Council leader’s pledge on Calais refugees

‘We will not walk on the other side of the street’

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHILD refugees trapped in the Calais ‘jungle’ camp will be offered a safe home in Hammersmith and Fulham in a bid to break the “bureaucratic logjam” blocking their path to the UK.

Ahead of a personal visit to Calais, council leader Stephen Cowan said there was a “moral imperative” to help the hundreds of children currently stranded in the camp.

In an exclusive interview with the Chronicle, he pledged not to “walk by on the other side of the street” while children suffer in squalid conditions.

Cllr Cowan said the council could safely accept 10 of the so-called ‘Dubs children’ currently living in the camp.

Some of the children have a right to seek asylum in European Union countries where they have relatives.

Dozens more could also be resettled in the UK after an amendment to the government’s immigration bill, proposed by Hammersmith campaigner and former child refugee Lord Alf Dubs, was passed in May.

But Cllr Cowan said Home Office delays were holding up the process, despite efforts to find homes for the children in west London.

“There is this stalemate [between the British and French governments]. Meanwhile, we have got kids living in the ‘jungle’. “There needs to be a break in this bureaucratic logjam. We have to go out there and try and cut through this.”

Last week Cllr Cowan met with the Mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchart, during a visit to the camp alongside representatives from the Citizens UK organisation and other refugee charities.

He has also asked for an audience with Home Office ministers in a bid to speed up the process.

The council says it can take 10 unaccompanied children in Hammersmith and Fulham at a cost of £164 million over the next five years – as soon as permission is granted for them to travel.

It has indicated that it would like to bring more refugees into the borough if it can be done safely.

Cllr Cowan called for politicians to create a “sense of national outrage” over the crisis.

“The fact that there are children living in what anybody would think of as being hell just 20 miles off our shores cannot be allowed to continue,” he added.

“We will not walk by on the other side of the street and will not leave these children on the other side of the Channel. There is a moral imperative to act to rescue these children and the British government has to be part of the solution.”

He also appealed for residents in Hammersmith and Fulham to consider putting themselves forward as foster carers for the child refugees, adding: “If people feel they are able to help us then we will give them all the training and support they need.”

Citizens UK says it has identified 170 unaccompanied children in Calais who have a legal right to be allowed into the UK to be with family members while their asylum claims are processed.

Lord Dubs, who delivered a letter to Downing Street earlier this month calling for an immediate amnesty for the children, said: “It is vital that the UK Government shows strong moral leadership in this situation. The only reason that the 170 children identified by Citizens UK are still in Calais is lack of political will.”

“It is shameful that they remain stuck in a field, between two of the world’s richest countries, surrounded by strangers.”

Ayesha Neeli Malik (pictured, right) was thrilled to secure A*s and two As at the White City school after a sleepless week waiting for the results to be released.

Ayesha Neeli Malik (pictured, right) was thrilled to secure A*s and two As at the White City school after a sleepless week waiting for the results to be released.

Cllr Stephen Cowan said there was a “moral imperative” to rescue the children from the camp’s squalid conditions.

Cllr Cowan said the council could safely accept 10 of the so-called ‘Dubs children’ currently living in the camp.

Some of the children have a right to seek asylum in European Union countries where they have relatives.

Dozens more could also be resettled in the UK after an amendment to the government’s immigration bill, proposed by Hammersmith campaigner and former child refugee Lord Alf Dubs, was passed in May.

But Cllr Cowan said Home Office delays were holding up the process, despite efforts to find homes for the children in west London.

“There is this stalemate [between the British and French governments]. Meanwhile, we have got kids living in the ‘jungle’. “There needs to be a break in this bureaucratic logjam. We have to go out there and try and cut through this.”

Last week Cllr Cowan met with the Mayor of Calais, Natacha Bouchart, during a visit to the camp alongside representatives from the Citizens UK organisation and other refugee charities.

He has also asked for an audience with Home Office ministers in a bid to speed up the process.

The council says it can take 10 unaccompanied children in Hammersmith and Fulham at a cost of £164 million over the next five years – as soon as permission is granted for them to travel.

It has indicated that it would like to bring more refugees into the borough if it can be done safely.

Cllr Cowan called for politicians to create a “sense of national outrage” over the crisis.

“The fact that there are children living in what anybody would think of as being hell just 20 miles off our shores cannot be allowed to continue,” he added.

“We will not walk by on the other side of the street and will not leave these children on the other side of the Channel. There is a moral imperative to act to rescue these children and the British government has to be part of the solution.”

He also appealed for residents in Hammersmith and Fulham to consider putting themselves forward as foster carers for the child refugees, adding: “If people feel they are able to help us then we will give them all the training and support they need.”

Citizens UK says it has identified 170 unaccompanied children in Calais who have a legal right to be allowed into the UK to be with family members while their asylum claims are processed.

Lord Dubs, who delivered a letter to Downing Street earlier this month calling for an immediate amnesty for the children, said: “It is vital that the UK Government shows strong moral leadership in this situation. The only reason that the 170 children identified by Citizens UK are still in Calais is lack of political will.”

“It is shameful that they remain stuck in a field, between two of the world’s richest countries, surrounded by strangers.”

Ayesha Neeli Malik (pictured, right) was thrilled to secure A*s and two As at the White City school after a sleepless week waiting for the results to be released.
The spirit of carnival helps children explore new cultures

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

An educational charity is tapping into the spirit of the Notting Hill Carnival to help young Londoners discover cultures from around the world.

Ann Beatty, chief executive of the Steve Sinnott Foundation, believes the capital’s legendary street party provides the perfect opportunity to teach children about diversity.

In an exclusive interview with London Weekly News, she said the charity wanted to spread the message of “education for all” during carnival week. Thousands are expected to fill the streets for the song and dance extravaganza over the bank holiday weekend.

But Ms Beatty, 51, says the carnival has a unique role in helping youngsters learn about the melting pot of cultures living side by side in London.

“I have been going to carnival myself for many years. It is quite natural for me – but many young people have not had the same opportunity,” she said.

“I think it’s such a good opportunity for people to gain a better understanding of different cultures – even if it’s just trying different food or listening to different music.”

The charity has teamed up with dance band Cocoyea, who are celebrating 35 years playing at the carnival, to take part in the parade on Sunday.

Around 40 children from all over London have been attending the charity’s workshops in Willesden Green to design their own Notting Hill Carnival costumes and make music especially for the carnival celebration.

Ms Beatty said the creative classes had helped to spread the message about the traditions of carnival, while educating the children about life in some of the poorest African countries, where the foundation is currently leading a series of major development projects.

The charity has schemes operating in Haiti, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Ghana and Uganda in a bid to improve access to education.

Ms Beatty, who worked for two years in Sierra Leone before taking up a role with the foundation in 2015, added: “We are very excited to take part in the carnival and get the message out there that every child has the right to access quality education wherever they are or whatever their circumstances.

“What teachers [in Africa] have said to us is that what they lack is resources and being able to connect to the outside world. They know what the challenges are, they just need support to do it themselves.

“The idea is to offer them realistic, manageable and sustainable solutions going forward into the future.”

Born in West Hampstead, Ms Beatty took over the reins at the foundation last year. Ms Beatty said she also wanted to develop a series of animated films to explain to children the challenges facing different countries, while working with other education providers to spread the message.

She added: “We have been really inspired by the enthusiasm shown for the charity’s ‘Education for All’ awareness programme and the innovative ways in which schools and community groups have embraced it.

“So many of them have taken a lead in supporting a movement that is responding to one of the most pressing issues of our times.”

Ann Beatty, chief executive of the Steve Sinnott Foundation with, right, Jess, Kaylem and Sienna who have been taking part in workshops to design their own Notting Hill Carnival costumes.

Has the Duchess of Cambridge gone blonde? See page 17

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Contacting your council

HAMMERSMITH & Fulham

Housing
020 7641 4000
020 7641 3000
parkingpermits@hfb.gov.uk
planning@hfb.gov.uk
Planning
020 7641 7000
020 7641 3000
planning@hfb.gov.uk
Planning
020 7641 7000
020 7641 3000
planning@hfb.gov.uk

Adapted text: "The spirit of carnival helps children explore new cultures"
**£200,000 fire bill for save pets**

FIRE chiefs have appealed to Westminster residents to keep a better watch on their pets, especially cats, to help bring down the £189,000 annual cost of firefighters saving animals in London.

Animal rescues are down by 20 per cent over the last five years since the brigade launched its ‘I’m An Animal, Get Me Out Of Here’ campaign which aims to stop Londoners calling for unnecessary animal rescues.

In 2011/12, firefighters were called out to rescue 650 animals but since the launch of their first ever animal rescue campaign, the number of pets that have fallen to 526 last year.

But five fire stations that set fire alarms to rescue an animal every 16 hours at a cost of around £16,500 a month.

“We’re asking people to think carefully before dialling 999 when it’s just an animal in difficulty and in the first instance calling the RSPCA. The RSPCA already have firefighters they are required,” said a spokesman.

Two-thirds of the animal rescues involved cats but some of the more unusual incidents that occurred included:

- A ferret trapped in a lift in Kingston.
- A tortoise lost in New Southwark.
- A chicken stuck in a tree in Stockwell.
- A cat trapped in a gutter in Hornchurch.

London Fire Commissioner, Ron Dobkin, said: “I’m pleased that our campaign has led to a reduction in animal call outs across the city but I don’t want to see reports like this.

“If there is a cat up a tree, or an animal stuck anywhere, the first port of call should always be the RSPCA, not the emergency services. Pet owners need to keep a close eye on their animals in a bid to avoid some of these situations occurring.

“What’s worrying is that when firefighters are out rescuing animals, they’re not available to attend real emergencies.”

John Grant, RSPCA chief superintendent for the south, added: “The RSPCA is always incredibly grateful for any help we receive from the fire service.

“We work very closely with the emergency services and their highly trained crews have assisted in many animal rescues over the years. Like any member of the public, the RSPCA can request the help of the fire and rescue service when there is a question of health and safety and we are unable to access and rescue an animal in trouble ourselves.”

---

**ANARCHISTS PLANNING DOUBLE PROTEST**

By GEOFF BAKER

BY GEOFF BAKER

FEARS are growing that violent street fighting could erupt again at Notting Hill Carnival as anarchists and activists are planning to hijack this year’s festival to stage demonstrations to protest for the Black Lives Matter campaign.

Kensington’s MP Victoria Borwick has made an appeal for calm after it was warned that they want to “take over” the Carnival and are targeting for supporters to “rise up”.

As residents prepare to head out up their homes, the MP is expected to deploy up to 7,000 police officers, including riot squads on duty, to protect public safety.

The anarchist group Class War is planning a protest against “police brutality” and “to celebrate black resistance” on Monday August 29th, gathering at 6 pm on the junction of Ladbroke Grove and Kensal Road.

The group – which boasts on its website of 100 people – said they want to kick the Tories out to replace them with Labour or anyone near the year the City.

Class War, which marked the recent death of the Duke of Westminster in his Lambeth book saying “the only good toff is a *dead* one”, says it also is mounting the march through Notting Hill protesting against the death of a 37-year-old man who was fatally shot by police in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in July.

In a call up for activists to join what it claims will be a peaceful protest, Class War says: “We will be marching not only for Alton Sterling but also march for those killed at home. Some people might be thinking why protest at Carnival? What does Notting Hill Carnival have to do with promoting it?

“In December it was announced that the Government and policing authority is authorising to charge Carnival Goers tickets to enter Notting Hill Carnival.

“It is not a surprise to many of us, and is just the next step in the authorities attempt to shut Carnival down.

“Their campaign to end Carnival is led to the ever-growing social cleansing of West London and Notting Hill.

“Gentrification in Notting Hill and Ladbroke Grove areas have seen black shops close, families evicted and moved, estates earmarked for demolition and youth spaces closed. Gentrification in Notting Hill and West London areas has brought in a backlash against Carnival by an older established and now younger generation of white middle class residents only concerned about their property values and not concerned about their political concerns.

“[**Institutional racism within the police and government forces**] is a question of both integration and hard to the black communities and organisers in W est London.

“At 5pm, the May 10 years Notting Hill and Ladbroke Groove areas have seen black shops closed, families evicted and moved, estates earmarked for demolition and youth spaces closed. Gentrification in Notting Hill and West London areas has brought in a backlash against Carnival by an older established and now younger generation of white middle class residents only concerned about their property values and not concerned about their political concerns.”

Another Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest at the Carnival is planned to coincide with activists from the revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (SWP). Planning for this began last month when more than 100 BLM supporters gathered at a mosque in East London.

Reporting on the meeting, the Socialist Worker newspaper wrote: “W eymann Bennett from the SWP argued, ‘We need to take over part of Carnival with Black Lives Matter. When I was young, the police didn’t call us when Carnival finished, we told them. We need to take it back’.

“The paper added: ‘Harold from south London agreed, ‘We want to reclaim Notting Hill Carnival. We need to take it back’.

“The paper added: ‘Harold from south London agreed, ‘We want to reclaim Notting Hill Carnival. We need to take it back.’

“Activists agreed that mobilising for a BLM bloc at Notting Hill Carnival on August Bank Holiday is going to be decisive.”

Organisers have doubled the number of stewards for this year’s Carnival and the Met is expected to deploy at least 10,000 officers, the same number as last year. Some crews are being paid to do nothing apart from being young and black in Britain.

“We want a Notting Hill Carnival which is ticketed, it is multicultural. They want to take the black out of Mas (Caribbean slang for masquerade). We need more bands playing up the sound of Soca, Calypso and Reggae. We want a Mas that is defiant, strong and proud of our culture and our struggle.

“Mas Carnival is one of the last bastions of Black Caribbean Culture and Resistance. Rise up and defend what our grandparents and parents created.”

By Paul Lagan

Pimlico Academy’s A-level students can look forward to the rest of their summer holidays without the stress of wondering what grades they got, writes Paul Lagan.

The school in Lupus Street saw their results exceeded once again with 89 per cent of all grades were A*-A, 62 per cent were A*-B, with 22 per cent A.

Achieving these results mean that nine out of 10 students who applied have secured places at university.

These include some of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country such as Imperial College London, King’s College, London, Bristol, Bath and Durham to study a range of subjects from medicine to mechanical engineering, maths to economics, neuroscience to history.

There were some exceptional results from individual students. Amir Amani gained three A* grades securing him a place at University College London to study medicine. Three A* grades means that Siu Loon Chong has the chance to study medicine at Imperial College London, with Pedro Luiz Brego Monteiro’s two A*s and two As a place at Imperial to study electrical and electronic engineering, Blerta Duraku with two As and one A to study medicine and physics.

Ms Samantha Green, principal of Pimlico Academy, said: ‘Yet again the hard work and staff have shown once again the power and potential of our ambitious goals. I am so proud to have seen them through that journey.’

---

**Pimlico students achieve record A-level results**

**MP calls for calm after threats to disrupt carnival**

Another Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest at the Carnival is planned to coincide with activists from the revolutionary Socialist Workers Party (SWP). Planning for this began last month when more than 100 BLM supporters gathered at a mosque in East London.

Reporting on the meeting, the Socialist Worker newspaper wrote: “W eymann Bennett from the SWP argued, ‘We need to take over part of Carnival with Black Lives Matter. When I was young, the police didn’t call us when Carnival finished, we told them. We need to take it back’.

“The paper added: ‘Harold from south London agreed, ‘We want to reclaim Notting Hill Carnival. We need to take it back’.

“Activists agreed that mobilising for a BLM bloc at Notting Hill Carnival on August Bank Holiday is going to be decisive.”

Organisers have doubled the number of stewards for this year’s Carnival and the Met is expected to deploy at least 10,000 officers, the same number as last year. Some crews are being paid to do nothing apart from being young and black in Britain.

“We want a Notting Hill Carnival which is ticketed, it is multicultural. They want to take the black out of Mas (Caribbean slang for masquerade). We need more bands playing up the sound of Soca, Calypso and Reggae. We want a Mas that is defiant, strong and proud of our culture and our struggle.

“Mas Carnival is one of the last bastions of Black Caribbean Culture and Resistance. Rise up and defend what our grandparents and parents created.”

---

**Clampingdown on cyber crime**

By GEOFF BAKER

BY GEOFF BAKER

Last year’s Carnival saw a surge in violence and knife crime.

As last year saw the greatest number of arrests at the Carnival in a decade, residents who regularly board up their homes are hoping that this year’s event, to be held over the Sunday and Monday of the Bank Holiday, will be trouble free.

Kensington’s MP Victoria Borwick has issued an appeal for calm at the Carnival.

“It is vitally important that this year’s Carnival is a safe event that the whole Family can enjoy,” said the MP in a statement.

The MP said that Lady Borwick and city authorities are deeply concerned that activist groups will disrupt the Carnival.

“The way it’s looking could be problematic, reading what these groups are planning is worrying,” said an associate.

A poll commissioned by Notting Hill residents by Victoria Borwick earlier this year and confirmed by ComRes found that 63 per cent of responders were concerned about knife crime at the Carnival.

A press release issued by the MP added: “Policing costs now exceed 18 million and a third of Met police resources are diverted to the event during the bank holiday weekend. This in addition to the £138,000 contributed by the GLA towards stewarding costs. Local councils are also faced with a bill of over £800,000 for the clear-up and provision of toilet facilities.

“These costs compare dramatically to those of Pride in London and the similar number of attendees in Central London at half the cost to the police.

“The community supporting the 50-year-old Carnival could suffer if street violence erupts again this year as it would threaten calls from residents, which are unofficially supported by some quarters of the Met, for the event to be moved out of Notting Hill to Greenwich Park, where it could be more easily policed at less cost.

---

**Human chain to protect cylicsts**

SHOCKED City workers formed a human chain to protect an injured cyclist after he was thrown from his bike in a collision with a car at the notorious Bank junction.

Richard Stevens, a City graduate Ying Tao died after being hit by a lorry last June.

The rider, a man in his 40s, is recovering with facial injuries and a City of London police spokesman said the driver was ‘extremely lucky’.

The scene was and was helped police with their investigation.

City workers who witnessed the crash formed a line in the road to block traffic as paramedics treated the cyclist.
Mayor feels the Night Tube 'vibe''

ALMOST three years since the plan was announced, the Night Tube has arrived in London. Trains are now running on the Victoria and Central lines on Fridays and Saturdays between 12.30 am and 5.30 am.

Transport for London (TfL) estimates that 50,000 passengers used the service on Friday and that figure is expected to rise to 200,000.

TfL said 6,500 people were recording entering Oxford Circus overnight, while 4,250 passengers exited Stratford station.

The city’s mayor, Sadiq Khan, said it was ‘wonderful’ that thousands of Londoners were able to benefit from the service.

Khan, said it was “wonderful” that as a graduate you will earn a couple of hundred grand over the first year of a career, but that’s not guaranteed to continue.

Point is, trade apprenticeships are a great way of building a career that will keep you in good paying work for life. At the end of your training you will be employable, unlike graduates, who need to be trained again by their new employers, should they manage to find a job.

As an apprentice you also get paid while you train, and there is no £5000 tuition fees debt at the end.

Of course, I’m a businessman too and also have a vested interest in getting more apprentices into training. If we don’t train them, there will be no tradespeople to keep my business going in the future.

The main difference is I’m not making money from apprentices, quite the opposite for the first year, at least, and what I’m offering is better, and makes more sense.
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LONDON’S BIG EVENT

For the first time, carnival will be streamed live around the world!

FOR the first time in its 50-year history, the Notting Hill Carnival will be live streamed around the world.

Londoners wanting to enjoy the fun by avoiding the crowds at the festival that could attract up to two million people will be able to catch all the action at home, whilst Carnival supporters in the Caribbean can tune in too.

The online TV channel Boiler Room is to screen more than 42 hours of live, uncensored coverage of Carnival.

A spokesman for the online service said: “For the first time in its 50-year history, we will partner with legendary London sound systems Rampage, Disya Jeneration, Aba Shanti-i, Channel One, Gallywood Wax, Nastly Love, King Tubby, Saxon Sound and Deviation to stream over 42 hours of performances.

‘Whether you’re watching live or on the other side of the world, Boiler Room will showcase the best British black music around. This will be Notting Hill Carnival in its rawest form: unfiltered, uncensored, uncut.”

Meanwhile, London Live will once again be broadcasting three special, two-hour programmes from Europe’s biggest street festival.

Live from Notting Hill will broadcast on Sunday, August 28th, and Monday, August 29th at 4:00-6:00pm. Presenter Fuji Miyamachi will be out and about reporting from the streets and Gavin Ramjune will anchor the coverage in the studio.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Street Party Saturday, August 27th

From 12.00 pm-2.00 am www.thenottinghillcarnival.com

Visitors are invited to pre-Carnival street party at Styxx Bar on Ashley Road. With live performances from BBC radio’s Ras Kwame plus Scrufizzer, Uncle Dugs & Rachel Wallace, Ed West, Tres, Helen rogers, DJ Amy C, RTKTL plus many more artists, organisers say: “This event promises to be the best way to stage the beginning of London’s iconic annual festivals which is now being streamed live across the world.

Children’s Day Sunday, August 28th

From 10 am to 8.30 pm Notting Hill will bounce with an exuberant Parade for Children as the world’s biggest street party. Successor to the Children’s Day, the festival promises to be the best way to stage the beginning of London’s iconic annual festivals which is now being streamed live across the world.

One thing you can count on – there will be plenty of glamour at the Notting Hill Carnival, one of London’s iconic annual festivals which is now being streamed live around the world.

TRAVEL DISRUPTION AND ADVICE

Roads and public transport in West London will be very busy on August Bank Holiday weekend. To make the most of the weekend, and of this fantastic annual event, organisers advise visitors to plan ahead.

Road users: To create a safe environment during Carnival there will be extensive road closures in Notting Hill, Ladbroke Grove and Westbourne Park areas.

Road closure times

Sunday, August 28th from 06:00 until around 23:59

Monday, August 29th from 06:00 until around 03:00 on the morning of Tuesday 30 August

Road closures will be from:

- Harrow Road in the north
- Notting Hill Gate in the south
- Clarendon Road in the west
- Queensway in the east

The road closures will make traffic around the event areas busier than usual, including A3 Edgeware Road, Holland Park Avenue, Notting Hill Gate and Bayswater Road. Wherever possible, drivers should avoid these parts of West London, or allow for delays to their journey.

Local parking restrictions will apply. Find out more from the local councils Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. For the latest information on how the roads are operating, check before you travel and follow on Twitter and on TfL’s website.

Londoners wanting to enjoy the fun by avoiding the crowds at the festival that could attract up to two million people will be able to catch all the action at home, whilst Carnival supporters in the Caribbean can tune in too.

The online TV channel Boiler Room is to screen more than 42 hours of live, uncensored coverage of Carnival.

A spokesman for the online service said: “For the first time in its 50-year history, we will partner with legendary London sound systems Rampage, Disya Jeneration, Aba Shanti-i, Channel One, Gallywood Wax, Nastly Love, King Tubby, Saxon Sound and Deviation to stream over 42 hours of performances.

‘Whether you’re watching live or on the other side of the world, Boiler Room will showcase the best British black music around. This will be Notting Hill Carnival in its rawest form: unfiltered, uncensored, uncut.”

Meanwhile, London Live will once again be broadcasting three special, two-hour programmes from Europe’s biggest street festival.

Live from Notting Hill will broadcast on Sunday, August 28th and Monday, August 29th at 4:00-6:00pm. Presenter Fuji Miyamachi will be out and about reporting from the streets and Gavin Ramjune will anchor the coverage in the studio.

London’s taxi and private hire trades.

Cycling: A small number of Barclays Cycle Hire docking stations in the Carnival area will be suspended from 21:00 on Saturday 27th August until 07:00 on Tuesday 30th August. These include: Turquoise Island -Peckham Villas -Chepstow Villas -Notting Hill Gate Station -Hereford Road -Ladbroke Grove (central) -Landseadown Walk -All Saints Church -Hitcham Crescent -All Saints Road -Westbourne Park Road (Pois Gardsens)

Although all other docking stations will remain available, traffic congestion in the area may make it difficult for Barclays Cycle Hire redistribution vehicles to collect and/or replace bicycles across West London. Customers are advised to check availability online using the live docking station map. Follow @BarclaysCycle on Twitter for latest updates.

Walking: Magna wayfinding signage will be in place to help carnival-goers get between transport hubs and the event.

TUBE AND RAIL

Tube and rail will be the best way to get around on the weekend, although stations in West London will be busier than usual.

Planned tube closures on Sunday and Monday 28th/30th August:

- London Overground: No services between South Tottenham and Barking on Sunday 28 and Mon- day 29 August.

National Rail: On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August no First Capital Connect (FCC) and Southern Services call at London Bridge, and services will be diverted to Victoria or Blackfriars in London.

 Stations around the Carnival area with no planned closures: Tube - High Street Kensington (Circle and District lines) - Holland Park (Central line) - Queen’s Park (Bank line) - South Kensington (Circle line) - Bayswater (Circle and District line). On Monday 29th August, between 12:00-19:00, customers are advised to use this station as Circle and District line trains will not stop at Notting Hill Gate-Paddington (Hammer- smith & City and Circle lines) on Sunday 28th and Monday 29th August – customers are advised to use this station instead of Notting Hill Gate or Royal Oak, as both these stations will have entry restrictions.

London Overground: Queen’s Park Kensal Rise - Kensal Green - Shepherd’s Bush

Oyster card top ups: Stations in west London will be very busy on both days of Carnival. To save time and avoid queues, top up your Oyster card in advance.

Ticket gates may need to be left open due to the large number of people attending the Carnival. If you are unable to touch in or out with your Oyster card, and are not charged the right fare, you will get an automatic refund within seven days of the end of the Carnival.

For up to date information on Tube, DLR and London Overground services follow @TfLTravelAlerts on Twitter.

Buses: From 16:00 on Saturday 27th August until latest Carnival weekend advice, route 31, 58, 27 will be affected due to a road diversion in place for the Panorama event.

From around 05:00 on Sunday 28th August until 05:00 on Tuesday 30th August, buses in and around the event area will be on diversion or will terminate earlier than usual to avoid the road closures.

During these times, buses will start from the Prince of Wales on Harrow Road to the north of the event area, and will only run to the south to the event area, you will need to change buses within seven days of the end of the Carnival.

To the south of the Carnival area buses will start from Notting Hill Gate. Bus stops within or adjacent to the area will carry displays about diversions or disruptions.


There will be extra day and night buses serving the Notting Hill Carnival, however buses in West London are expected to be busier than usual so allow plenty of time for your journey and plan ahead. Follow @TfLBusAlerts on Twitter for the latest bus updates.

Businesses and Freight: If you make or receive deliveries in West London over the weekend, you may be affected by congestion and increased journey times because of road closures in the area around the Carnival. Please check beforehand if you operate in areas on or near the event. Carnival organisers say you should talk to your customers and suppliers now, to consider if there are changes you need to make to your deliveries or collections. Organisers advise: Signing up to the TFL Road Freight Bulletin Service can provide you with up to date information and advice on issues impacting deliver-ies in London. Email freight@tfl.gov.uk to sign up. Signs at the Carnival will advise at 24 hour hotline for freight en- gagement@tfl.gov.uk

TUESDAY AUGUST 23  2016

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS  5
Students celebrate their A-level

High-flying students a credit to our schools, say headteachers

Michael Ribton, Principal of the Burlington Danes Academy, White City
“We have seen a big increase in the size of the sixth form this year so making sure that every student still gets exactly the same quality of education is key. “It is always a nerve-wracking day, it is the culmination of a lot of hard work over the last two years. “But it is also a very joyful moment and I am really delighted that the students here have got the opportunity to go to university.”

Jemima Clifford, from the Burlington Danes Academy, secured a place at the University of Oxford

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The nervous wait was finally over for A level students last week as a set of impressive results put London’s high-flyers on the path to university.

There were celebrations at schools across Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster as envelopes were torn open.

Many schools reported improvements on last year’s results with hundreds of students securing university and apprenticeship places.

Initial projections indicated that overall grades were up in Hammersmith and Fulham, while students in Kensington and Chelsea performed well above the national average once again.

Westminster schools – home to some of the highest achievers in the country – were also celebrating success as the results were announced on Thursday (August 18).

Records were smashed at the Holland Park and Cardinal Vaughan schools in Kensington as an impressive set of grades marked a standout year.

Holland Park’s best ever set of results saw more than half of all grades awarded at A* or A – double the national average. Cardinal Vaughan enjoyed similar success with one in every five grades an A*.

DLD College in Westminster celebrated an impressive 98 per cent pass rate while Portland Place school doubled its proportion of A*-A grades from 19 to 38 per cent.

There were further success stories at Hammersmith and Fulham as hard-working students at the Burlington Danes Academy in White City and Fulham’s Lady Margaret School toasted strong sets of results, while Hammersmith Academy enjoyed its best ever performance at A level.

The hard work paid off for thousands of students after a sleepless night waiting to collect their results.

It was an extra special day for Ayesha Neeli Malik, who secured a place at the University of Oxford despite being rejected by all her other options.

The 18-year-old, from the Burlington Danes Academy, is to study Fine Art at the university’s Exeter College after impressing some of the country’s leading academics at her interview.

Ayesha, who received A*s in Art and her extended project as well as A*s in English Literature and Biology, said: “I had a really exciting plan in place just in case I did not get in and needed to go through clearing – I had never once taken their foot off the pedal. They all deserve their success.”

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Students at Westminster Kingsway celebrate an impressive set of results

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The nervous wait was finally over for A level students last week as a set of impressive results put London’s high-flyers on the path to university.

There were celebrations at schools across Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster as envelopes were torn open.

Many schools reported improvements on last year’s results with hundreds of students securing university and apprenticeship places.

Initial projections indicated that overall grades were up in Hammersmith and Fulham, while students in Kensington and Chelsea performed well above the national average once again.

Westminster schools – home to some of the highest achievers in the country – were also celebrating success as the results were announced on Thursday (August 18).

Records were smashed at the Holland Park and Cardinal Vaughan schools in Kensington as an impressive set of grades marked a standout year.

Holland Park’s best ever set of results saw more than half of all grades awarded at A* or A – double the national average. Cardinal Vaughan enjoyed similar success with one in every five grades an A*.

DLD College in Westminster celebrated an impressive 98 per cent pass rate while Portland Place school doubled its proportion of A*-A grades from 19 to 38 per cent.

There were further success stories at Hammersmith and Fulham as hard-working students at the Burlington Danes Academy in White City and Fulham’s Lady Margaret School toasted strong sets of results, while Hammersmith Academy enjoyed its best ever performance at A level.

The hard work paid off for thousands of students after a sleepless night waiting to collect their results.

It was an extra special day for Ayesha Neeli Malik, who secured a place at the University of Oxford despite being rejected by all her other options.

The 18-year-old, from the Burlington Danes Academy, is to study Fine Art at the university’s Exeter College after impressing some of the country’s leading academics at her interview.

Ayesha, who received A*s in Art and her extended project as well as A*s in English Literature and Biology, said: “I had a really exciting plan in place just in case I did not get in and needed to go through clearing – I had never once taken their foot off the pedal. They all deserve their success.”

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Headteacher Gary Kynaston with some of Hammersmith Academy’s high-flying students

Jemima Clifford was among the students receiving their results at Lady Margaret School in Fulham

Students at the Lady Margaret School in Fulham
Another of the school’s high-flyers was Kayse Johnson, 18, who is set to take up a place at Durham University to study Engineering.

He secured A* grades in Maths, Chemistry and his extended project along with an A in Physics.

He said: “I am disappointed with Physics because that is actually my strongest subject. But overall I am really pleased.

“I had no idea until this morning what grades I had got and I was trying not to think about it during the week. I only really got scared when I entered the school gates!”

At the William Morris Sixth Form in Hammersmith, 19-year-old Saif Eshag, who came to the UK from Iraq only five years ago, celebrated a sensational set of results.

Although he didn’t speak English when he arrived, Saif achieved an A in Arabic, a B in Physics, a C in Maths and an A in his extended project, and is now set to study Civil Engineering at the University of Portsmouth.

“I was so stressed last night,” he said. “But I’ve always wanted to do engineering and hopefully I can use my university course to help in Iraq.”

High-flyers at the Cardinal Vaughan School included Head Girl Ciara Dinneen, who picked up an A* and two As.

She will become the fifth member of her family to pursue a career in Medicine, which she will study at the University of Bristol.

“I’m really delighted that everything’s come together so well,” she said. “I’ve had a brilliant time at the Vaughan but I can’t wait to start at university.”

Classmate Edward Belknap, who secured two A* grades and an A, is off to Lincoln College, Oxford.

Speaking on Thursday, he said: “I must admit I felt a bit sick with nerves this morning - but I’m feeling a lot better now!”

Zoe Soligo, from Fulham, collected her results like everyone else last week – but instead of further academic rigour, she has chosen to fight poverty in some of the world’s poorest countries.

Zoe, 18, will be travelling to Cambodia with the Government’s International Citizen Service in October.

During a three-month placement she will work to help some of the country’s poorest children improve their life chances through education and business skills.

Zoe, who completed her studies at St Cecilia’s in Wandsworth this year, hopes to pursue a career in human rights and international law.

She said: “I heard about ICS when a returned volunteer came to my school to talk about his experience. It sounded like an amazing opportunity.

“I’m so excited because I want to gain actual experience of development - not just read about it in a text book. The project I’ll be working on in Cambodia will offer just that.”
Civic leaders join in call for new runway at Gatwick, not Heathrow

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TOWN hall bosses have united behind calls for a second runway at Gatwick Airport – not Heathrow.

Council leaders in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea were among those urging the Prime Minister to block the airport’s controversial expansion plans and give the green light to develop Gatwick instead.

A cross-party group of 11 London councils wrote to Theresa May last week warning of the “broad and growing consensus” behind the Gatwick bid.

Senior councillors pledged to work with ministers to support the airport’s “bold and ambitious project”.

Heathrow is widely tipped to win the race for expansion, although ministers have delayed a final decision until the autumn following the EU referendum and change of political leadership.

In a fresh appeal, councillors Stephen Cowan (Hammersmith and Fulham) and Nicholas Paget-Brown (Kensington and Chelsea) highlighted the potential boost to housing, jobs and economic growth.

A letter jointly signed by the 11 council leaders said: “Over the last 20 years we have witnessed a succession of failed attempts to increase capacity at Heathrow.

“The environmental impacts, legal barriers, taxpayer costs and political opposition are just too great to overcome.

“We now know that Gatwick expansion offers a similar economic stimulus to Heathrow but with no cost to the public purse and a fraction of the environmental upheaval.

“It does not face the same legal obstacles and would create a more balanced, resilient and competitive airports network rather than putting all of our eggs in the Heathrow basket.”

Welcoming the support of council leaders, Gatwick chief executive Stewart Wingate said: “London has united behind Gatwick expansion as the only scheme that gives us guaranteed growth while limiting the impact on the environment.”

Heathrow became the favourite to secure government backing for its third runway after the Sir Howard Davies Commission recommended its expansion plan last year.

But a decision is not expected to be made until at least October, according to former transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin.

Nigel Milton, director of external affairs at Heathrow, said: “Heathrow expansion is no longer a choice between the environment or the economy – our plans will benefit both.

“Polling shows that a majority of our neighbours recognise that a third runway will create tens of thousands of local jobs, ending youth unemployment in the communities closest to the airport, as well as reducing noise impacts and meeting air quality rules.”

Teenager escapes jail after carrying a sawn-off shotgun

A 14-year-old boy was caught carrying a sawn-off shotgun for a gangster because his mum didn’t give him enough pocket money, a court heard.

The teenager hid the 24-inch weapon and ammunition under a black cab in Westminster as he was being chased by police on June 8.

The boy, from Notting Hill, who was eventually found hiding behind a tree in a garden was spared jail at Hammersmith Youth Court on Thursday (August 18).

He told the court someone had given him the gun to pass on and he wanted the money.

Arlene De Silva, prosecuting, told the court the defendant had been carrying a black holdall when he was spotted by a policeman.

Ms De Silva said: “He was questioned about the bag he was carrying. He denied he was with anyone and he also denied he was carrying the bag.

“Further officers arrived and searched the area. They looked under a black cab and saw the holdall he was carrying.”

One of the officers collected the bag and approached the teenager, who fled the scene.

Another searched the bag and found the sawn-off shotgun and cartridges, Ms De Silva added.

The youth was eventually found hiding behind a tree in a nearby garden. Officers searched him and found he had a face cover and a black glove.

They arrested and cautioned him for possession of the weapon and the cartridges.

The gun was in working condition but the cartridges had “deteriorated” and were unlikely to have worked, it was said.

Asked by Judge Margot Coleman to explain his actions, the boy said: “I accept that a loaded firearm is more dangerous than an unloaded one. Nonetheless, it wasn’t an imitation firearm, it was a real one and there was absolutely no lawful purpose of having that whatsoever.

“I don’t know what has happened to you. You are privileged, you have got a mother and father who are both committed to you. Not a lot of young people come here with a mother and father who care about them. You have a lot of love and support.

“You are at the top end of trouble. This is not having a bit of cannabis, or breaking into cars. This is top end, heavy heavy offending.”

In mitigation, Nicola Saunders, defending, said his father was also trying to move him to another part of London.

She added: “He has made some incredibly bad choices in the past year and he is aware of that.”

The teenager was also facing a charge of affray from July this year, but it was discontinued by the CPS earlier this month.

He was also facing two charges of possession with intent to supply crack cocaine and heroin, and a charge of assault by beating, dating back from February. All three were discontinued.
Night tube service could push up rents for properties in end-of-line locations

LONDONERS who live at the end of Underground lines could face rent increases following the long-awaited launch of the Night Tube.

Letting agents have warned that they expect to see prices rise around stations that are part of the new 24-hour service.

The Night Tube finally went ‘live’ on Friday, with trains operating on the Central and Victoria lines. Services will also be extended on the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines later in the autumn.

But the Association of Residential Lettings Agents says the transport boost may come at a price for renters.

Mr Manzoor, the association’s president, said: “It could be a double-edged sword for some parts of London.”

“Transport links are a major player in influencing demand and in turn rent costs – so as end-of-the-line areas become better connected there is a chance we will see prices rise.”

A quarter of ARLA members based in London and the South East said they expected to see some rent increases around tube stations that were connected to the 24-hour service.

Mr Madan also suggested end-of-the-line locations were likely to become popular haunts for people working in London’s nightlife sector and tourism trade.

Transport for London launched eight new 24-hour bus services running on Friday and Saturday nights to complement the Night Tube last week.

Passenger numbers on London’s night bus network have more than doubled since 2000, with 123 routes operating overnight.

Mike Weston, TIL’s director of buses, said: “These additional 24-hour bus services will enhance London-wide, night time bus network and complement the Night Tube, making it easier for our customers to get home in the early hours of the morning.

“This will enable customers to make the most of London at night and will in turn help to boost the capital’s vibrant and growing night time economy.”

Hollywood A-lister goes go ahead for Covent Garden hotel

HOLLYWOOD star Robert De Niro has been given the green light to build a luxury boutique hotel in London.

The Wellington Hotel, based in Covent Garden, will include 81 guest rooms, a spa, a private members club and two restaurants.

The renowned actor, famous for his roles in films such as Taxi Driver, Goodfellas, Raging Bull and The Deer Hunter, was given the go ahead by Westminster City Council.

The hotel will be built between Wellington Street, Tavistock Street, Burleigh Street and Exeter Street, in the heart of London’s West End.

Its neighbours will include the Lyceum Theatre, home of the Lion King production, the London Transport Museum, the Duchess Theatre and the Strand Palace Hotel.

Construction will involve redeveloping six buildings, three of which are Grade II listed.

The development will include two restaurants - one which will cater for up to 150 diners with an overflow dining room to provide for a further 120 guests.

The second restaurant will have room for up to 100 guests, while the private members’ club will provide for 64 people, planning documents reveal.

There will also be a spa, with treatment rooms and a swimming pool open to hotel guests and non-residents.

Arranged around a central courtyard conservatory, the eight-storey high development will also provide office space and retail space.

Mr De Niro, 73, already owns The Greenwich Hotel in New York, which is regularly visited by Hollywood A-listers such as Reese Witherspoon and Bradley Cooper.

The Manhattan hotel is operated by Mr De Niro in partnership with BD Hotels. The London hotel will be run by the same set-up.

The developers are expected to shell out nearly £730,000 in payments under a Section 106 agreement, which forces them to contribute to the local area.

Westminster City Council is estimated to receive £600,000 in a Community Infrastructure Levy payment, while the Mayor of London’s office will cash in on £126,000 for Crossrail.

Councillor Robert Davis, the council’s deputy leader and planning chief, heaped praise on the scheme.

He said: “This is one of the finest schemes we have considered for Covent Garden in years.

“The design is of the highest quality and it fits the bill as a Covent Garden building that meshes the new with the old. The hotel will attract visitors from all over the world.

“It will be a brand new destination on the ‘mean streets’ of this largely forgotten part of Covent Garden, and so I am sure that taxi drivers across London will soon need to add the Wellington Hotel to their A-Z.”

Planning documents show the Lyceum Theatre expressed concerns about a loss of sunlight, and ‘increased sense of enclosure to the offices occupied by Disney’.

But planning officers said the application complied with guidelines.

Best drivers

NEW research has revealed a growing gender divide between men and women behind the wheel.

A poll of Londoners indicated that both sexes overwhelmingly believe they are the better drivers.

More than 90 per cent of men agreed that they were a safer pair of hands in the driving seat – but a similar number of women said they were better behind the wheel.

Men were slightly more trusting of their partners, according to the survey. It revealed that two thirds of women would not trust their husband or boyfriend to drive their car, while just over half of men would say the same about their partners.

Dirty protest

A HOMELESS man staged a dirty protest by smearing excrement on doors, cars and windows in Chelsea, a court heard.

James Cumberland, 57, is charged with possessing a bag of human faeces with the intention of damaging property, as well as 18 counts of criminal damage and failing to surrender to police.

A dental practice and doctors’ surgery were among the properties targeted between March and May this year.

Mr Cumberland was due to appear at Hammersmith Magistrates’ Court last Monday (August 15) but the case was adjourned for three weeks.

The next hearing will take place on September 5.
A trip around the events happening at royal palaces

**Historic Royal Palaces** has published a new schedule of events and exhibitions for the autumn. The programme includes:

- **Nightwatchers.** 3-5, 10-12 November, 18.30, 19.00, 19.20, 19.45 - Tower of London
  Enter the shadowy world of state surveillance in this immersive experience at the Tower of London, where messages and phone calls lead you around one of history’s most notorious prisons. Consider this your induction into the art of covert investigation. In a climate of global insecurity, who watches the watchers? Early booking advised as tickets sell out quickly. Tickets: £20/£18 Historic Royal Palaces members.

- **Tiny Explorers, Selected Thursdays and Saturdays in October and November at Hampton Court Palace and selected Wednesdays and Saturdays in October and November at Kensington Palace.**
  Explore and play in the palace together. Discover tales of the palace’s past in these multi-sensory sessions for under 5s. Through music, movement, messy play and more, you and your child will be transported into a magical world of stories. Tickets: £17/£11 Historic Royal Palaces members.

- **Fashion Rules: Restyled - Kensington Palace**
  Fashion Rules: Restyled expands Kensington Palace’s glimpse into the era-defining fashion choices of three of modern history’s most stylish royals. From the ‘New Look’ glamour of Princess Margaret in the 1950s to the elegance of HM The Queen in the 1970s and the tailored drama of outfits created for Diana, Princess of Wales in the early 1990s, the display continues to explore how these women navigated the fashion ‘rules’ defined by their royal duties in unique style.

- **Conquest, Daily - The Tower of London**
  England’s greatest medieval fortress is under attack! Join costumed interpreters to relive the life and death struggles to overcome its mighty defences. Shelter within the walls or discover which enemies have the power to conquer the Tower, in this fun-filled family activity. Included in palace admission.

- **Digital Missions, Daily - The Tower of London**
  Go on an interactive adventure and prepare the Tower for the King’s arrival or help a prisoner plan their perilous escape. Download the app before your visit. Supported by Mitsubishi Electric. Included in palace admission.

- **The Architecture of a Baroque Home and Palace.** 8 October, 11.00-12.30 - Kensington Palace
  Join architectural historian Adrian Tinniswood to look at the form, light, shadow, and dramatic intensity of Baroque architecture which made Kensington Palace such a popular royal home for William III and Mary II. Tickets: £12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of bucks fizz.

- **A Tudor Family Portrait, 17 October, 18.30-20.00 - Hampton Court Palace**
  Join a Historic Royal Palaces paintings curator for this evening talk and exclusive tour of Henry VIII’s richly appointed apartments after dark to unlock the secrets of Tudor art and what it can tell us about the infamous monarch and his family. Tickets: £15/£12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of wine.

- **The Making of a Monarch, 26 October, 18.30-20.00 - Hampton Court Palace**
  From a hopeful shy prince to a confident and unrestrained monarch: married, crowned and defied by the royal council, discover the makings of the Henry VIII we know today in this evening talk and drinks reception. Tickets: £15/£12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of wine.

- **Life in the Medieval Palace, 31 October - 23 December, 11.30-15.30 - Tower of London**
  Join the knights and ladies of King Edward’s court as they celebrate, work, plot and pass the time in true Medieval style. Included in palace admission.

- **Twilight Tours, Selected Sundays throughout November and December - Tower of London**
  Join the Tower’s Yeoman Warders on an exclusive twilight tour of the Tower. Take in world famous sights such as Traitor’s Gate, the scaffold site and the Bloody Tower, and be appalled and amazed by tales of prisoners and past residents. Price TBC

- **The Victorian Mania for Stories, 5 November, 11.00 - Kensington Palace**
  Discover more about the prominence of Victorian storytellers and forms like penny dreadfuls, novels and serials with author and great-great-granddaughter of Dickens, Lucinda Hawksley. Tickets: £15 / £12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of bucks fizz.

- **At Home with the Royal Tudors, 10 November, 18.30-20.00 - Hampton Court Palace**
  Join joint chief curator Tracy Borman as she reveals the intimate secrets of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and more. With new insights discover again the characters we think we know so well. Tickets: £15 / £12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of wine

- **Henry VIII’s Six Wives, 21 November, 18.30-20.00 - Hampton Court Palace**
  Explore a unique approach to drama and history, and unravel key moments in the lives of Henry VIII’s six wives. Tickets: £15 / £12 Historic Royal Palaces members, including a glass of wine.

- **Curious Connections: Migration and Mobility, 22 November - Tower of London**
  Our panel explores London as a home for migrants throughout history, and what the recent EU referendum could mean for the diversity of the city. Part of the Curious Connections series of discussions. Tickets: £10 / £9 Historic Royal Palaces members.

- **Royal Chapels: Past and Present, 7 December, 10.00-16.00 - Kensington Palace**
  Learn the secrets of the past and present royal worship from the chaplains responsible for the religious wellbeing of the royal family with a talk at Kensington Palace and exclusive tours of the private royal chapels at St. James’s Palace and The Tower of London. Tickets: £85 / £78 Historic Royal Palaces members.
  For more details, go to www.hrp.org.uk

---

**Parents as Partners**

**FREE Parenting Group for Couples**

**New ways of working together as a couple and as parents**

**Strengthen your relationship for the benefit of your children**

**Tavistock Relationships**

**www.tavistockrelationships.com**

---

**TUESDAY AUGUST 23 2016**
HIV tests up 500 per cent after Prince Harry leads the way

Prince Harry is living up to his unofficial title as “The Duke of Do-Good” yet again, after his recent live HIV test has helped to cause a 500 per cent increase in the number of people wanting to know their HIV status.

According to Terrence Higgins Trust, which conducted the 15-minute test with Harry live on Facebook, orders for the self-testing kits launched during the video rose fivefold, with an increase from 32 to 150 requests per day.

The Prince, the UK’s largest HIV and sexual health charity, welcomed the figures, as campaigners hailed the prince for inspiring “groundbreaking moment in the fight against HIV.”

“Testing puts you in control and, thanks to social media, the campaigns has even offering Harry a room for their demand,” said the mayor.

“Testing puts you in control and, thanks to social media, the campaigns has even offering Harry a room for their demand,” said the mayor.

That’s why it’s so important that we continue looking for new ways to make HIV testing more accessible to those most at risk, and why it’s fantastic to see the very tangible and immediate impact of Prince Harry’s support for HIV testing.”

The pilot closed after sending 4,750 free HIV self-tests to people across the country. Each kit would normally cost £29.95.

Harry has been encouraging people to go abroad and get tested to end stigma and shame that prevents HIV patients from speaking up and seeking support.

As he took the test, he said in a message: “It’s better that everyone goes and gets tested. Why wouldn’t you? Whether you’re a man, woman, gay, straight, black, white, whatever, even ginger, why wouldn’t you come and have a test?”

In 2014, Harry launched the Feel No Shame campaign on the World AIDS Day, which appealed to people to share their own secrets on social media. The campaign was supported by a host of celebrities including Nicole Scherzinger, Gemma Arterton, Paloma Faith and Ricky Hatton.

The latest data from Public Health England shows in 2014 there were an estimated 101,700 people living with the disease in the UK, with 17 per cent of these not aware of their HIV infection.

In 2014 almost 85,500 people were accessing HIV treatment and care, more than double the number (41,157) in 2004, and a 5 per cent increase on 2013.

Prince Harry continued his mother Princess Diana’s legacy last month when he joined Sir Elton John at an AIDS conference in South Africa as he took his campaign to raise awareness about HIV to the international stage.

END TO STIGMA

In an address calling for an end to any stigma attached to HIV, he said: “It is time for us to step up to make sure that girls and boys with HIV aren’t kept from playing with their friends, classmates, and neighbours. It is time for us to step up and acknowledge that stigma and discrimination still act as the greatest barrier to us defeating this disease once and for all.”

Meanwhile, the Duke of Do-Good may be off to Australia for the 2018 Invictus Games, his acclaimed sporting event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women.

Next year’s Invictus Games are to be held in Toronto and Queensland is bidding to host the Games after that.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate is so keen to win the honour of hosting the Games that he has even offering Harry a room for their duration.

“Prince Harry is welcome to stay at my place,” said Mayor Tate.

New South Wales is bidding against Queensland to win the bid but Mayor Tate says the Gold Coast has the upper hand as the Commonwealth Games are due to be in Queensland a few months before the 2018 Invictus Games.

“Our infrastructure will be ready we just need to tweak it so that the connectivity is better for our soldiers with disabilities,” said the mayor.

“There would be no issue hosting two major sporting events in one year, so bring it on.”

Queensland’s Major Events Minister Kate Jones added: “From a tourism prospective, having Prince Harry talking up our wonderful beaches and location would be priceless.”

“We will find out if we have secured the event by the end of September. We are very confident that we can lure Prince Harry to the Gold Coast.”

London hosted the first Invictus Games in 2014, with Orlando, Florida following this year. The 2017 games in Toronto will include 600 athletes from 16 countries competing in 12 sporting competitions. One new sport being added is sledge hockey.

Besides helping wounded ex-Servicemen and HIV patients, and campaigning for greater understanding of mental health issues, the Duke of Do-Good is continuing to set a great example with his conservation work on the frontlines of animal conservation concerns in the region.

One project to get his support is African Park’s “500 elephants” scheme to move 500 elephants to a wildlife reserve in central Malawi, to assist in repopulating the elephant population in the area and beat the poachers who have put the elephant population into a steady decline.

The elephants will be moved from two parks: Liwonde and Majete to Nkhathota. The 500 elephants will be moved in stages after roads in the parks have been constructed to bear the ten 30-ton trucks that will make the 300-mile mercy trip to the new 40,000-acre fenced-in sanctuary in Nkhathota Park.

Castaway Kate?

Is the BBC lining up a big ring scoop, aiming to get the Duchess of Cambridge as the cast-away on Desert Island Discs?

A little bird is doing the rounds saying that Kate is top of the wish-list of super-guests for the iconic Radio 4 show. Apparently Prince Harry is also on the list.

We hear that the BBC would like to land Kate as Kirsty Young’s extra-special guest for a Christmas edition of the show.

Clearly, landing the Duchess would be a massive coup for Desert Island Discs and it would likely treble the show’s UK audience to around 10 million - and many more abroad - as Kate’s huge number of fans tune in to hear whether she would pick The Bodyrockers’ ‘Like The Way You Move’, said to be her and William’s favourite song, as one of her eight tracks.

Although there may be fears that even the relatively-gentle questioning of Desert Island Discs could be too prying, it is understood that following her recent interviews for TV documentaries to mark The Queen’s 90th birthday and her increasing number of videos and podcasts for her mental health charity causes, Kate could handle this.

From the BBC’s perspective, besides providing a big boost in the listenership and a tremendous talk-up in speculation leading up to the broadcast – what would be her luxury item, a photograph of her family? – it would also help right an imbalance which has recently seen a lot of the TV access to the royals given to rivals ITV, which won the rights to The Prince’s Trust anniversary special with Ant and Dec and stole the scoop for Her Majesty’s 90th birthday celebrations at Windsor Home Park.

There is also much precedent for a royal to be a guest on the programme. Princess Michael of Kent appeared on the show in 1984 (her luxury was a cat), the Duchess of Kent was on in 1989 (favourite book, a DIY manual), and other royals and aristos have included. The Queen’s cousin Margaret Rhodes, Lord David Cobbold, the late Duke of Westminster, the Marchioness of Tavistock, David Linley, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and Princess Grace of Monaco.

The royal best that the 74-year-old programme has achieved to date was the late Princess Margaret, who was a guest in 1991 and who chose Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake as her favourite track, War and Peace as her book and a piano as her luxury.

But Castaway Kate would top them all.

Who’s that girl?

HAS the Duchess of Cambridge gone blonde? And if so and what’s more, what was she doing cycling at the Rio Olympics?

TV viewers around the globe have been confused recently by the sight of the world’s best-loved dimples seeming to appear in Brazil.

But far from being the Duchess competing in the cycling event, it was her new spitting image: 24-year-old French rider Pauline Ferrand-Prevot.

Pauline, who has held the world road title, world cyclo-cross title and world mountain bike title all at the same time, could now have a post-Olympics new opportunity as a Kate doppelganger, earning a fortune. Another such lookalike, former Northamptonshire waitress Heidi Argan, now earns up to £3,000 an engagement in her job as a Kate.
any of the songs on Michael Kiwanuka’s double header of second album were written more than a year ago as he wrestled with his own creative demons.

But emerging in the midst of a hot summer characterised by uncertainty and division, they feel wrapped up entirely in the here and now.

Exploring his own personal vulnerability as a black man “in a white world”, the 29-year-old Lon-doner captures the sense of discord and confusion that currently dogs a nation still coming to terms with Brexit.

It’s hard to tell whether Kiwanuka inadvertently found his finger on the pulse or if he truly does have a gift for foresight.

What is unquestionable about his songwriting, however, is its unflinching honesty – and perhaps it is this sense of truthfulness that makes Kiwanuka’s music feel so up-to-the-minute.

The album, Love & Hate, is a deeper, darker and more dexterous effort than his debut, 2012’s Home Again, which earned the Muswell Hill singer a nomination for the Mercury Prize that year.

Out goes the sweet and summery acoustic chill, replaced by a more intense brand of soul infused with Kiwanuka’s poignant and confessional lyrics.

Running at close to an hour in length, the album portrays an artist burrowing deep into his own mind and confronting the insecurities he’s saddled with.

Songs like Father’s Child, Place I Belong and and this summer’s radio mainstay Black Man in a White World, are indicative of the struggle for identity and individuality in a confused society, while the heart-breaking closer The Final Frame lays Kiwanuka bare.

The singer has previously spoken of his temptation to give up music after going through a creative dry spell following the acclaim for his debut.

But he says it was that determination to dig deeper and face up to those demons that drove him on to complete Love & Hate.

“I was finding it hard to make anything I was pleased with or enjoyed, or wanted to show anyone. I thought maybe I couldn’t do it again, that my songs had run out,” he said in a recent interview with music blog Face Culture.

“Writing with some other people got some other parts out of me that I didn’t know were there. They pushed me to complete my ideas and not give up.”

The self-effacing Kiwanuka, whose maturity lies his relative inexperience, lists honesty, emotion and vulnerability among the key elements of a great song.

And they’re found in abundance on this new album, which harks back to the soulful sounds of Marvin Gaye and Bill Withers while retaining a chart-friendly currency that is sure to make him a star.

On the album’s standout title track, Kiwanuka pens the perfect state-of-the-nation anthem, wrapped in a pop package destined for the Top 40.

“You can’t steal the things that God has given me; No more pain and no more shame and misery”, he sings before the prescient line: “Love and hate; How much more are we supposed to tolerate?”

Despite its appearance of perfection, Kiwanuka says the album was plagued by false starts – and at times he doubted whether it would ever be finished.

“It was about trial and error, and being able to be strong enough to put something aside because you know you can do something better,” he revealed.

“What was helping me stay inspired and creative was to cut a bit deeper and not hide behind lyrics. To go deeper into what’s going on in my head. It means that you’re quite vulnerable, and that vulnerability and transparency, I think, is important in music.

“I was thinking a lot about identity and individuality, and being comfortable with who you are. I wanted to feel OK with those things.”

On Love & Hate, London’s own soul sensation has summed up the spirit of a strange summer, while purging his personal demons to create a radio-friendly mini-masterpiece.

Kiwanuka is well placed to become an unlikely ‘voice of his generation’ figure at a time of great political upheaval.

Michael Kiwanuka will perform at the Shepherd’s Bush Empire on October 11.

The trick is repeated as he details his own hypocritical lethargy when it comes to railing against the kind of soft-headed moral corruption and sloppy principles he decries in others.

While Louis has reached the professional zenith of a 20-year career in show business – his HBO series Louie has enjoyed rave reviews, he has appeared in a string of Hollywood films including Woody Allen’s Blue Jasmine, and his latest venture, a self-produced mini-series called Horace and Pete, was lauded by critics – his style remains gloriously glum.

But don’t be fooled into thinking the balding, overweight, middle-aged American stand-up is no more than a self-pitying gloom merchant.

This performance, despite a long segment in which Louis weighs up the merits of suicide, is bizarrely life-affirming.
Capital nights

SHY FX will be bringing his Party On The Moon to Notting Hill Carnival on August 29th and the UK jungle and bass connoisseur has released his new track Honey, featuring North-West London’s Kiko Bun, to celebrate the occasion.

Shy FX continues to ignite the dance floor like no other, and with Honey taking inspiration from the golden era of reggae and going back to his familiar roots, its infectious energy is the perfect soundtrack for Europe’s biggest street party.

Shy FX was instrumental in shaping the UK’s burgeoning drum ‘n’ bass scene. He has continually proved himself as a mastermind at fusing underground cool with commercial success. Throughout his career, Shy has become known for shutting down dance floors worldwide, with his electric and soulful infused jungle and authentic bass driven music. As his hit-making talents are properly recognised on an international level, Shy has proved himself time and time again to be one name in it for the long haul.

Newcomer Kiko Bun has crafted a refreshing and contemporary sound based on the re-emergence into the mainstream of reggae and soul music. He has long-revelled in the joy of crate-digging, crafting sample-based beats and roots-heavy reggae music. After putting in the ground work to establish an authentic reggae sound over the past few years—working with the likes of Alborosie, General Degree, Dre Island and Ticklah (of Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings) —and receiving radio support from world renowned tastemakers such as Sir David Rodigan, Julie Adenuga and Annie Mac in the process, Kiko is ready to take things to the next level with Honey.

This year Shy and Party On The Moon will be returning to the Sir Lloyd stage at Carnival, with yet another top bill including Kiko Bun and pals. Previous year’s show-stopping lineup included Mark Ronson, Chase & Status, Lilly Allen, David Rodigan, Rudimental, Craig David and Mistajam.

“Party On The Moon is a combination of new music from Shy FX, not restricted by genre or labeled by a specific sound and features live experimental events bringing together an eclectic group of artists,” said a spokesman.

“Party On The Moon is often mixed with an element of surprise and nostalgia, presented as a musical journey, rather than just a well-curated line-up of acts.”

Rock stars in a Brit Invasion

FEW tribute bands can genuinely claim to have two genuine rock stars in their ranks. But the British Invasion Show has just that in front man, Johnny Warman, and guitarist Dave Gregory from XTC.

Their show hits the stage at The Half Moon, Putney, on Wednesday 31 August.

Johnny was signed to Ringo Starr’s record label, and had a string of hits in the 1970s and 1980s, including ‘Screaming Jets’, which featured Peter Gabriel. Dave Gregory was a member of XTC, known globally for hits such as ‘Making Plans for Nigel’, ‘Sgt Rock’ and ‘Senses Working Overtime’.

‘The British Invasion Show celebrates the years 1964 to 1966 when British bands invaded the US charts,’ said Johnny, who has also worked with Elton John.

“We perform all the classics by bands like The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Who, The Kinks, The Pretty Things, Dave Clarke 5, The Moody Blues and early Pink Floyd. The audience gets a two-hour show, and we pack in as much as we can. We make sure people get their money’s worth.”

The British Invasion Show starts at 8pm on Wednesday 31 August at The Half Moon, 83 Lower Richmond Road, Putney SW15 1EU. To book, visit halfmoon.co.uk/whats-on or call 020 8780 9383.

Signing session

SOPHIE Ellis-Bextor is to give an exclusive live performance of her ‘bolshie’ new album Familia, followed by an album signing session, at HMV Oxford Street on Friday, September 2.

Familia is Ellis-Bextor’s sixth studio album and follows her no 4 charting and silver certified album Wanderlust, which was released in January 2014 and spent six months in the UK charts.

As with her last record, the Latin American-inspired Familia was co-written, produced and arranged by renowned singer-songwriter and good friend Ed Harcourt.

Ellis-Bextor said of the new album: “Familia is the bolshier, more extrovert little sister to Wanderlust. It sees the Wanderlust girl move away from Eastern Europe to the warmer, sunnier climate of Latin America where she’s swapped vodka for tequila.”

Sophie Ellis-Bextor will appear at HMV Oxford Street at 6pm on September 2. Fans keen to gain access to the event via an online ticket offer should apply at hmv.com.
**MARK HIX’S RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

**Crispy mackerel, orange and pea shoot salad**

*Serves 4*

This is a great way to use an excess of mackerel after you have grilled or barbecued them. The orange segments help to cut through the oiliness of the fish.

**Ingredients**

**For the dressing**

- 1 tbsp cider vinegar
- Juice from the oranges (see below)
- 4 tbsp rapeseed oil
- Vegetable or corn oil for deep frying

**For the salad**

- 300-350g mackerel fillet, boned
- 100-150g gluten-free self-raising flour
- 2 oranges, peeled and segmented
- A few handfuls of pea shoots, washed
- 50-60g podded weight of peas, cooked
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

**Method**

1. Whisk all of the dressing ingredients together and season to taste. Preheat about 8cm of oil to 170°C in a large, thick-bottomed saucepan or fryer. Cut the fish into chunks of about 2cm square. Season it, then pass through the flour, shaking off any excess. Next pass through the flour, shaking off any excess. Deep-fry for 2-4 minutes, turning the fish with a slotted spoon as it cooks, until crisp and golden.

2. Place the mackerel, orange, peas and pea shoots in a little dressing, and season. Arrange on serving plates, then spoon over a little more dressing over the top. Serve.

*The feel of a local with the taste of a great restaurant*

The Brook Green Hotel has achieved a major coup this year. The establishment, which is tucked neatly into the leafy area of Brook Green, has managed to harness the cozy feel of a local pub and perfectly mould it with a range of cuisine so beautifully prepared and presented you would think you are in a smart restaurant, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Reopened after an extensive refurbishment, the proper old English pub has all of the warmth and atmosphere of your local, but offers an extensive and really quite exquisite à la carte menu.

My companion and I tried to gain a good grasp of the menu by choosing a wide variety of dishes and started by sharing confit of Gressingham duck (in a filo roll, with fig ketchup, celeriac and apple remoulade, £6.50) and grilled haloumi (with salad, quinoa, roasted fennel, honey parsnip, cos, golden beetroot, pomegranate and tomato salsa, £7.50). The duck was plentiful and succulent, with not too much pastrami and the accompaniments gave a good mix of tastes. The haloumi was given a lovely freshness from the fruity salad, which offset the bitterness of the chargrilled effect really well.

We chose two very substantial dishes for our mains with a fried Scottish hake (with butternut squash and saffron purée, spring greens, treacle and stout bacon, £13.50), which was a bold mix of full flavours and treacle and stout Dingley Dell pork collar (with braised red cabbage, celeriac puree, Cornish mids and Bramley apple sauce, £12.50). The pork collar felt a little more like pub grub, but only because of its warming and comforting essence. We coupled these meaty delights with some sweet potato fries (£3.50) but needn’t have, as the plates of fulsome fare were plenty.

On a mission to fill our ever expanding stomachs, we thought it might seem rude not to at least sample a couple of treats from the dessert menu and so ‘plumped’ for a slice of raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake with raspberry ripple ice cream and rose meringues (£6) and chocolate fondant, with chocolate mousse, very vanilla ice cream and raspberry coulée (£6).

Other diners looked on in awe as the delectable dishes were carefully placed on the table in front of us. The cheesecake was very much for those with a sweet tooth, but the fresh raspberries gave a little tang to help make the ultra surgery offering more palatable. The chocolate fondant, on the other hand, provided the perfect blend of flavours, with the rich cocoa elegantly matched by the mousse and coulée. We washed our meal down with a fruity and peppery Rodoga Norton Porteño Malbec (£23) and had enjoyed the service and general ambience to such an extent, that we then retired to the bar area to continue our evening.

The Brook Green Hotel also has a buzzing cocktail bar in the basement, which has weekly live music nights and 17 stylish boutique bedrooms upstairs.

It’s well worth a visit and a place that I am planning to make a regular haunt.

If you would like any further details, you can visit the website www.brookgreenhotel.co.uk

**Three of the best ... floral chocolates**

**Rose And Violet Creams, £4 for 170g (Marks & Spencer)**

Grilled or barbecued crispy mackerel with orange and pea-shoot salad

Niggling worries that floral chocolates equals a perfume-like taste quickly evaporate on tasting these M&S offerings, which are well balanced enough to be very moreish.

**Montezuma’s Orange & Geranium Bar, £2.49 (www.waitrose.com)**

A little goes along way with this rich, thick chocolate, which is infused with orange and geranium and offers an unusual but pleasing taste to engage the tastebuds.

**Rose And Violet Cremes Selectors, £3.85 (www.hotelchocolat.com)**

Every nibble of these slim-line chocs feels luxurious, from the creamy floral fondant and crisp dark chocolate shell, to the crystallised rose and violet.
A
n all-star cast will take to the stage at Trafalgar Studios later this year to perform the UK premiere of the musical Vanities.

- Lauren Samuels (Bend it Like Beckham, BBC’s Over the Rainbow, Grease), Ashleigh Gray (Wicked, Cool Rider) and Lizzy Connolly (Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Xanadu) star in the classic American story, which makes its London debut for the 10th anniversary of the musical (book by Jack Heifner and music and lyrics by David Kirschenbaum) and 40th anniversary of the play.

Vanities is a hilarious and heartfelt story about three best friends growing up in Dallas at a time when image and style were more important than brains and ambition.

Through a rich original score that blends girl group harmonies of the 60s and 70s with contemporary musical theatre, Vanities explores how the women’s warped view of the world shaped them for better and worse.

Set in 1963, Vanities follows Mary, Kathy and Joanne as they obsess over their cheer leader routines, choose their sororities and plan their wedding outfits – because even though the President has been shot and America’s on the brink of a war, the girls feel sure that if they just stay popular and don’t lose their looks everything will be okay.

The new production features never before seen material with all new direction and choreography from Racky Pews (Footloose, American Idiot),

Vanities runs for a month at Trafalgar Stu-
dios from September 1 until October 1. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website atgtickets.com

An original treat for Trekkies

TREKKIES from across the UK are set to descend on the Southbank in October as the BFI celebrates the 50th anniversary of the cult television series with a visit from one of the original cast members.

Nichelle Nichols, who played Lieutenant Uhura in the original Star Trek TV series, pictured, will join fans to pay tribute to the sci-fi phenomenon – in all its incarnations – and mark the anniversary of Gene Roddenberry’s original TV series on October 1.

Nichols is a true pioneer, having made strides for black representation in the media as Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, recognised as one of the first black characters to be featured on a US television series in a positive leading role.

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. noted the significance of her role and personally applauded her work on the show.

The legendary inter-racial kiss between Uhura and Captain Kirk was the first on US network TV and was seen as groundbreaking being greeted with both praise and protest.

This event heralds the BFI’s autumn blockbuster, Black Star, which looks at the nature of black stardom on screen, and is also a prequel to the 2017 BFI/Radio Times Television Festival at BFI Southbank.

Nichols has been cited as an inspiration for fellow black star Whoopi Goldberg, who asked for a role on Star Trek: The Next Generation.

Former NASA astronaut Mae Jemison also appeared on the show and has spoken of Nichols as an influence on her career. Nichols worked with NASA, following the end of the series, in a special project to increase NASA’s recruitment among women and minority ethnic communities.

Today Star Trek’s legacy lives on with the release of Star Trek Beyond (Justin Lin, 2016), the latest instalment in the franchise’s film reboot (which JJ Abrams kicked off in 2009) and the hotly anticipated new TV series, Star Trek: Discovery, which debuts next year.

To celebrate the anniversary, CBS Action will present The Nation’s Favourite Star Trek: The Original Series Episode, a countdown of the 20 most popular Star Trek episodes, as voted for by the viewers, throughout the weekend of September 3 and 4.

Gene Roddenberry’s vision of a multi-racial, multi-ethnic crew, coupled with an optimistic view of the future, helped fuel the show’s global success and it is notable that 50 years on that original series still resonates with modern audiences.

Contact us today...
190 Merton High Street, Wimbledon, London SW19 1AX
1 min walk from South Wimbledon Tube Station
Tel: 02085 401 666 Fax: 02085 430 534
www.rashidandrishid.co.uk Email: law786@live.com
24 HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER
07878 33 5000 / 07774 222 062
SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

We Care For You
Rashid A. Khan
Solicitor (Principal)
FREE CONSULTATION & LEGAL ADVICE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

- Asylum & Immigration
- New Point Based System
- Settlement Application (ILR)
- European Law
- Nationality & Travel Documents
- Human Rights Applications
- High / Court Appeals
- Family Matters and Divorce

Benefit with very competitive rates, tailored advice & service to suit your specific needs, 24 hour response to all online enquires and our many years of experience.
As one of the British entertainment industry’s rising stars, Matthew Lewis’ career is very much on the ascent. His numerous successes on both the big and small screen have made the actor a household name. He returns to the London stage next month in a new play entitled Unfaithful and promises to show his scores of fans a very different side, writes Nicky Sweetland.

At just 27 Lewis has already enjoyed an illustrious career and has the fickle world of show business, well and truly at his feet. Best known for his portrayal of geek-turned-hero Neville Longbottom in the blockbuster Harry Potter film franchise, his acting career started at the tender age of five, with minor roles in television shows before getting his big break in the film adaptation of J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone. Lewis played a pivotal role in all eight films, something that gave the young actor a wealth of experience and the opportunity to work with some of Britain’s most distinguished actors, including Dame Maggie Smith and Sir Michael Gambon.

More recently the performer, who is originally from Leeds, has found further success on the small screen in the BBC drama series Ripper Street, as well as starring alongside Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke in the romantic movie, Me Before You.

Matthew took a break from rehearsing his new play Unfaithful to tell me a bit about the production, which is to be presented at one of London’s trendiest performance spaces, Found 111 on Charing Cross Road. I asked Matthew to tell me about the concept behind the show, which is a window into the complicated world of relationships.

He said: “It’s a question we’ve been asking each other over the last few weeks. What is this play? It’s something that is very deep. There are a lot of themes running throughout it, that we are all trying to get to have in our life. I guess if I were to try to sum it up, I’d say it’s about relationships; some in their infancy and some that have been going on for decades and it’s how people communicate in these relationships.

It’s about the characters that we play in life and the façades that we put on. It’s about trying to have a connection with somebody, where we can be allowed to be ourselves, if only for a moment and what that requires.”

Written by Owen McCafferty, Unfaithful also stars Sean Campion, Niamh Cusack and Ruta Gedmintas and it sets out to pose the question of what it means to be lovers.

“Owen has written a really honest play, with all the characters and all the situations, relatable in some way. Everyone who comes in, no matter from which walk of life, will see something in this play or one of the characters in their scenarios and go, wow, that’s me!” said Matthew.

His character is a far cry from the cute and innocent wizard, which he is most famous for portraying in the Harry Potter films. “I play Peter and he is a male escort. I have an illusion of freedom over my life, that allows me to do whatever I want. Being an escort is the kind of thing that other people may find what we look at with Peter, is how much of that is a front? How much of that is a character that he must wear? Is there a piece of him he has to keep hidden or else he gets lost and that’s what we’re exploring? Can you be an escort while still maintaining a personal, private relationship? There are lots of things that come with that.”

The play attempts to depict the full rollercoaster of human emotions but in a setting filled with black humour. Matthew said: “I would be reluctant to say comedy, but I would say that it’s darkly comic if that makes sense?”

“There’s a difference, because as with real life and reality there is a lot of humour there and it’s written in such a way, that it’s impossible for it not to be funny.”

Matthew last appeared on the London stage in 2012, when he made his West End debut alongside Arthur Darvill and Laurence Fox in Our Boys at the Duchess Theatre. It’s a close-knit world, which the actor is very much looking forward to getting back to.

“I’m very excited to put this one on. I’m intrigued to see what people will make of it. Because of its honesty they may find it uncomfortable and not because they hate it, but because it will just resonate with people.

“It’s good to be rehearsing in the West End and feel that buzz and that energy again. It’s really a club and once you’re in you’re in. It feels very family like.”

The performance space on Charing Cross Road has become something of a cult venue for new and emerging work, having scored huge success recently with The Dazzle and Bug. The intimacy of the 100-seat venue poses a very different challenge.

Matthew laughs and tells me: “It’s very intimate. When I came here about month ago for the press photos it was my first time and I thought it was literally just a run down, almost derelict building, but there’s actually a warmth to it. I think it, sort of, takes on the life of the people who are in here. Since we’ve been here for the last week, it doesn’t feel derelict at all. It doesn’t feel abandoned. It feels full of life and I’ve been led to believe that on a theatre night there’s an electricity and a buzz here that you don’t normally get.

“It’s like we’re all in this weird building experiencing something unique and special and I think each night will feel like it’s one little thing that’s been shared amongst just a hundred people and no one else.

“The space suits this play because of its rawness and its reality. I think it feels very much like you’re a fly on the wall.

“It’s like you’re a part of this - like that uncomfortable bystander on a tube platform - while someone’s arguing next to you. We get a real window into these people’s lives, which I think is perfect for this venue.”

I couldn’t finish our interview without asking Matthew about Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, the eighth instalment in the saga (there were seven books, but eight films), which is being presented at the Palace Theatre just around the corner.

Matthew said: “I haven’t seen Harry Potter. I’m going to see it towards the end of the year, I think around November time. I was going to go last week, but I’ve just been too busy, so I think I’m going to wait until this dies down, but I’m very excited.”

Unfaithful opens at Found 111 on August 25 and runs until October 8. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website http://found111.co.uk
Talk of the town

Allegro Southwark Playhouse ****

AFTER two hugely successful and ground-breaking musicals (Oklahoma and Carousel), the writing duo of Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II set out to create another innovative work for their third collaboration and so devised a musical about an ordinary man facing the difficulties of an increasingly fast paced life.

Entitled Allegro (the Italian musical term for fast), the original production opened in 1947 and ran for just nine months on Broadway, but until now, has never been performed profeshally in Europe, writes Nicky Sweetland. Allegro received its UK premiere at Southwark Playhouse last week and proved to be a beautifully presented and performed piece of theatre, with a classic, wholesome story made fully relatable, while cleverly maintaining a social commentary.

The story follows Joseph Taylor Junior (Gary Tushaw) from the day of his birth through four decades of his life. The musical chronicles his path as he studies to become a doctor, marries his childhood sweetheart and moves to the city. Although he achieves wealth and success, his conscience never allows him to become complacent and he is taught the importance of having a close-knit family rather than being seduced by the attractions of affluence.

Set minimally to allow the characters to become the focus, Thom Southerland’s direction is fluid and thrilling and allows the ensemble to be an intricate part of both the staging and the overall plot. Lee Proud’s wistful choreography further adds to the locomotion and keeps a traditional feel to the action. The chorus singing is, at times, a little overpowering and, for me, the new orchestration lacks the richness of previous outings with the choice to omit the strings resulting in a little less magic. However the band under the command of Gary Tushaw charms as the softly spoken Joseph while Emily Bull as the nouveau riche Jennie shows a great depth of character and provides a glorious traditional soprano voice to top the melodious harmonies. There is also a wealth of new talent on display, with a number of young actors being given a chance at first step on the roundabout of show business, as Samuel Thomas, Benjamin Purkiss and Matthew McDonald all impress in their professional debuts.

Allegro doesn’t pack the same punch as some of the more famous Rogers and Hammerstein collaborative classics, but is a wonderfully constructed morality tale and a must see for musical theatre devotees. Allegro is playing at Southwark Playhouse until September 10.

London Weekly News sponsors Wilma award

NOMINNEES have been announced for the third annual West End Wilma Awards.

Some of the biggest names from the London stage have received the nod from theatreland’s favourite Nana for the coveted awards, with an invite to the glittering ceremony at the Hippodrome Casino on November 4.

After sponsoring the best vocal performance award last year’s event, which was won by the Queen of Soul Beverley Knight, The London Weekly News will once again be supporting the dazzling stagey celebration.

This year, we will be supporting the Best Actor in a West End Show Award, with three dashing leading men up for the gong. Kinky Boots’ star Matt Henry is against Guys and Dolls Jason Pennycooke, while Michael Xavier is also in the running with a nomination for his performance in Sunset Boulevard opposite Hollywood actress Glenn Close.

Other award categories include Best West End Musical (Guys and Dolls, Kinky Boots and Funny Girl), Best Understudy (Natasha Barnes for Funny Girl, Ria Jones for Sunset Boulevard and Kieran Brown for The Phantom of the Opera), Best Touring Production (Chicago, Rocky Horror Show and Annie), and Best Cabaret/Solo Performance (Bonnie Langford, Katie Brennan and Kerry Ellis).

Well-known theatre blogger West End Wilma has gradually become an authority on London shows, with thousands of followers visiting her website every week for an honest opinion of what’s hot and what’s not. The lovable Grandma often causes a stir and has become quite a celebrity in her own right.

The 2016 awards promise to be the biggest and best yet, with host Tim McArthur lending his unique style of humour to the proceedings and guest performances from stars including Natasha J Barnes, Four Femmes On The Thames and Wilma Awards regular performer Kieran Brown, who will once again give a rewritten comedy performance of a well known musical theatre song.

Public voting opens online on September 2, in what is expected to be a hotly contested competition.

For fans of the big name stars, there is also the chance to attend the glitter event, with a limited number of tickets now on sale for this year’s Wilma Awards priced at £20 each.

If you would like any further details, you can visit the website www.westendwilma.com
**Deaths**

Howes, Winifred

Died peacefully at Moorside Nursing Home, Winchester on 3rd August 2016, aged 93.

Will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren, family and friends.

Funeral service to be held at St John’s Chapel, The Broadway on Wednesday 7th September at 2.00pm. Flowers welcome but donations, if desired, will benefit the Alzheimer’s Society c/o Richard Steel & Partners, Alderman Home, Winchester on 3rd August 2016, SO23 8SD or via www.rsponline.co.uk.

---

**Classified**

**Post:** London Weekly News, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, SE20 7TS
**Email:** candy.brown@slp.co.uk  **Telephone:** 0208 768 4919

---

**Furniture**

**3 SEATER SOFA** Green leather in very good condition, quick sale £80. Tel: 020 8695 2052

**WHITE PLASTIC TABLE & CHAIRS** (6 chairs, vgc, chairs could do with a clean), bargain £15. Tel: 07864 709 387

**PAIR OF ERCOL ARMCHAIRS** with webs and cushions £50. Buyer collects. Tel: 020 8487 4655

**RETIRED SCUBA DIVER** has professional equipment. EDC back pack and 'divejacket', demand valve regulator, dry suit large £50 each. Tel: 020 8692 8446.

**GARDEN TUBS** [Parisian dolphins stand, heavy concrete, 20” x 20”, £25 each. INFER TUB with lift, metal, green. £20. Tel: 020 8692 8449.

**FREE GARDEN SHED** old but usable, no leaks or holes. 8x6x5, 4 glass windows, buyer has to dismantle and take away (free). Tel: 07864 709 387.

**FLYMO HOVER MOWER** only 4 months old, unable to use £30.00. Tel: 07710 056 978

**FLYMO GRASS STRIMMER** mains electric, new still in box. £30, Tel: 020 8692 8449.

**FREE GARDEN SHED** old but usable, no leaks or holes. 8x6x5, 4 glass windows, buyer has to dismantle and take away (free). Tel: 07864 709 387.

**GARDEN TUBS** Parisian dolphins stand, heavy concrete, 20” x 20”, £25 each. INFER TUB with lift, metal, green. £20. Tel: 020 8692 8449.

**FREE SHOWER FORCE EASIBOOT ATTACHMENT GRINDER / ATTACHMENT GRINDER / ATTACHMENT** Free. Tel: 07864 709 387.

**SHOWERFORCE EASIBOOT** model brand new packaged in old original box, boosts shower power by up to 30%, noise reduction of up to 30%. After airing pumps £50 or best offer. Tel: 07939 159 463

**Mother & Baby**


Yellow baby bath and bowl £5, Moses basket and rocking stand £5. Cast iron bench ends these £25 or £10 each. Fish tank 3ft x 1.8 ft £10. Bag of ladies clothes over 40 Items £10. 020 8655 8824

**TV Video Audio**

**HANIMAX 55MM COLOUR SLIDE PROJECTOR** £80 and accessories with tripod stand. Tel: 020 8852 0965

**Wanted**

**RECRODS WANTED!!!** LP Albums and 45s. Also 12” singles. Appointments flexible. Immediate call back. Tel: 07788 209 990.

---

**Leisure**

**Car Boot Sales**

**BOOT SALE ITEMS, DVD’s, CD’s, Curtains, Clothes, Dublo Appliances, and Bosch Washing Machines**, and Bosch Washing Machines, Fridges and Freezers, and Bosch Washing Machines.

---

**Announcement**

**NEW SASA MASSAGE & ESCORTS** NR LEICESTER SQUARE.

**GOOD GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** 45 Mins To Your Door £40 ono. Tel: 07415 320 640

**FAITH IN FINANCE**

Payroll, Book-keeping and Personal Taxation for Small Businesses, Charities, Individuals and Voluntary Groups.

**To advertise in this section please call 020 8768 4939**

---

**Leisure**

**Car Boot Sales**

**Jumble Sales**

**BATTERSEA BOOT SALE HARIS ACADEMY BATTERSEA PARK ROAD (A205), SW11 5AP**

**EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON 3.30-5.00PM**

**OPEN RAIN OR SHINE 3.30-5.00PM**

**BUYERS ENTRY 8449**

**SW11 5AP**

**Call Luke**

---

**Learning**

**Furniture 3 SEATER SOFA** in very good condition, quick sale £80. Tel: 020 8695 2052

**WHITE PLASTIC TABLE & CHAIRS** (6 chairs, vgc, chairs could do with a clean), bargain £15. Tel: 07864 709 387

**PAIR OF ERCOL ARMCHAIRS** with webs and cushions £50. Buyer collects. Tel: 020 8487 4655

**RETIRED SCUBA DIVER** has professional equipment. EDC back pack and ‘divejacket’, demand valve regulator, dry suit large £50 each. Tel: 020 8692 8446.

---

**Articles Wanted**

**ACCOUNTS & BOOKKEEPING** Articles Wanted

---

**London Weekly News**

**To advertise your unwanted items. Sell them in London Weekly News Series for FREE.**

---

**Any items under £50 free, pets, livestock or firearms not included. Items over £50 please call Clarry:**

**020 8768 4931**

---

**Private Advertisers only.**
**Home Services**

**Building Repairs**

- **Estimate Me**
  - The Complete Building Service
  - We estimate we can beat any quote by 20%
  - **editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk**
  - 07967326541 - 02084626186

**Carpet & Upholstery**

- **Ace exteriors@hotmail.co.uk**
  - 0207 1125 144 / 0788 7867 713
  - All types of jobs and budgets

**Storage & Removals**

- **A.C.E ROOFING**
  - All Roof Repairs Leaks, PVC Fascias, Soffits & Guttering Specialists
  - Free Estimates - Good Rates
  - 0771 527 017

- **Storage & Removals**
  - Deliveries
  - Man & Van
  - 10% OFF
  - 0207 1125 144 / 0788 7687 713

- **Man and Van**
  - Self-Loading
  - Public liability insurance
  - 07764 537007

- **MR BEE REMOVALS**
  - From £20 per hour
  - Reliable men with vans for removals. Single item to houses, flats, offices and clearance.
  - Anytime, anywhere. (Separate van for rubbish clearance.)
  - 020 3302 2275
  - 07773 673 535
  - info@mrbee Removals.com

- **WASTE NO TIME RUBBISH CLEARANCE**
  - 7 Days a week
  - We will beat any quote.
  - Call Wayne
  - 07493 355 345

---

**Homes**

**Architects**

- **ARCHITECTS OFFICE S&M**
  - Extensions, Kitchens, Lofts, New Builds, CAD Drawings, Planning Applications, Building Regulations Applications
  - References Available In Your Area
  - ARB Registered
  - **Office@OfficeSandM.com**
  - 0772 838 5870
  - www.OfficeSandM.com

**Property to Let**

- **ALL FLATS SW16 STREATHAM COMMON NEAR BR**
  - Ground floor bed sitting room. Separate kitchen/diner, separate shower/toilet, small garden. Suits single persons only
  - £900 pcm
  - Self-contained single bedroom studio flat.
  - Living/kitchen/dining, shower/wc, d/g, c/h.
  - Suits single persons only
  - ONLY £900 pcm
  - CALL 020 3489 4811

---

**YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER**

**BEST FOR NEWS, SPORT, JOBS, CARS & HOMES**

**LETTINGS 8%**

**SALES 1%**

**CHARLES FRANCES PROPERTIES LTD**

**VENDORS LANDLORDS TENANTS**

**Is moving home giving you a headache?**

- We know that moving can be very stressful.
- If you are considering moving, then let us help take the stress away.

**BUYING | SELLING | LETTING | RENTING**

**WE HAVE THE REMEDY**

For advice and a FREE MARKET VALUATION,

**Contact your local office at:**

14 Basil Street, Knightsbridge, London SW3 1AJ
T: 0203 402 4720 / 4721
M: 0777 122 3370
E: contact@charlesfrances.com
Web: www.charlesfrances.com
Cleaners

Part-time Cleaner
17.5 hours per week
£6,577 pa (£15,785 pa pro-rata)
Greenwich, London

If you take pride in a job well done, this could be the role for you. Working as part of a team, you’ll make sure that areas across Royal Museums Greenwich sites are kept spotlessly clean.

Working for 17.5 hours per week, your shifts will be 3.5 hours between 6.00 am and 12.00 noon for five days out of seven, including weekends and bank holidays.

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

Closing date: 28th August 2016
Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A3212 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) CYCLE LANE TRAFFIC ORDER 2016

Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 15th August 2016 it made the above named Order, under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 29th August 2016.

1. The general effect of the Order will be to:

(a) Extend the existing with flow mandatory cycle lane (eastbound) on the northern side of Grosvenor Road up to the pedestrian crossing at its junction Chelsea Bridge Road;

(b) Extend the existing with flow mandatory cycle lane (westbound) on the southern side of Grosvenor Road up to the pedestrian crossing at its junction Chelsea Bridge Road.

Please note, this scheme will also introduce an advisory two stage right turn for cycles turning right onto Grosvenor Road from Chelsea Bridge Road.

3. The road that will be affected by the Order is Grosvenor Road.

4. A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London’s reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

- Transport for London
  Streets Traffic Order Team
  RSM/PI/STOT
  Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road
  London, SE1 8NJ

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 23rd day of August 2016

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

MAYOR OF LONDON

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE HAMMERSMITH AND Fulham (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER 2016

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham ("The Council"), with the agreement of the Council of the London Boroughs of Ealing and the Council of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, on 22 August 2016 made the above named Order under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 5 September 2016.

2. The general effect of the Order will be to, introduce a 20 mph speed limit on:

(a) all the roads and parts of roads being a public highway in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham which are not currently so restricted by speed limit Traffic Orders, except for the roads and parts of roads specified in the Schedule to this Notice;

(b) Hammersmith Bridge Road, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, from the common boundary of Nos. 92 and 94 to its junction with Castelnau; and

(c) Old Oak Road in the London Borough of Ealing, from its junction with Wethers to its junction with Uxbridge Road.

Note: This will have the effect of making the whole of Hammersmith and Fulham, part of Hammersmith Bridge Road in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and part of Old Oak Road in the London Borough of Ealing, subject to 20 mph controls for all motor vehicles, except for the exemptions referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above.

3. The 20 mph speed limit referred to in paragraph 2 above will not apply to any vehicle being used - (a) by special forces whilst responding or making preparations to respond, to a natural emergency; or (b) by emergency service personnel, if staying within the speed limit will compromise emergency response times.

4. Where it appears necessary for certain purposes, the Council’s Chief Transport Planner, Transport & Highways, or some other person authorised in that behalf by him or her, may modify or suspend the Order on any provision in it, while it is in force.

5. A copy of the Order which will come into operation on 5 September 2016, and may continue in force for a period of up to 18 months as an experiment, a statement of reasons for making the Order and proceeding by way of an experiment, and any other documents giving more particulars of the Order, can be inspected and obtained during office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the Order ceases to have effect at Transport and Highways, Enviroment Services, Team, Hall End Estate, Harrow Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 9UJ.

6. The Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the Order should be continued by way of the making of a permanent Order under section 84C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Any person may make to the effect of the permanent Order within a period of six months beginning with the day on which the experimental Order comes into force, if the Order is varied or another Order or modified pursuant to section 102 of the Act or by the addition of, modification or variation or the removal of the Order.

7. Any person desiring to question the validity of the Order or of any provision provided therein on the grounds that it is not within the relevant powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or that any relevant requirements made thereunder have not been complied with in relation to the Order, may within six weeks of the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated 23rd August 2016

Nicholas Ruston-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Schedule (see paragraph 2(b))
(exemptions from the experimental 20 mph speed limit)

The whole of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) including side roads.

The following boundary streets with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea -

- From the northern wall of No. 79 Fulham Road to its junction with Hunt Close - from its junction with Chiswick High Road to its entire length;
- From its junction with Fulham Palace Road to its entire length; and
- From its junction with Chelsea Bridge Road to its entire length.

The following boundary streets with the London Borough of Westminster -

- From the northern wall of No. 318 Old Oak Road to its junction with Uxbridge Road; and
- From the northern wall of No. 1022 Harrow Road to its junction with Westway.

The following boundary streets with the London Borough of Ealing -

- Old Oak Common Lane - from its junction with Wood Lane to its junction with Westway and
- Avenue Lane - from the north-western extent of No. 1 to its junction with
- Askear Road/Old Oak Road.

The following streets in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham -

- Addax Avenue - from its junction with Sinclair Gardens to the boundary; and
- Lacce - its entire length; and
- Dawes Road - from its junction with the roundabout at Munster Road to the south-west corner of Boundary Row No. 14; and
- Fulham Road - from the north-west corner of No. 669 Fulham Palace Road to its junction with the roundabout at Fulham Palace Road/Fulham High Street; and
- Lillie Road - from its junction with Munich Road to its junction with Lillie Road; and
- Malvern Road - from its junction with Munich Road to its junction with Lillie Road; and
- Putney Bridge Approach - from its junction with Fulham High Street to its junction with Putney Bridge.
Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for the following:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A CONSERVATION AREA

281x6932.97/FUL

Removal of glass glazed timber sash windows to the rear elevation at first and second floor levels with new double glazed timber sash windows.

144-146 Hammersmith Road
London W6 OAE
2016/03645/FUL

Erection of a rear extension; alteration to the front entrance and alterations to the garage.

34 Stokenchurch Street
London W1U 6TA
2016/03617/FL

Replacement of the existing rear dormer window; alteration to the first floor rear elevation; installation of new windows to the rear elevation at first and second floor levels.

9 Ubberidge Road
London W12 BLR
2016/03524/FL

Display of 2no internally illuminated fascia signs; installation of new windows to the front elevation.

122 PL(1)2015/C

Display of 2no internally illuminated fascia signs; display of an internally illuminated projecting sign.

165 Dalling Road
London W6 OES
2016/03326/FUL

Erection of a rear extension.

38 Nella Road
London W6 2HN
2016/03657/FUL

Erection of a rear extension; alteration to the front entrance and alterations to the garage.

73A Earls Court Road
London SW5 3NR
2016/03756/FL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of a new rooflight to the rear extension; replacement of the rear roofslope; installation of a new fascia sign; 1no. internally illuminated sign.

2016/03647/VAR

Erection of a single storey rear extension; alterations to the first floor rear elevation; alteration to the garage.

122 PL(1)2015/A

Display of 2no externally illuminated signs.

122 PL(1)2010/A

Display of 2no externally illuminated signs.

122 PL(1)2010/C

Display of 2no externally illuminated signs.

165 Dalling Road
London W6 OES
2016/03326/FUL

Erection of a rear extension, alterations to the front entrance and alteration to the garage.

59 Britannia Road
London SW6 2JR
2016/03611/FUL

Demolition of the existing garage; erection of a side extension to the main building.

30B Westbourne Park Road
London W2 3PP
2016/03595/FL

Retention of a single storey rear addition to the rear garden; ancillary use for the ground floor level; replacement of a dormer window to the rear roof; opening of the rear roofslope to first floor.

62 Comeragh Road
London SW6 7NB
2016/03466/FL

Erection of a single storey rear extension.
Rangers back down to earth

Two promising opening league wins followed by a couple of back-to-back defeats... yep, it's business as usual down at Loftus Road.

Queens Park Rangers led before going down 3-2 at Barnsley last week but on Saturday they were embarrassed by a poor Preston side that hadn't managed a point before their visit to W12. Both goals were self-inflicted wounds, although R's were the fortunate the defeat was not worse than 2-0.

"We weren't anywhere near our best. We looked flat and we deserved to lose the game," said Porto sull their stall out and had a way of playing that we found difficult to respond to. Credit to them."

R's went behind on 21 minutes, when keeper Alex Smithies failed to deal with a bread and butter cross from the left. His weak punch landed at the feet of Paul Gallagher whose mishit shot went in via the head of Jermaine Beckford six yards out.

The second goal killed off Rangers. A low cross from the right was turned into his own net by Nedum Onuoha, who had switched from right-back to his more accustomed centre-back role in the absence of Grant Hall - suspended following his 95th minute sending-off in the 3-2 midweek defeat at Barnsley.

Manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who is coming in for criticism for his long-ball tactics, admitted: "It's a really disappointing result - our performance just wasn't there today.

"We weren't anywhere near our best. We looked flat and we deserved to lose the game."

Given the season is only two weeks old, it seemed bizarre to hear Hasselbaink suggest that fatigue was a factor.

"There was a lack of energy in our performance. We were second best throughout the game," he went on.

"We didn't create chances because we weren't calm enough on the ball. We were very nervous for some reason. We lacked patience."

"The players know the last two performances haven't been good enough," he said ahead of Tuesday's (Aug 23) League Cup second round home clash with Rochdale.

Rangers resume their Championship campaign on Saturday with a visit to Wigan.

Blues fit for fight to the finish

"It’s important to be able to do that in the Premier League, it is an extra quality to have. You see at the end of matches that teams have gaps because they can’t cope with all the running. But we can cope – that is good."

"To win games late like we have done twice now is an asset to have. Obviously we hope to win games more easily but when you win matches like this, it tastes very good."

"It’s usually you are at the top of the table. I’m not saying we are going to be champions yet but these victories mean that you can be there fighting for the title."

"If you want to win the League, it starts with winning difficult games like we did at Watford. We showed some great character."

Courtis is confident this season could see Chelsea back to their best.

"It’s very nice to be in the top four again, even though it has been just two games," he said. "It also means we are not playing catch-up to Manchester United or Manchester City early on.

While Costa is justly taking all the plaudits, his striking partner, new-boy Michy Batshuayi, has done his bit too.

Batshuayi, a Belgium team-mate of Courtis, is a £33m summer signing from Marseille, and the keeper has only good things to say about the striker who came off the bench at Vicarage Road and snapped up a provider's goal to level the scores at 1-1.

"It’s very good for him. I’m happy for him," said Courtis. "Obviously he has to have a bit of patience with a top striker like Diego in front of him.

"But if he comes on and keeps making the difference like this, he makes it hard for the coach to leave him out."

"Each time he came on he’s been sharp, he was there in the right place and was a real danger. He scored against Watford and hit the crossbar as well. It’s a sign that he’s ready and wants to score, that he can be in the first XI as well."

Middlesex edge closer

Middlesex completed their expected rout of Durham last week to edge closer to their first County Championship title in 23 years.

They took command of the Specscavers CC1 match on day one at Lord's, where the visitors were bowled out cheaply for just 204.

It was the cue for Middlesex to run riot and they did just that to win emphatically by an innings and 88 runs.

Nick Compton re-emerged from the doldrums and international exclusion to hit 131 – his first century for 11 months – which included 14 fours and one six as Middlesex accelerated to 536-9 before declaring.

Having impressed with bowling figures of 4-17 in less than nine overs in the first innings, Olly Rayner added to Durham's distress with 5-85 second time around, as the visitors crumbled to 252.

After taking 22 points from this match, Middlesex must wait until next Wednesday (Aug 31) before resuming their title challenge, when they face Warwickshire at Edgbaston.
Chelsea turn to Juve pair

Amir Begovic would be expected to start ahead of first-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. The switch might be put on hold because Blues are close to signing Portugal’s No.2 keeper Eduardo from Dinamo Zagreb. With a number of suitors chasing Begovic, Everton among them, Chelsea may not risk their Bosnian in the match for fear of him getting injured.

Eduardo, 33, was part of Portugal’s Euro 2016 winning squad but did not play in the finals. It’s a great chance for Loftus-Cheek to show Conte what he can do. He had a fine pre-season tournament in the USA but has been warming the bench so far this season. If he cannot make the breakthrough that his talent deserves, then he will have to be farmed out on loan. This transfer window may be too late for a move, with January the most likely departure date.

Loftus-Cheek would be hard pressed to make a case for inclusion at present, though, after Conte has overseen back-to-back Premier League wins – the opener at home to West Ham yielded three points in a thrilling 2-1 victory, while on Saturday Blues came from behind to achieve the same result at Vicarage Road against a spirited Watford.

Both matches saw Diego Costa bang home very late winners and Conte, while happy with his striker’s form, is concerned that he does not become distracted by outside criticism.

Conte said of Costa: “Diego must be focused on the game. I don’t understand that other players, managers or press all say bad things about him.

“The most important thing is the match. It’s important to pay attention, because he is an important player. He can score a lot of goals and I want him to put himself in the game and not to think of other situations. Because it’s not good for him, for me, for Chelsea or the fans. I think for the English league, this is no good.”

The Italian confirmed that he has already read the riot act to the Brazil-born Spain striker whom many considered fortunate not to have been sent-off in both league matches.

“Yes, I have spoken to him, I try to speak to all my players, all together and individually, and it’s important to have these relations,” Conte said. “But when I speak to them, I keep it between ourselves.”

Conte, 50, is a man who tells it like it is, whether the players like it or not. He’s not one to fudge an issue or court favouritism.

Having hugged every player off the pitch after the dramatic late win that propelled Blues into fourth place in the Premier League (only goal-difference keeps them off top spot behind the two Manchester sides and Hull City), he explained his relationship with the players is based on mutual respect and honesty.

“My experience as a player tells me that there are times when a player might need a hug or a kick up the backside,” he said. “But I think it’s important to create the right feeling. I need my staff to give them 110 per cent in our work every day. For this reason I also ask this from my players, but it’s important to create a good relationship.”

“I like always to tell the truth, bad or good, because when the football is over and I face the player in other situations, it’s important to be able to look them in the eyes.”

Looking them in the eye is one way of communicating with his players but on match days it’s the wild gesticulations, whirling arms, pointing fingers and shouting from the dugout, that his team and the fans are becoming accustomed to seeing.

“Usually when my team play, I play with them,” Conte confessed. “I try in every moment to suggest (to them) the right pass or position to be in. It’s important, for example, sometimes when the ball is in open play on one side, for the players to push out and to change sides.”

Continued on page 23