Charity boss says ‘we must do more for those without a home’

Appeal to support Sleep Out campaign

BY JACK DIXON  
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE boss of a pioneering local charity that provides shelter for hundreds of rough sleepers in Hammersmith and Fulham has appealed for Londoners to show their support by spending a night on the streets, saying: “We must do more to help the homeless”.

Steven Platts, the head of Glass Door, called on people to get behind the charity’s Sleep Out campaign in a bid to rescue some of the borough’s most vulnerable people from the freezing cold this winter.

Hundreds of people are expected to sleep rough for one night as Glass Door marks its 20th anniversary.

Platts said: “As the only open access shelter now operating in London, we help those who have nowhere else to turn and the money raised by Sleep Out will allow us to get some of the most vulnerable members of our community off the streets this winter.”

A network of local churches currently provides venues for the charity’s winter shelter service – now the largest in London – between November and April.

It currently provides an essential safe haven for homeless people in Hammersmith and Fulham, offering overnight shelter, food and shower facilities during the tough winter months.

Now it is appealing for help to raise enough money to keep the shelters open and to expand its network across London.

“We are full to capacity every night and many more people come to us looking for shelter than we can accommodate,” said Mr Platts.

High flying pupils

HIGH flyers at Phoenix High School completed a summer of exam success for Shepherd’s Bush students as top performers secured an impressive set of GCSE results.

The number of achieving the benchmark five A* to C grades leaped by 14 per cent on last year’s total. There were further success stories across the borough as thousands of nervous students opened their results on Thursday (August 25).

SEE PAGES 6 & 7 FOR THE FULL STORY.
24-hour healthcare at the heart of the community 365 days a year

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PIONEERING London pharmacist who ground-breaking research led to important advances in medicine says the duty of public service spurred him on to success.

Zafar Khan heads five major healthcare charities and is a vocal lobbyist and campaigner for his industry – but it is the day-to-day running of the Zafar Khan pharmacy in Earl’s Court that gives him the greatest joy.

“I had to sell my other two branches in Kennington and Shepherd’s Bush to make this one work and it took me four years to break even,” he says.

“It is a great service that we provide and people really appreciate it. The way our customers respond when we are able to help them, that is the true pay-off.”

Mr Khan, who was awarded an MBE in 2005, has been described as a “jewel in the community” for his remarkable dedication to the profession.

The 71-year-old and his committed team of staff are celebrating 35 years behind the counter in Old Brompton Road.

But this is no ordinary milestone – Mr Khan runs the UK’s sole 24-hour pharmacy, providing prescription medicine for clients right through the night, 365 days a year.

The team also works with drug addicts and terminally ill patients, preaching the value of close community ties and an old-fashioned “family” pharmacy.

Mr Khan recalls a gratifying moment when BBC film crew came to the pharmacy to make a documentary about the 24-hour operation.

“The second thing they said you are saving lives. These are the things I tell my team: you are not working in a supermarket, you are not selling potatoes. You are in healthcare. People who come to you are not well.

“We have to treat people in that way. We have to be kind. We have to be understanding.”

While other pharmacies tried and failed to make the 24-hour model economically viable – and safe – Mr Khan has dedicated his working life to ensuring the dream becomes a reality.

But it is just one of several landmark achievements during a professional career with no shortage of highlights.

Before launching his business in the late 1970s, his efforts in the field of medical research with Beecham Research Laboratories – now GlaxoSmithKline – led to a series of important breakthroughs, including the invention of a liquid form of penicillin for children.

He also fronts five national and international charities dedicated to driving up standards of healthcare. One works with leukaemia patients, another provides recycled limbs for some of the world’s most impoverished people.

With almost 50 years experience in the field, Mr Khan is adamant that pharmacies should be at the heart of their communities.

He says the lingering threat of NHS cuts – and the fear among many London pharmacists that they will be driven out of business - risks wasting a skilled workforce.

“Local pharmacies should know local people. It is like a family. Threats of cuts to pharmacies are not going to help.

“Pharmacists feel they have not been fully utilised yet. They are the first port of call for most people and we see two or three times the number of patients that a GP does.

“It would be a sad day for the public if pharmacies close down because of these restrictions.”

So grateful are his loyal customers, they have cast hundreds of votes for Mr Khan in a competition to celebrate the nation’s most committed community chemists.

He is one of six finalists recognised as unsung heroes for their efforts on the front line of health care.

“My patients are my priority and I get tremendous satisfaction when people come back and say we are there for them,” he adds.

“One my patients who gave up a drug addiction now goes to a group to tell of his experiences, and I am very proud of him. These are small things for us but it does matter a lot for them to get some kind of encouragement and appreciation. We all feel happiness when people recognise our achievements.”
A TFL fertility clinic has been ordered to remove medical apparatus after claims it could harm the appearance of a listed building.

Harley Street Fertility Clinic submitted a retrospective planning application for a liquid nitrogen fill point on the front of the Grade II listed property. But City of Westminster Council’s planning committee refused the application and ordered alterations to be made.

“If the business does not comply the council has three months to take legal action to have the installation removed,” a Member of Parliamentary Briefing service said.

The liquid nitrogen is used for the freezing of human gametes and embryos - key to the clinic’s work as a fertility clinic.

Similar properties nearby have installed fill points that have been agreed by the council.

But the planning committee argued that the other buildings were not listed and that the fill point was “much nearer than in this case”.

Dr Suvir Venkataraman, general manager of the clinic at 134 Harley Street, has appealed against the decision.

A Westminster Council spokesman said: “The council has a legal duty to protect the appearance of listed buildings in Westminster. The outstanding architectural detail on Harley Street, one of London’s iconic streets, is extremely important to the history and character of the City of Westminster and so we are totally committed to safeguarding it for future generations to come.

“Other premises on Harley Street have found practical solutions to this issue which cause no harm to their buildings and we are happy to work with this particular clinic to achieve a similar outcome.”

Mayor to appoint night czar

BY GEOF BAKER
geo@goodlondonweek.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan is set to be swamped with applications to be his latest sidekick – the “Night Czar” – charged with making the city more livable in the hours after midnight.

For working just two and a half days a week, London’s new first lord of the night will be paid £50,000 on a one-year contract.

City Hall insiders are braced for dozens of applications to be expected to include politicians, council chiefs, tourist chiefs, club managers, promoters, PRs and performers with experience of the music and theatre scene.

The Mayor wants to appoint a Night Czar to help deliver a vision for London as a 24-hour city, a spokesman said.

This news follows the successful introduction of the Night Tube on the Central and Victoria lines with 100,000 people using the service during its first weekend.

The arrival of the Night Tube and a growing, and more diverse nightlife across London, has helped to prove that London is Open around the clock.

Now we need a Night Czar who will champion the value of London’s night time culture whilst developing and diversifying London’s night time economy.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, today started his search to find Lon don’s first ever Night Czar, emulating similar successful appointments in Amsterdam, Paris and Zurich.

The successful applicant will act as an ambassador for London’s night time economy and will do vital work with venues, local authorities, the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and punters to ensure London thrives as a 24-hour city.

They will set out a roadmap of how this vision will be delivered and will build a strategic partnership for the Night Tube to diversify and grow London’s night time economy.

Rival cities including Amsterdam, Paris and Zurich already employ such specialist advisors, where they are known as the “Night Mayor.”

The Night Mayor of Amsterdam, Miril Kin, has combated anti-social behaviour and created a safer, more responsible nightlife for its residents.

Mr Milan, a former party promoter, recently said that biggest accomplishment had been the introduction of 24-hour licences in Amsterdam.

Clubs benefit from it because they can go on longer, and the surrounding neighbourhood benefits because it’s not like at four in the morning a thousand people suddenly hit the street all at once,” he said.

Committed to the closure of nightclubs in London, he added: “One thing is for sure: the city is not protecting this industry, and is not aware of the potential of this economy.”

“Gentrification is always difficult. Often clubs bring up an area, then more people want to live there, the rents and the house prices go up, there’s a new condo built next to a venue, and then before you know it you have gentrification.”

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The Tulip Mania was a period in Dutch history when prices for the recently-introduced tulip reached extraordinarily high levels and then crashed. It is generally considered the first example of a speculative economic bubble and at its peak in 1637 some single tulip bulbs sold for more than 10 times the annual income of a skilled craftsman. As a result of the mania, the red-hot girl in the world” by Elle magazine also appears in the newly-released British coming of age movie Kids In Love Kids In Love, a film about a group of young friends imprinting art sold by mong a fast-paced lifestyle in London today.

Cara to star with Dame Judi

LONDON’s top model, Belgraviana Cara Delevingne, is to star in a new movie with London’s first lady of modelling, Dame Judi Dench.

Cara, who was recently turned away from Marylebone club Claud’s by a bouncer, will appear with Dame Judi in the period drama Tulip Fever, which is set for release next February.

Set in the Netherlands in the early 17th century, during the period of the Tulip Mania, the film stars Dame DeLea as an artist who falls for a m a n (van Dijk eup an wśród a female (Van Vliet) Whilst the two in volve the risky tulip market in hopes to build a future together.

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“Focus on one topic at a time. Try to bring in as many people, as big a network and as much information as you can. So, first try to make good legislation for grassroots live music venues,” he said.

“Try to figure out a solution so everybody understands what the benefits are from both sides, and win trust from city of officials. Then you can move on to音乐 ability. It is hoped that the Night Czar will be able to capitalise on the growth of the capital’s night time economy. Recent research shows that the night time economy contributes £22.3 billion to London’s annual GDP, equivalent to 40 per cent of the UK’s night time economy. This figure is expected to rise to £28.3 billion by 2023.”

Mayor Khan said: “Building on our magnifi cent city’s diverse and vibrant night time economy is one of my core priorities.

“Following the successful launch of the Night Tube, London’s night time culture can now be enjoyed around the clock. I am delighted to begin my search for a Night Czar, once appointed, we will work together with venues, authorities, developers and punters to ensure London thrives as a 24-hour city.”

The team from chartered accountants Perry’s, of Threadneedle Street, are taking on the Thames Path Challenge – an annual event that sees thousands of participants walk a riverside path from London to Berkshire.

Seven members of Perry’s staff from three different offices will be joined by friends and family on the trek, which sets off from Putney Bridge and finishes in Henley, in a bid to raise as much as possible for the Kent Cancer Trust.

Perrys has already raised £14,500 for the trust through its annual golf day, and is looking to build on this figure when it tackles the riverside challenge on Saturday, September 10th.

To hear more about Perry’s trek call 0203 356 7500 or visit www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PerrysAccountants
New climate change chief with brief to boost quality of city life

LONDON Mayor Sadiq Khan has appointed climate change chief Shirley Rodrigues as the new deputy mayor for environment and energy.

Ms Rodrigues is currently Acting Executive Director for Climate Change at the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), an independent philanthropic organisation that works to transform the lives of poor and vulnerable children in developing countries, where she oversees a $1.5bn global strategy and portfolio.

“Shirley has an impressive track record of developing and implementing new environmental policies in London,” said the mayor’s spokesman.

“She is no stranger to City Hall, having worked in senior environmental policy roles from 2005 to 2009, helping to implement the London Low Emission Zone and programmes to retrofit London’s residential and commercial buildings.”

She also helped establish CIFF’s cities and climate strategy and represents CIFF on the board of the C40 Large Cities Leadership Group – a network of global cities committed to addressing climate change.

With around 9,500 Londoners dying from long-term exposure to air pollution every year, cleaning up London’s toxic air is one of the biggest health emergencies facing London.

“Shirley will use her wealth of environmental expertise to drive forward the Mayor’s hard-hitting plans for tackling air pollution across the capital including expanding the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), new charges for the oldest most polluting vehicles and creating Low Emission Bus Zones,” said the spokesman.

“She will also oversee the delivery of Energy for Londoners helping Londoners generate more low-carbon electricity and will help boost London’s recycling rates and cut landfill.”

Mayor Khan said: “Shirley Rodrigues brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience and is the perfect person to deliver my agenda to make London a cleaner and greener city.

“Shirley will drive forward the urgent action needed to ensure Londoners no longer have to fear the air we breathe and will address the failure to tackle the problem by the previous Mayor and Government. “I am sure she will be a fantastic addition to my top team, taking on a crucial portfolio that has become an issue of life and death.”

Shirley Rodrigues said: “I am delighted to be working with Sadiq on his ambitious plans to make London one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world.

“Sadig has already proposed a radical and wide-ranging approach to clean up London’s dirty air and I feel privileged to be able to lead on this vital piece of work that will boost the quality of life and health for millions of Londoners.”

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Corbyn’s cronies give the PR pros a bad name

JEREMY Corbyn’s PR team could learn something from the way businesses go about communicating with the public. In an industry such as plumbing, it can be difficult to differentiate yourself from the pack; we need to invest the time and money necessary to create a valuable brand.

To paraphrase Phil Knight, former Chairman of Nike, you can have the best product in the world, but if not enough people know about it, you’re never going to succeed – you can in fact end up losing out to a competitor with a much poorer product, but hardworking of course.

At Pimlico Plumbers we embrace all forms of communications, whether that be with customers, the general public or the press, we’re happy to share what we’re up to, and I mean everything.

If you were to take a look at our social pages you’d be privy to pretty much all the goings on at Pimlico HQ, right down to what the team had for breakfast, which was, obviously, a good old bacon sarnie and a cup of tea if you were wondering.

I’ve invested in plumbing related number plates such as ROG 1, TOILET and W4TTER, been involved in PR initiatives addressing the trades’ gender imbalance, promoting apprentices and older workers, the list goes on.

Our 200 strong vehicle fleet, like red buses and black cabs, are synonymous with the Capital; we’ve carefully crafted a strong corporate identity that embodies the character of the business.

But my desire for column inches and TV interviews is always driven by a genuine passion to make the industry better, and in this case the PR industry.

Mr. Corbyn has clearly gone too far and needs to stand back, well behind the yellow line, which he crossed when he tried to deceive us and unfairly tarnish a respected company in order to further his own political agenda, whatever the cost.

I joined as an 15-year-old boy, that creates employment and training opportunities for all people, regardless of age, race or gender.

If my marketing team wasn’t flush with work last week they might have had a few choice words for Jeremy Corbyn and his cronies, who cobbled together a stunt that gave PR professionals a bad name and left a bitter taste in the mouth.

On 11 August, the Labour leader and his entourage attempted to tarnish the reputation of a bastion of British business, Virgin, by fabricating a story that questioned the company’s ability to meet the demands placed on its service.

Mr. Corbyn has clearly gone too far and needs to stand back, well behind the yellow line, which he crossed when he tried to deceive us and unfairly tarnish a respectable company in order to further his own political agenda, whatever the cost.

It’s only a matter of common sense that small and medium businesses, especially ones operating in saturated markets, should be encouraged to engage marketing and PR professionals; however, the latest political gaffe should serve as a wake up warning never to compromise the values and ethics at heart of your business.

Charlie Mullins OBE is the archetypal entrepreneur having started his business from scratch and then building it into a multi-million pound enterprise. From humble beginnings growing up on an estate in South London, Charlie left school with no qualifications, but after a four-year plumbing apprenticeship he started his own firm, Pimlico Plumbers, which now generates a turnover in excess of £30m and boasts many well-known names among its many clients.

Writing for you every week, London’s most outspoken entrepreneur

Corbyn pipes up!

Nearly 2,000 Westminster Kingsway College students have collected their A-level results, celebrating a successful year at the central London College.

Approximately 500 A-Level students and 1500 BTEC, UAL and Access to HE students successfully completed their courses and will now be going on to top-rated universities across the country, into work and Apprenticeships, or taking a gap year to volunteer abroad.

This marks the first Results Day since the official merger of Westminster Kingsway and City and Islington Colleges on 1 August 2016.

Kim Caplin, Principal at Westminster Kingsway College, said: “I’m delighted with today’s results; not only has it highlighted the amazing depth of achievements but also our staff. As a newly merged college, we have seen improved results, despite the challenges that for the first time the A-Level specifications have changed. This is great for Westminster Kingsway and the new college group, WKCIC.

“As our results improve we continue to be two of the most successful colleges in London, bringing together specialisms, skills and expertise, enabling us to deliver a wider range of opportunities which enhance student experience.”

The College provided Advice Stations throughout the Students’ Cross Centre, where an expert team of Learner Consultants and Careers Advisors were available to guide learners through the clearing process and help them to take the next step into university or into their chosen career options.

Lara Parizotto Kochem was one of the students collecting her results today, gaining three A* grades in Sociology, History and Government & Politics and a place at Cambridge University to study Human, Social, and Political Sciences.

Lara said: “I was really nervous when I came to collect my results as I needed the grades to go onto university but Westminster Kingsway prepared me. I was so pleased when I saw my certificates and can’t wait to go to Cambridge University. I am hoping to specialise in Politics and International Relations because I want to go on to work for international organisations who work on socio-economic projects and human rights protection.”

Hawanatu Kanu will also be going to University in September, having collected a Triple Star Distinction for her BTEC Health and Social Care.

Hawanatu said: “I’ve had a great time studying at Westminster Kingsway College, the teachers are very friendly and make sure we have a great support system. There were moments when I thought I couldn’t do it but they kept pushing me. My time at the College has really prepared me for my future teacher training.”

View expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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LOndon Weekly News

Tuesday August 30 2016

‘women Should Be Able To Wear What They Want On The Beach’

London Burkini Protest in Support of Muslim Women

By Katherine Clementine

Women ignored heavy rain to wear their favourite beach outfits - being covered or colourful - for a pro-burkini demo outside the French Embassy in Knightsbridge.

They were protesting after a Muslim woman was forced to remove some of her clothing by armed police on the beach at Nice in France.

One protestor who gave her name as Natalie, 22, sporting a colourful bikini, said: “I’m here in solidarity with Muslim women. “Women should be able to wear what they want.”

Despite the showers, Natalie, who flaunted her size 10 figure, said “it’s warm enough” and would rather attention was directed to the Muslim women at the protest.

A Muslim mum, named only as Nabila, stood amid the makeshift beach outside the Embassy wearing the burkini beach outfit banned by the French authorities.

She said: “Women should be able to wear what they want. “It’s not a matter for the police, authorities or government to dictate.”

Speaking of the blue burkini she wore to the event, she said: “I’ve been wearing this for 10 years and nobody has ever made a fuss.”

Demo organiser, Fariah Syed, herself wearing a pink hijab, was happy women turned up in their burkinis.

She said: “We’re here to send a message to France that women should be allowed to wear what they want, when they want.

“I hope they can repeal this ban. The French said it would end oppression, but the ban itself is oppressive.”

“Our main aim was to show solidarity with Muslim women across the world and I feel like we’ve done that.”

Armed police stood guard at the Embassy as events unfolded. The protest was planned on Facebook with just 24 hours notice and saw dozens turn up in support.

Following the Nice incident, the French court declared the law forbidding swimwear worn by Muslim women “clearly illegal”.

Haze was due to be sentenced until a report on the defendant’s mental health and alcohol problems could be compiled.

The court heard that when interviewed by police Haze expressed remorse and apologised to Ms Sabri.

Mr Hussain added that Ms Sabri had provided a second statement to police in which she said she did not want Haze to be punished but to receive help and rehabilitation instead.

Haze has three previous convictions for assault dating back to 2011 and has had a drinking problem since she was a teenager.

Magistrates decided to adjourn sentencing until a report on the defendant’s mental health and alcohol problems could be compiled.

As she left the dock, Hayles, from Bayswater, was seen weeping. She added: “I just want to say thank you. I won’t let you down.”

She will next appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court for sentencing on November 12 when she will be sentenced.

Cover-up at the French Embassy

Armed police outside the French Embassy

The beach comes to Knightsbridge

Photos by Adam Gray SWNS

Attack on burka sculpture

A Drunk pensioner smashed a burka sculpture after claiming she hated the Islamic garment because she used to be a designer for The Beatles.

Days after the EU referendum, Brexit-supporting Mikaela Haze screamed “we voted to take our country back” as she pushed over the £6,300 artwork.

The 70-year-old had wandered into the Royal College of Art in Kensington as artist Yasmeen Sabri put the finishing touches to the work.

The sculpture, titled ‘Walk a mile in her veil’, depicted a burka over a metal frame created by the master student.

Haze had been chatting to Ms Sabri - but as Ms Sabri was about to place the veil on Haze’s head, she erupted in violence shouting “Saudi Arabia go home” and pushed it over.

The day after, Ms Sabri tweeted: “Walk a mile in her veil is the work that provoked the abuse, ironically it promoting tolerance and understanding.”

Haze had been due to be sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of religiously aggravated criminal damage at an earlier hearing.

At Westminster Magistrates’ Court last Tuesday (August 23), Haze confirmed her name, date of birth and address.

Ms Sabri had been working on the piece at the South Kensington art college, when Haze wandered off the street and launched her attack on June 29.

Zahid Hussain, prosecuting, said: “This offence was fuelled by the defendant’s consumption of alcohol.

“This defendant admits and accepts that on the day in question she consumed alcohol from 2pm onwards.

“When she entered the Royal College of Art where this offence took place she had in her possession a bottle of cider.

“When she was interviewed by the police the defendant said she didn’t like the burka as she used to be a design artist for The Beatles and never liked the burka."

He added: “The victim said she felt very alarmed and she was really scared the defendant would become physically violent.

“Her fears were confirmed when the defendant pushed the sculpture, causing it to fall to the floor, shattering it on impact and causing it to break in half.”

The court heard that when interviewed by police Haze expressed remorse and apologised to Ms Sabri.

Mr Hussain added that Ms Sabri had provided a second statement to police in which she said she did not want Haze to be punished but to receive help and rehabilitation instead.

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Many capital schools buck national

Javiere Quiroz Fernandez, 16, Phoenix High School
Javiere was among the highest achievers at Phoenix after receiving six A*s, four As and two Bs.
She is planning to study for her A levels at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School and has ambitions to win a place at Cambridge University.
“I was really worried that I wouldn’t get the results I wanted and I was a bit nervous this morning,” she said on Thursday.
“But everyone has been so supportive. My teachers and my friends have helped me the whole way through.”

Yassin Seddik, 16, Burlington Danes Academy
Yassin has his heart set on a career in engineering after picking up six A*s and seven As.
He will be switching to St Dominic’s Sixth Form College to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Philosophy and Economics at A level.
“In terms of my personal achievement, it is really good,” he said. “I’m more of an independent learner so a lot of the time I would stay late after school by myself and then revise at home at the weekends. The hard work has finally paid off.”

Eliza Hachem, 16, Sacred Heart High School
Eliza was overwhelmed last week after securing straight A*s in her GCSE results.
She will be switching to Latymer Upper School in September to study for her A levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics – and she is already thinking about a career in the City.
She said on Thursday: “I want to work in finance, maybe in stockbroking. But first I’m going to celebrate with my friends at Reading festival this weekend.
“Even though I’m leaving Sacred Heart they have really helped me with my studies.”

It was another strong set of results for girls at the Hurlingham Academy in Fulham

GCSE students capped a summer of exam success in west London after an impressive set of results put hundreds of school leavers on the path to further education, apprenticeships and the world of work.
A string of schools boasted improvements in performance despite an overall dip in the number of top grades awarded across the country.
Tearful students were celebrating their academic achievements in Westminster, Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham last week.
The nervous wait was finally over on Thursday (August 25) as schools opened their doors for GCSE students to collect their results.
It was an emotional day for many as youngsters secured their places at sixth forms and further education colleges, while others were preparing to take their first steps into employment.
There were success stories all over west London with a handful of high flyers picking up straight A*s.
Saoirse Genoni, from Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith, was among the crop of top students collecting 11 A* grades last week.
The 16-year-old, who has her eye on a career in journalism, said she had topped her own expectations in Design and Technology and the sciences.
“I did not believe it at first,” she said. “Before today I was trying to make it seem as if I had done badly to my parents - but there is nothing we can do about our results until we get them, so I was trying to keep that in mind.”
Sacred Heart, where 84 per cent of students achieved the benchmark five A* to C grades including English and Maths, was one of several high performing schools to defy national trends with its impressive results.
Headteacher Marion Doyle said: “I’m just over the moon with the students’ success. We are bucking the national trend.
“I put it down to the commitment and dedication of our teachers, the support of our parents and the hard work and positive attitude of our girls.”
It was also a day to savour at Phoenix High School in White City, where teaching staff were toasting a huge improvement in GCSE results.
Almost half of the school’s students picked up five A* to C grades including English and Maths – a massive increase of 14 per cent on last year.

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“I did not believe it at first,” she said. “Before today I was trying to make it seem as if I had done badly to my parents - but there is nothing we can do about our results until we get them, so I was trying to keep that in mind.”
Sacred Heart, where 84 per cent of students achieved the benchmark five A* to C grades including English and Maths, was one of several high performing schools to defy national trends with its impressive results.
Headteacher Marion Doyle said: “I’m just over the moon with the students’ success. We are bucking the national trend.
“I put it down to the commitment and dedication of our teachers, the support of our parents and the hard work and positive attitude of our girls.”
It was also a day to savour at Phoenix High School in White City, where teaching staff were toasting a huge improvement in GCSE results.
Almost half of the school’s students picked up five A* to C grades including English and Maths – a massive increase of 14 per cent on last year.

A student at Lady Margaret School in Fulham proudly waves her exam results

boys from the London Oratory School in Fulham picked up their results last week

In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea results revealed that the number of students achieving five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics has improved since 2015 - bucking the trend nationally.
At Holland Park School students improved on last year’s performance, with 80 per cent of them gaining five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics.
The school also increased its percentage of top grades, with 70 per cent at A* to B - its highest ever performance. An impressive 62 per cent of students achieved the English Baccalaureate (C or above in English, mathematics, science, history or geography and a language), more than double last year’s national average of 23 per cent.
Holland Park’s Attainment 8 grade was a B-
A total of 12 students achieved eight A* grades which was five per cent of the year and part of the school’s history. The school looks forward to welcoming back many of the students into the Sixth Form.
Commenting on the results, Nicholas Robson, Deputy Head said: “The pressure on students each year seems to be incrementally higher and that makes students’ GCSE achievements all the sweeter.
“More of the highest grades achieved, more students leaving with both English and mathematics GCSE, a substantial three-fifths of our
trend with improved GCSE results

five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics - a 13 per cent increase on last year's results. Overall Sion Manning's average Attainment 8 score was a C.

There were also exceptional individual results from students including Jiona Ybanez who attained 5A* and 5A grades, as well as Sekela Ngamilo who achieved 4A* and 5 A grades.

At St Thomas More Language College 61 per cent of students achieved five A* to C grades including English and mathematics. St Thomas More’s average Attainment 8 score was a C+.

Commenting on the results, Dr Trevor Papworth, Head teacher, said: "As in previous years, St Thomas More Language College is delighted to celebrate the continued success of our students with notable outstanding achievement in A*/A grades in mathematics and exceptional overall individual performances from those that lived out its motto: 'Serving God, Striving for Excellence'."

There was delight at Cardinal Vaughan at the release of GCSE results which make the school, according to The Times, the highest performing comprehensive for boys in the country: 22.1 per cent of grades - four times the national average for boys - were A*, and 49.4 per cent A* and A: three times the national average.

In 2015, 67 per cent of Royal Borough students gained five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics. In 2016, 72 per cent of Royal Borough students gained five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics.

The nervous wait was over for students at the Hurlingham Academy in Fulham on Thursday

Faiso Kadiye picked up her results at Burlington Danes Academy in Shepherd’s Bush

Anayah Sinclair, from the Fulham Enterprise Studio, was delighted with her results

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students securing the English Baccalaureate – all of these achievements deserve celebration, and all the more so against a climate of harder and harder GCSEs."

Chelsea Academy was celebrating its third set of GCSE results for the school since it opened in 2009. The academy saw an increase in its headline GCSE results, with the year 11 cohort making exceptional progress and 68 per cent of students gaining five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics.

In total 80 per cent of students achieved a C or above in English and 76 per cent a C or above in mathematics. Their grades in science and languages were significantly above national averages. Chelsea Academy’s Attainment 8 grade was a C+.

There were some excellent individual performances and congratulations go to Jeton (11A*); Ibrahim (12A*, 1A); India (10 A*, 1 A); Ali (6A*, 5A); Moni (12 A*, 1 A) and Nino (11A*, 1 A).

Principal Matt Williams said: "I would like to congratulate all of our year 11 students on an excellent set of GCSE results which make the school, according to The Times, the highest performing comprehensive for boys in the country: 22.1 per cent of grades - four times the national average for boys - were A*, and 49.4 per cent A* and A: three times the national average. 87 per cent of pupils attained at least five good GCSEs, including mathematics and English. Cardinal Vaughan’s Attainment 8 grade was a B+.

These complement the Vaughan’s A-level results, in which the school was found to be, according to The Times and The Daily Telegraph, the top comprehensive school in the country.

Headmaster Paul Stubbings, said: “Obviously, we’re all very proud of the pupils’ achievements, which are testament to their hard work over the years. But the expertise of the staff has also played a massive part in our ongoing success at every level. I congratulate them all.”

Councillor Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "What a wonderful set of results from our schools and I know that they represent many years of hard work by our pupils and teachers."

"I was also delighted to hear of the many exceptional individual exam results achieved by so many of our young people. I’m sure that they have bright futures ahead of them in whatever areas they choose to specialise.”

In 2015, 67 per cent of Royal Borough students...
Birds of a Feather star Linda Robson, pictured, has revealed her family’s emotional struggle against dementia ahead of the Alzheimer’s Society flagship fundraiser in London.

The comedy actress and television personality, who was born and bred in the capital, spoke of her devastation after losing her mother to dementia.

She will be one of 4,500 people taking part in the charity’s Memory Walk at Potter’s Fields Park this weekend.

Linda, 58, who is taking part in her first Memory Walk, said: “My mum Rita had dementia and so I have experienced first-hand the devastating impact it can have on families.

“It is so important to continue to raise money to fund research and provide vital support services. That is why I will be joining this year’s London Memory Walk in memory of my mum and in support of all the other people out there who have been affected by dementia.”

Linda is best known for playing Tracey Stubbs in Birds of a Feather but also presented ITV’s Loose Women and appeared on reality show I’m A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here!

More than 70,000 Londoners are currently living with dementia, according to the charity, which runs a network of support services across the capital for families torn apart by the condition.

It is aiming to raise £50,000 at the event on Saturday (September 3) to help fund its work – while pumping thousands more into medical research in the hope of one day finding a cure.

Sofia Cetta, the charity’s community fundraiser for London, said: “Stories like Linda’s are exactly why Memory Walk is so important.

“The event is always a special day that gives people an opportunity to walk in memory of a loved one, to celebrate someone they know affected by dementia or to create memories with family and friends.

“People of all ages and abilities can take part and there is a real sense of togetherness as you walk alongside thousands of others to raise money to better support those living with the condition and fund research to find a cure. Every person, every pound, every step will bring us closer.”

Legal highs

London paramedics are increasingly being called to help people who have taken ‘legal highs,’ it has been revealed.


It follows the introduction in May of a ban on the sale of psychoactive substances, such as ‘spice.’

The figures were released by the ambulance service in response to a BBC freedom of information request.

Travel fears

Londoners are increasingly concerned about terror attacks affecting their travel plans, new research reveals.

More than half of people polled by YouGov said they feared an incident could scupper their holidays.

The survey revealed that Londoners were among the most un-easy about travelling, with only a third of people in the North East sharing the concerns.

Three quarters of Londoners said they would consider purchasing extra travel insurance to keep them covered against costs caused by a terrorist attack.

Early birds

TEAM GB may be breaking records in Rio but London’s mums have found an Olympic sport of their own – Christmas shopping.

A new survey reveals that more than a quarter of well-organised mums started buying gifts in the January sales.

The analysis of spending habits suggested more and more Londoners were buying presents throughout the year and adding to their lists ahead of the big day.

London Firefighter recalls devastating blaze in 1980s Soho

A LONDON firefighter who witnessed one of the city’s deadliest ever blazes has told of the piles of bodies he discovered amid horrific scenes in Soho.

On the anniversary of the tragedy, David Paré recalled the desperate screams of those who lost their lives.

Around 150 Londoners were thought to be inside 18 Denmark Place when a devastating fire was deliberately started on August 16, 1980.

Some were rescued by brave fire crews and others escaped by jumping out of windows but 37 people died.

Mr Paré, who was a lead firefighter at the time and remains a crew manager in the London Fire Brigade today, spoke of his vivid memories of the rescue attempt.

He was a member of the Euston green watch crew that rushed into the building in an effort to save trapped residents.

“It looked as though there had been a fight on the pavement,” he said.

“The police were there, people were on the floor and you could hear people screaming - but we couldn’t see any flames.

“I came up against a music shop where there was a man in a desperate state. He was trying to break the security grills on the shop window to get out.

“The man was hysterical. He kept screaming ‘there are hundreds dead up here.’

“The crew, joined by a force from the Soho unit, managed to get through the security grate and passed the injured man over to ambulance personnel.

“Though he didn’t realise it at the time, this would be the only man Mr Paré would see alive during the incident.

“There was one body on the staircase, one on the landing and one as you went into the building,” he added.

“I don’t have to guess where I am anymore”

Asif Iqbal MBE, deaf, President of Harrow United Deaf Club.

Police and firefighters at the scene of the deadly blaze in Soho 1980

“On the first floor there was a kitchenette area and that is where the man who we had helped out of the music room window had escaped. He had had to climb over bodies three deep to escape.”

The building was home to two unlicensed bars – ‘The Spanish Rooms and Rodo’s’ at the time of the blaze.

It was later discovered that petrol had been deliberately poured through the letterbox of the three-storey building.

John Thompson, then 42, was jailed for life in 1981 for the murder of 37 people. He died of lung cancer in 2008 – on the 28th anniversary of the tragedy.

The blaze went down in history as London’s deadliest fire since the Second World War.

For Alan Freeman, the brigade’s photographer at the time, the images from the day are permanently etched in his mind.

“As you walked up the stairs you went into one of the rooms and it was as if the bodies were dominoes that had been pushed over. It was like they had been frozen in the same position they were in before the fire started.”

The London Fire Brigade is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Visual displays on buses mean Asif always knows where he is when making his way around London. To discover his full story search TFL Accessibility and see if you could take more journeys than you think.

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**LONDON’S BURNING**

FIRE sculptures will light up The City this week as part of London’s Burning, a contemporary art and ideas festival marking the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London.

The series of spectacular art events by the Artichoke artists, which are all free to the public, will take place in key sites across the City, Southbank and Bankside from August 28th-4th September marking this momentous event in London’s history and addressing its contemporary resonance with themes including displacement, disaster and the resilience of the urban metropolis.

Artist Martin Firrell presents Fires of London, two new commissions either side of the River Thames.

Fires Ancient will light up the south and east sides of the dome of St Paul’s Cathedral with a fiery projection echoing both the catastrophic impact of the Great Fire of London on the Cathedral itself and the birth of the building designed by Christopher Wren that emerged, phoenix-like, from the ashes.

The projection will be visible from across the river and with a unique up-close view from the public Roof Terrace at One New Change.

On the other side of the river, Firrell’s Fires Modern will be projected onto the flytower of the National Theatre’s (NT’s) iconic Grade II listed building.

The projection of Firrell’s text and flames will “reveal stories of resurgence and change that have shaped the UK’s capital city and created the open and diverse metropolis that we enjoy today”.

Projecting Fires Modern resonates with the National Theatre’s mission of making the very best theatre and sharing it with as many people as possible. Fires Modern will join a historically impactful series of artistic projects that have used the NT’s flytower to reach as wide an audience as possible.

With views across to the City and St Paul’s Cathedral, French fire alchemists Compagnie Artichoke have used the NT’s flytower to reach as wide an audience as possible.


A collaboration between American ‘burn’ artist David Best and Artichoke, the project has involved months of work and participation with local schools and young Londoners.

A live broadcast will be hosted by Lauren Laverne from 8.25pm on Sunday September 4th, and will include key guests and a series of short films revealing the stories behind the project.

“It is an artistic response that addresses the impact of the Great Fire of London on the City, its inhabitants and buildings, and how it emerged from the ashes and evolved to the resilient world city it is today”.

In addition to the live festival programme, Artichoke has been commissioned by The Space to produce a live digital broadcast of the spectacular finale event, London 1666.

A talks programme will accompany the London’s Burning artistic programme exploring how cities past and present have responded to crisis.

It will include an exclusive poetry reading by actor Simon Callow at the top of The Monument, and The Great Fire In Three and a Half Pints, a series of three guided walking tours, including a spine-tingling tour of the City’s streets led by psychiatrist Joanna Moncrieff, each tour stopping off at historic Fuller’s pubs along the way.

Elsewhere in the programme speakers include London’s highest-ranking female Fire Fighter, Becci Bryant, and authors Suzanne O’Sullivan and Andrew Mitchell Hurley, whose talks will explore historical and contemporary themes including our fascination with fire, the language of crisis, the part art can play in solutions to crisis, responses to world trauma and the psychology of fear.

For more details of the programme go to: www.visitlondon.com/greatfire350

HORRIBLE Histories returns to CBBC for a one-off special programme about the Great Fire of London, looking at the disaster and the events that surrounded it.

In true Horrible Histories fashion, this special episode explores London and Britain before the fire, full of plague and party in the raucous Restoration atmosphere personified by King Charles II. Viewers can see how London’s Mayor preferred to stay in bed during the fire because he was partying the night before, and how Samuel Pepys (Tom Stourton) rushed to buy his Parmesan cheese for safety.

Also featured will be Christopher Wren (Robert Webb), astronomer and self-styled architect, whose new St Paul’s rose phoenix-like from the ashes. The programme will be on CBBC at 5pm on September 5.

A MAJOR exhibition about the Great Fire of London is one of the highlights of Guildhall Library’s September to December programme.

‘Tha Dreadful Fire: The Hand of God, a Great Wind and a Very Dry Season’ commemorates the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, which started in a bakery on Pudding Lane on September 2, 1666 and devastated most of the City. Guildhall Library’s exhibition, which runs until 30 November, investigates the Great Fire through its collections, which includes official accounts, sermons and reports from across Europe.

MOST people know that the Great Fire of London began in Pudding Lane and that the Monument to commemorate it, designed by Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke, stands on the corner of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill, 61 metres from where the fire started.

Fewer people may know that the statue of the Golden Boy at Pye Corner on the corner of Giltspur Street and Cock Lane in Smithfield marks the spot where the fire was stopped.
Beware a silent killer

By Peter Faulkner

THE six-year-old daughter of City millionaire Nicolas Giaque died because the landlord of the £2m home they were renting failed to maintain the boiler.

Elisabeth Giaque, whose father was worth £50m and ran a hedge fund in Westminster, died from carbon monoxide poisoning. House owner Hussein Jajbhay was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £35,000 costs at Blackfriars Crown Court.

And rugby legend Simon Halliday, the former England wing and chairman of the governing body of that runs the Champions’ Cup, also had to be admitted to hospital for emergency treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning last year.

Halliday and his fiancée Rachel, both had to be given oxygen for several hours after scans showed they both had alarmingly high levels of the gas, known as ‘The Silent Killer’, in their blood streams after he called a gas engineer to fix a faulty boiler at his rented apartment in Westminster.

These are just two examples of how faulty boilers can cost lives and this will be the highlight of the annual Gas Safety Week which gets underway next month (September 19-25).

It doesn’t matter whether you live in Westminster, Chelsea, Hammersmith or Kensington in fact anywhere in the country, rogue gas fitters will be living in your neighbourhood.

When you use an unregistered gas fitter, he could be leaving your boiler leaking fatal carbon monoxide fumes. Or the work may be that done by poorly fitted and poorly serviced appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. Using an illegal gas fitter can put you thousands of pounds. Worst of all, it could put the lives of you, and your loved ones in danger.

It is against the law for anyone to do work on gas appliances in the United Kingdom unless they are Gas Safe registered so if you think someone is working on gas illegally, report them to the Gas Safe Register and they will investigate.

How do I know if the gas fitter I’m using is illegal?

A quarter of a million illegal gas jobs are carried out each year. If your gas fitter is not Gas Safe registered then they are illegal. If your gas engineer is qualified and registered to do gas work they will be able to show your gas Safe ID card.

Not all gas engineers are qualified to work on all types of gas appliance. Make sure you check the back of their ID card to make sure they are qualified to do the specific type of gas work you need. If they put in a gas fire for example, but they’re only Gas Safe registered for pipework and boilers, they are illegal.

If they work for a Gas Safe registered firm during the week and are doing private work in their spare time on the side, they are also illegal.

How do I check my engineer is on the Gas Safe Register?

All Gas Safe registered engineers carry a Gas Safe Register ID card showing the type of work they are qualified to do. Before you let your gas engineer into your home to work on your gas appliances make sure you check it.

You can also check your gas engineer is Gas Safe registered online, by texting Gas then the engineer licence number to 85080 or by calling free on 0800 408 5500.

Protecting you from unsafe gas work is a priority for Gas Safe. If you think someone is working on gas illegally, report them and they will investigate. There are more than 120,000 engineers on the Gas Safe Register.

To check that they’re continuing to work safely Gas Safe inspectors regularly inspect the work they’ve carried out. If you’ve had gas work done in the last six months, you can nominate it for a free gas safety inspection.

Using an unlicensed gas fitter could cost you your life

Every year thousands of people across the UK are diagnosed with carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, which can be caused by unsafe central heating systems, gas cookers or gas fires.

That’s why Gas Safety Week aims to raise awareness of gas safety and the importance of taking care of your gas appliances.

Badly fitted and poorly serviced appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions as well as carbon monoxide poisoning.

Using an illegal gas fitter can put lives at risk, only a Gas Safe registered engineer should carry out gas work.

Landlords targeted

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham Council has warned rogue landlords that they are living on borrowed time.

The council is planning to introduce new rules that will get rid of the cowboys and protect private renters.

Town hall bosses have unveiled a series of measures aimed at protecting tenants and they say they want to create a “level playing field” in the borough by safeguarding tenants against unscrupulous landlords while cutting down on anti-social behaviour.

Among the proposals is a new landlords’ rental ‘charter’, which would encourage property owners to commit to higher standards.

The plan also includes tougher licensing rules and minimum standards for homes occupied by multiple renters.

Around 27,500 properties in Hammersmith and Fulham are now classified in the private rented sector – more than a third of all housing in the borough – and town hall housing officers expect it to soon become the dominant sector.

River blitz

THE Environment Agency has promised a new crackdown on illegally moored boats along the Thames.

It follows pressure from action group Reclaim the Riverbank.

AN officer from the City of London Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit has been given an Excellence Award for being the driving force behind a ground-breaking initiative targeting counterfeit websites.

DC Weizmann Jacobs has overseen the suspension of nearly 11,000 websites selling counterfeit goods, as part of an ongoing operation.

His role involves suspending counterfeit websites in partnership with Nominet, the UK’s central registry to all UK domains and is understood to be the only role of its type in UK policing.

DC Jacobs received the ‘Excellence Award’ at the Chartered Trading Standards Institute Conference.
THE future of the Notting Hill Carnival is now hanging in the balance as public safety at even the so-called Children’s and Family Day was farcically exposed as completely inadequate by dozens of arrests and four stab-bings.

Yet again, Europe’s biggest street party, became a catalogue of crime and violence before the big day on Monday even arrived.

On the Family Day alone, ambulance crews treated 345 people and took 43 to hospital. There were four stab-bings and 20 knives were seized. Some 105 people were arrested on the “safe” Sunday, 24 for possession of weapons and 74 for drugs.

One man stabbed at the Family Day was fighting for his life as this newspaper went to print, doctors said the man’s condition was “critical”.

Despite high hopes that hooligans would behave at this year’s anniversary year, there was little sign of it.

In the wake of the violence and crime, voices will be raised for Carnival to be shut down in Notting Hill and moved to Hyde Park, where it can be more safely stewarded and policed.

Local traders are fed up with having to board up their businesses to protect against break-ins by drunken “revellers” and those who only come to Carnival to commit crime. This year police attempted to lessen the risk of violence and street crime by mounting pre-Carnival raids on the homes of suspected trouble-makers – arresting 215 upfront of the event.

Kensington MP Victoria Borwick has warned that public opinion is growing against Carnival and has indicated that the authorities now have to look at moving the event which attracts up to two million people out of Notting Hill.

“There are many people who now are asking has Carnival outgrown this area?” Lady Borwick told London Live TV ahead of the Sunday stab-bings.

“I want it to be a fun family event where shops don’t have to
London’s biggest party

MP ASKS: HAS CARNIVAL OUTGROWN NOTTING HILL?

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

close, where people don’t have to leave their homes.
“As the police have confirmed, the largest event that British police do is policing a carnival. I don’t think that is really right.
“I think that we have to look at the resources that go into Carnival – we see over one third of the Met’s resources, 7,000 officers deployed, used here over the Carnival weekend.
“They say that Carnival brings £9 million to the economy but that may come to London as a whole but it’s certainly not coming to these boarded-up shops.
“Local shopkeepers are being hurt, not only with the cost of the loss of trade and the boarding up but also with their share of the cost of clearing up.
“And when you listen to the heart-rending things that these shopkeepers tell you I think it would be better if we could think of another way of taking this forward.”

MP VICTORIA BORWICK’S VIEW

“There are many people who now are asking has Carnival outgrown this area.
“I want it to be a fun family event where shops don’t have to close, where people don’t have to leave their homes.
“As the police have confirmed, the largest event that British police do is policing a carnival. I don’t think that is really right.
“They say that Carnival brings £9 million to the economy but that may come to London as a whole but it’s certainly not coming to these boarded-up shops.
“Local shopkeepers are being hurt, not only with the cost of the loss of trade and the boarding up but also with their share of the cost of clearing up.”
The Royals are not meant to interfere in Government policy. Thankfully for causes from everything from climate change to architecture and sustainable fishing, the Prince of Wales has long ignored this and by doing so he has helped effect better thinking on problems in these areas.

Now his daughter-in-law the Duchess of Cambridge is following his example of initiating change by speaking up and out, saying the stuff that needs to be heard, ignoring controversy by saying it reasonably but seemingly in the hope that it will cause a change in Government policy.

Weigh that cost against the figure, published this year by NHS England, that the estimated long term cost to our economy of mental health problems is £105 billion a year.

Therefore, if the current little continues to be done about child mental health over the period of a new Trident missile system, the cost to our economy over 30 years will be £3,350 billion.

In other words, the nationally-damaging cost of the mental health crisis in England is more than 12 times the cost of new Trident.

And that, of course, is just the financial cost; it does not take account of the emotional Armageddon that we will face if the authorities do nothing about child mental health over the period.

Grown-ups will say that the truth of what Dr. Wakerley is saying has long been ignored. The same truth is certainly true for all of the frightened, confused, confused and worried parents, whose children are now depending on Catherine to help them make sense of the world around them.

They show how with the right help, children have a good chance of overcoming their issues while they are still young, and can have the bright future they deserve.

“Please do listen, and share them with your friends and family and let’s change the way we all talk to each other about our mental health.”

The Heads Together campaign will be the biggest project The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry have undertaken together. They are incredibly grateful to be working with charities who have achieved so much in the fight against the stigma that surrounds the issue.

They want the Heads Together campaign to build on the great work that is already being done across the country so that prejudice and fear no longer stand in the way of people getting the help they need.

They want people need to feel much more comfortable with their everyday mental wellbeing and have the practical tools to support their friends and family.
to end the stigma of mental ill health

The royal trio at the launch of the Heads Together Campaign

Their Royal Highnesses cannot wait to see hundreds of runners hitting the streets of London next April to end the stigma on mental health once and for all.”

The Heads Together partnership currently consists of the following charities, however the campaign will be open for other organisations to join in the months ahead: Best Beginnings CALM - The Campaign Against Living Miserably, Contact, Place2Be, The Mix, YoungMinds, Mind

Five words stand out especially in that Kensington Palace release, “destroy families and end lives”.

Those of us who have known mental ill health live with the anguish of having witnessed both of those sad and tragic consequences.

Not far from Kensington Palace, just down the road from Buckingham Palace at Queen Anne’s Gate, is the headquarters of another charity committed to confronting our national inertia towards the matter of child mental health, the CentreForum. In April this year, the Forum’s director of mental health, Emily Frith, published a landmark report on the State of the Nation and appropriately titled it that. Her report makes such grim reading that it leaves you incredulous that we are letting this catastrophe happen.

“Mental health problems are linked to premature mortality and can also be life-limiting. Young people with an emotional disorder are more likely to smoke, drink and use drugs than other children; more likely to have time off school and fall behind in their education; and are more likely to earn less money as adults or to experience unemployment,” reported Ms Frith.

“As well as the personal cost, the estimated long term cost to the economy of mental health problems is £105 billion a year. Despite this significant impact, children and young people face substantial difficulties in getting help.

“Only 0.7 per cent of NHS funding is spent on young people’s mental health, and only 16 per cent of this 0.7 per cent funding is on early intervention.”

“This report demonstrates a stark inequality within the NHS where, unlike those who are physically ill, children and young people with mental health problems are still not getting the right treatment, at the right time, in the right place.

“While this issue has become a policy priority in recent years, there is still a long way to go before there is equality for mental health in the NHS in England.”

Are the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people so unimportant that they are only worth 0.7 per cent of NHS funding? Without meaning to be in any way comical, is the Department of Health insane?

Let us not kid ourselves, mental ill health is not something that happens to ‘them’ but not to us; a read through the list of the factors that experts have identified as contributory to mental health problems reveals that Prince William is as likely to have been a victim as much as the poorest kid of North Kensington.

“Mental health problems, like physical health problems, have a complex range of causes, biological, psychological and social, which are not yet well understood,” states Emily Frith.

“Some people may be at greater risk due to underlying inherited predisposition or significant risk factors in childhood. Research by the Mental Health Foundation has identified certain risk factors that make some young people more likely to experience problems than others. These include:

- having a long-term physical illness
- having a parent who has had mental health problems
- problems with alcohol or has been in trouble with the law
- experiencing the death of someone close to them
- having parents who separate or divorce
- having been severely bullied
- having been physically or sexually abused
- living in poverty or being homeless
- experiencing discrimination, perhaps because of their race, sexuality or religion
- acting as a carer for a relative, taking on adult responsibilities
- having long-standing educational difficulties.

Let us go back to that fright-making warning from Catherine about mental ill health ending lives. Suicide, states Ms Frith’s study, is the most common cause of death for boys aged between 5 and 19, being the cause of 14 per cent of deaths in this age group, and the second most common for girls of that age at traffic accidents.

Rightly, we make our children belt-up whenever they travel with us in our cars, but we seem to be adding insufficient such safety measures for those of them suffering deeply-sadened lives.

“Recently, data has been collected on suicides for those aged under 14 for the first time. This shows that nearly 100 children aged 10 to 14 killed themselves in the UK in the past decade,” reports Ms Frith.

“Even where child and adolescent mental health problems have less immediate tragic consequences, they can still be life-limiting. People with a severe mental health problem die on average about 15-20 years earlier than people without mental illness.

“Child and adolescent mental health problems are also associated with poorer outcomes later in life, such as: poor academic attainment and an increase in economic inactivity and criminal activity.

“Young people with an emotional disorder are more likely to smoke, drink and use drugs than other children; more likely to have time off education; and are more likely to earn less money as adults or to experience unemployment.”

“They are also more likely to end up running with a bad lot, where the risk of them ending their own lives is even greater.

“Research shows the high levels of mental health problems in young people involved in gangs, with one UK study finding 34 per cent of gang members had considered suicide, and a quarter had experienced psychosis,” writes Ms Frith.

“The study found gang membership was associated with an increased risk of mental ill health even when associated demographic factors were taken into account.”

And whilst Prince George is unlikely to ever end up running with a gang, the same is not assured for other children of Kensington, especially in the north of the royal borough, where young people risk disadvantage and adversity increase the risk of developing mental health problems,” says Ms Frith.

“Children and young people from the poorest households are three times more likely to have a mental health problem than those growing up in better-off homes. Almost three quarters (75 per cent) of children in residential care experience some form of emotional and mental health problem.”

“To amplify the pain of guilt in those of us who put ourselves first at the most wrong of times, she adds: “Evidence has also linked mental health problems in boys to the absence of a father or significant male attachment figure.”

“Officially an absent Dad is not good for anyone, but Ms Frith has also identified a less obvious and possibly-surprising other factor in the epidemic of childhood depression and distress, Facebook and Twitter.”

“The Office for National Statistics data suggests a correlation, though not necessarily a causal link between the use of social media sites and those experiencing mental health problems,” she reported.

“Around 12 per cent of children who spend no time on social networking websites have symptoms of mental ill health, the figure rises to 27 per cent for those who are on the sites for three hours or more a day.

But perhaps the greatest worry of the child mental health crisis is that, due to lack of Government funds, when an illness is identified in a child or young person we are taking far too long to respond with clearly-crucial help.

“Over half of all mental ill health starts before the age of 14 years, and 75 per cent has developed by the age of 18.”

“CentreForum’s analysis finds that current service provision is patchy and highly variable in terms of access, availability and quality of mental health treatment. Many children and young people simply get no treatment at all.

“More than three quarters of GPs surveyed in 2010 said they could rarely get access to psychological therapy needed for their young patients and a headteacher survey in 2006 found that over half felt that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services were poor.

“Once a referral is accepted, young people often have to wait many months for treatment. Indeed, the average of the longest waiting times was nearly ten months between referral and the start of treatment.

“There was also significant variation in waiting times between providers. The average waiting time in Gateshead for example is five times as long as for those just down the road in Tyneside. Similarly, waits in North West London vary widely from two months in Kensington and Chelsea, to nearly six months in Brent.”

“But before Kensington and Chelsea pats itself too hard on the back for the relative ‘speed’ of its response, it should be considered that according to the NHS, ‘almost 8,000 children and young people in the royal borough are likely to be in need of mental health information, advice and support.’

“Now that some of that support is coming from the three most popular royal residents of the borough, the young people of Kensington and Chelsea will get a better chance of beating the appalling affliction of mental ill health.”

And if Health Minister Jeremy Hunt and Prime Minister Theresa May heed Catherine’s call for much more to be done to combat this plainly-neglected crisis, children who deserve better may smile again.
Sadie Frost admits that getting back on the stage after a four-year break is “nerve wracking”, as she enters the final phase of rehearsals for her portrayal of the legendary burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee in a new play, *Nicky Sweetland*.

The actress and fashion designer is performing the role as part of a new production written by Zoe Lewis, entitled Britten in Brooklyn, which opens later this month at Wilton’s Music Hall.

The 51-year-old is hoping she can remember her stagecraft after a break from the theatre. “It’s quite nerve-wracking to tell you the truth, because it’s very fast and it really is quite a whirlwind play. Of course every time you do something like this you think, oh my God, am I going to fall to pieces? Am I going to remember my lines? We’ve only got a couple more weeks to rehearse, so we are in that scary time when we’re trying to piece things together, but we need a lot more work,” Sadie said.

The mother of four last took the stage in another play by Lewis called Touched...Like a Virgin back in 2012 at the Soho Theatre, in which she played a woman stuck in a modern crisis, single, with no kids and a clock ticking.

Sadie said: “You do feel there’s a responsibility to get her charisma and her energy and I think that’s the hardest thing.”

The show, also features Poldark’s Ruby Bentall as Carson McCullers and Plebs actor Ryan Sampson as Britten.

Britten in Brooklyn will run at Wilton’s Music Hall from August 31 to September 30.

For more information go to wiltons.org.uk.

Sadie Frost as Gypsy Rose Lee with Ruby Bentall (Carson McCullers), David Burnett (John Dunne), John Hollingworth (WH Auden) and Ryan Sampson (Benjamin Britten)

Peter Pan goes wrong at Christmas

THERE’S going to be a big helping of mayhem on our screens this Christmas as Mischief Theatre brings its smash hit play, Peter Pan Goes Wrong, to the BBC.

As part of its commitment to community theatre, the BBC has allowed The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society, an amateur dramatics group, to put on a show as part of their festive programming. But can they pull it off?

Filmed in front of a live West End audience watching as Peter Pan flies through the air, Captain Hook and his pirates are set adrift in the lagoon, and Tinkerbell is due to light up the stage in a stunning electrical costume... what could possibly go wrong?

With their trademark comic mayhem expect hilarious stunts, chaos, technical hitches, flying mishaps and cast disputes on the way to Neverland with hilarious and disastrous results.

Peter Pan Goes Wrong is co-written by Mischief Theatre company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, creators of the award-winning stage comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong*.

Both *Goes Wrong* productions are renowned for their highly physical comedy and slapstick delivered with split-second timing.

Mischief Theatre was founded in 2008 by Henry Lewis and Dave Hearn, graduates of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and began as an improvised comedy group.

This time the actress finds herself in 1940s New York amidst a plethora of intellectuals sitting through the propaganda of the Second World War.

Sadie said: “It’s very snappy, it’s very fast and my brain is fried just trying to grasp it. I’m trying to juggle a hundred things at the same time just so that I can really pull it all together.”

Britten in Brooklyn charts the bohemian lifestyle of Benjamin Britten, WH Auden, Carson McCullers and Gypsy Rose Lee in the artistic community at 7 Midgagh Street, as World War II becomes a reality in a story based on real life events.

Frost plays the vaudeville stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, whose memoirs were made into the stage musical and film Gypsy. Even after committing to scrupulous research of both the era and the legendary performer, Sadie feels there is still a certain pressure attached to the portrayal of such a famous star.

“She is this kind of iconic character, quite mystical” Sadie said: “You do feel there’s a responsibility to get her charisma and her energy and I think that’s the hardest thing.”

The show, also features Poldark’s Ruby Bentall as Carson McCullers and Plebs actor Ryan Sampson as Britten.

Britten in Brooklyn will run at Wilton’s Music Hall from August 31 to September 30.

For more information go to wiltons.org.uk.

Shane Allen, controller of comedy commissioning commented: “This word of mouth phenomenon is an absolute riot which plays to all ages and hits the sweet spot for the BBC One family audience.”

Mischief Theatre added: “We are delighted to be bringing the mishaps of The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’s production of Peter Pan Goes Wrong to BBC One this Christmas. We are quite staggered at the success of the simply disastrous stage show that this company keeps pulling off and hope that their attempt at television doesn’t ruin the nation’s festive cheer!”

SADIE Frost admits that getting back on the stage after a four-year break is “nerve wracking”, as she enters the final phase of rehearsals for her portrayal of the legendary burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee in a new play, *Nicky Sweetland*.

The actress and fashion designer is performing the role as part of a new production written by Zoe Lewis, entitled Britten in Brooklyn, which opens later this month at Wilton’s Music Hall.

The 51-year-old is hoping she can remember her stagecraft after a break from the theatre. “It’s quite nerve-wracking to tell you the truth, because it’s very fast and it really is quite a whirlwind play. Of course every time you do something like this you think, oh my God, am I going to fall to pieces? Am I going to remember my lines? We’ve only got a couple more weeks to rehearse, so we are in that scary time when we’re trying to piece things together, but we need a lot more work,” Sadie said.

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Sadie Frost as Gypsy Rose Lee with Ruby Bentall (Carson McCullers), David Burnett (John Dunne), John Hollingworth (WH Auden) and Ryan Sampson (Benjamin Britten)
Talk of the town

Groundhog Day
The Old Vic

We've all had one of those days we'd rather forget, but what if we had to continually revisit all of the ghastly details of the horrific 24 hours over and over again?

That's the premise of the new musical, Groundhog Day, which opened at the Old Vic this week and which looks set to become another smash hit for comedian Tim Minchin, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Minchin enjoyed global success with his previous musical theatre composition and the Matilda the Musical songwriter has, once again, teamed up with the award-winning creative team of Matthew Warchus and Peter Darling to devise a truly astonishing theatrical masterpiece.

Based on the 1993 film, the story follows Phil Connors, a cynical TV weatherman, who exhibits tremendous disdain for his latest meteorological gig.

"There's nothing more depressing than small-town USA" is his arrogant wakening gambit as he embarks on coverage of the annual Groundhog Day festival in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

After a day of sneering and general ridicule, he finds the very next day is a replay of the same events and so starts a perpetual loop

of doom, which sees the soulless scoundrel eventually find his humanity.

With a book by Danny Rubin, who scripted the original film, this musical comedy feels both traditional and yet fresh, while the technically fast paced first act will leave you with white knuckles, as you hang on to your seat with excitement. The action flies by day after day and the self-proclaimed 'talent' finds himself continually back in a lonely single bed wakening to the mundane.

Minchin's witty lyrics and varied score perfectly capture the differences between the stifling existence of small town living in comparison to the ego-centric treadmill of city life. With Warchus' vivid direction the pair wrap it all up in a character, eventually helping the audience to understand the positives of both lifestyles.

Andy Karl's Phil is infinitely more lovable than Bill Murray's whiny unattractive film portrayal, allowing the audience to gain some sympathy for the self-absorbed media cad.

Carlys Peer is ambrosial as the wholesome Rita and the hard working ensemble perform Peter Darling's intricate choreography with energy and verve, making the repeated sequences curiously compelling.

Tim Minchin, along with Broadway's Lin Manuel Miranda, has helped to initiate the resurgence of musicals over recent years and this utterly awesome offering will no doubt become another classic, which will go down in theatre history.

Groundhog Day is running at The Old Vic until September 17. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website oldvictheatre.com.

The cast of Scooby Do Live

Scooby Dooby Do what have they done to you?

Generations of television viewers have grown up believing that most scary ghosts are simply creepy janitors in audaciously good masks, thanks to a world famous Great Dane and his teenage detective
team.

As a Scooby Doo devotee and lover of all things musical theatre, I therefore couldn't wait to pop along to the London Palladium to witness the Musical Mysteries live action stage show, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Developed from the original cartoon, the brand-new family musical sees the Mystery Inc. Gang unite to solve another riddle and this time in their local theatre, which is being haunted by a hair-brained ghost.

With the auditorium filled with the chirping of energetic children the cast take to the cavernous stage and bring with them exuberance and enthusiasm as they attempt to embody the well-loved characters.

This adaptation, however, has completely misunderstood the appeal of Mystery Inc. and has turned the ultra cool band of teens into a type of bad pre-school holiday camp entertainment.

Much of the show involves talking slowly to the audience and trying to get the 'kids' to stand up and dance, which I'm sure, is just fine if you are five, but for anyone else, the show offers nothing.

They have missed out on making a universally appealing show with something for everyone, deciding instead to just focus on the tiny tots, which makes for a dull afternoon.

The cast has worked hard and some of the choreography is fun, but the music is forgettable and the scene changes need some serious work.

If you're not a fan of Scooby Doo I'm sure this is a show your children will enjoy and you can endure, however lovers of the Great Dane might want to stay away.
Lobster, avocado and crispy bacon
Serves 4

I always have a can or packet of Peter's Yard rye crispbreads in my larder. They make a great and simple platform for open sandwiches. If you don’t want to splash out on lobster, you can use good quality prawns or even crab. But one lobster will be enough for four sandwiches - and you can also later make a good quantity of bisque from the shell.

Ingredients
2 small ripe avocados
1/2tbsp mayonnaise
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
The juice of 1 small lemon
1 lobster, 500-600g, cooked and removed from the shell
4 rashers of streaky bacon, grilled until really crispy
4 rye crackers or crispbreads
1tbsp olive or rapeseed oil
A handful of toasted coconut flakes
A few sprigs of Italian parsley

Method

Peel and stone both of the avocados. Peel and cut the lobster tail into four lengthways, and cut each slice that it looks like four claws. Chop the bacon as finely as possible.

Cut the second avocado into slices. To serve, spread the crushed avocado on the crispbreads then arrange the sliced avocado on top with the lobster, placing the halved lobster claws on top. Mix the remaining lemon juice with the oil, season, then spoon a little on top together with a scattering of bacon and herbs.

Wine & dine

MARK HIX’S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Lobster, avocado and crispy bacon
Serves 4

We cook on so many levels, not just to feed ourselves,” says Georgie Hayden, taking a sip of tea.

As part of Jamie Oliver’s “Food Team”, the bubbly brown-eyed Londoner cooks for a living, dreaming up and styling recipes for Oliver’s books, magazine and TV shows. But she also cooked her way through a traumatic maternity leave, after her son Archie died just before birth two years ago.

“I can’t remember what happened for the first few months. I think we must have lived off food from nice people. I don’t think I cooked for a while. I really scared myself. I thought, I just don’t care, I actually don’t care about food or anything,” she recalls.

“You feel really vulnerable and I didn’t want to go out ... then it sort of went full circle.”

Feeling she lost her love of food, Hayden gathered all her cookbooks together - including Honey & Co’s book, the Middle Eastern cafe where we meet today - and started thinking about food for her and husband Pete.

“A few months after calming down I decided to start again and to sit down and make a weekly meal plan. Then I would drive myself to the supermarket and do the shop, and that’s actually what got me out again - having a purpose got me back into doing something and being a bit more confident.”

“The familiarity and routine of cooking was like therapy and slowly eased Hayden, 34, through her bereavement, while the meal plans gave her a sense of control.

“In those early days, I was convinced Pete was going to die too. I was absolutely terrified. I thought, ‘If I can feed us, Pete was going to die too.’ I was absolutely terrified. I thought, ‘If I can feed us really nice food, at least I know we’re OK.’”

What started out as a simple project has been gently nurtured into Hayden’s first cookbook, Stirring Slowly: Recipes To Revive, Rest and Revive. With chapter titles such as ‘A Sunny Start To The Day’, ‘Bowl Food’, ‘Bake Yourself Better’, it’s a book to inspire place to be.”

And, she says, there’s nothing wrong with making life easy for yourself.

“There are certain books and people out there that make you think, I should be doing this, I should be doing that. ‘Something can be quick, it can be delicious and it can still be OK for you - an omelette is great. We definitely have a lot of breakfast for dinner!”

Try Georgina Hayden’s roasted cauliflower and coconut soup

2 onions
600g cauliflower
4 garlic cloves
1tsp (heaped) ground cinnamon
1tsp (heaped) ras el hanout (in the spice section at most supermarkets)
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
Olive oil
A handful of unsweetened coconut flakes (available from Sainsbury’s)
1 x 400ml tin of reduced-fat coconut milk
600ml vegetable stock
2tbsp chilli oil

Preheat your oven to 180C/gas 4. Peel and cut the onions into lcm wedges and trim then cut the cauliflower into even-sized florets. If it has the leaves on, don’t cut them off, roast those too. Place it all in a roasting tray with the unpeeled garlic cloves and sprinkle with the cinnamon and ras el hanout. Season well, and drizzle everything with a good glug of olive oil. Toss it all together and pop into the oven for 25-30 minutes, until cooked through and a little charred.

Scatter the coconut flakes onto a small tray and pop into the oven for the last five minutes to toast - they should only need three to four minutes. When the veg are ready, remove the garlic cloves and scrape all the veg into a large saucepan. Squeeze the garlic out of its skins and add them too. Pour in the coconut milk, add the stock and gently bring to the boil.

Reduce the heat a little and simmer for five minutes, then remove from heat. Using a stick blender, blitz the soup until creamy and smooth, adding a splash more water if it is too thick. Taste and adjust the seasoning, and serve topped with toasted coconut flakes and a drizzle of chilli oil.

Hayden’s already planning her next cookbook - full of Cypriot food - but for now, she’s pleased to have created a legacy for Archie with her first one.

“It felt wrong to go through something so enormous and painful and to carry on living as normal. I thought, ‘He needs to have some impact on my life, in a good way’. You want to honour your child and make sure people know about these things.

‘As time goes by it’s more gentle. It’s still incredibly difficult, but we can also find joy in things now. I can look at his picture and not cry, and look at his things and find comfort in them.’”
ILL Wyman’s 80th birthday party is gearing up to be the party to be in October as now Steve Davis has signed up for the bash.

The former Led Zeppelin frontman is joining master guitarist Mark Knopfler and Simply Red’s Mick Hucknall to perform in Bill’s supergroup at The O2 on October 28 for the gig that will be the centrepiece of this year’s BluesFest.

And organisers are heavily hinting that there will be big-star surprises on the night, fueling rumours that Keith Richards, Ron Wood, Charlie Watts and, who knows, perhaps even Sir Michael Philip Jagger himself, will join their old Rolling Stones mate as he enters his ninth decade.

Plant, widely regarded as one of the greatest rock and roll singers of all time, will join Bill for this one-time-only performance will see him the superstar bassist lead his band in performances of the music that has influenced him throughout his life.

Other performances confirmed to take place across the Bluesfest weekend include double bills from Van Morrison and Jeff Beck, Walter Trout and The Temperance Movement and Mary J Blige & Maxwell, as well as the first London show in six years from Paul Rodgers’ rock supergroup Bad Company.

BluesFest director Leo Green said: “This Bill Wyman concert is shaping up to be one of the gigs of the year. The addition of Robert Plant to an already monumental line-up is a clear indicator of the vast influence this incredible musician has had on the music world and we’re delighted that he’s chosen to celebrate this milestone birthday with us – who knows who else might turn up on the night to jump up on stage.”

Friday, 28th October:
- The O2 Arena: Mary J. Blige & Maxwell
- Indigo2 at The O2: Bill Wyman Birthday Gala featuring Robert Plant, Mark Knopfler, Imelda May and Mick Hucknall
- Brooklyn Bowl: Darrel Higham, JD & The Straight Shot, Big Boy Bloater
- Saturday, 29th October:
- The O2 Arena: Van Morrison & Jeff Beck
- Indigo2 at The O2: Walter Trout and The Temperance Movement
- BluesFest 2016 takes place at The O2 from October 28th - 30th. Tickets are available from www.livenation.co.uk

The Bill Wyman 80th birthday supergroup will include, from the top, Bill Wyman, Mark Knopfler, Mick Hucknall and Robert Plant.

WIN TICKETS

The resurrection of the Ginger Magician

WITH over 300 century breaks to his name and more than £5 million pocketed in prize money, it doesn’t take a snooker genius to work out that art of potting balls.

But you may be more surprised to discover that after stepping back from the baize earlier this year, ‘the Nugget’ has turned his bridge hand to a new art form - dance music.

The six-time world snooker champion, who was both admired and despised for his plain personality and relentless professionalism during a 38-year playing career, appears to have finally dropped the dour demeanour.

He now goes by the name of DJ Thundermuscle and has been appearing in clubs all over the capital alongside experimental musician Kavus Torabi.

The unlikely story has turned into a fairytale for the London-born potter, who has bagged slots at some of the city’s top venues in recent months.

He even brought his brand of leftfield dance music to the world’s biggest party, Glastonbury Festival, in June. A far cry from the Romford snooker halls where he crafted his game as a teenager.

So how did the steel-eyed grinder on the baize become the fast-and-loose party animal of today, careering round the club circuit?

“People do like to move in other circles,” Davis said in a recent interview with The Independent.

“I don’t know any other snooker players who are really into music. As far as I know there’s no crossovers between music snooker.”

Having turned 59 last week, Davis is in the frame for an artistic rebirth with his self-styled brand of ‘rocking opposition’ and ‘avant progressive’.

Of course, it’s not the Nugget’s first foray into the charts. He reached number seven alongside his pals in 1986 with the unstoppable ‘Snooker Loopy’.

But his new venture is a much more professional operation. While Davis isn’t mixing his own music, he spins disc after disc plugged from a vintage collection built up over many years.

It’s a misconception that he’s become a DJ overnight, though. The man once known as the Ginger Magician has actually manned the decks on his own community radio show for a decade and began performing live as his professional career wound down.

He met fellow DJ Kavus Torabi a few years ago and now presents a weekly radio show with him on Phoenix FM. Keen listeners will know that Davis’ eclectic tastes range from 70s prog all the way through to leftfield electronics and IDM (intelligent dance music).

The 28-time ranking event winner may never live down his legacy as a plodding and pedantic potter. But as he nears his 60th year he is doing his utmost to craft a new cult presence as the ‘Snooker Star DJ’.

Steve Davis and Kavus Torabi present a two-hour show on Phoenix FM every Monday between 10pm and midnight.

THC feelgood show of the year, The Magic of Motown, is coming to west London and we’ve got a pair of tickets to be won by one lucky reader.

Britain’s biggest smash-hit spectacular is embarking on its 10th birthday nationwide tour with an all-new, all-star show, featuring the music of the Four Tops, Supremes, Temptations, The Jackson 5, Isley Brothers, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie and many more.

The acclaimed show, which will be performed at The Richmond Theatre on Sunday November 6, is packed with five-star performances reviving more than 36 back-to-back massive, classic hits with all the dazzling dance moves, glittering costume changes and superb musicianship of the original artists.

The Magic of Motown authentically recreates the harmonies, slick moves and stylish looks that were the making of this golden era of music and this lavish production revives all-time-favourites such as: Stop in the Name of Love, Signed Sealed Delivered I’m Yours, My Guy, What Becomes of the Broken Hearted, I Heard It Through the Grapevine, Endless Love, All Night Long, Heatwave, I’m Coming Out, Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Get Ready, Ain’t Too Proud to Beg, My Girl, I Want You Back, I’ll Be There, Blame it on the Boogie and Dancing in the Street.

Join the party as this scintillating show also celebrates the 50th anniversary of chart-topping single Reach Out I’ll Be There. In 1966 The Four Tops’ signature tune was a No1 hit both sides of the Atlantic. We have teamed up with EasyTheatres for the chance to win a pair of tickets to go The Richmond Theatre and meet the cast before they perform live on stage.

For your chance to win, simply answer this simple question: in which American city was the Motown label based? Submit your answer and contact details to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Publication T&C apply. The winner will be contacted when the competition is drawn at the end of September.

Battersea’s Annual Reunion and Fun Day 2016

Sunday 4 September
11am – 4.30pm
Battersea Park, SW8

Bring your best friend and enjoy a fun-filled day for all the family including dog shows and games, a bouncy castle, food, drinks, stalls and much more.

For further information visit battersea.org.uk/AnnualReunion
The Dome, Tufnell Park  
Thursday September 1

‘Folk punk’ singer-songwriter and comic book artist famous
the game with 1979
record in the genre to make
Delight. The track made
DIY garage band style. A
history by becoming the first
catalogue that stretches to over
the top 40 on the US Billboard
chart. 30 years on and with a
name in the late 1990s.

It is, Ross explains, “what we do naturally” -
but not necessarily a continuation of the
Morcheeba sound. It felt only right, therefore,
to give it a new identity.
The duo, who made London their home
after moving from Kent as a young band,
will bring their unique brand of electronic
back to the capital this autumn in
support of the album’s release.
It’s not the first time either has stepped
outside the safety of their familiar musical
surrounds though, having each released
solo projects before.

For a while they toyed with the idea of mak-
ing an ‘unplugged’ record but settled on some-
thing altogether more ambitious.
“We rejected modern recording techniques where you
can literally edit the life out of everything,” Ross adds.
“Then it completely drains the soul.”

So they made most of the record at their homes - much
as they had before the big budget days of Morcheeba.
And even when they say they keep things “in the family”,
they’re not exaggerating. The other main musicians
to play significant roles on the album were Skye’s husband Steve (vocals), her 18-year-old son Jaega (drums), Ross’s wife Amanda (backing vocals) and Richard Milner, Morcheeba’s keyboard player for the last five years. “One of us just needs to adopt Richard,” Skye jokes. “Then everybody in the band will be related!”

What emerged from the recording sessions recalls the
spirit of Morcheeba’s platinum-selling Big Calm album,
where boasting a revived spirit and sense of experience
that comes with two decades of making music.

“It was all very organic and I was able to push myself
vocally,” says Skye. “Everything Ross sent inspired a
melody and lyric almost immediately - whether it was a
heavy fuzz guitar riff or intricate finger-picking on an
acoustic. I’ve always got a real buzz from Ross’s playing:
“It’s an absolute joy performing live so it was great to be able to
capture that energy on record.”

Ross has long been a fan of leftfield acts
such as Dinosaur Jr And Aphex Twin. The
band’s new music, he says, chimes with those inspira-
tions as well as their own music from the early days of
Morcheeba.

“We could bring in anything: minimal beats, country
music, blues, whatever we wanted. It was a pretty blank
canvas, and I feel like this record has gone back to that.”

Ultimately, SKYE / ROSS doesn’t signify the end of
Morcheeba.
Instead, it is a new chapter for two musicians who have represented the public face of
their band to exploit the musical relationships that has
developed between them outside the studio on stages
around the world.

“Our intentions are really aligned,” Ross concludes.
“And once you have that synchronicity with someone, ever-
thing else falls into place.”

The album SKYE / ROSS will be released on September 2.

Russell Grant

From Top Hat to Shall We Dance, the show is being billed as the per-
fect cocktail of all things fabulous.
And as one of the stars of the
BBC’s Strictly Come Dancing, Grant
is well placed to orchestrate pro-
cedings when the show kicks off in
November.

The loveable TV personality has
been performing on stage since the
age of 10 and appeared in several
dramas and sitcoms before making
his West End debut as Slogger
Williams in the musical version of
Tom Brown’s Schooldays.
It was not until 2011, however,
that Grant’s professional dream came true - learning how to twirl on the
TV dance contest.

The Golden Age of Dance comes to the London Theatre Royal in
Drury Lane on November 13. Tickets are priced between £19.50 and £61.50.
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**Non-Executive Director**

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Approximately 6 hours per week, paid at £90 an hour; 3 year term of office

South East London Doctors co-operative (SELDOC) is a GP cooperative providing out of hours GP services in South East London & Sutton. We are patient focused and aim to achieve excellence in the quality of care we provide to our population.

You will need to provide independent advice, and to challenge and support the organisation through the Board and its committees, to shape how services are delivered, whilst ensuring compliance with the requirements set nationally for Out of Hours organisations and locally by commissioners, and the organisation’s duty to GP Practice Members set out in the Articles of Association.

You will need to demonstrate an understanding of the issues facing health care services, coupled with extensive experience gained working at a senior/Board level in relevant organisations, such as public bodies or the voluntary sector.

Applicants must live in Lambeth, Southwark or Lewisham. Holders of other NHS Non-executive directorships and NHS employees are not eligible to apply.

How to apply:

Please send your CV and covering by email with subject heading 'Non-Executive Director’ to Sandra Ketter, HR Manager sandra.ketter@nhs.net.

For additional information regarding this post or an informal visit, please contact Human Resources seldochr@nhs.net 0208 299 2619.

The closing date for applications is 9th September 2016 at 18:00.

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**Part-time Cleaner**

17.5 hours per week
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To apply, please e-mail your CV and covering letter to recruitment@rmg.co.uk or post them to Human Resources, National Maritime Museum, Park Row, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF.

Closing date: 28th August 2016
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
1 Hamlet Court Hammersmith Gardens London W6 0SY

2016/03350/FUL
Replacement of an existing single glazed side door and side windows at lower ground floor level to the front entrance
3 Alderville Road London SW6 3RP

2016/03313/FUL
Erection of a roof rear extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of French doors to the side of the rear garden; associated landscaping.

Bus Shelter Outside M & M Park London

2016/03511/ADV
Display of a freestanding temporary hoarding of double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.37m (height) x 1.34m (width) x 0.35m (depth).

The Curtains Up 28A Comeragh Road London W14 9HR

2016/03492/FUL
Part of the development (fronting Comeragh Road) as an outside seating area comprising 8 chairs and 4 tables, in connection with the existing Public House between the hours of 08.00 and 22.00.

5 Addison Bridge Place London W14 8XP

2016/03495/FUL
Demolition of existing single storey rear extension, to the side of the rear existing back addition of the main dwellinghouse; installation of a new extension to the rear side of the boundary wall.

56 Hartwoods Road London W12 9NF

2016/03727/FUL
Erection of dormer windows to replace existing on the front and rear roofsleeps; conversion of existing dormer windows to a habitable room; formation of roof level space to form lightwells; in connection with the creation of a new access to the rear garden.

Bus Shelter South Of Fulham Broadway London SW6 3GH

2016/03512/ADV
Display of a freestanding temporary hoarding of double illuminated side led screen on the public highway measuring 2.37m (height) x 1.34m (width) x 0.35m (depth).

The Penthouse Epirus Mansions Epirus Road London SW6 7UJ

2016/03671/FUL
Increase the height of the pitch roof to the front and rear elevations at roof level and erection of a rear extension at second floor level around the flat roof at roof level in connection with its use as a terrace.

Flat D Second Floor 13 Ceverdale Road London W12 6JJ

2016/03684/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a 1700mm high glazed oblong glass window with new double glazed patio doors; formation of roof level space to form lightwells; in connection with the approved planning permission ref: 2015/01811/FUL granted 22nd November 2015.

Erection of additional drawings to include the installation of 2no French doors at first floor level, formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level; erection of 2no Juliet balconies at first floor level, formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level on units 2 and 3. 15 Brackenburies Gardens London W6 0EP

2016/03664/FUL
Erection of a single story extension to side of main building at second floor level.

Hammett Embankment Site Known as ‘Fulham Reach’ Land Boundary By Chancellors Road, Distillery Road And Winslow Road, Including Sections Of Thames Path, Thame Street And Bus Shelter Outside

2016/03789/VAR
Variation of wording of condition 3 for Unit 14, Building G which include the time the furniture is removed and stored from the terrace (By 00:00 of each day at the table and chairs will be removed and stored within the existing premises) of planning permission ref: 2016/00472/OUT granted 13th April 2016.

M&S White City Site 54 Wood Lane London W12 7RQ

2016/03650/RES
Submission of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the Decking over the Central Line cutting (Phase 1B) in connection with planning permission ref: 2016/05724/OUT for the redevelopment of the former M&S Warehouse granted 16th December 2015.

Flat C Second Floor 7 Brackenbury Road London W6 0BE

2016/03453/FUL
Erection of a hip to gable roof extension involving an increase in the rear of the building by 400m², installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a rear roof extension.

49 Atalanta Street London SW6 6TU

2016/03929/FUL
Retention of French doors and a balcony at first floor level, and French doors at ground floor level, all additions will be made to the external end of the north facing elevation towards the cemetery.

58 Ceylon Road London W14 4GP

2016/03673/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension including raising of the existing ground floor level to form lightwells; installation of a 1100mm high glass balustrade to the front elevation at roof level, in connection with the erection of a roof terrace.

Car Park Adjacent To 17 - 18 Southcombe Street London W6

2016/03732/FUL
Installation of automated entrance gates and railings on top of existing boundary wall with the site to enclose the car park.

56 and 64 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3HR

2016/03623/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the rear elevation by 800m² to both properties.

King Street Cloisters Clifton Walk London W6 0GY

2016/03609/FUL
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/01811/FUL granted 22nd November 2015.

Amendments to the approved drawings to include the installation of 2no French doors at first floor level, formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level, removal of 2no Juliet balconies at first floor level, formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level on units 2 and 3. 15 Brackenburies Gardens London W6 0EP

2016/03664/FUL
Erection of a single story extension to side of main building at second floor level.

Hammett Embankment Site Known as ‘Fulham Reach’ Land Boundary By Chancellors Road, Distillery Road And Winslow Road, Including Sections Of Thames Path, Thame Street And Bus Shelter Outside

2016/03789/VAR
Variation of wording of condition 3 for Unit 14, Building G which include the time the furniture is removed and stored from the terrace (By 00:00 of each day at the table and chairs will be removed and stored within the existing premises) of planning permission ref: 2016/00472/OUT granted 13th April 2016.

M&S White City Site 54 Wood Lane London W12 7RQ

2016/03748/ADV
Display of non-illuminated LED panels with a maximum height (9.12m) x length (16.68m) x width (9.96m) (Temporary period annually).

Southern Terrace Westfield Shopping Centre Ariel Way London W6 0AT

2016/03471/ADV
I give notice that Mr Westfield Europe Ltd is applying to HAMMERSHAM & FULLHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Display of internally illuminated LED digital screens to the eastern, northern, southern and western elevations of the Christmas Grotto for a temporary period annually.

29 Beltran Road London SW6 3AL

2016/03688/FUL
I give notice that Mr Nicholas Murray is applying to HAMMERSHAM & FULLHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Minor material amendment to Planning Permission reference: 2015/01796/FUL offered on Appeal APP/H5390/W/15/3131582 granted 3rd November 2015 for the erection of 2no self contained residential flats, in connection with the erection of a two bedroom flat at basement level, including an extension to the side of back addition at basement level, external stairs from sunken garden level to upper garden level and splitting the existing garden; alterations to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/01811/FUL granted 22nd November 2015.

Amendments include a deeper basement, installation of a basement flat and a flat roof extension to the rear elevation at basement level.

29 - 33 North End Road London W14 9NU

2016/03540/FUL
I give notice that Mr Jeremy Dicks is applying to HAMMERSHAM & FULLHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of three existing storey building at the corner of North End Road and Bramble Road, erection of a replacement mixed use building comprising: Retail use (Class A1) at ground floor level (with ancillary service and welfare areas to the rear and at basement level); 2no 2nd floor level self contained residential flats at first, second and third floor levels including communal and communal self-contained residential flats over 89-90 Lillie Road.

The proposal constitutes a major development. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 20th September 2016.

See below for ways of commenting on an application.

Signed: NIGEL PALLACE Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSHAM & FULLHAM COUNCIL

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

Click the on the 'plan number' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plannings@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of using applications at our office or online.

RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSHAM TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or send them to the main office.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENTS HALL KING STREET

2016/03692/FUL
I give notice that Mr Nicholas Murray is applying to HAMMERSHAM & FULLHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Minor material amendment to Planning Permission reference: 2015/01796/FUL offered on Appeal APP/H5390/W/15/3131582 granted 3rd November 2015 for the erection of 2no self contained residential flats, in connection with the erection of a two bedroom flat at basement level, including an extension to the side of back addition at basement level,
Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

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

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable BT works to take place on A302 Grosvenor Place.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering or exiting Chapel Street and Chester Street at their junctions with Grosvenor Place.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

5. At such times as the prohibitions are in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs. [For Chapel Street] via Chester Street, Grosvenor Place, Hallkin Street, Belgrave Square onto normal route of travel. [For Chester Street] via Wilton Street, Grosvenor Place, Chapel Street, Upper Belgrave Street onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE GLA ROADS (LONDON BOROUGHS OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULLHAM, LEWISHAM, MERTON, WANDSWORTHS, ROYAL BOROUGHS OF GREENWICH, KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA AND CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 23rd August 2016 it made the above named Orders, under sections 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Orders will come into force on 3rd September 2016.

2. The general effect of the Orders will be to simplify on-street anomalies.

3. The roads that will be affected by the Orders are in the Schedules to the Order.

4. Copies of the Orders and a statement of Transport for London’s reason for the proposal can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
   (1) Transport for London
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

To advertise in the services section please contact
020 8768 4920/4922
MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A5 GLA ROAD (EDGWARE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

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

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable signal modernisation works to take place on A5 Edgware Road.

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

1) Turning left into Aberdeen Place at its junction with A5 Edgware Road;
2) Entering or exiting Bloomingfield Road at its junction with A5 Edgware Road.

The Order also authorises the one way operation on Aberdeen place to make it two way operational.
The Order will be effective at times from 12.01 AM on the 5th September 2016 until 1:59AM on the 5th November 2016 if the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

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

At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: (for banned left turn into Aberdeen Place from Edgware Road) Orchardstreet, Lynx Place onto normal route of travel; (for vehicles wishing to enter Bloomingfield Road from Edgware Road) Plada Vale, Clifton Road, Maida Vale, Clifton Road, Orchardson Street, Lyons Street, Randolph Avenue onto normal route of travel and vice versa.

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A201 GLA ROAD (FARRINGTON STREET, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1), (5), (11) and (15)(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is satisfied that these works will last in excess of 18 months for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable pedestrian crossing upgrade works to take place on A201 Grosvenor Place.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering Grosvenor Crescent at its junction with A201 Grosvenor Place.

The Order will be effective at certain times from 12.01 AM on the 1st September 2016 until the works have been completed. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

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

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

Mark Whittaker
Head of Operations, Road Space Management Directorate Transport for London Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A302 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER (NO.2) 2016

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

2. The purpose of the Order is to enable pedestrian crossing upgrade works to take place on A302 Grosvenor Place.

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering Grosvenor Crescent at its junction with A302 Grosvenor Place.

The Order will be effective at certain times from 8.00 AM on the 12th September 2016 until the 1st November 2016 if the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

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

At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, Wilton Crescent, Belgrave Square onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

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

MAYOR OF LONDON
The London Weekly News is a weekly publication that offers various classified categories, including accounts and book-keeping, domestic appliances, gardening products, furniture, and home services. The classifieds cover a range of items such as articles for sale, large selection of chairs, collectors items, and more. Additionally, the newspaper includes sections for home services like building, roofing, guttering, painting, and decorating. The London Weekly News is known for its diverse range of classified ads, offering a platform for individuals and businesses to advertise their products or services. The newspaper's free form allows advertisers to classify their items under various headings, making it easier for readers to find specific categories they are interested in. The classifieds section is updated regularly, ensuring that readers can find the latest offerings and make informed choices. Whether you are looking to buy or sell items, or you need professional services for your home or business, the London Weekly News is a valuable resource for connecting with potential buyers and sellers in the local community.
Northfields are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £255,000 for 21 Mackenzie Close, White City W12 7LZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Northfields, 127 Askew Road, W12 9AU 020 8740 8833 before exchange of contracts.
Davies ton carries Surrey into final

OPENER Steve Davies hit 104 off 116 balls as Surrey reached the Royal London One-Day Cup final with a 19-run semi-final win over Yorkshire at Headingley on Sunday.

Despite losing Dominic Sib- ley and Kumar Sangakkara very early and slumping to 8-2 inside the first three overs, the visitors recovered to post 255-7 after Davies and Ben Foakes (90) shared a stand of 130.

Davies, voted man-of-the-match, went on to strike a six and 10 fours after being dropped by Matthew Waite off his own bowling on 43.

Yorkshire’s hopes of a successful run-chase were severely damaged by a three-ball wicket burst at a cost of two wickets in nine balls from fast bowler Stuart Meaker, whose victims included England’s Jonny Bairstow (13) and Gary Ballance, victims included England’s score of 255-7 after Davies and Sangakkara.

The Surrey pair Tom Curran and Jade Dernbach. Surrey pair Tom Curran and Curran forced Steven Finn to fumble a full toss into the hands of Rory Burns.

With the home side still requiring 27 from the last three overs with three wickets remaining, the visitors could count on the quality thatch bowling by Surrey pair Tom Curran and Jade Dernbach.

Before the start of tomorrow’s (Wednesday) Division One match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, Middlesex’s head at the top had been cut to five points.

Middlesex and Yorkshire – emphatic winners by 365 runs over Notts last week – each have nine matches left to play. And the top two are set to clash in the final of the Royal London at Lord’s on Saturday. 20.

Ollie Rayner has signed a two-year contract with Middlesex.

The deal will keep all-round Rayner, 30, at the same side of the page until 2020.

Steve Davies powered Surrey to the one-day final Picture: Rob Newell/Digital South

New left-back tipped for the Bridge

FROM BACK PAGE

The central defender, who has spent most of his Chelsea career on loan, is not the only Russian player to have made the good start: “Everything at the moment is about confidence and if we have won two or three games then we could counter the quality thatch bowling by Surrey pair Tom Curran and Jade Dernbach.”

And what of Hazard? “In my opinion, in the past month, Eden Hazard has been amazing, one of the most impressive players in our team,” he said. “He is the player who can decide the game. He can decide every single game and we are not going to stay focused, as we know how difficult the games are after an international break.

“We deserve to be where we are but are taking it game by game, day by day.”

When the international break is over Chelsea will very well have a new left-back. The transfer window closes tomorrow (Wednesday) and Blues are expected to land Fiorentina’s £20m-rated Marcos Alonso, who played nine games for Bolton Wanderers in 2010.

The signing is an excellent strategic move. If Alonso can immediately make the left-back his own then he must mean that Cesar Azpilicueta will return to his natural position of right-back, freeing up Ivanovic to vie for a slot at centre-back.

“It’s strategic, because Blues have struggled to land a recognised top class centre-back this summer. They have so far been reluctant to open their coffers and land previous sucsessful targets Senegalese Kallou Diousi, Sweden’s Benfica defender Victor Lindelof or Juvenuts’ centre-back Leonardo Bonucci.

If none come to fruition, then Ivanovic will be key in the back and replace either John Terry or Gary Cahill.

Should this happen, then Ivanovic, who played as a centre-back in last year’s World Cup, could head back upstairs to play as a midfielder.

Several players are heading away from SW6 in season’s final stages of their contracts, but with the team in a stronger position, Chelsea are expected to join Crystal Palace, winger Juan Cuadrado is heading back to Juventus and the move for Mario Pasalic is bound for AC Milan, while striker Patrick Bamford is going to Burnley.

CHELSEA’s performance so far this season has been as impressive as their young charge. The Blues have been one of the best teams in the UK, both in terms of results and players performance. The team has managed to maintain a high level of performance throughout the season.

One thing that should be noted is the team’s ability to score goals. The Blues have scored 72 goals in 38 games, which is one of the highest goals scored by a team in the Premier League so far this season.

Chelsea are currently sitting at the top of the Premier League table, with 91 points, ahead of second-placed Manchester United by six points. The Blues have won 30 of their 38 league games, with 93 points, which is their highest ever total in a season.

Chelsea have also managed to score 92 goals in the league, which is the highest number of goals scored by a team in the Premier League so far this season. The Blues have scored at least 2 goals in 28 of their 38 league games, and have scored at least 3 goals in 12 of their games.

However, Chelsea have also conceded 38 goals in the league, which is the second highest number of goals conceded by a team in the Premier League so far this season. The Blues have conceded at least 1 goal in 30 of their 38 league games, and have conceded at least 2 goals in 18 of their games.

Chelsea have managed to keep 19 clean sheets in the league, which is the second highest number of clean sheets kept by a team in the Premier League so far this season. The Blues have kept at least 1 clean sheet in 27 of their 38 league games, and have kept at least 2 clean sheets in 12 of their games.

Chelsea have managed to win 28 of their 38 league games, which is the highest number of wins by a team in the Premier League so far this season. The Blues have won at least 1 game in 31 of their 38 league games, and have won at least 2 games in 17 of their games.

Chelsea have managed to score at least 1 goal in 31 of their 38 league games, and have scored at least 2 goals in 18 of their games.

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Chelsea have managed to score at least 1 goal in 31 of their 38 league games, and have scored at least 2 goals in 18 of their games.

Chelsea have managed to concede at least 1 goal in 30 of their 38 league games, and have concede...
Blues make flying start

Eden Hazard, seen above in action in the recent win over West Ham, has made a brilliant start to the season for Chelsea. Meanwhile, Branislav Ivanovic, above right, gives manager Antonio Conte various defensive options

SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

BY PAUL LAGAN
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ANTONIO Conte may not be admitting it, but in the back of his mind is the prospect of Chelsea going the whole league season unbeaten.

After the 3-0 hammering of Burnley on Saturday, a scoreline that could and should have been at least doubled, Chelsea go into the international break with maximum points after three Premier League games, positioned just behind early pacemakers Manchester City on goal-difference.

Blues return to league action on Sunday, September 11, when they head to South Wales to face struggling Swansea City.

Conte, 50, failed to write-off the prospect of emulating Arsenal’s ‘Invincibles’ of 2003-04, when they did not lose a single league game on their way to the title.

He said: “But now it’s important to start the new season in the right way. After a bad season like the last one it’s very difficult to think that (to go unbeaten). We must go day by day and step by step and face every game with the right intensity, concentration and focus.”

Sounds like he is giving serious thought to having a crack at achieving history – and why not. His actions on the sideline, where he kicks, gesticulates and bellows out instructions to his players, suggest that he will yield no quarter in a game and will demand the same from every member of the team.

One player who will certainly have to perform well and consistently if that record is to be achieved is Eden Hazard. With this season expected to be his last in SW6 before Real Madrid will be expected to renew their interest in the Belgian star, Hazard is determined to recapture the form of two seasons ago, when almost single-handedly he propelled Chelsea to the title.

Last season, suspect injuries and failing club morale caused him to struggle. But he regained much of his fitness and zest at the end of the season and has continued in similar vein this term.

Conte certainly knows he has someone special on his hands. He said: “Eden is a fantastic player. He has great talent and I know he’s a good guy. Also, he wants to work very hard to improve himself and I am pleased about this. I want to work with my players to improve them and put them in the best condition to exalt their talents.”

But did Conte have a word about last season and how to address the problems?

“Last season is the past,” he said. “But it’s important to keep last season in our minds because when there is a difficult situation it’s important to look back and find new strength to go forward.”

On Saturday, Hazard gave Blues a ninth minute lead with a well-executed curling shot inside the far post at the end of a penetrating run. Explaning why he replaced Hazard for the final 10 minutes of the mauling of Burnley, Conte said: “There was no injury (to Hazard). It was a sudden decision right at that moment. During the game I ask a lot of my wingers and the forwards.

“Usually after 70 or 80 minutes they are very tired and it’s the right moment to change, to put on fresh players to increase the intensity of the game again.”

Goals by Willian and substitute Victor Moses completed the battering of Burnley, following consecutive 2-1 victories at home against West Ham and at Watford.

While scoring for fun seems to be the order of the day, keeping a clean sheet at home for the first time in the league since November is something Conte is particularly happy about.

“I’m very pleased,” he said. “It’s very strange that at home (last season) we conceded in 13 games. On Saturday, I reminded my players of this. It’s important to score one more goal than the opponent but to keep the clean sheet is important for the confidence of the whole team.

“If I have to choose one way to defend, I prefer to attack,” he said. “The best way to defend is to go forward. When you stay behind for too long, with the long ball, anything can happen. But we are also improving in this aspect.”

DEFENDING is an art that Branislav Ivanovic knows all about. The Serb, 32, has played more than 350 games for Blues since coming to Stamford Bridge in a £9 million deal from Locomotive Moscow in 2006 and is well placed to analyse the impact Conte has had on the side and on the potential for this group of players.

He said of the win over Burnley: “It was a very hard game. I think we opened the game well and played well. When we scored our second goal, we focused on our defence. It was very important for us, especially to get the clean sheet because that hasn’t happened for a long time – since last November, and that’s unusual for Chelsea.

“Of course, it sometimes depends on the game. When you are not getting the results, you start to chase the game at home and that could be why we conceding goals. It’s nice to get one. It’s one part of our game where Chelsea are usually good all the time.”

Ivanovic is pragmatic and understands why Conte acts the way he does.

“He had only been here a day or so but first impressions are that he is fantastic. He brings pace, trickery and he’s got a decent football brain. For his debut, I think he was outstanding” Cahayed added.

Competition for places at Craven Cottage intensified last week following the arrival of three more recruits, including the signing of Bodurov from CD Congo to a two-year contract. As is the case with Bodurov, the fees paid are ‘ undisclosed’.

Meanwhile, midfielder Lasse Vigen Christensen has signed a one-year contract extension, keeping him with the west London club until the summer of 2018.

Whites have terminated the contract of midfielder Nicoslav Bodurov by mutual consent. The 30-year-old Bulgarian international made 11 appearances during two years with Fulham but finished last season on loan at Danish side FC Midtjylland.

After the two week break for international fixtures, Fulham will resume on Saturday, September 10 at home against Birmingham City, before hosting Bristol City in the third