FEARS that the Brexit vote would deflate the property market are not extending to the super-rich of Kensington and Chelsea – a “trophy home” in Holland Park is up for sale at £30 million MORE than the price of the most expensive home sold in the UK last year.

As London Mayor Sadiq Khan warns that “Londoners are being priced out of their own city”, the mansion has come on the market for £50 million.

Figures released by the Land Registry reveal that the country’s most expensive house last year was in Addison Road, Kensington and Chelsea, which sold for a whopping £30 million in November.

But these days that sum would not come close to buying the Holland Park villa that agents say “has been refurbished throughout to a very high standard and would make a perfect trophy London investment.”

Besides the price, details of the home are not being released to anyone who is not rich enough to buy it.

The agents say that potential buyers must first prove that they have enough money to afford it.

“For further information regarding this property or a brochure, we are instructed to request proof of funds in the first instance, either from a reputable bank or firm of lawyers,” says the Swiss Group agency.

Prices of homes newly on the market indicate that Kensington and Chelsea continues to be the desired location for the super-rich.

Last year the four costliest homes sold in Britain were in the royal borough.

According to the Land Registry, the top four most expensive homes sold in the UK in 2015 were properties at:

- Addison Road, Kensington, sold for £30,000,000.
- Burnsid Street, Chelsea, sold for £27,750,000.
- Bedford Gardens, Kensington, sold for £24,074,542.
- Chelsea Manor Street, a penthouse flat sold for £22,700,000.

But now prices for homes at the top end of West London have rocketed. Besides the £50 million mansion in Holland Park, other luxury properties on the market in the royal borough include:

- A £37.5 million family home with five bedrooms, pool, garden and car-stacker garage in Cresswell Road, Chelsea.
- A £36 million six-bed detached home in Palace Gate, South Kensington, which “requires total modernisation”.
- A £35 million end of terrace house at Queen’s Gate Place, South Kensington.

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Pharmacist Zafar Khan

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Mr Khan, who was awarded an MBE in 2005, has been described as the “stone – Mr Khan runs the UK’s sole remaining 24-hour pharmacy, providing prescription medicine for clients right through the night, 365 days a year.

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

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

“One of the things I tell my team is that you are not working in a supermarket, you are not selling potatoes. You are in healthcare. People who come to you are not well. “We have to treat people in that way. We have to be kind. We have to be understanding.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“One of my patients who gave up a drug addiction now goes to a group to tell of his experiences, and I am very proud of him. These are small things for us but it does matter to a lot of them for some kind of encouragement and appreciation. We all feel happiness when people recognise our achievements.”
CAMPAIGN TO SAVE FARMERS’ MARKET

‘Another nail in traders’ coffins’

By Geoff Baker
geo@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DESPITE pleas from the community, only two people have signed petitions to save the Chelsea Farmers Market from demolition.

The Sydney Street market of chalet-style shops, which opened in the 1980s, is set to be flattened after the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust submitted a planning application to develop the site.

The Trust has applied to Kensington and Chelsea Council with plans to build a five-storey building on the market site, for 59 flats and space for shops and businesses.

The Trust says it has a “pressing need” to develop the property so that it can fund a new hospital wing that would patients who are seriously ill with breathing difficulties.

A new branch of the art wing located on our existing Sydney Street site will benefit thousands of patients who require specialist respiratory care for a range of chronic lung conditions,” said a spokesman for the Trust.

“It will address the pressing clinical need to update current impatient facilities which are cramped and outdated and which present many challenges to those delivering care to seriously ill patients.

The Trust can only fund these much-needed new medical facilities through the sale of assets that are not currently used for patient care, including the Chelsea Farmers Market.

Two petitions, at change.org and 38degrees.org, have been launched in an effort to campaign against the plans.

Among the concerns raised are the loss of the market and the community benefit it brings.

Royal Borough command Tim Daruwala said: “This operation will ensure that some of those persons intent on causing harm and disruption to the market will be prevented from doing so.”

Due for demolition - the much-loved Sydney Street farmers’ market (above), to be replaced by flats and shops (below)

10,000 new homes on TfL land

A £50 million detached mansion with eight bedrooms in Holland Park
A £35.5 million family home with five bedrooms, pool, garden and car park in Chelsea
A £36 million six-bed detached home in Palace Gate, South Kensington

Which “requires total modernisation”.

A £35 million end of terrace house at Queen’s Gate Place will need six bedrooms and a grand interior, being the first residential house in London to have that apartment.

A £9 million detached house in Chelsea, overlooking the river and designed with traditional stone and glass.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the scale, the London Mayor Sadiq Khan revealed plans to build thousands of new affordable homes on land owned by Transport For London.

“It has been identified there is the potential to build up to 10,000 new homes at 75 sites across 300 acres on land owned by TfL across the capital and in Chelsea. Only this site offers a unique outdoor experience to diners and shoppers.

The Kings Road has increasingly become like any other High Street in England, however the Chelsea Farmers Market offers an escape from this by providing relaxed outdoor experience all year round to the residents and visitors of Chelsea. It’s a unique destination enjoyed by all walks of life.

The loss of The Chelsea Farmers Market would be another nail in the coffin for independent traders and individual community space for the sake of the commercial and financial gain of the minority.

“We need the power of the local residents, visitors and Londoners to help prevent this change to an area that will be demolished and never be re-created.

The Burnett family had been invited to stay with Will and Kate Middleton.

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Tribute to Notting Hill quake victim

By Bruce Thain

A HEADMASTER has paid tribute to the “much-loved” and “utterly charming” Notting Hill schoolboy killed in the Italian earthquake who went to the same school as David and Victoria Beckham’s sons.

Marcos Burnett, 14, was on holiday with his family and their friends in the Italian village of Sommati, around two miles from Amatrice, when the 6.2-magnitude quake struck on Wednesday morning.

His parents Anne-Louise and Simon Burnett suffered broken bones, while their daughter escaped unharmed.

Marcos [staccato] was a pupil at independent Wetherby School, in Notting Hill, attended by David Beckham’s sons.

Former pupils include The Duke of Cambridge, Prince Harry, Hugh Grant and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Headmaster Nick Baker said: “We are bereft at the news that Marcos Burnett, a much-loved and admired boy at school, has died in the earthquake in Italy.

“Our thoughts are with his family, and with all the victims of this terrible disaster. We are all devastated at the news.

“We are offering support to the family, and will all be supporting everyone at the school as we try to come to terms with this tragic loss.

“Marcos attended all three Wetherby schools and was always utterly charming, personable and engaging company.

“His quick wittedness, always had a smile on his face and wanted to be involved in everything.

“He was a friend to all and a credit to his school and family. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.”

The Burnett family had been invited to stay with Will and Kate Middleton.

Maria, a trained accountant, worked as finance manager at the Children’s Arts charity in Bethnal Green, east London.

Despite the legal tests, would mean in reality. It cannot prejudge the outcome of this process but think it might be useful for readers to understand what a decision to support such a nomination, if it meets the legal tests, would mean in reality.

It would mean that, if the site were to be sold, those making the application would have six months to raise the amount of money the owners of the site required for the sale.

That amount is set by the owners. Of course, there is no legal obligation on the owners to sell however much is raised or offered.

Meet your local MP
Victoria Borwick

Friday 2nd September
Earls’ Court Community Trust
1A Nevern Place
SW5 9NR

Cllr Tim Coleridge
Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Transport and the Arts
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Record-breaking A-levels at royal borough schools

STUDENTS and teachers from schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have celebrated a record-breaking A-level results. Overall the Royal Borough was well above the national average with 15 per cent gaining A* nationally (average 8.5 per cent), 45 per cent gaining A* and A grades (national average 26 per cent), 73 per cent gaining A to B (national average 53 per cent) and 91 per cent A to C (national average 77 per cent). Students from Holland Park School enjoyed record-breaking results, with grades higher than ever before. A successive year of improved results saw 53 per cent of the grades at A or A* and 19 per cent at B.

These figures are more than double national averages and are a testament to the standing of success of students and teachers.

Nicholas Robinson, Deputy Head of Holland Park School, said: “These students achieved three A’s at A-level. Two of them, Tom Harris and Griffin Tory, are off to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Warwick University in October. Both students joined us as 11-year-olds with no GCSEs, but boast an unblemished record of A* at GCSE. Other students have been successful in securing offers for History, English, Civil Engineering, Medicine and Dentistry at institutions including Cambridge, Imperial, Manchester, Durham, Bristol and UCL.

“We are very proud of our students’ achievements and are delighted to be able to celebrate their wonderful success with them for a final time.”

The opening of the former Cardinal Vaughan School cemented its place at the top of national tables. Over half, 54 per cent, of the 495 grades yielded A* or A at A-level.

Headmaster, Paul Stubbing, said: “These fine results are the product of hard work on everyone’s part - staff and pupils alike. They have shown discipline, focus and never once forgetting their foot off the pedal. They all deserve their success.”

Holland Park School students have achieved over double the national average of grades at A*. 19.4 A% per cent, compared with eight per cent nationally.

Chelsea Academy celebrated another crop of excellent A-level results with 81 per cent of its students achieving A to C grades. The academy has maintained the high standards set since it opened, with half of all grades at A* to B.

Languages continue to be a strength with 46 per cent of grades achieved at A or B. The science results are also very strong with a large proportion of students going to science-oriented courses.

There were some notable individual performances by students, gaining them places at top universities. Behzad Ghaffari achieved four A’s in Mathematics, Further Maths, Physics and Persian. He is going to study Computing (Artificial Intelligence) at Imperial College.

Suzan Yazav achieved three As and a B in Psychology, Government and Politics, Turkish and English Literature. She is going to study Psychology at Oxford University.

Dassa Hadri achieved three As in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. She is going to University College London to study Chemistry.

Tabia Salam achieved A*, A and B in Mathematics, Further Maths and Chemistry. She is going to study Computer Science at King’s College.

Lucas Cruz achieved A*, A and B in Mathematics, Further Maths and Physics. He is going to study Mathematics at Queen Mary University of London.

Daniel Ashley achieved A*, A and B in Maths, Chemistry and Physics. He is going to study Engineering at University College London.

Riana Henry achieved A*, A and B in Mathematics, Further Maths and Physics. She is going to study Mathematical Physics at Nottingham University.

Commenting on the results Matt Williams, Principal of Chelsea Academy said: “Congratulations to all of our Year 13 who have opened their results today. Thank you to the students, their parents and our wonderful teachers for the work they have done over the past two years”

Councillor Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s Cabinet Member for Education, said: “There has been much to celebrate today in our schools with these excellent A-level results. Of course they are only possible because the students have worked very hard and received first-class teaching and support in their schools. I’d like to send everyone concerned my thanks and congratulations and wish all the young people leaving schools in the borough great success at university and in future employment.”

We hold our own against the very best in the world

IT HAS been hard not to be impressed with Team GB’s Olympic success. On just about every day over the last couple of weeks we got used to celebrating a new medal across a range of sports.

We’ve ended the Games second in the medals table behind only the USA. That is a stunning achievement. It is not just the number of medals that gave us all cause to be proud, but the sheer breadth of sports that we ended up on the podium for.

Whether it is trap shooting, show jumping, cycling, swimming, gymnastics or athletics and I could go on, it is clear that we can hold our own with the best in the world.

I really hope that as a result of watching the greatest sportspersons and champions on the planet showing us what elite performance is like, more local people will feel inspired to get involved in a sport. Whether that is with a desire to become an Olympian or just to get in shape doesn’t matter.

Of course we have two excellent sports centres in the borough with fine swimming pools, not Olympic sized I grant you but a great place to swim nonetheless. These are good places to start out on a path to sporting success. After all, the new leisure centre in Kensington was conceived in the run up to the enormously successful London Games in 2012 and is in many ways a fitting legacy project.

There is also the renowned Dale Youth Boxing Club, newly reopened in improved facilities at Grenfell Tower. Dale Youth can of course actually boast an old boy with a gold medal winner in James De Gale. I met the coach there when I attended the reopening and they really know their stuff. They would be keen to say Dale Youth is open to people of all abilities and even those who don’t want to box but are keen to work out in the surroundings of a boxing gym.

Some people may not be aware that there are two first-class kayaking facilities in the north and south of the borough. The Canalside Centre in North Kensington offers coaching in canoeing, kayaking and climbing for young people and also runs courses for adults.

If you’re in the south of the borough and fancy taking to the Thames then there is the Cremorne Riverside Centre. This provides an opportunity for the young, and not so young, to get out on the water and under professional supervision. I can give a personal recommendation to the coaches’ skills as I’ve been in a kayak on the Thames with them and very enjoyable it was. (If challenging one’s meekness of the sedentary nature of politics) it was too.

Sometimes I don’t know where the time goes. It’s hard to believe that four years have passed since London hosted the Olympic Games and did an absolutely fantastic job of it. We now enter the build-up to Tokyo 2020 and athletes will be setting themselves goals to make sure that they go for gold in Japan. Perhaps even those of us with more modest talent and ambitions could set ourselves targets to see if we can be a little bit fitter the next time the Olympic Games come around.

Dale Youth is open to people of all abilities and even those who don’t want to box but are keen to work out in the surroundings of a boxing gym.
**Attack on burka sculpture**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At Westminster Magistrates’ Court last Tuesday (August 23), His Honour Judge Michael Altham quizzed the 70-year-old on her name, date of birth and address.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As she left the dock, Hayes, from Bayswater, was seen weeping.

She added: “I just want to say thank you. I won’t let you down”.

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

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**London should be able to wear what they want on the beach**

**London burkini protest in support of Muslim women**

By Katherine Clementine

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

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

One protestor who gave her name as Natalie, 22, sporting a colourful bikini, said: “I’m here in solidarity with Muslim women.

“Women should be able to wear what they want.”

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

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

She said: “Women should be able to wear what they want.

“It’s not a matter for the police, authorities or government to dictate.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Following the Nice incident, the French court declared the law forbidding lim women “clearly illegal”.

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**Cover-up at the French Embassy**

Armed police outside the French Embassy

The beach comes to Knightsbridge

Cover-up at the French Embassy

Photos by Adam Gray SWNS
Many capital schools buck national

GCSE students capped a summer of exam success in west London after an impressive set of results put hundreds of school leavers on the path to further education, apprenticeships and the world of work.

A string of schools boasted improvements in performance despite an overall dip in the number of top grades awarded across the country. Tearful students were celebrating their academic achievements in Westminster, Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham last week.

The nervous wait was finally over on Thursday (August 25) as schools opened their doors for GCSE students to collect their results. It was an emotional day for many as youngsters secured their places at sixth forms and further education colleges, while others were preparing to take their first steps into employment.

There were success stories all over west London with a handful of high fliers picking up straight A*s.

Saoirse Genoni, from Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith, was among the crop of top students collecting 11 A* grades last week.

The 16-year-old, who has her eye on a career in journalism, said she had topped her own expectations in Design and Technology and the sciences.

“I did not believe it at first,” she said. “Before today I was trying to make it seem as if I had done badly to my parents – but there is nothing we can do about our results until we get them, so I was trying to keep that in mind.”

Sacred Heart, where 84 per cent of students achieved the benchmark five A* to C grades including English and Maths, was one of several high-performing schools to defy national trends with its impressive results.

Headteacher Marion Doyle said: “I’m just over the moon with the students’ success. We are bucking the national trend.

“I put it down to the commitment and dedication of our teachers, the support of our parents and the hard work and positive attitude of our girls.”

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

A student at Lady Margaret School in Fulham proudly waves her exam results to the talented, inquisitive, open-minded, respectful group of young people who have totally made us proud with this outstanding set of GCSE results.”

In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea results revealed that the number of students achieving five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics has improved since 2015 – bucking the trend nationally.

At Holland Park School students improved on last year’s performance, with 80 per cent of them gaining five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics.

The school also increased its percentage of top grades, with 70 per cent at A* to B – its highest ever performance. An impressive 62 per cent of students achieved the English Baccalaureate (C or above in English, mathematics, science, history or geography and a language), more than double last year’s national average of 23 per cent.

Holland Park’s Attainment 8 grade was a B+.

A total of 12 students achieved eight A* grades which was five per cent of the year and particular congratulations go to Toska Ibrani, whose 12 A*s set her out as one of the highest performing students in the school’s history. She goes on to study English, Latin and History at A level and the school looks forward to welcoming back many of the students into the Sixth Form.

Commenting on the results, Nicholas Robson, Deputy Head said: “The pressure on students this year seems to be incrementally higher and that makes students’ GCSE achievements all the sweeter.

“More of the highest grades achieved, more students leaving with both English and mathematics GCSE, a substantial three-fifths of our

Javiera Quiroz Fernandez, 16, Phoenix High School

Javiera was among the highest achievers at Phoenix after receiving six A*s, four As and two Bs.

She is planning to study for her A Levels at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School and has ambitions to win a place at Cambridge University.

“I was really worried that I wouldn’t get the results I wanted and I was a bit nervous this morning,” she said on Thursday. “But everyone has been so supportive. My teachers and my friends have helped me the whole way through.”

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

Eliza Hachem, 16, Sacred Heart High School

Eliza was overwhelmed last week after securing straight A*s in her GCSE results.

She will be switching to Latymer Upper School in September to study for her A levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics – and she is already thinking about a career in the City.

She said on Thursday: “I want to work in finance, maybe in stockbroking. But first I’m going to celebrate with my friends at Reading festival this weekend.

“Even though I’m leaving Sacred Heart they have really helped me with my studies.”

Yassin Seddik, 16, Burlington Danes Academy

Yassin has his heart set on a career in engineering after picking up six A*s and seven As.

He will be switching to St Dominic’s Sixth Form College to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Philosophy and Economics at A level.

“In terms of my personal achievement, it is really good,” he said. “I’m more of an independent learner so a lot of the time I would make it seem as if I had done badly to my parents – but there is nothing we can do about our results until we get them, so I was trying to keep that in mind.”

Sacred Heart, where 84 per cent of students achieved the benchmark five A* to C grades including English and Maths, was one of several high-performing schools to defy national trends with its impressive results.

Headteacher Michael Taylor was thrilled with the performance of Phoenix students, adding: “These results are a remarkable improvement on last year and set the school firmly on the path to future success.

There were more impressive results at DLD College in Westminster, which announced a 99 per cent pass rate at GCSE.

The number of students achieving the top grades rose by 10 per cent with four out of 10 achieving all A* to Bs last week.

Among those celebrating stellar results at Fulham Cross Girls’ School was Munaza Aziz, 16, who achieved six A*s, three As and one B.

“It’s what I was hoping for after so much hard work,” she said. “I didn’t have any social life for two months before the exams. I was in the library and didn’t go out – I just told myself I would celebrate after it was all done!”

Elsewhere Westminster Academy celebrated exceptional results in Spanish, Science and English Literature, with 87 per cent earning five A* to C grades including English and Maths.

Principal Dr Saima Rana said she felt “privileged” to have overseen the success of the year group – especially as fewer than half the students were on course to reach the benchmark when they joined the academy in 2011.

She added: “They have developed from excitable Year Sevens ever performance. An impressive 62 per cent of students achieved the English Baccalaureate (C or above in English, mathematics, science, history or geography and a language), more than double last year’s national average of 23 per cent.

Holland Park’s Attainment 8 grade was a B+.

A total of 12 students achieved eight A* grades which was five per cent of the year and particular congratulations go to Toska Ibrani, whose 12 A*s set her out as one of the highest performing students in the school’s history. She goes on to study English, Latin and History at A level and the school looks forward to welcoming back many of the students into the Sixth Form.

Commenting on the results, Nicholas Robson, Deputy Head said: “The pressure on students this year seems to be incrementally higher and that makes students’ GCSE achievements all the sweeter.

“More of the highest grades achieved, more students leaving with both English and mathematics GCSE, a substantial three-fifths of our

Boys from the London Oratory School in Fulham picked up their results last week
trend with improved GCSE results

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

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

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

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

Principal Matt Williams said: ‘I would like to congratulate all of our year 11 students on an excellent set of GCSE results. It is great to see so many of them perform so well and be able to go on to study A levels.’

‘Our staff worked tirelessly to ensure every student did their best and our significantly positive progress measures show that they have had a significant impact on this year group. Well done.’

At Sion-Manning 65 per cent of students gained five A* to C grades, including English and mathematics – a 13 per cent increase on last year’s results. Overall Sion Manning’s average Attainment 8 score was a C.

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

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

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

There was delight at Cardinal Vaughan at the release of GCSE results which make the school, according to The Times, the highest performing comprehensive for boys in the country: 22.1 per cent of grades - four times the national average for boys - A* and A grades; 67 per cent of pupils attained at least five good GCSEs, including mathematics and English. Cardinal Vaughan’s Attainment 8 grade was a B+.

These complement the Vaughan’s A-level results, in which the school was found to be, according to The Times and The Daily Telegraph, the top comprehensive school in the country. Headmaster Paul Stubbings, said: “Obviously, we’re all very proud of the pupils’ achievements, which are testament to their hard work over the years. But the expertise of the staff has also played a massive part in our ongoing success at every level. I congratulate them all.”

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

Travel fears

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

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

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

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

Early birds

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

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

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

BIRDS of a Feather star Linda Robson, pictured, has revealed her family’s emotional struggle against dementia ahead of the Alzheimer’s Society flagship fundraiser in London.

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

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

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

“It is so important to continue to raise money to fund research and provide vital support services.

“That is why I will be joining this year’s London Memory Walk in memory of my mum and in support of all the other people out there who have been affected by dementia.”

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

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

It is aiming to raise £240,000 at the event on Saturday (September 3) to help fund its work - while pumping thousands more into medical research in the hope of one day finding a cure.

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

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

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

Firefighter recalls devastating blaze in 1980s Soho

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The man was hysterical. He kept screaming there are hundreds dead up there.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John Thompson, then 42, was jailed for life in 1980 for the murder of 37 people. He died of lung cancer in 2008 - on the 28th anniversary of the tragedy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The series of spectacular art events by the Artichoke artists, which are all free to the public, will take place in key sites across the City, Southbank and Bankside from August 30th-4th September marking this momentous event in London’s history and addressing its contempor ary resonance with themes including displacement, disaster and the resilience of the urban metropolis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

With views across to the City and St Paul’s Cathedral, French fire alchemists Compagnie Artichoke will burn on Sunday, September 4 in a dramatic retelling of the story of the Great Fire of 1666.


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

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

“The event will be filmed using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to capture a multi-camera live experience, directed by Tim van Someren, who created the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony. The programme will give online audiences front row, immersive access and a memory that will burn bright long after the fire has died,” said a spokesman for London’s Burning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building work continues on the 120-metre long sculpture of 17th century London on the River Thames. The sculpture, collaboration between American ‘burn’ artist David Best and Artichoke will burn on Sunday, September 4 in a dramatic retelling of the story of the Great Fire of 1666

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

‘That Dreadful Fire: The Hand of God, a Great Wind and a Very Dry Season’ commemorates the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, which started in a bakery on Pudding Lane on September 2, 1666 and devastated most of the City.

Guildhall Library’s exhibition, which runs until 30 November, investigates the Great Fire through its collections, which includes official accounts, sermons and reports from across Europe.
Beware a silent killer

By Peter Faulkner

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

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

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

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

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

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

When you use an unregistered gas fitter, he could be leaving your boiler leaking fatal carbon monoxide fumes. Or the work may be that dangerous your home could catch fire or the work could trigger an explosion.

Gas Safety Week, now in its sixth year, sets out to ensure that rogue traders are kept out and residents are made aware of the risk they are taking if they ignore the advice. The message is simple: Don’t let it happen to you.

One in three people trust a tradesman to do gas work based purely on the recommendation of a friend or neighbour without checking out their registration and qualifications first.

Remember that dangerous gas work can be deadly. Badly fitted and poorly serviced appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning. Using an illegal gas fitter can end up costing you thousands of pounds. Worst of all, it could put the lives of you, and your loved ones in danger.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Landlords targeted

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

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

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

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

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

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

River blitz

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

It follows pressure from action group Reclaim the Riverbank.

Previous success was achieved in removing illegally moored boats upstream of Teddington and a meeting was held with MPs Zac Goldsmith, Tania Mathias and James Berry to discuss the situation.

Mr Goldsmith said: “Illegally moored boats are not only a blight on the waterscape, but they also disrupt the river’s natural flow, cause pollution, and can pose a fire risk.”

In summer 2014 police and Thames Water ordered owners of 17 illegally-moored boats near Hampton Wick to leave the area.

Cop gets award

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

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

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

DC Jacobs received the ‘Excellence Award’ at the Chartered Trading Standards Institute Conference.
Yet again violence clouds

The future of the Notting Hill Carnival is now hanging in the balance as public safety at even the so-called Children’s and Family Day was farcically exposed as completely inadequate by dozens of arrests and four stabbings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I want it to be a fun family event where shops don’t have to...”
MP ASKS: HAS CARNIVAL OUTGROWN NOTTING HILL?

London’s biggest party

There are many people who now are asking has Carnival outgrown this area.

“I want it to be a fun family event where shops don’t have to close, where people don’t have to leave their homes.

“As the police have confirmed, the largest event that British police do is policing a carnival. I don’t think that is really right.

“They say that Carnival brings £9 million to the economy but that may come to London as a whole but it’s certainly not coming to these boarded-up shops.

“Local shopkeepers are being hurt, not only with the cost of the loss of trade and the boarding up but also with their share of the cost of clearing up.

“And when you listen to the heart-rending things that these shopkeepers tell you I think it would be better if we could think of another way of taking this forward.”
Young royals get their heads together

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The Royals are not meant to interfere in Government policy. Thankfully for causes from everything from climate change to architecture and sustainable fishing, the Prince of Wales has long ignored this and by doing so he has helped effect better thinking on problems in these areas.

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

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W e make no apology today for giving lengthy support to this passionate cause of Catherine’s because as a capital, and as a nation, the sums involved alone indicate that the crisis of child mental health, cannot continue to be ignored, as it has been for far too long.

Given that Kate is said to be the most influential figure in Britain on matters of fashion and style it is hoped that some of this influence will now inspire other young parents to pressure elected representatives to do something urgent about the biggest social scandal facing London and the UK.

First, an example of why it makes sound financial sense to stop sweeping the emergency of the crisis of child mental health under the carpet.

One of the greatest political controversies of now and recent years is the matter of Britain’s nuclear defence. It is estimated by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament that the cost of replacing Trident and maintaining the deterrent missile system for the next 30 years would be £250 billion.

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

Therefore, if the current little continues to be done about child mental health over the period of a new Trident missile system, the cost to our economy over 30 years will be £3,150 billion.

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

And that, of course, is just the financial cost; it does not take account of the emotional Armesdon that we will face if the authorities do not listen to those medical and social experts for whom Catherine has become the spokeswoman.

Stigma and the fear of social shame has much to do with why this crisis is hidden away.

Research by one of the mental health charities of which Catherine is patron, Place2Be, found that more than a third of fathers said they would not want their child receiving counselling or other treatment and would try to prevent it.

“One in three said they would be deeply embarrassed if anyone found out their child had an emotional or mental health problem,” reported the charity.

We parents who have suffered mental ill health in ourselves and who parents who have suffered the far greater agony of seeing mental ill health in our children are now depending on Catherine to help effect the crucial change in thinking which is urgently needed so that children do not continue to suffer.

Bravely, she is defying the national instinct to put our heads in the sand by making herself and her husband, our king-to-be, examples of better thinking, as she explained in a recent speech in support of the Anna Freud Centre, which has created a series of podcasts on the advice for those suffering the calamity of mental ill health in their families.

“One in three adults still say they would be embarrassed to seek help for their child’s mental health. No parent would fail to call the doctor if their child developed a fever, yet some children are tackling tough times without the support that can help them because the adults in their life are scared to ask. It doesn’t need to be like this,” said Catherine recently.

“Throughout my work with family and child support organisations, one thing that has stood out to me time and again is that getting early support for a child who is struggling to cope is the best possible thing we can do to help our children as they grow up.

“Knowing this, both William and I feel very strongly that we wouldn’t hesitate to get expert support for George and Charlotte if they need it.

“I hope that this excellent series of podcasts by the Anna Freud Centre will go some way to help families overcome the fear of what happens next if they look for professional support.

“They illustrate that many of the therapies are actually very simple and practical steps that include the whole family to help children make sense of the world around them.

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

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

She is right, we should listen; we should hear hard because this problem is not going away as, by rights, it should be made to do.

Fortunately for all of the frightened, confused, agitated children, Catherine has recruited two of the UK’s heaviest-hitters to her campaign, Prince William and Prince Harry.

Earlier this year the influential trio formed Heads Together, a new movement to end stigma around mental health.

The Heads Together campaign is a partner-ship with experienced and inspiring charities that provide frontline mental health support to people who may need it, whilst raising awareness and tackling stigma.

Supported by The Royal Foundation, the three young royals’ primary charitable vehicle that aims to become a leading philanthropic investor, the Heads Together campaign aims to change the national conversation on mental wellbeing, just as Prince Charles began to do decades ago with his early lobbying on climate change.

Next year, London will be running for Heads Together as the campaign has been selected as the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon Charity of the Year.

“As the UK’s premier charity sports event, with its energetic and positive fundraising, this year’s Virgin Money London Marathon is the perfect springboard for this vital campaign,” said a spokesman at Kensington Palace, who added: “Through their work with young people, emergency responders, homeless charities, and with veterans, Their Royal Highnesses have seen time and time again that unresolved mental health problems lie at the heart of some of our greatest social challenges.

“They are passionate about tackling the stigma surrounding the issue. Too often, they have seen that people feel afraid to admit that they are struggling with their mental health. This fear of prejudice and judgement stops people from getting help and can destroy families and end lives. They want to help change the national conversa-
to end the stigma of mental ill health

The royal trio at the launch of the Heads Together Campaign

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us go back to that frighteningly worrying comment from Catherine about mental ill health ending lives.

Suicide, states Ms Frith’s study, is the most common cause of death for boys aged 10 and 19, being the cause of 14 per cent of deaths in this age group, and the second most common for girls of that age age even traffic accidents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Nerve-wracking”, as she enters her portrayal of the legendary performer, Sadie finds herself in a plethora of research of both the era and pressure attached to the portrayal of such a famous star.

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

Britten in Brooklyn charts the bohemian lifestyle of Benjamin Britten, WH Auden, Carson McCullers and Gypsy Rose Lee in the artistic community at 7 Midmagg Street, as W O rld War II becomes a reality in a story based on real life events. Frost plays the vaudeville stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, whose memoirs were made into the stage musical and film Gypsy. Even after committing to scrupulous research of both the era and the legendary performer, Sadie feels there is still a certain pressure attached to the portrayal of such a famous star.

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

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

Peter Pan goes wrong at Christmas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This time the actress finds herself in 1940s New York amidst a plethora of intellectuals sifting through the propaganda of the Second World War. Sadie said: “It’s very snappy, it’s very fast and my brain is fired from just trying to grasp it. I’m trying to juggle a hundred things at the same time just so that I can really pull it all together.”

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

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

For more information go to wiltons.org.uk.

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

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

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

Groundhog Day
The Old Vic

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

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

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

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

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

After a day of sneering and general ridicule, he finds the very next day is a replay of the same events and so starts a perpetual loop of doom, which sees the soulless scoundrel eventually find his humanity.

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

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

Andy Karl’s Phil is infinitely more lovable than Bill Murray’s whiny unattractive film portrayal, allowing the audience to gain some sympathy for the self-absorbed media cad. He flips from unflappably suave to brow beaten and tormented while presenting the deeply shallow character with style.

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

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

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

Scooby Dooby Do what have they done to you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you’re not a fan of Scooby Doo I’m sure this is a show your children will enjoy and you can endure, however lovers of the Great Dane might want to stay away.
Lobster, avocado and crispy bacon
Serves 4
I always have a can or packet of Peter’s Yard rye crispbreads in my larder. They are great with the lobster, you can use good quality prawns or even crab. But one lobster will be enough for four sandwiches - and you can also later make a good quantity of bisque from the shell.

Ingredients
2 small ripe avocados
1/2 tbsp mayonnaise
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
The juice of 1 small lemon
1 lobster, 500-600g, cooked and removed from the shell
4 rashers of streaky bacon, grilled until really crispy
or another herb such as chervil or dill
lemon juice to taste. Cut the lobster tail into four lengthways, and cut each slice that it looks like four claws. Chop the bacon as finely as possible.

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

Lobster, avocado and crispy bacon
Served on rye crispbreads

Hayden's recipe for a calmer life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'What started out as a simple project has been gently nurtured into Hayden's first cookbook, Stirring Slowly. Recipes To Store + Revive. With chapter titles such as ‘A Sunny Start To The Day’, ‘Bowl Food’, and ‘Take Yourself Better’, it’s a book to tuck away and dip into full of warming, comforting and revitalising recipes.

In his foreword, Jamie Oliver says he loves Hayden’s ‘real family recipes’ and that they’re ‘the stuff of normal family life - simple, comforting and delicious’.

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

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

Hayden’s real family has had a huge impact on her love of food, too. Born to Greek Cypriot parents, her childhood memories are of Saturday pilgrimages from their home above her grandparents’ Greek restaurant to the ‘smelly shop’ - an Italian deli packed with hanging salami - around the corner.

Her dad worked in the family restaurant while her mum stayed home, teaching Hayden and her sister to bake. It sparked a lifelong passion - and she remembers shadowing both her grandmas, determined to learn all the traditional Cypriot family recipes before they were lost.

‘I still cook with my granny,’ she says. ‘She’s amazing. She’s had such an influence on me.’

While Hayden tries to eat well, she thinks we’ve all become a bit too obsessed with health food.

‘What’s healthy for me is taking the time to cook something and sit down and actually eat it properly.'
ILL Wyman’s 80th birthday party is gearing up to be the party to be in October as now Robert Plant has signed up for the bash.

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, October 28th: The O2 Arena: Mary J. Blige & Maxwell

Indigo2 at The O2: Bill Wyman Birthday Gals featuring Robert Plant, Mark Knopfler, Imelda May and Mick Hucknall

Brooklyn Bowl: Darrel Higham, JD & The Straight Shot, Big Boy Blinder

Saturday, October 29th:
The O2 Arena: Bad Company & Richie Sambora

Brooklyn Bowl: Jo Harman, Lauren Housley, Hollie Stevenson

Sunday, October 30th:
The O2 Arena: Van Morrison & Jeff Beck

IndigO2 at The O2: Walter Trout and The Temperance Movement

BluesFest 2016 takes place at The O2 from October 28th – 30th. Tickets are available from www.livenation.co.uk and AXS.com.

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

The resurrection of the Ginger Magician

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But his new venture is a much more professional opera-
tion. While Davis isn’t mixing his own music, he spins disc after disc plucked from a vintage

age collection built up over many years. It’s a misconception that he’s become a DJ overnight, though.

The man once known as the Ginger Magician has actually manned the decks on his own community radio show for a decade and begun performing live as his professional career wound down.

He met fellow DJ Kavus Torabi a few years ago and now presents a weekly radio show with him on Phoenix FM.

Keen listeners will know that Davis’ eclectic tastes range from 70s prog all the way through to leftfield electronic and IDM (intelligent dance music).

The 26-time ranking event winner may never live down his legacy as a plodding and pedantic potter. But as he nears his 60th year he is doing his ut-
most to craft a new cult pres-
ence as the ‘Snooker Star DJ’.

Steve Davis and Kavus Torabi present a two-hour show on Phoenix FM every Monday between 10pm and midnight.
Jeffrey Lewis
The Dome, Tufnell Park
Thursday September 1
‘Folk punk’ singer-songwriter and comic book artist famous for his album SKYE | ROSS, among other successes.

The Sugarhill Gang
Jazz Cafe, Camden Town
Saturday September 3
Hip hop legends who changed the game with 1979 breakthrough hit Rappers Delight. The track made history by becoming the first recorded material to make the top 40 on the US billboard chart.

The Shins
Village Underground, Shoreditch
Friday September 2
Beloved indie band whose elegant, shimmering pop tunes charmed a generation of club kids.

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

POOR Ed Balls, before even one step has been taken in the new series of Strictly and the former Cabinet Minister has already been written off as a non-starter. Mr Balls, the one-time Shadow Chancellor who was humiliated at the last general election when he lost his seat to a Tory that nobody had ever heard of, gamely agreed to go on the dancing show because he said “it was a dream come true.” Although it may strike some as odd that a political colossus and Senior Fellow at Harvard should yearn to two-step on the telly, Mr Balls is insistent that appearing on Strictly represents a career high.

The ladies’ favourite who is tipped to receive an an epiphany: “why not make our records sound like that?”

We rejected modern recording techniques where you vocally,” says Skye. “Everything Ross sent inspired a melody and lyric almost immediately - whether it was a heavy fuzz guitar riff or intricate finger-picking on an acoustic guitar, I’ve always got that buzz from Ross’s playing.”

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

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‘Our family have been massive fans of Strictly for years. It was all very organic and I was able to push myself vocally,” says Skye. “Everything Ross sent inspired a melody and lyric almost immediately - whether it was a heavy fuzz guitar riff or intricate finger-picking on an acoustic guitar, I’ve always got that buzz from Ross’s playing.”

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Australians love the live music scene, and the last 20 years has seen a remarkable rise in the popularity of Aussie bands like Powderfinger, Jet, and The Veronicas. But with the recent rise of electronic dance music (EDM) in the country, many of these established artists have been forced to step back in order to allow new talent to emerge.

Ed Balls odds of 66/1 to win Strictly

The Golden Age of Dance comes to the London Theatre Royal in Drury Lane on November 15. Ticket prices are between £19.50 and £61.50.
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London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been received by the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham at

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHAIN OF TITLE OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

1 Hamlet Court Hamlet Road, London W6 7PJ

2016/03671/FUL

Erection of a roof rear extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level; installation of a rear roof extension; and alteration to the boundary wall.

The Penthouse Epirus Mansions Epirus Road London SW6 7UW

2016/03671/FUL

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

The Eagle 215 Askew Road London W12 9AZ

2016/03687/FUL

Formation of a servery opening to the side of the existing single storey outbuilding in the rear garden with associated landscaping.

Bus Shelter Outside M & M Park
London

2016/03511/ADV

Display of a freestanding illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.37m (height) x 1.34m (width) x 0.35m (depth).

The Curtains Up 2A Comeragh Road London W14 9HR

2016/03492/FUL

Part of the development (fronting Comeragh Road) as an outside seating area comprising 5 chairs and 4 tables in connection with the existing Public House between the hours of 08.00 and 22.00.

5 Addison Bridge Place London W14 8XP

2016/03495/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey dwellinghouse, erection of a single storey dwellinghouse, to the side and rear of the existing back addition of the main dwellinghouse; installation of a new door to the side of the boundary wall.

56 Hartswood Road London W12 9NF

2016/03727/FUL

Erection of dormer window to existing flat on the side of rear roof slopes; conversion of dormer window into a habitable room; replacement of the eaves to the elevation at ground floor level into a habitable room; replacement of the dormer window into a dormer window; replacement of the dormer window into a dormer window; replacement of the dormer window into a dormer window; and erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

Flat D Second Floor 13 Ceverdale Road London W12 6JJ

2016/03684/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a 1700mm high glazed obscured glass wall at first floor level to create to a two bedroom flat at ground floor level to create to a two bedroom flat at ground floor level; and erection of a new access gate to the side of the boundary wall.

King Street Cloisters Clifton Walk London W6 0GY

2016/03606/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/01181/FUL granted 20th September 2015 for the installation of 2no Juliet balconies at first floor level, formation of roof terraces at first and second floor level, and the installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope.

14 Calthorne Lane London W7 3QA

2016/03526/FUL

Excavation of part of front garden and erection of a new store to front of property; installation of French doors to replace the existing bay at lower ground floor level to the front faling; and associated landscaping.

Embarkment Site Known as ‘Fulham Reach’ Land Bound By Chancellors Road, Distillery Road And Winslow Road, Including Sections Of Thames Path, Alps Road, The Quadrangle and Frank Banfield Park And Highway Land London W6

2016/03789/VAR

Variation of wording of condition 3 for Unit 14, Building G (hours) to include the time the furniture is removed and stored from the terrace (By 00:00 of each day at the table of this condition will be removed and stored within the existing premises) of planning permission ref: 2016/04726/OUT granted 13th April 2016.
Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A302 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 1(4)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.

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

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

The Order will be effective at certain times from 8.00 AM on 5th September 2016 until 6.00 PM on 10th September 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:

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

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

Dated this 30th day of August 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON

Transport for London Notice

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

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

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

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

4. Copies of the Orders and a statement of Transport for London’s reason for the proposal can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

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

- Tim Jackson
  Assistant Director
  Strategic Transportation
  The Royal Borough of Greenwich
  5th Floor, The Woolwich Centre
  35 Wellington Street, Woolwich
  London SE18 6HQ

- Amanda Jones
  Principal Traffic Order Maker
  WSP UK, 10th Floor South Westminster City Hall
  64 Victoria Street
  London SW1E 6QP

- Reference Library
  Lewisham Central Library
  199 – 201 Lewisham High Street
  London SE13 6LG

- Mrs Laura Heaton
  Programme Management Officer
  Traffic and Transportation Policy Service
  Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
  Room I 14, Council Offices
  37 Pembroke Road
  London W8 6PW

- Mr Peter Clark
  London Borough of Wandsworth
  The Town Hall
  Wandsworth High Street
  London, SW18 2PU

5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Orders 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 Orders are made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 30th day of August 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON
Public Notices

Transport for London Notice
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A201 GLA ROAD (FARRINGDON STREET, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER 2016

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

3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
[(1) Turning left into Aberdeen Place at its junction with A2 Edgware Road;
(2) Entering or exiting Bloomingfield Road at its junction with A2 Edgware Road;

The Order also suspends the one way operation on Aberdeen place to make it two way operational. The Order will be effective at certain times from 12.01 AM on the 5th September 2016 until 11:59PM on the 5th November 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

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

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

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

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

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

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

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

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

The Order will be effective at certain times from 8.00 AM on the 5th September 2016 until 11:59PM on the 5th November 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

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

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

Dated this 30th day of August 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager, Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ
Northfields are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £255,000 for 21 Mackenzie Close, White City W12 7LZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Northfields, 127 Askew Road, W12 9AU 020 8740 8833 before exchange of contracts.
**Davies ton carries Surrey into final**

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

Despite losing Dominic Sibley and Kumar Sangakkara very early and slumping to 8-2 inside the first three overs, the visitors recovered to post a 91-run partnership for the fifth wicket of 255-7 after Davies and Ben Foakes (90) shared a stand of 130.

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

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

Tim Bresnan kept Yorkshire in an absorbing game with a two-wicket win over Notts last week – each side scored more than 3,000 runs and each bowled over 1,000 overs.

The central defender, who has played more than 140 games in front of us and who is fit, looked forward to working with him for many years to come.

The scoreline looks promising after three goals from Chelsea, but it was far from the top of the Division One table.

He is the player who can do it, we need just to stay focused, as we know how difficult the games are after an international break.

The result in style, thrashing Birmingham 3-0, was less than impressed with the players in training this week. The scoreline looks promising after three goals from Chelsea, but it was far from the top of the Division One table.

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The result in style, thrashing Birmingham 3-0, was less than impressed with the players in training this week. The scoreline looks promising after three goals from Chelsea, but it was far from the top of the Division One table.
Eden Hazard, seen above in action in the recent win over West Ham, has made a brilliant start to the season for Chelsea. Meanwhile, Branislav Ivanovic, above right, gives manager Antonio Conte various defensive options.

**Blues make flying start**

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEFENDING is an art that Branislav Ivanovic knows all about. The Serb, 32, has played more than 350 games for Blues since coming to Stamford Bridge in a £9million deal from Locomotive Moscow in 2008 and is well placed to analyse the impact Conte has had on the side and on the potential for this group of players.

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

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

Ivanovic is pragmatic and understands why Conte acts the way he does on the touchline, barking out instructions non-stop, but admits it has little effect on the players.

“This is Antonio’s style of coaching and leading of the game,” he said. “But 90 per cent of the time we can’t hear him, we are focused on the game, but every instruction is good for us. When you can hear (him), it helps the team and keeps us concentrated on the game.”

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