TERROR IN NICE PUTS CAPITAL ON HIGH ALERT

Mayor pledges security review

BY GEOFF BAKER
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As a top security expert warned that the Nice truck attack could be copied in London, Mayor Sadiq Khan has ordered an urgent terror review to determine whether more steel and concrete car-bomb barriers need to be put in key areas around the capital.

Police and security experts have been told to investigate whether barriers like those along Whitehall and outside Parliament now need to be installed around the city which could be at risk of a similar attack to the truck terror atrocity which killed 84 people in France last week.

After declaring that the capital would "stand united" with France and insisting that the "poisonous and twisted" IS terrorists would be defeated, Mayor Khan said: "I reassure all Londoners that we are reviewing our own safety measures in light of this attack and that I and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner will do everything possible to keep Londoners safe.'

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A woman lays flowers at the French Embassy in Kensington in memory of the victims of the Nice terror attack

Picture: SWNS

FOOTBALLERS

MEN FOR UNITY TO MEET OBAMA

TUFF FC, London's acclaimed gang-busting teenage footballers, are to fly to The White House next month as ambassadors to help President Obama try to bring peace to the streets of America, writes Geoff Baker.

And the young soccer stars are also asking for a meeting with presidential candidate Donald Trump, "so that maybe we can melt his heart".

Thirty players from The Unity of Faiths Foundation's highly successful scheme to turn teenagers away from gang culture and the risk of radicalisation by turning them onto football instead, have been invited to the White House by President Obama, who wants them to brief him on how the scheme could be rolled out across the USA.

But the charity is urgently appealing to Londoners to help fund the crucial street peace mission which could help the President tackle the crime wave caused by Washington DC's 180 gangs.

The Foundation has been given £5,000 towards the cost of the trip by a TV company which is currently filming the success story of the TUFF FC players, who last month won the backing of The Pope, who agreed to become their patron when they met him at The Vatican.

But they need around £19,000 more in order to afford flights and hotel rooms for the squad of young ambassadors.

"We've got to find the money fast because we've been invited to The White House in the last week of August," said Dr Shamender Talwar, co-founder of the Kensington-based charity.

"We are desperately hoping that a benefactor or organisations will step up to help us with this crucial street peace mission. It would be a godsend if an airline or a hotel group could also help us out because this trip is so very important.

"The TUFF FC project has had great
Interpretation

**Stage set for creative arts to celebrate diversity and unity**

BY JACK DIXON
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THE architect of a multi-million-pound redevelopment at one of west London’s premier theatres says the creative arts can show “the best of who we are” at a time of political turbulence and division.

Madani Younis is steering the Bush Theatre through an ambitious revamp – the biggest in its 43-year history – as it seeks to cement its place among the capital’s elite venues.

Ahead of its scheduled re-launch in early 2017, the theatre’s artistic director says the Uxbridge Road venue has an exciting future in store, with an extra studio space and expanded garden in the pipeline.

But he believes the performing arts have an even more important role to play after the curtain goes down.

“We’ve seen a 500 per cent increase in racist attacks post-Brexit. In many ways that is such a tragedy because the greatest part of living and working in Shepherd’s Bush is the diversity,” he says.

“This is what makes the area so special and, artistically, this is why the work feels so rich across all art forms.”

While the £4 million revamp is likely to boost the theatre’s commercial prospects and attract a whole new generation of audiences, it is the Bush’s potential to champion its community that drives Madani.

“My real success over the next few years will be making that building feel like it stands up for the community of Shepherd’s Bush,” he adds.

“With the political climate being what it is, I think it’s important that our cultural venues speak of the stories that we are not seeing represented across the medium more widely.”

Five months into the build and the new look theatre is already beginning to take shape.

The Bush has achieved around 90 per cent of its target fundraising to cover the cost of this renovation and has made a commitment to locking prices at an accessible level for 20 per cent of all tickets.

For Madani, ensuring that the theatre is a home for home for local people is the driving force behind the project.

“Doing this season of work is a reflection of the belief that our work should be met by our community,” he adds. “For many years we asked people to come to us. But I think for the first time we are going out in a very direct way into the community and that really excites me because the relationship we have with our audiences should feel intimate.”

Madani was born in Walthamstow to a Trinidadian mother and a Pakistani father – and was raised in a family that was part Christian and part Muslim.

After journeying to Southampton and Birmingham to study film and then moving to Leeds and Bradford to pursue his career, he returned to his London roots in 2012 to take over as artistic director at the Bush.

Under his guidance, the theatre is staging a new wave of plays inspired by the cultural diversity of the Uxbridge Road – one of Europe’s most vibrant communities in terms of the number of languages spoken.

This Place We Know brings together six writers with a connection to the Shepherd’s Bush area to produce original pieces performed live in “found” venues along the Uxbridge Road, including Defensor’s Fold, St Stephen’s Church and the Nubian Life Resource Centre.

While the Bush is closed during the renovation, Madani says the theatre’s temporary switch to premises on the Edward Woods estate has fuelled a desire to reach out to the community and create new work inspired by local people.

“We have learned something new every day just by being in and amongst the community,” he says.

“This Place We Know was a project we felt was really important in terms of a narrative for us. We wanted all of our shows to take place in the Shepherd’s Bush or west London area and we’ve invited writers who we feel reflect the diversity of the communities that surround us.

“Actually by taking our work into these spaces we will be producing our work in a very different way, a way that gives a different sense of what theatre can be and how theatre can exist in these found spaces.”

As a boy Madani was inspired by his mother, an English teacher, who filled the family home with books by African-American and West Indian writers.

“But like no other medium, he says, theatre has the ability to capture the poetry of our everyday lives.”

“From a very young age I appreciated the power of the word, and just how powerful new writing and new stories could be on stage in front of an audience, and what that union feels like. I still believe there is no other art form that gives you that shared experience.”

Picture: Richard Davenport
Doctors’ surgeries are in ‘state of emergency’

BY GEOFF BAKER

WORKFORCE shortages at GP practices across London have put doctors’ surgeries in “a state of emergency” as more than 30 are facing closure due to staff shortages and warning that staff are “at breaking point”.

The capital’s entire health service is set to be hit hard as half of London GP practices have a vacancy, two fifths expect a GP to retire in the next three years and 35 practices are planning to terminate their contract or considering closure, a shock survey has revealed.

As the workforce crumbles in the face of staff shortages, Dr Michelle Drage, Chief Executive of London-wide Local Medical Committee (LMCs), has warned that general practice in London faces “a dire situation” that will affect hundreds of thousands of Londoners.

Following a survey of 37 local medical committees and 137 GP practices, Dr Drage said: “London is in a state of emergency. Half of London’s general practices are short of a key member of staff and more than a third are missing at least one GP.

“Whilst the remaining GPs, practice nurses and their teams are working flat out to fill in the gaps, they’re at breaking point and we need to help them to deal with the growing complexity of London’s health care delivery.

“Without increased support and staff, the future of community general practice looks uncertain; many will close, delivering the service with fewer staff is unsustainable and unsafe in the long term, let alone stretching to an extended seven-day services.

“The Government’s promised influx of 5,000 new GPs has already been watered down and seems less and less likely with every day that passes. As we near October 2016, the point at which the NHS Five Year Forward Vision aimed to stabilise funding for general practice, the situation is still dire.

“The Forward Vision claimed to tackle retention and recruitment and introduce stability, but with our survey showing more GPs leaving the profession month on month, increasing vacancies for GPs and key staff across every part of the capital, and a steady rise in the number of practice closures, it is clear the plan is not working.

“Our general practices are the backbone of the NHS – providing for 90 per cent of patients’ needs on a daily eight per cent of its budget – and failing. To see the future of general practice for the citizens of London we need more resources and more support.

“And we need it now, before it is too late.

The survey revealed that half of GP practices, covering an estimated 350,082 patients, do not know if they will terminate their contract in the next three years.

Only 70 per cent of respondents have the capacity to provide medical care to the citizens of London in the next three years.

Doctors are considering employing additional locum or agency staff.

31 per cent of practices are considering succession planning.

17 per cent of practices are considering employing a pharmacist.

15 per cent of practices are considering reducing services.

Combined, 35 practices are either considering closing or have already closed practices and are considering closing practices.

Hospital bids to calm fears over heart ops

CHELSEA’S Royal Brompton Hospital has moved firmly to calm patients fears following the “irrational and reckless” announcement by NHS England that congenital heart operations at the world-renowned centre could be stopped.

Hospital chiefs have promised “full and frank discussions” with NHS England as they fight the highly-controversial proposal which has alarmed patients and families who have deluged the Royal Brompton with frightening calls.

NHS England has proposed stopping congenital heart surgery operations at the Royal Brompton as part of a nationwide reduction in treatment in a bid to reduce the pressure on the national health service by ensuring that surgeons operate on at least 125 patients each a year.

The Brompton performed 512 congenital heart disease operations and 544 catheter procedures on children and adults in 2015, more than any of the other 12 NHS trusts performing such work.

The annual nicer study from University College London found the Brompton was second only to Great Ormond Street Hospital for the best survival rates, with 98.3 per cent of patients alive 30 days after the procedure.

A hospital spokesman said: “Since NHS England’s announcement, our clinical teams have been inundated with calls from patients and parents who are panicked by the idea that their care may be transferred to another, unnamed hospital.

“They are unable to understand that this is the biggest and the best performing service that would be threatened in this way. We have reassured them that, as ever, we will do everything in our power to protect them now and in the future.”

Robert Craig, chief operating officer at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, has issued a hard-hitting statement in response to NHS England’s announcement.

Mr Craig said: “We find NHS England’s stated intention extraordinary. What we did hear, however, was to reassert that we are looking at the idea of removing congenital heart disease services from the Royal Brompton hospital.

“I am subject to consultation with relevant Trusts and, if appropriate, the wider public. We fail to see how any logical review of the facts will come to the same conclusion as this paper.

“We will understand the motivation of commissioners to show progress is being made with congenital heart disease services, to threatening to withdraw services from one of the latest and most successful centres in the country seems an absurd approach.

“Teams at Royal Brompton Hospital campaigned for congenital heart disease (CHD) procedures last year than any other centre in the country in the country so close to achieving the best survival rates, with 98.3 per cent of patients alive 30 days after the procedure.

For the past ten years, our experts have undertaken over 500 congenital heart procedures each year – paediatric and adult – and during this time, our results have met or exceeded all the standards defined by the regulatory body.

“We are extremely confident that the best performing centres in the country.”

“Very concerned about where alternative capacity in other hospitals could be found if this ill-conceived proposal were to go ahead, and urge that this information has not been made available already.”

Summer fun

TENNIS played to music, health walks on Holland Park and cycling sessions for the over 50s are just some of the low-cost activities on offer to residents of Kensington and Chelsea this summer.

The council’s summer fitness programme runs until August 26 and session prices range from £1 to £3, while some activities such as the health walks are free.
Local people support 700 pupils on path to success

Angela McConvilie, Westway Trust's communications officer, reflects on the support that local people provide to the Trust's education and cultural programmes.

Without local people giving up their time to support us, much of what we do here at Westway Trust would be impossible.

Twenty local people gave more than 3,500 hours of their time to support Westway Trust’s adult learning and cultural programmes during the last year and that’s not to mention the amount of time given to gardening, elderly care and the terrific supplementary school support.

Last week, as the learning year came to a close, we held a celebration for volunteers at the Westway Bank Gallery on Thorpe Close and I want to take this opportunity to thank them again for their support.

One of the main areas where local support is needed is in supplementary schools - out-of-school clubs, local charities and voluntary organisations that provide extra help to targeted groups of school children.

Where pupils’ first language is not English the classes can be taught in their mother tongue.

This small change, removing the stress of learning a new language, can bring about a breakthrough in learning and keep the pupils in touch with their roots. With the leadership and support of local people giving their time for free, nearly 700 students were able to attend local supplementary schools last year. The supplementary schools operated aren’t operated by Westway Trust but by independent co-ordinators, some of whom have been running their schools for decades and volunteers are vital to Westway Trust’s ability to coordinate the network of schools and provide them with the support and training they need.

The support of local people is also vital to our adult learning classes. The programme goes from strength to strength and this year it was awarded ‘the matrix Standard’, an industry quality mark, recognising the quality of our information, advice and guidance.

Voluntary support came in the form of teaching assistants, small group tutors, and administrative support. As well as helping Westway Trust to run more classes and provide more support in classrooms volunteers also bring in expertise of their own. They’ve passed on skills like embroidery and IT to learners and other volunteers and use their knowledge to support those like our regular newsletter which is published by volunteers, and importantly speak to learners in their own language.

As well as simply wanting to give something back to the community many of the volunteers who come to us do so because they are thinking about a career in teaching, either because they worked in the field before they came to the UK and want to re-train and use their skills, transfer, or because they’re considering a change of direction and want to try out teaching.

Hakima, a volunteer who came to the UK from Morocco, said that she has found that volunteering has improved her skills and helped her achieve her goals.

We’re able to support volunteers by offering accredited teaching assistant qualifications. This year we also used a grant from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to set up two ‘champion’ projects.

The Safeguarding Champions took an accredited course for those working with learners and helped them to support teachers in keeping children safe.

IT Champions were trained to work as teaching assistants in IT classes and run their own IT work for a small number of learners.

Finally, the Growing Champions took up a gardening plot in St Charles Community Garden and worked together to fruit and vegetable and. Support programmes have resulted in eight volunteers advancing to the Westway Estate is a wonderful asset that financially support many great programmes including our own but there is always a need for volunteers. If you’ve been inspired to get involved you can find opportunities on the Westway Trust website or through other local organisations like Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea.

Budding thespians can check out Hackney’s summer holiday project at Chelsea Academy and work together to create an original play inspired by the 2016 Olympics in Rio that their families and friends will be proud to see.

Booklovers can pop into their local library and join the Summertime Reading Challenge that encourages children to read six books throughout the summer holidays. Children can read whatever they like for the time of year books, picture books or even listen to audio books and collect stickers and rewards along the way.

I’m exhausted just flicking through the booklet and, to give a flavour of the wealth of fun on offer, other activities include: calisthenics, kayaking, keep-fit, football, rock climbing and songwriting – there really is something for everyone and many activities are suitable for those with disabilities.

Summer holidays can be a logistical nightmare for working parents and we’re running several of the numerous play clubs that operate during office hours.

So what is on offer, go to www.londonsummerfun.co.uk or pick up a copy of the Summer in the City brochure from your local library, Westway Trust, children’s centres and youth clubs.

Here’s absolutely no excuse for any of our young people to ever utter the phrase ‘I’m bored’ this summer.

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March and rally defies forces of hate

DEFIANT Londoners condemned the “dark forces” of intolerance and discrimination as thousands marched through the streets of Hammersmith in a powerful demonstration of unity following a string of racist attacks.

People from all corners of the community waved banners and placards as they marched from Shepherd’s Bush Green to Ravenscourt Park on Sunday before joining a rally celebrating the borough’s cultural diversity.

The ‘Unity Day’ followed a series of racist and xenophobic incidents sparked by last month’s vote to leave the European Union.

Hammersmith became the focal point of the surge in hate crime after the Polish centre in King Street was painted with offensive graffiti days after the referendum.

It was a very different picture in Ravenscourt Park, however, as marchers united to reject the abuse aimed at religious, ethnic and cultural minorities.

Wiktór Moszczynski, a committee member at the Polish Social and Cultural Association, was among several community leaders who spoke out against intolerance during the event.

“The outrageous slogan that was reproduced was a painful shock not only for Poles but for local residents in Hammersmith,” he said.

“But what happened to us was not an isolated incident. The Brexit vote seemed to have released in some Leave voters a sense of empowerment to isolate and intimidate.

“What we must recognise is that this is not just aimed at Poles in the community but at all religious and ethnic minorities. Whatever our nationality, race or religion we must not let them divide us.”

Hammersmith and Fulham council organised the Unity Day celebration following a reported 500 per cent increase in hate crime nationally since the referendum.

Council leader Stephen Cowan said people in Hammersmith had been among those targeted with vile abuse.

“In recent weeks too many of our friends and neighbours have been confronted by racist and xenophobic incidents: people asked why they are still here, told to go home, and when they voted to leave, said, ‘That is just not the country we are and it certainly is not the country we are going to become.’

Cllr Cowan led the ‘march against racism’ as a procession of hundreds walked from Shepherd’s Bush Green to Ravenscourt Park on Sunday morning. People carried signs reading ‘One Race Human Race’ and ‘Let’s All Feel At Home’ as they chanted ‘Hope Not Hate’.

Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter, who campaigned for Remain during the referendum, said the Leave vote had unleashed “hatred and fear”.

“I know that people who commit such despicable acts are not only unrepresentative of the wider community but a tiny minority,” he said.

“But they have been emboldened by the Brexit vote. They think their abhorrent views can now be freely expressed as well on social media as well as in the street and on public transport. So we have a job to do. The decent and often silent majority, the people who get on with their lives living in peace and harmony with their neighbours: now we have a duty to speak out. To speak out for what are true British values of internationalism, of compassion and empathy that transcend national borders.”

The tone was one of celebration as speakers, including humanitarian campaigner Lord Alf Dubs, shared the stage with musicians and dancers from all corners of the borough.

Councillor Sue Fennimore, the council’s cabinet member for social inclusion, underlined the borough’s commitment to ensuring Hammersmith and Fulham is a home for all cultures.

“We live in challenging times but it is crucial that we treat each other with dignity and respect,” she added.

“Whether you are young or old, black or white, straight, gay or transgender, whichever part of Hammersmith and Fulham you live in, work in or socialise in, this borough is your home. A home that is compassionate and caring, that is inclusive and safe and a home that we will not tolerate hate and division.”

Home of television heritage looks forward to new location

DEVELOPERS are on course to open the new Riverside Studios and Queen’s Wharf complex in early 2018.

VIP guests were given a virtual tour of the ambitious new development as the halfway stage of the build was marked last week.

The historic television studio is moving into its new home overlooking the Thames and Hammersmith Bridge, alongside more than 160 luxury apartments as part of the Queen’s Wharf redevelopment.

Riverside will benefit from three brand new studio spaces and a basement cinema, as well as a smaller screening room and bars.

As the home of many legendary television programmes, films and stage shows, the studio is one of the gems of Hammersmith and Fulham’s artistic heritage.

It was the filming location for Hancocks’s Half Hour, Dixon of Dock Green and early episodes of Doctor Who, as well as more recently TFI Friday and Top of the Pops.

William Burdett-Coutts, artistic director at the Riverside Trust, said: “We were recently voted the most popular venue in Hammersmith in a Time Out feature and our aim is to make sure we become that again.”
Leighton’s masterpiece comes home

ELY HOUSE MUSEUM has announced its exhibition programme for 2016 – 2017, bringing two prestigious international exhibitions to the museum. The largest exhibition, which it was painted and remains the only UK venue for the show.

Leighton House Museum has announced its exhibition programme for 2016 – 2017, bringing two prestigious international exhibitions to the museum. The largest exhibition, ‘Leighton’s House Beautiful’, is organised by the Royal Academy in 1895, and comes to London in 2016.

‘Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity’ is organised by the Fries Museum, The Netherlands (the artist’s home town) and comes to London following exhibition at the Belvedere, Vienna – bringing over 100 works to Leighton House Museum as the only UK venue for the show.

Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-96), was one of the pre-eminent artists of his day. President of the Royal Academy from 1878 to 1896, he achieved great fame and influence as a figurehead for art in late Victorian society; a period when art enjoyed unprecedented public interest and appreciation.

‘Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity’

In the wake of the referendum vote Mayor Khan met with ambassadors from across the continent last week to reassure them that EU nationals who live in the capital will always be welcome.

‘Leighton’s House Beautiful’

London is home to around one million EU nationals, who make a huge contribution to our city – working hard, paying taxes and playing a major role in civic and cultural life,” said the Mayor’s spokesman.

Mayor Sadiq Khan wants guarantees for EU citizens working in London

Mayor Sadiq Khan says that London must continue to play a valuable role in the city. He also reassured ambassadors that the city is still very much open for business and that EU citizens who work here are welcome.

“London is still a decent and open-minded city and we will not stand for millions of Londoners being used as a bargaining tool,” said the Mayor.

Mayor Sadiq Khan wants guarantees for EU citizens working in London

“I am calling on Theresa May to say very clearly now that we will have a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime and the full force of the law will be used to catch and punish any perpetrators.”

Enrique Ojeda, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Spain, said: “We welcome the Mayor’s initiative and will fully cooperate with him and all the national, regional and local authorities to ensure that no xenophobic actions are allowed.

“London is a great city and thousands of Spaniards work here, being part of its vibrant community. They feel at home and that is how it should remain. Their well-being is a priority for the Spanish Embassy, and that’s why we are very grateful to the Mayor of London.”

Darilus Laska, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Poland, said: “We were shocked by the recent incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community and other EU nationals. We welcome the Mayor’s pledge to combat and prevent hate crime as well as to campaign for the right to remain for all EU nationals, including the 200,000 Poles who live and work in the capital.”

Pasquale Q. Terracciano, Ambassador of Italy, said: “Around 350,000 Italians live and work in London, contributing to the prosperity of this city.”

Showcase for migrant firms

LONDON will host its first ‘Migrant Business Show’ next week in a bid to boost the entrepreneurial potential of foreign workers in the capital. The event is being organised by Rafael dos Santos, a Brazilian property entrepreneur who left a job with Microsoft to move to London in 2002. Mr dos Santos said the lack of an established network and support funding were the key obstacles preventing migrant workers from starting businesses in the city.

Dozens of entrepreneurs are expected to attend the exhibition at the South Place Hotel, which will take place at the mi-HUB venue in Whitechapel next Wednesday, July 27. The venue, which will be officially opened by senior Migrants Desk at the Department for Communities and Local Government and Mayor of London.

Showcase for migrant firms

“London has become a vital part of the city, working hard, paying taxes and playing a major role in civic and cultural life,” said the Mayor’s spokesman.

“The Mayor told ambassadors and senior dignitaries representing the 10 European Union countries with the largest number of nationals living in London that they will continue to play a valuable role in the city. He also reassured ambassadors that the city is still very much open for business and that EU citizens who work here are welcome.

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Showcase for migrant firms
**Terror review follows outrage in Nice**

**BY GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

As a top security expert has warned that the Nice truck attack is likely to be copied in London, Mayor Sadiq Khan has ordered an urgent terror review to determine whether more steel and concrete car-bomb barriers need to be put in key areas around the capital.

Police and security experts have been told to investigate whether barriers like those along Whitehall and outside Parliament now needed to be installed around the city which could be at risk of a similar attack to the truck terror atrocity which killed 84 people in France last week.

After declaring that the capital would “stand united” with France and insisting that the “poisonous and twisted” IS terrorists would be defeated, Mayor Khan said: “I reassure all Londoners that we are reviewing our own safety measures in light of this attack and that I and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner will do everything possible to keep Londoners safe.”

A leading security analyst has warned that the attack in Nice, in which a French-Tunisian named as Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel deliberately drove a truck into crowds celebrating Bastille Day, is set to be copied in Britain.

Raffaello Pantucci, international security expert for the Royal United Services Institute, said the Nice attack is likely to inspire Islamist extremists to mount copycat attempts.

He said: “If you think about the methodology of this attack it could easily happen in the UK.

“What’s always very depressing about terrorist attacks is that after an approach has proven to be so successful others will draw inspiration from it.

“Now people need to think about this as a reality that may happen. This fact has already been raised but we haven’t seen it succeed on such a scale until now.

“While we will now see people looking to emulate it, whereas previously they will have been looking in another direction.”

He added: “We appear to be looking at someone who was known to authorities through a criminal lens rather than a terrorist one.

“There are reports that some of the weapons he had were fake, which suggests he possibly didn’t have access to the wider terrorist networks.

“If we think about the basic elements that were involved this incident, a truck and a handgun and a set of fake weapons, this is all equipment that is fairly easy to obtain.

“We have seen other incidences like this where it has been attempted, but it has never been as horribly successful in this scale. IS have been pushing out an omni-directional message which says anyone can do anything anywhere and that can be part of an attack.

“They’re saying you don’t need to do something large and complicated, just do something and whatever it is just do something with whatever weapons are available.

“Trucks are something that are very readily available and it’s very difficult to police that side of it.

“We’re dealing with people who are deciding to do something in a very spur of the moment way and not telling anyone else about it and using the weapons around them.

“After these kind of attacks we will see other people who think ‘Oh well, maybe now is a good time to launch something’.”

Sadiq Khan ordered a review of security which will cause police, City Hall and other security experts to examine whether tough new measures are needed.

Special barriers have already been put up along Whitehall and outside Parliament to stop a lorry-bomb terror strike. But the review will probe whether more barriers and other security protection are needed in other parts of the capital. Its findings will feed into the wider terror preparedness review, which is being headed by Lord Toby Harris of Haringey, which Mr Khan announced on taking office.

The Mayor said: “My deepest sympathies are with the people of Nice – particularly with those who are injured, and the families and friends of those who were killed.

“This was a horrific and unexplainable act of terror on a day of celebration and hope for the French people, who have suffered so much pain in recent times.

“Londoners today stand united with Nice and all of France in our grief.”

Mr Khan, the first Muslim mayor of a western capital, added: “We are also united in our determination to root out and defeat the sick and evil individuals who have tried to divide us with this cowardly act of terror.

“They will not win. Not in France. Not in London. Not anywhere. We will defeat their poisonous, twisted ideology.”

**Objectors claim that funfair is unlawful**

**COUNCIL** bosses have dismissed claims that a funfair due to take place in Shepherd’s Bush next week would be “unlawful” after conservationists criticised the plans.

The two-week ‘Ultimate Funfair’ on Shepherd’s Bush Green kicks off on Friday July 22 and runs until Sunday August 7, including a series of traditional fairground rides and attractions.

But Hammersmith and Fulham council was forced to defend its decision to allow the funfair after a campaign group challenged the move.

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said: “The society is against people having fun on open space, but clearly this funfair is on too great a scale, will cause too much damage and is for too long a period. This is an unacceptable use of this small, much-loved green space.”

The society claimed the council should have sought ministerial consent before permitting the funfair but town hall chiefs cited a recent change in the law following a High Court case regarding the use of Finsbury Park to stage the Wireless music festival.

Ms Ashbrook suggested the Finsbury Park decision would be challenged in the Court of Appeal.
A 8 a London MEP, I had a front row seat for the response to our referendum result in Brussels last month. Being leader of the third largest of the eight pan-EU political groups in the European Parliament provided plenty of opportunity to offer my own reaction to the media circus. While EU enthusiasts spoke of punishing Britain and tried to bully us into starting the departure process immediately, I tried to offer a voice of calm and reassurance. I spoke of the need for cool heads and for patient, purposeful negotiation to ensure that both Britain and the EU reach a deal in both our long-term interest. Not the easiest or the fastest, but the best.

That negotiation must recognise that EU free movement played a part in many people’s voting decision. Of course London benefits from immigration. It is far too easy to blame those working in jobs that British people either don’t want or lack the skills to perform. Globalisation makes migration both unavoidable and economically healthy, but politicians must address legitimate concerns of the public.

Much has been made of London voting Remain against the national trend. One take on that has been that provincial folk lack the understanding and wisdom of Londoners. Another interpretation might be that we Londoners are out of touch with the rest of the country and need to grasp its difficulties or its mood.

In London, immigration means more cab drivers, nannies, cleaners, decorators and doctors, says Syed Kamall MEP. In other places it means full surgeries, crowded classrooms, low wages and pressure on housing.

I love the vibrancy and enterprise of London’s cultural crucible, but we cannot, should not, block our ears to the voice of the nation as a whole just because we are privileged to live in its exciting capital.

Some voted Leave since they are worried less immigration while many others wanted a controlled but fair immigration system, ending passport discrimination against our relatives and friends and business partners from non-EU countries. Between the extremes of closed borders and completely open borders, we should be looking for a controlled but fair immigration system which ends this discrimination against 6.5 billion non-EU passport holders.

Among many in Brussels, free movement is seen to have a quasi-religious and unbreakable link to access the single market. That is why we should enter negotiations when they start on the basis of seeking a UK-EU trade agreement.

A deal on goods should be straightforward as the UK has a record trade deficit with the EU, widening to £23.9 billion in the first three months of 2016. On services, government in Berlin and Paris will be under pressure from financial districts of Frankfurt and Paris to reduce London’s role as the global financial centre. But we can win a trade-off on other areas to protect London. This might involve support for EU programmes on research and innovation, student exchange, maintaining our participation in the European Investment Bank, aid to new EU states, or perhaps co-operating and offering assets for EU operations of mutual interest, such as protecting the EU’s borders.

No doubt the negotiation will be arduous and lengthy. The outcome will have to be approved by the European Parliament and will face the usual vested interests within the EU that stand in the way of open trade.

So while we must work on trade with the EU, in the meantime we must also work on opening trade with the rest of the world. We must not delay in beginning talks, with many countries and trade blocs as possible. However, we must prevent a deal that trade is not between countries, it is between individual people and businesses in one country with people and businesses in another for mutual benefit. Governments can either facilitate trade or get in the way in the form of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Here in London and across Britain we should think more about how we equip our economy with skills and infrastructure to remain a global leader, with Chinese and other languages becoming a major fixture of our school curriculum, and airport capacity being expanded ambitiously.

We face many challenges, but my father, who used to drive the 73 bus, always told me people could achieve anything if they believed in themselves and worked hard.

We now owe it to people in every corner of Britain to deliver the new relationship with the EU that they voted for and to ensure that we in the UK become good neighbours as we cease to be reluctant tenants.

Syed Kamall is the Conservative MEP for London. He was born and brought up in London and was elected to the European Parliament in 2005, and since 2013 has been Leader of the Conservatives there. He campaigned for Brexit.
Legacy of learning from inspirational boss

AN award-winning businesswoman described by colleagues as a “true inspiration” is to have a scholarship set up in her name after she took her own life.

Helen Stokes, 47, was one of only a handful of female chief executives in Britain, and hailed as one of the top stars in the creative industry.

She rose to be managing director of West End-based marketing and creative recruiter Major Players despite battling with long-term alcoholism and depression.

Miss Stokes, originally from Chichester in West Sussex, was found dead in her home in Hackney, east London, on March 15 this year, Poplar Coroner’s Court heard.

She had struggled with alcoholism since her teenage years but had been seeking treatment for her dependency, as well as ongoing mental health issues in the months prior to her death, the hearing was told.

Her ex-partner, Ruth Jones, had been house sitting when Helen came home, “smelling of alcohol,” the inquest heard.

In a statement to police, she said: “She may have been asleep on the sofa.

“I said ‘night Helen’ at 11pm and I’m not sure if she replied. I woke up at 7am and had a shower. I checked in Helen’s room to see if she was in bed, checked the bathroom and she wasn’t there, and went downstairs at about 7.45am. I saw Helen hanging from the ceiling. I screamed and ran to the next door neighbours.”

The neighbour advised Ms Jones to call 999, who then advised her to cut Miss Stokes down, check her pulse, and gave advice on giving mouth to mouth.

The ambulance and police arrived quickly, and it was a paramedic who confirmed Miss Stokes was dead.

Ms Jones said: “Helen had attempted suicide before, about three to four weeks ago. She had marks on her neck and cuts on her wrists, she said she got scared and didn’t go through with it. She had said her ‘life wasn’t worth living’ and had been mentioning suicide for months.”

Miss Stokes went to a GP last October and received a prescription for the anti-depressant Citalopram and sleeping tablets. By November she was seeing a psychotherapist three times a week, the inquest heard.

Psychotherapist Dr Maria Luca treated her for severe anxiety and trauma.

Miss Stokes spoke of her suicidal thoughts and was using alcohol to help her sleep despite being on anti-depressants, the inquest heard.

But on December 29, Dr Luca received a phone call from a worried friend of Miss Stokes, who was scared she was at risk of suicide.

A month later, Miss Stokes cancelled two of her psychotherapy appointments and in February took an overdose – but decided not to go through with it and made herself sick, the inquest heard.

Miss Stokes believed she had narcissistic personality disorder and had a phone consultation with her psychotherapist as she felt low and wanted to look at underlying issues, the hearing was told.

Dr Luca confirmed her impression. She felt ashamed of her behaviour and felt she deserved to die. She said there was nothing L or anyone could do to help her.

She was then admitted to The Priory where she spent two weeks receiving treatment for alcohol dependency syndrome, the inquest heard.

Dr Neil Brener, Consultant Psychiatrist at The Priory, said: “She had a long history of alcohol abuse. She had been put on medication and didn’t like it.

“She had been drinking since the age of 17, and by this point was drinking four pints a day and smoking 20 cigarettes, so was admitted to the addiction treatment programme. She was quite disruptive in group sessions, due to her disruptive behaviour it was inappropriate for her to stay.”

Helen left The Priory after being offered further treatment in the United States.

Dr Brener added: “I felt that unless she was going to address her alcohol issues, she wasn’t going to address anything else in her life - I don’t think she understood that.”

Coroner Dr William Dolman said the cause of death was suspension by ligature.

He added: “Alcohol must have affected her judgement.

“Her problems go back to her alcoholism and breakdown of relationships and the fact she felt she couldn’t cope. It was quite clear on more than one occasion that she had made attempts on her own life.”

A toxicology report confirmed there were no drugs or alcohol in Helen’s system at the time of her death.

Dr Dolman added: “My conclusion is a verdict of suicide when the balance of her mind was disturbed.”

TV chef’s ex-wife cleared of assault

CELEBRITY chef Marco Pierre White’s ex-wife has been cleared of attacking her two sons when they failed to appear in court, one complaining he had a hangover.

Matilde Conejero, 31, was accused of attacking Celebrity Big Brother contestant Marco Junior, 21, and his brother Luciano, 22, at the flat they share in Chiswick.

She was alleged to have pulled Marco Junior’s hair and kicked him in the groin, before hitting Luciano’s hand on September 20 last year.

But the case against Conejero, appearing under the name White, was dismissed at Uxbridge Magistrates Court last week after the Crown failed to provide evidence.

She faced two counts of common assault by beating.

Both sons failed to show up for the trial, after Marco Junior told police he was “too hungover” to attend after going to a party the night before, while Luciano could not be traced.

District Judge Deborah Wright dismissed the case.

“I offer my sympathy for Helen, who had been fighting her demons for a long time. It must have been very hard for everyone involved.

“There must have been very happy times as well, and I am sure you will remember those.”

Her friends and former colleagues have since raised £5,000 to create the Helen Stokes Internship Scholarship for a young female creative talent to live in London and get on the first rung of the ladder.

Friend and former colleague Ali Hanan said: “Helen was one of the most inspirational women in business in the UK.

“She believed in helping women get ahead in their careers. Women make up 24 per cent of creative departments; few make it to leadership roles.

“She was a true inspiration to everyone who knew her. And an incredible role model. As one of the leading UK women in business, she would have wanted to help more young talent on to the first rung of their career ladders.”

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NCS The Challenge

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS 9
Capital faces an invasion by monster

LONDON landmarks are being overrun by monsters thanks to mega-hit game Pokemon Go, including a "racist" beast found inside Buckingham Palace.

Thousands of Londoners are already playing the smash Nintendo game, that allows users to catch Pokemon that appear randomly across the world, despite it not being officially available in the UK.

But last Wednesday, one of the most controversial Pokemon was found wandering around the inside of Buckingham Palace.

Notorious black-faced Pokemon Jynx was spotted inside the gates, not far from members of the Queen’s Guard.

Despite changing the colour of the psychic Pokemon from black to purple, Game Freak’s character development was heavily criticised for the character’s appearance, because it looks like a black face.

Gaming website IGN labelled the Pokemon a "transvestite midget in racially offensive wake-up".

Squirtle, Charmander and Bulbasaur were also spotted near the Queen’s London residence.

Gamer Chirag, 23, from Colham, was outside the Palace on a trip with his family, but could not resist the opportunity to snap some of the unusual locations – despite not yet having been officially released here.

Boys rescued from Thames

A GROUP of children were moments away from tragedy when they tried to take an inflatable dinghy on the nearby river.

The RNLI launched a lifeboat after reports came in about a group of 12-year-old boys trying to launch a boat near a multi-million pound property in a trendy block of flats.

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The arrival of mobile game Pokemon Go has sent fans across the city wild, allowing users to catch Pokemon in an array of unusual locations – de-facto not yet having been officially released here.

A ANYONE who knowingly interferes with photographers with fines.

Photographers told: don’t encourage rich boy racers

BY LWN REPORTER
edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

POLICE are hoping to crack down on playboys driving their supercars dangerously in London by threatening photographers with fines.

With Ramadan now over, wealthy Arabs are expected to start arriving in London again for their summer holidays.

And this means the arrival of the world’s flashiest and expensive supercars – with Bugattis, Ferraris, Paganis and Lamborghinis all expected to go on show.

The foreign playboys, along with British supercar owners, have been criticised in the past for driving recklessly around the expensive streets of Knightsbridge and causing a nuisance by revving their noisy engines.

Officers from the Met Police are now targeting the ‘carparazzi’, who assemble on the street and encourage people to show off their cars for the camera.

They are issuing Dispersal Orders which ban them from entering the Brompton and Hans Town wards with cameras for 48 hours.

Anyone who knowingly breaches a dispersal order could face a fine of up to £2,500 and a maximum three months in prison, according to the CPS.

Last Thursday evening, 13 dispersals were issued and seven fixed penalty notices were given for a variety of offences relating to inconsiderate motor vehicle use. It is not known how many of these were issued to photographers.

In a statement, the Met said: “Speculators who film and encourage drivers to commit even more reckless acts will also be covered by these powers.”

Inspector Chris Downes, of Kensington and Chelsea Community Policing Team, said: “In previous years, there have been a large number of complaints during summer nights – especially at weekends – relating to anti-social behaviour and the late night noise nuisance caused by high-powered vehicles being driven in a reckless and aggressive manner.

“We are responding to these local concerns, and, since extremely rapid acceleration poses a particular danger to the public, we are determined to act before somebody is killed or seriously injured.”

It is the latest attempt by the Met Police to combat supercar owners driving recklessly in Knightsbridge.

Last year, following numerous complaints from residents, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order in Knightsbridge.

Motorists are now banned from revving their engine, rapidly accelerating, racing, performing stunts, sounding horns or causing obstructions.

They are also prohibited from leaving the engine of a stationary car running.

The PSPO came into place to deal with the “excessive level of noise nuisance, annoyance, danger or risk or harm or injury” caused by the drivers.

Motorists who breach the order face a maximum £1,000 fine or fixed penalty notice of £100.

One Knightsbridge resident welcomed the decision for the ‘Carparazzi’ to be issued with Dispersal Orders.

Panda Morgan-Thomas said: “We welcome this initiative by RBKC and the Police. There is already huge traffic congestion in the Knightsbridge area. There have been three serious road accidents during the last month.

“The advent of the supercar season always attracts a large number of carparazzi who are (usually) quite young enthusiasts who are keen to get the best shots of their favourite cars, often with little regard for their own safety.

“They gather in large groups on pavements and frequently in the middle of busy roads.

“It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident involving one or more of them.”

Teacher jailed for indecency

A FORMER teacher has been imprisoned for indecently assaulting pupils at his former schools more than 40 years ago.

Terence Back, 71, was found guilty of assaulting two 11-year-olds – a boy and a girl – and a seven-year-old girl in 1974.

He was interviewed in 2013 after a former student of Whitehall Junior School in Uxbridge made an allegation about Back’s treatment of students.

“THERE were similarities in the accounts of the witnesses, pupils back then, who said he did not know each other and who attended different schools, miles apart. Although this was the result of a protracted investigation, I wish to thank the witnesses for their full support. They have shown such bravery, reliving painful memories to the team and at court.

“Giving evidence can be very daunting but witnesses are supported throughout the process. Even though these types of evidence can take a lot of time, police will persevere and try to bring the offender to court so justice can be served.

“I hope that Back’s conviction will help ease the painful memories of his victims.”

Back was found not guilty of a count of gross indecency against a female aged seven years.

Family flees mansion fire

A FAMILY had to be evacuated from a multi-million pound Kensington mansion after a fire ripped through the basement.

The fire brigade was called to the mansion in The Boltons, reportedly Britain’s second most expensive street, after calls saying a fire had broken out in an expensive street, after calls saying a fire had broken out in an expensive street.

Fire crews from Fulham, Battersea, Wandsworth and Clapham station extinguished the blaze at around 2.30pm on Friday.

A London Fire Brigade spokesman said: “Two adults and two children were evacuated before we arrived and we’ve no reports of any injuries.”

The average house price in The Boltons, formerly £3.25 million, according to Zoopla.

An 18-bedroom mansion on the street went on sale two years ago for nearly £40 million.

In previous years, properties on the street have sold for in excess of £50,000 per sq ft.

Former residents of the exclusive SW10 street include Madonna and Jeffrey Archer.
Pink pacers put their best feet forward

MORE than 1,000 walkers took on the second London at Night Pink Ribbonwalk for Breast Cancer Care to support women with breast cancer.

Walkers completed the five, 10 or 20 miles throughout the city on July 9 – taking in the iconic landmarks of the capital including the Millennium Bridge, St Paul’s, the West End, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

Claire Pulford, head of events at Breast Cancer Care, said: “It’s fantastic to have seen over 1,000 wonderful walkers take on the London at Night Pink Ribbonwalk. This year approximately 4,600 people living in Greater London will receive the devastating news that they have breast cancer. So it’s vital that we continue to offer them the care, support and information from day one. We are so grateful to everyone who took part; it really was an incredible night.”

Celebrity Breast Cancer Care Ambassador Lisa Snowdon took on the 10-mile walk, while Googlebox star Nikki Tapper walked the five-mile route with her mum. Sky News sports presenter Jacquie Beltrao was there to set the walkers off.

The organisers are aiming to raise £300,000 from the event.

Breast Cancer Care is the only UK-wide support charity helping the thousands of people who wake up to the harsh reality of breast cancer every day. All funds raised from the Pink Ribbonwalks enable Breast Cancer Care to provide vital support.

Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher were among the special guests as London’s Excel Centre played host to one of the world’s biggest Star Wars events at Breast Cancer Care, with dedicated fans, who queued for hours to meet their heroes, pulled out all the stops to arrive dressed as their favourite characters.

Tapper walked the five-mile route with her mum. Sky News sports presenter Nikki Tapper walked the five-mile route with her mum. Sky News sports presenter Jacquie Beltrao was there to set the walkers off.

The Mayor and his Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, visited special guest Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher were among the special guests as London’s Excel Centre played host to one of the world’s biggest Star Wars events at Breast Cancer Care, with dedicated fans, who queued for hours to meet their heroes, pulled out all the stops to arrive dressed as their favourite characters. Sophie Linden, visited special guest Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher were among the special guests as London’s Excel Centre played host to one of the world’s biggest Star Wars events at Breast Cancer Care, with dedicated fans, who queued for hours to meet their heroes, pulled out all the stops to arrive dressed as their favourite characters.

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War letters reveal compassionate side of one of our favourite royals

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

COLLECTORS are expected to pack the Mayfair auction rooms of Drewatts & Bloomsbury next month at a rare opportunity to own intimate letters of a much-loved member of the Royal Family.

Before she was Queen and then The Queen Mother, as a young woman Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon nursed wounded soldiers at her family home at Angus in Scotland. During the First World War, Glamis Castle was used as a military hospital and the young aristocrat became friends with Private James Harding.

A selection of the letters she and Private Harding exchanged are to go up for auction on August 11 – where they are expected to fetch up to £7,000.

‘Letters written by the Queen Mother do not appear frequently on the current market and they are very sought after by collectors of Royal autographs and memorabilia,’ said a spokesman for the auctioneers.

The letters reveal the future queen as a kind, engaging and poetic young woman who took to playing the card game Hearts with the wounded men to help keep up their spirits.

One of the six letters, dated 20 November 1916 and signed by the then 16-year-old as ‘Elizabeth Lyon’, displays a reference to the card games she played with Harding and another soldier saying: ‘I enjoyed them very much, even tho’ I was treated badly by you and Nis!’

The Queen Mother’s biographer William Shawcross claims that Harding and his fellow soldiers used to make sure Elizabeth got terrible cards during games.

“There was wild laughter when she got the Queen of Spades time after time – and she discovered that they had been passing it under the table to give to her,” said Shawcross.

A second letter, dated 22 December 1916, included a poem about the card tricks.

“I sometimes go into the Ward
And play a game or two
And if I get the Queen of Spades
T’is only due to you
Private Harding
Are you not ashamed and sorry
That cheating should go on?”

In a third letter, dated October 2nd 1918, Elizabeth wrote: “I am going to stay with my sister near Musselburgh next Tuesday and shall be arriving at Edinburg[burgh] Waverley Station at 4.49. I should be so pleased to see you for a few minutes if you could come… it would be rather nice if I brought a pack of cards and we could play Hearts on the platform!”

A fourth letter aimed to arrange a meeting with Harding and a fifth letter, dated 13 September 1919, expressed Elizabeth’s concern about Harding’s difficulty in finding a job following the end of the war.

She wrote: “It seems to be very difficult now… I wonder what sort of a job you want? I might by chance hear of one that you’d like, though you’d probably want to be in Edinburg[burgh]… I do hope something will turn up.”

A follow-up letter to Harding three months later expressed her pleasure at learning Harding had secured a position with the young future royal writing: ‘I can’t tell you how pleased I am to hear the good news!’

Two years after the final letter Elizabeth met the then Prince Albert, Duke of York, and they married in 1923. Their first child, now Her Majesty The Queen, was born in 1926.

Darling dances her way to royal notoriety

VISITORS to London frustrated in their wish to catch a glimpse of the hugely-popular Duchess of Cambridge could always make do with seeing rather a lot more of her cousin, who is appearing regularly in a burlesque show in Soho.

Karina Darling, the stage name of the Duchesses’s somewhat distant relative, has become a star attraction at The Box club.

“Ms Darling, a keen fan of posting revealing photographs of herself on Twitter and Instagram, has yet to match quite the same following of her second cousin.

Her royal connection has not hindered her career, of course. Ms Darling has appeared on the cover of Playboy and has performed at the famous Life Ball in Vienna before guests who included President Bill Clinton and Sir Elton John.

She has claimed to have also performed private shows for a member of one of the European royal families and she revealed to Maxim magazine that she would be happy to take a booking at Buckingham Palace.

Fascinatingly, she added: ‘They’ve had burlesque performers before, like Sukki Singapore, who’s basically the burlesque ambassador for Singapore. Plus a lot of Royals go to The Box, so it’s not like they’re not familiar with what I do.’

Royal watchers who prefer a less risqué attraction are advised to get down to the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore today (Tuesday) where Prince Harry and Zara Phillips’s grandfather, the Duke of Edinburgh, will be presenting prizes and awards in his capacity of patron of the Royal Institute of Navigaton.
The Queen pops in to historic pub

The Queen stunned regulars at a traditional Scottish pub when she popped in for a slap-up meal and a tipple.

Britain’s longest-serving monarch made a secret visit to the oldest bar in the country during her stay at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh last Friday.

And she only gave workers at The Sheep Heid Inn an hour to prepare for the Royal visit.

The 90-year-old had spent the day at Musselburgh Racecourse before taking a window seat in the pub’s dining area.

Her party is understood to have ordered a martini and a half bottle of white wine, along with two portions of lamb and a fillet of seabass.

The main meals are advertised at £16.50 each on the pub’s regular menu but it is not known which of the meals the Queen ordered.

Staff at the pub have been sworn to secrecy but were able to confirm that the head of state visited.

A worker said: “I’ve been sworn to secrecy unfortunately and have no idea how her visit got out there.”

Regular customer and Edinburgh city councillor Alex Lunn said: “The Sheep Heid Inn is something the local community are very proud of and a visit from the Queen is another string to add to its bow.

“I eat there regularly so I’m sure Her Majesty enjoyed an excellent meal.”

Now that they are taking bookings from the public, The Sheep Heid Inn by popping in for a drink and a meal after a day at Musselburgh Racecourse

The Sheep Heid Inn which was established in 1569 has been linked to the Royal family since the 1500s.

One story of how the pub got its name states that in 1580, King James VI of Scotland gifted the landlord an ornate ram’s head snuff box.

It is believed he and his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, stopped by the inn many times to play skittles in the courtyard.

As a mark of gratitude, he presented the landlord with the unusual gift which remained on site for 300 years before being sold at auction to the Earl of Rosebery.

It is very rare for The Queen to dine out in public, other than at private London clubs and hotels.

Earlier in the day, the Queen had attended Musselburgh Racecourse to celebrate its 200th birthday.

She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and is understood to have watched the action from inside the racecourse’s VIP hospitality areas.

Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Burns and Bonnie Prince Charlie - as his army was encamped at Duddingston for a month prior to the Battle of Prestonpans - are among the inn’s other famous patrons.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on The Queen’s visit to the Sheep Heid Inn, other than to say that she had spent the evening “privately”.

Her Majesty the Queen surprised delighted staff at the historic Sheep Heid Inn by popping in for a drink and a meal after a day at Musselburgh Racecourse

Windsor six step out in the wider world

BY GEOFF BAKER

ORGANISERS of London’s poshest parties who are frequently wanting to copy The Queen when it comes to booking a “star turn” for their swanky do can now turn to six of the best for their entertainment.

It’s a common problem with booking an act for lavish events as protocol dictates that Buckingham Palace does not advertize whom Her Majesty prefers to perform at private functions and so those wishing to add a royal touch to their own parties are often unsure of who to turn to.

Thanks to Radio 2 presenter Eve Pollard we recently learned that Her Majesty has a fondness for the songs of George Formby. But as the cheeky ukulele player died in 1961, he is no longer taking bookings.

But fret not, for it has now emerged that the royal touch can be added to events by booking the merry men of Windsor who go by the name The Queen’s Six.

The Six – countertenors Daniel Brittain and Timothy Carleston, tenors Nicholas Madden and Dominic Hland and baritone and bass Andrew Thompson and Simon Whiteley – are an a cappella choir who have frequently performed for Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh at private functions at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

“The Queen’s Six were established in 2008, the 450th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth I, from whom they take their name,” said a spokesman for the royal favourites.

“Elizabeth I was a great patroness of the arts, and often engaged the services of musicians to write and perform for her at court. The notable ‘six’ from this era were Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Thomas Tomkins, Thomas Morley, Orlando Gibbons, and Thomas Weelkes.

“The new Six are based at Windsor Castle, where they are also Lay Clerks of St George’s Chapel, whose homes lie within the castle walls. The Chapel Choir, which consists of boy trebles and twelve professional adult male singers, performs some eight services a week, as well as at private and state occasions, often before the Royal Family.

“This rare privilege demands the highest musical standards. Most significantly however, it is the familiarity of living and singing together every day in the Royal Chapel that lends this group its distinctive closeness and blend, as well as an irresistible informality and charm.”

The Queen’s Six are available for private bookings or to arrange and record a song of your choice

Now that they are taking bookings from the public, The Queen’s Six offer much more than hymns and psalms.

“Their repertoire extends far beyond the reach of the choir stalls, from austere early chants, florid Renaissance polyphony, lewd madrigals, haunting folk songs and upbeat jazz and pop arrangements, The Queen’s Six can provide anything from dinner or wedding reception entertainment to full concert programmes,” said the spokesman.

The Six are shortly to undertake a concert tour of Austria and Germany but besides performing in hallowed venues they are also taking commissions from those who wish to give a loved one a distinctive anniversary, birthday or wedding present.

“You can woo your loved ones, friends and family by buying them a unique gift. The Six will arrange and record a song of your choice,” said the spokesman.

One wonders whether Her Majesty joins in when The Queen’s Six perform at royal standards, for according to her relatives and friends, The Queen not only has a lovely voice but also enjoys a rousing sing-song.

Eve Pollard, who researched The Queen’s taste in music for a recent Radio 2 show, says she has enjoyed singing since she performed in pantomimes at Windsor during the war.

“Her parents, King George VI and the late Queen Mother, loved singing and passed it on. The Duke of Edinburgh and the rest of the family join in,” said Eve.

“Her cousin, Lady Elizabeth Anson, told me: ‘We did a lot of singing at Kensington Palace. Nobody thought it was odd after dinner if we put on a record and all sang Doin’ the Lambeth Walk, so music has always been part of her life.”

Lady Anson added: “The Queen loves the theatre and musicals like Showboat, Oklahoma! and Annie Get Your Gun. These were the tunes that remained in one’s head and were very danceable. The Queen is a fantastic dancer. She’s got great rhythm.”

According to Eve, at an early age The Queen learnt to dance the waltz, the slow waltz, the foxtrot, the quick-step, and the samba.

“Lady Anson said that if you watch Her Majesty at Trooping the Colour you will see that she’s taping her toes. So military music means a lot to her, she’s extremely knowledgeable about military music and loves massed bands, especially pipe bands.”
Despite building an enviable comedy career upon the humour derived from his own sloth and world-weariness, Louis CK is actually one of the hardest-working stand-ups on the circuit, writes Jack Dixon.

Alongside his busy touring schedule, the Washington-born comic has written, directed and starred in five seasons of his own hit FX series, Louie, and appeared in a handful of blockbuster films, including Woody Allen’s Blue Jasmine and David O’Russell’s American Hustle.

And he recently put the finishing touches to his latest online comedy series, Horace and Pete, which won high praise from critics earlier this year.

CK – born Louis Szekely – is finally reaping the long-awaited rewards of a career that for many years seemed destined to rust. His rise to fame has coincided with the resurgence of so-called ‘loser’ comics – the type who unload their everyday insecurities for bloodthirsty audiences on a nightly basis. Of this form, Louis is the master.

Thinning on top and bulging at the bust, CK makes no excuses for being out of shape. In fact, it’s the self-flagellating contempt he holds for his own bad habits that forms the crux of his act.

His increasingly foul-mouthed observations swing from the tedious of a post-divorce depressive slump to the petty squabbles of the Great American Public. Picture Louis waiting in line at a Manhattan drug store while an old lady argues for hours with the pharmacist over the details of her prescription.

It was these kitchen sink-inspired moments, the inherent humour of the everyday, that were woven into Louie, bagging CK not one but two Primetime Emmy Awards.

Loosely based on the comedian’s own troubled life, CK starred in the series as a tragi-comic version of himself, with snapshots of his own stand-up routines interspersed with short vignettes about Louis’ life in New York.

It’s bleak for the most part. CK recounts (several) failed attempts at reviving romance while getting knocked back by the likes of Jerry Seinfeld and David Letterman as he rises up the professional ladder.

His directorial style has been rightly compared to Woody Allen – and there is more than a hint of the legend’s influence in the way CK lingers on the beautiful scenery of the Big Apple while spinning humdrum stories about the city’s inhabitants.

Puncturing the sadness of Louis’ life, however, are moments of perfection. For all his haggard grumpiness, CK adores his two young daughters and carries on against the grain simply to provide for them.

The 48-year-old has now secured a place among the US comedy elite and is revered by the likes of Ricky Gervais and Chris Rock.

He returns to London for the first time in three years next month for a short run of shows, including a triple-header at the Hammersmith Apollo.

But after building an act based entirely on his own failures, will his recent success spoil the authenticity? Don’t worry, Louis is always on the lookout for the next banana skin.

“You can’t ever find a place that’s nice and peaceful because there isn’t one,” he says with optimism.

“You may think there is, but when you get there somebody will sneak up and write ‘f*** you’ right under your nose.”

Louis CK will appear at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday August 14.

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How hard work made CK the ‘loser’ a winner

Louis CK is one of the hardest-working stand-ups on the comedy circuit.

Alexis Taylor
Paper Dress Vintage, Dalston
Thursday, July 21
Singer and keys man in retro electro outfit Hot Chip, Taylor goes solo in support of debut album, Piano, released earlier this year. Marries pounding dance beats and glittering synth sounds with a gentle croon that echoes the Pet Shop Boys at their best.

Michael Kiwanuka
Rough Trade East, Brick Lane
Tuesday, July 19
Smooth soul man championed by Auntie Beeb and a host of famous names. Already a festival favourite, Kiwanuka is set to soundtrack the summer of 2016 with the tap-along acoustic jams on his latest offering, Love & Hate.

Andy Stott
The Jazz Cafe, Camden
Thursday, July 21
Manchester-based producer who dabbles in dub and leftfield techno. Keeps a low profile but is garnering growing acclaim in critical circles. Poised to impress with offerings from new album Too Many Voices.
T V chiefs are aiming to boost Britain’s brain power by screening many more murder and cop shows after scientists claimed that watching mystery thrillers is good for the mind.

ITV bosses have commissioned three new crime series in the wake of research that watching such dramas is food for the brain.

Although TV watchdogs have previously feared that too much crime scares viewers and risks making them relaxed about the frightening reality of it, boffins say that watching suspense-filled thrillers helps to keep the mind healthy with a taxing mental workout.

“Watching a powerful mystery is actually good for you, that’s neuroscientific fact,” says Dr Amanda Ellison, a neuroscientist at Durham University. Whether it’s a gritty Nordic noir box set, Broadchurch or some other small screen thriller, telly of this kind provides an excellent workout for your brain, and the research in my field affirms this. “The best TV crime dramas build suspense over a number of episodes. They challenge viewers to pay attention to complicated stories, including red herrings, and to remember them from episode to episode. Other words, they provide great stimulation for the brain, which in turn helps to keep it healthy, as the human brain needs to be kept active. In fact, when you deprive it of stimulation it reacts very badly.”

Armed with this research, ITV is planning to capitalise on the success of Broadchurch with a Scottish version of the Dorset-based drama, Loch Ness.

As viewers lapped up the Wessex countryside as much as the plot, ITV is setting the new six-part murder mystery amid the beautiful, haunting shores of Scotland’s most iconic loch. Happy Valley’s Siobhan Finneran and The Missing’s Laura Fraser will take the leads in this tense tale of a murder of suspected child sex offenders. It is also importing a US crime series, Lethal Weapon, which ITV chiefs are tipping to be a blockbuster.

Lethal Weapon is a classic cop buddy drama of detectives Riggs (played by Clayne Crawford of Rectify). ITV’s Director of Television, Kevin Lygo, is already raving about the show. He said: “It’s rare that we find an acquisition with that sweet spot potential – the best production values and hugely entertaining drama, that we think can appeal to the biggest and broadest audiences and take up a place in ITV prime time. We saw Lethal Weapon and were immediately excited by what it could add to the ITV schedule, and we’re really looking forward to bringing the series to UK viewers.”
Wimbledon champion Andy Murray got down to the Drama club in Mayfair – moments after dining with VIPs in the slightly more refined surroundings of the All England Club.
Grouse, spelt and herb salad

Serves four
Spelt is a great grain for adding a bit of flavour to a gamey salad like this. I often use it in place of rice in a risotto, as it holds up really well and is quite healthy with it.

Ingredients
2 oven-ready grouse
A few sprigs of thyme
A few sage leaves
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
A couple knobs of butter
A handful of small tasty salad leaves and herbs, washed and dried
30-40g spelt, soaked in cold water for a few hours
2tbsp rapeseed oil
1tbsp chopped parsley
1tbsp chopped chives
1tbsp chopped chervil

For the dressing
1tbsp cider or white wine vinegar
1tsp Tewkesbury or Dijon mustard
2tbsp rapeseed or olive oil
2tbsp vegetable or corn oil

Method
Cook the spelt in simmering salted water for about 15-20 minutes or until tender, then drain and leave to cool. Mix the herbs with the spelt and rapeseed oil and season to taste. Season the grousse inside and out: put the sage and thyme inside the birds and rub the breasts with butter. Place on a baking tray and roast for about 15 minutes, keeping them nice and pink, leave to cool a little before removing the legs and breasts. Whisk the ingredients together for the dressing and season.

To serve, remove all of the meat from the legs and slice the breasts into 5-6 pieces, arrange the leaves, spelt and slices of grouse on to serving plates and spoon over the dressing.

Bella Italia, Baker Street

FOR a beautifully prepared Italian meal in simply exquisite surroundings you need look no further than the excellent new Bella Italia on Baker Street writes Nicky Sweetland.

As soon as you walk through the front door you get a sense of calm and tranquility with the contemporary interior perfectly balanced with traditional artefacts. Italian maps and posters adorn the walls and the restaurant is split into three intimate spaces giving a homely, cozy feel.

Once settled at my table, I was impressed by how passionately the staff spoke about their restaurant and I took their lead with my menu.

After a couple of sips of a fresh and light Prosecco, (House Da Luca Prosecco £6.35) I munched on a deliciously creamy and rich Funghi Arrosto (£5.95), which is baked mushrooms in a creamy mascarpone, garlic and spinach sauce, topped with mozzarella and served with ciabatta.

I was then treated to a classic Queen Margherita pizza (£10.25), with buffalo Bocconcini mozzarella, Marzamini tomatoes, pesto & basil, which was wholesome and very filling.

On advice, I washed it down with a decadent Cosmopolitan, which gave a real taste of sunshine.

To finish, I was excited to try the selection of mini desserts, which are served in shot glasses and are perfectly bite sized portions. I sampled salted chocolate caramel (rich and luxurious), limoncello (tangy and fresh) and strawberry cheesecake (crisp biscuit with sumptuous fruit).

With this lovely restaurant just a short walk from popular attractions including London Zoo and Madame Tussauds, Bella Italia, on Baker Street, is both a convenient and convivial place to enjoy an excellent meal.

Creamy Funghi Arrosto

Queen Margherita pizza and a decadent Cosmopolitan.
Rebel Wilson in Guys and Dolls ****

T HE classic musical Guys and Dolls is still packing them in at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road and the Chichester Festival Theatre production has enjoyed a new influx of fans since Hollywood star Rebel Wilson joined the cast, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The actress, who is most famous for her performances in the Pitch Perfect film franchise, is making her London stage debut in the musical as Miss Adelaide, a nightclub showgirl who is struck down with psychosomatic flu symptoms, while she waits for her no-good fiancé to name the date of their big day.

Wilson joins the celebrated cast of the glittery musical, alongside West End stage stalwart Simon Lipkin as Nathan Detroit and the tried and tested pairing of Oliver Tompsett (Osky Masterson) and Siubhan Harrison (Sarah Brown) for the story, which follows a gang of friendly gamblers as they search for a quick buck, love and eventually redemption. Made famous by the 1955 film which starred Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra, Guys and Dolls is a proper old fashioned Broadway style musical, with the perfect mix of glitz, glamour and great tunes.

I first watched the show back in January at the Savoy Theatre before it transferred due to popular demand and so I was interested in what the voluptuous Wilson could bring to the famously adorable role. As expected, the popular Australian performer offers impeccable comic timing and her renditions of A Bushel and a Peck and Take Back your Mink are both rousing and hilarious. With the addition of Wilson’s unique style of physical humour, the character feels less vulnerable, but at times, the innuendo is just a little too modern to fit in with the innocence of the musical, which is set in 1920s New York.

The on-stage chemistry with Lipkin is electric and his buffoon like, bumbling portrayal oozes charm. I do feel, however, that some of the most famous lines are over milked (particularly when answering Tompsett’s question about the colour of his neck tie), which makes the dialogue slow and the jokes lose their impact.

This was the first time I’d seen Oliver Tompsett since his days on Wicked at the Apollo Victoria (around ten years ago) and I was pleased to see that he’s grown into a commanding performer, with his silky vocals and matinee idol looks perfect for the role of the smooth talking gambler, Sky Masterson.

Siubhan Harrison, as the object of his affections, goes from strength to strength as Sarah Brown and Olivier nominated Gavin Spokes as Nicely Nicely.

The classic musical Guys and Dolls is still packing them in at the Phoenix Theatre on Charing Cross Road

Perfect mix of glitz and glamour

Johnson continues to whip the show along with humour and verve. With breathtaking dance routines, including the standards Luck be a Lady and Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat, Guys and Dolls is an impressive stage spectacle and Rebel Wilson is a great addition to this cast, who makes a return visit to the show, just a little bit different.

Rebel Wilson will perform in Guys and Dolls at the Phoenix Theatre until 21st August. If you would like any further information, you can visit the website guysanddollsthemusical.co.uk

Union stage set biblical classic

A QUARTER of a century after its original West End production, Children of Eden will return to London in a new production at the Union Theatre, opening on Friday, August 10, with previews from Wednesday, August 8.

Children of Eden will be the second production in the Union Theatre’s brand new state-of-the-art space in Southwark, where Ruthie Henshall and Stephen Mear were recently announced as patrons. The new venue’s first production, The Fix, is currently in previews.

Inspired by the Book of Genesis, Children of Eden tells the timeless story of what it means to be a parent. From the moment you bring a child into the world everything changes; you learn to protect, cherish, and love unconditionally. But as they grow you have to learn one more thing to one day let them go.

Featuring one of the most beautiful scores in contemporary musical theatre from the composer of Godspell, Pippin and Wicked, Children of Eden is a heartfelt and humerus musical about the unique family bond.

Children of Eden has music and lyrics by acclaimed composer Stephen Schwartz, who is perhaps best known for his mega-hit musical Wicked, which continues to play on Broadway and in the West End. A big screen adaptation of Wicked is also in development. Stephen has contributed lyrics to films including Pocahontas, The Hunchback of Notre and Enchanted, and his other stage musicals include Godspell and Pippin.

Schwartz was recently given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame.

If you would like further details, you can visit the website www.uniontheatre.biz

Celebration of Rocky Horror

THIS Halloween BFI Southbank will host the Science Fiction Double Feature Picture Show, the ultimate celebration of all things Rocky Horror.

The event on Saturday, October 29, will include ‘shadow cast’ screenings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Jim Sharman, 1975) starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon and original creator Richard O’Brien, and the often-overlooked sequel Shock Treatment (Jim Sharman, 1981), starring O’Brien and Patricia Quinn alongside famous faces like Ruby Wax, Rik Mayall and Barry Humphries. The screenings mark the 35th anniversary of the release of Shock Treatment.

A unique experience for superfans and the uninitiated alike, the ‘shadow cast’ will see an international cast of Rocky Horror performers from the UK, US and Europe take to the stage to perform numbers from both films live.
Talk of the Town

FROM very humble beginnings more than 15 years ago, The Gruffalo Live, has become a popular fixture on the London stage and it returns, once again, this year bringing its unique style of fun;

writes Nicky Sweetland.

Based on the beloved children’s book by Julia Donaldson, the stage adaptation has thrilled generations of theatre-goers and has been seen by more than a million people worldwide.

The creative team behind the show - Olivia Jacobs and Toby Mitchell - discovered the charming tale, which has illustrations by Axel Scheffler, shortly after the book was first published in 1999 and knew immediately it would make an exciting and adorable stage production.

"Shortly after it was published, we read it and loved it," Olivia said. "It was little known, Julia (Donaldson) and Axel (Scheffler) were little known and it wasn’t a big deal, so we met with Julia and off we went.

"Now 15 years later it’s grown and grown and it’s been glorious to work on." It was a challenge to make the 32-page children’s story into a full stage show, and it has continued to be developed over the years to keep the production fresh and current.

Olivia said: "Obviously the book tells a very simple story of a mouse, who goes through the deep dark wood and stumbles across three predators who threaten to eat her. She invents the story of a Gruffalo who will eat all of the predators to make them run away as fast as they can and so the mouse, through brains and not brawn survives.’

"The stage show expands on all of those characters, so we learn a lot more about mouse and about fox, snake and owl. We developed characteristics for each of them directly from the animal.

"In rehearsals, we looked at how a fox moves and we found that they have a very gentle pad, pad, pad, but there’s also a little jump in them. We put that into an anthropomorphic form, so the human characters have those animal characteristics.

"Each of the predators have their own style of music, their own song and we learn a little bit more about them.’

In total 63 performers have taken to the stage and the show has been performed throughout five continents, in 16 countries and in three languages. As the book has continued to grow in popularity, the stage show has changed to include more audience participation, so families can chant the familiar rhyming couplets along with the cast.

The Gruffalo Live is running at Lyric Theatre until 4th September. The show is suitable for ages three years and up, but a real treat for the whole family.

If you would like further information, you can visit the website gruffalolive.com

Broadway hits in a Disney show of shows

A NEW Disney concert celebrating over two decades of stunning Broadway shows will receive its European premiere at the Royal Albert Hall in October.

Disney’s Broadway Hits will feature the BBC Concert Orchestra alongside a galaxy of stars – including Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken and members of Aladdin’s West End cast – performing show-stoppers from a succession of stage successes.

The one-night-only event on October 23, will feature music from such award-winning scores as Beauty and the Beast, Aida, The Lion King, Mary Poppins, Tarzan and The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Lucy Noble, Director of Events at the Royal Albert Hall, said: "There’s nothing like a Disney stage show to get the audience on its feet, and these incredible musicals have become a part of our culture: riots of colour, dance and song packed with ingenuity, emotion and unique theatrical magic.

For tickets and further information, you can visit the website www.royalalberthall.com
Entitled, Through the Mill, the heart-warming drama follows Garland through some of the most famous episodes of her working life. Writer and director Ray Rackham has devised a thoroughly compelling story told by three Judy Garlands performing, at times, simultaneously, including a 12-year-old wannabe, a nervous 29-year-old and a somewhat jaded 40-year-old, illustrating the struggles and triumphs of the iconic star.

Brimming with show business razzmatazz and yet simple and truthful, the show is filled with some of the glorious music which was made famous by the star, performed with stunning vocals by the trio of Judys, Belinda Wollaston, Lucy Penrose and Helen Sheals.

Supported by a stellar cast of actor/musicians and beautifully lit by Jack Weir, this production is a must for lovers of Judy Garland, but also stands alone as a stunning piece of dramatic writing.

Through the Mill runs at Southwark Playhouse until July 30. Further information is available from the website southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

Italian opera-style concept albums including Jesus Christ Superstar and The Who’s Tommy. The album went multi-platinum and has sold over 15m copies to date. The stage musical version was first performed in 2009 and following a successful run on Broadway, transferred to London last year. The story follows three disaffected young men, Johnny, Will and Tunny, who find small town life stifling. Johnny and Tunny flee suburbia in search of enlightenment, whilst Will stays at home to work out his relationships with his pregnant girlfriend. None of them quite find the fulfilment they desire and Johnny (Faulkner) turns to drugs to dull the pain of his disappointment in life.

American Idiot is playing at the Arts Theatre until September 25 - more information is on the website americanidiotthemusical.co.uk.
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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Starhotels UK Limited (the 1949 Companies Act England and Wales) proposes to apply to the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence to allow it to carry on a business which involves the supply of alcohol for consumption on the Premises, at the above address. The Premises Licence Application will be considered by the Licensing Authority on 13th July 2016, 6pm Monday to Friday.

Notice is hereby given that STARHOTELS UK LIMITED (Limited Company No. 07493355) have applied to Westminster Council for the GRANT of Premises Licence for the Premises The Franklin Hotel situated at 20 Egerton Gardens, London SW3 2DB.

A register of licensing applications is held by the Licensing Authority and can be inspected at Westminster Council, 245 Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 7XX (020 7662 5372, 24 hour automated advice line 0844 800 24 24 and www.london.gov.uk/licensing)

Applications for Premises Licences may be represented by anyone who object to the issue of the Premises Licence. Written representations should be made by 13th July 2016, 6pm Monday to Friday. Any representations should be in writing and include the grounds on which the representations are made and the name and address of the person making the representations. Representations may be viewed by members of the public who may access the register online by visiting at www.westminster.gov.uk/licensing and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

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

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made 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 Boscombe Road between its junctions with Uxbridge Road and No 1 Boscombe Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Percy Road or Coningham Road, Findon Road, Boscombe Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday 1st August 2016 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 1st August 2016 and last for 21 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND Fulham ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (RAVENSCOURT GARDENS)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

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

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Ravenscourt Gardens between its junctions with Ravenscourt Square and Goldhawk Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Ravenscourt Park, King Street and Goldhawk Road.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 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 Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate sewer repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Tadmor Street between Nos. 10 and 13 Tadmor Street.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Sterne Street and Caxton 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 will come into operation on the 26th July 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 26th July 2016 and last for 12 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 7th day of July 2016.
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road and suspend the taxi rank on Chelsea Harbour Drive at it's junction with Harbour Avenue.

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 Harbour Avenue between its junctions with Chelsea Harbour Drive and No. 214 Harbour Avenue.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Imperial Road, New Kings Road, Munster Road, Lille Road, Finborough Road and Lots Road.

4. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the taxi rank on Chelsea Harbour Drive at it's junction with Harbour Avenue 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 will come into operation on the 1st August 2016 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 Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 2 days. With back up dates scheduled for the 8th/9th August or 15th/16th August or 22nd/23rd August. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate tower crane operations to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Studland Street between its junctions with King Street and Felgate Mews.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Talgarth Road, Goldhawk Road and Paddenswick 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 will come into operation on the 26th July 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 26th July 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of June 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways
Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Planning Application

1. South Park Mews
   London SW6 6JY 2016/03044/VAR
   Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 27/03/2015, for which appeal ref: 15/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

2. London W2 8EB
   2016/03066/FUL
   Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles and forming of a single storey extension, erection of a single storey rear addition replacing the existing
   Planning application ref: 2016/02927/FUL

3. 2 Gransden Road
   London NW6 1QZ 2016/03096/FUL
   Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles
   Planning application ref: 2016/03004/FUL

4. 5 Rylett Road
   London W12 SNL 2016/03060/FUL
   Installation of 2no. electrical charging points for vehicles
   Planning application ref: 2016/03010/FUL

5. 14 Ryecrest Street
   London SW6 5LX 2016/03019/FUL
   Alteration to the external elevations of the existing building
   Planning application ref: 2016/03048/FUL

6. The Bridgeside
   London W14 0LF
   2016/03009/FUL
   Replacement of a single glazed door to the garden; renovation of the existing cottage in the rear garden
   Planning application ref: 2016/02743/FUL

7. 39 Fulham Palace Road
   London SW6 1EF 2016/03062/FUL
   Alteration to the external elevations of the existing building
   Planning application ref: 2016/03071/FUL

8. 67 Queensmill Road
   London W6 9NT 2016/02880/FUL
   Single storey extension to the rear of the main building
   Planning application ref: 2016/02836/FUL

9. 121 Hurlingham Road
   London SW6 5LX 2016/03045/FUL
   Demolition of existing shed; replacement of a single glazed door to the garden; renovation of the existing cottage in the rear garden
   Planning application ref: 2016/02743/FUL

10. 601 And 611 King’s Road
    London SW3 1NP 2016/03084/FUL
    Replacement of existing ATM machine with a new ATM machine
    Planning application ref: 2016/03009/FUL

11. 2016/02745/FUL

12. 2016/03075/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

13. 2016/03077/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

14. 2016/03078/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

15. 2016/03079/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

16. 2016/03080/FUL
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17. 2016/03081/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

18. 2016/03082/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

19. 2016/03083/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

20. 2016/03084/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

21. 2016/03085/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.

22. 2016/03086/FUL
    Planning application to vary Condition 2 of Planning permission dated 21/06/2015, for which appeal ref: 14/01102/RH, granted 21st May 2015. Third floor level.
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
HAMMERSMITH ROAD
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming for television to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the eastbound lane 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 the eastbound lane of Hammersmith Road between its junctions with Hammersmith Broadway and Uxbridge Road.

3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be provided via Hammersmith Broadway, Talgarth Road and Shortlands.

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner

Transport and Highways

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

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming for television to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.

2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Becklow Road between its junctions with Ashkw Road and Uxbridge Road.

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

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

5. The Order would come into operation on the 9th August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 9th August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 14th day of July 2016
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner

Transport and Highways
Cousins makes ‘right move’

IN another strategic move that bodes well for the future at Queens Park Rangers, LK’s last week signed midfielder Jordan Cousins from recently relegated Charlton Athletic on a three-year contract.

Cousins, 22, became Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink’s fourth summer signing, following the arrival of Ariel Borysiuk, Joel Lynch and Jake Bidwell. The initial fee is undisclosed but believed to be £1.5m, potentially rising to £2m with add-ons and includes a sell-on clause.

Despite his young age, Greenwich-born Cousins has racked up nearly 150 appearances in his short career. His seven goals in Addicks’ colours included the neatly executed curler he scored in their 2-1 defeat at Loftus Road last April, shortly before dropping into League One.

Hasselbaink said: “When I arrived here, I spoke at length about the kind of players I wanted to attract to QPR – and Jordan fits that bill exactly.

“He’s young, he’s hungry, he’s got Championship experience and he’s got great potential to keep on improving at QPR.”

Box-to-box

Although Cousins has featured both centrally and wide for the south Londoners, Hasselbaink believes the former is his best position: “He’s a box-to-box midfielder and that’s where I see him featuring for us.

“His energy and ability to score goals from midfield were two big factors in our desire to bring him here. He’s someone who has been on our radar for a while.”

The progress of Cousins, capped by England at U17 and U21 level, has been one of precious few positives amid Charlton’s problems on and off the field. Fans voted him Player of the Year in each of the last two seasons at The Valley but remaining with them in the third tier would have been a big step backwards.

He said: “I felt this was the right time for me to move on – and for it to be to a massive club like QPR is a real pleasure for me,” he said.

He added: “I spoke to the manager at length and we share similar beliefs as to how the game should be played. “I know what he is looking for from me as a central midfielder and I’m excited about pulling on the QPR shirt and showing the fans what I’m capable of.

“I want to be the best player I possibly can be – and hopefully I can produce the best football of my career for QPR.”

Rangers review

With Tony McDonald

LOFTUS ROAD

Sensational Simpson

COUNTY CRICKET ROUND-UP

UNBEATEN County Championship leaders Middlesex keep serving up the drama and thrills.

Wicketkeeper/batsman John Simpson hit a six with two balls remaining to clinch a sensational two-wicket win over Somerset on his 28th birthday.

Set 302 to win from 46 overs at Taunton, Middlesex needed eight from the final over and with six needed, Nick Gubbins contributed 76 and James Fuller smashed 36 from only 18 balls.

Lauded

Somanet, 348-6 overnight, earlier declared on 446-9 but skipper Chris Rogers later defended his decision.

Rather than criticised, he should be lauded for encouraging a result instead of taking the easy, safe option and settling for another bore draw.

Middlesex, who began the game with a one-point lead at the top of Division One, extended it to 14 points because of Warwickshire’s win with Hampshire and Lancashire’s week off.

Fuller, who took three wickets in the morning session before adding punch to the run chase with three sixes in his cameo, also played a key role.

Allenby was given the responsibility of the final over and with six needed from four balls, left-hander Simpson swept a leg-stump delivery over the longest boundary on the ground.

Simpson, who also claimed nine catches, said: “I’d probably say that was my best knock under that kind of pressure. It was a fantastic chase and all credit to the boys. At the end it was pure elation – as good as it gets.”

Somerset must be sick of the sight of Middlesex, who crossed the line to win by 57 runs to go nine points clear in the T20 Blast position with a five-wicket victory over the same opposition at Taunton last Friday.

Set a dismal 138 to win by the side bottom of the southern group, Middlesex coasted to victory when Simpson hit a six off the first ball of the final over and was four off the last, with two balls to spare.

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Blues still Fox hunting

CHELSEA are closing in on their third signing of the summer, following the arrival on Saturday of N’Golo Kante and earlier this month Michy Batshuayi.

They will be returning to Leicester City, the scene of their £32million acquisition of midfielder Kante, to attempt to prise winger Riyad Mahrez from the Premier League champions.

A £350,000 capture from French side Le Havre in 2014, Leicester can expect to sell the Algerian for close on £30m.

The Foxes want him to sign a new contract worth in excess of £100k a week.

But it’s believed he will turn that down, triggering a bidding war. Chelsea hope to have stolen a march on rivals Arsenal, who are also keen.

Antonio Conte was unveiling Blues’ new head coach on Thursday. The former Italy and Juventus boss presented a calm, sincere persona matched by his sartorial elegance.

But he has a combustible side which he exhibited again on Saturday, when his charges lost his opening game 2-0 to Rapid Vienna.

None of those involved in Euro 2016 were in attendance. They, along with Kante and hopefully Mahrez, will join the squad when they head for a pre-season tour of the USA later this week.

Work hard for the team

Conte said of new defensive midfielder Kante: “I want to say Kante was a target and for this reason I’m very happy the club bought the player.

“He’s a good player. He has good technique, fantastic stamina and I like this type of player. If you want to win, a team needs this kind – a Kante, Matic and Mikel – that work hard for the team.

“We identified him, me and the club together, and I think Kante can give a lot to Chelsea, to enforce a zone which is very important if we want to play with two central midfielders. He showed last season he’s able to play with another midfielder. I think with this player we’ve reinforced the squad.

“All together we are working to improve the squad. We know we have to but we prefer to wait and go for our targets, rather than go with emotion and take players who don’t adapt to our idea of football. I’m also very happy about Batshuayi.

“One poor display in Vienna, Conte said: “This is the first game for us but I knew it would be very difficult after three days of double training.

“They were very hard sessions, not ones to enjoy, all about the physical and tactical aspect. I think it was a bit normal to meet these difficulties in the game but I don’t like to lose and it’s the same for my players.

“I think the game was very important because we can learn a lot from it. It’s important to switch our minds to change. The past is not important, we must build through the work of our present and future.”

Asmir Begovic, who played in goal while Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois enjoys his post-Euro 2016 holiday, said of the Rapid defeat: “We are buying into what the manager wants us to do. We are working hard to try and improve. We’re working in a different way, so it’s going to take a bit of time to process but, so far so good. Over time, we’ll get better.”

The 23-year-old, who can also play at right-side, began his career at his hometown club Middlesbrough, playing 47 times as they reached the Championship Play-Off Final in 2014-15, before winning promotion as runners-up to Leeds United.

Richard possible featuring in a swap deal.

Kalas has spent 18 months on loan with Fulham, before moving to Sint-Truiden in 2009.

His three-year deal

“I’ve played as a left-back for the past three seasons at the club he won the Belgian Pro League while also representing Anderlecht in Europe.

Odoi joined Lokeren in 2013 and made 37 appearances in his debut campaign as they finished fifth in the league and won the Belgian Cup. He made made 117 appearances for Lokeren in three years.

Odoi made his full Belgium debut in 2012 in a friendly against Montenegro.

Asked to describe himself as a player, Kalas told www.fullhamfc.com: “I’m quite athletic, I’m probably not 6.5 (feet tall) and 100 kilos but I’m probably faster that those who are. I can jump quite high, I’m aggressive and I don’t like to lose.”

In his first interview since signing, Odoi said all the right things: “Fulham is a big club with tradition. I also spoke to Moussa Dembélé – the Belgian one – who had a lot of positive things to say about the club, so that helped me a lot. He said Fulham is a nice club, professional, like a big family.

“The played as a left-back for the past three years but I can also play on the right. My main qualities are speed and agility.”

After Tuesday’s (19th) friendly at Brighton, Fulham head to Spain and Portugal for warm-up matches against Real Betis (at Huévar) on Saturday and CD Nacional (at Albufeira) next Monday, before returning home to face Crystal Palace at The Cottage on July 30.

FULHAM have made two much needed defensive summer signings and are reportedly closing in on at least one more.

Centre-back Tomás Kalas makes the short trip up the road on a season-long loan deal from West Ham United.

Fulham are also hoping to raid west London rivals Brentford for their goalkeeper David Button, although Bees’ £1m asking price for a player entering the last year of his contract at Griffin Park could scupper any deal.

And reports continue to link Whites with Centre-back Scott Malone, with Jazz Richards possible featuring in a swap deal.

Kalas has spent 13 months on loan with Middlesbrough, playing 47 times as they reached the Championship Play-Off Final in 2014-15, before winning promotion as runners-up behind Burnley last season.

The 23-year-old, who can also play at right-side, began his career at his hometown club Sigma Olomouc, joining Chelsea for £5.25m in the summer of 2010.

After two seasons on loan at Dutch outfit Vitesse Arnhem, during which time he was named Czech Republic Young Player of the Year, he made his debut for his parent club in a 2-0 League Cup win at Arsenal in October 2013.

Ahead of the 2014-15 campaign he moved on loan to FC Cologne in Germany but joined Boro in a similar deal midway through the campaign.

Kalas also has a number of international caps, making his senior debut in November 2012 against local rivals Slovakia.

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By LWN reporter Paul Lagan
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Whites tackle defensive woes

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