Popstar: council’s policy on begging is wrong

POPSTAR Ellie Goulding has hit out at Kensington and Chelsea council’s new campaign urging people not to give money to beggars targeting the borough’s wealthy residents.

The star said she was “disappointed” to see council advertisements posted around the borough and called the campaign a “joke”. The posters say giving money to people on the streets is not the most useful way to help them – and suggests the money could be used on drugs or alcohol that could kill them.

Goulding tweeted on Thursday, September 3: “Disappointed in Chelsea borough council who appear to have started a poster campaign urging people to not give money to ‘beggars’.

“Acts of kindness from people in the form of small amounts of change are important to people who are desperate. This campaign is a joke.”

Goulding added: “If you are one of those awesome humans who gives a bit of your

BY LWN REPORTER
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CONSTRUCTION site managers throughout London are now required to replace old, polluting machinery in a world-first step to help clean up the capital’s air and reduce damaging emissions from diggers, bulldozers and related vehicles.

The Low Emission Zone for construction machinery, which came in on September 1, will complement the Mayor of London Boris Johnson’s ground-breaking efforts to reduce emissions from transport, including the introduction of an Ultra-Low Emission Zone in central London from 2020.

Under the new rules, all construction sites in the centre of London and sites building more than ten homes or larger than 1,000 square feet in Greater London will have to replace or retrofit polluting equipment which is more than 10 years old. Some exemptions will be provided where pieces of equipment are not available at the emission standards and stipulated minimum volumes required to meet demand in a construction environment as dynamic as London’s. Construction site managers are encouraged to visit nrm.london to check the rules affecting their specific pieces of equipment.

Currently, it is estimated up to 12 per cent of nitorgen oxide and 15 per cent of particulate pollution in London comes from construction and demolition activity. It is important both of these sources be dealt with together, and London is the first city in the world to impose emissions standards for construction equipment which address both pollutants.

Dealing with this issue, on top of the main challenge of transport emissions, is key to cleaning up London’s air. The new Low Emission Zone for construction machinery is expected to cut particulate and nitrogen oxide emissions by nearly 50 per cent by 2020, improving the health and wellbeing of Londoners.

To help with implementation of the scheme a new online register has been set up at nrm.london, making it easy for site managers to register all construction machinery within the London catchment area. After an initial six-month introductory period focusing on education and awareness-raising, should a site not meet the emissions standards required, its managers will be in breach of their planning requirements as imposed by the relevant borough. Penalties could include a delay to the final completion of a project which could have an implied financial cost for the company concerned.

Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Matthew Pencharz said: “Dust and fumes from construction sites are a nuisance to people who live close by but they also impact on London’s wider air quality. That’s why it’s so important for these new emission standards to come in to address the problem, which together with our efforts on transport emissions will make a significant difference to the air Londoners breathe.”

This latest measure forms part of the Mayor’s wider work to cut emissions from transport which includes the Ultra Low Emission Zone as well as the introduction of hybrid and zero-emission buses. This has helped halve the number of Londoners living in areas above nitrogen dioxide limits brought nitrogen oxide emissions down by 20 per cent and emissions of particulate matter down by 15 per cent. We are also empowering individuals and local communities to take action through the Mayor’s £20 million Air Quality Fund.

Managing Director of the Construction Plant-hire Association Colin Wood said: “We are pleased to support the Low Emission Zone for construction machinery, having worked with the Greater London Authority on its development. We are committed to working with the industry, to help them improve London’s air quality.”

Executive Director of the Environmental Industries Commission Matthew Farrow said: “Emissions from construction sites are a much bigger problem than most of us realise. With so much construction taking place across London, this initiative will help clean up construction machinery and improve the health of Londoners.

“We have worked closely with the Mayor’s advisors and other stakeholders to ensure the scheme makes use of the most effective, up-to-date environmental technology. Once the scheme has bedded in, appropriate enforcement will be vital.”

The Mayor’s efforts to improve London’s environment extend beyond just air quality. He has just celebrated his 100th pocket park, creating rejuvenated small green spaces all over London, and has invested £2 million through his Big Green Fund into improving six areas of London. 
Festival celebrates film’s new creatives

THE famous Portobello Film Festival got under way this week – celebrating its 20th year.

Created in 1996 as a re-action to the state of the British film industry, the festival was set up with the aim of providing a platform for exciting new film-makers and to this day gives daring and ground-breaking directors a chance to get their films seen.

The programme usually features around 600 new films split into numerous categories, including art, music movies, documentary and world film, screening films from different countries across the globe.

The festival hasn’t always had an easy ride and has even found itself without a cinema screen at times – but screening in parks, theatres, clubs and bars have all added to the diverse nature of the event.

With annual premières of shorts, documentaries and animations, plus lots of talks and workshops with top film directors, the Portobello Film Festival is an exciting event in any film fanatic’s diary. A festival spokesman said: “Many of our previously out-on-a-limb directors have since been recognised by the big fish in the industry.”

The festival has been dubbed ‘the wild side of Brit Film’ (Metro), ‘this pioneering film festival’ (Evening Standard), ‘the biggest celebration of independent film in Europe’ (The Independent) and ‘London’s biggest filmic free-for-all’ (Time Out).

Organisers of the event said: “That the Portobello Film Festival shows tomorrow’s films today is evident in the number of ideas first presented here that regularly crop up in the mainstream.”

Boost for cinema survival campaign

HOPES that the Odeon cinema in Kensington High Street may be saved from demolition have received a boost after it emerged last week that Prime Minister David Cameron is reported to be taking a personal interest in the outcome of the development issue.

The famous film venue closed its doors on Monday night (August 31) after showing what appeared to be its last film, and the developers’ bulldozers are reported to be due to move in later this month.

But campaigner Paul Wiffen, who handed in a petition with 25,000 names on it to the Government last week calling for the Art Deco film house to be reprieved, has told journalists that he hopes 10 Downing Street will now enter the dispute.

Mr Wiffen is reported to have said: “David Cameron is aware of the situation and keeping an eye on developments. He is considering tabling an emergency Commons debate next week.”

“Kensington MP Victoria Borwick has been instrumental in this happening.”

Any debate would have to take place this week, and before September 11, which is when the Odeon must vacate the premises.

Mr Wiffen believes the possible intervention of the PM may help the campaign but urged supporters to help keep up the pressure.

He told getwestlondon.co.uk: “We have to keep pushing to turn his [Mr Cameron’s] contemplation into resolution. So we are asking everyone to keep signing the petition and sharing it. The petition is still growing, and there is now hope, but we have to keep the pressure on the petition.”

Among those to sign the petition are film actors Benedict Cumberbatch and Sir Ian McKellen, and rock stars Brian May and Jimmy Page. 

Pop singer calls for compassion over anti-begging policy

FROM PAGE 1

time to someone you can see is desperate keep doing so, you are wonderful.”

She later tweeted: “Please don’t let the ignorance of media affect your inherent compassion and kindness towards other human beings.”

Council leader Nicholas Paget-Brown has defended the thinking behind the campaign.

Writing in the Kensington & Chelsea News last month, he said: “The fact is that begging is a pretty big issue here in the borough. We’re a lucrative patch and typically you will find people begging on Kensington High Street, King’s Road, Gloucester Road, Knightbridge and South Kensington (Exhibition Road).

“Many will say they want money for food or for accommodation for the night but all the experience of the council’s Street Population Outreach Team, the local police and many charities that work with the homeless is that a high percentage of those begging use the money to fund their drug and alcohol habits and already have a roof over their head.”

Councillor Paget-Brown added: “If you really want to help it is far better to give your money to the right charity.

“There are many excellent organisations that do fantastic work and can help people get their lives back together. Specialist help can be given to work to overcome alcohol and drug addictions, find accommodation and access employment-based training. It’s these organisations that really need your support.

“You may have seen our hard-hitting posters on bus shelters, telephone boxes and in council buildings and libraries. This poster campaign highlights how begging differs from homelessness and that many beggars do have accommodation.

“If someone is street homeless, the council’s outreach workers can identify options available to them.

“This can include a referral to a hostel, advice about making a housing application or reconnection to an area where they have a local connection (either in the UK or abroad). There are also a number of excellent drug and alcohol treatment services available in the borough.

“We believe that if people are unable to fund their drug and alcohol habit through begging they are more likely to access these services and we will support them to do so.

“So, don’t be persuaded to give to street beggars, the truth is your money won’t really be helping them. If you are concerned about someone you see on the street you can call our Street Population Outreach Team on 020 7341 5210 or call Streetlink, a national service, on 0300 500 0914.

“There is more information on our website and a list of some organisations working with homeless people in the borough at www.lbc.gov.uk/alternativeregiving.”

What’s your view? Share your opinions on this issue with Weekly News readers. Email editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk and mark your email ‘letters’
Rogue advertisers warned

DEVELOPERS who want to advertise their presence on sites they are working on in Kensington and Chelsea must make sure they have the necessary consent from the royal borough council’s planners, the authority stressed this week.

So far in 2015 the council’s Planning Enforcement Team has secured the removal of 102 advertisements that were being displayed without permission. This followed reports from residents regarding developers advertising their building services illegally.

A spokesman explained: “When the council receives a report of an illegal advertisement, it will contact the developer to inform them that their advert is contravening the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

“Advice and guidance is given along with a warning that the advertisement must be removed in seven days. The vast majority of companies do remove illegal advertisements when requested to do so.

“If companies do not comply they are prosecuted. Over the last 12 months two companies have been prosecuted and had to pay fines and legal costs totalling £20,794.

“There are six further planned prosecutions.”

Councillor Timothy Co-leridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, explained: “We recognise the needs of businesses to advertise their services, but we do expect them to do this lawfully.

“Unfortunately, some developers ignore the rules and turn their hoardings and scaffolding covers into huge adverts, sometimes in the heart of historic and sensitive residential areas.”

Councillor Coleridge added: “This is unfair on our residents and it is unfair on those developers that follow the rules and we will take action to remove offending advertisements and will prosecute when required.”

Court told of asbestos offence

A CONSTRUCTION management company and a director of a construction company were fined for serious safety failings whilst working on a construction site at Kensington Church Street, London.

Work was carried out by three employees of construction firm Cowen Builders Limited, of Chelmsford exposed them to asbestos over several days after it was disturbed.

It will be several years before it is known if the exposure will result in asbestos-related disease causing ill health and death.

Westminster Magistrates’ Court heard how, in May 2013, Cowen Builders Limited (CBL) had been contracted by Paragon Management UK Limited (Paragon) to carry out work at the premises.

Prior to this work asbestos had been identified in a survey by Paragon.

Paragon failed to provide the details of the survey to CBL prior to the work starting. CBL failed to consider the possibility of asbestos being present and then continued the work without adequate measures in place after it was known the asbestos had been disturbed.

Paragon Management UK Limited, from Austin Friars, London, was fined a total of £20,000, and ordered by the magistrates to pay a total of £2,373 in costs after pleading guilty to offences under Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. Act 1974.

C Helm sford, Essex, was fined £15,000, and ordered to pay £2,373 in costs after pleading guilty to offences under Section 2 (1) and 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Time to acknowledge a devoted, disciplined and unblemished reign

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N my line of work it’s not unusual to see a flicker of hurt in someone’s eyes because you’ve got their name wrong despite a previous meeting or the irritation on a resident’s face when you can’t quite recall the details of their problem.

So yes, over my long career I’ll admit to the occasional lapse. In fact if truth be told, I am lucky if I manage to go 64 days without one, let alone 64 years. Which brings me, rather elegantly I think, to the subject of Her Majesty The Queen.

On September 9 the Queen became our longest serving monarch, overaking her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years, 216 days.

It has become commonplace to say that throughout this period she has never put a foot wrong. In an age of immediate, 24-hour news coverage how has that been possible?

Just think of all those thousands of banquets and garden parties and grand open-ings; and all those royal variety performances; and then think of the dreary republicans who delight in falling on a single word out of place.

If they think it might do damage to her, her family or the institution of monarchy.

In 64 years, she has given them precisely nothing. It may have cost her any chance of an entry in the Penguin Dictionary of Quotations, but as an act of iron self-discipline it’s without equal in public life.

There is enormous and widespread respect for the Queen because of it. In a period of unparalleled change in almost every aspect of our lives, she has embodied the history and prestige of the nation, keeping these quite separate and untainted by day-to-day political pre-occupations and squabbles.

When the famous journalist, businessman and essayist Walter Bagehot described the importance of the ‘dignified aspect’ of the British constitution, he cannot have foreseen the age of trivia, mendacity and over-statement that would characterise the era of mass communication.

Nor could he have imagined that such an effective antidote to it would occupy the throne with such distinction and for so long.


to contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

W Y N

K E N S I N G T O N  A N D  C H E L S E A

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Recycle more!
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More than 290 tonnes of rubbish are estimated to have been cleared from the streets of Notting Hill at this year’s Carnival.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council’s contractors, SUEZ, had over 200 people working into the early hours of Monday and Tuesday in an operation involving more than 30 refuse trucks and mechanical sweepers. The team also used a large motorway vehicle to wash down the roads. The clean-up finished at 3am on Tuesday, September 1.

Joining them for the big clean-up was the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Cllr Robert Freeman.

Speaking of the operation, Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, Councillor Tim Aherne, said of the huge task: “I am delighted that so many people have enjoyed themselves at this year’s Notting Hill Carnival. “The logistical challenge our council officers and SUEZ face clearing up from one of Europe’s biggest street parties before people head off to work on Tuesday morning is staggering and I would like to thank all of them for their efforts. I know residents and visitors appreciate their commitment and it is astounding that on Tuesday you would hardly know such a huge event had taken place.”

David Palmer-Jones, Chief Executive Officer of the Recycling and Recovery UK division, SUEZ said: “The Notting Hill Carnival is one of Europe’s biggest street parties, but like any good party, when it’s finished, there’s a lot of tidying up to do. In fact, Suez has swept up rubbish with the equivalent weight of over 25 double-decker buses over the bank holiday, all of which we will look to put to the best use possible.

“Hundreds of tonnes of waste is thrown away over the weekend but none of it will go to landfill as we, working in partnership with Kensington and Chelsea, and with the help of the ever-greener generation of Notting Hill revellers, look to recycle more than ever before.”

During the carnival the council encouraged revellers to recycle with tin and plastic exchange stations and ‘gum drop’ boards for people to dispose of their gum. This year, Suez ran a joint initiative with The Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation and council officers, to encourage carnival-goers to recycle their drinking cans. Every five empty cans delivered to the recycling point could be exchanged for a free soft drink. The scheme proved popular with children and adults alike. This generated five large containers of clean recycling and raised public awareness about the importance of recycling.

Waste lines

■ 100 tonnes of rubbish will generate 70 MW of electrical power. Enough to power about 15 homes for a year.

■ In 2014, 294 tonnes of waste were collected by the Royal Borough following Carnival
LONDON WIDE

gets under way

CARNIVAL CAVALCADE: Notting Hill extends a welcome to all-comers.

CARNIVAL CAVALCADE: Revellers seek police guidance while others shelter from the rain under the gaze of the Trellick Tower in Golborne Road.

AND THAT WAS THAT... carnival-goers head home after the capital's great street party.
Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London’s most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!

They may have called off the strike but I refuse to thank trade union leaders

FOR the last few months London has had a gun poking in her back by the Unions who have tried to evoke the spirit of the 70s by grinding the Tube network to a halt.

But the capital breathed a collective sigh of relief because the transport unions, led by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT), Unite and Transport Salaried Staffs Association, decided not to pull the trigger on the two back-to-back 24-hour strikes set to take place last week.

Are we supposed to be happy about this and thank them for not dumping our lives and businesses onto the dung heap? I for one refuse to grant these union dinosaurs any goodwill whatsoever.

I have always said strikes don’t solve anything. No amount of not working is going to turn public opinion the way of the unions.

In fact, in this modern world where social media allows everyone to broadcast their opinion, a groundswell of Twitter-based disdain for their actions was evident from among the thousands of people trying to get to work, to express their feelings on the matter! I think a load of placards and me on the megaphone protesting about how can they call a strike with a minority of their members voting for it, might make them think twice before forcing another strike on us and their members. I’m sure that plenty of other Londoners feel the same and will stop by on the next strike day, on what will already be a delayed journey into work, to express their feelings on the matter!

It is this frustration, that we are held to ransom by trade union leaders who have the ability to hijack the country by calling a strike when only a handful of their members are moved enough to cast a ballot, that has caused me to take this action.

The sooner the law is changed, as is being proposed, to a requirement that at least half of union members actually bother to vote for a strike to be legal, the better.

I can’t see anyone having a problem with that, including union members who will have joined their organisation because they believe in fairness and equality. Unfortunately, for too long, union bosses have been able to call on a small band of militants to do their bidding.

Of course, this is not just an issue that is only affecting businesses and their employees within the M25. Across the country the unions can take advantage of the system to cause their members to down tools and head for the picket line. This is why the legislative wheels have to turn more quickly to take the power out of the control of union leaders and firmly back in the hands of a much larger proportion of their members.

Only then will we see if the unions truly have the interests of their membership at heart and understand the importance of living in a democracy which, for too long, they have avoided.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper

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Inspiring young people to take a new direction

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, shares news of the Trust’s new initiative for young people wanting to know more about arts and culture

It is with great pleasure that I announce this week almost £300,000 of investment for #CultureMakers, a new programme aimed at inspiring at least 500 local young people to increase their cultural engagement and unlock opportunities to get into the creative industries.

Funding for the pan-London project has been made available from the Arts Council. Westway Trust secured £140,000 and matched funded the award to double the investment.

The funding is administered by A New Direction - a London charity that leads cultural education and connects children and young people with the best of arts and culture. A New Direction is investing £700,000 in seven organisations across London to support young people access art and culture over the next two years.

At a time of austerity, it is a distinct advantage to be in a position to be able to match fund grant awards. We are much more likely to be successful in bids with money behind us. The success of this award highlights this point.

Thanks to the efforts of the Westway Trust team and the young people involved, we received the second largest award nationally, which I am incredibly proud of.

Why is a programme like this important to young people living locally? The creative industries are a treasure trove of opportunity in terms of job and career potential for young people today. The creative industries are worth £76 billion annually; and Kensington and Chelsea is capitalising on this economy. Kensington and Chelsea has a thriving cultural sector, which accounts for 15% of jobs and 30% of businesses.

Breaking down barriers

However, young people, particularly those living in disadvantaged areas, rarely consider arts and culture as a career aspiration or leisure activity. Young people in London typically have a low engagement with arts and culture, with two in five 11-25 year olds not attending an art exhibition or live music event over the past year.

We are using this project to break down these barriers and provide more opportunities for young people.

Our hope is that #CultureMakers will open up new opportunities for young people to get involved in cultural activities in the capital and find out more about what this exciting industry has to offer.

What excites me most about the project is the innovative way it has been constructed and is being implemented. Young people will design, lead and manage the project from beginning to end. vInspired, a leading youth volunteering charity is providing guidance support from mentors. Young people on the programme also receive rewards for doing positive activities like volunteering.

Ricco Mason-Prince, a 22-year-old Westway Trust apprentice, helped create the concept and design the programme. In his experience, and in the experience of others like him, young people are interested and intrigued by the creative industry. They see lots of opportunity, but often can’t find a way to break in. If they haven’t been exposed to arts and culture through friends, family or school, they feel inhibited or uninformed about what to do, where to go and how to behave. For Ricco and his peers, culture can be a very intimidating sector. This greatly troubles me. It cannot be the case that your background, not talent or aptitude, determines your level of opportunity. We have to change this.

A fundamental part of our mission is to create a sustainable economic environment where local people have the skills and opportunity to build a better life for themselves. Making sure more young people living locally access the opportunities in arts and culture is a key part of fulfilling this goal. With this new project I am confident we will make significant headway.

Through #CultureMakers, the Trust aims to support at least 500 young people in London and assist 25 projects that find inspiring ways of getting young people into arts and culture. Registration for #CultureMakers programme will open in January 2016 and is open to young people in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea aged between 16-25 years old. If you are a young person living locally I encourage you to register and get involved.

Deadline looms for community grants

COMMUNITY groups urged to apply now for a share of Westway Trust’s £100,000 grants programme

Charities and voluntary groups in Kensington and Chelsea have less than a week to apply for a share of a £100,000 community grants fund offered by Westway Trust.

Two types of grants are being offered, worth up to £500 and £2,500 each. The deadline for applications is Monday, September 14th at 12 noon.

Grants of up to £500 will be available for one-off community celebrations and events such as performance arts workshops, garden and street parties, and arts projects that celebrate local talent and diversity.

Grants worth up to £2,500 will be available for a range of projects that support and improve the health and well-being of the local community as well as those that provide employment and economic opportunities. This includes such things as disability sports events, mental health projects, employment and volunteering programmes, and skills training.

Applications should be made through Westway Trust’s website www.westwaytrust.org

Groups and organisations must be located within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Westway Trust is particularly interested to hear from groups or organisations with a focus on communities living in North Kensington and /or close to the Westway estate.

Westway Trust’s Development Director, Louise Wolsey, said: “We’ve already received some fantastic proposals from local charities and voluntary groups that have the potential to make a real impact on the lives of local people. These great ideas need cash to make them happen and our community grants fund has been set up to do just that.

“Westway Trust exists for the benefit of our local community and we want to encourage as wide a range of community groups as possible to apply for these funds.”

Hospitals raided for alcoholic hand wash

A GANG of street drinkers raided hospitals in Hammerrsmith for their alcoholic hand wash and risked their lives consuming the liquid, a BBC investigation has found.

Responses to Freedom of Information requests submitted by the corporation revealed reports of similar thefts at several London hospitals.

A 30-year-old Polish man, referred to only as Bartlomiej, told the BBC how he lost 1.5 litres of blood in a haemorrhage caused by drinking the wash, which includes isopropanol and various other chemicals. He said his ‘gang’ had targeted several institutions in London, including Charing Cross and Hammerrsmith Hospitals.

Medical experts warned that the chemical cocktail would be highly toxic and that, if consumed, the health impacts were likely to be severe. The investigation found that the deaths of at least three people in London have been linked to the consumption of alcoholic hand wash since 2008.

The Imperial NHS Healthcare Trust, which runs the Charing Cross and Hammerrsmith Hospitals, did not respond to a request for comment.

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Sign up to build your own home

BY LWN REPORTER
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS are being encouraged to sign up to a new register that will gauge city-wide interest in a programme which could see councils allocate plots of land for small-scale housebuilding across the city.

The Build Your Own London Home Register is open to individuals who have an interest and the capability to self-develop a plot into their own home. The register will give City Hall a live database that will display the level of interest and demand across London, and help shape future housing policy for the city.

A spokesman for the Mayor’s Office said: “It is envisaged that the register will empower Londoners to shape their own living spaces the way they want, and contribute to vibrant and unique communities. Facilitating this ‘custom-build’ method of construction empowers individuals and groups and strengthens neighbourhood links, and creates local construction jobs.”

Once the Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 becomes law later this year, local councils will have a duty to set up their own registers for people looking to acquire land to build a home, and to offer suitable land opportunities. The London register will help provide a model for how these local registers may be run and data can be shared with boroughs directly.

Smaller registers have been running for a year in other parts of the United Kingdom, but this is the first chance for Londoners to show their interest. The city-wide register will cover the largest area in the country in terms of size and population and be run by the Greater London Authority.

The Build Your Own London Home Programme will complement the range of initiatives the Mayor has put in place to increase the supply of affordable housing in London. The Mayor is within reach of a target to build 100,000 affordable homes across the 25 terms at City Hall, with 94,000 already in train. 18 out of a planned 20 Housing Zones have been designated across London, allowing for large-scale development to be fast-tracked in areas where it may not otherwise have happened.

A target of 50,000 affordable homes produced from this scheme has already been achieved, ahead of schedule. And in a bid to boost the supply of new housing, the Mayor has released 99 per cent of all land held in council-owned portfolios to development, ensuring it is put to productive use.

Deputy Mayor for Housing and Land, Richard Blake- way, said: “Through initiatives such as Housing Zones, the London Housing Bank and the Affordable Housing Programme, City Hall has a range of measures in place to increase housing supply in the capital but we’re always looking for new and innovative ideas. By setting up the Build Your Own Home register, we will be able to gauge how many Londoners are interested in building their own homes. I urge any individuals willing to take on the challenge to sign up to the register. The Mayor believes Londoners who wish to build their own home are afforded the possibility of doing so, particularly in cases where productive use is made of brownfield land that would otherwise lie empty. This so-called ‘custom-build’ method of construction is new to the United Kingdom but has had success in European countries such as Sweden.”

Cycle to city’s secret places

WESTMINSTER City Council has released four new cycling tours in the city, which take in some of London’s most iconic and unusual sights.

The themed routes, led by qualified instructors, cater for a variety of tastes, allowing everyone from celeb spotters to chocolate lovers to indulge their passions from the saddle.

The four new bike tours are:

■ Healthy and celebrity Westminster – celeb spotters can join London’s newest celebrity tour – by bike. Discover where the super-rich, live, socialise, shop and spend their money. Start at the epitome of super-prime development at One Hyde Park, cycle along to Belgravia and through Eaton Square. Visit the Queen’s London residence then up to St James’s where the wealthy socialise in some of the most exclusive private members’ clubs. Then explore the tangle of streets in Mayfair, tucked behind Park Lane. Westminster’s finest chocolate tasting – Westminster is a chocolate lover’s heaven. Sweet teeth can be indulged along a five-mile route; start at Rococo Chocolate’s flagship store, which includes a Moonish courtyard oasis and a glass window in the shop floor which will let you spy into the kitchen. Visit Britain’s oldest chocolate, Charbonnel et Walker, founded in 1975 – one of only a few chocolatiers to hold a Royal Warrant, and finish at one of London’s most flamboyant shops at Choccywoccydoodah – a specialist in ‘one-off sculptured fantasies’.

■ Nairn’s London – published in 1966, Nairn’s London offers an inspired and elegantly written insight on London’s buildings. Expect to see buildings you may have passed hundreds of times but never noticed, and find yourself looking at London in a more enquiring way. The Economist Building, St James’s Street: “This is where the angriest of Britain’s young architects were finally given their chance.” The Salisbury, St Martin’s Lane: “Real West End glitter, a lover’s heaven. Sweet tooths will be ecstatic!” The Economist Building, St Martin’s Lane: “A specialist in one-off sculptured fantasies”. The Economist Building, St Martin’s Lane: “This is where the angriest of Britain’s young architects were finally given their chance.”

■ Westminster and auction houses – the antiques and auction houses tour will take you along a five-mile route of some of the best antique shopping in the world. Visit the world’s oldest auction house, Christies, which has been selling some of the most finest art, jewellery and furniture since 1766. See some of the best quality and rarest first edition books at Peter Harrington Rare Books. The antiquities won’t be on sale, but browse the Wallace Collection for unsurpassed displays of French 18th-century painting. Browse over 150 stalls at Christ Church Street Market and see if you can find something priceless. If you are hoping to catch a glimpse of something really special, take this ride mid-to-late week when more of the auction houses will be open.

■ Heath Acton, Westminster City Council’s cycling champion, said: “These tours are a fantastic way to visit Westminster’s best landmarks and best-kept secrets.”

LONDON WIDE

Fraudster living in ‘super’ shed

A BENEFITS cheat who lived in a garden shed while illegally renting out the bedrooms in his council house has been jailed after pocketing almost £100,000 of public money.

Council inspectors found the fraudster, John Gallagher, living in the converted shed, which featured an en-suite bathroom and fitted-out wardrobe, while sub-letting the four bedrooms in his Fulham council house for up to £700 a month.

It is believed the phoney landlord pocketed more than £95,000 in benefits from Hammersmith and Fulham Council and the Department of Work and Pensions over an eight-year period. The 64-year-old, who was the only tenant of the townhouse in Strode Road, was jailed for 10 months after appearing at Isleworth Crown Court where he admitted five counts of fraud.

Cllr Lisa Homan, Hammersmith and Fulham Council’s cabinet member for social housing, praised the fraud team for “removing another cheat from the system”.

Inspectors received a tip-off about Gallagher’s living arrangements last year after he was refused entry to the garden and shed when calling to investigate another case.

The team later found the rooms advertised for rent online, and cross-referenced the details with Gallagher’s mobile phone number. The house was raided on October 20.

Cllr Homan added: “The council’s scarce resources need to be used supporting those with a genuine need and not on scammers like this who waste tax payers’ money.”

Inquiry into demolition of iconic pub

WESTMINSTER City Council confirmed this week that a public inquiry will be held into the demolition of the Carlton Tavern to establish what happened and why, and also decide the future of the pub.

It is expected this will be held in early 2016. In the meantime, the council has won an injunction to stop any further demolition on the site in Maida Vale.

Cllr Robert Davis, deputy leader of Westmin- ster City Council, said: “This is just one step – but a major one – in getting this pub rebuilt brick by brick. Residents made clear they want this pub to return to its former glory.”
Royal support for replanting cherry trees in Regent’s Park

HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is supporting a campaign to restore the iconic Cherry Tree Avenue on Chester Road in London’s Regent’s Park.

The campaign has been launched by the Royal Parks Foundation, the charity for London’s eight Royal Parks, of which Prince Charles is Royal Patron.

Nearly 40 years ago, Royal Parks gardeners planted 100 cherry trees along Chester Road in Regent’s Park, helping create a stunning horticultural display enjoyed by millions of visitors each spring. However, last February, those trees had to be removed having reached the end of their natural lifespan. The wood from the old trees will be recycled into bird boxes and other artefacts to go back into London’s green spaces.

The Royal Parks Foundation is now appealing to the public to make a gift or dedicate a new tree in time for 100 new Prunus Sunset Boulevard trees to be planted this November.

The Prince of Wales said: “As Patron of the Royal Parks Foundation I am delighted that the eight Royal Parks of London are enjoyed by so many people and in so many ways.

“For over 500 years the Parks have provided a place where people can enjoy the simple pleasures of nature and history in our busy city. Like the many millions of visitors each year, I share the same affection for our Parks and a feeling that we are extremely fortunate to have them.

“Historic avenues of trees are one of the things that make the Parks so special, which is why I am so pleased to support the Royal Parks Foundation’s vision to restore the Cherry Tree Avenue in The Regent’s Park. The proposed planting will bring park tinted blossom in the spring and yellow-golden leaves to lift the spirits each autumn. I am sure the many visitors to the park will derive great pleasure from this changing spectacle of the seasons. I can only hope that you will feel able to support this splendid restoration in any way you can.”

The restoration is also backed by London Mayor’s candidate, Zac Goldsmith MP who said: “Trees are so important to London, and this restored avenue will not only brighten our own lives, it will provide nectar for pollinators and add valuable habitat to the Park."

Ben Fogle, who also supports the campaign, said: “I have travelled all around the world but there is nowhere more romantic than the Royal Parks in spring time. It’s where I met the love of my life and now we are handing that love of nature on to our children.”

Sir Paul Todd, chief executive of the Royal Parks Foundation, is delighted that The Prince of Wales has spoken of his affection for the trees.

“Thanks to generous supporters, more than 50 trees have already been dedicated and £100,000 raised which will not only help care for the avenue but also Queen Mary’s Gardens in years to come. We’d be delighted to hear from anyone who’d like to get involved.”

The tradition of planting cherry trees in Regent’s Park began in the 1930s, when Queen Mary’s Rose Garden was created with donations from the artist Sigismund Goetze. The last cherry tree was planted on Chester Road in 1978, and reached the end of its natural lifespan in February 2015, leaving the parks without these beautiful and iconic trees.

For more information on how you can support the Royal Parks Foundation’s Cherry Tree Avenue on Chester Road in Regent’s Park, with a gift or sponsor one of the remaining cherry trees at £1776 each, please visit: www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org/BringBackTheBlossom

Vote for your favourite park

LONDON’S eight Royal Parks are among some of the greenest and most visited parks in the UK, and now you can vote for your favourite.

The Parks have again maintained their Green Flag Awards this year, and now have a chance of competing against over 1,500 other green spaces to be crowned the People’s Choice.

The competition, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, closes at noon on September 30th.

Voting is simple; visit www.greenflagaward.org, select your country or region on the interactive map, find your favourite park or green space and click the ‘vote for this site’ button.

The Royal Parks competing for the People’s Choice are: Hyde, The Regent’s, St James’s and Green, Greenwich, Richmond and Bushy Parks and Kensington Gardens.

Recent Ipsos MORI research revealed an estimated 77 million visitors enjoy the parks every year with 98 per cent of them rating the parks as excellent or good – making them some of the most visited and loved parks in the UK.

Andrew Scattergood, chief executive of The Royal Parks, said: “You don’t need me to tell you how wonderful our parks are; they speak for themselves. The Royal Parks are some of the nation’s most treasured open spaces, welcoming millions of visitors from all walks of life.

“Whether you are quietly walking your dogs, enjoying an afternoon stroll, attending a world famous event or getting wrapped up in the patriotism of a royal occasion, all our Royal Parks are extra special places. While only one park can be crowned the People’s Choice, I’d love to see all our parks make the top 10, so remember to vote royal.”

The winner of the People’s Choice is expected to be announced in October.

Paul Todd, Green Flag Award manager said: “We all have a favourite park, whether it’s our local green space or a special park we’ll travel miles to visit. Following another record breaking year for the Green Flag Award, we are urging everyone to vote for their own favourite park, so we can crown one of these 1,582 special parks as the People’s Choice 2015.”
Station will swamp King’s Road

Thank you for your recent article and the Transport for London question-and-answer in the latest issue of the Kensington and Chelsea News.

While it’s nice that Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council has finally stepped forward with some more solid information about the plans, nothing stated in the article changes our strong opposition to a Crossrail2 station on Dovehouse Street and Kings Road.

As long time residents of Chelsea, we feel that a station of this magnitude, of any design, is not appropriate for this site in Chelsea. Even by TfL’s modest estimate that only 5,000 people per hour will get off at this station, that would still swamp the area’s pavements, which are impassable on the weekends as it is. Have any of the councillors been down the King’s Road on weekends? Apparently not or they would question the logic of disgorging thousands more people into what is a quaint, narrow street.

Better options are Fulham Broadway or World’s End. If the lack of transport for West Chelsea is of such a concern to some residents, why did the residents of World’s End fight so viciously against having Crossrail 2 at the Cremorne Estates site? It seems the council isn’t really in tune with what the residents of Chelsea want and need.

Lastly, where is the data for the 2014 consultations on the Dovehouse Street site published? The council cites overwhelming support from that consultation, yet one wonders exactly who and how many were consulted, what questions were asked, and how much information was given. At that time, many people, myself included, thought it was to be more like a tube station similar to Sloane Square.

It seems clear the only ones backing this proposal are large property developers, who are obviously in bed with the council.

Joni and Steve Rendon
31 Dovehouse Street,
London SW3 6JY

Your golden opportunity

If you were on this number 24 bus in Pimlico, see picture, on Thursday evening two weeks ago, you might have wished you looked under the seat.

Because it’s quite possible that there might have been a crock of gold, just waiting to be collected, left behind by a forgetful, bus-travelling leprechaun on his way, perhaps to Victoria railway station.

This picture, taken straight after a short but heavy shower at around 7pm, shows clearly the end of this rainbow points straight at the bus, which stopped outside the Sainsbury’s store in Wilton Road.

If any lucky passenger found the gold, could they email editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk and tell them what they found in the loot?

Paul Lagan
Wilton Road, Pimlico

Take steps to beat cancer

THE Ovarian Cancer Walk is coming to London on Saturday, October 17 at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

We’re asking your readers to join hundreds of men and women across the UK who are taking steps to beat ovarian cancer. Participants can also choose to walk or run 5k or 10k, so there is something for everyone.

There is an urgent need to secure progress. In the UK, 7,000 women are diagnosed and 4,300 women lose their lives each year. The UK has amongst the lowest survival rates in Europe. If we were able to just match the rest of Europe 500 more women would survive each year.

All the money raised from the event will help us support women with ovarian cancer, giving them vital information and support so that they can live well and have the best chance possible of beating the disease.

We’d like to offer your readers a £5 discount if they sign up before October. They can sign up at this website: www.targetovariancancer.org.uk/walk and quote LONDON. Or you can call the Fundraising Team on 0207 923 5474.

Tim Todhunter
Target Ovarian Cancer

Walk into a healthy life

A BRISK walk can give us an extra seven years, as shown in research presented last week at the European Society for Cardiology congress in London.

The link between exercise and health has been well established but this new research is the first to look at the body’s cells, with researchers finding that exercise protects them.

Here at Living Streets we think it’s incredibly important that walking is made easier for people because it’s good, not only for our health, but also for the environment and local economies.

More of us still need to introduce activity into our day and walking is an easy, cheap and accessible way to start. Walking for just 25 minutes a day was found to have a positive impact on life expectancy.

We all lead busy lives but walking can be slotted into the school run, the journey to work or a trip to the shops – it all adds up.

Tom Platt
Head of Policy and Research, Living Streets, Wentworth Street, London

Have your say

Share your views on the issues that matter to you. We welcome your opinions. Please email us today at editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PM ignores the workers

It’s a shame that David Cameron doesn’t rush to the defence of the ‘hard working people’ that he claims to represent as quickly as he rushes to the defence of Gary Barlow.

On the contrary, when it comes to hard working union members, Mr Cameron believes that taxing workers should be denied the right to fight for their jobs.

Mr Cameron believes that unions should be stopped from taking any form of industrial action. These are people who don’t want to become a further burden on the taxpayer by being unemployed. Yet trade unions and other activists fighting for fair play are a major obstacle for Mr Cameron and his government, as they represent a troublesome pebble in the shoe of their agenda – the agenda being a mass pool of easy to exploit, low paid labour for big businesses, underpinned by a culture of fear and insecurity.

Ian Hodson
President, Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union
Long to reign over us

Her Majesty reaches 63-year milestone

The Royal Mint celebrates with the nation the moment when Her Majesty The Queen becomes the longest reigning monarch in British history – PAGE 2

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CRAFTSMANSHIP: The two sides of coin was designed by Stephen Royal Mint’s creative design commemoratives, reflecting Taylor, who is a member of The value coin, as part of a range of respected across the world.

Grandmother Queen Victoria more than a century ago. The mint holds today – as a stateswoman has been celebrating with the nation the moment – on Wednesday – when Her monarch in British history.

COMMEMORATION: Royal Mint salutes our record-breaking monarch

CRAFTSMEN JOIN THE NATION FOR TENDER MOMENT

This week the Royal Mint has been celebrating with the nation the moment – on Wednesday – when Her Majesty The Queen becomes the longest reigning monarch in British history.

The anniversary surpasses the record set by her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria more than a century ago.

To mark this ‘once in a lifetime’ occasion, the Royal Mint has a new £20 fine silver face value coin, as part of a range of commemorative coins, reflecting The Queen’s journey from her coronation, through decades of social change, to the position she holds today – as a stateswoman respected across the world.

The £20 fine silver face value coin was designed by Stephen Taylor, who is a member of The Royal Mint’s creative design team, and is his first design to appear on a United Kingdom coin.

Mr Taylor’s design includes the five different portraits of The Queen which have appeared on United Kingdom circulating coins.

He said: “I wanted my design to convey how Queen Elizabeth II has matured on the face of a coin, just like Queen Victoria did. Combining the five portraits was a challenge, as they are all quite different in their composition: how they’re crafted, their size, the crown worn and so on. The font I used for the inscription is a flared serif often used on early coinage. Mary Gillick used something similar on her portrait of Her Majesty. ‘Working for The Royal Mint you develop a love for coins and for the artistry and craftsmanship that goes into creating a coin. It’s moving to think that the coin will be there forever, my mark in history. It’s a nice thing to have in your life. My children are really excited and proud that I’ve designed a coin for the United Kingdom.

Mr Taylor’s Longest Reigning Monarch design has been selected to feature on the reverse of the £20 fine silver face value coin, whilst the fifth effigy portrait of The Queen launched earlier this year by Royal Mint Engraver Jody Clark can be seen on the obverse – the work of two Royal Mint designers together. With his ‘fifth portrait’ effigy of Her Majesty The Queen, Jody has successfully captured The Queen in a realistic yet gentle portrayal that shares modern and traditional elements, recognising the effigies that have gone before.

Jody was honoured that his portrait was selected. He said: “I liked all four of the previous portraits, each one strong in its own way. I am very proud to have The Queen justice and captured her as I intended, in a fitting representation.

Shane Bissett, The Royal Mint’s Director of Commemorative Coin and Medals said, “This is history, every coin is a memorable one for the nation, but a significant one for The Royal Mint, maker of coins to the kings and queens of Britain for over 1,000 years. Never before have all coins in circulation carried the portrait of the same monarch, and for many, The Queen will be the only British monarch we have known.

‘Except for unofficial souvenirs struck for Queen Victoria in 1897, there has never been an official coin produced to mark a monarch becoming the longest reigning king or queen in this country, which makes The Royal Mint’s Longest Reigning Monarch Collection even more distinctive.

The Royal Mint has an unbroken history of minting British coinage dating back over 1,000 years. By the late nineteenth century the organisation was based in the Tower of London, and remained there for over 500 years.

CRAFTSMANSHIP: The two sides of the new £20 coin which marks The Queen becoming our longest reigning monarch – designed by Stephen Taylor and Jody Clark at The Royal Mint.

Chris is Racing to Beat Parkinson’s

IT’S all go at the Royal palaces this autumn with much to learn – from how to make a dress for a Queen to why Charles II had his wife’s favourite midget in a pie.

As the leaves begin to fall there’s a chill in the air at historic Royal palaces. The Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace open up their dark secrets by night for the return of the Ghost Tours and Even More Ghosts Tours, which begin in October and November.

A special exhibition commemorating the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt opens at the Tower of London, while a series of events explores death at the Tower from a unique perspective. As always, October half term is jam packed with activities to keep the kids entertained, from dressing royalty to getting a first look at our new film about Hampton Court Palace’s 500th anniversary – made by Aardman Animations.

Here are some highlights of what’s on offer this autumn:

- Agincourt from 23 October to 31 January, Tower of London – Visit this special exhibition in the White Tower which marks the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt. Alongside a detailed scale model of the battle, discover medieval armour, art, music, sculpture and manuscripts which reveal the emotional story and legacy of this extraordinary battle. Included in palace admission.

- Drawing Luck-in, in association with The Big Draw – the world’s largest drawing festival, 9 October, 19.00, Tower of London – Find yourself locked in the Tower after dark in this creative drawing event. Including life models and theatrics, this event will nurture your creativity and imagination. Suitable for all levels from complete beginners to creative professionals. Tickets: £20/£18 HRP members.

- Movie Maker Mission, 23 October – 1 November, Hampton Court Palace – Enjoy a screening of the Aardman Animations film that celebrates Hampton Court Palace’s 500-year anniversary, using thousands of drawings created by you, the public. There will also be lots of interactive family workshops and activities taking place over half term. Included in palace admission.

- Brunchtime Lectures – 3, 4 October and 4, 11, 18, 25 November, 11.00, Kensington Palace – Join the new brunchtime lectures series on Victorian society. Tickets: £15/£13 HRP members. Includes a glass of bucks fizz and entry to Kensington Palace.

- Curious Connections… Death and the Graveyard, Tuesday 6 Oc -tober, 19.00-20.30, Tower of London – Why do over 70% of us choose to be cremated? Is death the ultimate leveller or are there different rules for the rich and famous? And is there really much difference in how we treat bodies in the 21st century from the 11th century? The Tower of London conjures images of death and dark history. It was called “the saddest place on earth” and floors were known to collapse from the weight of cadavers, but there’s another side to death at the site. Join modern death professionals, historians, academics and the Tower’s own George Roberts, Curator of Historic Buildings, in conversation in this historic setting, about what we do with our bodies when we die. This series invites historians and other experts to explore 21st-century issues, from spying to prison design, through the Tower of London’s past. Panel discussion. Tickets: £10 / £9 HRP members. Includes a glass of wine.

- Tiny Explorers, various Wednesdays and Saturdays in October and November, Kensington Palace – explore and play in the palace together! Through music, movement and messy play, discover the fascinating stories of Kensington Palace in our multisensory workshops for 0-4 yrs.

- Royal palms and Kents of Practitioners – 3, 10.30 – 11.30, ticketed (free: 12.00 – 14.00 Toddlers – 4yrs; 14.30 – 15.30 Toddlers – 4yrs. Tickets: £6 per session. For more information and to book your place, please call 020 3166 6464.

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How a legend lives... study of a Beatle made with integrity

by Geoff Baker

A

T The Beatles’ headquar-
ters in a ludicrously-expensive Kensington side street near Harrods they will tell you that at least one book has been published about the band, or about some aspect of it, in every week since 1963.

That’s about 2,700 books, although there are probably more.

Of these, by far the huge majority have been written by people who have never met, let alone known, a Beatle.

Paul McCartney and I have known each other in pretty much every way except Biblically very well. We spent 15 years together in a complicated arrangement of boss and friend and the only reason I mention this is to give some sort of authority to the claim that I am about to make.

Which is that the latest book in this library – Paul Du Noyer’s Conversations With McCartney – is, in my relatively-informed opinion, the greatest book ever written that properly understands Maccus.

Loads and loads of the predominately-unauthorised Beatles books have analysed Paul in excruciatingly-pedantic detail as authors have queued up to make claims that he apparently thinks this or that which in turn make those in the know think “no he does–n’t”. A few, like the peerlessly-researched, almost academic studies of Beatles biographer Mark Lewisohn, get the exact facts right, down to what brand of butter he had on his toast whilst filming Help! in Austria.

A few more, like the forthcoming biography of Paul by the learned Philip Norman, have been “blessed” by the songwriter himself, given the right of approval in their determined effort to be the “definitive” book and thus allow access to his friends and inner sanctum for their anecdotes and opinions of him.

But the problems with writing books about the very famous that are partially predicated upon what their friends think are that [a] true friends will never let on very much, and very little which is critical and [b] the method makes it a book about them, it’s their take, and leaning their opinion on what you got the book out of the library for.

As Paul Mac once said during a chat about some incident during the Beatles period, “there’s many views on this and it depends on who you believe, but I believe me.”

And it is that which largely makes Conversations With McCartney the most excellent of reads, in it you are listening to what the man said, not to his brother’s milkman’s auntie’s sister, but to the boy himself.

I say “boy” because there are two Paul McCartneys. There’s the one who got to be the biggest star on the entire planet and then there’s the private Paul who you don’t see at press conferences or on chat shows, the thoughtful, easily-hurt, exceptionally bloody-minded, sensitive, kind sum of contradictions who was once well-described as “the greatest example of the best of human- ity with all of its failings intact” and who says of himself, “I still feel like I’m that 14-year-old scruff from Speke; I’m not him, that one who got to be big in America. I only become him when I go onstage.”

That inner Paul is the Paul whom this other Paul [Du Noyer] knows well. Over the last 35 years Du Noyer has interviewed Maccus more than any other magazine writer. In my time, Paul Mac would do anything from 50 to more than 200 interviews a year. Most of them were samey, some were simpering and a few managed to turn up something revealing.

Du Noyer was always consistently among the few. Whatever Maccus was plugging – a world tour, a new album, his paintings or his poetry – you’d get in Paul Du Noyer for a chat over a cup of tea and to share a plate of cheese and pickle sarnies. Whether he was writing for Q or Mojo or The Word, scripting a tour programme or helping with what is to me still the definitive mod- ers’ guide to a rock tour, the book Each One Believing, Du Noyer would always be called for.

There were three reasons for that: one, Du Noyer is an excellent interviewer with the suss to reach beyond the little tattle headlines that were invariably caused by the claims of somebody’s brother’s milkman’s auntie’s sister; two, Paul Mac genuinely likes him [I’ve seen Paul DN with his wife and son at Maccas Christmas and birthday parties] and three, and most importantly, because Du Noyer is also a Scouser.

Unless you’re from Liverpool you are never going to completely “get” Paul McCartney, his entire symphony of emotions, attitudes and proud values – his trust in politeness, honesty, loyalty – are bound up with being born in that city. You will certainly never fully understand his self-deprecating wit if you’re from Manchester.

You need to be from Liverpool, that wondrous place which has spent most of its history boarded-up for cheap rent, in order to fully comprehend, as Du Noyer does, what an utterly absurd improbability has been the life of Paul McCartney. And it has been, his story, his rise from a council estate to unprecedented and unrivalled success – typically played down by himself as “I’ve had a sailor’s life” – has been a triumph against preposterous odds.

Sorry to harp on but it is ridiculous – you get to form the biggest act in the history of the world, you change the sound of music, then it all goes bottoms up so you do it all over again with Wings, then that goes weird in a Japanese jail, so you do it yet again as a solo artist.

Rock and roll was never meant to have the longevity of glory that Maccus has given it, his life has been like Usain Bolt going on to win the British Open at St Andrews and then scoring a hat-trick for England in the World Cup final.

But it is the ganet of all of this – from his earliest days at his Dad’s piano in Liverpool through to the revealingly-painful memories of the break-up of The Beatles, to the hilarious “I’ll show you” early struggles of Wings, growing a family and rebirthing himself as the chairman of the board of the music of the world – that Du Noyer craftsmanly paints in his book.

Refreshingly, Paul [Mac] has never become blase about becoming Paul McCartney; he’s still tickled pink that he gets to meet The Queen [they have a sort of mutual affection society; those two, they twinkle when they see each other] and it’s this sort of honest Scouse amazement at his achievement that Du Noyer brings out in him; to- gether they are like a couple of likely lads chattering over pints in a pub, “you’ll never guess what I’ve just seen…”

I don’t think that I am permitted to quote extracts from Conversations With McCartney to make a case because my copy says “embargoed” on the front, indicating that some other publication has bought the serialisation rights to it – which I hope that one has, as it deserves wide publicity and Du Noyer deserves the cash – but I don’t think that I need to; I sat in on many of the interviews on which the book is based, and, about 1,000 others came to that, and, and, a handful of ex-officio, who are still alive, can tell that this Paul gets the Paul absolutely spot on.

Largely Du Noyer believes that by not concentrating on trivia like Maccus’ preferred taste of flavoured crisps – once ponderously predicted between a choice of cheese and onion and salt and vinegar as “I don’t like those as much as I hate them” – but by going for his soul, which of course his music. Un- derstand his songs and the motivation of love behind almost all of them and you will understand Paul McCartney and Du Noyer does, expertly and sensi- tively.

There is one exception to Du Noyer telling Maccus’s story here mainly through his music and it is Linda. It is utterly impossible to even attempt to try to “get” Paul without understanding his deep, simple, complex and intense relationship with his My Love and it is very good to see that she is the only other person quoted in the book; as it should be, for nobody got him better nor loved him more. Nice touch there, lad.

So, save your pennies for September 24th when Conversations With McCartney hits the shops as it is not only a triumphant of explaining how the legend ticks, it reveals a lot that even the most avid fan won’t know.

Until Paul McCartney himself writes his own memoir – which I seem to recall him saying he’d do when he is 80 – Paul Du Noyer has set the bar and you won’t need any other volume on your shelf.
Hairy Bikers Dave Myers and Si King were determined to throw themselves into the action while making new BBC Two road trip series Northern Exposure - even if that meant a spot of wife-carrying.

The pair circumnavigated the vast Baltic Sea for the six-part series, which sees them biking and exploring the cuisine of countries including Poland, Sweden, Russia and Finland, where King was persuaded to indulge in a favourite local sport.

"Dave said, 'I think he would like a go at the wife-carrying', and I went, 'Pardon me, what?'" King recalls.

"I disappeared down the boardwalk with this very light and lovely lady attached to my neck going, 'See you later lads, I am not coming back'!"

The trip had been in the pipeline for a few years, but had to be put on hold after King received emergency treatment for a life-threatening brain aneurysm in 2014.

Today, the 47-year-old dad-of-three is recovering well - although he admits he does have to keep an eye on his fatigue levels, given the high-energy nature of the Bikers' work.

Myers, meanwhile, says getting back on the road with his pal (who he met more than 20 years ago when both were crew members on a TV adaptation of Catherine Cookson's The Gambling Man) has been "magic...like putting on a pair of comfy shoes".

"It's better than ever really, because we appreciate it a bit more," the former Strictly Come Dancing contestant adds.

The pair slimmed down in 2012 after embarking on a healthy eating kick, but admit they are feeling a bit softer around the edges again, after enjoying such delights as strawberry vodka cheesecake and pickled fish during the filming of Northern Exposure.

"After the three months on the road in the Baltics and Sweden, we need to practise what we preach a bit really," Myers, 57, confesses. "We've both put half a stone on and need to shift it."

The busy pair have also released a new cookbook, The Hairy Bikers' Meat Feasts, in which they celebrate meaty recipes, from shepherd's pie and chilli con carne, to pies and curries.

"It's a big book, with more than 150 recipes," says Myers. "We wanted to write the perfect meat book with everything we've learned.

According to King - who's particularly partial to a "proper corned beef, not the tinmed stuff" - the key to a good meat dish is buying the best quality meat you can.

"I'd rather have one piece of fantastic meat that's been subjected to good husbandry, than have 20 bits of the cheapest mince."

After almost a decade on our screens (the first series of The Hairy Bikers' Cookbook aired in 2006), the pair are still learning about food all the time.

"We're not trained chefs and we haven't got a restaurant, but we've had the most incredible opportunities to experiment with food," says Myers.

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**Recipe of the Week**

**Dorset Blueberry, ricotta and cobnut cheesecake**

*Serves 6-8*

170g caster sugar
200g cornflour
250g cream cheese, softened to room temperature
300ml double cream
100g caster sugar
20g cornflour
250g ricotta, softened to room temperature
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
1 tsp vanilla extract
120-150g cobnuts or hazelnuts, lightly toasted
Put 200g of the blueberries (use the softer ones) in a pan with the sugar and 175ml water. Slowly bring to the boil to dissolve the sugar, then simmer for 3-4 minutes. Mix the cornflour with the remaining 25ml water and add to the pan, stirring. Simmer, still stirring, for another 2-3 minutes. Remove from the heat and strain through a fine sieve into a bowl, pushing the berries in the sieve with the back of a spoon to extract as much juice as possible. Leave to cool.

Meanwhile, line a 17-18cm round springform cake tin with greaseproof paper. Crush the biscuits in a food processor until they are the texture of coarse breadcrumbs - or you can smash them in a plastic bag with a rolling pin. Mix the biscuit crumbs with the melted butter and pack in to the cake tin, firming down with the back of a spoon.

Whip the cream and sugar together until fairly stiff. In another bowl, beat the cream cheese and ricotta until it softens a little, then fold in the whipped cream with the lemon zest and vanilla extract. Lightly fold through half of the cooled blueberry syrup (don't mix too thoroughly, though, as you want a ripple effect) along with half of the cobnuts. Spoon the mix on to the biscuit base and place in the fridge for 2-3 hours, or overnight, until firm.

Mix the rest of the blueberries with the remaining blueberry syrup. To take the cheesecake out, run a hot knife around the edge, then release the side of the tin and slide the cheesecake on to a board. Cut into slices and serve each portion topped with a couple of spoonfuls of the blueberry sauce and either whole or lightly chopped cobnuts.

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**Corned Beef Hash**

*Serves 4*

600g floury potatoes, diced
1 tbsp oil or 15g dripping or butter
1 large onion, chopped
400g corned beef, chopped (homemade ideally, but you can also use canned)
1 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 tsp Dijon mustard
A dash of Worcestershire sauce
2 tbsp finely chopped parsley
Flaked sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Fried eggs, for serving (optional)

Put the potatoes in a saucepan and add water to cover them. Bring the water to the boil, then add salt and simmer for two to three minutes. Drain the potatoes and set them aside.

Heat the oil, dripping or butter in a large frying pan. Add the onion and fry gently, until it has until softened and is turning a golden-brown. Add the potatoes and the corned beef, then press the mixture down in the pan with a spatula and leave it to cook for five minutes.

Add enough water to the ketchup, mustard and Worcestershire sauce to make a pourable mixture, then add this to the corned beef and potato. Add the parsley and season with pepper - be careful with salt as the corned beef will already be salty - then stir. The underside should have started to turn a deep golden-brown.

Continue to cook, stirring and pressing down the mixture, until it is all completely heated through, the potatoes are tender, and a lot of the mixture has taken on some colour. Good served with fried eggs.

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**Cornded Beef hash**

The Hairy Bikers' Meat Feasts is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, priced £22 hardback, eBook £12.99. The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure is on BBC Two on Tuesday nights.
SOME true soul stars are getting ready to tour the UK this autumn – and all on the same billing. The Legends Live tour will bring together some of the cream of international soul acts on the same stage for the first time, writes Nicky Sweetsland.

The best-selling vocalist Dionne Warwick will be among the acts who will play at three arenas around the UK, starting first at the SSE Wembley Arena on October 3. She will be joined by Roberta Flack, The Drifters and her great friend Mary Wilson of the Supremes. The show will also play at Birmingham’s Barclaycard arena before the finale at the Manchester Arena.

I spoke to one of the Supremes, Mary Wilson, at her LA home about what she loves about London and the prospect of touring the UK with such a glittering line-up.

“I’m very excited. First of all England is one of my favourite countries. Of course, working in London, Birmingham and Manchester, which I’ve been to many many times, with my dear friend Dionne Warwick is so fabulous. I’ve been coming to London since 1964 so it’s almost like a second home for me.

Wilson was a founding member of the Supremes and remained with the group following the departures of other original members, Florence Ballard in 1967 and Diana Ross in 1970. Before the split the Supremes were the most commercially successful of Motown’s acts, with 12 number one singles, most of which were written and produced by Motown’s main songwriting and production team, Holland-Dozier-Holland.

Mary tells me about their success and slip-ups in a regular in his Songbook productions and is an established author with his autobiography, A Ticket to the Carnival, proving to be a big seller and his new novel, Love in the Afternoon, just released. If you’d like more details of Barrie’s upcoming engagements, you can visit atgtickets.com.
FASHION FOCUS: The press night of the West End Transfer of McQueen took place last week. It was a glitzy affair with many of the cast of Strictly Come Dancing in attendance along with the likes of David Hasslehoff, Jennifer Saunders and the ever stylish Goq Wan all there to celebrate the legacy of the acclaimed fashion icon, Alexander McQueen. Here, the cast appear for a curtain call.

The importance of being honest!

FOLLOWING huge success in the West End last year, Oscar Wilde’s much loved and brilliantly witty masterpiece The Importance of Being Earnest is touring the UK from September 2015.

The production will again star members of the 2014 West End cast, including Rosalind Ayres, Nigel Havers, Martin Jarvis, Christine Kavanagh and Siân Phillips, who will be joined by Nigel Anthony, Carmen Du Sautoy and David Shaw-Parker, performing as The Bunbury Company of Players.

I spent a lovely half an hour talking to the two leading men, Nigel Havers and Martin Jarvis, who told me about how this different take on the play was originally conceived. Martin tells me: “We did it at the National Theatre, Nigel and I with Judy Dench, when we were the right sort of ages for our roles and then Nigel had the brilliant idea – well we weren’t sure if it was brilliant but it turned out to be – of doing the play again. I said to him we can’t, it was 30 years ago. But then he said, we’re never too old. There’s a way of doing it if we invent a little bubble around the play and we got hold of wonderful Simon Brett and Lucy Bailey, our director, and we all contributed our bits into it. We came up with this Bunbury idea, that we are all part of a group of amateur players who put on this play every five or six years by popular demand.”

The show starts at the dress rehearsal of The Importance of Being Earnest, which is being performed by the Bunbury Players, a local amateur theatre group who are putting the final touches to the production before they move into the theatre the next day.

Nigel explains: “In fact you get two plays for one. You get this wonderful Simon Brett comedy that’s built around us doing the play and things do go wrong to start off with.”

Martin adds: “We exactly do the play, and as Nigel says it doesn’t go quite right because it’s the dress rehearsal in the great house. The cucumber sandwiches don’t go quite right, some of the props aren’t there.”

He tells me about his role in the show.

“My character is called Tony, who has always directed the play and pretends that he’s really mild and very modest about his contribution but actually he’s a rather autocratic director. Nigel plays Dickie and I don’t know whether you would say he’s a lothario?”

Nigel agrees and Martin continues: “So we all establish who we are. Lavinia is the actress played by Siân Philips who has for 30 years or more been playing Lady Bracknell. So we set that up, and it gives us permission to do the play at our greater ages and gives the audience permission to know that we know we’re too old.”

The pair are obviously very excited to be part of the production again and have me in stitches as they tell me about how the classic Oscar Wilde play works with the more mature cast.

Nigel tells me through laughter: “There is a line when lady Bracknell says, how old are you, and Martin says 29, and he gets a huge laugh.”

Martin adds: “I’ve never understood why! The audience just accept that we’re these people. I feel that I get younger as the play goes on.”

The tour starts at The Richmond Theatre on September 10, which is obviously a very special place for the company.

Martin explains: “After we did the wonderful play at the Harold Pinter we did a short tour. We went to Bath and Birminghanm and we went to Richmond, where it was a sell-out. The audiences were wonderful there. We’re really looking forward to going back and doing five more performances at Richmond for the people that couldn’t get in or missed it”

Nigel adds: “It’s nice for us to go back to a theatre that we know and love to get our play on its feet again. It’s the perfect setting for the play. It’s the most beautiful theatre.”

With the play currently running in the West End with the celebrated David Suchet playing Lady Bracknell, the Oscar Wilde classic is very much back to being a favourite for theatre goers.

The Importance of being Earnest runs at the Richmond Theatre from September 10.

OLD ONES ARE THE BEST: Nigel Havers and Martin Jarvis get the laughs in The Importance of Being Earnest.
CLASS ACT: Alison Arnop stars as Dusty Springfield in Dusty, the musical, at Charing Cross Theatre.

60s icon heads for the spotlight again

Dusty, the musical charting the life and music of Dusty Springfield, one of the most successful female singers of all time had its long awaited premiere this week at the Charing Cross Theatre.

The show, which has been beset with problems since it started previews back in April, finally opened with a dazzling premiere this week at the Noel Coward Theatre. More details can be found at thedustyshow.com.

Alison Arnop stars as Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O’Brien, who became Dusty Springfield, one of the best selling female singers in the world with hit songs including I Only Want To Be With You. I Just Don’t Know What To Do With Myself. You Don’t Have To Say You Love Me and Son of a Preacher Man. Alison told me what it’s like playing a woman who was known as a perfectionist and had a very unique quality of sound.

“I was already a fan so I knew the music, but I’ve been doing as much research as I can between rehearsals. I’ve been watching documentaries and really trying to get the sound and the way she moves. I have a slightly rounder tone and I guess that kind of soul sound but I’m not trying to be a mimic because no one could sound like her.”

The story is told through the eyes of fictional childhood friend Nancy Jones, and follows Dusty’s life from childhood to recording in Memphis. Springfield, who was born in West Hampstead, started her solo career in 1963 and became well known not only for her music but also for her political views.

“People might not be aware of the interest she had in the civil rights movement but she refused to play segregated concerts in Tabasco and was actually kicked out of South Africa. She also brought a lot of Motown artists on a UK tour because she loved that soul sound so much that she wanted to introduce it over here. Obviously she was gay as well and lots of people don’t know that. We do touch on all these things.”

The show uses a mixture of live performance and cutting edge technology, including 3D holograms and projections to help to bring Dusty to life. Putting together a production of this type is always going to be a challenge.

Alison said: “I only joined the show at tech so I can’t comment on what went on before apart from the fact that it’s been in previews for quite some time, which is unusual. It would be more of a usual situation in America, where they have bigger shows and the technology is something that takes a long time to get right. We’ve been tweaking the script to really make the story clear. Dusty was a perfectionist, things were never right and I think everyone in the show wants everything to be absolute right as well.

“The show should be good for Dusty fans but also for people who are fans of the music but want to know a bit more about who she was.”

For more details visit the website thedustyshow.com

Broadbent back with bah humbug Christmas classic

ACADEMY award-winning actor Jim Broadbent will make his long-awaited return to the stage to play Scrooge in a new version of A Christmas Carol at the Noel Coward Theatre later this year.

The play has been adapted by Patrick Barlow from Charles Dickens’ classic story of greed, grief, ghoulish ghosts and eleventh-hour redemption.

From Scrooge and Tiny Tim to Bob Cratchit and Mrs Fezziwig, Barlow’s imaginative adaptation of A Christmas Carol will bring some of Dickens’ most memorable characters to the stage once more. Broadbent will play the world famous miser whose catchphrase “bah humbug” has become synonymous with those who dislike Yuletide festivities.

Broadbent, pictured, will be joined by an exciting group of performers, to be announced shortly.

Coming together to create this innovative new work are some of our most loved and mischievous maverick theatre-makers. The play is written by Barlow (who also wrote the huge, long-running hit The 39 Steps) with whom Broadbent performed for many years in Barlow’s cult comedy troupe The National Theatre of Brent.

A Christmas Carol is directed by Olivier award-winning Phelim McDermott, artistic director of Improbable, one of Britain’s most inventive theatre companies, who is responsible for the iconic production, Shockheaded Peter. McDermott also directed Theatre of Blood at the National Theatre – in which Broadbent last appeared on stage.

Joining them is the critically-acclaimed designer Tom Pye (The Testament of Mary, The Death of Klinghoffer, The Low Road) and Toby Sedgwick (War Horse, The 39 Steps) as director of movement, while Peter Mumford will design the lighting and Gareth Fry will design sound.

A Christmas Carol and The Mackintosh Foundation are proud to be supporting St Martin-in-the-Fields’ Christmas Appeal by donating 50p for each ticket purchased. The appeal raises money to assist homeless people with shelter, food, help and advice.

Customers, as part of the purchasing process, will be asked if they would also like to donate 50p with each ticket purchased.

A Christmas Carol will run at the Noel Coward Theatre from November 30 to January 30. More details can be found at achristmascaroltheplay.com

Will you be here for me?

We are looking for ordinary people to care for children who are unable to live with their birth parents for short or long periods of time.

- An allowance of up to £502 per week per child
- Comprehensive training and 24/7 support

Information evening: Thursday 16 July
Monday 20 August 6.30pm
Morden Baptist Church,
Crown Lane, SM4 5BL
0800 073 0874
fostering@merton.gov.uk

Foster
merton.gov.uk/fostering

MERTON COUNCIL
Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts
The Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts – KOFMA – is being held in the beautiful parish church of St Matthew, Kensington Olympia, on the corner of Sinclair, Masbro and Fielding Roads from Saturday, September 12 to Sunday, September 20. The week of concerts, art exhibitions, school events, architectural walks and literary talks, kicks off on the Saturday with the monumental Bach Mass in B minor performed by The Oxford Spezatzi soloists, chorus and orchestra under its director Nicholas Mumbry. For detailed information about all the events, including ticket prices - which are all bookable online - go to kofma2015@gmail.com or just turn up on the day. Tickets for the gala dinner are also available through Laura Lamph on kofma2015@gmail.com or 07779 108108.

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre
To November 7
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde’s much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde’s superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud.

Exhibition of work by artist Irwin Crosthwait at Gray MCA
September 17 to 22
Unseen and rediscovered works by the former Canadian war artist, fashion illustrator and modern painter Irwin ‘Bud’ Crosthwait (1914 – 1995) will be on show at Gray MCA in London. The exhibition will present the most extensive selection of works by Crosthwait in 45 years, from across Europe and North America, including many works that have never before been on public view. The exhibition will feature a total of more than 60 original works ranging in price from £350 - £10,000. Location: Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street St James’s London SW1Y 6BN. Opening hours: Thursday 17 September – 9.30am - 8.00pm; Friday 18 September, Saturday 19 September, Sunday 20 September, Monday 21 September, Tuesday 22 September – 9.30am - 6.30pm.

Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium
To October 10th
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital’s iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer’s family, marks the centenary of Sinatra’s birth and features his greatest hits including Fly Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way.

London Design Festival
September 19 to 27
The London Design Festival was conceived by Sir John Sorrell and Ben Evans. Building on London’s existing design activity, their concept was to create an annual event that would promote the city’s creativity, drawing in the country’s greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to deliver an unmissable celebration of design. First staged in 2003, the London Design Festival is one of the world’s most important annual design events. The Festival programme is made up of over 600 events and exhibitions staged by hundreds of partner organisations across the design spectrum and from around the world. A major feature of the London Design Festival each year is the Designtree programme of installations that organisers call their Landmark Projects. First introduced in 2007, they commissions from the world’s best designers and architects, as well as pioneering new talents, to create something extraordinary in response to a variety of stimuli such as a particular material, a theme or a location. Over the years, these installations have appeared in some of London’s most prominent and best-loved spaces, including the V&A, Southbank Centre, Tate Modern and Trafalgar Square.

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre
To October 31
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare’s great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

West London Philatelic Society
September
West London Philatelic Society is ten years old this month. Meetings start at 8pm and are held at The Church Rooms, behind Acton Hill Church, Woodlands Avenue, Acton, London W3 9BU. In general, meetings are on the first Tuesdays of each month, from September to July, unless noted otherwise. They are a small, friendly society, so if you’re interested in stamps or postal history why not go along. New members welcome. For more details contact Honorary Secretary Christopher E Oliver on Tel: 020 8940 9833 or e-mail: olivers.of.ham@virgin.net. Web: sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelsociety

Buckingham Palace summer opening
To September 27th
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world’s few remaining working royal palaces - don’t miss the chance to see it.

THE St James Theatre Studio is set to host the world stage premiere of Spike Milligan and Ronnie Barker’s The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town.

The play, featuring a Jack the Ripper-style madman who stalks the streets of Victorian London, will be staged on Friday, October 30, Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1.

The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town was the final Goons Show BBC radio script, conceived and written by “the Godfather of modern comedy” Spike Milligan. It was to have starred Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Milligan but Sellers’ Hollywood career had taken off with The Pink Panther movies and so it was never recorded by them.

The script was later adapted by Milligan and British comedy great Ronnie Barker as an eight-part serial and it appeared in 1976 on The Two Ronnies TV show.

Now the Ministry of Entertainment is bringing the Milligan-Barker script to the stage as Milligan originally intended – performed by The Goons. The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town will also include previously unused material from the abandoned Goon Show for fans and a whole new generation to enjoy.

The story emerges from the darkest annals of Victorian England, a lurid tale of folks, jokes and cloak! Chaos and comedy abounds when a lone madman stalks the streets of foggy London, bringing discomfort and disgust to everyone, in probably the most outrageous wayimaginable to man (…and it’s not Jack-the-Ripper – he’s away on a course!).

It is directed by Danny Greenstone as a fast-paced live radio show, with David Boyle, Lee Moore and Steve Elais in the roles originally created for Sellers, Milligan and Secombe. They are joined in the madness by James Petherick as the Announcer, Jodie Jacobs as The Girl, and of course The Phantom himself… to be played by a nightly mystery celebrity guest!

All proceeds from the world stage premiere gala performance of The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town on October 30, will be donated to youth charity The Prince’s Trust, which helps young people into work or training. For more details visit stjamestheatre.co.uk


Dancers show great drive

THE Amici Dance Theatre Company celebrates its 35th anniversary with a new full company show, called 35 Amici Drive, which will be performed on the Lyric Hammersmith’s main stage.

The Fullham-based dance theatre company, which integrates able-bodied and disabled performers will tell the story of a group of residents under threat of eviction from their homes. The performance will start within the foyer of the theatre, with performers encouraging the audience to join their battle against the oppressive and uncaring Streatham Green Borough Council, their local MP and developers Eastlawn Incorporated. Will they overcome their struggle to stay or will they face the wrecking ball?

35 Amici Drive has been devised and will be performed by more than 40 Amici company members. It is choreographed by Wolfgang Stange who has once again collaborated with Oliver Award-nominated director Michael Vale, whose directing credits include Tightrope and Elegy at the Lyric Hammersmith; designer Tina Bicat, who won the Critics Circle Award for design for her work on Punchdrunk’s Faust; Japanese multi-instrumentalist Nao Masuda providing live and pre-recorded original compositions; and lighting designer Phil Supple who recently designed the lighting for the poppy installation at The Tower of London.

To help raise funding for the show, Amici have run a successful crowdfunding campaign called Save Our Show, with Stephen Fry even tweeting about a link to his millions of followers. Alongside 35 Amici Drive, Amici members will be running a series of dance theatre workshops with several Hammersmith and Fulham community groups, including; the Youth Offending Service of Hammersmith and Fulham, Nubian Life Resource Centre and Action on Disability.

The workshops will be based on the main themes of the show, which include: overcoming obstacles and creating and maintaining a strong community.

The performances of 35 Amici Drive will be on the main stage at the Lyric Hammersmith from September 10 to 12. For more details visit the company’s website amicidance.org or the theatre website lyric.co.uk

Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium
To October 10th
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital’s most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer’s family, marks the centenary of Sinatra’s birth and features his greatest hits including Fly Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way.

This is a FREE listings service for local charitable and community organisations.
Email your listings to: listings@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Editorial: London Weekly News
Editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Thursday, September 10th 2015

20 London Weekly News

Talk Of The Town
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(GONVILLE STREET)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Gonville Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Fulham High Street and Putney Bridge Approach.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Wednesday, 16th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 16th September 2015 and last for 3 days.
Dated this 1st day of September 2015.
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(EDDISCOMBE ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of Eddiscombe Road between its junction with New Kings Road and No.3 Eddiscombe Road.
2.Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Eddiscombe Road between its junction with New Kings Road and No.3 Eddiscombe Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via New Kings Road, Guion Street, St Donis Road and Munster Road.
4. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the parking bays on both sides of Eddiscombe Road between its junction with New Kings Road and No.3 Eddiscombe Road shall be suspended.
5. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
6. The Order came into operation on Saturday 5th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. Works commenced on Saturday 5th September 2015 and last for 2 days with back up dates scheduled for Saturday 12th of September 2015.
Dated this 1st day of September 2015.
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(HAMMERSMITH GROVE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the dismantling of a tower crane in Hammersmith Grove, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Hammersmith Grove, between its junctions with Glenthorne Road and Beadon Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Glenthorne Road and Beadon Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Monday, 6th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
Dated this 1st day of October 2015.
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(SAWLEY ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC
1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Sawley Road at its junction with Wormholt Road.
3. An alternative route for northbound traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wormholt Road, Byron Road and Galloway Road.
4. An alternative route for southbound traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wormholt Road, Ubriquet Road and Galloway Road.
5. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
6. The Order would come into operation on Wednesday, 7th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
7. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 7th October 2015 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.
Dated this 1st day of October 2015.
Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services
**Public Notices**

**London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

**TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operation works in the above named road, it proposes to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit pedestrian traffic and close a section of footway in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Carnwath Road outside Nos. 82 to 104 Carnwath Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Peterborough Road and Sulivan Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and last until 31st December 2015. The date specified is for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

7. Dated this 02nd day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (CARNWATH ROAD)**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operation works to be carried out in the above named road, it proposes to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit pedestrian traffic and close a section of footway in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Carnwath Road outside Nos. 82 to 104 Carnwath Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Peterborough Road and Sulivan Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and last until 31st December 2015. The date specified is for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

7. Dated this 02nd day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (HARBOUR AVENUE)**

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

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Harbour Avenue.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Court Road and London Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works would be expected to commence on the Tuesday, 15th September 2015 and last until 31st December 2015. The date specified is for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

7. Dated this 02nd day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services
LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

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£18,708 to £20,349
November 2015

Dulwich College Kindergarten and Infants’ School are looking for caring and enthusiastic person to join the Kindergarten team, specialising in the care and education of under threes. Initially this is a fixed term of November 2015 to August 2016 with the possibility of becoming permanent thereafter.

Following our recent ISI inspection in which we were awarded ‘Outstanding’ and ‘Excellent’, we are keen to maintain continual improvement and development. We are looking to recruit, a level 3 qualified, innovative colleague to join our team working with two year olds to support us to continue developing our school for the benefit of children and families.

Closing date 4.00pm on 11 September with interviews on 16 September 2015.

Further details are available from www.dulwich.org.uk/appointments or by contacting 020 8299 9326/5183.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. A DBS Disclosure is required to Enhanced level. Chair: 150904.

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We are a busy practice with over 15,500 patients and we offer a range of services to our registered population. We are based over 2 sites which are less than 10 minutes’ walk from each other. The successful candidate will be expected to work over both sites.

We are looking for a Receptionist with good customer care skills to work 21 hours per week from Monday to Friday afternoons.

Salary range from £19,810 to £20,736 and 5 weeks annual leave per year.

The successful candidate will be entitled to join the NHS Pension Scheme.

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Call: 0208 768 4919 Fax: 0208 776 8863 Email: candy.brown@slp.co.uk
Defeat by Wales loses Ireland No 2 ranking

Saturday’s 16-10 win for Wales over Ireland at the Aviva Stadium not only denied Paul O’Connell the home farewell he’d have hoped for, it also resulted in the Irish losing second place in the World Rugby Rankings to Australia.

The defeat to Wales, three weeks after they’d so comprehensively outplayed their Celtic cousins in Cardiff, cost Ireland 1.7 rating points, leaving them on 85.19 points, 1.48 points adrift of the Wallabies. New Zealand are comfortably on top, a position they have occupied since November 2009, with 92.89 points.

Wales, meanwhile, moved above their RWC 2015 Pool A opponents England and into fifth place in the rankings following a performance that was several notches higher than the one they’d produced when losing 35-21 to the same opposition in Cardiff.

Wales’ first victory in Dublin for three years saw their rating total improve by 1.69 points to 84.63 – less than four tenths more than the RWC 2015 hosts.

While Scotland’s RWC 2015 preparations gained some momentum with a high-tempo, sixty try display against Italy at Murrayfield, there wasn’t much movement in their rating points, the 48-7 win only earning them a fraction over a third of a point. Scotland are still ranked as the 10th best team in the world.

Asian champions

Japan’s 40-0 win over Uruguay at the Prince Chichibu Memorial Rugby Ground in Tokyo did not affect either side’s rankings position or points total.

The Asian champions ran in six unanswered tries, three in each half, to sweep to a 2-0 series win against the South Americans after beating their fellow RWC 2015 competitors 30-8 in Fukuoka seven days earlier. They remain in 15th position with Uruguay back in 19th.

Five other sides bound for RWC 2015 were in action over the weekend, albeit playing representative or club sides so the matches had no impact on the World Rugby Rankings. Tonga and Canada were the only winners of the quintet, beating Nottingham 69-14 and Glasgow Warriors 19-12 respectively. In the other matches, Samou lost 27-24 to the Barbarians at The Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, while Georgia lost 27-7 to the Newcastle Falcons and USA were beaten 24-19 by Harlequins in Philadelphia.

Papua New Guinea’s victory in the Oceania Rugby Cup had no effect on their ranking position. The Pukus stay 95th in the world, albeit with a marginally improved points total, after clinching the title on home soil with a 58-19 win against the Solomon Islands.

Two victories in the last seven days, 36-12 over the Solomon Islands and 20-8 over American Samoa, have seen Tahiti move up three places to 13th position with Uruguay back in 19th.

Scotland remain in 10th place with Namibia having moved up three places to 11th, leaving them on 85.19 points, 1.48 points adrift of the Wallabies. New Zealand are comfortably on top, a position they have occupied since November 2009, with 92.89 points.

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Excitement mounts as teams prepare to fly in

WITH excitement building ahead of Rugby World Cup 2015, World Rugby has confirmed the official in-tournament arrival dates for the 20 participating teams.

World Rugby Pacific Nations Cup champions Fiji have the honour of being the first team to officially arrive in the host nation on September, 9th nine days ahead of the tournament’s opening match against hosts England at Twickenham on September 18th.

After a brief stint in England for warm-up matches, Tonga travel to Romania to face the Oaks in their final warm-up match before officially returning to England at their base on September 10th.

The following day will see defending champions New Zealand arrive in London along with Rugby World Cup 2019 hosts Japan and Samoa, who faced the Barbarians at the Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, on Saturday.

With teams allowed to arrive officially up until September 16th, 12 sides will arrive at their training bases in England and Wales between September 12-15th, including Rugby World Cup 1995 and 2007 champions South Africa on September 12th and 1991 and 1999 winners and Rugby Championship victors Australia on September 14th and reigning Six Nations champions Ireland on September 15th.

Wales, Romania, Scotland and Namibia are the final teams to arrive officially in tournament, taking residence in their respective team bases on September 16th.

All teams will be officially welcomed into the host nation at special team welcome ceremonies at iconic locations the length and breadth of the nation.

Arrival dates of competing teams

No 1 – New Zealand
No 2 – Australia
No 3 – Ireland
No 4 – South Africa
No 5 – Wales
No 6 – England
No 7 – France
No 8 – Argentina
No 9 – Fiji
No 10 – Scotland

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He's no big-time Charlie

No fewer than 14 senior players have arrived at Loftus Road in the summer transfer window but it was one they have somehow managed to keep that raised most eyebrows and put smiles on the faces of delighted supporters.

For R's fans who feared that star striker Charlie Austin would jump ship to join a Premier League club, there was a sense of disbelief and huge relief as the 6.00pm deadline passed on September 1 and their hero was still a Rangers player.

Whether Austin, whose 18 goals couldn’t save the club from relegation last May, will come to regret that QPR apparently turned down £12m bids for him from Leicester City and Crystal Palace remains to be seen.

Certainly, Rangers’ stubborn resistance – insisting that only offers of at least £15m would be considered – will be fully vindicated if the team bounces straight back to the top flight.

With Austin, Blues boss Matt Phillips and keeper Robert Green all staying in W12 at least until the transfer window reopens in January 2016, the pressure is now on head coach Chris Ramsey to keep R’s on course for promotion at the first attempt. He has been given the opportunity to succeed in the second tier and now needs to convince his star players and supporters that progress is being made.

That Austin, in particular, isn’t wasting a year of his career.

To keep all the Portsmouth league valuations at bay in recent months has been a major coup for the west Londoners, who can almost regard Austin as a new major signing.

Given player great credit, too, for maintaining a dignified, low-key stance amid constant speculation about his future. If he privately felt aggrieved that no top flight club was prepared to force QPR’s hand and make him a big-time Charlie, he has done well to conceal his disappointment.

Film clip

Less than an hour before the transfer window closed, Austin took to Twitter to confirm he was staying by posting a link to a YouTube clip.

Leonardo DiCaprio’s famous “I’m not f****** leaving” speech in a scene from the film, The Wolf of Wall Street. 

Acknowledging how well Austin and Phillips have conducted themselves, Ramsey said: “I think QPR have helped put players like Charlie and Matty on the map and it’s great to see them acting with such integrity and loyalty.

“Obviously, from a professional point of view, you feel a little disappointed for them, as all players want to play at the highest level possible, but they’re in a great place here at QPR.

“They’re at a great club, where I believe they can go on to be even better players than they currently are.

“They’re improving all the time – and the pair of them are only going to get better.

“It’s been a stressful, uncertain period, but I’m sure a lot of managers would say exactly the same. Now it’s over and behind us, I’m looking forward and not backwards, and hopefully we will build on our start to the season, which considering all the speculation that’s surrounded the club, has been fairly good.”

QPR made their last summer signing on deadline day, when Italian defender Gabriele Angella, 26, joined them on a season-long loan from promoted Watford.

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

Eva still out in the cold

New Chelsea books to be won

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Cricket

Surrey going up

GARETH Batty took a hat-trick to clinch Surrey’s promotion to Division One of the LV= County Championship as they beat Derbyshire by an innings and 98 runs.
Skipper Batty dismissed Tony Palladino, Mark Footitt and Ben Cotton as the visitors were all out for 149 at The Kia Oval last Friday.
Trailing by 247 on first innings, they had found themselves 0-2 as brothers Sam and Tom Curran each took a wicket, before Batty impressed with figures of 6-51 to secure the victory.
Surrey’s bowlers were given a strong platform thanks to a mammoth first innings total of 560, in which Zafar Ansari (106 runs), Rory Burns (92), James Burke (79) and Gary Wilson (72) were the biggest hitters.

Having begun the match needing 15 points to make sure of promotion, Surrey picked up 23 to move to the top of the Division Two table and will now make their match against Lancashire at Old Trafford, beginning next Monday (Sept 14), a title decider.

Batty, who has taken 36 wickets and scored 311 runs in the promotion campaign, said: “That’s my first hat-trick in first-class cricket. My only other one came for Yorkshire Under-11s against Lancashire Under-11s at Woodhouse Grange School back in the late 80s!”

MIDDLESEX confirmed this week that Neil Dexter will be leaving the club at the end of the season to join Leicestershire on a three-year deal.

Dexter joined Middlesex from Kent at the end of the 2008 season. His first full season for the club was in 2009, and he has since gone on to make 237 appearances in all formats, scoring over 7,150 runs and taking 167 wickets.

Dexter leaves after seven years at Lord’s, where he captained Middlesex in first-class cricket between 2010 and 2012 and in the one-day arena between 2010 and 2013.

Continued from p28

THE Chelsea future of popular doctor Eva Carnicero remains in doubt, as it’s reported that she has yet to return to the club following her recent very public demotion by Jose Mourinho.

She and her former physiotherapist Jon Fearn went on the pitch to treat Eden Hazard near the end of the 2-2 opening day draw with Swansea City.

With Hazard having to leave the field following treatment, and Chelsea already down to nine men to Thibaut Courtois’ sending-off, it meant Blues were temporarily reduced to nine men.

It was that spark Mourinho’s outburst, claiming that the duo were impulsive and naive.

Chelsea refuse to comment on the controversy other than to say that it’s an internal staff matter”, while Carneiro is taking legal advice.

The incident, however, is due to be discussed at a meeting of FIFA’s medical committee on Friday.

UNDER the excellent tutelage of Joe Edwards and Jody Morris, Chelsea Under-18s continue to get results even when the side is depleted due to international call-ups.

A brace of goals from Miro Muheim and a strike from Isaac Christie-Davies saw off a strong Southampton outfit 3-1 at the weekend.

Edwards said after the game: “This was the second home game of the season where we’ve had a real test.

“We’ve become used to games in the past where if you start well you can score a lot of goals and the second half becomes mainly about keeping your standards high. But against Southampton, it was quite a cagey second half and we were asked to show a strong mentality.

“That was the biggest positive for us and the second-years really led the line in that respect. Isaac Christie-Davies and Midtattr Ali were excellent in midfield and, of course, Miro Muheim has not only got his goals but also shown a great work-rate playing in an unfamiliar position.

“The second-year performances and approach really helped the younger boys in what was probably the youngest team we’ve put out so far this season.”

The kids travel to Leicester City in the U18 Premier League on Saturday, while the U21s start their Premier League International Cup campaign at home to Liverpool on Friday. The game is being played at Aldershot Town (7.05pm).

Due to Weiss’s U21s will play at Stamford Bridge against Reading on Friday, September 25.

CHELSEA Ladies notched up their fifth consecutive victory when they dispatched Notts County 2-1 in Sunday. They are now five points clear at the top of WSL 1.

A Claire Rafferty header opened the scoring after 15 minutes and Gilly Flaherty doubled the lead early in the second half.

Manager Emma Hayes said: “We scored our goals at key moments and, although we conceded a sloppy goal, the spine of our team was so strong.

“We are very happy with the fact that, despite coming under a period of lots of pressure late on, we managed to win a lot of headers and dominated from piece to piece. We needed our strength in defence and what we have with Gilly Flaherty, Niambi Fahey and Katie Chapman are three of the best players in the country.”

“Gilly’s performance was one of the best centre-back displays I’ve seen in a long time and that is what wins you championships.”

The crowd for the game at Staines Town was 883.

Paul Lagan

FULTHAM’s home league match against Wolves has been moved to Tuesday, September 29 (next Wednesday, Sept 16), to avoid clashing with Chelsea’s Champions League match with Maccabi Tel-Aviv, which UEFA insist must be played on that date.

Hat-trick hero Gareth Batty sealed promotion.

Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

HAT-TRICK hero Gareth Batty sealed promotion.

Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South
Jose Mourinho is preparing his side for the difficult task of visiting Everton on Saturday with a squad very different from the one he would have hoped for, following a disastrous transfer window.

These are the players Blues have signed this summer: Begovic, Falcao, Baba Rahman, Kenedy, Pedro, Manea, Nathan, Pantic, Papi Djilobodji and Hector.

Only Pedro, from Barcelona, of that 10 would get the pulse of the average Chelsea fan racing and the last two, Papi and deadline day arrival Michael Hector, a result of the failed attempt to prise John Stones away from Everton, has left the Chelsea faithful – and no doubt Mourinho, too – decidedly underwhelmed.

With four increased bids, the last one £38m, thrown back in their faces, Chelsea’s transfer negotiators gave up on Stones and went, instead, to sign a couple of centre-backs who, at £4m apiece, are probably less valuable than the kids currently in the development