Andy Slaughter rallied behind junior doctors as they prepared for another two-day walkout over weekend working.

Junior doctors were due to strike again today, with dozens of demonstrators expected to gather outside the Hammersmith and Charing Cross Hospitals in protest against new contracts.

It will be the fifth time in a matter of months that the doctors have taken to the picket lines, with a full withdrawal of labour – including emergency provision – promised between 8am and 5pm.

Speaking ahead of the strikes, Mr Slaughter gave his full support to the doctors and criticised Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

“Most disputes have faults on both sides but all the blame for this tragic breakdown of trust between doctors and the Government lies with Jeremy Hunt and his team,” he told The Chronicle.

“In reality there is little be-
Sadiq: I’m the mayor to unite London

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan promised to become a “mayor for all Londoners” as he set out plans to unite divided communities in an exclusive interview with London Weekly News.

The Labour candidate said he would work with faith leaders to improve social integration while “taking the fight to extremists”.

In a one-to-one with this newspaper, the Tooting MP also:

- attacked Boris Johnson’s record on housing and pledged to build tens of thousands of new homes for Londoners;
- promised to restore neighbourhood policing as the Met’s number one priority and fight further police budget cuts;
- outlined plans for a City Hall “Night Czar” to promote London’s evening economy;
- pledged to become the most “pro-business” mayor London has ever had by standing up for small businesses.

Asked how he would tackle the threat of radicalisation, Mr Khan said: “What makes London so great is that people from different backgrounds live side by side, but we have still failed to do enough to tackle social segregation.”

“Good role models are important – and they exist. People like Moen Ali, James Caan, Nadiya Hussain and Mo Farah.

“But there is also a big job to do in standing up to extremists and stopping radicalisation. Working with mainstream Muslims to promote greater social integration. I have said I will be the British Muslim who will take the fight to the extremists.”

The Labour candidate said current mayor Boris Johnson had left London with the “worst housing crisis in generations” and warned that the capital was being “hollowed out”.

He outlined his plans to create a City Hall task force dedicated to developing plans for new affordable homes and promised to bring forward more public land for development.

“I will stand up to developers to ensure we get the right mix of affordable and market housing, using the mayor’s planning powers to give first-time buyers and local renters first dibs on new homes,” he said.

“I will also stand up for the two million Londoners living in private-rented accommodation and will take on rogue landlords and letting agencies.”

Mr Khan said his ambitious housebuilding programme could be delivered without sacrificing London’s green spaces and pledged to strengthen protections for Metropolitan Open Land and nature reserves.

“Cutting down on ‘dirty vehicles’ was the best way to tackle air pollution, he said, committing to extend the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone to ‘keep the high emitters out of our city’.

Asked how he would boost London’s high-street traders, the former solicitor promised to be “the most pro-business mayor London has ever had”.

“Rising land values in London are causing real pressure on many high streets and we are losing a lot of smaller, independent retailers,” he added.

“I don’t want London’s shopping areas to all look the same. That is why I will be much tougher in using the mayor’s planning powers to protect London’s smaller shops, markets and independent retailers, which contribute to some of the city’s best and most famous shopping areas.”

In a commitment to protect London’s vibrant arts and culture sector, he also promised to implement an “agent of change” principle so that developers opening near existing pubs and clubs would cover the cost of soundproofing new homes, while installing a ‘Night Czar’ to promote the evening economy.

With just over a week before Londoners go to the polls, Mr Khan appealed to voters to back his campaign for City Hall.

“I benefited from growing up in London with a good education,” he said.

ELECTION ODDS:

NEWSPAPER: PAGE 9

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Teacher is a class act

A HARD-WORKING teacher has been recognised for his efforts in the classroom after colleagues nominated him for a top award.

Peter Saunders, assistant headteacher at Hammersmith Academy, in Cathnor Road, picked up the leadership award for his work inspiring students to success.

He received the award from Pure Potential, an independent educational body that works to help raise students’ aspirations by encouraging them to apply for university or apprenticeships.

“I was shocked when they announced I was the winner – it was a very strong field and I was not expecting to win,” he said.

“The important thing was that all the awards were very interesting and inspiring. There was a young person who had gone through chemotherapy during their A levels and still managed to get A* and a girl who was homeless but won a place at Oxford University,”

Mr Saunders has been a member of the academy’s team since it opened its doors five years ago.

He was praised for creating a dedicated support programme for GCSE students and devising a mentoring scheme for pupils across all year groups.

He added: “Winning the award has given me more confidence in what I am doing and motivated me to try even harder to improve the lives and learning of the students here at Hammersmith Academy.”

Empire hit by new delay

ONE of west London’s top music venues will remain closed for essential repair work until at least the end of April.

Bosses at the O2 Shepherd’s Bush Empire announced further delays last week, after previous planning to re-open on April 19.

The venue has been closed since December when roof damage was discovered hours before a sold out concert was due to begin.

Academy Music Group, which runs the Empire, said shows up to and including April 30 would be rescheduled or moved to an alternative venue.

A spokesman said: “We thank artists, promoters and fans for their cooperation and patience and wish to reassure everyone that safety is our priority.”

Project for jobs is opened up for all

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A HOUSING group in Shepherd’s Bush is taking on an ambitious new project to help the unemployed find a route back to work.

Community leaders say expanding the Best Chance programme will kick-start a major jobs drive for dozens of people who have been struggling to find work for months, or even years.

Run by the Shepherd’s Bush Housing Group, the employment scheme has been helping local tenants for several years but is now being opened out to the entire community.

The programme’s latest step was launched by Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter at the SBHG hub in Glenthorne Road last week.

The community-focused project has been tailored to offer the long-term unemployed essential support in finding a path back to work.

It will also provide advice for those who are looking to return to education or training in pursuit of a job.

Natalie Coode, community investment manager at the housing group, which has more than 5,000 homes across west London, said: “We have a fantastic team who are experienced in helping people into work and who know the local area.

“We are here to help people build the skills and experience to get worthwhile jobs. Previously we focused on assisting our own residents but now we are expanding to include the wider community.

“Some Dita worked as an apprentice at the housing group’s furniture recycling service before recently securing her ‘dream job’ at Kensington and Chelsea council with the help of advisers.

“One of the best things about my apprenticeship is that it has rebuilt my confidence,” she said.

“If it was not for this I would never have been able to get a step further to my dream job.”

Speaking at the launch event, Mr Slaughter backed the housing group’s jobs drive.

“This to me is a socially responsible landlord taking its duties seriously,” he said.

“People need that extra support – and Shepherd’s Bush Housing Group have my full support.”

Slaughter blames Hunt for walkout

FROM PAGE 1

A HOUSING group in Shepherd’s Bush has been forced to cancel a major arts event after a strike by junior doctors had been planned to coincide with the opening of the venue.

The Imperial College NHS Trust launched the Community Cardiology and Respiratory service at the start of April.

The service has been designed to provide specialist care for patients with breathlessness and multiple heart or lung conditions.

A team of consultants, nurses, clinical psychologists and physiotherapists will be on hand to offer advice and assessment of symptoms.

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CLASS ACT: A school's physics department at a school is celebrating after six of its students were offered degree places at a top London University, writes Paul Lagan. The students from Pimlico Academy were handed the offers to study Imperial College London in South Kensington.

They will study a range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Their achievement is all the more remarkable as nearly all of them are the first in their family to go to university, and for some, English is not their native language.

Samantha Green, principal at the Lupus Street school praised this remarkable outcome: “I could not be more proud of these students. “They have all worked extremely hard in their lessons but also with the wide range of other experiences they have undertaken to ensure they had the best possible applications. I also want to thank their teachers who have been exemplary with all the additional support they have been and continue to offer them.”

Pictured, from the left, are: Ms Njenga, Emmanuel Saliu, mechanical engineering; Sin-Loon Choong, physics; Youness El Hayani, civil engineering; Isaac Akanho, computing; Jin-Ee Kim, aeronautical engineering; Pedro Luiz Brega Monteiro, electrical and electronic engineering with management; Mr Booth.

Milestone for poverty project
WESTMINSTER City Council’s Child Poverty Project, the first official partnership between Save the Children and a local authority, has now reached almost 7,000 disadvantaged children, parents and community members in Westminster since its launch in 2011.

Due to its success, this unique partnership model has been rolled out across other London boroughs. Over the past five years, the project has been pivotal in shaping the lives of the local children and families that need help the most.

Key projects at the core of the scheme include awarding Fat, Sleep, Learn, Play grants to 1,675 of the city’s poorest families. 19 innovative In My Back Yard groups have empowered 179 children and young people to campaign on local poverty issues. Moreover, the first Families and Schools Together (FAST) project, an award-winning early intervention programme that brings parents, children, teachers and the wider community together, has helped over 300 families get the support they need to ensure their children’s potential at school and in life. Jacqueline, who has two sons (six and nine years old), struggled to find time to spend with her children until she participated in the FAST programme with St Luke’s Primary School, which now makes time to spend with the family.

She said: “FAST is one day out of the week given to being a family. It teaches simple things like communication and using your imagination. It involves the parents and children together and allows children the chance to speak with their parents. It’s really opened my mind!”

The partnerships has also created a last leg up by helping to develop Westminster council’s child poverty policy and practice, and influencing Save the Children’s strategy and delivery approach for its UK programme. In the process they achieve the best outcomes for children across the UK.

Cllr Danny Chalkley, cabinet member for children and young people, said: “It is fantastic news that so many families that need support have been able to benefit from the Save the Children projects. We will now continue this great work so that thousands more can benefit from this programme.”

The Westminster and Save the Children partnership has now reached a total of 6,696 disadvantaged children, parents and community members between July 2011 and December 2015.

Tom Fairhull, Director of UK Programmes for Save the Children, said: “The commitment from the council has transformed the scale and impact of three Save the Children programmes in Westminster, improving the futures of thousands of children and paving the way for us to reach thousands more. Westminster was the first to trial an integrated approach, and this strategy has since been replicated in other local authorities in London, and has had a huge impact on work tackling child poverty across the UK.”

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Charlie pipes up!

Australians are renowned for being a relaxed race, whose primary interests include wearing board shorts, drinking beers and barbecuing prawns.

So perhaps it’s no surprise that a bunch of academics from the University of Melbourne, in this slacker country, have come up with some research that says that over 40s shouldn’t work more than three days a week.

I’m going to go out on a limb here and say these jokers are all in their fifth decade and getting the phone answered in their lab on a Thursday morning is a very long odds bet.

I can’t speak for the antipodes, but from the point of view of someone running a business in London I have to say, what a load of complete rubbish.

The Aussies say that by working less than 25 hours a week over 40s can keep their brains working, avoid stress and exhaustion. Seriously, is anyone buying this load of old pony?

I’m sure this is all fine and dandy in a laboratory situation where you can knock off work for an endless second life of barbecued seafood and cold beverages. But, in the real world, what the hell are you supposed to do for the other half of the working week? And how are you going to pay the bills?

Throw in the counterfactual of the stress and worry at trying to support your family on half the money and then tell me this stupid experiment has any merit!

And how the hell am I supposed to run a business where all of the experienced people are part-timers? I wonder if these geniuses have any experience of the real world?

So, you spend years training people, and helping them acquire business sense and practical skills, and then, just as they are in a position to utilise all that they have learned, I’m supposed to put them on half hours?

There are so many things wrong with this research I’m struggling to know where to go next. But it’s fairly obvious that investing in training would go out the window, or at least the very least workers would become like foot-ballers coming to the ends of their careers as their clubs and managers desperate to get them off the books.

By about the age of 32, if it’s worth hiring a person, much the same way as people over 50 feel the deck is barred against them currently.

And what of people like my PA Maria, 75, a man who handles my entire private office, and my driver, Young Eric, who is in his 82nd year? These two and the 50 per cent of my workforce who are past their 40th birthday I know would disagree with any suggestion that they should pack in full-time working for the ‘easy life’.

In fact I’m sure they would all find such a suggestion extremely stressful. I’m no university researcher, which I think is a lucky thing for my workers, but quite clearly the answer to stress and tiredness at work is to make the working environment better, which is what we’re constantly striving to do at Pimlico Plumbers.

We have an onsite cantineen with a chef knocking up daily specials from fresh tuna steaks and meatballs to burger special day on Friday, with a choice of chicken or prime beef!

We also have flexible working hours for those who need them and of course there’s the Pimlico Fit Club Gym, personal trainer, James Dean, and the weekly massage-at-work sessions. We all need to work and we all need to look after our health and there’s no reason why the two can’t go together.
FOLLOWING the discovery of The Sex Pistols’ artwork in development threatened Denmark Street, now researchers have uncovered more of Tin Pan Alley’s racy history – the house next door to the Pistols’ home was a secret opium den.

Number 6 Denmark Street has been awarded Grade II listed status after Save Tin Pan Alley campaigner Henry Scott-Irvine discovered cartoons there drawn by rock star Johnny Lydon in the days when he was Johnny Rotten 40 years ago.

Now Mr Scott-Irvine is hoping that similar status may be awarded to Number 8, which was one of the last hideaways for opium addicts in Edwardian London.

The campaigner and filmmaker, who wants Denmark Street to be made a music heritage site to save it from developers, says that besides the street’s history of rock and roll, the old walls hide sex and drugs secrets too.

And it was all going on at No 8, which Scott-Irvine believes was built in the early Edwardian period just after Queen Victoria died in 1901.

“During Edwardian times 8 Denman St was a rather intriguing hotel: an opium den guest house,” he said.

“There were opium burners in the basement and the smoke was piped up to all of the above rooms. These pipes were controlled by valves, which were opened after payments were made to the proprietor. Further valves to the opium pipes in each room were used by the room’s guest. These rooms were hired out to those who may well have paid a little extra for services provided by women of the night.”

Opium use was rife throughout London in Victorian days but it was sent underground by

the 1868 Pharmacy Act, which restricted the sale of drugs to registered chemists and pharmacists. As No 8 was seemingly operating as an opium house up to 40 years after the crackdown, and one of the last in London, Mr Scott-Irvine believes that like The Sex Pistols’ flat at No 6, it also deserves preservation as part of historic London.

He said: “One of our sources told us: ‘I used to work at No 8 in Southern Music Publishers from 1976-1979, No 8 used to be a hotel when Southern first moved in during the 1940s."

“One of the first jobs they had was to dismantle the opium pipes in every room. There were loads of pipes running all over the ceilings and an awful lot in the basement, which you would expect I suppose. As far as I know, it was piped all around the building from a central location, there were pipes everywhere, even though so many had been removed.”

Mr Scott-Irvine added: “Lawrence Wright was the first ever sheet music publisher to open a shop on the ground floor at 8 Denman St in 1911. The hotel appears to have endured upstairs above Mr Wright’s shop until the outbreak of the Second World War when Southern Music Publishing moved in to take over the entire building to later build a small demo studio in the former opium-burning basement.”

“Following the decision by the Department of Culture to give Grade II listed status to No 8 because of the Pistols’ artwork, I’m hoping that the authorities may look into giving some sort of preservation status to No 8 too now. The fact is there is so much of London’s musical history imbedded in Denman Street, considering all of the song-writing, music publishing and recording that went on there, that the whole street should by rights be made a music heritage site.”

Richard Parrish of Historic England called the new opium den discovery “mind-boggling”.

He said: “I assume the pipes would lead to valves which connected to multiple flexible pipes so I suspect there is a chance it looked like an overzealous plumbing installation and might have caused some head scratching.”

“It sounds like it was fed from the basement at No 8 as the main ‘engine room’ so to speak, and the removal of pipework referred to must have been pretty comprehensive. It’s really quite mind boggling to think that this was being done so near the centre of the city and until so recently.”

ACTRESS Sheridan Smith wiped away tears as she received a standing ovation at the opening night of Funny Girl in London’s West End.

Smith previously performed the role of Fanny Brice, made famous on film by Barbra Streisand, in a run at the Menier Chocolate Factory where she pulled out of performances after her father was taken ill. The Cilla actress said she felt “pressured” to return to the stage when she missed the shows last month.

But Smith appeared to have put all the controversy behind her for her performance in front of a star-studded audience at the Savoy Theatre.

Smith wiped away tears and clutched her chest as she was applauded by stars including Alison Steadman, Sue Johnston, David Baddiel, Samantha Bond and Mylene Klass at the opening night performance.

As such it will use only “the most natural, home-grown ingredients to envelope its patrons in a Pangaea-like world, free from phones, electric lights and even clothing.”

As the Evening Standard put it: “Cue lots of jokes about sausages and haps, and concerns over spilling hot food on your lap.”

There’ll be plenty of flesh to go around. Caveman-style wood-grilled meats will be served on handmade clay crockery to be eaten with edible cutlery, in the candlelit space that will be “creatively partitioned with bamboo and wicker”.

The pop-up is set to take place somewhere in central London in June — although the location and duration has yet to be disclosed — and apparently already has a waiting list of more than 3,000 people.

How many of these eager eaters will be planning to strip off — and how many have been encouraged to book a table so they can look at other diners — clearly remains to be seen.

The Standard reported that “it’s the latest concept from Seb Lyall and the team behind last year’s controversial owl bar and Breaking Bad-themed pop-up ABQ”.

Lyall told the Standard: “We believe people should get the chance to enjoy and experience a night out without any impurities: no chemicals, no artificial colours, no electricity, no gas, no phone and even no clothes if they wish to. The idea is to experience true liberation.”
Fighting for life: how war challenged medical care

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SOME 57,000 casualties were sustained by British Forces on July 1, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, creating huge and unprecedented medical challenges.

Wounded: Conflict, Casualties and Care, a new exhibition opening at the Science Museum in south Kensington on June 29, will commemorate the 100th anniversary of this battle and the remarkable innovations in medical practices and technologies that developed as a result of this new kind of industrialised warfare.

During the First World War ten million combatants were killed, but double that number were wounded and millions were left disabled, disfigured or traumatised by their experiences.

The challenges were immense. For medical personnel near the front line treating blood loss and infection was the immediate priority in order to save lives. However, medics also encountered new forms of physical and mental wounding on a scale that had never been seen before, creating huge numbers of veterans returning home with serious long-term care needs.

At the centre of the exhibition will be a remarkable collection of historic objects from the Science Museum’s First World War medical collections, illustrating the stories of the wounded and those who cared for them. From stretchers adapted for use in narrow trenches to made-to-measure artificial arms fitted back in British hospitals, medical technologies, techniques and strategies were pioneered or adapted throughout the war to help the wounded along each stage of rescue and treatment.

Visitors will also see unique lucky charms and improvised personal protective items carried by soldiers on the frontline alongside examples of official frontline medical equipment.

Exhibition curator Stewart Emmens said: “The Science Museum’s First World War medical collections provide a fascinating insight into the way medical practices and technologies were adapted and developed to cope with the unprecedented scale and severity of wounding between 1914 and 1918.

Visitors to Wounded will also have a rare opportunity to see important artworks from the period that reveal the experiences of the soldiers, including famous pastel drawings of facial injuries by Henry Tonks, from the Royal College of Surgeons, and a painting by John Lavery in 1914 that captures the arrival of the first British wounded soldiers at the London Hospital.”

Beyond the battlefields and field hospitals, Wounded will look at developments in the longer term treatment and care of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers back home who had suffered life changing physical and mental wounds.

By the end of 1918, over 30,000 war pensions had been awarded for shell shock, a figure that rose dramatically in the years to come as the huge psychological cost of the war was recognised by military and civilian authorities. As exhibition visitors will discover, the post war period saw the creation of new medical and welfare institutes and organisations and gradual improvements in the specialist forms of care and rehabilitation available.

However, treatment and attitudes towards mental wounding varied greatly, with many returning soldiers reluctant to seek outside help or dependant on charitable support.

Warfare has changed dramatically over the last one hundred years, but similarities remain with the military medical challenges faced today, both through the experiences of the wounded and in their treatment and care.

The Wounded exhibition team has worked closely with two UK charities that were formed during the First World War, Combat Stress and Blind Veterans UK, to draw out these parallels and share the personal experiences of soldiers wounded in more recent conflicts.

Sue Freeth, chief executive of Combat Stress, said: “We are extremely grateful to the Science Museum for giving six of our veterans the opportunity to participate in developing the Wounded exhibition.”

“They all developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and have shown great courage in sharing their experiences with the Museum to create a personal display that represents their trauma.

“I believe the exhibition will raise awareness about PTSD and create greater understanding of the impact war can have on the mental health of service personnel.”

Wounded: Conflict, Casualties and Care will be free to visit and opens on Wednesday, June 29 until early 2018.

The exhibition has been made possible by a £100,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional support from The Eranda Rothschild Foundation. To find out more visit: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/wounded

Euston, we have a mystery

THINK you know Euston station? Think again.

You can join the experts at London Transport Museum next month for a tour exploring a century of the station’s history, from its humble beginnings on the corner of Melton Street and Drummond Street, to its vulnerable future as part of the ever-growing national railway network.

Museum bosses say: “You’ll discover a labyrinth of dark and disused passageways which were once used by the travelling public and a gallery of preserved vintage advertising poster fragments that have been concealed for over 50 years. “This hidden space is located below a busy tube station that serves almost 42 million passengers each year and Euston national rail station.” The 75-minute tours run on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 26 to June 19 and September 22 to October 30.

X-cellent forum for good ideas

SOME 17 speakers and performers from across science, technology, education and the arts will explore ingenuity at TEDxLondon 2016 – an innovative event to exchange and spread good ideas has announced that it takes place on June 17 at the Science Museum in south Kensington and will be hosted by broadcaster Lauren Laverne.

It will feature: social media entrepreneur Steve Bartlett; performance poet and writer Francesca Beard; product designer and inventor-in-residence at the Science Museum Mark Champkins; adventurer and mountaineer Dr Sundee Dhillion; Oscar and BAFTA-winning visual effects

New boss for regeneration bid

AN executive director has been appointed to oversee the multi billion regeneration of Thamesmead.

John Lewis, the chief executive of Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, is to join the Peabody Group as Executive Director Thamesmead over the summer.

Mr Lewis is set to lead housing association Peabody’s regeneration programme of Thamesmead, which includes up to 20,000 new homes and plans to enhance the town’s 150 hectares of green space with seven kilometres of canals and five major lakes.

Stephen Howlett, the chief executive of Peabody, said: “I am delighted to welcome John to

ALL CHANGE: Thamesmead

Peabody at this exciting phase in Thamesmead’s history. He brings a wealth of experience in property, development, place-making and regeneration and will play an important leadership role as we take forward our ambitious plans for Thamesmead.”
ON COURSE FOR CAREERS IN MUSIC INDUSTRY

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PORTOBELLO Road’s rock and pop academy The Rhythm Studio is teaming up with Kensington & Chelsea College to offer west London’s talented teenagers the chance to become a record producer or work up to appearing on stage at Glastonbury.

The academy and the college have come together to offer a Level 2 Diploma in Music Production and Business, starting in September.

“The primary focus of the course is to equip students with practical skills for a career in the music industry,” said a spokesman for The Rhythm Studio.

“Units include organising a music event, music marketing and promotion, music sequencing and production, sound recording, podcast production and remixing.”

“Students will also learn what successful music professionals are doing now, as well as looking at how the industry has changed in the digital age and how it might develop in the future. Classes take place at The Rhythm Studio’s music academy within Kensington & Chelsea College. The purpose-built facilities include a state of the art recording studio, soundproofed rehearsal rooms and an iMac suite.

“Regular live events take place in our own performance space, at which students have the opportunity to engineer, perform and record,” said the spokesman.

“Every month we also use top London music venues for live gigs throughout the year, and our students have been invited to perform further afield at major UK festivals, including Camp Bestival and Glastonbury.”

The Rhythm Studio’s teaching team is made up of active music industry professionals. Students will be taught by gigging musicians, songwriters, producers and engineers.

“Our school also has strong links within the music industry, from radio stations and record labels to world famous producers and engineers. Our patrons include Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin, 6Music DJ Don Letts, Primal Scream frontman Bobby Gillespie, and world renowned songwriter Guy Chambers,” said the spokesman.

Former students at The Rhythm Studio include James David of UK chart-toppers Snakehips. RS Recordings, the studio’s in-house record label, also allows students to experience and work with a real-life music enterprise as part of their studies.

In addition to the course units that make up the main qualification, students get assistance with maths and English, alongside career advice and preparation for the world of work.

The spokesman added: “All aspects of the course are tailored so that they are relevant to you as an emerging music professional. If you complete the course, you can progress onto a Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners and prepare for university or apply for a job in the music industry.”

The course is designed especially for 16-18 year olds but all ages are welcome to apply.

To find out more and book a place at an open day, visit: http://therhythmstudio.co.uk

TRoubadour relives big gigs

KENSINGTON’S famous Troubadour club has come up with a good idea that could see re-runs of the legendary performances there by some of the biggest acts in rock and roll, writes Geoff Baker.

The club on the Old Brompton Road is world-renowned for the gigs that were played in the tiny basement by icons including Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Elton John, Jimi Hendrix, Morrissey and members of the Stones.

The Troubadour is especially revered by rock fans for the gigs staged there in 1975 by Led Zeppelin as after-show parties that followed their five shows at Earl’s Court which were among the greatest concerts ever staged in the capital.

Now Led Zeppelin’s iconic nights at The Troubadour are to be celebrated next month when Letz Zep, said to be Zeppelin’s finest tribute band, will aim to recreate the magic with a special show.

The Letz Zep gig will include all of their idols’ greatest hits but as acoustic versions, which may

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#LondonVotes @LondonElects
THE BBC Proms, Britain’s annual celebration of classical music, is to include music by David Bowie and a Strictly Come Dancing theme night.

The Strictly Prom, on July 21, will be hosted by BBC Radio 3’s Katie Derham, a finalist in last year’s show.

Bowie will be honoured with a late-night Prom on July 29, featuring Amanda Palmer and Anna Calvi, amongst others.

And the festival will temporarily abscond from its home at the Royal Albert Hall for a concert in a car park. Taking place in Peckham, south-east London, the open-air show will feature Christopher Stark and the Multi-Storey Orchestra performing works by minimalist composer Steve Reich.

The Proms’ new director David Pickard said previous concerts at the venue, a disused municipal garage, had been “very exciting” and a departure from type of venues that typically host classical concerts.

“The demographic is completely unlike anything I’ve ever seen,” he told BBC News, adding that the aim of his inaugural year was to present “the best of classical music, to coincide with the centenary of the Armistice, a London MP has said.

Mr Lammy said the BBC ran 29 initiatives aimed at black and ethnic minorities between 1999 and 2014, although he warned the situation is not improving.

Mr Lammy praised the diversity of children’s television, BBC Three and documentaries, but said: “Let’s take the headlines around the BBC’s new drama Undercover – it’s a great drama. But they announced with great fanfare ‘the first time we’ve had a drama with two black leads’ in 2016.

“That wasn’t news in the 20th century, let alone this century.” Mr Lammy said he wants ministers to put diversity “front and centre” of the debates surrounding the new BBC charter.

A BBC spokesman said: “We are making good progress in our work to make the BBC a truly diverse organisation, but there’s more to do and we’re always keen to improve.

“Almost half of our workforce is made up of women and the proportion of our workforce who are black, Asian and other ethnic minority is at an all-time high.”
Sadiq is odds-on favourite to be next mayor

BY GEOFF BAKER
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BOOKMAKERS have placed their bets on who will win the race to be the next Mayor of London – and they all agree that Sadiq Khan is going to walk it.

According to the bookies, the vote on May 5 will be a one-horse race – with the Labour candidate reckoned to be 90 per cent likely to win.

The bookmakers agree that Mr Khan’s closest rival, Conservative Zac Goldsmith, has only an 18 per cent chance of becoming Mayor, at best.

Mr Khan, who gives an exclusive interview to London Weekly News reporter Jack Dixon on Page 2, is tipped to romp home into the mayor’s parlour with odds of 1/10 on his win, as opposed to 9/2 for Mr Goldsmith.

As for the rest of the candidates – including Greensian Sian Berry, Lib-Dem Caroline Pidgeon, Respect’s George Galloway and UKIP’s Peter Whittle – the bookies calculate they are such outsiders that their chances are not a hope.

The best odds being offered for any of the candidates other than Mr Khan and Mr Goldsmith are 50/1 at William Hill for Mr Galloway – that’s a 1.9 per cent likelihood of replacing Boris Johnson at City Hall.

The odds from Ladbrokes on Ms Berry becoming London’s mayor are 100/1, a 0.9 per cent certainty, and opposed to 5/1 or a 16 per cent likelihood on Mr Goldsmith winning.

Sky Bet is offering 1/7 on Mr Khan and 9/2 on Mr Goldsmith. Ladbrokes lists Mr Khan at 1/8 and Mr Goldsmith at 5/1. At Coral the odds are 1/8 for Khan and 9/2 Goldsmith. Net Bet list 2/17 for the Labour man and 5/1 for the Tory and Bet Victor say it’s 1/7 Khan, 9/2 Goldsmith.

The predictions are the same entirely across 21 big bookmakers taking online bets on the Mayor election result, it’s Khan by a mile. If the bookies are right, then according to Mr Khan’s manifesto London can expect:

- ■ Cleaner air and a pedestrianised Oxford Street
- ■ More affordable homes being built
- ■ Low council tax
- ■ A four-year freeze on transport fares
- ■ Safer cycling and walking routes

Mr Khan has also announced new plans for his ‘safer city’ drive to ‘put a stop to the madness’ of rising violent crime.

Latest crime figures show that violent crime against the person has increased by nearly 15 per cent in the capital over the last year. In Kensington and Chelsea violent crime has increased by 13.8 per cent over the last year.

But the detection rate for violent crime in London has fallen by 29 per cent in London, since 2008. At the same time local community policing has decreased by 74 per cent in Kensington and Chelsea, and by over 60 per cent in all of London.

Mr Khan has outlined a 10-point plan for tackling violent crime in the capital, with a special focus on getting to grips with knife crime.

- ■ Ensure better ‘mapping’ of London’s gangs.
- ■ Making borough commanders maintain a comprehensive map of gang leaders, potential mentors, informants and young people at risk of joining gangs, ensuring knowledge passed on when individual officers move on.
- ■ Ensure stricter enforcement of current laws which mean that shops selling knives to children can face up to six months and/or a fine of £5,000 – and backing calls for the introduction of a licensing scheme for knives in England – as is already in place in Scotland.
- ■ Demand new powers for the Mayor to introduce tougher community payback schemes for those caught with knives – on top of jail time and traditional sentencing.
- ■ Make prevention programmes effective – working closely with local authorities, schools and youth service to develop anti-gang strategies, while working with community organisations to further youth engagement, building upon a review of the anti-gang Matrix system. This will include reinvigorating safer school partnerships which have been allowed to wither under the Tories.
- ■ Make hospitals record and share knife wound data - as they already do for gunshot wounds – ensuring we know the true scale of the problem.
- ■ Initiate a more intelligence-led use of stop and search powers. All stop and searches are based on actual intelligence rather than profiling – in order to increase the percentage that lead to the discovery of a knife and an arrest, without increasing the overall usage of the power, which can damage community relations with the police.
- ■ Ensure that the restoration of real neighbourhood policing is the top priority for the Met,

maintaining the role of officers as a visible local presence, helping to prevent and detect crime.

8 Improve the experiences of victims of crime by introducing an online Track My Crime portal to give victims information on progress on their case, and appoint an independent Victims Commissioner to stand up for victims across the capital.

9 Roll out the use of body cameras worn by the police, encouraging community confidence in policing and the capturing of crucial evidence.

10 Ensure the Met has the armed response officers and vehicles it needs.

Mr Khan said: “We simply must put a stop to the madness of violent crime on London’s streets. That has to start with fact – this is a problem that is getting worse rather than better.”

“People in boroughs like Kensington and Chelsea are facing a double-whammy – not only is violent crime rising, but at the same time fewer violent criminals are being caught. That’s a slap in the face to Londoners. “As Mayor I will get tough on violent crime – with a particular focus on knife crime. We’ll map London’s gangs, make it harder for kids to buy knives, introduce tough community payback schemes and improve the information available to the emergency services.”

...
Sign of affection for the designer whose letters moved Londoners

BY LWN REPORTER
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THIS year marks the centenary of Edward Johnston’s famous London Underground font, one of the city’s most powerful and best-loved pieces of branding.

The story of the Johnston typeface goes back to before the First World War, to 1913, when Frank Pick, London Underground Railway’s commercial director, first commissioned the design of brand new lettering for the network. Pick’s influence on London Underground’s design credentials has long been recognised – he briefed many of the most significant artists and designers of the time, from Man Ray to Abram Games, to become over time to be seen as ‘London’s handwriting’.

It first appeared in 1916 – having been delayed by the outbreak of the 1914–18 conflict – in signage that was initially painted by hand. Wood-ready printing blocks were then made in 1917, making it easier and quicker to reproduce the lettering across the ever-expanding London Underground. The typeface has been adapted only once: in 1979 Eiichi Kono, then working at London agency Banks & Miles, redesigned and expanded it, creating New Johnston, which is used across all of TFL’s communications today.

Johnston’s remit in 1916 was to unite the London Underground Group, the different companies all using the same rails and tunnels, explains Donna Steel, curator of a new exhibition about Johnston and his influence on printing at the Ditchling Museum of Arts and Crafts in East Sussex.

She adds: “All the advertising, all the signage was all completely different – there was this cacophony of letters. Johnston applied the proportions of Roman capital letters to his typeface, so it was rooted in handwriting, with its decorative curls and flourishes, known as ‘serifs’ in printer’s jargon. The new letters deliberately left out the flourishes.

‘Having the serifs on makes things more difficult to read, there’s more for the eye to take on,’ says Steel. “Johnston Sans combined readable-ness, beauty, simplicity. It’s reassur- ing, which is so important when we’re travelling, because when we’re travelling we’re vulnerable. With Johnston, the typeface is confident and it re-assures us. We know when we’ve got the right place and his message is clear.”

Johnston was born in Uruguay where his father was a soldier and brought up by aunts. But he went on to lead a quiet, married life at the arts and crafts centre he established at Ditchling with his former pupil, Eric Gill.

It was Gill’s development of Johnston’s design, turning Johnston Sans into Gill Sans, that created the typeface for the modern age.

Penguin Books adopted Gill Sans for the paperback series that began to fill bookshelves. To adapt Johnston Sans to new printing technology that emerged in the 1970s, London Transport engaged designer Eichi Kono, who changed the dimensions very slightly, but what you see on London’s Underground today is essentially what Johnston drew by hand 100 years ago.

Youngsters on the write lines

LONDON schoolchildren are being invited to put pen to paper for a national story writing competition aimed at encouraging families to keep bedtime reading at the heart of their night time routine.

Nearly a third of parents only read their children a bedtime story once a week or less, despite 83 per cent of children saying they enjoy being read aloud to and 68 per cent describing it as a special time with their parents.

The Sleepy Stories by Silentnight competition asks children aged 6 to 12 to submit a short story of between 250 and 500 words that features the brand’s mascots, Hippo and Duck.

Bestselling children’s author Anne Fine will choose the winning story, which will then be illustrated and published with her foreword.

The finished book will be presented to the winner at a special celebration ceremony at their school hosted by Anne. The winner will also receive £1,000 worth of books for their school, a brand new bed and a giant Hippo and Duck soft toy.

Nick Booth, marketing director at Silentnight, said: “We believe passionately in the power of a bedtime story, not only is it proven to better literacy skills but it strengthens the bond between parent and child. We hope schools and families encourage kids to love books and have a go at writing their own.”

Entries can be made online at www.sleepy-stories.com. Entries close on Friday, May 20.

Daisy hosts election show

LONDON Live TV channel has recruited former economics editor and chief political correspondent of ITV News Daisy McAndrew to anchor all its coverage of the mayoral elections.

McAndrew will also host London Votes, an hour-long programme which will air weeknights for the final two weeks running up to the election, featuring the latest news, events and exclusive interviews from London and mayoral campaign trail.

London Votes will address the main issues affecting Londoners across 32 boroughs, speaking directly with local residents, businesses and MPs, getting their thoughts on the candidates’ pledges and manifestos.

Jim Grice, head of news and current affairs for London Live, said: “We are delighted Daisy McAndrew will be anchoring all of our coverage on the London mayoral elections and hosting London Votes.

“Once the election campaign enters the crucial final weeks of the campaign, we will be dedicating an hour every evening to give detailed but accessible and informative coverage of the battle to be London’s mayor and run City Hall.”

McAndrew said: “As a lifelong and proud lover of London I have always been a passionate believer that politics is not only important but can be fun too, I can’t wait to get stuck in.”

London Votes airs weekdays at 6pm on London Live, Freeview 8, YouView 8, Sky 117 and Virgin 159.
NURSES in general practice in London are working longer hours and say they have greater workloads than counterparts in other areas, says report author and Crystal Oldman.

The report is based on the QNI’s national survey of more than 3,400 general practice nurses carried out last year and published in January. More than 11 per cent – 382 practice nurses – said they worked in London. Analysis of the main survey findings shows a number of differences between London and the UK as a whole.

The survey responses from general practice nurses working in London are reflective of the overall UK responses in several areas, including workforce profile, satisfaction with salary, receipt of annual appraisals and support for professional development,” said the report – General Practice Nursing: A Time Of Opportunity in the 21st Century.

Meanwhile, more than half – 51 per cent – of practice nurses in the capital work evening sessions. A third work weekends, the rest of the UK, less than a fifth – 27 per cent – of nurses in London said their practice offered placements to pre-registration nursing students compared to 27 per cent nationwide.

“Despite the slightly greater proportion of NMC-qualified mentors reported in London, less than a fifth of London respondents said their practice provided placements for pre-registration nursing students, even fewer than for the UK as a whole,” said Dr Oldman. “This is of particular concern, especially given that more than a third of general practice nurses in London plan to retire by 2020.”

The report called for an increase in the number placements for student nurses who expressed an interest in pursuing a career in primary care. Other recommendations include the need to look at the “current and potentially greater contribution of general practice nurses, including nurse practitioners in meeting the health needs of London’s population”, especially given declining GP numbers.

The report was presented by Dr Oldman at the Londonwide Local Medical Committees’ annual conference.

RESIDENTS and visitors to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea joined the council in remembering local war hero Humphrey Osbaldston Brooke Firman VC at a special ceremony yesterday, Monday, April 25.

He volunteered to lead the crew of HMS Justice during the Siege of Kut on April 24, 1916, for which he received a Victoria Cross.

Born in Kensington on November 24, 1886, Humphrey Firman was a leading officer of the Royal Navy during the First World War.

Humphrey Osbaldston Brooke Firman VC at a special ceremony yesterday, Monday, April 25.
Shocking souvenirs memorably forgettable

BY GEOFF BAKER
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As the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge this week celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary they can be happy in the knowledge that not since the days of Beatlemania has anyone done so much for the cash in market of bandwagon opportunism. From the production of some of the world’s most-expensive whisky to the manufacture of complete and utter tat, William and Kate have enabled hundreds of cottage industries to do more than alright off the back of the royal romance.

And with the fifth anniversary now upon us the souvenir industry is booming again as designers create the most bizarre merchandise aimed to appeal to the royal couples’ millions of fans worldwide.

It is said that in the Sixties The Beatles lost out on tens of millions of pounds in royalties from unlicensed souvenirs and one suspects that William and Kate are in the same boat, by rights owed a fortune in a percentage that they do not take from the sales of unofficial merchandise.

Although William and Kate have welcomed the mass production of all manner of items with their faces on them — saying through their spokesmen that “we recognise there is a long and happy history of people producing souvenirs to mark royal occasions” — little could they have imagined on their wedding day what a massive business their marriage would spawn.

From William and Kate “portrait pizzas”, where the toppings are arranged to vaguely resemble the couple, to the questionable taste of William and Kate sick bags, which feature their picture above a slogan “Throne Up”, there appears to be no end of Del Boyism linked to the popular pair.

Now a mother-of-four from Phoenix, Arizona has launched a website – www.williamandkatekatesouvenirs – which brings all of the W&K memorabilia and merchandise under the roof of a one-stop online shop offering thousands of items of everything that royal fanatics could wish for.

Mind you, being a Kate superfan does not come cheap these days and a fat wallet is needed to afford some of the higher end items for sale. Take for instance the Port Ellen whisky created to celebrate William and Kate. An Islay single malt with a hefty alcohol content of 53 per cent, it’s yours for £3,023.

At pub measures, that works out at around £13.30 a shot.

Or how about a mosaic made by 4,200 glass tiles depicting The Kiss, the newly-weds’ famous snog on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on April 29th 2011? At 90cm x 79cm, it’s easy to hang on your wall and will only set you back £4,250.

For a little bit more, Kate fans can buy an original portrait by Antonio Sciaccia, professor of painting at the Academy of Art and Restoration in Catania.

Although, in my opinion, the doubtful-priced study looks only vaguely like her, at £4,500 it is probably a sound investment to trot out on some future Antiques Roadshow and is something of a vast improvement on the “superb original Martin Davis ‘Unofficial Kate’ Middleton Royal Oil Painting” up for grabs for £525.

Whilst it would be unfair to suggest that hours of fun could be had guessing of whom it is a painting of, it is probably not the face that the Duchess immediately recognises in her bathroom mirror.

Although it was recently reported that the Duchess quite underestimatively did not want replicas of her engagement ring being sold on official websites, a white gold, blue sapphire and diamond replica is available on the Amazon-based site, a snip at £2,112.

It is arguable whether the Duchess may be most upset by the replica rings being hawked about at varying prices – there is a £19.74 version also available – or whether she may be more embarrassed by the “Curvy Kate Portia Thong”, £9.99 and just one of a number of G-strings, knickers and bras being marketed as the Duchess of Cambridge underwear collection which we are rather confident that Kensington Palace has not officially endorsed.

We are also pretty sure that the Palace has not given its blessing either to the £14.10 “Ladies Sexy Bavarian Beer Girl German Serving Maid Fancy Dress Costume” which is also included in the Kate Collection and we wonder what on earth the Americans, famed for their effortless good taste, are suggesting by its inclusion.

The range of William and Kate “inspired” items now available is astonishing; from bird houses to cushion covers, fridge magnets, garden gnomes, dollar coins, trash can in both cutouts, hoodies, ashtrays [neither of them smoke], blankets, brooches, cufflinks, dolls – from new £85 Mia Mua Giga Dolls which have the distinction of looking nothing like anybody, let alone the royal couple, to £1,764 dolls from the Franklin Mint – china, glass, pillows, tablecloths, jigsaws, wedding cake, toffee, clocks, scarves, hats, fascinators, there’s a whole Harrods of stuff with their name on it, including something called “Kate’s perfume”, which we are reasonably sure if nothing of the kind.

Somebody is making a lot of money and it’s our bet that it’s not the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

ROYAL LONDON
A time when doping scandals have outraged the world of athletics and shamed many sport stars, Prince Harry is poised to create a huge following for the new heroes of the games – with sports fans switching their admiration from the cheats to the cheated.

The cheated are those cheated by the, the wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women who will become sport’s new idols when Harry’s Invictus Games are given blanket TV coverage around the globe next month, writes Geoff Baker.

BBC1 is clearing its schedules to provide two weeks of unprecedented coverage of the Games, with three hours of documentaries in the walk-up to the glorious spectacle, which will see 500 warrior athletes from 15 countries compete in Orlando, Florida, and live broadcasts of the events from May 9 to 13.

Never in the history of Paralympic-style sports will the world have seen anything like the Invictus Games, which were devised and founded by Prince Harry.

Media analysts believe that such will be the massive TV coverage of the Games – with US cable channel screening them to 94 million homes in the States and to 200 other countries besides – that it will create a whole new fanbase for the new-style sporting stars.

Traditional athletes have lost much of their honour in recent years with doping outrages causing shame in sprinting, marathon, cycling, swimming, hammer throwing, discus, hurdles, middle distance running, high jump, javelin, pentathlon, shot put, pole vault and long jump, with records listing hundreds of athletes who have been banned for breaking the rules.

But none of the able-bodied cheats can hold a candle to what the heroes of the Invictus Games have endured and the guts of these men and women who have overcome appalling odds are expected to bring honour and glory back to sport.

The anticipated salute of sports fans around the world for the Invictus heroes is predicted by Guy Freeman, the executive producer of the BBC’s coverage.

“Each and every competitor has a unique story to tell, but what shines through everyone is the power of the human spirit and camaraderie to overcome adversity which cannot help but inspire,” said Mr Freeman.

Gabby Logan, who will present the live new presentation of the Games on BBC1 next week night on BBC1, added: “I am honoured to be bringing audiences at home all of the drama and excitement from the Invictus Games. It will be amazing to support all of the competitors and to shine a light on their phenomenal achievements.”

Many are those who believe that Prince Harry should receive some special gong himself – like the Order of the Garter – in recognition for what he is achieving in giving pride and hope and a world platform to wounded warriors through his Games, at which the UK will be represented by a team of 110 veterans and serving men and women.

Harry first had the idea for the Games in 2008, when he was flying home with three fellow Servicemen, wounded and in induced comas, after service in Helmond Province, Afghanistan.

In 2014 he inaugurated the Invictus Games in London and now, with the support of President and Michelle Obama, he is taking the Games to the huge new presentation in the USA, where it will be backed by the colossal clout of the Walt Disney organisation.

The US staging of the Games has a special significance for raising spirits, for the US Department of Veteran Affairs calculates that 8,000 despairs military veterans take their own lives every year, 22 a day. The Games will inspire many in danger of also losing hope.

“These Games are about the power that sport has in rehabilitation,” said Prince Harry.

“When I spoke to some of the injured guys I was completely convinced that this was something we should do – a multi-sport, international event.

“I have no doubt that the USA will set the bar even higher than London did and put on a great show.”

Harry has been working flat out before the scenes to ensure that the Invictus Games are launched spectacularly in Florida. US Army helicopters and US Navy Hornet fighter aircraft will take part in the opening ceremony on May 8th, which will see performances by James Blunt, classical soprano Laura Wright, country stars Rascal Flatts, hip hop idol Flo Rida, American Idol Phillip Phillips, Jordan Smith of The Voice and The Vetted, the acclaimed rock band of wounded warriors.

The Games will see teams from Australia, Afghanistan, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Holland, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, New Zealand, the UK and USA compete in sports including archery, indoor rowing, powerlifting, cycling, volleyball, swimming, track and field, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

The UK team will be led by David Wiseman, who was shot in the chest while conducting a patrol in Afghanistan that came into contact with the Taliban. The bullet ricocheted around before coming to rest in his right lung, where it still is to this day.

In 2012 he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. At the 2014 Invictus Games he competed in the swimming events, where he won two gold and two silver medals.

Joining him in the UK squad will be Michael Westwell, a former aircrew sergeant in the RAF who was also injured serving in Afghanistan. He suffered the prolapso of two discs in his neck, temporary paralysis of his left arm and muscle wastage of his upper body.

Sgt Westwell said: “I firmly believe in a strong head-strong body philosophy. The sense of achievement that I gain from taking part individually and as part of a team makes life worth living.

“Seeing and motivating others to physically and mentally challenge themselves, and come out feeling better as a person, is what drives me on when it starts to get tough.”

Also in the team which will inspire the nation is Stuart Robinson, who was serving in the RAF in 2013 when he was involved in an Improvised Explosive Device incident which resulted in the bi-lateral amputation of both of his legs, a nerve injury to his shoulder and a plate in his arm. Stuart is in the wheelchair rugby team and he says the sport has significantly helped his rehabilitation.

He said: “When I originally attended the 2014 Invictus Games trials, I was lacking in confidence in my ability in the sporting field and struggling to come to terms with the life-changing injuries I had sustained.

“But having the 2016 Games to aim towards has given me purpose, drive and determination to overcome adversity.”

In promoting the Invictus Games with President Obama at The White House, Prince Harry spelled out their importance in changing perceptions of physical and mental injury.

“One thing we have to talk about more is breaking down these barriers around so-called invisible injuries, like post-traumatic stress, just as we have for physical injuries like the loss of a limb,” he said.

“We have to help veterans to get the support they need, without fear of being judged or discriminated against. Not only is it OK to talk about it, we have to talk about it.

“I hope that Invictus 2016 will remind people everywhere just how incredible our Service personnel are, and how much of a positive contribution to society they make.”

And the Games will go on. At the closing ceremony in Champion Stadium, Orlando, Prince Harry will lead the transfer of the Invictus Games flag to a delegation from Toronto, which will host the 2017 Invictus Games.

In announcing the Toronto games, Prince Harry said: “There will be 300 unique stories of grit and determination on show in Orlando and everyone has the opportunity to represent their nation again and to prove what they can achieve post-injury.

“Toronto, me, it will be an unbelievable few days. The last Invictus Games in London inspired tens of thousands of people and was enjoyed by millions of others around the world, you really won’t want to miss this. I urge you all to support your nation’s competitors, now is the time to really start getting behind them. I always hoped that the Invictus story would continue after the London games and having seen so many new people benefit from their journey to Orlando this year I definitely did not want it to end there. So I am delighted to announce that the Invictus legacy will continue when Toronto hosts the third Invictus Games in September 2017. The Games in Toronto will see more competitors, more participating countries, and more sports that ever before, and will even involve competing on ice.

“But for now let’s look forward to what is just around the corner in Orlando. It’s shaping up to be an incredible event that will change lives.”

To follow and support the Invictus Games, go to invictusgamesfoundations.org

#POINT TO PROVE: Prince Harry with some of the British team for the Invictus Games

Harry hails heroes and says: Let the games begin!

#NATIONAL SERVICE: Athletes prepare for the Invictus Games in this BBC publicity photograph

Editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Tuesday, April 26th 2016

London Weekly News 13

ROYAL LONDON
BC bosses have launched a search to find the teenage classroom comedians with the talent to become the next generation of their top writers. Supported by comedy stars Charlie Higson, Kerry Howard, Marcus Brigstocke and David Walliams, BBC chiefs are calling on secondary school students to become classroom jokers for a new comedy writing competition.

The Comedy Classroom competition will give London’s 13 to 15 year-olds the chance to have their work made and broadcast by the BBC this autumn. The winners will also have a chance to visit the BBC to see it filmed and receive a Comedy Classroom trophy, a signed certificate, a visit from a BBC Comedy comedian to their school – and the chance to break into TV comedy. There are three categories to enter:

- **Class Act – Backing the BCC's Comedy Classroom.** David Walliams is backing the BBC’s Comedy Classroom! A class is full of budding performers, or they’re bursting with brilliant ideas for new comedy sketches. BBC Comedy Classroom is for you and your students.

  *So whether your class is full of budding performers, or they’re bursting with brilliant ideas for new comedy sketches, BBC Comedy Classroom is for you and your students.*

  The competition also has support from the likes of comedians No Going Out’s Katy Wix and Citizen Khan star Adil Ray, who have contributed to teachers’ resource packs, along with Higson, Howard and Brigstocke.

- **Class Act – The Sketch.** Write your own unique sketch and bring to life funny ideas and characters.

  *CLASS ACT: David Walliams is backing the BBC’s Comedy Classroom.*

  The BBC’s Head of Learning, Snéadíó Racks, said: “We want this competition to provide a fun and inspiring way to engage students by helping them find the funny side of literacy and by demonstrating how literacy is the bedrock of good comedy and comedy writing. We hope it provides some great laughs in classrooms across the UK, as well as giving students the opportunity to produce some fantastic entries.”

  The competition is being run with National Literacy Trust, which has produced bespoke and flexible classroom learning resources and activities to help make it easy for teachers to integrate the competition and comedy writing into lessons. The 60-minute lessons are drawn from the curriculum requirements for literacy and build on key reading, writing and speaking skills.

  Jonathan Douglas, director of the National Literacy Trust, said: “Our research shows that young people don’t enjoy writing as much as they enjoy reading. We believe that introducing them to comedy writing can change that. Comedy harnesses many key writing skills to create laughs and can be a great asset in the classroom.”

- **Class Act – Clever Captions.** Find the funny in the image and write a comedy caption.

  *Who’s passed ho-ho-ho levels?*

  “FANS of Travis should head down to Oxford Street this weekend for rare opportunity to get intimate with their heroes. The band will be signing copies and performing tracks from their forthcoming album Everything At Once for the first time live in an intimate acoustic session at the HMV store, 363 Oxford Street at 1pm on Saturday, April 30. With the release of the new album imminent, Travis are set to release the follow up to radio hit 3 Miles High, with the celebratory Magnificent Time out on May 6. They will be kicking off a 10-date UK tour on the same day and appearing at the 02 Shepherd’s Bush on May 9. The new album features 10 songs that Travis say “perfectly illustrate the sound of a band in their prime, all either around or under three minutes of pure unadulterated joy.” Singer Fran Healy says: “We have learnt to be frugal with our writing. You can say everything you want to say. You don’t need four minutes to do it.”

  THE cream of pop, including Rihanna and Beyoncé, are said to be in the frame for one of the big movie roles of the year as queen of soul Aretha Franklin is set to OK a deal for a film of her life. Aretha, who recently turned 74, said she is ready to sign off on plans to see it film and receive a signed certificate, a visit from Higson, Howard and Brigstocke.

  “Is domestic violence the ‘everyday tale’ we want?”

  The BBC is now eagerly waiting to discover if the controversial plot has driven the soap’s audience up or down and it will not know whether its gamble to make Titchener a force for good has paid off until audience figures are calculated and released next month.

  “But Mr O’Connor, who is leaving Ambridge anyway to take over as the new boss of EastEnders, has revealed that those who cannot abide the nastiness will have a long, long wait before they can tune in again. So far the Rob and Helen storyline has been eeked out over 900 episodes, says Mr O’Connor, but he warns, “this is just the beginning of the story”. The BBC is now eagerly waiting to discover if the controversial plot has driven the soap’s audience up or down and it will not know whether its gamble to make The Archers a social force for good has paid off until audience figures are calculated and released next month. But judging by social media activity, the indications are that the wife abuse has certainly got The Archers talked about like never before. Since March listeners’ posts featuring the hashtag #TheArchers have been made more than 110,000 times, as opposed to the approximately 30,000 times #Corrie has appeared as soapsters post about Coronation Street. However, nobody has yet calculated whether the 110,000 posts have been of the “hurrah for Ambridge” variety or, as is suspected, they have been largely dampening the new “weekend for noir”.

  The BBC hopes, of course, that the Rob and Helen tale will have boosted the show’s audiences by the time the new series begins in July. However, few in The Archers engaging promotions team are mentioning that the audience is significantly fewer than the 11 million who regularly tuned in to the Sixties,
Absen tee stars ‘not the ticket’

The great star-vehicle theatre ticket debate was reopened once again last week as yet another celebrity dared to take an evening off, writes Nicky Sweetland. 69-year-old Hollywood star Glenn Close, who is currently performing in the English National Opera’s Sunter Boulevard, was ‘indisposed’ last Thursday night and so audiences at the London Coliseum were instead faced with seeing her understudy, Ria Jones, in the role of fading movie star Norma Desmond, a role for which Close had previously won a Tony award when she first portrayed it on Broadway in the 1990s.

The last-minute change of cast was announced to the auditorium before Wednesday night’s performance and was met by a chorus of boos by many who had paid a pretty penny, up to £150 per ticket, to see the star and who subsequently demanded a refund. Little did they know, however, that they were actually going to be seeing the original Norma Desmond, as Ria Jones was the first person to ever play the role when the musical was devised by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber. For some, however, this was no substitute and many angrily took to Twitter to demand their money back.

This has once again reopened the debate about what we as theatre patrons are actually paying for when booking to see a show. Only weeks previously, one of Britain’s most loved actresses, Sheridan Smith, found herself in the same boat when she needed to take a couple of nights off from her starring role in Funny Girl at the Menier Chocolate Factory. The star had just learned of her father’s diagnosis with cancer and felt she needed some time to come to terms with the news. This sparked outrage among some theatre goers and led to Smith herself offering compensation to many who were disappointed at not being able to see their idol. Funny Girl transferred to the Savoy last week, where Smith received rave reviews and a standing ovation for her opening night performance, but this time last year in the acclaimed production of Gypsy, she only took one night off through illness and the audience were offered a refund.

What does this say about the performers who are taking over the leading roles in their stead? Many, like Ria Jones and Natasha Barnes, (Smith’s understudy) are celebrated performers in their own right and just because they haven’t reached the dizzy heights of celebrity adoration, it doesn’t mean they won’t give a fantastic show-stopping performance.

Within theatre land, aficionados like to see other performers play the roles, in fact we often choose to see a show again, just so we can see a standby. So, have the theatre producers and PR agencies made a rod for their own back in first of all promoting a show solely on the star-turn and then offering refunds when the celeb needs break? kit Harrington suddenly gets a cold from being off, are they going to be allowed to change our tickets to ensure we see this spectacle?

PJ Harvey’s latest album was inspired by visits to war-ravaged Kosovo and a tour around Washington DC’s decaying public housing projects – but it was crafted and completed right here in London.

The award-winning songwriter’s ninth LP shot to the top of the charts last week after a unique experiment that put Londoners at the heart of the recording process, writes Jack Dixon. Harvey, the critically-adored darling of British rock, ripped up the rulebook to allow fans inside the studio as she went to work on what would become The Hope Six Demolition Project.

Obsessives were able to pull up a chair and watch the singer thrust out the album on public view, during a month-long residency at Somerset House in central London. As PJ and co slowly perfected the album’s 11 tracks, fans could observe the creative process in all its glory, through a specially-designed enclosed box covered in one-way glass. The ‘Recording in Progress’ sessions raised eyebrows when Harvey went back into the studio last January to follow up 2011’s massively successful Let England Shake.

But 16 months later the finished product has finally arrived, earning the Dorset-born singer another raft of rave reviews. Tickets for the clever ‘art installation’ sold out within days as fans clamoured to experience Harvey’s creative process.

And she is now reaping the rewards, after receiving almost universal acclaim for the album and earning a headline slot at the Field Day festival in Victoria Park in June. “She is one of those very few musicians who strikes me as a pure artist,” said Virgin EMI’s A&R chief Mike Smith, in a recent interview. “She is someone who gets up in the morning and wants to do something groundbreaking. They are the musicians you mark your life by.” The only artist to win British music’s most sought-after award – the Mercury Prize – on two separate occasions, Harvey has forged a reputation as one of our most celebrated creatives.

No stranger to controversy, she has been a persistent prodder of the political status quo, cultivating an image among adoring fans who paint her as equal parts feminist, philosopher and folk figurehead.

Her latest album continues to probe injustice, tackling the ‘social cleansing’ of Washington’s ‘Hope VI’ regeneration programme.

Her headline performance at Field Day, alongside the likes of Air, Roots Manuva and former Sonic Youth frontman Thurston Moore, is set to be one of the capital’s early summer highlights.

PJ lets Londoners in on her latest project

This little piggy didn’t save on estate agent fees

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Cuttlefish, green tomato and chilli broth – serves 4

I’m going to continue writing cuttlefish recipes until I am blue in the face because, frankly, we aren’t eating enough of it – and the majority of ours gets shipped abroad, which is a shame. Fishmongers should be promoting it, but they seem to only want to stock squid, erroneously thinking that’s all we want.

Ingredients

- A good fish stock cube dissolved in a litre of boiling water
- 1 small leek, halved, roughly chopped and washed
- 10 black peppercorns
- 4 lime leaves
- The trimmings from the cuttlefish (not the backbone)

To serve

- A small piece of root ginger (about 30g) scraped and finely grated
- 1 small cuttlefish, weighing about 400-500g, cleaned (keep trimmings for stock)
- 2 large or 4 small green tomatoes, cut into rough chunks
- 1 green chilli, thinly sliced
- 4 spring onions, trimmed, thinly sliced
- 15-20 leaves of Thai basil, torn if large

Method

First, make the broth. Put all the ingredients into a saucepan, bring to the boil, season gently for 30 minutes; then strain through a fine-meshed sieve. Cut the cuttlefish into rough 2cm squares and then score a cross into them with a sharp knife. Cut the tentacles down into four pieces. To serve, put all the ingredients into the broth, except for the basil. Season if necessary, stir in the basil and serve immediately.

Mustard’s custard is on the money

I’m very fortunate to be invited to review an abundance of astounding foody havens, but last week I was treated to something very special when I visited Mustard on Shepherd’s Bush Road, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Following rave reviews, I was intrigued to see what could make this new British-centric restaurant such a unique dining experience and the answer was, great service, a captivating atmosphere and exquisite cuisine prepared with care and aplomb. I allowed my regardful and knowledgeable waiter to choose my menu and so I started with the totally delectable air dried cum brian ham with spiced sage apple (£7.25) and following advice from my charming young attendee, coupled the dish with some slices of poppy seed bloomer & seaweed butter (£2.95). I’m not ordinarily a fan of butter products, but I can safely say, the seaweed butter was to die for. I then sampled a 28 day aged sirloin 8oz steak (£17.50) served with chips and added a house salad with mustard dressing (£2.95) to get some freshness with my succulent and beautifully cooked piece of rare, meaty, sustenance. My lovable and joyful waiter then advised the warm rhubarb crumble and custard (£5.50) for dessert, which felt like proper hearty British fare and perfectly coupled the tartness of the fruit with the sweet creaminess of the think and luxurious custard.

The friendly and contemporary restaurant was busy, but with a relaxing ambience and as this was a dreary Tuesday night, I would suggest that Mustard is going to be very popular as its reputation starts to spread. The outside seating area will, no-doubt also become a very sought-after inclusion as the weather begins to warm up and with a fabulous collection of wines to compliment every dish gives you everything you could wish for grins dining experience. I would suggest you book a table at Mustard, before it’s too late.

For more details you can visit the website mustardrestaurants.co.uk

MARK HIX Cuttlefish

Cuttlefish, green tomato and chilli broth – serves 4

I’m going to continue writing cuttlefish recipes until I am blue in the face because, frankly, we aren’t eating enough of it – and the majority of ours gets shipped abroad, which is a shame. Fishmongers should be promoting it, but they seem to only want to stock squid, erroneously thinking that’s all we want.

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Our smiles play a big role in first impressions, not to mention the fact that being able to laugh and grin freely is part and parcel of being happy, so it's little wonder that being plagued by self-consciousness due to crooked teeth can have a major dent on confidence levels.

However, it's a myth that if you didn't get a mouthful of metal braces aged 13, you've missed your chance altogether - whatever your age, it's not too late to get overcrowded, wonky teeth straightened out by an orthodontist.

If you do want to neaten up your smile, this is what you need to know.

Invisalign works by repositioning teeth little by little, using a series of custom-made clear plastic ‘aligners’ that are changed every two weeks. Digital scanning technology and 3D software is used to plot the way the teeth should move over a period of weeks - so you can see how your teeth should look at the end of the treatment before even starting.

Alternatively, you can go classic with traditional metal train tracks which are tightened over time to pull teeth gradually into place.

One issue which older people need to be aware of is that their bone may be less able to regenerate to hold the teeth in their new position than younger people. Following treatment, permanent retention may be necessary to stop the teeth moving back.

Do you feel unhappy about your missing teeth?

At Pure Smiles we have helped hundreds of patients like Olivia to feel happier about their smiles, with dental implants and other cosmetic treatments.

Our implants:

- Mean you no longer have to feel embarrassed or self-conscious about your missing teeth (Olivia says her treatment has changed their life)
- Mean you can enjoy a new smile within months (and your implants will last for years if you look after them properly)
- Will be given to you by dentists with decades of experience – so you can feel comfortable that you’re getting the best care

Call us on 020 7736 6276 to book your consultation!
They’re making it up as the train goes along

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL: Prepare for a marathon of mirth and mayhem on the Orient Express later this week

They are the performers’ audacious abilities when I witnessed one performance of the musical, which was set in an allotment on the night that I went. As an observer, I struggled to fathom just how the cast managed to keep going with no script, no route and no story to follow.

Adam said: “I think people just get a bit intimidated by improvisation, but they needn’t be. Firstly, what people often forget is that they are improvising all day, everyday. We’re used to improvising; we’re improvising this conversation.”

“As soon as you put it on stage, it’s as if you are paralysed by so much choice, what to do, what to say and the fear of not being interesting. Secondly, there is a craft to improvisation. You can learn it like you can learn circus skills or learn to play the piano. When it’s good the performers make it look easy but there is a craft there.”

Performing unscripted for 50 hours, however, is a completely different ball game, but one which some of the world’s most celebrated improvisers are ready to tackle for the Improvathon on April 29.

The concept was first introduced by a Canadian group called Die Nast, who each year perform their own Soapathon. The London version has been running since 2006, with this year’s theme, an homage to the great Agatha Christie in this the 40th year since her death. The show will be set on the Orient Express and will include guest performers and those who will perform for all of the rolling comedy soap opera which involves 25 two-hour episodes.

Adam said: “A core group of players will perform all 50 hours and will go through sleep deprivation.”

He explained that after 30 hours the human brain is stripped back and goes into something called a “frazzled brain state”. At this point, the actors become unable to censor themselves through fatigue, which results in hilarious and amazing results, particularly as the group are experiencing it together.

“You get a kind of performance that you can’t see anywhere else.”

The Improvathon is at the Lost Theatre from 7pm on April 29 until 9pm on May 1. Audiences can buy a ticket to join the team for the entire 50-hour marathon, or for an episode at any point during the weekend — and there will be a band throughout and an all-night bar.

There is also a special family episode on Sunday, from 11am to 1pm, where the action is suitable for children.

If you would like any further information, you can visit the website improvathon.co.uk.

ON A WINNER: Show director Adam Meggido

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

A n all-female cast of Syrian refugees will offer a powerful performance to the Young Vic Theatre in July when they bring their personal stories to the stage in an adaptation of Euripides’ great anti-war tragedy, Queens of Syria.

Developing Artists presents the Refuge Productions’ play, which was first staged in Amman in 2013 and was the subject of an award-winning documentary.

The cast skilfully amalgamate their own narratives of ferocious war and bitter exile with the ancient Greek text. Their experience of displacement and turmoil brings fresh relevance to Euripides tragedy.

The powerful stage play is fused with scenes from the documentary to create a piece of extraordinary multimedia theatre.

The play opens at the Young Vic Theatre in London from July 5 to 9 before touring the UK and offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the refugees themselves, and a revelatory experience for British audiences who will hear first-hand the harsh realities of life as a refugee.

Louise Chantal, director of Oxford Playhouse, said: “It’s a privilege to be working with Developing Artists and Refuge Productions to help bring this important project to Oxford, both on film and on the stage. I can’t help thinking that the Queen of Syria might be the most important theatre project of the year.”

One cast member, Khalula, talked about the experience of being involved in the original production of Queens of Syria.

She said: “We came into a new society, a new way of life; we were isolated. Doing this play helped us break the ice; we started to connect with others and make friends. It gave us the courage we needed to talk about our problems frankly and clearly.

“We feel that we can do something for Syria, and the Syrian people, by sending a message to the whole world that hopefully someone can help us end this tragedy.”

 Queens of Syria will run at the Young Vic Theatre from July 5 to 9. If you would like any further information on the performances, you can visit the website youngvic.org.

From the warzone into exile: refugees tell their stories

VOICES FROM WAR ZONE: Syrian refugees perform Queens of Syria

A s if making up an entire musical night after night wasn’t challenging enough, the Olivier award-winning director Adam Meggido will, next weekend, attempt to perform non-stop for 50 hours as part of their annual Improvathon, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The master mirth makers will take to the stage at the Lost Theatre in Stockwell for the challenge, which starts on Friday, April 29 and runs non-stop until Sunday, May 1.

Billed as “one of the most remarkable events in the showbiz calendar”, the mayhem marathon is led by twice-Oliver-nominated director Adam Meggido (Showstopper/The Improvised Musical, Peter Pan Goes Wrong) and will involve the highly skilled cast creating a 25-episode comedy adventure on the Orient Express.

I caught up with Adam, who earlier that week had picked up an Olivier award for Showstopper! The Improvised Musical.

He said: “I came to improvisation relatively recently, about 12 years ago. When I got into it, I soon had the aim to bring improvisation back into mainstream theatre and so this week has been an incredible week to celebrate that.”

The show was the first ever fully improvised musical to run in the West End and brought the art form to a whole new audience.

Adam explained: “The idea with showstopper is that we make it look, feel and sound like a fully-fledged musical with song and dance routines, stories that you care about, characters that you like and the whole thing. It should just look and feel like a musical but the game we’re playing is that we just happen to make it all up on the spot out of the audience’s ideas.”

I couldn’t help but marvel at the performers’ audacious abilities when I witnessed one performance of the musical, which was set in an allotment on the night that I went. As an observer, I struggled to fathom just how the cast managed to keep going with no script, no route and no story to follow.

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If you would like any further information, you can visit the website improvathon.co.uk.

ON A WINNER: Show director Adam Meggido
Talk of the town

Enjoy an evening with Jersey Boy

FORMER Jersey Boy Erich Bergen will bring his dry wit and smooth vocals to the Hippodrome Casino with a live show the organisers say is guaranteed to have fans exclaiming “Oh, what a night!”

Continuing the exciting season at the casino, on June 27 Club 11 London will bring the star to the award-winning venue for an exciting and hilarious evening, featuring songs and stories from his 20-year career.

Bergen, pictured, is best known for his performance as Bob Gaudio in the Clint Eastwood film Jersey Boys, but has more recently co-starred in the hit television drama Madam Secretary (recently renewed for its third season and currently airing on Sky Living in the UK).

The singer is well known to Broadway fans as he also featured in Jersey Boys as Bob Gaudio for over three years, but the Hippodrome shows will mark Erich’s solo concert debut in London. On coming to London, Erich said: “My fans in London are some of the most loyal I’ve ever known. After hearing from them online for years, I can’t wait to meet them face to face.”

Erich Bergen — Live! will feature two performances at the Hippodrome Casino, at 8pm and 11pm on June 27. Tickets are available from £22 with a meet-and-greet package for £55.

All aboard for more drama as the Titanic sets sail again

The passengers on the roll-call of the ill-fated RMS Titanic were announced this week and will set sail in a new musical production at the Charing Cross Theatre.

The multi-award-winning production of the Broadway musical Titanic was first seen at Southwark Playhouse and is returning to London with director Thom Southerland once again at the helm.

Titanic will set sail for a 10-week season with a cast of 20. Eight of the originals are back aboard, including Scarlett Courtney, Matthew Crowe, Sion Lloyd, Shane McDaid, Philip Rham, Dudley Rogers, Victoria Serra and Judith Street.

They are joined by David Bardsley, Alistair Barron, Helena Blackman, Scott Crepps, James Gant, Luke George, Douglas Hansell, Rob Houchen, Claire Machin, Jessica Paul, Peter Prentice and Dom Simpson.

Based on actual characters aboard the greatest ship in the world, Maury Yeston (Nine, Grand Hotel) and Peter Stone’s stunning musical focuses on their hopes and aspirations. Unaware of the fate that awaits them, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America, the newly-enfranchised Second Class dream of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and the millionaire barons of the First Class dream of their hegemony lasting forever.

Titanic is the first production in a major season of musicals announced last month by Southerland on his appointment as artistic director of Charing Cross Theatre.

The acclaimed director has scored unparalleled success in recent years, most notably with sold-out European premiere of Grey Gardens at Southwark Playhouse.

Thom Southerland said: “I am incredibly excited that Titanic will set sail for London again and will open our new season of Musical Theatre at Charing Cross Theatre.

“Having created the production in the intimate setting of Southwark Playhouse, it will be wonderful to see Maury Yeston’s epic musical at such close proximity again.

“Having opened productions of the show in major theatres in Japan and Canada, it really feels like the show is coming home.”

Titanic will run at Charing Cross Theatre from Saturday, May 28 to Saturday, August 6. If you would like further information on the musical you can visit its dedicated website charingcrosstheatre.co.uk

BO N V O YA G E: Cast of recent production of Titanic

SAILING ALONG: Actress Victoria Serra is on the ‘crew’ of the Titanic for its run at Charing Cross Theatre

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Funny Girl *****
Savoy Theatre

MESMERISING, captivating and totally lovable, Sheridan Smith has become a national treasure over the last few years, with her extraordinary performances both on stage and screen, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Following the unparalleled success of Funny Girl at the Menier Chocolate Factory, the show opened last week at the Savoy Theatre and was greeted by a thoroughly deserved, standing ovation for its pint-sized leading lady.

Smith stars as Fanny Brice, a lower east side New Yorker who becomes one of Broadway’s biggest stars. The role was made famous by Barbara Streisand, both on Broadway and in the 1968 film for which she shared the Best Actress Academy Award and which helped to gain her legendary status as a musical performer.

Fast becoming a legend in her own right, the enchanting Smith completely embodies the character of Fanny, with priceless comic timing and dead pan delivery. Every facial expression and nuance is dedicated to ensuring her performance is beyond sensational, with the showstopper Don’t Rain On My Parade bringing the house down.

The deeper stage at the Savoy allows Michael Mayer’s production to gain a more glitzy and glamorous air, but still keeps the slick and simple design, ensuring the performers are the main focus at all times.

Lynne Page’s choreography dazzles within the larger expanse, enabling more freedom of movement—while the tweaks to the costumes, particularly Smith’s soldier’s uniform, give a further polish to the perfect presentation.

The coven of well-wishing women and the dashing Darius Campbell give tremendous support, but the show very much belongs to Smith, who proves once and for all, that she really is a “funny girl”.

Ballet celebrates Jane Eyre

NORTHERN Ballet will bring their brand new show, Jane Eyre, to Richmond Theatre next month – and the world premiere production is likely to set hearts racing.

Based on the novel by Charlotte Brontë and performed during the 200th anniversary of the year of her birth, the classic love story features one of the most iconic heroines in literary history.

Orphaned at a young age and cruelly treated by her aunt, Jane Eyre is a plain but intelligent child who grows up knowing little kindness. Sent away to a charitable school, Jane later accepts a position as a governess at Thornfield, a gentleman’s manor whose master is the dark and impassioned Mr Rochester.

In spite of their social differences, an unlikely bond grows between the pair but as their romance develops, it becomes clear that Mr Rochester has a hidden past that threatens to ruin them both.

The ultimate dramatic tale of romance, jealousy and dark secrets, Jane Eyre is the story of one woman’s indomitable spirit overcoming all boundaries.

Jane Eyre is choreographed by internationally acclaimed British dance maker Cathy Marston, who previously created the Dickens classic A Tale of Two Cities for Northern Ballet in 2008.

For this new production, Marston has brought onboard composer Philip Feeney to compile and arrange a score for Jane Eyre made up of original compositions and existing work.

Marston said: “Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre was a novel far ahead of its time and when I think of Jane I feel inspired by images of her passionate but ‘impossible’ relationship with Mr Rochester, the fire and emotional destruction symbolised by Bertha Mason – the infamous ‘woman in the attic’, the contrasting icy moorland through which she seems to run from one chapter of her life to another, and of course her final reunion with Rochester.

“But these images only touch the surface of a character and a book that continues to provoke and move — generation after generation, re-read after re-read.”

Northern Ballet’s artistic director David Nixon OBE said: “Having already adapted Emily Brontë’s Wuthering Heights it seems appropriate that Northern Ballet should also immortalise her sister’s Jane Eyre through dance – and doing so in the bicentennial anniversary of Charlotte Brontë’s birth makes it all the more special.”

Jane Eyre will play at Richmond Theatre from May 31 to June 1. See atgtickets.com
Have you an Open Day, Course or anything to do with education?

Then call Louise on 020 8768 4923 to advertise in your local papers.

Articles for Sale

Quilt new sewing machine in wooden cabinet with foot control and use instructions. Price £50. Large wooden dresser from top of wall to bottom with loads of cupboard space and inserts for decorative items Price £100.00. Please telephone Marita on 07886576593.

Bargain Buys

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ALL-IN-ONE SMALL POND SYSTEM (CUP-129), used for ALL-IN-ONE SMALL POND SET OF 2 ELVIS MUGS 

Bargain Buys

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Public Notices

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

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 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 Nigel Playfair Avenue.

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 30th April 2016 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 Saturday 30th April 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as required by Section 32(7)(b) of the London Local Authorities Acts 1990 to 2007 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) propose to vary the fees and charges paid to them by street trading licence holders. The Council proposes to set the following fees and charges from 30th May 2016:

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<th>STREET TRADING CHARGES</th>
<th>Apr-15</th>
<th>Annual % Change</th>
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<td>£55.00</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
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<td>Licence variation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrers letter</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminder letter</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERMANENT STREET & MARKET TRADERS - Weekly charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERMANENT STREET &amp; MARKET TRADERS - Weekly charges</th>
<th>Apr-15</th>
<th>Annual % Change</th>
<th>Apr-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week (Standard Stall)</td>
<td>£20.40</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£20.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week (Extended)</td>
<td>£29.58</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>£29.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week (Standard)</td>
<td>£27.54</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>£27.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week (Extended)</td>
<td>£41.82</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>£42.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week (Standard)</td>
<td>£42.84</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>£43.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week (Extended)</td>
<td>£61.20</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£61.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 days per week (Standard)</td>
<td>£54.06</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£54.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 days per week (Extended)</td>
<td>£80.58</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£81.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days per week (Standard)</td>
<td>£86.34</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£89.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days per week (Extended)</td>
<td>£99.96</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>£101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence variation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence replacement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licence renewal</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>new charge</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed fees and charges have been determined by applying the principles of Section 32 of the London Local Authorities Acts 1990, wherein a borough council may charge such fees for the grant or renewal of a street trading licence under this Part of the Act, the grant of a temporary licence or for the variation at the request of the licence holder of the conditions of a street licence as they may determine and as may be sufficient in the aggregate to cover in whole or in part the reasonable administrative or other costs in connection with their functions under this Part of this Act, not otherwise recovered.

A summary of the Council’s estimates of its expenditure in relation to street trading in 2015/16 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Apr-15</th>
<th>Apr-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employee expenses</td>
<td>£105,600</td>
<td>£106,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire Contracted Service (e.g. Waste collection &amp; Street Cleaning)</td>
<td>£351,200</td>
<td>£355,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recharges (e.g. IT, legal, and management expenses, premises costs)</td>
<td>£204,200</td>
<td>£208,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>£661,000</td>
<td>£670,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The London Local Authorities Acts 1990 Section 32 sub section (7) (a) allows you the opportunity to make representations to the Council regarding these proposals. The Council will then consider your representations before making a decision regarding the proposed fees and charges.

A notice under subsection (7)(a) of Section 32 of the LLAAs 1990 shall be published on 26th April 2016 in the Fulham Chronicle newspaper.

Any representations should be made in writing by 23rd May 2016 to:

David Page
Director Safer Neighbourhoods
Room 221-224
Hammersmith Town Hall
King Street
London W6 9JU
Email: david.page@lbhf.gov.uk
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
(bEARoY LANE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the removal of a tower crane from the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would be to prohibit vehicular traffic in those roads. The Order will come into operation on the 29th April 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs or suspension signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of the road between its junctions with King's Road and Nos. 23 - 31, Beavor Lane.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via St Peter's Row, St Peter's Street and Smith's Fields Lane.
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 of the Police at a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 29th April 2016 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 Saturday 30th April 2016 and last for 1 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 4(1)
(VARIOUS ROADS. (NO. 1) 2016
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
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 has 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 Beaufort Mews.

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 30th May 2016 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 3rd March 2016 and last for 20 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and will extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(BRACKENBURY 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 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 Beaufort Mews.

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 30th May 2016 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 3rd March 2016 and last for 20 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and will extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(TEMPERER 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 prohibits vehicular traffic in 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 Beaufort Mews.

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 30th May 2016 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 3rd March 2016 and last for 20 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and will extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(SEVEN Dials)

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 prohibits vehicular traffic in 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 Beaufort Mews.

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 30th May 2016 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 3rd March 2016 and last for 20 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and will extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event, it has made an Order to suspend traffic in part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, extends Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) D operational hours within part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, and introduces a one way traffic flow system in sections of roads as listed in the articles to this notice.

2. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, from its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road, southwards to its southern extremity.

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

4. Whilst temporary works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed in order to facilitate the event build-breakdown works, the one-way traffic flow system which operates in Palliser Road between Marqwyn Gardens and Barton Road shall be suspended.

5. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between its junction with Comeragh Road and its junction with Barton Road other than in a northerly direction.

6. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Comeragh Road between its junction with Palliser Road and Gledstanes Road.

7. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting restrictions on both sides of the artifact on their wellbeing.

8. Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the permitted hours of the existing Controlled Parking Zone D W would be extended from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm Monday to Sunday in Greyhound Road (from its junction with Star Road to its junction with St Andrew’s Road and its north-western kerb line from a point opposite the common boundary of Nos. 7 and 9 Palliser Road).

9. Works in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload in:
   (a) Palliser Road, its south-western kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to a point 12.00 metres north of its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road;
   (b) Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, from its southern extremity, northwards to a point 12.00 metres north of its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road;
   (c) Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, from its junction with the north-eastern kerb line of Palliser Road, north-eastwards to its junction with south-western kerb line of Gledestanes Road;
   (d) Comeragh Road, its north-western kerb line, from a point opposite the south-western kerb line of Palliser Road, eastwards for a distance of 10.00 metres;
   (e) Comeragh Road, its south-eastern kerb line, in the disabled person’s parking bay, from the common boundary of Nos. 107 and 109 Comeragh Road, south-westward for a distance of 6.00 metres;
   (f) Comeragh Road, the south-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Gledestanes Road to the common boundary of Nos. 47 and 69 Comeragh Road;
   (g) Gledestanes Road, the south-western kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the common boundary of Nos. 2/4 Gledestanes Road;
   (h) Gledestanes Road, the north-eastern kerb-line, from its junction with Comeragh Road to the south-eastern boundary of No. 71 Comeragh Road.

10. Between the hours of 5am-6am lorry movements escorted along the whole of Palliser Road, traffic may proceed in the opposite direction of oncoming traffic. The 2016 dates of these escorts are 3rd May to 10th June 2016, and then 20th June to 8th July 2016.

11. 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.

12. The Order will come into operation on Tuesday, 3rd May 2015 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

13. Works for the build-breakdown are expected to commence on certain dates falling between 3rd May 2016 and 8th July 2016. The tournament dates, to which the works described in the articles to this notice will apply, are between 11th June 2016 and 19th June 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Baxter-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

London BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH and FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(AEGON TENNIS TOURNAMENT)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the Aegon Championships tennis event, it has made an Order to suspend traffic in part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, extends Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) D operational hours within part of the existing boundaries of CPZ D, and introduces a one way traffic flow system in sections of roads as listed in the articles to this notice.

2. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, from its junction with the northern kerb line of Comeragh Road, southwards to its southern extremity.

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

4. Whilst temporary works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed in order to facilitate the event build-breakdown works, the one-way traffic flow system which operates in Palliser Road between Marqwyn Gardens and Barton Road shall be suspended.

5. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Palliser Road, between its junction with Comeragh Road and its junction with Barton Road other than in a northerly direction.

6. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Comeragh Road between its junction with Palliser Road and Gledstanes Road.

7. During the event or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting restrictions on both sides of the artifact on their wellbeing.

8. Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the permitted hours of the existing Controlled Parking Zone D W would be extended from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm Monday to Sunday in Greyhound Road (from its junction with Star Road to its junction with St Andrew’s Road and its north-western kerb line from a point opposite the common boundary of Nos. 7 and 9 Palliser Road).

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10. Between the hours of 5am-6am lorry movements escorted along the whole of Palliser Road, traffic may proceed in the opposite direction of oncoming traffic. The 2016 dates of these escorts are 3rd May to 10th June 2016, and then 20th June to 8th July 2016.

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Dated this 21st day of April 2016
Nicholas Baxter-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

By Craig Overton on nine but went on

Surrey reached 394-5 at stumps.

Afterwards he was quick to give

credit to Burns and Roy, saying: “They

were both outstanding. It was really
easy to bat with them because they
kept putting pressure on the bowlers,
putting the bad balls away, and made
batting for me a lot easier because
I had positive intent from the other end.”

However, Robson’s flying start to the

match was extinguished as his technique.

He /first surpassed the highest

number of runs made in a match at
Middlesex after 17 trips to Middlesex since losing at

Warwickshire in 20 meetings since

2016.

Robson received strong support from

Australian skipper Adam Voges (92), who said: “Sam’s batting in this match has been phenomenal. His concentration has been so good as well as his technique.

He can knock the door down in terms of getting selected again for England if he keeps batting like the way he is at the moment.”

Middlesex have now not beaten

Warwickshire in 20 meetings since

June 2001. And Bears have not lost in
17 trips to Middlesex since losing at

Warwickshire before he was out lbw to seamer Lewis Gregory in the final over of the day.

Sangakkara passed 1,000 first-class

runs for Surrey in just his 22nd innings

before he was out caught at deep cover

by Overton off Tim Groenewald.

SUKMA’S Sri Lankan superstar
Kumar Sangakkara hit a superb 171
against Somerset at The Kia Oval on
Sunday.

He shared a two- wicket stand of
187 with opener Rory Burns (80) as
Surrey reached 394-5 at stumps.

Dropped on nine

Sangakkara was dropped at first slip
by Craig Overton on nine but went on
to hit 24 fours and four sixes to register his
56th first-class century.

Jason Roy struck 85 before he was
out lbw to seamer Lewis Gregory in the
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Battle to avoid 18-year low

OSTOPPING Tottenham Hotspur winning the Premier League is all that's keeping Chelsea players and fans' season alive. The despised rivals meet at Stamford Bridge on Monday night in what they hope will see the north Londoners' Premier League title ambitions blown out of the water.

The return to form and fitness of Eden Hazard, who netted a brace against AFC Bournemouth on Saturday, is the most significant development to a Chelsea side that has relinquished its title in the most embarrassing fashion this season.

If they can't win it, they certainly don't want Spurs to emulate them.

Blues fans made their views very clear at Dean Court in the 4-1 drubbing of Bournemouth and their actions were not lost on goalkeeper Asmir Begovic.

The 28-year-old Bosnian stopper was recalled due to Thibaut Courtois' two-match suspension and will be between the sticks when he faces Harry Kane and co.

Desperate

He said: "Yeah, listen, I know the fans are desperate for us to beat Tottenham, no matter what the circumstances are, title or not title. We are in a position where we can have an impact. Beating Bournemouth helped us for confidence reasons. That takes us forward.

"We are definitely going to try and give it our best for the fans. We need to put in another good performance and get a good result. It's a big game against Spurs at any time of the year."

Begovic respects Tottenham's title challenge.

Fulham's 10th loss of this champions' third tier season, having hammered Queens Park Rangers twice, taken four points off Charlton and drawn 2-2 when these near rivals last met at Griffin Park on December 12.

'Very soft team'

Hazard warning

"I'm very impressed with them," he said. "They play very fast, are very energetic and have a good spirit, so I think they have a very bright future ahead of them. They are a good side and it's going to be an occasion for us.

"It will be difficult for them to get over the line, especially for the first time (in Premier League history). So it's a big deal for them and their manager. "I'm sure they are enjoying it but it comes with certain pressures. So hopefully we can give them a big test on Monday night."

Given the possibility that Courtois might be exiting Stamford Bridge in the summer, Begovic is in a 'wait and see' position. He's too good to be just a number two but is not getting enough game time to feel totally satisfied in SW6.

But in a highly-political club like Chelsea, it's wise to be savvy when talking about team selection. He says all the right things when asked about his Chelsea career, having joined last summer from Stoke City.

Of his run out against the Cherries, he said: "Yep, it felt pretty good, nice to be involved. "I don't expect anything. I respect the manager’s decisions. That's what he gets paid for. I just do my job when called upon. Like I said, it's just nice to contribute from time to time."

The win against Bournemouth was a welcome return to form after two consecutive defeats.

He said: "I think, generally, we coped really well. Bournemouth are a decent side – they put us under a lot of pressure and we had to deal with plenty of defensive situations."

Interim manager Guus Hiddink dispensed with his experiment with youth, replacing Ruben Loftus-Cheek and a host of kids on the subs' bench by bringing back Nemanja Matic and a fit again Hazard, who missed the previous five games due to a hip injury. It proved that experience counts and Begovic agreed.

"It's always good to have experience, especially at Premier League level," he said. "You can tell the difference in certain situations. But at the same time, obviously it's a goal to bring younger players in and the guys who have come in have learned a lot. You learn, too, through negative experiences sometimes."

Bournemouth international Hazard scored his first league goals of the season on the Dorset coast, while Pedro and Willian were also on the score-sheet to complete a comfortable victory.

On Hazard, who netted 19 times and won the PFA player of the year award last season, Begovic said: "He's obviously been frustrated with the season, with his injuries and stuff, but he looked fresh for us. He was excited to be playing and when he shows off his skill, it's a beautiful thing to watch. "He brings game-winning skills. He takes on players, makes situations and chances for other players and obviously for himself. He attracts so much attention from the opposition and that frees up the other guys to do things. When he's on top of his game, he is a huge asset for us."

"He helps people like Cesc Fabregas, who picks out these passes, especially in areas that puts guys in good positions, and then they finish them off. Cesc has been very good of late, showing good leadership as well."

The Hazard appreciation society extended to Hiddink, who explained that kind words and a clear treatment programme was the way to get the best out of the attacking wide man, whose brace at Bournemouth ended a 355-day league goal drought – his only other two goals this season coming in the FA Cup.

"Of course, he has had a very bad season," said Hiddink. "I don't like to deflect the facts. It's difficult for a talented player like Eden. He had injuries, he came back but got injured again, then played half a game, then injured. That was frustrating. So I said, 'Let's treat him well, let's treat him well and take a little bit more time. Come back when you are fully recovered'.