 Call to put brakes on playboy racers

KENSINGTON MP Victoria Borwick is leading a crackdown on Middle Eastern playboy racers who are alarming residents by dangerously speeding through the borough in Lamborghinis and Ferraris, some high on drink or drugs.

She has recruited Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Met police commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe to her campaign to put the brakes on “The Piccadilly Crew” of wealthy foreigners who spend more than £20,000 to import their supercars so that they can illegally race on the streets of Knightsbridge, Kensington and Chelsea.

“Each year a large number of supercars such as Ferraris or Lamborghinis, owned by wealthy individuals in the Middle East, are flown to London,” said a spokeswoman for Lady Borwick. “It usually costs in excess of £20,000 to fly the cars over – and they only stay in London for a matter of weeks while the heat in the Middle East reaches its summer peak.

“The cars regularly come to the attention of the Metropolitan Police Service due to incorrect registration plates and insurance, or parking regulation breaches. Other foreign-national supercar drivers have also been accused of dangerous driving and driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. Local residents in areas such as Knightsbridge also regularly complain that some drivers behave in an anti-social manner, treating the area as their own personal racetrack.”

Lady Borwick said: “Local residents are often blighted during the summer months by drivers in supercars who behave in an anti-social way, and have complete disregard for the rules of the road. As we approach the summer months, we are campaigning to make sure that the Piccadilly Crew is not allowed to continue racing through the streets of London.”

Residents reject plan for station

ALMOST 70 per cent of Chelsea residents oppose a Crossrail2 station in the King’s Road.

A packed meeting of more than 300 residents at The Town Hall were told that only 32 per cent of locals have backed proposals for a giant station on the site of the fire station, Kensington and Chelsea Council’s planning chief Councillor Tim Coleridge was shouted down as he tried in vain to explain the case for Crossrail2 to the angry meeting.

Now residents are considering “taking to the streets” for a traffic-stopping demo in the King’s Road as they step up action against the proposed £27 billion rail link.

By LWN reporter GEOFF BAKER

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Borough makes volunteering easy

Teamwork: Council chiefs have set up a new volunteering initiative called Team Kensington and Chelsea, to help people easily find out how to volunteer somewhere specifically or simply offer whatever time they have to be available for any group that needs help.
YOUTH VOLUNTEERING PROJECT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Young Londoners a force for good

The Mayor of London hailed the latest milestone for the Team London Young Ambassadors programme last week when he announced that 1,000 schools across the capital have signed up in just two years, and over 190,000 young Londoners have become active citizens in their local community by taking part in the programme.

Pupils and teachers visited City Hall on Monday, 8 June, to meet the Mayor and celebrate the programme’s milestone.

Team London Young Ambassadors is the Mayor of London’s youth volunteering programme and is inspiring young Londoners to engage in social action, both in their school and the local community. One in three London schools is now participating, with the programme on target to reach 2,500 schools by 2017.

Supported by Unilever and Spirit of 2012, and delivered in partnership with Free The Children, over 190,000 Londoners aged 5-18 have participated since the programme launched in 2013.

Young people from every borough have taken part in events and projects focusing on a variety of issues including food waste and poverty, the environment, homelessness, gardening, community spirit, bullying and friendship.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: “This is a hugely exciting milestone for Team London. The Young Ambassadors programme is a fantastic way for young Londoners to get involved and lead on issues they care about. With 1,000 schools signed up in just two years, almost 200,000 young people from across the capital are taking social action and being active citizens in their local community and in their schools. It is a great achievement and I look forward to the programme being rolled out to 2,500 schools by 2017.”

Recent initiatives include volunteering at the Oasis Community Farm Waterloo, which saw young Londoners from Oasis Academy Johanna take part in food and plant growing, helping to educate them about the advantages of living in a cleaner, greener and more sustainable community. Pupils from Jo Richardson School took part in Free The Children’s ‘We Are Silent’ campaign and marched in silence to City Hall to stand up for those whose voices are not heard as a result of issues ranging from bullying and racism to child labour and gender inequality.

Building on the volunteering legacy of the 2012 Games, the Young Ambassadors programme forms part of the wider work of the Mayor’s Team London volunteering programme, which has seen almost 90,000 Londoners help out across the capital over the last three years.

Senior advisor to the Mayor of London, Veronica Wadley, said: “Volunteering through the Team London Young Ambassadors programme is a great way for young people to understand more about the communities they live in, and I’m delighted that the programme has now reached and inspired hundreds of thousands of young Londoners. As well as volunteering, the programme helps young people to develop an awareness of the world around them and gives them the opportunity to lead on projects to tackle issues they care about, which will help them develop valuable citizenship skills for the future.”

Marc Kielburger, co-founder of Free The Children, said: “Today’s generation of young people have the power to create and lead real systemic change and we are thrilled to have delivered the Team London Young Ambassadors programme to 1,000 schools across the capital. Volunteering is a great opportunity for young people to bring their ideas for social change to life and make a difference in their school and local community.”

Teachers who are involved in Team London Young Ambassadors have said 100 per cent of young people who have taken part in the programme now demonstrate more consideration of local issues in their everyday life and 99 per cent of the young people are more likely to demonstrate positive behaviour.
Volunteers are given a helping hand

A NEW initiative to make it easier for residents to become volunteers is underway in the borough.

Team Kensington and Chelsea, a council project, was launched on June 9, when dozens of representatives from local organisations gathered at Kensington Town Hall to take part in a lively discussion on what can be done to encourage and help volunteers. This was followed by a reception in the Mayor’s Parlour hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Robert Freeman, and the Cabinet Member for Voluntary Organisations and Resident Engagement, Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, at which many volunteers joined in the celebrations. Commenting at the launch, Cllr Hargreaves said: “I am delighted to see so many people at the launch of Team Kensington and Chelsea. We want as many organisations as possible to be aware not only of the opportunities on offer in the borough to spread the word of volunteering but also to network amongst themselves and also get to know the people at the Volunteer Centre who will be working closely with Team Kensington and Chelsea.

“We live and work in a wonderful part of London. Volunteering is a way to not only help maintain this but also to put something back and get something else out of the opportunities that living in central London present.”

The opportunities to volunteer at the council already available through Team Kensington and Chelsea include being a tour guide at Leighton House museum; helping out in Holland Park with a host of tasks including meadow cutting, pond maintenance, building dead-hedges and stag beetle loggers, woodland management, helping children at local libraries through the Summer Reading Challenge, half-term events and rhyme time events, and the regular homework club.

Many more opportunities exist in the various charities to which Kensington and Chelsea is home. To find out more about Team Kensington and Chelsea and how you can volunteer in the borough go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/volunteer

Approval given for library to begin brand new chapter

PLANS for North Kensington Library to move to a brand new building have been given the green light by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Located on Ladbroke Grove, the current library is spread over three floors, making it difficult for those with mobility issues and young children to navigate. Added to this difficulty, the building is poorly insulated, expensive to heat and is also listed, which makes it hard to renovate to meet modern library requirements.

The new library’s floor space will be larger than the current building. Highlights of the borough’s new facilities include:

- an improved range of books, magazines and newspapers as well as e-books to borrow
- excellent Wi-Fi and IT facilities
- space for children’s activities, quiet study areas and meeting rooms for groups, and
- public toilets with baby change facilities.

Just 50 metres away on Lancaster Road lies the council-run youth centre and while its building is generally fit for purpose, it is not energy efficient and is relatively costly to run for its size and is not the most efficient use of a building type on this large site, being only one storey.

The Department of the Environment, including part of the former Isaac Newton Centre’s car park, presents the opportunity to establish a new youth centre with improved facilities and to move the current library to a new, purpose-built, fully accessible building.

Once construction has finished, the Council will be able to lease out the old library (possibly for educational use) and commercial space on the upper floors of the new library to generate revenue to fund services.

Cllr Emma Will, the Royal Borough’s Cabinet Member for Libraries, said: “North Kensington library is a well-used facility with over 15,000 visitors a month.

“When it first opened in 1891 it was undoubtedly one of London’s finest public libraries but today its design makes it difficult to deliver a modern and fully accessible service.

“We have the opportunity minutes away to start from scratch and build the right kind of facility for all of our residents.”

Over the coming months architects will be appointed to come up with design options for the new library and youth centre. For latest updates visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/liblibrary.

Police urged to crack down on playboy racers

FROM PAGE 1

mer, when the majority of these instances happen, I want to know what more can the Met do to crack down on drivers using some areas of London as their own personal race course.

“I also want to know if the Met have the powers they need to tackle foreign national drivers who ship their incredibly expensive supercars to London for the summer months and drive in an anti-social way, often with the wrong or no insurance. There are multiple examples of the police seizing supercars worth in excess of £500,000 from people who are new to the UK and have no idea what they are doing. The Met’s Borough Commander of Kensington and Chelsea agreed.

“The Met should take this issue seriously and Sir Bernard said they will be hot on the heels of these boy racers and ‘there is no place for them on the streets of London’”, said her spokesperson.

“The police can impound cars which are uninsured or fail the requirements of the Road Traffic Act. Unfortunately financial sanctions are not always a deterrent for the Piccadilly Crew, as these boy racers are called. Therefore the Met are now examining anti-social behaviour legislation to see if this can be applied.”

CRIME ALERT: These distinctive pieces of jewellery were stolen from a car boot.

Jewellery stolen

KENSINGTON and Chelsea are appealing to residents to keep a watch out for distinctive pieces of jewellery that were stolen from a parked vehicle on Coulson Street.

The 63-year-old victim of this crime had parked her car and visited a local shop. When she returned and opened the car boot, she realised that a green holdall containing clothes and several pieces of jewellery was missing.

Police have released images of two of the items of jewellery taken during the theft in the hope someone may have seen them displayed in shops or have been approached by people wishing to sell them.

Anyone with information should call Detective Constable Fas Ali on 0208 246 0232 or, to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
Perfect avocado pears grown in Ladbroke Grove - 27 years after planting the seed!

LADBROKE Grove resident Olive Joseph has achieved the previously thought-to-be-impossible - growing “delicious” avocado pears in her garden 27 years after planting a seed on a whim.

Mrs Joseph has astounded gardening experts by reaping six ripe and tasty pears without a greenhouse, green fingers or any special care.

Olive Joseph with her dish of perfect avocado pears.

“Did you expect it to bear fruit?” I didn’t expect it to grow, let alone grow into a 25-foot-tall tree, and I certainly didn’t expect it to bear fruit. I haven’t fertilized it or given it any special compost or care, I just let it grow. In 2008, during gale force winds, it got chopped in half, and I thought it would have died.

“But it survived the snow, frost and all the seasons, the leaves remained lush and green all year round. It has been bearing fruit for a number of years but the fruit was never able to mature before.

“But this year the tree has survived the whole of winter again and last week I was able to pick six ripe pears. They are delicious.

“I’m not a keen gardener and I’ve had no previous knowledge about growing avocados, so I’m very surprised that it’s happened in the heart of Ladbroke Grove.”

Mrs Joseph has confounded the experts who said it could not be done.

TV gardener and author Helen Yemm advises her many followers to expect to be able to grow their own salad pears.

In her gardening column in The Daily Telegraph she wrote: “A carefully-sprouted avocado stone has the potential to make a handsome, large-leaved house-plant with a woody trunk, although it will most certainly not achieve its natural height - which is 20ft-plus - nor will you get a crop of avocados.”

Now Mrs Joseph is hoping that her miracle tree will survive a threat worse than the weather.

“In the next few years our block of flats are to be demolished and new flats built on the site. I’m hoping that they will be able to build the new flats around my avocado tree,” she said.

GARDENERS - HAVE YOU grown any exotic plant or fruit at home? If so, send details and a photograph of your pride and joy to editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Chelsea must be part of the next tube revolution

We must bring Crossrail 2 to Chelsea, says Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown

T he London Underground was and is pivotal to London’s growth and prosperity.

It meant the urban poor were able to travel to work cheaply. It meant families were able to move out a little, to where they could afford two rooms rather than one. It meant the end of gruelling daily walks to and from the workplace in all weathers. It meant children being able to see trees and fields. It led to the development of our glorious suburbs and it also led to a less stratified society with people of all classes travelling together on the same trains.

In other words, the London Underground was a revolution and now London is poised on the brink of another. The tunnelling for Crossrail 1 is now complete. The tunnelling for Crossrail 2 could start as soon as 2017. There is already talk of Crossrail 3. The Crossrail revolution is coming. The question is: will Chelsea be part of it?

Personally I hope the answer will be a very big yes.

It will be great for the more than half of residents without cars who rely on public transport. It will be great for the thousands of residents in the west of Chelsea who are a long walk from Sloane Square. And it will be great too for our traffic congestion and our awful air quality, which will never be sorted out without really good public transport alternatives.

But most of all it will be great for connecting those who want to travel further afield. With a Crossrail 2 station on the King’s Road they could be at St Pancras in less than ten minutes. From there it could be onto HS1 and the continent, from Tottenham Court Road it could be onto Crossrail 1 for Heathrow or for the new Old Oak/Park Royal station where they could catch the HS2.

HS2 will carry them to Birmingham in 40 minutes and then on, at 250 miles an hour, to the “Northern Powerhouse” cities of Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle.

Investigate They could be in Glasgow and Edinburgh by lunchtime, unless that is, they are stuck on a bus in a traffic jam on the King’s Road.

However it must be said that not everyone in Chelsea feels quite so positively about Crossrail 2 and unfortunately some claims are being made that just aren’t true: one such example is that the King’s Road station will be as big as “Westfield”, or “five times the size of Peter Jones”; another is that the construction process will be like “suffering the blitz.”

My message is: don’t buy these claims; instead investigate the proposals for yourself, participate in the upcoming consultation, ask questions, and then decide.

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk
Anti-austerity march set to paralyse capital

TRAFFIC chaos and gridlock is expected in Westminster this Saturday when the biggest protest march in decades looks set to bring the city centre to a standstill.

Motorists are advised to avoid the area as up to 100,000 protesters are expected to take part in an anti-Government and banker-bashing march organised by The People’s Assembly Against Austerity group.

Police are on high alert to close down any trouble as the demonstration is expected to be three times the size of the 2010 students’ protest, at which several hundred activists broke off from the 30,000-strong march to attack the Conservative Party headquarters in Matthew Parker Street.

Coaches from more than 50 cities and major towns in the UK will be bringing demonstrators to the march, which will start outside the Bank of England at noon on Saturday and will wind through Blackfriars, Fleet Street, The Strand, Charing Cross, and Whitehall to Parliament Square.

Downing Street is expected to be given heavy police protection following violent protests there during a much smaller ‘anti-austerity’ march last month.

The organisers are opposing the £12 billion cuts in Government welfare spending and are calling on protesters to be “bolder than ever”.

By LWN reporter

GOFF BAKER

The People’s Assembly Against Austerity says: “We’ll be assembling the demonstration in the heart of the City of London right on the doorstep of the very people who created the crisis in the first place, the banks and their friends in Westminster. We demand that the bankers and elite should pay for the crisis and not the vast majority who had nothing to do with it. We need to do all that we can to make this demonstration bigger and bolder than we have ever done before.”

The massive march is being supported by 162 organisations, including the TUC, Unite, Unison, the National Union of Teachers, the Green Party, CND, the Communist Party, the Muslim Council of Britain, the Socialist Workers’ Party, War On Want, the National Pensioners’ Convention and various student and NHS groups.

But it is also supported by Counterfire, a group which describes itself as “a revolutionary socialist organisation dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism by the working class”, and the anarchist group Class War, which is promoting Saturday’s march with a disturbing poster which is being fly-posted in the capital and widely-distributed on social media.

Steve Turner, the Assistant General Secretary of Unite The Union, said: “This demonstration will be fantastic, it will be the largest demonstration we have seen on our streets for many, many years. The People’s Assembly is the broadest coalition against the most vicious and destructive attacks we will see against our communities.”

Also taking part in the march is the singer, activist and People’s Assembly supporter Charlie Church.

She told a People’s Assembly press conference last week: “I feel that the public is being misled and being misinformed and I think that is unfair and unacceptable. A lot of the time when we think about the welfare state we think about the most vulnerable in society who receive benefits but the welfare state is everything, it’s our fire service, it’s our travel, it’s our education – and we will all be affected by the cuts.

“As soon as people realise the extent of it and that it is going to pretty much impact all of us, they will be a lot angrier and a lot more discontented. I urge everyone to get on the 20 June demo. Come down, have some fun, educate yourself.”

Sam Fairburn, National Secretary of The People’s Assembly, said: “This Government thinks because it has a small majority in Parliament that is a mandate for dictatorial rule over the next five years without opposition. The point of this national demonstration is to kick start that opposition. It is to start an opposition to austerity and what this Government are planning on doing. This demo is just the start of a nationwide campaign.”

Experts see ‘cooling’ of property market as prices fall by 22%

BIG falls in house prices in central London this spring have prompted fresh debate about whether the property market has peaked.

Some estate agents in the capital report that they have seen declines of more than a fifth in only six months, according to a new report.

In Westminster, house prices went down by 22 per cent from their highest point last November and the end of May this year, while in neighbouring Kensington and Chelsea they had fallen by 16 per cent over the same period.

The report, published at the weekend by property services group LSL, said the price falls were triggered by recently-imposed changes to stamp duty, which means that the tax bills on more expensive properties have soared. Experts argued that if you bought an average property in Chelsea, you would be handed a stamp duty bill of just under £120,000.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research has been predicting this effect since the stamp duty changes were announced. It said in the spring that prices overall in London were likely to be down 3.6 per cent. This compares to a predicted rise of 1.5 per cent across the rest of the UK.

Some analysts see this cooling of property prices in the prime central London market as a welcome trend, taking some of the heat out of the city’s property market and signalling an end to the sky-high prices reported in recent months.

However, the experts don’t expect a collapse in prices or in sales. Savills says the setback in prime central London will be over by next year, where it will grow roughly seven per cent, outstripping the rest of the market, before settling down to around five per cent growth each year for the next three years.

This means they expect prices to be up a fifth over five years.

The CEBR, meanwhile, expects property prices to rise 2.7 per cent next year (farther than the rest of the UK), then six per cent the year after that.

Economist Scott Corfe, pointed out that there are structural reasons why prices will continue to rise.

He said: “We are still not building enough houses to keep pace with population growth so, as long as we have a shortage of supply, prices will keep rising. House prices will continue to grow faster than inflation.”
All the fun of the primary school fair

By LONDON WEEKLY NEWS reporter

CHILDREN and their parents made the most of the sunshine at the Fulham Primary School summer fair on Saturday, June 6.

Bouncy castles, beat-the-goalie competitions and a performance by the Tootsie Rollers made it a very eventful day.

Stamford the Lion, iconic mascot from nearby Chelsea Football Club, also put in an appearance, much to the delight of many young football fans, while volunteers also provided a barbecue, a cake stall, a tombola and lucky dip, face painting, Caribbean food, strawberries and cream, a trampoline for the more energetic, ice creams, mocktails, trash-or-treasure stalls, fish and chips and candy floss.

Fair visitors were also challenged to guess the number of sweets in a jar and invited to indulge in some hair braiding too.

The fair was organised and managed by school staff. Leesa Schooneman, headteacher, said: “We are very grateful for all the donations that were given by the parents of the school and local businesses, without whose support the event would not have been the success it was. Hundreds of pounds were raised on the day.

“It took a lot of work and effort by the staff team to pull off the event, and I would like to thank all the teachers, parents and friends of the school who helped out.

“Seeing everyone enjoying the day and hearing the great feedback made it all worth it.”

...and Stamford the Lion came too!
POP IDOLS: The popular Tootsie Rollers were a smash hit with the crowds at Fulham Primary School’s summer fair earlier this month, quickly winning an army of fans. Pictures contributed.

FOOD FOR ALL: Popcorn, cakes and many other delicious treats awaited visitors to Fulham Primary School’s summer fair.

FACE THE MUSIC: Face painters found themselves in great demand at the Fulham Primary School summer fair on Saturday, June 6 – with some impressive results!

ROARING TRADE: Stamford the Lion found himself among fellow Chelsea Football Club supporters when he popped in at the Fulham Primary School summer fair. And after working up an appetite meeting all those fellow Blues fans there was no shortage of hot and tasty food to go round.
Burma MP visits Westminster college

BURMA MP Daw Su Su Lwin was invited by the British Council to visit Westminster Kingsway College.

The Burma MP travelled to the UK to find out more about Technical & Vocational Education & Training (UK TVET), and chose to visit the central London College to get firsthand experience of top class vocational teaching in tourism, textiles, engineering and construction.

Daw Su Su Lwin said: “As a Member of Parliament from Burma, my responsibility is to chair the education committee for Members of Parliament from the National League for Democracy Party (NLD), and we are currently in the process of reforming the whole of the education sector.

Creative students

“I have come here to learn from Westminster Kingsway College, as to how vocational education is provided in this country and it has been very exciting to be here.”

Daw Su Su Lwin went on to say: “The kind of educational opportunities we had in my country when I was a young person were very limited.

“If I had the opportunity to choose again, I would come to this kind of institute. I would like to learn in a college like this and be involved in the kind of work that the students progress onto, such as being creative and doing something that is very self-satisfying in terms of a job.

“This is something that you can share with a lot of people and this is why, if I had a second chance, I would come to this type of college.”

Sein Suu Lwin, Head of International Operations at Westminster Kingsway College, said: “We’re delighted to welcome a Member of Parliament from Burma and to be able to share our experience, best practices around the development of employability, and entrepreneurship skills for our students and young people in our community.

“Daw Su Su Lwin expressed her keen desire to develop a quality skills, education and training provision in Burma, to provide more opportunities for the future of the country. We look forward to working closely with the British Council to support the country in achieving its goal.”

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London’s most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!

Words I wanted to hear: Bankers will be treated like criminals!

AST Wednesday night in his Mansion House Speech, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, signalled the end to the ‘culture of impunity’ for those pin-striped villains known as bankers, who have, for so long, shown so much contempt for the law.

At the heart of scandal after scandal these criminals have stolen, lied and cheated their way to millions of pounds of other people’s money. And, when they’ve been caught, all they do is take the massive fines on the chin, like it’s just another cost of doing business.

They have learned that, no matter what they do, individual will not go to prison and taking huge risks, even if you fail, will see you granted a second chance via the bail-out shilling of the people you were trying to rip off.

This is the evidence that must have pushed Mr Carney over the brink, and lead him to describe the financial markets of Britain as ‘stained with excess’.

‘Why’, he asked, ‘is it that after so many scandals so few individuals have faced punishment in the courts?’

And then, the kicker for me, the words I’ve been waiting for someone with serious clout to say since 2009. The Governor said: “Individuals who fraudulently manipulate markets and commit financial crime should be treated like the criminals they are, and will be.”

However much as I am gladdened by the thought of bankers finally doing porridge for their crimes, committed against customers and the economy alike, I think we are at a crossroads that offers us a better path.

There is now I believe a real opportunity for a reformed banking system to be a positive force in the battle to return the UK’s economy to prosperity.

Bankers are so institution-alised, oiled with massive cash reserves, private jets, and the confidence of ‘untouchable international criminals, that it will be no easy task to return them to the ethics of the citizens and businesses they have for so long considered inferior and fair game.

But like when the barons dragged King John to Runnymede and forced him to seal the Magna Carta - 800 years ago to this very day - I feel optimistic that we have just witnessed a shift of power, which will bring benefits for us all.

And I’m not just speaking about a friendlier regime towards business borrowing and less out and out banditry. I hope that with the stripping away for several layers of arrogance from the banking industry, there might be a bit more respect on the High Street too.

Who’s for not being treated like a criminal the moment anything goes wrong with your current account, or your credit card? And not having your account frozen when you’re abroad, and being told nothing can be done because they suspect fraud? Me for one and I suspect I am not alone!

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper
Recognition for the borough’s art winners

THE creative and artistic talents of pupils from 33 schools in Kensington and Chelsea were celebrated at the Royal Borough’s 16th annual Schools Art Competition and Exhibition ‘Art on Show’ at Leighton House Museum.

A prize-giving ceremony marked the opening of the exhibition which was attended by the young artists, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Robert Freeman, as well as proud parents and teachers.

The cash prizes were generously sponsored by Cass Art (innovative use of materials), Flow Gallery (applied art), Park Gallery (drawing/painting) and the Friends of Leighton House Museum (Leighton Art Prize). An additional prize was awarded to one talented young student who won a tour of the City and Guilds of London Art School.

Among the prize-winners were Muxue Li, aged 18 from Ashbourne Sixth Form College, who was awarded the Leighton Arts Prize for ‘A bedroom dreamworld’. The Park Gallery Prize (drawing/painting) was awarded to Nazurah Abd Rahman, age 18 from Ashbourne College for ‘Cultural influences’.

Children aged four to five from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School were awarded the Flow Gallery Prize (applied art) for their class collaboration ‘Let us forget’ (Rememberance Day Poppies), with second and third prize going to Sion Manning Girls’ School.

Pupils from Colvile Primary School won the Cass Art Prize (innovative use of materials) for their collaboration ‘African Patchwork’ and the City and Guilds of London Art School Prize went to Amy Hyam, age 17, from Ashbourne College for her piece entitled ‘Night time on the tube’.

The Park Gallery Photography/Digital Art Prize was awarded to 16-year-old Jojo Wilson Goldsmith, from Kensington and Chelsea College, for her black and white photograph ‘Cut’.

All shortlisted artwork will be exhibited at Leighton House Museum until Sunday, June 28th. ‘Art on Show’ celebrates a wide selection of work produced in schools within the Royal Borough and is designed to encourage children and young people to pursue and develop their interests and talents in art.

This year the Council has also introduced the Art on Loan project, a new initiative building upon the success of the Art on Show project.

**Professional standards**

Under the new Art on Loan scheme, local businesses are able to loan original artworks created by students in the borough, to enhance their office spaces. The artwork, presented to professional gallery standards and each with its own plaque, is available to hire for a period of up to 12 months starting from July 2015.

Businesses interested in signing up to the programme can view available works in a special event programme can view available works in a special event hosted by the Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, June 17th from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Leighton House.

Organisations interested in finding out more should contact Jennifer Wood in the Council’s Arts team for further information about Art on Show and the Art on Loan scheme go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/artonshow

THE Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Robert Freeman, pictured with and Cass Art prize winners from Colvile Primary school after receiving their certificates.

Win tickets to see Paddington Bear at Portobello Market

THE world’s most famous Bear is on his way to London’s most famous market.

Paddington Bear will be recalling some of his legendary adventures when he appears at the Portobello and Golborne Market this coming Saturday (June 20th) as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations.

Storytelling sessions will be held in the pedestrian square in Tavistock Road, starting at 11 am, 2 pm and 3pm. Unfortunately, all tickets have been sold but the London Weekly News has 12 to give away as the official media partner for the market celebrations.

All you have to do is answer the following simple question:

What is Paddington Bear’s favourite food?

Email your answer to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk by 3 pm on Thursday, June 18th. We will pick out the 12 winners from the correct answers submitted.

Even if you cannot get a ticket, it will be worth visiting the Portobello and Golborne Market on Saturday as a number of shops are organising Paddington-related promotions.

At 10 am on Saturday morning, Paddington will meet third generation costermonger Alan Wakeling on the corner of Portobello Road and Colville terrace, outside Kurt Geiger’s shoe shop.

Mr Wakeling will present Paddington with a giant jar of special Portobello Market marmalade. Paddington will then browse for treasures on a nearby antiques stall in Portobello Road and present Mark Barry BEM, chairman of the the Portobello & Golborne Management Committee, with a birthday card wishing all the best for its 150th anniversary.

THE Mayor, Cllr Robert Freeman, and Joe Start from Park Gallery, pictured with Park Gallery painting and drawing prize winners Nazurah Abd Rahman, age 18, from Ashbourne College, and Maia Northam, age 11, from Bassett House.

New base for care services

THE Royal Borough’s Cabinet has approved plans to refurbish and modernise the former Kensington & Chelsea College building at Maxilla Walk in North Kensington to provide a new base for adult social care services.

Once complete, the extensively remodelled and refurbished building will be home to the Learning Disability Day Service and two mental health day services. It will also provide high quality lettable office and meeting room space for voluntary organisations and some new council accommodation as well.

Not only will the project deliver a giant improvement in accommodation for a wide range of users, it will also enable 1 St Mark’s Road and Unit 3 at Trellick Tower to be used for other purposes, including income generation to help maintain frontline services.

A design team and contractor will be appointed and residents will be consulted. Subject to planning consent, it is anticipated the project will be completed in autumn 2017.

Councillor Mary Weale, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, said: “We believe co-locating these complementary services in purpose built accommodation will improve the quality of services and save money which we can use to protect those services.”

Schools to sing at Albert Hall

More than 300 school pupils from Kensington and Chelsea will sing at The Royal Albert Hall next week.

The young singers will form part of a huge, 1,200-voice, youth choir made up with pupils from neighbouring boroughs of Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham who will perform the world premiere of a new choral work which they helped to compose.

In total, 316 children and 40 teachers from 18 Kensington and Chelsea schools are taking part in the Seven Seeds project performance on Tuesday (June 23rd).

The schools include: Ashburnham, Avondale Park, Barlby, Bevington, Bousfield, Colville, Marlborough, Our Lady of Victories, Oxford Gardens, Parkwood Hall, Servite, St Charles, St Francis, St Mary Abbots, St Mary’s RC, St Thomas St Joseph, St Cubilhe and St Matthias.

The Seven Seeds project, led by the Tri-borough Music Hub, is a collaboration between the iconic music venue, award-winning composer John Barber, acclaimed writer Hazel Gould, The Royal College of Music and The Aurora Orchestra.

As well as the chance to perform on the world’s most famous stage, Seven Seeds also allows students to take part in a range of mentoring and training sessions in the lead-up to the performance, including vocal workshops and instrumental training from the Royal College of Music and the Albert Hall’s in-house group: Albert’s Band.

Councillor Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education, said: “This project aims to inspire a new generation by making music accessible to all children and young people across our three boroughs.

“I am sure the chance to take centre stage in such a famous institution will be remembered by those involved for years to come and we hope it is the start of a lifelong interest in music.”

John Barber said: “It is a real pleasure to work alongside students from the Seven Seeds schools.

I have been inspired by their energy and fresh ideas, which have produced a truly unique piece of music, covering themes from changing seasons and family relationships to finding one’s own sense of place – all of which are important issues for young people today.”
Bitter opposition: campaign leaders address the inaugural meeting of the Chelsea Residents’ Association.

It was standing room only in Chelsea Town Hall when 300 defendant residents packed a meeting to fight plans for a Crossrail2 station on the King’s Road – a station opposed by almost 70 per cent of Chelsea.

The inaugural meeting of the Chelsea Residents’ Association – held just 150 metres away from the site which, if Transport for London and Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council have their way, will house the “leviathan” of a station – saw tempers flare as its committee laid out their lengthy and angry case against a multi-billion pound project that opponents say will “change the face of Chelsea forever.”

Residents were warned that there was only “an 18-month window” during which their action could see the plan halted.

“Feudal landlords” and the council came in for harsh criticism as the community failed to come together to ordain the site to the station they claim they “the people of Chelsea...do not want” – and to make the King’s Road a “rightful place as the ‘eye of the world’. Chelsea.

Chelsea Fire Station has been named by the borough as the preferred location for what has been dubbed the “Crossrail Cathedral”, with the £2 billion pound set to plough through the King’s Road on its way to Clapham Junction to Battersea.

Residents, spearheading the grassroots campaign accused the council of performing a “complete volte face” on previously agreed plans for a station in West Chelsea near the Cromerene Estate and misleading residents for the sake of an “extravagant and wasteful” project.

It was revealed that “only 32 per cent” of residents had backed the proposals for a station on the fire station site when consulted with the council, with the rest calling for no station at all or in one west.

Residents’ Association treasurer John Hicks – who is not proposed for the replacement for the closed fire station within this area. This would be the second fire station closure in the south side of the borough and the view of your council seems to be to let Chelsea burn.

Association co-chair Dr Gordon Taylor said the council “want more business rates...and they’re not looking after our environment from that point of view.”

Mr Hicks, Dr Taylor and their colleagues – co-chair Chris Lenon and secretary Gillespie Robertson – hit out against last year’s “flawed” council consultation and painted a grim picture of the “12 years of misery” the construction of a station would bring to the cherished “village atmosphere” of the area.

Dr Taylor – blasted as the leader of a “polterguy” by the council’s transport and planning tsar councillor Tim Coleridge, who was shot down as he tried to address the meeting – warned that Crossrail2’s “mass transit system” would “be in a different order of magnitude from the Underground lines that we have”.

The lone voice of dissent came from councillor Coleridge – the borough’s transport and planning supremo – who was driven to shouting over the committee’s booming microphones after his attempt to contribute to the discussion were ignored by Dr Taylor.

Dr Taylor warned councillor Coleridge – seated in the front row – that they were not hosting “a meeting where we’re going to debate with the councillor here.”

He added: “If the council want to put their point across they can organise their own meeting. This isn’t the time for it.”

Nevertheless councillor Coleridge – who represents the Hans Town ward alongside Council Leader Nick Paget-Brown – waited patiently with his hand in the air as the committee solicited questions from the floor. But Dr Taylor completely ignored councillor Coleridge, even when no other audience contributions were forthcoming. Eventually, the councillor got to his feet to address the crowd and said: “The politicians here are going to deny me the chance to speak!”

His interjection was as good as over before it had even begun – with a defiant Dr Taylor leading a chorus of opprobrium against the Old Etonian.

And many other members of the audience told councillor Coleridge to “sit down,” adding: “this is a residents’ meeting, not a council meeting.”

The council cabinet member has in recent weeks described elements of the anti Crossrail campaign as “complete and utter nonsense” – and said that local hospitals are “begging” for the scheme to go ahead, despite claims from the residents’ association that the station construction would delay the long-awaited renovation of the Brompton Hospital.

Dr Taylor said that the 30 trains per hour in each direction – each 250 metres long and carrying up to 1,500 people – will “in one hour...swamp anything that Sloane Square can do”.

He added: “In one hour in Chelsea you could get 72,000 people deposited in the King’s Road station. Compare that to what we have at Sloane Square today...52,000 people in an 18-hour day.”

Drawing unfavourable comparisons with Oxford Street that would be repeated time and time throughout the evening, Dr Taylor said: “You don’t have to be a genius to work out that if those people flooded in those numbers it would completely change the character of shopping in the King’s Road.”

TfL have told campaigners in Chelsea that work to determine passenger flow is still ongoing – which led Dr Taylor’s co-chair Chris Lenon to ask: “Why spend £1 2 billion on something when you don’t know how many people are going to use it?”

It is estimated that up to 120,000 extra shoppers will descend on Oxford Street every day as a direct consequence of the new Crossrail station at Tottenham Court Road – but extra footfall was merely one of many adverse effects of the “nexus of huge development around the station,” outlined at the meeting.

The Residents’ Association’s arsenal of evidence – gleaned from freedom of information requests, visits to Crossrail sites and correspondence with other groups affected by construction in Soho and Spitalfields – laid out the years of major upheaval the association claimed the project would cause for the hundreds of concerned locals in attendance.

Mr Lenon said that despite one of the primary aims of Crossrail being the reduction of congestion, over eight years of construction would have an almost entirely negative impact.

The effects of the part closure of the section of the King’s Road to Sydney Street for a minimum of two years and a reduction to single lane traffic for five years, the diversion of bus routes to the Fulham Road, the closure of roads across the area to install grouting shafts, and the night-time removal of a total of 300,000 tonnes of waste would have the opposite effect, he argued – and cause even more congestion. He suggested that this fly in the face of the council’s stated aim to “to connect our borough in minutes with key destinations, to galvanise the appeal of this commercial and cultural hub, to promote the retail offer around the station...and to dramatically reduce congestion and pollution.”

Mr Lenon said: “Given that the next station on this line is Clapham Junction, and then Tooting and Wimbledon. I don’t think many of the people who drive up and down that road down there during the day come from Tooting and Wimbledon – so how is it actually going to reduce any congestion? Do we need better rail connections if it completely changes the character of Chelsea?”

Congestion would be just one element of what Mr Hicks called the “non-stop cacophony of noise and vibration” caused by both the construction of the station and its retail precinct and the line itself – an ordeal for which he claimed many residents would receive no compensation.

It was also claimed that 331 listed buildings both in and around TfL’s safeguarded route for the line will require constant monitoring – with some set to be demolished as a result of compulsory purchase orders.

The tracks will be 20 metres below ground at Chelsea station – as opposed to the 50 metres deep which residents claim they were told during the last consultation. This means that houses with basements near the station will be just 10 metres above the tunnel – and stringent planning rules from TIL mean no work will be able to be carried out to repair damage to houses for five years.

Opponents claim only a limited number of households in a relatively small area will be able to claim compensation from TfL for loss of land value caused by blight in the form of noise, vibration, fumes, smell, artificial light and the discharge onto land of a solid or liquid substance.

A meeting was also told that loss of earnings, business or view will not be taken into consideration under TIL’s “strict timetable.”

The wisdom of building a Crossrail2 station on a “deliberate diversion” of the district, south to Battersea was taken to task.

“Most of Chelsea is within 800 metres of the site, but you extend it to 1,000 metres it’s the whole of Chelsea. So why is there a need?” said Mr Lenon.

He added: “The better question is...how many people are within 800 metres of a tube station in Battersea? The answer of course is none, because there aren’t any.”

“So why isn’t Crossrail, on a direct line from Clapham to Victoria’s incorporating a station in Battersea – which would far better serve the needs of improving transport to the area?”

The Mayor, Boris Johnson, has said it is his intention to “hammer down” the cost of Crossrail2 wherever possible but according to the Chelsea Residents’ Association, the best way to achieve this is “not to have the route run through Chelsea at all.”

“There is no urban regeneration potential for this scheme at this site in Chelsea – the area consists solely of residential properties and small boutiques,” said Mr Lenon. “There is no concentration of local population which would benefit from the proposed station.”

Despite the well-heeled, genteel make up of the audience, passions ran high as one Dovehouse Street resident urged the crowd to turn to direct action.

Suggesting the formation of a protest committee, he said: “Well the executive of this audience and I see politie, middle-aged residents of Chelsea.

“If this had been any other borough in the United Kingdom, people would have taken to the streets, and that in my opinion is the only way that we’re going to be effective. Can you imagine that if King’s Road was closed down for an hour? That’s precisely what we’ll bring this problem to the councilors.”

Business owner Laura Jamieson paid tribute to Chelsea’s “unique history of creativity” and warned it is “all at stake from Crossrail 2” – which will “create another Oxford Street and wipe Chelsea as it is off the map”.

Another resident, Belinda Hughes, spoke of the “need to lobby our friends because they think that Chelsea and we’re all very well connected”.

The Residents’ Association is now working to establish an online presence via their Facebook page and has urged members to donate to the cause – secretary Gilliespie Robertson joked that collection buckets at the Town Hall were the ideal size for cheques or £20 notes – and to begin bombarding the Mayor, TfL and the council with letters.
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UNDER THE WESTWAY

This is good news for the community

Angela McConvile, Chief Executive, Westway Trust, looks forward to hearing the views of the residents and traders who live and work under The Westway.

In recent weeks I have been asked why Westway Trust’s constitution and Board changed last November. People have expressed concern that altering the constitution may have changed the fundamental principles and ideals of the Trust.

I want to use my column this week to explain that the opposite is true.

Westway Trust is over 44 years old. It was set up to compensate the community for the impact of the flyover. We had a start-up grant of £25,000 and a mile of rubble. It would have been hard to imagine just how the Trust would develop over the years ahead. It’s no surprise then that our constitution has changed a number of times over the years to reflect a growing charity and a changing community. The changes that were agreed in November simply marked another stage in that process.

Fast forward 44 years and, while the founding principles of the Trust’s role remain firmly at its core, the needs of the community have changed and so the Foundations for the impact we can make have moved on significantly. To be able to meet these needs, we had to modernise our constitution in three areas: geographical reach; charitable focus; and the make-up of the Board.

Back in 1971 when we were first given the land, it was for the benefit of all of the residents of Kensington & Chelsea, not just those living near the Westway. In order to bring in major Sport England funding, in 1998 the Trust agreed to extend its area of benefit to include the adjoining boroughs. And now we are finding that many other services, such as the Health Trainers Service which successfully reached more than 2,500 people, straddle the borough boundaries. Coupled with the formation of a tri-borough of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, and Hammersmith & Fulham, the Trust found itself in a world of funding and collaboration that was not simply one borough. To simplify the constitution and to open up many opportunities for new funding and collaboration, we proposed that we have an area of public benefit, across all of our charitable work that served the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and its neighbours.

In practice, Westway Trust remains a very local organisation. All our grant funding is reserved for charities that operate in Kensington & Chelsea. Our member organisations are all demonstrably working here too. We have 17 charities working alongside us under the Westway. This is our patch. Our team and projects are based here, and we are passionate about the people and communities we serve around the Westway.

For public benefit only

The second change was that we updated the charitable purposes that we are allowed to undertake. The biggest change was the addition of ‘urban regeneration’ as a charitable purpose within our constitution. When we were first established, regeneration was not a recognised charitable activity. Now it is, and we wanted our constitution to include that. This change provides the community with complete assurance that any regeneration undertaken is for public benefit only. These changes were approved by the Charity Commission.

The final change relates to the make-up of the Board. In 2012 we commissioned leading charity governance experts at BBW to undertake an independent review. The review found that our board practices were dated and could be more effective through a number of reforms. Most significantly we reduced the size of the Board from 18 to 12 trustees. The community retains its influence through six appointments – three nominated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and three elected by our Member Organisations. The other six positions are independent trustees who are recruited for their skills. All of these changes were designed to bring a better balance and new expertise to the Board. After all, Westway Trust is one of the biggest development trusts in the country, with thriving sports and property enterprises. We must be well governed and managed if we are to continue to develop sustainably, whilst keeping our core charitable commitments at the heart of our work.

I would like to close this week’s column by giving a plug to a fantastic community event which takes place later this month.

On Friday 26 June, from 4pm to 9pm, the National Trust are hosting the Westway Beach, at Acklam Village, as part of the In TRANSIT Festival. Please come along and get some sand between your toes. I look forward to seeing you there.
Can Prince Harry save the rhino?

By Geoff Baker

As a race, we’ve not done very well looking after the black rhino. There are eight species of black rhino in the world, or at least there used to be.

The Southern Black Rhino became extinct in 1850, hunted to non-existence. The North Eastern Black Rhino fared a bit better and did not completely die out until 1920, thanks again to hunting. The Chobe Black Rhino will reach extinction status at any moment, seeing as there is only one left, in Botswana.

The Uganda Black Rhino is so rarely seen it is “probably extinct”, as is the Western Black Rhino, of which all trace disappeared in 2011.

There’s 670 of the “critically endangered” Eastern Black Rhino doing the rounds in Tanzania and Kenya, but as the annual killing rate of rhino by poachers is 1,200 a year, they’ll have had it soon – as will the South Central Black Rhino [1,600 still alive] and the South Western Black Rhino [around 1,900 still living in Angola and Namibia].

If we lump in the white rhino, there’s around about 28,000 still left of this animal that dates back 50 million years.

So that means that given the current poaching rate, they should all be dead by 2038. Well done us.

It’s a sobering statistic, that the grandchildren of Prince William and Prince Harry will never have the chance to see a rhino.

It’s little wonder then that Britain’s most popular young royals are planning to do something about it.

Not long ago, William, Harry and Catherine used their clout and commitment to bring together an unprecedented collaboration between seven of the world’s leading conservation organisations and their own influential triarchy, The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge & Prince Harry.

The partnership, United For Wildlife, will fight for their long-term aim to try safeguard what is left of the world’s natural resources and animals for future generations, including their own.

Prince William is President of the collaboration and, like his father and grandfather, admits to being incensed at the senseless drive of animals to extinction.

During a recent interview with CNN his passion became evident when he was shown a video of a rhino killed by poachers. Those present said his eyes filled with angry tears as he watched.

“You’d think something that big and that’s been around so long, would have worked out a way to avoid being caught and persecuted, but they really don’t,” he said.

“I do feel anger, but I also feel...”


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Can Prince Harry save the rhino?

The Ugandan Rhino is so rarely seen that it is “probably extinct”, as is the Western Black Rhino. There are 670 of the “critically endangered” Eastern Black Rhino doing the rounds in Tanzania and Kenya, but as the annual killing rate of rhino by poachers is 1,200 a year, they’ll have had it soon – as will the South Central Black Rhino [1,600 still alive] and the South Western Black Rhino [around 1,900 still living in Angola and Namibia].

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Harry’s mission to rescue rhinos

FROM page 1

really great hope that we will overcome this as a human race. I wouldn’t be here right now if I didn’t think there was a chance we could be successful. Poaching is now probably the worst I’ve ever known it, but I am not the kind of guy to give up.

“It’s horrifying. It’s hard to put into words, the depth of sadness I would feel if they became extinct. The way they are doing things is getting more and more sophisticated. As soon as you find a way of dealing with it, they find another.”

Now William is sending his right-hand man – Harry – into the thick of it to try to sort it all out. This summer Prince Harry will spend three months in Namibia learning how to save what remains of the black rhino.

There are some of us who think that a good way of doing that would be to send Captain Wales down there in his helicopter gunship to strafe the poachers, but as there is probably some finicky human rights issue associated with that, education and economics will have to be the next best approach.

The economics is problematic; although the World Bank calculates that the average annual wage in Namibia is all of £4,000, 21 per cent of the country earn about £300 a year. Given that the going rate on the black market for a three-kilo rhino horn is up to £200,000, it’s not difficult to see why poaching is a tempting option for the very hungry. How are you going to earn anything like that by growing soybeans?

Of course, if there was massive international investment in Africa to the extent that nobody was dying for a meal, then the rhino’s chances of survival might be improved. But there isn’t; the major investor in Africa right now is China – and China is the rhino’s biggest problem.

Or rather, China’s remedial but stubborn belief in the effectiveness of witch doctor medicine is.

Although the world’s next super-power has officially banned the trade, it is still the world’s biggest importer of black rhino horn – as the peasant thinking there and in Vietnam has it that the keratin in the horn that is so bloodily stolen is good for headaches. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine, shavings of rhino horn when boiled in water and swallowed lower high temperatures and stops headaches. As does, of course, a packet of aspirin.

You can see the enormity of Prince Harry’s challenge. As his brother puts it, “education is such a huge, important issue, to educate everyone involved in the illegal markets about the damage that can be done and the implications of what they are doing.”

But the general feeling is that Harry is the ideal man for the job. Royal watchers often say he has the courage of a lion and in recent years he developed a suave diplomacy and maturity, attributes recognised last week by The Queen when she knighted him for services to the monarchy.

He will need all of those talents if he is to persuade the African, Chinese and Vietnamese authorities to act against the illegal wildlife trade which Prince William describes as “one of the most misused forms of corruption and criminality in the world today”.

“Cleverness and quite probably science is what is needed now,” said one conservationist. “We’ve tried sedating rhinos, drilling their horn and filling it with a pink dye and a pesticide identified as being safe for rhinos but toxic to humans, but that is problematic because, apart from the fact that the traffickers couldn’t care less whether it poisons someone in Shanghai, there’s also the issue that by debasing the horn it could drive up demand for non-poisoned horn.”

Another possibility is if Chinese scientists could be persuaded to grow in laboratories the rhino horn keratin, the same protein that makes hair and fingernails, and commercially market that as an easier alternative to trying to change beliefs in the benefits of rhinos which have existed in China since 200 BC.

There is a third possibility; Prince Harry’s conservationist tour will be ended by October, the time when Chinese President Xi Jinping will be making a state visit to Britain, staying at Buckingham Palace.

Perhaps, at the exchange of gifts which is customary at such occasions, Harry could drop the hint about the need for modernisation by presenting His Excellency with a packet of Anadin.
Three kings join birthday tribute

WITH a smile as wide as The Mall itself, The Queen made history yet again on Saturday as for the first time ever a sovereign stood on the balcony at Buckingham Palace attended by three future monarchs, to the cheers from the biggest crowd in years for her Birthday Parade.

A huge roar of affection erupted from the tens of thousands as Her Majesty emerged to greet her people, flanked by three generations of kings to come – Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince George.

It was an historic moment that iced the cake of an historic day as The Queen marked her 63rd Birthday Parade, a record unmatched by any monarch.

To the delight of the crowd and the millions watching on TV around the world, the head of state of the UK and 15 other Commonwealth realms looked a picture of pride as the capital wished her happy birthday.

To the delight of the crowd and the millions watching on TV around the world, the head of state of the UK and 15 other Commonwealth realms looked a picture of pride as the capital wished her happy birthday.

In the arms of his father, two-year-old Prince George – making his first appearance on the balcony at the same age as Prince William did – was clearly amazed by the wonder of it all as he waved to the crowds and eagerly pointed to the skies as the Red Arrows soared over the palace in a salute of red, white and blue smoke for The Queen’s 89th birthday.

As he gave his final salute as he passed The Queen on the Guards’ last march past outside Buckingham Palace she gave him a broad and special smile. Thirty three years ago to the week, Billy Mott was with the Welsh Guards aboard the Sir Galahad in the Falklands when it was bombed in San Carlos Water by three Skyhawks from the Argentine Air Force, causing the loss of 48 soldiers and crew. Speaking before the Birthday Parade on Saturday, he recalled the tragedy and the impact it had on him.

“As I thought, ‘this is a good life; this is something to be cherished and nurtured’,” he said – and in doing so he spoke the words of the day; of the pride for the Colour, for the birthday tradition and for The Queen.

Later this summer Her Majesty – the world’s oldest reigning monarch and the UK’s longest-lived head of state – will achieve another historic milestone when, on September 9th, she becomes the longest-reigning British monarch since time began.

It is hoped that the Government is currently planning some other suitably-glorious ceremonies to mark this unparalleled anniversary and to celebrate the remarkable achievements of a woman the like of whom we shall never know again.

The crowd and their cheers for her smile from the balcony that day will be enormous.

by Geoff Baker

Thursday’s/Friday’s:3.00-8.00pm
Saturday 20th:1.00-8.00pm
Village Fair Day 27th:10.30-8.00pm
Sunday’s: 1.00-7.00pm
Future tense: are robots out to get us?

**We don’t exactly know precisely what is going on in the advanced laboratories of the world.**

**This thing called artificial intelligence – for the potential for the singularity arriving at us, in the technological format – is equal, in terms of importance, to things like global warming.**

**We are looking at a convergence of elements which, in macro and microcosm, make essential questions about our future imminent. We’re on the verge.**

Like Professor Hawkins, Hurt has concerns – we’re on the verge of what? Good things or very bad things indeed?

“It will overtake us,” he predicts, “it will be our child. It will either be our child that surpasses us or it will be our child that gets mad at us and does away with us. It’s like Zeus and Athena. Zeus created Athena, and it backfired. He made the most beautiful, artistic warrior you could make, and she didn’t like him.

“Interestingly, the story goes that Zeus created her from his forehead. I perceive the computer as a development of evolution. And the computer is a rather immature but absolutely definitive exoskeleton, a form of the brain that’s now wrapping itself around us and within us, in ways that are so intimate, so intrinsic.

“I really don’t think it’s going to be any time at all before your phone’s going to be subcutaneously installed under a flap of skin.

“This is the latest in a long line of cautionary tales about humans creating these machines that rise up. It goes way, way, way back. Mary Shelley was a genius. Pure genius. The Golem – pure genius. There have been so many previews of this, so many seers who have helped prophesy this.”

Prophezise what? Well there’s part of the problem, we don’t exactly know precisely what is going on in the advanced laboratories of the world. For instance, although it did not make many headlines in the UK, in the USA last year there was considerable alarm over the news that a robot – or rather, a warbot – is being developed, as part of a US military project, that can fuel itself to operate indefinitely by ingesting biomass.

Biomass? Hang about, isn’t biomass biological material derived from living, or recently living, organisms – i.e. including people?

Exactly, and the immediate fears which that caused prompted the makers of the Energetically Autonomous Tactical Robot – which the quick among you will have worked out has the unfortunate short-form of EATR – to issue a press release, meant to reassure us, that “the EATR is programmed to consume certain types of vegetation, and only those types of vegetation.”

The quick among you will also have spotted that the operative word in that sentence aren’t those designed to calm us that the EATR is a vegetarian, but “is programmed to”, disturbingly throwing up the question of whether it ever will be programmed to eat something else entirely?

In Humans, it’s not so much a warbot which causes concern but a warbot, the family-disturbing household Synth called Anita and played by Sherlock actress and former model Gemma Chan.

“Anita is an enigma and a challenge: there are many layers to her which you get to see more of as the series goes on. The challenge was to be able to plot the arc she’s going to go on, revealing little by little about what she is and why,” said Gemma mysteriously. Each member of the family starts off with a certain perception of Anita, which changes for each of them in a different way and for different reasons. Certain relationships develop in an unexpected way.

“When you first meet Anita you aren’t sure whether she is a threat to the family or what her deal is and what’s going on. But things aren’t as they seem and they might not be what you first suspect except.”

Cripes, let’s hope she’s a veggie.

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LEE TERRACE, BLACKHEATH, SE13 5DL - WWW.SJBLACKHEATHMINI.CO.UK
Feeling the heat in Wareing's 'engine room'

By Jeananne Craig

MARKUS Wareing’s latest restaurant is slap bang in the middle of London’s Theatreland, but his kitchen is a drama-free zone.

A former protege of the famously fiery Gordon Ramsay, the top chef has exacting standards and hasn’t been afraid to speak his mind in the past - in fact, he once left a MasterChef semi-finalist in tears, during a 2013 guest stint on the show.

But the spotless kitchen of Tredwell’s, the West End restaurant Wareing opened last September, is an oasis of calm: all sparkling silver worktops, carefully filed away ingredients, and chefs quietly preparing for the busy evening ahead.

Which all comes as a huge relief, because I’m about to cook for the Michelin-starred man himself.

Before I get my apron on, Wareing admits he has mellowed in recent years - something the father-of-three puts down to professional happiness, mastering the work-life balance, and replacing Michel Roux Jr. as a permanent fixture on the MasterChef judging panel last year.

"The MasterChef directors direct you, all the film crew, all the sound men and all the contestants in a very different way to how chefs direct a kitchen," he notes.

"They do it in such a calm manner. I’ve used and absorbed some of their expertise and calm direction to be able to create my own way of approaching my team."

As for his earlier appearances on the contest, the Southport-born chef smiles and confesses: "You’re asked to come onto a show, you’re dragged out of the kitchen and put in a taxi, you’re still in service mode, you go into the studio and get a load of mediocre food put in front of you, you tell them what you think of it and you get in the car and go again. It happens so fast..."

He promises we’ll have fun in the kitchen - or "engine room" - where we’ll be preparing one of the dishes he’s cooking up at the upcoming Taste of London festival (June 17-21), alongside other foodie stars, including Raymond Blanc and Thomasina Miers.

Wareing and Chantelle Nicholson, group operations director of his eateries (he has two other restaurants in the capital), patiently guide me through the prepping and cooking of the harissa-glazed aubergine starter, a popular choice at Tredwell’s.

"Thankfully, it’s a really simple dish to make - slicing an aubergine, browning it on a hot plate, bunging it in the oven and then brushing on a glossy harissa and agave syrup mix."

When it comes to plating up, however, I’m on my own, with no idea how the dish is usually presented.

"Just imagine you’re hosting a dinner party and all your friends are there, waiting," Wareing says with a grin. Is that a wicked glint I detect in those piercing blue eyes?

As the heat in the kitchen builds up, I layer the aubergine slices before cack-handedly attempting to pipe some coconut yoghurt and sprinkling an overly generous helping of red chilli on top.

Alas, my yoghurt has melted in no time (I laboured too long on that piping) and the aubergines look more slumped than stacked, but Wareing gamely tucks in as I look on, red-faced.

"There’s ‘too much heat’, he says, because I’ve been too liberal with the harissa and red chilli, but overall, he seems happy enough with the taste. As for my sloppy presentation, he assures me that’s something I can brush up on.

I don’t think I’ll be landing a job here any time soon (‘I don’t think you’d want one, it’s quite hot in there!’ Nicholson says diplomatically), and there’s no way my dish would have made the grade to be served to a customer.

But I’m delighted all the same when Wareing, no doubt keen to get me out the door before the Friday night rush begins, jokingly tells me: ‘You’re through to the next round!’

MARK HIX’S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

**Flower fritters**

Serves 4

DEPENDING what part of the country you live in, your wild garlic may have well flowered already – or, with any luck, he just coming into bloom.

If you’ve missed the boat, you can use elderflowers. Simply dust them with icing sugar before serving. Feel free to add in other flowers such as chives, rosemary or thyme.

Serve the fritters as a snack with drinks or as a garnish on another dish.

- 12 or so wild garlic flowers
- 80g gluten-free self-raising flour
- Enough sparkling mineral water or cider to make a batter
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper (or a couple of teaspoons of caster sugar if using elderflower)
- Preheat about 8cm of oil to 160-180C in a large, thick-bottomed saucepan or an electric deep-fat fryer.

Put the flour into a mixing bowl, add salt and pepper if using the garlic or sugar if using elderflower. Then whisk in enough mineral water, or cider, to make a batter. Dip the flowers into the batter and fry them a few at a time, turning them in the oil with a slotted spoon until lightly coloured and crisp. Then drain on some kitchen paper.

Flow er fritters
Reaching a new high at the Old Vic

By PHILIP EVANS

HIGH Society, playing to packed houses since its April launch, is the last show of Kevin Spacey’s 11-year tenure as artistic director at the Old Vic.

Bringing the curtain down on his hugely successful decade in charge of one of London’s fine old theatre institutions in such a manner could not have been more appropriate.

Firstly, High Society is one of Kevin’s all-time favourite musicals and secondly, it is based on The Philadelphia Story, a play produced at the Old Vic during his first season in London.

And it would have been difficult to have chosen a production which generates more wit and charm.

Directed with huge flair by Maria Friedman, an award-winning director and herself a legendary actress and singer, and set in-the-round, High Society positively fizzles with fun.

From the time extraordinary jazz pianist Joe Stilgoe stalked on stage and strutted tinkling the ivories, enticing the audience to join in his clever opening, we were fixated by the voracity of the energetic dance routines and interpretation of Cole Porter’s magical music and lyrics.

Swelllegant!

All those great numbers from the 1956 film, starring Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, were there - Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, Little One, Samantha, True Love and Well Did You Evah? plus a few Cole Porter extras.

They certainly make the show London’s the most “swelllegant, elegant” stage experience this summer.

The hugely experienced cast is led by Kate Fleetwood in the role of bride-to-be socialite Tracy Lord, the Grace Kelly part, making her debut at the Old Vic, and with a string of credits from the West End and television to her name.

Another Old Vic debutee, Rupert Young, takes the leading man role, the sophisticated C.K. Dexter Haven.

Much energy was brought to the production by Ellie Bamber as the younger Lord sister, Dinah, again making her debut at the Old Vic with her career credits to date including film roles in Pride and Prejudice, Zombies and The Falling.

Jeff Rawle plays the part of permanently sozzled Uncle Willie. He is one of theatre’s most enduring and versatile characters, in stark contrast to one of his most popular roles as the stressed out TV station manager in Drop The Dead Donkey.

The London theatre scene will miss Kevin Spacey and he admits that his leaving the Old Vic is a “bittersweet” moment and he is sad to go.

High Society is a wonderful send-off for him.
New recruits called up to War Horse frontline

I play the role of Rudi who is a German sergeant. He comes on near to the end of the play and helps Fredric.

Patrick told me about the research he had undertaken into his character.

“They give you a lot of help. In terms of performing as a German we have a dialect coach and they talk to us about it. They have military experts who come in and talk to us about it from both the German and British army perspectives. Personally, I read two great books. One was called Meeting the Enemy, which featured stories about British and German soldiers, incendences when they worked together or met each other. The second book I read was called Street of St. Joseph by Ernst Junger. He was in the German army during the First World War and it’s a novel written from his perspective. That was really helpful to me and very insightful.”

Patrick adds: “It felt weird at first thinking about the war and really trying to embody it from the German side. It sounds funny but in the novel when he shoots some British soldiers it’s seen as a good thing and it took me a while to see it from that side. It helped to make me see that War Horse is a human story rather than a story of two sides. I think that’s why the horses are a really good vehicle for telling the story because the horses don’t see the people as German or English. It’s divided into whether they’re nice to the horses or not. That’s why it works so well.”

Patrick speaks with such enthusiasm and I ask him, from a fan’s point of view, which is his favourite character and favourite part of the production.

He replies: “My favourite character is probably Albert because he’s just so sweet and innocent. I grew up on a farm in Gloucestershire so I really relate to the Devon stuff in the show. I love animals and I know what it’s like to be out and about in the countryside. I miss it a lot being in London. My favourite part of the show is definitely the transformation, the bit where baby Joey transforms into full grown Joey. It’s just amazing. I watch it at least three times a week from the back of the audience because it never fails to take my breath away. It’s beautiful.

It’s a story for everyone. It’s a story that has affected everybody’s family and it’s just really important to remember that.”

War Horse is at the New London Theatre. For further information visit the dedicated website warhorseontstage.com

**London Listings**

Henry V – Lion of England

Until Saturday, June 20th
Upstairs at The Wheatsheaf pub, 25 Rathbone Place, Fitzrovia, W1. Based on “The Life and Times of Henry the Fifth” by William Shakespeare, ‘Henry V — Lion of England’ strips back the famous and lengthy stage play into 75 minutes with one actor, and very few theatrical devices.

Taste of London

To June 21, Regent’s Park. Celebrating the delicious diversity of London’s globally known food scene is the Taste of London. Taste of London is bringing together a lip-smacking line-up of the capital’s top restaurants. Taste dishes from some of London’s most distinguished and innovative restaurants including Duck & Waffle, Sushisamba, The Clove Club, House of Ho and Roka.

Sanubar – Portraits in Motion

To July 1st 2015, Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 7pm, Monday: Closed.

An exhibition of photographs from the book ‘Fluid Lucidity’ by Nirmala Karupiah (Kuala Lumpur). Sanubar chronicles the photographic journeys of artist Nirmala Karupiah, her journey spanning two decades documenting various dance genres, mainly the classical Indian discipline Odissi, Cantonese Opera, Northern Malaysia Malay dance-drama Mak Yong and the healing rituals of Main Puteri from the state of Kelantan.

Art Antiques London

June 18th 2015
Albert Memorial West Lawn, Kensington Gardens, SW7 (opposite the Royal Albert Hall)
Website: www.ahuaghton.com

Set in the beautiful parkland of Kensington Gardens, the Fair’s Pavilion is positioned next to the Albert Memorial and opposite the Royal College of Art and The Royal Albert Hall; it is the first fair to take place on the historic site of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair

18th – 28th June 2015
Olympia National, Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, W14. Website: www.olympia-art-antiques.com

Over 160 of the world’s leading antiques and specialist dealers will be present at the Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair, which is now in its 43rd year. With pieces ranging from £100 to £1 million, the Fair offers the most diverse variety of high quality, vetted art, antiques and collectors’ pieces than any other event in London.

City of London Festival

June 22nd to July 10th.

The Danish String Quartet will debut at the festival with a refreshing programme of classical music combined with Nordic folk tunes in the elegant surrounds of Plaisterers’ Hall on Monday, June 22nd at 7.30pm.

Artists at Home 52 Open Studios

June 19th to 21st
All types of art media including painting, print making, textiles, jewellery, sculpture, pottery, bronze and photography on display in artist’s own houses and studios. Featuring William Hammersham and Shepherd’s Bush. Friday, 6-9pm, Saturday and Sunday. Meet with the artists in a relaxed setting to chat and ask questions. For more information and a list of artists taking part go to www.artistsathome.net

Lunchtime Lectures

Thursday, June 25th 2015

Armenian General Benevolent Union presents ‘Living Memory’

Friday June 26th 2015 (4pm – 10.30pm)
The magnificent Great Chelsea Hall is playing host to a day of artistic and cultural performances to mark The Centenary of Armenian Genocide. The event begins at 4pm, with an exhibition of paintings ‘Memory is Still Alive’. At 7pm the cultural programme starts with a talk ‘Remembering the Armenians in Turkey Today’, followed by recital, music, and dance, performed by talented Armenian artists. Admission is Free.

Andre Rieu’s 2015 Maastricht Concert at Vue Fulham Broadway

July 17th - 23rd
The king of waltz performs in his home town joined by his famous Johann Strauss Orchestra.

Buckingham Palace summer opening

August 1st to September 27th 2015
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer.

Buckingham Palace is one of the world’s few remaining working royal palaces - don’t miss the chance to see it. Explore thelavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Poussin, Canaletto and Claude.

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By NICKY SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

I see the play a long time ago when it first came out. It was one of the first big shows that I’d ever really seen. I just remember being blown off my feet by it. Like most people at the time I’d never imagined seeing a show with puppets being so entrancing and emotional. I had never thought of puppets in that way. When I got the audition for this I couldn’t really believe it. The chance to be in it was incredible.

To July 1st 2015, Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm, Monday: Closed. For further information, the bit where baby Joey transforms into full grown Joey. It’s just amazing. I watch it at least three times a week from the back of the audience because it never fails to take my breath away. It’s beautiful.

It’s a story for everyone. It’s a story that has affected everybody’s family and it’s just really important to remember that.”

War Horse is at the New London Theatre. For further information visit the dedicated website warhorseontstage.com
Why Louise is in love with physics

STAR of BBC1’s Sherlock, Louise Brealey, will take to the Richmond theatre stage this month alongside Joe Armstrong in the award-winning play Constellations.

Brealey played Molly Hooper opposite Emmy award winners Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in the TV show based on the characters created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Constellations, which is directed by Michael Longhurst, won critical acclaim from both its runs at London’s Royal Court starring Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins as well as on Broadway.

The Broadway production starred Jake Gyllenhaal and saw Ruth Wilson win a Tony award in the best actress category.

Louise took a break before the Manchester show to talk to us about the play.

“’It’s a simple love story but it’s told through the prism of a theory in physics. The idea of the multiverse is that each decision that you make or don’t make, the universe will just split across into another universe.

‘The multiverse is an infinite possibilities and infinite versions and the way Nick Payne tells this story is that you visit one couple through eight different points in their relationship. It iterates differently so there are five or six versions of the same event if you like.’”

I asked Louise if she had seen either of the previous productions.

“I knew about the play but I didn’t see any of them, which I’m really pleased about, actually. I think it might just feel like somehow you’re trying to ape it but it’s never anything other than mine and Joe’s play.”

Louise told me what it was like to see Ruth Wilson, who played the role on Broadway, at last week’s Tony awards.

“I was really, really rooting for her but at the same time was thinking, hang on, that’s my part. The joyful thing about playing Marianne, who in all universes is a theoretical physicist, is that you get to visit her in all different incarnations. You get to really explore different facets of the character.

“Most of us are capable of so many things and the great joy about playing this part is that you get to play an absolute fool in one scene and a delight in the next. You can also explore things like body language and vocally where you’re producing your voice.

“It’s not just fascinating intellectually, it’s got a massive heart and it’s not about physics it’s about love. It’s also really funny.”

The science behind the plays sounds really quite intricate and formidable. I asked Louise if this was something she was interested by.

“I am fascinated by it. I do think it’s the sort of thing that you can be put off by, particularly the jargon of it. When you have someone explain it to you in layman’s terms, preferably someone wearing Lycra or a cartoon animal, it will absolutely blow your mind. It’s crackers!”

Joe Armstrong is best known for playing Alan Dale in the most recent TV adaptation of Robin Hood.

“It’s our first play together and luckily we think each other’s brilliant. Doing a two-hander is a massive gamble and if the chemistry’s not right it can be really hard. You’ve got to have that love on stage but off stage you’ve got to be able to work in the same sort of way.

“We’re always looking at ways to make it more truthful. It’s as if it’s so oblique in some ways to make it more truthful.

“Thank-you to everyone for your dedication to raising such an amazing amount to help some of the world’s most vulnerable children.”

£335,000 just the ticket for kids’ charity

COMEDIAN and actor Sean Hughes, who plays station master Mr Perks in the King’s Cross Theatre production of The Railway Children, was on hand to present a cheque for £335,000 to the children’s charity Railway Children, an amount which has been raised by the theatre production since its West End debut in 2010.

The cheque presentation took place at Waterloo Station, marking the charity’s 20th anniversary. Hughes, who took over the role of Mr Perks in the stage adaptation of the classic tale earlier this year, presented the cheque to David Madiment, the founder of the charity, which has been fighting for street children around the world since 1995.

£1 from the price of every ticket sold since 2010 has been donated to the charity.

Terina Keene, the charity’s chief executive, said: “A big thank-you to everyone for their dedication to raising such an amazing amount to help some of the world’s most vulnerable children.”

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CHRIS IS RACING TO BEAT PARKINSON’S

Puppet regime’s gripping drama

THE third of the Lyric Hammersmith’s hugely successful free theatre in the square events this month is an interactive big puppet spectacular brought to you by the Puppets with Guts theatre company.

The group, who are based in Hillingdon, are performing Citizen Squid in the Lyric square on the 23rd and 24th June.

Artistic Director Ivan Thorley introduced the company to London Weekly News readers: “We’ve been based up in Hillingdon for a couple of years now and the council have been really supportive of us. We’re a company that wants to make big puppets and do work that’s socially aware and engages with the world around us. We want to reflect some of the issues through our work back to the community. We think puppets can say things that actors can’t say.

It’s got me about the idea behind this particular project.

The idea for the show started with some of my outrage at how some of the world’s refugees are being portrayed and treated. I think they deserve a little more compassion and a helping hand than they are getting. We thought we’d tackle some of those ideas with a giant giant squid as a metaphor for some of those issues.

We’re inhabiting the whole area of the square and the tentacles might even roam off down the street and to the station and back.”

The company are also taking the show to the Imagine Watford festival and would love to take it on tour around the country to increase their interaction with the wider community.

The Lyric Hammersmith recently re-opened following its multi-million pound capital development project and will offer an extensive programme of free interactive theatre throughout the summer, including Citizen Squid, which you can see at lunchtimes and early evenings on 23rd and 24th June.
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ENGLISH HERITAGE
ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS

Step into England’s story

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140331, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.
Hoops land a rising ‘JET’

The 24-year-old, who will sign a three-year deal, played a pivotal role in Roma’s U-19 Clinic promotion from League One to the Championship last term, scoring 12 goals in 48 appearances.

It’s a sign of the times that QPR have now made the three bargain signings this summer who were plying their trade in the third tier of English football last season.

But those who care about the club’s long-term future and ability to cope financially with relegation from the Premier League need to welcome this show of newfound prudence from the boardroom and recruitment team.

Like Massimo Luongo and Ben Gladwin, recently recruited from Swindon Town, Emmanuel-Thomas is not viewed as the kind of short-term fix QPR have wasted big money on for too many years.

Emmanuel-Thomas is a product of Arsenal academy. Finding opportunities hard to come by with the Gunners, he spent time on loan with Blackpool, Doncaster Rovers and Cardiff City before Ipswich Town signed the towering forward on a permanent basis in July 2011. Two years at Portman Road yielded nine goals in 43 starts. The player moved to Bristol City in the summer of 2013.

Emmanuel-Thomas – commonly known by his initials as ‘JET’ – spent two years at Ashton Gate, scoring 33 times in 70 starts in all competitions.

He also featured at both under-17 and U19 level for England.

R’s head coach Chris Ramsey said: “I’ve always admired Jay from afar and I’m really delighted we’ve reached an agreement to bring him in.

“There was a lot of hype surrounding him when he was a young player at Arsenal and although he’d been a very steady career since then, this is now a real opportunity for him to kick on at QPR.”

Cahill ready for new battle

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

“That added incentive to beat the reigning champions is natural, because they’d been the best the season before – and we will feel that next year. It’ll be even harder to retain it. I’ve never experienced this before because that was my first league title but the senior boys in the squad and the management know what it takes. It’s going to be harder, not least because there’ll be movement in the summer to strengthen teams.”

Tongue-lashing

Youngster Rubin Loftus-Cheek has forced his way into first-team contention and as a result, is just a tongue-lashing away from Mouinho should he fall below the expected high standards.

And that’s just what he needs following Ruben’s recent outing against Syrian SF on tour.

Cahill said: “That did surprise me a little bit but you know the manager. He voices his opinion when he needs to. Everyone knows Ruben is such a talented player.

“With a glimpse of that at the end of the season and he has trained with us for a long time now. For me, he has to be playing. But to reach the top of your profession at any big club, you will get criticism, whether it’s from fans or the manager.”

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

**We’ll give him the platform to play and express himself. He’s got flair, he’s a good runner with the ball and he’s got great versatility.**

**Potential**

“Jay is already a very good player but his potential is key. Training is fantastic.”

Emmanuel-Thomas is relishing the move to W12, adding: “This is a new chapter for me and I can’t wait to get started here.

“As soon as I spoke to Lee (Ferdinand) and Chris and they explained the way they want QPR to play it was an easy decision for me. I’m here to come in and do a job and I’m confident I can keep improving as a player.”

Ferdinand, QPR’s director of football, added: “Jay fits the bill with what we are trying to do here this summer – and going forward over the coming years.

“His a young, hungry player with a great desire to keep improving and being himself.

“He can play in all the front positions, either as a 10, a main striker, or a wide player.

“QPR is a great platform for him to take his game to the next level and we’re really pleased to have him here.”

Symons quits Wales job

**KIT Symons has stepped down as Wales assistant to fully focus on his role as Fulham boss.**

Symons, who was capped 37 times by his country as a player, has been Coleman’s No.2 since January 2012 and continued in the role despite succeeding Felix Magath at Craven Cottage in October 2014.

Fulham chairman Shahid Khan gave Wales permission to retain Fulham’s services after he was appointed permanent manager.

He had combined his role as Fulham manager with his duties as Coleman’s assistant during Wales’ Euro 2016 qualifying campaign.

After beating Belgium 1-0 in Cardiff on Friday, Wales are top of Group B and have a strong chance of qualifying for a first major tournament since 1958.

***LOCAL CRICKET***

KENNINGTON and Chelsea CC endured a tough weekend of results, featuring one win and three defeats.

After a string of good results, KCC lost by one wicket to Blackheath on Saturday and by six wickets to Nine Elms on Sunday. Fulham and London University also withdrew from the match.

Weekend results

KCC 1st XI lost by nine runs to Blackheath on Saturday

KCC 2nd XI produced a nail-biting finish to beat Ealing with one wicket to spare on Sunday.

LOUISA RICKETTS

Middlesex and Surrey go bottom

SURREY SCAFE AS TWO GO TO HOSPITAL

Six in a Surrey fightback on day one took 5-35 as Leicestershire were skittled for 177, having been set an imposing target of 356.

Curnan’s five wicket haul was the second of his career, while his match figures of 9-92 are his best in first-class cricket.

Coming in with the score on 139-7, Curnan hit 60 as he and Dominic Sibley (74) helped Surrey post 261 all out in their first innings.

The two bowling stars who limited Leicestershire to just 190 all out in a mere 47.5 overs were James Burke, who took four wickets in just 19 balls from six overs, and Curnan, who backed up his earlier record knock with 4-39 in 17.5 overs. This, after Leicester had put on 100 for the first wicket.

Surrey raced to 284 all out in their second innings off 72 overs and this time it was the unbeaten Steven Davies (47), Ben Foakes (48) and Gary Wilson (42) who seized their opportunity to contribute solid scores after Sangakkara went out.

Rain ruled out any chance of play in Last Friday’s NatWestT20 Blast game against Somerset at Taunton, while Sunday’s match against Sussex at Arundel was abandoned following the sickness collision involving Surrey players Rory Burns and Moses Henriques (see below).

After their Championship game against Glamorgan that was scheduled to run from Monday to Thursday of this week, there is no respite for Surrey as they play Kent in the 70 at The Kia Oval tournament (Friday, 6.30pm) and then begin their next four-day encounter on Sunday against Derbyshire at Derby.

Moses Henriques broke his jaw in three places in a sickening accident at Arundel on Sunday

Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Surrey players Rory Burns and Moses Henriques were taken to hospital after collision during Sunday’s NatWest T20 Blast game against Sussex.

Both players needed on-pitch treatment at Arundel after trying to claim a catch on the same ball.

It needed three ambulances to tend to them and both were given oxygen and put on intravenous drips.

After a delay of about 40 minutes, there was huge relief when the players confirmed they were conscious.

Henriques raised his left arm to wave to the crowd, while Burns gave a thumbs-up signal as they were put on stretchers and were taken by ambulance to nearby St Richard’s Hospital in Chichester.

Australian all-rounder Henriques, 28, had broken his jaw in three places and needed dental surgery, while Burns, 24, required stitches to head and facial injuries. Both are expected to make full recoveries.

Henriques had been backing-peddling from backward point with Burns running in from the boundary at high speed in the 19th over.

Both players were looking into the sky at the ball and didn’t see the other coming. Once they collided, Burns lay motionless. Surrey skipper Gareth Batty was the first to reach his stricken team-mates before he was rapidly joined by anxious medical staff.

Surrey physiotherapist Jon Marrall, one of the first people on the scene, said: “Both were unconscious. Henriques was caught by Burns’ knee and Burns had lacerations on the top of his head and below his eye.”

Umpire Alex Wharf and his colleague Jeremy Lloyd decided to abandon the match after consulting players from both teams, including Kevin Pietersen – on his last outing for Surrey before going to play in the Caribbean Premier League.

Wharf said: “It was a horrific situation for everyone involved – the players and the spectators who were close to the incident. We consulted with the ECB and the captains and there was never any chance of the game continuing.”

Suscex were 141 for 7 after 18.4 overs when the collision happened.
JOSE Mourinho is close to signing a new four-year deal to stay at Stamford Bridge.

Having delivered on his promise to the club’s football board to retain the Premier League title in May after previously overseeing a barren first season back at the Bridge, the club are prepared to honour their agreement to extend his stay at SW6 and comfortably make him the highest paid manager in British football.

It’s just as well that Mourinho is getting a new multi-million pound deal, as it will help to pay for a taxi (or perhaps a bus, which he is famous for parking on the pitch every now and then) and that’s because the Portuguese has been banned from driving for six months.

Exceeding the speed limit by 10mph in a 50mph zone on the A3 in Esher last September, Mourinho was caught on a speed camera not too far from the club’s Cobham training ground.

On Wednesday of last week, despite not making a personal appearance, he pleaded guilty at Staines Magistrates’ Court, where he was fined £1,820 in total and, because he had nine points already on his licence, also handed the ban.

While commenting on the Copa America tournament at the weekend, Mourinho suggested in interview what LWN Sport stated weeks ago – that Radamel Falcao has all but signed for Chelsea.

Mourinho indicated that he feels he will be able to bring the best from the Colomba striker, something that Louis van Gaal was unable to achieve at Manchester United last term.

Starting birth
Falcao will battle it out with Diego Costa for a starting birth, although the Spanish international is now taking it easy ahead of their pre-season trip to USA.

Having agreed personal terms, all that remains to be seen is whether the Blues will make the Falcao transfer permanent – in line with his club Monaco’s wishes – or opt for a one-season loan arrangement, with the promise of a permanent deal following the season.

Strengthening the squad is essential and while Falcao is just about through the door, the same cannot be said of Atletico Madrid’s Antoine Griezmann who was also a Chelsea target but now looks to have committed himself to staying in Spain.

But Belgian defender Toby Alderweireld, on loan from Southampton from Atletico Madrid, has emerged as an option and the 26-year-old is keen to stay in the Premier League. While Chelsea are happy with their defensive options, the addition of Alderweireld would make him the natural long-term replacement for skipper John Terry.

While Terry and some of the fringe first team players head off to the sun on their holidays, loads of Chelsea players are still hard at it on international duty.

On Friday, two of Chelsea’s biggest stars of last season, Belgians Eden Hazard and Thibaut Courtois, came up against the £35m man Gareth Bale. Sadly for Chelsea, they suffered an inglorious 1-0 defeat at the hands of Wales, as the second highest ranked side in the world lost a tense Euro 2016 qualifier in Cardiff.

Real Madrid’s Bale notched the only goal in the first half when he took full advantage of England right back to coolly slot the ball past the Chelsea No.1.

Hazard was easily Belgium’s best player but solid, and sometimes fraught, defending by Wales held him at bay.

Wales top Group B with 14 points, three behind Belgium, but crucially sit five ahead of third-placed Israel and Cyprus. The top two teams automatically qualify for the championships in France next year.

It was not a good few days for Chelsea’s men between the sticks. Petr Cech, who will formally announce on June 30 where he is going to be playing his club football next season, was in the Czech Republic side beaten 2-1 by Iceland in Group A. Branislav Ivanovic’s Serbia side went down 2-0 away to Denmark on Saturday.

Cesc Fabregas played in Spain’s 1-0 win in Belarus on Sunday that keeps them on course for next summer’s tournament.

Brazil duo Willian and Filipe Luis were due to face Colombia’s Juan Cuadrado in Santiago, Chile late last night (Wednesday) in the Copa America tournament. In a qualifier for the African Cup of Nations, on loan winger Mohamed Salah notched up a goal for Egypt in a 3-0 win against Tanzania.

Gary Cahill had a difficult night as England overcame host Slovenia 3-2 in a Euro 2016 qualifier on Sunday. The England defence, with Cahill and Manchester United’s Chris Smalling as centre-backs, was breached twice in Ljubljana but the Three Lions managed to score three times to stay top of Group E with their sixth straight win.

Battle royal
Vice-captain Cahill commented while on England duty that next season’s Premier League title defence will be a battle royal and one they are aware of and fully focused on.

Ten years ago, in Mourinho’s first stint as manager at SW6, Blues managed back-to-back titles. That is something Cahill wants to emulate.

“We have spoken among ourselves and we know it will be even harder to retain the title,” he said.

“The top teams in our league all pose threats and they are going to provide bigger challenges next year. After Manchester City won the league, the following season whenever anyone played City they knew that they were up against the reigning champions, so there was that added pressure on them and an added incentive for everyone playing them.”

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