, Ed Byrne, Jon Snow, Aisling Bea and Erasure’s Andy Bell have also caught the Massaoke bug, with Bonnie Tyler herself declaring it “fab”.

Last Friday saw the La La Land club experience open at the O2 Academy. And by all accounts it was a euphoric celebration of many of the best songs ever written, by the most Friday night-worthy singers acts Bon Jovi, Adele, Queen, David Bowie, Taylor Swift, Spice Girls, Europe, Take That. Journey, Whitney Houston, Arctic Monkeys, Wheatus, Amy Winehouse, Bonnie Tyler, Madonna and more.

But if you missed it, fret not. La La Land Club is to be a new monthly fixture on the O2 Academy Islington’s calendar, promising themed evenings of en masse Friday fun with fancy dress, performers and more of the unexpected – La La Land is a night out fit for the end of days.

Go, do not miss it. You will probably never have such a great night for the rest of your life.

Tickets for the May La La Land at the O2 Academy Islington are available now from massaoke.com.
**Capital nights**

**WEATUS are back. And it’s hard to believe their debut album is 17 years old this year. Like so many worldwide hits before and since, Teenage Dirtbag, the band’s ode to adolescence and inescapable breakthrough, seems timeless. Dateless. As if it’s always existed. It’s certainly reached subsequent generations to the one that moshed to it first time around.**

“That’s probably the most astonishing I’ve ever been on stage, when those kids sang back to us every night,” says the band’s Brendan B Brown.

He’s referring to his experience on tour with Busted last year, when those old enough to remember the early Noughties sang away with much newer fans. Regardless of age, they all knew Teenage Dirtbag.

“I thought it would be good but I wasn’t prepared for the crazy reception we got. It was extraordinary for a support act to get that kind of love,” says Brendan.

As for the 17 years since the debut album’s release, for Brendan it seems longer. But simultaneously, not that long ago.

“I keep finding things from that crazy time. I’ve kept a lot of the first-album paraphernalia and some of it as it was.

“The reaction to that record has remained pretty fresh, which is both odd and wonderful.”

Now, after spending nine weeks in a van touring the US, Weatus are coming to the UK and Ireland for another tour.

And Brendan cannot wait. “Playing in the States has made us very keen.”

As in more recent years, which have included, among other things, sales of equipment on eBay, it’s taken some creative funding to get the show on the road, but it’s a reality of the modern music industry. No drama or panicking, just pragmatism.

“I’ve only ever felt the need to plan for the worst. Fortunately, we never got used to having money. Our first album was made on a shoestring, and so it goes. We entered the music industry as the money exited,” said Brendan.

“Perhaps some new efficiencies will come and make things easier. But, with few exceptions, I think what happened to jazz music has happened to the rest of music – only the people who love it death can stay in the game.

There were a couple of mistakes made along the way, such as selling the beautiful, rare snare drum that was used during the recording of Teenage Dirtbag. But for now, it’s really the only way to make Weatus work – to liquidate and start over with each touring and recording.

Just don’t ever expect to see Brendan’s beloved Martin acoustic on eBay. That, and a handful of other secret talismans, is on a special list of never-sells.

The biggest upside of self-funding in this way is that the days of being ripped off are over.

“That happened to us a few times with third parties involved. And you also wind up learning how to fix your own engine, so to speak. You get to see how the sausage gets made, what’s needed and what’s not,” he said.

Brendan, always singular in his vision, is now also the only member of the original line-up remaining. It’s nothing new, he says, but also he couldn’t be happier with the current situation.

“I spent quite a few years writing anddemoing the first album by myself. When I consider the line-up changes over the years it’s 98 per cent positive memories. There was only ever one true falling out. Currently, from a musical point of view, we’re greasier with Leo Freire and Matthew T Milligan as the rhythm section than we’ve ever been.

“It’s really starting to grow me in good funk mould. Plus we’re all adults, so that helps.

“Album seven is halfway recorded, so we’ll try to finish that in time for Christmas. Then, in 2018, we’ve got some re-organising to do.

“I have a plan for a retrospective box-set-style re-release of everything we’ve ever done and then some.

“Finally we’re gonna get the album-one vinyl package together along with everything else re-released on vinyl – in some cases, remixed and remastered too.

“Lots of work to do in 2018. And then, after that, we’ll be gearing up for the 20th-anniversary tour.”

Weatus kick off a huge UK tour at the end of this month and will be at the Fill Academy, Islington, on June 2. Go, if only to singalong on a rock classic.

**PR man’s lyrical efforts set to give former Nouvelle Vague singer bigger fanbase**

**YOU’VE probably not heard of Melanie Pain, the French indie pop singer from Caen who used to perform with Nouvelle Vague, who may also be a mystery to you.**

It doesn’t matter. Go anyway to her launch show for her new album Parachute, at The 100 Club on Thursday, if only to salute her PR James Heward for his outstanding effort for Lyrical Press Release Of The Month.

“Parachute is Melanie Pain’s third album, one that defies gravity,” writes James. “From the first words there’s a startling contrast, an illusion of lightness, chiseled lyrics. Melanie has widened her horizons, decided to explore new territories and move toward the light. These are songs for a new beginning. ‘What’s the use?’ she asks in the first verse.

“This question every artist should ask before buckling down. Is it a question to be avoided? Not at all – rather an invitation to throw away your compass in a world sorely in need of direction.

“To deliberately lose her way and regain her equilibrium, Melanie Pain made one of her dreams come true: working with Gael Rakotondrabe, pianist of the highly respected Antony and the Johnsons (as well as Co-Colloise). Parachute is entirely piano-based, deliberately no guitar was recorded.

“Since the dawn of (musical) time, it has been said: restrictions open possibilities, they tighten their grip then set you free. Melanie has left her pop-folk influences far behind. The style is now hard to define – hybrid and modern, classical, almost aquatic. Melanie is at ease here, experimental and theatrical on some tracks, minimalist and organic on others... always filled with emotion – hers, ours.

“Darker and more intense, Melanie explores her fears, and these demons produce wonders: the sweet violence of passing time (On dirait), dealing with mourning (Dans une boîte). Next comes light (Pristine): ‘Are you ready to burn until the very end?’ Yes, a hundred times yes. Then the piano returns in full force (Le mot), the desire to shred your skin (La ou l’ete) and its ode to being naked, a chic, organic invitation, both sensual and carnal: ‘You’ll find me there under a stone, you’ll find me naked, you’ll find me so far from yesterday, you won’t recognize me... any more’.

“Piano and percussion start (Levres Rubis), a declaration that only love can vanquish fear. All doubts evaporate. The heart and body feel lighter, life resurfaces. It is never too late: ‘Even tears evaporate’ (On dirait).

“We know, we can feel it – this disc has softly illuminated Melanie’s life. It may also, song after song, listen after listen, illuminate yours too.”

Priceless.
PLAYWRIGHT Jack Thorne has become the talk of the town over the last year, with his collaboration with JK Rowling on Harry Potter and the Cursed Child further cementing his reputation as one of this country’s most revered providers of theatrical wizardry.

Quite apart from becoming affiliated with the worldwide Potter phenomenon, Jack is about to further monopolise the London theatre-going fraternity when his adaptation of Georg Buchner’s Woyzeck, featuring John Boyega, opens at the Old Vic in May and his new musical entitled Junkyard gets its London debut at the Rose Theatre in Kingston.

Jack is a world-renowned, BAFTA Award-winning writer who has written for radio, theatre and film – most notably the television shows Skins, Cast-offs and The Last Panthers.

The busy wordsmith took some time out of his demanding schedule to talk to me about the new musical, which is partly based on a project his father embarked upon in the 1970s.

The musical features a score by the celebrated composer Stephen Warbeck.

Jack said: “It’s a musical about a group of kids who are enlisted, somewhat reluctantly, to build a junk playground near their school in Lockinge, Bristol.

“It’s about a guy called Rick, who is slightly based on my dad Nick, and it’s about the problems he and the kids encountered as a result.”

Jack was born in Bristol. And although he left the area at the age of nine, he has fond memories of days spent at the playground, which is still standing more than 45 years after it was built.

“These playgrounds, which I remain slightly in awe of, were unique,” he said. “Every piece was unlike every other piece so we wanted to give the show a very distinctive junkyard feeling.”

Junkyard follows Rick, who remembers what it’s like to be a teenager. So when he decides to build a junk playground in Bristol, he’s pretty sure he has the charisma to get a bunch of reluctant kids to help him.

He’s wrong – but with some old-fashioned emotional bribery, Rick persuades Fiz, Higgy and Ginge to help him. The project turns from something that means nothing to something that means a lot.

Jack said: “The kids are based on a mix of stories I’ve been told and a bit of research I’ve done. I was a learning support worker too when I left college so there’s a bit of everything. There’s a bit of my friends growing up and there’s a bit of me. There’s a mishmash.


With so many successful plays and dramas under his belt, I’m curious as to why Jack has decided to make Junkyard without mentioning his contribution to the franchise.

Jack wrote the play Harry Potter And The Cursed Child based on an original story by creator JK Rowling and theatre director Jack Thorne. A new cast has just started rehearsals and will take over in the West End production at the end of May.

Nominated for 11 Olivier awards, the play at the Palace Theatre is sold out for at least the next year. I asked Jack if he feels its phenomenal success has had a significant impact on his life.

Jack said: “It’s been amazing and I feel very grateful to be a part of it. I’m sure if it does go on a long life, and if it’s still running, it will start to change the way I feel about things. It was so exciting to be a part of it and it remains so exciting to be a part of it.

I ask Jack if he sees a future for any other Harry Potter stage productions, or perhaps Fantastical Beasts – The Musical?

Jack said: “That would be up to Jo (JK Rowling). I feel very grateful that she allowed us to do this much.”

Junkyard will open at the Rose Theatre in Kingston on April 19. Woyzeck will run at the Old Vic from May 13 until June 24. Harry Potter And The Cursed Child continues at the Palace Theatre. For more details, see rosetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/junkyard, oldvictheatre.co.uk or hbp.com.
**Talk of the town**

**REVIEW**

**Escape The Scaffold**

at Theatre 503

TITAS Hadler’s dystopian thriller evokes confusion with its shifting timelines and hints at a Big Brother-style regime but it lacks the suspense needed to make it an enthralling stage show, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Flipping back and forth across a decade of deceit, Grace (Rosie Sheehy) is immersed in a world where her struggles with inner insecurities are projected on to her two potential suitors.

The potential suitors are Marcus (Charles Reston), a pompous, privileged right-wing toff who will offer her security, and Aaron (Trieve Blackwood-Cambridge), who offers free-spirited optimism. The trio begin as uni housemates but it becomes apparent, after some type of shift in the country’s political landscape, that Aaron’s Bolshievik leanings become unmanageable for his comrade/lover.

Unfortunately, the old adage that no-one is as big as the show doesn’t apply to this production and the once-comical collection of pros has instead been turned into a star vehicle for its leading cast.

If you’re a fan of Lee Mack, you’ll love his audience interaction, ad libs and popular culture references. But I’m afraid I found it a bit like a pantomime, only without the joyful musical interludes and clever double entendres.

Uncomplicated, unsophisticated and, after the first few moments, all pretty boring, this show will appeal to those who want to replicate a night at home in front of the television. But for those looking for a real theatrical comedy experience, I would suggest popping up the road to see David Tennant’s masterful Don Juan in another Moliere adaptation instead.

**THE MISER**

at the Garrick Theatre

Here’s no doubt that casting a celebrity in a West End show helps to put bums on seats. Cast two or even three and you’re almost guaranteed good sales of tickets. But sometimes this is at the expense of a quality production – and sadly that’s the case with The Miser at the Garrick Theatre.

The farcical comedy written by Moliere has received an update from Sean Foley and PPPPPP has been turned into a star vehicle for its leading cast.

As the play settles into a rhythm, things improve and the cast are more able to examine the intricacies of their complex characters.

But with a perplexing subplot, which leads to a lack of any real suspense, you’ll be left wondering if you ever got to grips with the message this production is attempting to convey.

Escape The Scaffold is running at Theatre 503 until Saturday. You can find more details at theatre503.com.

**Nicky Sweetland reviews**

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The Miser runs at the Garrick Theatre until June 3. You can find more details on the website nimaxtheatres.com.
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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(ARGYLE PLACE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that
in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to
make an Order the effect of which would prohibit 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 Argyle Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required.
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 15th April 2017 and would be valid for a
maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 15th April 2017 and last for 2 days.
The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend
outside these dates.
Dated this 5th day of April 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS \& CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
Note that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
27 Donorale Street London SW6 6EL
2017/0094/FUL
Excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightweight in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

3A Kinnoul Road London W6 6NG 2017/01375/VAR
Replacement of windows on elevation 7, 8 and 9 of planning permission ref: 2014/0046/FUL granted 27th March 2014. I give notice that the occupiers of the 2 bedroom flat to apply for street parking许可.

61 Richmond Way London W14 0AS 2017/01287/FUL
Demolition of the existing garage with the erection of a replacement 4 storey single family dwellinghouse; erection of a ground floor rear extension and fencing to front boundary.

60 Clancarty Road London SW6 3AA 2017/01233/FR3
Erection of an enlarged part one, part two storey plus-basement building to provide 2 x 2 bedroom flats; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level and formation of a flat roof at roof level. I give notice that a school caretakers house (Class D1 to a two bedroom private dwelling (Class C3).

65 Crabtree Lane London SW6 6LP 2017/00929/FUL
Installation of 1no air conditioning units to the rear elevations of buildings.

3A Kinnoul Road London W6 6NG 2017/01000/FUL
Installation of 2no new windows with double glazed units and replacement of 2no windows with new double glazed units in connection with the front elevation at ground floor level. 784 Fulham Road London SW6 6DJ 2017/01300/FUL
Erection of an enlarged single story rear extension; erection of a rear extension at third floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing windows on 2nd floor level; alteration of the rear entranceway at ground floor level and installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

19 Ayterm London W12 9LG 2017/00984/FUL
Erection of a rear extension, involving an increase in the ridge height of 150mm; erection of a 1.7 metre high obscure glazed screen around part of the flat roof of the back addition at second floor level, in connection with its use as a terrace; alteration to the entranceway at ground floor level; installation of grab rails at the rear elevation.

Flat A 53 Norton Street London W11 2RE 2017/01305/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; extension of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope. 14 Ellaine Road London W6 9NZ 2017/01197/FUL
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of a single storey rear extension; erection of railings to front boundary; installation of 3Rooflights in the front roofslope.

Flat First Floor 16 Sterne Street London W12 9PJ 2017/01165/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height of 150mm; extension of roof to back addition and erection of glass screening to the rear boundary; installation of rooflights at first floor level; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

Maisonette B First And Second Floors 41 Slugrove Road London W11 2NQ 2017/00073/FUL
Erection of a rear extension; extension of a rear extension at second floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope.

Land Including Charlow Close And Bounded By Pottery Green And Watermead Lane London W12 9BR 2017/01193/FUL
Demolition of all the existing buildings and implementation of temporary hoarding scheme.

36 Fulham Road London SW6 3AB 2017/01214/FUL
Erection of an enlarged rear and side dormer roof extension to replace the existing rear and side rear dormer roof extension.

Ground Floor East 200 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DJ 2017/01227/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated sign.

Ground Floor East 200 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DJ 2017/01226/FUL
Removal of the two existing brick columns; rear of existing entrance at ground floor level and installation of new entrance and doors and windows.

Whittingstall Road E 156 - 158 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DJ 2017/01111/FUL
Installation of a ventilation duct on the rear elevation at ground floor level.

Nazeareth House 169 - 175 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DL 2017/00392/FUL
Erection of a five storey building at the south east corner of the site to provide 37 units of specialist care accommodation for older people (Class C2); for the rear of the site to provide 24 units of new use of 2no.36 Shorthands Terrance; Modular addition to Nazeareth House forming new care home entrance; alterations to the existing extension at ground floor level; alterations to the entranceway at ground floor level and installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

3 A Kinnoul Road London W6 6NG 2017/01035/FUL
Erection of an enlarged single story rear extension; installation of grab rails at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with the creation of a new basement; alteration of the roof to back addition at second floor level; alteration of the entranceway at first floor level and installation of new windows and doors.

Flat A 53 Norton Street London W11 2RE 2017/01305/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; extension of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope. 14 Ellaine Road London W6 9NZ 2017/01197/FUL
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of a single storey rear extension; erection of railings to front boundary; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

Flat First Floor 16 Sterne Street London W12 9PJ 2017/01165/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height of 150mm; extension of roof to back addition and erection of glass screening to the rear boundary; installation of rooflights at first floor level; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING
75A Askew Road London W12 2AP 2017/01292/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; partial demolition of the second floor rear back addition; alteration and addition of new doors to replace the existing window at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with the rear extension at first floor level, over part of the back addition; installation of 2no rooflights at second floor level; alteration of the entranceway at ground floor level; alteration of new windows and doors to replace the existing window at first and second floor levels; installation of grab rails at first and second floor level.

Hurlingham 360 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW18 1BR 2017/01242/FUL
I give notice that c/o Porta Planning LLP is applying to HAMMERSHIM & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following developmental change of use from Use Class A4 (pub) to A1 (retail) at ground and basement level; Demolition of the existing three storey building with the elevation of the existing Wandsworth Bridge Road and Carthew Road terraces. I give notice that Mr M Ibrahim is applying to HAMMERSHIM & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a three (Class C3) flats.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 2nd May 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: JO ROWLANDS
Regeneration, Planning and Housing Executive Leader on behalf of HAMMERSHIM & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Send us your comments about the ‘Planning Home’ logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: planninghome@lbhf.gov.uk
You can inspect details of applications using our online service "OFFICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN EXTENSION KING STREET W6 9DJ

Send us your comments about the ‘Planning Home’ logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: planninghome@lbhf.gov.uk
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If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN EXTENSION KING STREET W6 9DJ
Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A4 GLA ROAD (KNIGHTSBRIDGE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN AND PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2.

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable the temporary closure of some of the roads listed in paragraph 3 to enable maintenance works to take place on A4 Knightsbridge.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle on the west-bound carriageway of A4 Knightsbridge from:

   (1) turning right into Willton Place.
   (2) stopping on the southern kerb-line of A4 Knightsbridge between its junctions with Willton Place and Old Barack Yard.

4. The prohibitions will apply only during such times as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

5. A copy of the Order and of documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order can be seen at the offices of:

   Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

   The application was accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

   The Officer dealing with this application is: Kim Dero.

   Interim Chief Executive on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & Fulham COUNCIL

   Dated: 11 April 2017

   LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

   ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

   THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES) (PRESCRIBED ROUTES) (NO.1) ORDER 2017

   1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on 06th April 2017 made the above Order under sections 9 and 10 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order will come into force on 21st April 2017 and may continue in force for up to 18 months.

   2. The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Prohibition of Heavy Goods Vehicles) Order 2017 will be to prohibit as an experiment goods vehicles the maximum gross weight of which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from entering or proceeding in the streets as set out in the schedule to this notice.

   The prohibited routes will not apply:
   (a) to any person causing any coach to enter the prohibited road for the purpose of picking up or setting down passengers or to premises accessible only by way of the prohibited road or for the purpose of gaining access to off-street garaging accessible only from the prohibited road;
   (b) in relation to any vehicle when used in the service of a local authority in pursuance of its statutory powers or duties provided that in all the circumstances it is reasonably necessary in the exercise of such duties for that vehicle to proceed in the prohibited road;
   (c) in relation to a vehicle being used in connection with the maintenance, improvement, reconstruction, cleansing or lighting of the prohibited road or for the purpose of gaining access to off-street garaging accessible only from the prohibited road; or
   (d) to any goods vehicle entering the prohibited road for the purpose of loading or unloading in the prohibited road or in any road accessible only therethrough or for the purpose of gaining access to off-street garaging accessible only from the prohibited road.

   The application is available for inspection during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive from the date on which the notice is published until the order comes into force, at the offices of:

   Transport Policy Group, Transport and Technical Services Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

   3. Where it appears necessary for certain purposes, the Head of Transport Policy & Network Management, or any person authorised by them may modify or suspend the orders or any of the provisions in it, in whole or in part.

   4. A copy of the Orders and of documents giving more detailed particulars of the Orders can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive from the date on which this notice is published until the order comes into force, at the office of:

   Transport Policy Group, Transport and Technical Services Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

   5. The Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the experimental Orders should be continued in force indefinitely by means of an Order made under section 45, 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Any person may object to the making of such an Order within a period of six months beginning with the date on which the experimental Orders come into force or, if the Orders are varied by another Order or modified pursuant to section 10(2) of the 1984 Act, beginning with the day on which the variation or modification came into force.

   Any representations made under this section must be sent to: Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

   6. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

   The Officer dealing with this application is: Nicholas Rushton-Boyle, Chief Transport Planner.

   Dated this 6th day of April 2017

   Nicholas Rushton-Boyle

   Chief Transport Planner

   Transport and Development Services

   SCHEDULE

   Richmond Green, Grove Mews, Trusty Road, Astrop Mews, Astro Terrace, Hammersmith Grove between its junctions with Goldhawk Road and Goldhorne Road, Augustus Close, Sycamore Garlands, Bengalow Road, Brackenbury Road, Brackenbury Gardens, Carthew Villas, Cotter Road, Iffley Road, Agate Road, Beaucic, Hebron Road, Maro Road, Aclie Road, Armor Road, Overstone Road, Southerton Road, Kilnsmarth Road, Talbot Road, Aldensley Road, Carthew Avenue; Napier Grove between its northern extremity and its junction with Goldhorne Road, Barmin Road, Bradmore Park Road, Atwood Road, Perriers Road, Lamington Road, Raynhorne Road, Redsmere Road, Studland Street between its junctions with Glenhorne Road and Redsmere Road, Futter Road, Dalling Road, Nasmyth Street, Cardross Street, Dorville Crescent, Wellesley Avenue, Brading Terrace, Wingate Road, Cressey Court.
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(THE CURVE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction 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 The Curve, at its junctions with Lilac Street.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.

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 18th April 2017 and will 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 Tuesday 18th April 2017 and last for 5 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of April 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which temporarily suspend the westbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the westbound bus lane on Goldhawk Road, between its junctions with Paddenswick Road and Ravenscourt Square shall be suspended.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required

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 10th April 2017 and will 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 Monday 10th April 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of April 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction 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 The Curve, at its junctions with Lilac Street.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.

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 18th April 2017 and will 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 Tuesday 18th April 2017 and last for 5 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 29th day of March 2017
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
FOOTWAY WORKS:

Road Name | Location from - to | DIVERSION ROUTE VIA
--- | --- | ---
WULFSTAN LANE | Ercowndal Street Old Oak Common | Fulham Road / North End Road / Bishop's Road
BARTON RD | Dawes Road / Bishop's Road | Fulham Road / North End Road / Bishop's Road
BARTON RD | Dawes Road / Bishop's Road | Fulham Road / North End Road / Bishop's Road
WENDELL ROAD | Emerald Rd to Os Wenden Park | Aske Road, Elmlyn Road, Baisi Park Road
WILSTON ROAD | Lilac Rd / North End Road / Old Oak Common Lane | Aske Road, Elmlyn Road, Baisi Park Road
BROOK GREEN ROAD | North and South Arms | Lower Mews, High Street
WELLE ROAD | Higher to A4 | Upper Mews, High Street
ASHBURY PARK VILLAS | Ashbury Park Rd | Ashbury Park Rd
COLBOLD ROAD | Ashbury Park Rd to Gayford Rd | Ashbury Park Rd
PARDONING ROAD | Whole Rd | Gayford Road, Ashbury Park Rd
HARTISLIE ROAD | Dawes Rd to Sorens Rd | Brompton Road, Dawes Rd
SOUTH AFRICA ROAD | Brompton Rd to the bend by the pub | Brompton Road, Dawes Rd
CONINGHAM ROAD | SCOTTS to GOLDHAWK | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
GOLD STREET | Old Oak Lane to Fitzalney St | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
MURRER ROAD | Little Rd to Dawes Rd | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
MOORE RD | Dawes Rd to Coronel Rd | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
BISHOPS RD | Dawes Rd to Coronel Rd | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
IMPERIAL RD | Townmead Rd to Park St | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
TOWNMEAD ROAD | Roundabout to Harbour Ln | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
BRYONY ROAD | ALL | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
BASSEIN PARK ROAD | ALL | Goldhawk Rd, Ashbury Park Rd
FOOTWAY WORKS:

All road have lane closures during footway works including bus lanes when applicable and short term full closure off peak times during excavations and material delivery.
Hammersmith teach London Skolars a lesson

Star man Issac Dargan on the ball for Hammersmith

Chelsea target third win against Mourinho’s Man United

“...When I took the ball for the free-kick at Bourne-mouth, everyone was saying ‘Please, sir, don’t try another free-kick’. ...”

TUESDAY APRIL 11 2017
LONDON WEEKLY NEWS 27

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TERRIFIC TAMMY

ONE of Chelsea’s brightest young prospects, Tammy Abraham – currently on loan to Bristol City – is taking the Championship by storm. Abraham is scoring goals with increasing regularity, and he is clearly beginning to establish himself as one of the finest young strikers in the world...
Blues targeting third success against Mourinho's men

Marcos Alonso competes with ex-Blues favourite Juan Mata during Chelsea's Premier League encounter with Manchester United at the Bridge in October

By Paul Lagan

ANTONIO Conte is taking his Chelsea side up to Old Trafford on Sunday... not to park the bus... avoid these kind of situations and be more competitive, brave and experienced in these moments.”

Tony McDonald

Tuesday April 11 2017

“Probably we can find the same situation as against Bournemouth but in England there is no such thing as an easy game — and Bournemouth is a good team.

If you compare these two games — we face United away and Tottenham home at home — I think that’s easier for Chelsea to take points in their home stadium. But we have to see game by game. We know our schedule is not easy but we want to play game by game and prepare in the right way for United. I think we are having a good season but we want it to become a great season.”

Blues’ FA Cup sixth-round victory against United at Stamford Bridge in March was a fiery encounter settled by N’Golo Kante’s second-half winner.

“The most important thing is what is on the pitch.” Conte said. “For us it’s always important to control our emotion because we are playing and fighting to win the title. For sure this game will be a tough game. But we are ready to play.”

Following their shock home defeat by Crystal Palace, Chelsea bounced back to beat Manchester City 2-1 in midweek before Saturday’s Derset away day.

“I think we are showing all season a great character,” Conte continued. “We have great desire, great will to fight for the title. At the start of the season nobody thought Chelsea could fight for the title. But we found the right motivation together, and now we stay at the top of the league and we want to change the opinion of people.”

Eden Hazard and Kante have shone for Blues this season. Kante even got his first goal assist when he set up the Belgian playmaker on Saturday. How much is that down to the head coach?

Conte said: “Yes, the second goal. It was a good pass from him. I think N’Golo has to improve in this situation. If he is able to improve this situation he will be a top, top player. We try to work with all the players to improve them, to add to their strengths and improve their weaknesses.”

On Hazard, he said: “I’m happy for him, scoring the goal. He’s doing a good job. He’s a great player, a great talent. He must understand that he’s a great player and don’t forget it.”

“For every coach, his real function is not only to win, but to try to improve his players and to find the right way to work with them to improve physical and tactical aspects. A good coach must do this – and buy the best players.”

Conte will only be happy to view this season as a success if Chelsea lift some silverware.

“I think it’s better to finish the season and see what position we are in.”

“To have a good season, yes, we must have a good season. But to become a great season and to write history, you must win.”

“When you start the season as an underdog it’s greater if you are able to do this.”

While Hazard took the plaudits for his involvement in the visitors’ first two goals, left-wing-back Marcos Alonso chipped in, literally, with a spectacular free-kick to add to his tally of four goals this season.

The Spain defender is happy with his form and confident the side will finish the season in style.

“We knew the Tottenham score before the game, so we knew we could only win.” said the 20-year-old who cost Chelsea £23 million from Fiorentina in the summer.

“Well, we knew it was going to be a tough game but I think the team played a good 90 minutes and we got the three points.”

What does he expect from Old Trafford on Sunday?

“We have seven finals left,” he said. “Every game is going to be massive. We are going to play each game as the last one because we know the points to get closer to the title.”

“Every game we win is a strong message for the other teams. We’ve been there almost all season, we are showing we want to be there, we’re playing very good and fighting for it and that’s what we need to keep doing.”

Diego Costa might be the player to make the difference at Old Trafford — at least Alonso hopes so.

“He had another couple of chances to score against Bournemouth but he had a doubt on Sunday he’ll be there again,” he said.

Alonso even thinks the pressure at the top is a good thing.

“I think the team does well whenever we have pressure on us. We know what we are playing for, motivation is 100 per cent and I think we played a good game.”

“We know the most important thing is our result, that’s what we have to focus on, especially in training during the week so we are ready for the game. The group is fantastic. We all know where we are going, we are all going in the same direction and that’s very important. The starting XI and the players who are not playing so much, the staff are all together. That’s a big thing and it’s going very well this year.”

Alonso does not appear concerned that Blues have failed to keep a clean sheet since their 2-0 home win against Hull City on January 22.