Clampdown on buskers

Musicians could be kicked off patch if they don’t have licence

BY TOBY PORTER
toby.porter@slp.co.uk

Buskers could be turfed off their pitches if they do not have a licence, as town hall chiefs try to tackle complaints about them.

The system would give Kensington & Chelsea the power to move musicians on if they are causing a disturbance.

The move has been billed as the first time a council has banned buskers, but a spokesman said: “There is no proposal to ‘ban’ busking.

“The Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Report proposes a 12-month trial of a licensing scheme for busking and street entertainment. Some busking can cause disturbance and obstruction and has attracted complaints from residents and businesses.

“The proposal seeks to strike a balance between addressing anti-social behaviour and allowing legitimate, licensed street entertainment. Any proposed changes to current policy would be consulted on.”

In 2013, Camden council introduced licences for some forms of street entertainment, however Kensington and Chelsea’s licensing proposals cover all categories of busking performance.

This includes music, dance, street theatre, magic and circus, as well as mime and living statues.

A council report said it had “proved difficult” for council enforcement to attribute anti-social behaviour – excessive noise, health and safety issues of highways obstruction – to individual buskers.

The new proposals suggest introducing licensing across the borough in a move that will provide greater control and make it easier to take action against anyone without a licence or those in breach of it. Licences would be valid for 12 months, and although planned fees have not been outlined, Camden council charges £17 for a standard licence and £47 for a special licence that allows performers to use an amplifier.

The report proposes limiting the number of licences to 100, issued on a first-come-first-served basis, with a waiting list system for places. New licences would become available when one is revoked or given up.

The report said: “Requiring a licence will help manage busking and any other forms of street entertainment, reduce the disturbance it is causing for residents and businesses alike and hopefully reduce busking complaints. A review will be undertaken before the end of the 12-month trial period to determine if it has made a difference to the quality of life for residents and businesses, reduced complaints, and whether it has been easy to administer,” said the report.
It was like a scene from the iconic 1960s TV sitcom Steptoe & Sons, set in an earby fictional street in Shepherd’s Bush. But with the smell of freshly-laid concrete. A rag and bone man, pictured right, was allowed to drive a cart along the six-lane Westway for the first time – and the last – on March 24, 1969.

It was part of an open day for the families of the staff who worked on the dual carriageway from 1964-1970. And it was probably the only time the road had only non-polluting vehicles on it.

But this week, after almost 50 years of near to 300 million car journeys along the route, the residents are demanding more is done to protect them from the effects of the resulting pollution.

The group, calling themselves Let’s Clear Some Air (LCSA), have taken the challenge of finding solutions to their plight into their own hands.

They have already been involved in a two-year campaign to demand action from the Westway Trust and Kensington & Chelsea council to tackle the pollution in the area.

They say they want to hold the £7million-a-year trust accountable and that the management of the 2 3 acres of inner London land they were handed when the dual carriageway was completed.

The plot is called RAP23 – which stands for Reduce Air Pollution on the 23 Acres – and its history of the road.

It was built to relieve congestion in Shepherd’s Bush, took six years to build, and led to the demolition of scores of homes. But for many, especially local residents, the Westway has itself now become the problem.

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Now, nearly 50 years after it was constructed, the locals are demanding their lives are given better protection from the pollution the road causes. TORY PORTER finds out more.

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History of the Westway:

In the mid 1960s an overhead motorway, the A40(M) was driven through North Kensington staked out on giant stilts – the largest continuous concrete structure in the country.

Two and a half miles of new road made it the longest stretch of elevated motorway in Europe.

The new highway made driving in and out of the city much easier, allowing vehicles to cover in minutes ground that used to take over an hour to travel. However, while reducing congestion in the city, the highway carried the traffic above the lives of people living in North Kensington, with 90,000 cars a day travelling through their rooftops within the first few months of opening.

The flyover brought noise, disruption, destruction and pollution to a community that was already contending with economic hardship, a decaying inner city environment and neglect. To make way for the modern engineering feat, homes were demolished and streets chopped in half or left stranded as little as 20ft away, exposed to the noise of traffic and the nightly glare of headlights.

The protests of residents hit the headlines when the motorway opened in 1970. By then a decade of community action networks had grown up in the fight for better housing and open spaces where children could play. Activists set up grassroots associations, organised on local issues and campaigned for improvements.

Following a four-year campaign, in 1971 the North Kensington Amenity Trust – now the Westway Trust – was set up, in partnership with the local authority, as the custodian of the 23 acres of land under the motorway to help promote positive use of the spaces that lie underneath the Westway.

Transport for London (TfL) is doing tests later this year to find out what repair work needs to be done on the road. Investigators will be underneath the Westway, surveying different parts of the structure and testing concrete strength in some places from June to August.

This will be done during overnight lane closures on the A40. From August to December TfL will review the findings and produce a feasibility study for refurbishing the Westway.

In 2018 and 2019 concept and detailed designs will be created for the work needed. Construction will follow that.

A TfL statement said: “Maintenance work has been done in the past – including waterproofing the deck and improving the expansion joint – but several components have reached or are nearing the end of their life. Refurbishment is needed to secure the long-term reliability of the Westway.”

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Rent desk space at libraries

Entrepreneurs, freelancers, start-ups and small businesses have the opportunity to rent affordable desk space in three of the borough’s libraries.

Brompton, Chelsea and Notting Hill libraries have 84 fixed desk spaces that can be rented on a monthly basis from £95 per month. The council is partnering with Wimbiztec, a social enterprise based in Merton, that works with local authorities to transform under-utilised library space. The initiative, known as The Workary, is located in an underused staff office at Brompton Library, a former meeting room at Chelsea Library and a basement at Notting Hill Library.

Users benefit from high speed WiFi, power points and unlimited tea and coffee. Once fully established in the Royal Borough, members of The Workary will run free events for children and adults in the three library branches centred on new technology.

Call 020 3290 0393 or email info@theworkary.com for details.

TUESDAY MAY 16 2017

Camilla’s tall tape story of growing up memories

BY TOBY PORTER
toby.porter@slp.co.uk

Camilla Warren worked as a waitress, drove hire cars on the set of a Bond movie, sold shirts door-to-door.

She was also a financial journalist for news agency Reuters – she started in Fleet Street and then moved up to the Financial Times building in Theobalds Road, Bloomsbury.

But now she’s selling more than a 1,000 tape measures a month from her table tennis table in Margarivine Gardens, Hammersmith.

These are no ordinary tape measures, though. These ones are designed to gauge a child’s growth throughout their childhood – so families do not lose the ability to compare heights when they move house.

And she twice turned down the chance to take the product onto the TV series Dragon’s Den. The idea occurred to her almost a decade ago when a friend moved house and took the door frame with her.

She also found herself seeing narrow dirty stripes in houses with heights on, where the rest of the home had been redecorated. Camilla said: “I’d always felt the same, with three children of my own I wanted to redecorate but also wanted to preserve childhood memories.”

“I wanted to help people avoid having to say ‘I stood there all those years for you but now you’ve got rid of it.’ I thought there must be a way of taking the chart with you.”

It took a long time to develop. She took an earlier sample version to a fayre in 2012 and sold nearly 200 in three days. I like new materials and did a lot of research because I wanted to use good materials. I am pedantic like that.

“For example, we recently had a poor batch of 6,000 come in and I had to send them back.”

“I found one fantastic plastic which I wanted to use. But it seemed to be impossible to print on it.”

“Four years ago, I started with something less complex and it seemed to work.”

Originally it was rigid, but now it is more mobile. “We began trading in June 2013. They are 2 metres long so the biggest challenge was finding a printer who had the capability and machinery to be able to manufacture for me.”

“Every one is made on my ping pong table.”

“We are selling 15,000 a year at the moment.”

“I did not start by focusing on the baby market, which is where we have ended up.”

“It was originally for people who wanted to redecorate but keep the memories.”

“There is great potential in the downsizing market.”

“It has been very rewarding. One elderly gentleman bought four and gave them to each of his daughters.”

“I am at the age where I have a bit of time and it has been something to keep me busy.”

“I also have university fees of some of my children to pay for. One of them is 6ft tall, so it’s too late for him to use one.”

“It is getting quite a handful now, though.”

“We are going to have to find a factory.”

“Now I want to see Talltape become a part of every child’s memory of growing up – here and overseas.”

Sessions for new parents

If you are pregnant or have a baby and live in Kensington and Chelsea or Battersea you can attend free Nappy Natters session and also swap unwanted baby items.

The sessions will be held on Wednesday of next week from 1pm to 3pm, at Masbro Brook Green Family Centre, 49 Brook Green, London W14 7RA.

On the day, there will be a real nappies demonstration and you can claim a £45 real nappy voucher. You can also exchange or give away any unwanted baby things at the same time.

Even if you don’t have anything to give or exchange you can still come, reflect whatever you fancy. It’s all free. Bring along small to medium-sized items, including clothes, shoes, books, toys, pushchairs, CDs, DVDs, and any other baby-related stuff to the SWAP event.

Try out some exotic street food in Wood Lane

Office and shop workers will get a new market to try out exotic new street food for lunchtime.

Wood Lane is to have its own outdoor lunchtime food market, outside White City Place, soon.

It will be run by the Food Commission, which already serves up exotic foods at lunchtimes on Wednesday to Friday at 187

Freston Road, near Latimer Road Tube station.

The firm announced the new market by tweeting @foodcommission: “Lunchtimes are about to get interesting in WhiteCity – we are opening a lunch market offering the best #streetfood on Wood Lane.”

“We handpick all our #streetfood traders to ensure that you will only get the best with lots of variety. Our traders execute dishes to the highest standards, U won’t find their dishes in the canTeen or on the High St.”

“The market will offer an international menu with cuisines ranging from Vietnamese to Afghan.
Toddlers in west London raised more than £2,000 for Barnardo’s
Children in nurseries across west London raised £2,373 for Barnardo’s during last summer’s Big Toddle, and the children’s charity is hoping to repeat that success with this year’s colourful campaign.

Toddlers from nine local nurseries, playgroups and preschools dressed up as animals and took part in a half-mile walk to help the charity support vulnerable children, young people and families throughout the UK.

Three nurseries in Hammersmith and Fulham raised £748, three others in Kensington and Chelsea raised £817, and three more in Westminster raised £708.

Now Barnardo’s is encouraging people in the three boroughs to sign up for this year’s Big Toddle, which runs from June 19-25 and has the theme of ‘Colours’.

The Big Toddle is also teaming up with the Teletubbies as both are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year.

Since 1997, the Big Toddle has raised £14.5m for Barnardo’s. The antics of Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa-Laa and Po have featured in more than 400 episodes of the popular TV programme and entertained children in more than 120 countries.

Barnardo’s Chief Executive, Javed Khan, said: “A huge thank you to everyone in Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster who will be taking part in this year’s Big Toddle.

“Last year the event raised more than £62,000 in London, helping to transform the lives of the most vulnerable children in the UK.

“I am excited Barnardo’s has teamed up with the Teletubbies, some of the most popular characters in TV history, for this year’s event. Both will be celebrating their 20th anniversary so it promises to be a fantastic party.”

To find out more and register for Barnardo’s Big Toddle visit www.bigtoddle.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @BigToddle or on Facebook/Bigtoddle.

Imperial College London

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White City Campus: South site

Imperial College London, a university focused on science, medicine, engineering and business, is building a new research and innovation campus in White City.

There is a great deal already happening on the part of the campus north of the Westway (A40) and we would now like to share our proposals with you for the southern part of the site – the area between the Westway and Depot Road, formerly occupied by the Unigate Dairy – and invite your input.

Public exhibitions:

Friday 12 May 2017 (12:00 – 17:00) – The Harrow Club, 187 Freston Road, London W10 6TH

Saturday 13 May 2017 (14:30 – 18:00) – St Helen’s Church, St Helen’s Gardens, North Kensington, London W6 6LP

Thursday 18 May 2017 (11:00 – 16:00) – Wood Lane Community Centre, 78 White City Close, London W12 7DZ

Friday 19 May 2017 (15:00 – 20:00) – White City Community Centre, India Way, London W12 7QT

Saturday 20 May 2017 (10:00 – 15:00) – Brickfields Hall, Wood Lane Studios, Shinfield Street, London W12 0HN

Please come along to our public exhibitions to find out more about our proposals, meet the team and have your say.

Contact Us:

whitecityplanning@imperial.ac.uk
020 7323 3544
FREEPOST White City Campus planning
www.imperial.ac.uk/white-city-planning

TUESDAY MAY 16 2017 LONDON WEEKLY NEWS
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Taking the scourge of knives off our capital’s streets

Two weeks ago, phase eight of Operation Sceptre saw intense proactive operations to tackle knife crime. During the week of the action, a total of 383 arrests were made. These arrests include 73 arrests for possession of an offensive weapon/knife and 144 stop and search arrests. Officers carried out numerous weapons sweeps and intelligence-led policing operations to confiscate knives and tackle those wanted in connection with knife-related offences and violent crime.

A summary of key indicators is shown below.

- Weapon sweeps: 1,080
- Knives seized: 300
- Offensive weapons seized: 62
- Firearms recovered: 15
- People stopped and searched: 822
- Test purchase operations: 72

As a summary of key indicators, this dedicated group of officers will provide increased support to borough police and create a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to reducing knife crime. The taskforce will employ a variety of tactics including weapons sweeps, intelligence-led stop and search, and proactive operations to target habitual knife carriers as well as increasing visibility of police officers to reassure local people and deter further violence.

More than 1,100 activities took place throughout London to highlight the potential devastating consequences of carrying a knife.

In the last 12 months, officers have been delivering educational packages and have so far reached more than 14,000 young people in London. The delivery of these packages aims to make youngsters think about the decisions they make and the possible consequences of their action, as well as diverting them away from joining gangs.

Detective Superintendent Michael Gallagher, the Met’s ‘Silver’ lead for knife crime, said:

“Operation Sceptre taskforce has been created by the MPS to tackle the increase in knife crime across London.

The group of about 100 officers – a mixture of detectives and uniform police – will be deployed to knife crime hot spots on a regular basis to divert them away from joining gangs.

This operation carries a positive and powerful message: this is about all of us addressing a problem that often has tragic consequences. This behaviour is damaging our communities; there is no excuse, people are better than this.

I would urge anyone who is concerned for someone involved in knife crime, to visit www.met.police.uk/StopKnifeCrime.

“Across London there are number of excellent diversionary programmes that are bespoke to the needs of Londoners. This is clearly a safeguarding issue for the people who live here, and would, carry knives and victims of knife crime.”

A collaborative approach between statutory agencies and nongovernmental organisations and communities is the only solution to achieving a long-term reduction in this crime of offence, underpinned by a strong, academic evidence base and effective police enforcement.”

Knife bins can also be found throughout London as part of the Met’s effort to take knives off the streets.

A map showing the location of knife bins across London is available on our website at h t t p: // w w w. m e t . po l i ce.U k / S to p K i f e C r i m e.

If you have information about anyone carrying or using knives please contact your local police via 101 or call CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

For news updates and Sceptre Eight activities follow police Twitter feeds at @metpoliceuk and #stopknifecrime. Figures provided are a snapshot of the figures at this time and will be subject to change as more data is received from teams.”

London Metropolitan Police

points of view

your letters

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London Weekly News Group

in my view

John Horton: Owner and director of Horton and Garton estate agent

Brexit may mean ongoing uncertainty in the property sector across London and indeed the entire country, with rents falling and properties going unsold. But in the more affluent and fashionable areas of the capital, it’s a real boom time.

It’s all about the rise in popularity of the million-pound flat – and it’s happening almost exclusively in London.

In fact, sales of these luxury pads have tripled in the past decade, with 96 per cent of them changing hands in London, according to new research from Lloyds Private Banking.

Well-heeled buyers with the cash to splash on prestigious properties are increasingly opting for apartments over houses, the research showed, with flats accounting for 22 per cent of million-pound property purchases last year, compared to 17 per cent in 2016.

Unsurprisingly, desirable and affluent locations such as Kensington & Chelsea are where the lion’s share of the pricey flats are being snapped up by investors.

A quarter of the million-pound sales in England and Wales in 2016 occurred in the royal borough which is seen as one of the most stylish districts in the city.

The research also uncovers some surprising statistics, notably that there were no such big ticket sales in Hackney, east London decade ago, but 47 flats worth seven figures were sold there in 2016.

Both Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea are where flat prices regularly top £2 million, as well as where 31 per cent of all million-pound sales took place last year.

Eye-watering property prices are, of course, no stranger to many parts of London, with one tiny place in Chelsea going on the market for £600,000 earlier this year. It could even go for £1 million or more if it was done up, the estate agent said.

Prime Hammersmith property, as well as others around the capital, are also being snapped up as demand continues at the top level of property investment, while languishing in lower levels of the market.

One of the main drivers of exclusive flat buys in the capital is a lack of available land for expansive new builds.

Investors are opting for high-rise flats instead, said Louise Santanna, lending chief at Lloyds Private Banking.

“A finite supply of land in prime central London combined with a growing population has meant the only way is up with more and more developers focusing on apartments,” she said.

“In the past decade there has been a large increase in the building of high-value apartments in Knightsbridge, West End, Victoria and King’s Cross, with Marylebone and Mayfair being the top two locations for most development. With demand still high, there are more in the pipeline.”

The trend for apartments over houses – and expensive ones at that – is particularly evident in the south-east of England, the Lloyds research found.

The heavily populated area of England and Wales had a mere nine flat sales individually worth £1 million over a decade ago, but last year had 44 – an astonishing 300 per cent increase in a relatively short period.

The east of England and the south-west of the country, meanwhile, recorded jumps of 263 per cent and 120 per cent in million-pound flat sales respectively last year. Only two such flats of a similar price tag were sold elsewhere in England and Wales last year, one apiece in the north-east and north-west.
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Street is transformed for traffic-free spring market

North End Road Market sprung to life when more than 18,000 people descended on the street to enjoy our latest traffic-free market. More acts than ever before entertained the crowd. The already vibrant market was joined by 150 more stalls, live bands and street entertainers on Saturday, April 29.

More acts than ever before entertained the crowd across seven performances areas, turning the North End Road traffic-free spring market into a mini music festival.

There was a massive array of things to buy, including clothes, homeware, artwork and other gifts. The extra stalls did not outshine the regulars, though, particularly the ever-popular fruit and veg stalls.

The traffic-free market is part of Hammersmith & Fulham Council’s drive, together with residents in the North End Road Action Group, to revive this major high street. The next seasonal market is planned for the autumn.

Works to improve Lyric Square

Improvement works on the paved surface of Lyric Square have begun. The work, which will last for approximately four weeks, will require small areas of the Hammersmith square to be fenced off so the contractors can work safely. The limestone pavement will be ‘grit blasted’ with a special machine that will give it a deep clean while also improving the surface texture.

The paving was first laid when Lyric Square opened in 2005, and has undergone several improvements, but this is the first work to improve the paving surface across the whole square.

Work will take place on the paved surface between Beadon Road and King Street.

Council contractors will be working Monday to Wednesday, 8am until 6pm, but will not work on Thursdays or Fridays to avoid disrupting the markets. The work will also take place on weekends, from 8am to 4pm. The improvement works were approved by Hammersmith and Fulham council in March and follow trials of the grit-blasting technique in the square in 2016.
Residents across Hammersmith and Fulham are being urged to get together on June 17 and 18 as part of a national celebration of what we have in common.

The Great Together, being held in memory of the late Jo Cox MP, will see dozens of organisations including The Big Lunch and the Jo Cox Foundation joining forces to invite people to come together with friends, neighbours, and others they don’t yet know for street parties, picnics, barbecues, and bake-off competitions.

It follows the first anniversary of Jo Cox’s murder on June 16 last year. Hammersmith and Fulham Council wants to see as many people as possible taking part in The Great Get Together, and will work with residents to help make all the events being held a great success.

“It is a testament to Jo Cox’s passion for life and deeply held belief in community that, a year on from her tragic death, her legacy is bringing people across the country together,” said Councillor Sue Fennimore, the council’s cabinet member for social inclusion.

“In her maiden speech to the House of Commons, Jo said that “we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us”. This is true of communities across the country, including our own here in Hammersmith and Fulham. “As the organisers have made clear, your event could be big or small, indoors or out, it’s entirely up to you.

“It could be a street party, a barbecue, a game of football or an afternoon tea. Whatever you and your neighbours decide, you will be part of a huge national occasion. And Hammersmith and Fulham council will do all it can to work with residents to make their events a success.”

The Great Get Together is expected to be the biggest event of its kind since the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and the weekend will be an opportunity to celebrate all that Britain’s diverse communities hold in common.

You can sign up to host a Great Get Together event, or find out what is happening in your area, by visiting www.greatgettogether.org.
‘It’s a joy to help the Rainbow Trust’

BY SHUJAUL AZAM
shuz@slp.co.uk

The Chelsea Art Fair raised £2,054 for Rainbow Trust thanks to support from all the visitors. Raffle proceeds raised £1,079 along with £740 donated from 10 per cent of sales from paintings sold in the charity’s art display area.

The Core Partnership also donated £257 in price-matching. Ben Cooper, director of the Chelsea Art Fair, said: “It’s always a joy to work with the Rainbow Trust team - everyone seems fully committed to their work and I am pleased that their charity painting sales went so well this year.”

Emma Haines, director of marketing and fundraising at Rainbow Trust, said: “It’s wonderful that Chelsea Art Fair was such a success this year, raising such an impressive amount of money.

“We want to thank the organisers and all the people who attended and donated to Rainbow Trust.

“We have a care team in central London supporting families across London so this money will really help these families with a seriously ill child receive the vital support we provide.”

Rainbow Trust is a national charity which offers emotional and practical support for the whole family; from their child’s diagnosis, during treatment and, if needed, through bereavement and beyond. It relays almost entirely on voluntary donations and thanks to its generous supporters is able to help almost 2,200 families across the UK.

Ethical students are the business

Students from Latymer Upper School were celebrating coming in first place in recent West London Finals of the Young Enterprise Company of the Year 2017 competition.

The event, held at University of West London (UWL) hosted young entrepreneurs from local schools from four boroughs.

Five teams of pupils showcased their business ideas to a panel of judges, including UWL Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and student experience), Professor Nick Braisby, Senior Lecturers from the Claude Littner Business School, David Mackrory and Sanjiv Sachdev, and the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Dr Patricia Walker. They were competing to progress to the London region finals of the national competition held by Young Enterprise – a enterprise education charity that empowers people aged 15 to 19, by helping them to set up and run their own company.

Judges were impressed by the strong social conscience on display in the entries.

First place was awarded to Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith and Fulham, for their business, Open Books, which promotes social diversity via books for young children and donates 15 per cent of its profits to a refugee charity.

Praising the high standard of work by pupils, Professor Braisby said: “It has been personally inspiring to hear all your stories, how you have overcome your difficulties, maintained your creative motivation and produced products that succeed.

“Our relationship with Young Enterprise is so important because we call ourselves The Career University and we really mean it.

“Every student here develops the skills necessary to take them forward to succeed in the world of work.

“That’s why this event is truly inspiring – it resonates so much with our mission and I wish all the participants continued success.”

Cllr Dr Walker said: “You are motivated and stimulated by ethics, by doing the right thing, by reaching out and using your talents for the benefit of others.

“You are ambitious and you are so talented.”

The winning team advanced to the London region finals, to be held on June 8.

Volunteers needed to help look after Holland Park

Volunteers are required to help out in Holland Park.

Holland Park Conservation volunteers are on the lookout for new members to help with its efforts to improve the park.

The volunteers have been working on creating a new wildlife pond, a major undertaking involving reshaping the pond and replacing the old butyl liner which had become damaged.

Part-funded by the Tesco Bags of Help grant, the project has enhanced the wildlife pond and the land around it with new planting.

The results have been given the seal of approval by the large numbers of frogs, toads, newts and pond skaters which have taken up residence in their fashionable W8 address.

Volunteering provides a great opportunity to meet people, boost skills or even learn something new.

It’s not only the pond that has been helped by volunteers. The park’s wildlife area, woodland and meadow have been enhanced by the planting of native plants.

Volunteers meet every third Saturday of the month.

Holland Park Conservation volunteers and volunteers from local businesses have also got involved in the park and helped with the following:

● turning over the soil of the pond banks and seeding them with wildflowers and pond plants,
● wildflower meadow adjacent to the pond has been turned over, planted with wildflower meadow plugs and seeded
● one of the pond banks has been planted with pond plant plugs
● laying down more than 200 sq metres of woodland meadow turf for the pond island and has been reinstated with 10 species of plant and the moorhens are nesting there
● planted 110 damaged woodland shrubs in areas

Email EcologyCentre@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7938 8186.

Collision death

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and information after an elderly man died following a collision with a cyclist in Chelsea Embankment. Police were called around 6.10pm on November 10, 2016 to Chelsea Embankment at the junction with Chelsea Bridge Road, to reports of a cyclist in collision with a pedestrian.

Officers and the London Ambulance Service attended the location. The 80-year-old male pedestrian, was taken to a South London hospital where he remained in a critical but stable condition for a number of months. He died on April 5, 2017.

The deceased lived alone in Kennington and police are still trying to trace his next of kin. An inquest has opened and adjourned.

The male cyclist stopped at the scene of the collision and is assisting police with their enquiries. There have been no arrests and enquiries continue.

Anyone with any information is asked to call the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 020 8254 5157.

We need you...

The Volunteer Centre’s K&C Ambassadors programme are looking for volunteers to provide a friendly and reassuring presence for tourists throughout Portobello and Golborne markets.

Ambassadors are equipped with local, historical and up to date information and on hand to answer queries regarding the best street food, antiques, vintage clothing, live music and local events!

The programme is completely flexible – especially for those who only have limited availability and for volunteers of all ages on all days.

A positive attitude and ability to use your initiative are the only qualifications required.

Full training is provided and maps and relevant information to hand at all times.

As a member of the K&C Ambassadors team, you will become the face of Kensington and Chelsea. Email volunteer@kckc.org.uk or call 020 8960 3722.

Visit www.voluntarywork.org.uk.

From left, Rainbow Trust representatives with The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Elizabeth Rutherford, at the Chelsea Art Fair

From left, Latymer Upper team with Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Dr Patricia Walker (front row left), and UWL Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and student experience), Professor Nick Braisby (front row right).

Volunteers at the Chelsea Art Fair which was such a success this year, raising such an impressive amount.
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Gridlock after supermarket lorry crashes

A collision between a supermarket delivery lorry and a van caused gridlock across Hammersmith.

The crash on Tuesday morning, on Hammersmith Bridge Road near St Paul’s Church, occurred on the south bound dual carriageway, with the impact happening when the lorry was facing against the traffic.

The road had to be closed, blocking routes south for thousands of cars travelling from Hammersmith Gyratory both southwards along the A4 and across Hammersmith bridge.

Bus travel times were reported to be an hour longer than normal.

No one was seriously hurt in the incident, which took two hours to clear.

Let’s celebrate our diversity

Join Hammersmith and Fulham council as it celebrates the borough’s diversity and takes a stand against racism.

Unity Day, this year on Sunday, June 11, will see marchers gather in Shepherd’s Bush Green before progressing down Goldhawk Road, through Hammersmith and into Ravenscourt Park where a celebration of the borough’s diversity will be held with entertainers and speeches.

Olympian Grey-Thompson helps to create the classrooms of the future

Legendary paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has helped to transform simple classrooms into creative spaces for learning.

She was on hand to help with the launch of the newly-designed classrooms at Kensington Prep School.

Prudence Lynch, head of the leading prep school, said: “Classroom design needs a radical rethink.

“Little has changed in classroom design since the Victorian era – the traditional box-shaped space is limiting young children’s learning.”

The school’s new high-tech ‘Explore Floor’ is an example of new creative spaces for learning the school has developed in an innovative £2.7m Creating Spaces for Growing Minds building project.

The multi-screen imaginative space includes a write-on brainstorming wall with a profile of the Olympic medallist, chosen as an inspirational role-model for the girls aged four-11 years.

The school’s new lifts also mean it is fully disabled access throughout – perfect for wheelchair user Baroness Grey-Thompson’s visit.

Welcome to St Vincent’s House care home

St Vincent’s House is a modern, comfortable, purpose-designed care home in Hammersmith, west London. We provide personalised residential, nursing and respite care for older people, and our dedicated team specialise in supporting individuals living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Care tailored to your loved one

Our ethos at St Vincent’s House is based on person-centred care. When your loved one joins us, we take time to get to know them so that we can develop a care and activity plan that is tailored to their unique needs and interests. We support each resident to stay as independent as possible and to continue making decisions about how to spend their time.

Keep active and have fun

Helping residents stay active and independent is at the heart of everything we do at St Vincent’s House. Our compassionate team will support and actively encourage your loved one to take part in activities that will help them to remain physically and mentally active. You name it, we do it: from baking and cake decorating to a variety of arts and crafts.

For more information please call 0208 108 5429 or email lorelei.shepherd@careuk.com

St Vincent’s House
49 Queen Caroline Street
Hammersmith, London
W6 9QH
careuk.com/st-vincents-house
Appeal as man injured in shop

BY NEWS REPORTER
shuz@slp.co.uk

Detectives in Kensington and Chelsea are appealing for witnesses and information after a man is believed to have been injured at a supermarket. Police were called shortly after 3pm on Sunday to reports of an injured man inside a supermarket in West Cromwell Road, Kensington. Officers and the London Ambulance Service attended and found a man, believed to be in his late 20s, suffering from a wound to his leg. He was taken to a central London hospital where he remains in a critical condition. Following initial enquiries, detectives believe that there was an incident inside the supermarket. Detectives from Kensington and Chelsea CID are investigating. Enquiries continue. Anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information is asked to contact police on 101 or via Twitter @MetCC. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111.

What’s a typical day at St Vincent’s House?

Getting creative

At St Vincent’s House care home we support residents to get the most out of every day. We also believe in sharing our expertise. Join our next free event: Stroke awareness Thursday 18th May 2017, 2pm - 4pm

St Vincent’s House is pleased to welcome Barry Coppock from the Stroke Association, who will be sharing expert advice and guidance on the symptoms of a stroke and stages of recovery, including the resources available.

The event will also include:
• Expert information on recognising signs of a stroke or a mini stroke (TIA)
• A chance to take a closer look at our home and meet our friendly team
• Complimentary refreshments

For more information or to book your free place please call us on 0208 108 5429 or email lorelei.shepherd@careuk.com

St Vincent’s House
49 Queen Caroline Street
Hammersmith, London W6 9QH
careuk.com/st-vincents-house
Sue Domain

So, my youngest son has been sitting his SATs. For those that don’t know they are the 11+ exams to mark the end of their primary school years and to make sure that they have learnt something.

Things like adverbials, conjunctions. Roman numerals and being able to multiply fractions.

All very important to an 11-year-old which they will probably forget by the time they turn 12.

However, I have to say, as an adult, if you want to train your brain then help these kids revise.

I am struggling with what children in primary school are currently learning. It’s mind-blowing.

Is it good/bad? I have no idea. What does irritate and annoy me though, is the fact that education goals keep changing as when a new Government is elected.

Each one decides that what the other Government has done is completely wrong and they want to change it for the sake of changing it. What is the point to that?

Firstly, whoever is elected as the Education Minister needs to have an education background.

They also need to have a group of education professionals from across the UK to tell them what to do and how to do it.

People that know what it’s like to be in a classroom, to teach children, to know what problems exist and how to improve things.

We need to be asking those that know about education to tell the Government how things should be done, and this should be set in stone not for another Government to come along and do a massive overhaul.

This is disastrous for our children’s education and is a waste of money.

Throughout my son’s school years he has been taught how to do long division about four different ways. No wonder there is a massive financial crisis in our schools at the moment. Well, that’s my thinking behind it anyway and my rant over. I’m not into politics, maybe the above is already happening. If not, Mrs May, I hope you are reading this.

However, I would say, these 11+ exam papers might be an idea to help our older generation. Imagine if there was a Minister for the Re-Education of the Older Generation which in turn could help stop dementia.

Let’s say after 70-years-old or when you retire, you had to study for a summer exam that you take on an annual basis, similar to a car MOT.

You download the revision papers, you study them, and you sit the exam. If you pass there is some kind of a bonus or a reward to you.

It could be theatre tickets, a day trip somewhere or vouchers to a shop. It could be anything, but what if it actually worked?

What if by introducing these 11+ exams to the 70-generation really worked to keep people’s brains active and reduced the number of people suffering dementia.

They do say that it’s important to keep your brain active in later years in life.

Technically this would be a huge impact on our society and will reduce costs of healthcare, medication, care.

You could reuse the same papers that the 11+ sit, (believe me they are hard enough.) So, it shouldn’t really cost much, just needs to be marketed well. Frankly I think it’s a brilliant idea.

I would definitely do it and perhaps there are many more people out there that might be thinking the same thing. (Oh! I do hope Mrs May reads the South London Press).

So, I’m not nervous about my son’s exams, but I am extremely nervous that we are, after many years of saying ‘no’, we have at last agreed to get a puppy. But I do have to say that I am so nervous about introducing the small thing into our house and being responsible for him.

Apparently when they are small they are literally just like having a little baby. It will be a lot better though as I won’t have post-natal depression, but that won’t stop me going mad, kind of a different mad though, it won’t be hormonal mad. It will be a kind of “there is poo and wee everywhere in our house?”, things being chewed up, total mess and chaos, that kind of madness.

I have to admit, we have never really been any good at looking after plants in the house and they have normally died because we kind of forgot to water them.

We’re doing alright with the kids though. We seem to be feeding and watering them okay, but a dog, well. I’ve never had a dog, and yes there is an element of fear involved in taking on this huge responsibility.

Then again, the idea is that it will take the boys away from the gadgets and the screens.

It will also be good for them as the oldest is about to turn into a teenager, soon to be followed by the younger one, so perhaps the dog may eliminate some of those teenage problems. Okay, fine so it won’t help get rid of spots but it might stop them becoming moody, moaning, non-communicative teenagers, you would hope.

I do know though that our lives will change enormously, I really hope for the better, but then again we will just have to wait and see. We are picking him up on Sunday and he’s a Labrador called Sparky.

I will let you know how it goes.
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Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and the South London Press have teamed up to find new homes for some of the hundreds of animals at the pet shelter in Battersea Park Road. The charity aims never to turn away a dog or cat in need of help. Lost dogs and cats are reunited with their owners and, where that is not possible, the shelter cares for them until homes can be found.

The rehoming fee is £135 for dogs and £75 for cats. This includes microchipping, initial vaccinations, flea and worming treatment, a collar, identification tag and lead, access to our behaviour advice line. The animal will be neutered and there will also be the option of signing up to four weeks’ free pet insurance, plus a starter pack of food, advice and special offers. A home visit may be required. To find out more call 020 7627 9234, email rehoming@battersea.org.uk or visit www.battersea.org.uk

My dog Barney loves eating human food. I find it hard to resist those puppy dog eyes and often give him titbits from our evening meal. What sort of foods can dogs tolerate, and what should I avoid giving my dog?

Regularly feeding your dog human food can lead to obesity, which can have a huge impact on their health. Overweight pets are more likely to develop problems such as arthritis, diabetes and heart disease. Just like humans, our pets can become overweight when they eat too many calories and don’t do enough exercise, so those extra bits of food at meal times could be adding unnecessary calories to Barney’s diet.

It’s also important to be aware that foods such as onions, chocolate, grapes and raisins are poisonous to dogs, so keep these out of reach. If you’re worried about Barney’s weight, or need some advice to help manage it, I would recommend speaking with your vet.

I have a nine-month-old guinea pig called Dorie. She squeals when I pick her up and I’m not sure why. Is this normal?

Guinea pigs and other small animals can get distressed about being handled, and they can become particularly scared if they’ve not been handled from a young age. Make sure you approach your guinea pig quietly and gently. You could start by taking Dorie small pieces of her favourite food. After a few days, offer Dorie food from your hand for a few days. Follow this up by stroking her just before you give her some food. By gradually building up in this way, you should eventually be able to life her up. Always hold her over a flat surface, as even a small fall can cause serious injury.

My one-year-old whippet, Rex, unrated himself in bed last night and he keeps trying to relieve himself but nothing comes out. He’s been sick once and isn’t acting his usual self. What could be wrong?

This could be a potentially serious problem so I would strongly recommend taking him in to see your vet as soon as possible. These symptoms can be a result of multiple problems including a urinary infection, prostate disease, kidney or bladder problems. All of these diseases will require medical attention so it’s important to take him to the vets as soon as you can.

My dog is an overactive little terrier who can take her out of her paws in no time. She’s also quite fluffy and I’m not sure why. Is this normal?

Guinea pigs and other small animals can get particularly excited about being handled, and will often loudly express their affection when being stroked, purring and showing affection. While all little shy on first introductions, Matty adores attention and will head butt your hand when he wants to be stroked, purring away as he rolls over to show off his belly.

Pringle is ready to mingle with a new family who have the energy to keep up with him. This youngster loves to play and has the skills of an acrobat when leaping around to catch one of his favourite toys. Pringle is a confident lad who will make a great addition for first-time cat owners.

Roxi is a whirlwind of energy and is looking for active owners who can take her out for fun outings and adventures. She is a busy girl who likes to be kept entertained by toys and games when at home, and will need a large, secure garden.

Sally is a lovely lady who is quite small for her breed but makes up for it with a big personality. She is very affectionate with people and always happy to say hello. Sally also loves to show off her speed with a quick dash around a large garden before curling up for a cozy snooze.

Adopt a pet

Ellie

Age: 1 year 4 months
Breed: Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Sex: Female
Reference: 354437

Elle is a stunning young girl who is affectionate, gentle and playful. She has some nice manners already in place, but is looking for owners who are willing to teach her a trick or two more. Eager to please and highly motivated by a tasty treat, Elle is sure to make an excellent student.

Lexi

Age: 4 years 1 month
Breed: Jack Russell Terrier
Sex: Female
Reference: 356526

Pretty terrier Lexi is a nervous girl desperately seeking a loving family to help build her confidence and allow her affectionate personality to blossom. With a cozy home and a garden to exert her bursts of energy in, she’ll find her paws in no time. Lexi also enjoys her own company.

Matty

Age: 9 months
Breed: Domestic Short-hair
Sex: Male
Reference: 356941

Matty is a gorgeous ginger boy who has lots of love to give to his new owners. While a little shy on first introductions, Matty adores attention and will head butt your hand when he wants to be stroked, purring away as he rolls over to show off his belly.

Pringle

Age: 9 months
Breed: Domestic Short-hair
Sex: Male
Reference: 356893

Pringle is ready to mingle with a new family who have the energy to keep up with him. This youngster loves to play and has the skills of an acrobat when leaping around to catch one of his favourite toys. Pringle is a confident lad who will make a great addition for first-time cat owners.

Roxi

Age: 5 years 4 months
Breed: Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Sex: Female
Reference: 355390

Roxi is a whirlwind of energy and is looking for active owners who can take her out for fun outings and adventures. She is a busy girl who likes to be kept entertained by toys and games when at home, and will need a large, secure garden.

Sally

Age: 3 years
Breed: Greyhound
Sex: Female
Reference: 356664

Sally is a lovely lady who is quite small for her breed but makes up for it with a big personality. She is very affectionate with people and always happy to say hello. Sally also loves to show off her speed with a quick dash around a large garden before curling up for a cozy snooze.

Battersea’s Ali is named animal charity employee of year

Animal charity employee Ali Taylor of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home has been awarded the title of Animal Charity Employee of the Year in the Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Awards 2017.

Held on April 26 in a ceremony at Birmingham’s Hilton Metropole, the awards celebrate the amazing work done by animal charities and not-for-profit organisations across the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands, and the remarkable charity teams, volunteers and employees that go above and beyond in their mission to improve the welfare of vulnerable animals.

Particularly impressive for the independent panel of judges was Ali’s unsung devotion to the dogs under her care. Boasting an impressive 25 years at the charity, Ali has personally fostered more than 700 Battersea dogs and creates a unique care programme for each dog at the home, tailored to their individual needs.

This level of dedication is evident even outside of her role at Battersea, with Ali, pictured above, making time to provide a bereavement counselling service to those who have lost dogs, offering much-valued support to those in need.

On receiving her award, Ali said: “For the first time in my life I was speechless. When they announced me as the winner I think I froze for about five minutes. I was totally dumbfounded. Seeing all the amazing finalists has truly been an honour, it’s amazing just to be surrounded by people who love animals.”

Petplan’s head of marketing, Isabella von Mederhazy, said: “It’s a pleasure to announce our deserving animal charity winners this year, with the calibre of finalists for the awards extremely high. Each and every one of the individuals and teams nominated are unfailingly committed to animal welfare and we’re thrilled to take this opportunity to shine a light on their continued hard work.”

For further information, and to view a full list of finalists, please visit petplan.co.uk/charityawards.
More than half of the UK’s cats – 56 per cent – spend most of their time indoors. The suggestion is that 45 per cent don’t go outside because they hate the cold.

Figures reveal 48 per cent of cats don’t come inside when they are called but almost a third could be tempted by a treat.

The survey, carried out by Vets4Pets, found when cats do venture outside, almost six out of 10 never or rarely catch or kill any wildlife, while 12 per cent spend their time sleeping the day away.

Dr Huw Stacey, vet and director of clinical services at Vets4Pets, said the results of the survey demonstrated that owners look at their cat’s lifestyle, in particular the indoors versus outdoors dilemma.

He said: “Domestication of cats began approximately 13 million years ago, and their lives are continually changing.

“Indoor living in today’s society affords a high level of comfort for many cats, and owners often see keeping cats indoors as keeping them safe.

“While preventing cats from the obvious risks outside of traffic, fights with other cats and parasites, the indoor life does pose some problems for our feline friends.

“Frustration, boredom and health problems including obesity and diabetes are often associated with indoor cats.

“But, according to the survey, most owners needn’t worry about letting their cat outside, as the average cat tends to stay close to their home, not straying further than their own back garden or their neighbour’s.

“Interestingly, 18 per cent of owners have no idea what their moggies get up to day-to-day, and one in 10 cat owners think their pet has used up seven or more of their supposed nine lives.”

Sam Taylor, a cat expert from International Cat Care, said: “The survey reveals people spend time thinking about their cat’s welfare, which is obviously good news.

“It’s worth remembering that cat litter was only introduced in the 1950s, so all cats spent time outdoors, even if just to go to relieve themselves.

“And litter trays marked another shift in the gradual changing in the cat’s status, from vermin catcher to companion.

“But cats still retain the skills that made them excellent hunters, such as sharp eyesight, hearing and sense of smell, and these need to be stimulated regularly to keep cats healthy and happy.

“Cats, just like humans, have different personalities and different lifestyles suit different cats.

“Understanding a cat’s personality can help enormously in providing the right lifestyle for them, including how much time they spend inside and outside of the home.”

Many owners, whose cats have been outside during the day have a unique cat-call to bring their cats back to base as night-falls.

However this isn’t always enough as almost half simply ignore their owner’s requests.

But there’s no fooling these cunning creatures, 31 per cent are more than happy to play ball, if there’s a treat at stake. With a little simple training, cats can be trained to come when called.

Vets have developed an online guide to give cat owners help and advice on providing the best home for their pet. Go to www.vets4pets.com/cat-lifestyles.
It's the most popular time of year for decorating and renovating your home, and according to NHBC, the UK's leading warranty and insurance provider for new homes, it is also a good time for planting trees and shrubs ready for those lazy days in the garden enjoying a bit of alfresco dining.

Planting trees and shrubs creates a more attractive garden, and is a great way to fill a gap, provide privacy, and screen sights and sounds from next door.

But before you get carried away, remember that roots often extend to distances in excess of the height of the tree and they can take moisture from the soil. So before you start planting, or drastically cutting back the greenery in your garden, here are some of NHBC's practical tips on planting trees and shrubs near your home to help reduce the risk of potential damage:

If the soil is clay, new planting may cause it to shrink, while root growth may shrink, while root growth may cause it to swell. So plant new trees away from your home. Find out how tall the mature tree will be and make sure it is positioned at least three quarters of this distance from the house. High water demand trees should be planted no closer to the home than one-and-a-quarter times the mature height. These include elm, eucalyptus, oak, poplar, willow and some common cypress species.

Avoid planting climbers such as ivy and Virginia creeper against house walls, as they hold on using suckers, twining tendrils or aerial roots which could damage mortar and may cause damp. Plant these at least three meters from your home.

Before cutting down or pruning a mature tree, check with your local authority to make sure that it is not protected by planning conditions, conservation area restrictions or a Tree Preservation Order. Allow enough room for trunks and large roots to grow safely. Be particularly careful if planting near drains or lightweight structures.

Although you do not need to, when planting new trees in your garden that will also be near your neighbour’s house, be considerate and ask your neighbour if this is okay. You could be liable for the cost of repair if the trees you plant cause damage to their home.

Regular pruning of fast growing, thirsty trees such as leylandii will help to reduce the amount of water taken from the soil.

The level of soil around your home should be kept below the damp proof course, except where these have been designed to provide level access into the home. If you are not sure where the damp proof course is, ask the builder to show you.

Where air bricks, permanent ventilators or perforated vents are provided, they should not be blocked or covered by soil or paving. And last of all, although the UK is fortunate to have plenty of rain, do ensure trees and shrubs are watered sufficiently to give them a good start in life especially those that may be sheltered by other structures.

Further advice can be found in NHBC’s publication, A Guide to your new home available at www.nhbc.co.uk/homeowners.

Orchestrate Design and Build, based in Clapham, has scooped a prestigious Master Builder Award, taking the prize for best Heritage project in the Federation of Master Builders’ (FMB) London region for its creative conversion of the iconic Britannia Row Studios in Fulham. The conversion was judged to be both historically sympathetic and forward-looking in terms of the chic interior design.
Casting has been announced for the UK premiere of Hir, written by Taylor Mac and directed by Nadia Fall. Mac’s previous work includes A 24-Decade History of Popular Music and Fall was director of Disgraced.

Doctor Who star Arthur Darvill plays Isaac. Griffyn Gilligan will play younger sibling Max, Ashley McGuire is playing their mother Paige and Andy Williams plays her husband Arnold.

After winning acclaim in New York, this play by one of America’s most dynamic and distinctive voices comes to London in a new production.

Pulitzer Prize finalist Taylor Mac is a multi-award-winning writer and performance artist at the forefront of alternative responses to American culture. Author of seventeen full-length plays, Mac won rave reviews for the extraordinary 24-hour-long A 24-Decade History of Popular Music, which reframed and re-enacted 240 years of US history.

In Hir, Mac tears apart the kitchen sink genre by challenging gender expectations and subverting all notions of the typical American family.

“Stop behaving like a man!” “We are men.”

The word ‘hir’ is an unofficial gender-neutral pronoun designed to be used instead of him and her, or his and her.

Isaac returns from serving in the marines to find war has broken out back home. Fed up with her broken American Dream, mom Paige has stopped washing, cleaning and caring for their ailing father.

Once the breadwinner, dad Arnold has suffered a stroke and toppled from the head of the household to a mere puppet in the new regime.

Ally to their mother is Isaac’s sibling Max.

Only last time Isaac checked, Max was Maxine.

In Central Valley, in a cheap house made of plywood and glue, notions of masculinity and femininity become weapons with which to defeat the old order.

But in Taylor Mac’s sly, subversive comedy, annihilating the past doesn’t always free you from it.

Hir, Bush Theatre, Ubridge Road Shepherd’s Bush, W12 8LJ, 020 8743 5050.

15 June to 22 July.

www.bushtheatre.co.uk.
Angels in America is running at the National Theatre until August 19. You can find further details at www.nationaltheatre.org.uk.

TUESDAY MAY 16 2017

Binge-watching box sets is the way many of us now watch television programmes, but does the ritual of chopping up a story into 45-minute episodes translate when it comes to a stage production?

Having more than two acts isn’t a new thing in theatre, but there seems to be a trend towards expecting audiences to commit to spending whole days in an auditorium, with Harry Potter and the Cursed Child packing them in, and now the National Theatre’s posterior tingling eight-hour marathon production of Angels in America.

The question is: does Tony Kushner’s epic two-part gay fantasia warrant such an astoundingly long amount of viewing time? The answer is, in the most part, yes. Yous ee, it’s all to do with character development. Like the pilot episode of an new Netflix series, you have to invest in the introduction to the tale before you can fully immerse yourself in the glorious elaboration, and with Angels in America, you must first get past the fact that most of the leading characters aren’t very likeable.

It’s 1985 and Roy Cohn (Nathan Lane) is a powerful and cut-throat city lawyer in a time when the aids epidemic is at its height. Admitting that he is a homosexual is the path to career suicide, so he denies his sexuality.

He’s not the only one either, with Mormon Joe Pitt (Russell Tovey) and his wife Harper (Denise Gough) struggling to come to terms with the truth behind their troubled marriage, and the neurotic Louis (James McArdle) failing to commit to his relationship following his partner’s deadly diagnosis.

It’s a complicated and yet powerful story, which for the most part, sucks you in with some truly masterful performances from the all-star cast, and keeps you on the edge of your seat for sizeable portions of the theatrical slog.

Part one (Millennium Approaches) is much stronger than part two (Perestroika), mostly because it sticks to the reality rather than the fantastical, so the plot whips along. The inexplicable introduction of angels into the action during the second installment, which I can only assume is to highlight our own mortality, does feel like a needless tangent.

There are stand-out performances from Russell Tovey and Nathan Lane, with both capturing the torrent of hiding your true being, while Andrew Garfield does a great Norma Desmond impression as Prior Walter – all diva and dazzle – even when he is facing his untimely demise.

Although excellent, Denise Gough’s character is just a bit too incidental and James McArdle gets somewhat weighed down by Louis’ heavy dialogue at times.

Ian MacNeil’s design is hugely impressive, and the sound by Ian Dickinson creates a perfect inter-dimensional feel with grand brass interludes mixed with eerie elevator music.

Watching both parts in one day is a bit mind blowing and I think those who are spreading it over two nights will get a far better experience, by having a break from the intensity. This is a theatrical box set well worth watching however, with important political themes, which easily translate to our modern socio-economic climate and is a lesson in performance from some real greats.

Angels in America is running at the National Theatre until August 19. You can find further details at www.nationaltheatre.org.uk.
I remember on one summer holiday in Devon my dad jumping up excitedly while watching the weather forecast on TV and shouting ‘fried eggs, fried eggs.’ It was not his breakfast order but his joy that decided soggy start to our annual pilgrimage to the West Country was about to turn into glorious sunshine – and so it did. It was one of those moments you never forget – ‘fried eggs’ was his interpretation of sun symbols on the weather chart – and it was while eating at Goode & Wright in the iconic Portobello Road in Notting Hill with my partner Fiona on a warmish spring evening, that another memorable moment started to unfold.

As the evening wore on and the lights started to illuminate the famous market street, I realized that the good was eating was pretty damn good.

No, in fact it was turning out to be pretty damn memorable.

Goode & Wright is something of an institution and the name was inspired by a former school uniform outfitter from 1928 who serviced the adjacent Portobello School. Tipping their hats to the industrious Mr Goode and Mr Wright, the restaurant has retained the original signage’s colours and typography. The intimate bistro and wine bar has recently undergone some changes with a new management and food team takeover, with chef owners Oren Goldfeld and Gabriel Muñuz Rodriguez at the helm.

The intimate narrow restaurant comes with plump, inviting cushions scattered on leather banquettes, and wood paneled walls broken up by interesting artefacts and subtle, well positioned standout lighting.

There is a global influence to the new menu, which makes a slight departure from traditional French fare, with imaginatively presented bold, edgy dishes served as both small and large tapas-style sharing plates.

Things started promisingly with ‘nibbles’ of well delivered light and flavorsome crispy prawn, filled with basil (£8.50) and tangy sun-dried tomato pesto with an interesting selection of crunchy crudites (£5).

However, this was just the warm-up act for the exemplary dishes that followed, starting with crispy brie (£7), which just oozed out on to the plate, elevated by some delightful dollops of tomato vanilla jam.

Aubergine with chimichurri, romesco and migas (£7.50) was a sensational marriage of smoky flavours and textures perfectly matched by hints of heat that kept on giving to the taste buds.

Next came lovingly cooked grilled octopus (£10.50), which hardly needed accompaniments including harissa yoghurt and chickpeas, and was only a squeeze of lemon away from pure perfection.

This was top quality cooking and it did not let up with soft thin tender rare slices of melt in the mouth onglet steak (£9.50) with portobello mushroom and a stonking four day in the making addictive and bold café de Paris sauce.

I was left licking my lips while Fiona declared the crunchy sweet potato fries (£4) “the best ever”.

Deserts continued along the same inventive theme with marmite and chocolate Guinness cake (£5.50) tempered by black sesame ice cream a pleasant shock to the palette and scoops of black sesame and pistachio (£4) ice cream hitting the mark.

A carefully curated choice of wines, with a good selection by the glass, and warm friendly service adds to what was a memorable dining experience and yes I will be going back for more, and very soon.
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Contact Streettrading@southwark.gov.uk or call 0207 525 6000 for further details about this offer.
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020 7228 2660
www.donna-margherita.com
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SCHOOL KEEPER’S ASSISTANTS

We are looking to recruit two School Keeper’s Assistants to assist with the maintenance of the School’s premises, as well as general porterage & minibus driving duties.

Applicants must possess an aptitude for handyman tasks. They will ideally be qualified minibus drivers & must be able to demonstrate experience carrying out basic maintenance & repairs.

The roles require a commitment to high standards of work and a ‘can do’ attitude to all tasks, as well as a willingness to work outdoors in all weathers.

To find out more information about the roles and the application process, please visit our website at www.dulwichpreplondon.org/job-vacancies or contact Tamsin Hutson, HR Manager, on 020 8766 5526.

Closing Date: Thursday 25th May at 5pm

Dulwich Prep London is an Equal Opportunities employer and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the DBS.

Registered Charity No 312715.
I give notice that applications have been made to HAMMERSMITH & Fulham COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

- **19 And 19A Grimston Road London SW6 3TQ 2017/01800/VAR**
  - Planning permission for the alteration of a maisonette in the basement for the following uses; conversion of 2no. two bedroom apartments with their use as a roof terrace.

- **23 Chiddingstone Street London W6 7JX 2017/00975/TRES**
  - Erection of a rear extension at second floor level to the rear elevation of the existing townhouse to allow installation of new windows to the rear.

- **28 Shepherds Bush Green London W12 0NF 2017/01390/FUL**
  - Erection of a first floor rear extension to the rear elevation.

- **30 West End Lane London SW1 0QX 2017/01209/ADV**
  - Conversion of an existing basement to a residential flat.

- **57 Gunterstone Road London W6 7EA 2017/01779/FUL**
  - Erection of an external illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **65 Fulham Road London SW6 1BL 2017/01256/ADV**
  - Installation of an internal illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **84 - 86 Fulham Road London SW10 9RP 2017/01252/ADV**
  - Installation of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **100 Hurlingham Boulevard London SW6 1NA 2017/01281/TRES**
  - Installation of an internal illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

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  - Installation of an internal illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **146 Latimer Road London W8 6DR 2017/01054/TEL56**
  - Installation of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **232 Kerim Road London W6 0QY 2017/01143/ADV**
  - Installation of an internal illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

- **232 Kerim Road London W6 0QY 2017/01143/ADV**
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- **234 Goldhawk Road London W12 0QY 2017/01169/ADV**
  - Installation of an internally illuminated digital advertisement panel with a telephone to replace the existing telephone kiosk.

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Champions Chelsea celebrate!

BY PAUL LAGAN
paul.lagan@slp.co.uk

Champions Chelsea will be focusing hard to win the Champions League next season according to Cesc Fabregas, who has revealed he won’t be looking forward to facing his former side Arsenal in the FA Cup final at the end of the month.

“Having secured the title by winning 1-0 at WBA on Friday, the Blues celebrated last night in a home match against Watford.

LWN Sport went to press before the result was known, but nothing to do at stalemate and players simply revelled in the occasion.

Chelsea face relegated Sunderland on Sunday in the final league game of the season where departing John Terry and Gary Cahill, his able deputy, will take possession of the trophy and they and the players will receive their medals.

Fabregas, 30, who is expected to leave Stamford Bridge in the summer, could not contain his delight at winning the league for the second time in three years.

“It feels great,” he said.

“There’s something about winning this trophy from the other ones that I was very lucky to win at Barcelona, probably the biggest things in football, but winning the Premier League trophy is something special, it gives you a special feeling.

“Having played in Spain, watching a lot of football as I do, Germany, France and Italy. This is the best league in the world. Maybe not the best players in the world, but it’s the most competitive and most difficult league to win, for sure.

“Anyone can beat you. That’s the thing. I’ve played in Spain, there was many games where you had to do really, really bad to drop points.

“Here, every game is tough and that’s why next year we will have to be at the top of our game to compete again for the Premier League.

“So will the Blues challenge for the big cup next season?”

“We definitely feel we can do something in the Champions League,” said the Spaniard midfielder.

“It will be a big target for us. The English teams are struggling. You will see that six teams can win the league easily. Any of them can do it.”

“Then some of them will play Europa League, Champions League. Then on top of that you have the League Cup. The FA Cup. Other leagues don’t have these extra games, extra trophies and extra difficult games.

“You go to Burnley and it’s difficult. In Special this year, other places, relegation teams and it’s not as difficult. It will be very tough to compete but we feel we can be strong next season, not just in the Premier League but the Champions League as well.

“To do that Fabregas expects new faces at SW6.

“If I’m sure we will strengthen our team. We’ve won. But that doesn’t mean that the team cannot get better. “Every team, even if they win, they will try to improve and I’m sure that Chelsea will try to do that.”

“So what has Antonio Conte done to turn a team who finished 10th last season into champions?”

“He made a big impact, a good influence. He is a winner,” said Fabregas.

“He has made such a good impact. When he sees something not going well, he tries to change it, sometimes at the beginning we saw many changes, maybe some of us are not used to it. But we know now exactly what he wants from us. We also had a lot of time in between weeks to prepare well, to train well and maybe next season we won’t have as much time.

“But at least this season has prepared us well for what will happen next season.”

Fabregas was out of the side early in the season but has had a serious impact in the second half. Does he feel the same?

“Probably. Probably, to be honest. I feel in great shape,” he said.

“I have been feeling like that since early December, let’s say. But at the beginning it was frustrating and if you don’t get into the team then you don’t really know what’s happening or what will happen.

“But through hard work and belief, I made it happen. I’ve worked hard to get back into the team and I feel I’m getting the rewards now and have made it happen.”

With Sunderland out of the way next week, it’s all steam ahead for the FA Cup final against Arsenal on May 27.

“Yes, it will be emotional,” he confessed. “It’s not as if I like to play against Arsenal because they are a club which is in my heart and they will always be.

“But this is football and this is what we have to do, it can happen and hopefully we can win the double.

“That would be a fantastic season for Chelsea and for us.

“I have to put those feelings aside. You have to be professional. Of course it means a lot to me, it’s not an ordinary game for me.

“It will be a tough game. I watch Arsenal, they are playing well, they are playing a different system and maybe they are not performing fantastic in this system.

“But they are defensively better. They are winning and that’s important for them. Their belief is higher.

“But our belief is high, hopefully we can hurt them in the way we want.

“What would winning the league and FA Cup double mean?”

“I imagine that. It would be fantastic,” he said.

“It would be fantastic for the players. It would be fantastic for the manager. To do it in the first season after the problems we faced.

“We started with a system, then we changed, it started well, then it didn’t go well. Then we had to adapt to another kind of system with 5-4-1, 3-4-5, it depends on the time of the game.

“We have worked hard, we’ve worked hard to improve but I still think we can do better and so hopefully by the end of the season we will prepare well for the FA Cup final and rest well for next season.”

Number one jersey is up for grabs said goalkeeping coach

Boss Jokanovic: Reading playing to the legal limit

Fulham have been warned to expect more of the tough stuff in tonight’s second leg play-off at the Madejski Stadium.

Boss Slavisa Jokanovic believes Reading played to the very limit of the law in adopting the aggressive approach which characterised Saturday’s first leg.

The Whites were thrown out of their normally silky stride during a full-blooded first leg at the Madejski, with the visitors maintaining a physical and high-tempo game-plan throughout.

The Royals had skipper Paul McShane sent off for the sort of robust challenge on Kevin McDonald which typified their no-nonsense approach, but with a 1-1 draw which makes them slight favourites for the return clash this evening.

Fulham will be hoping Reading prove less obsessed with physicality tonight but Jokanovic has assured his players you are playing at home that you are automatically going to be winning the game.

Jokanovic said: “They put out a very physical team – playing to the limit of the legal situation.

“They came into the game with a plan and we worked for them for a while. Then we found a way to score a goal and I believe we played better from then on.

“Both managers agree the tie is still finely balanced and that both teams will have to determine the outcome, as both sides strive for a Wembley showdown against either Wednesday or Huddersfield in the Championship final.

“I didn’t expect we were going to win 5-4, like this when we played them in December,” said Jokanovic, referring to the league clash between the sides in west London earlier in the season.

“We must be strong and push hard. But we are always confident. We have shown clear progress this season. I believe my players are strong enough with enough quality and enough confidence to win the game.

“Fulham were here to eke out a precious first-leg lead, but never really got going in the face of McShane’s refusal to get involved in a beauty contest. In the end, they were just too good to catch out Jordan Obita’s 53rd minute strike with Tom Cairney’s close-range header after 66 minutes. It is still all to play for.”

Send in your sports news and pictures to paul.lagan@slp.co.uk