NEVER AGAIN
14.06.17
GRENFELL TOWER
A few weeks ago if you said “Kensington” what came to mind might be leafy garden squares with elegant colonnaded terraced houses, estate agents displaying extra-wide cards to accommodate all the noughts, paper-thin housewives, crocodiles of absurdly uniformed prep school kids, Middle Eastern princelets gunning gold Lamborghinis, or maybe Notting Hill, Lambeth or the upper east side tower blocks suddenly stopped and the tenements and projects of Spanish Harlem began. The contrast was sharp and obvious. For decades, in Kensington, the zone between the wealthy south and the poor north was an exciting cross-over area stretching from Notting Hill Gate to the Westway. Gentrifying young bankers looking for a San Francisco Barrio experience proliferated the area once the domain of poverty-exploiting slum landlords. But the money won and slowly the less well off in the borough got bought out, moved away and squeezed north of the Westway or in the case of Latimer Road, council estates. Kensington’s DMZ is just a street wide in many areas now.

All this is true. And the tragedy of Grenfell Tower was no doubt affected by these terrible inequalities. But there is a danger in memes, and symbols, and ideologies, that the individuals get lost. Sometimes it seems the irony is too great and we forget the actual cost. There is a case of Latimer Road, council estates. All this is true. And the tragedy of Grenfell Tower was no doubt affected by these terrible inequalities. But there is a danger in memes, and symbols, and ideologies, that the individuals get lost. Sometimes it seems the irony is too great and we forget the actual cost.

The clarity of the symbolism was so great, it seems, few seemed to be able to put the big picture down and see the little pictures. Clearly some media outlets preferred to stay away from the personal stories of victims because so many wore hijabs and were everything they see as wrong with the country, others may have been disappointed by some survivors’ lack of articulacy, English not being a first language. But the meme of the poor being burned by the wealthy was just too overwhelming.

This country does have a terrible chasm between haves and have nots and Kensington does represent a particularly extreme delineation. When I briefly lived in New York in the 80s 96th St on the East Side was known as the DMZ, the Demilitarised Zone, where the luxurious upper east side tower blocks suddenly stopped and the tenements and projects of Spanish Harlem began. The contrast was sharp and obvious. For decades, in Kensington, the zone between the wealthy south and the poor north was an exciting cross-over area stretching from Notting Hill Gate to the Westway. Gentrifying young bankers looking for a San Francisco Barrio experience proliferated the area once the domain of poverty-exploiting slum landlords. But the money won and slowly the less well off in the borough got bought out, moved away and squeezed north of the Westway or in the case of Latimer Road, council estates. Kensington’s DMZ is just a street wide in many areas now.

All this is true. And the tragedy of Grenfell Tower was no doubt affected by these terrible inequalities. But there is a danger in memes, and symbols, and ideologies, that the individuals get lost. Sometimes it seems the irony is too great and we forget the actual cost. There is a problem in starting so hard at the message that you fail to see the messenger, dirty, worn out, hard-pressed, hungry, yearning to breathe free.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUMMER INTERNSHIP (PAID COMMISSION)

Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today is one of the leading monthly newspapers in London.

We are offering a 3 month internship to a Business Development Graduate looking to build their portfolio over the summer months; start July 2017. This is a unique opportunity to work closely with a highly qualified and dynamic team. The role is designed to prepare the right candidate for a career in Journalism and an opportunity to get hands-on experience with sales and marketing, build client relationships and develop writing skills.

An extension may be offered based on performance. Send CV and letter to:

Dr Emma Treheane
Acting Editor and Director of Business Development

KCW TODAY, 80-100 GWYNNE ROAD, LONDON, SW11 3UW
T: 020 7738 2348 M: 0771 591 0665
E: EMMA@KCWTODAY.CO.UK
WWW.KCWTODAY.CO.UK
Battersea affordable homes

Battersea Power Station Development Company has announced their intentions to reduce 250 affordable homes from previous plans, undergoing a 40% reduction in numbers of affordable flats available.

Originally, 636 homes were reserved for first time-buyers and renters unable to afford the 4,239 luxury homes on the power station site, which promised local residents a 40% discount on the average market rent.

The Malaysian-backed development company now fears the entire project may become financially unviable, if it continues to stick to the 2011 promise to include so many affordable homes.

The company now wants to offer 386 affordable homes: the equivalent of nine per cent of the total figure. The remaining 250 homes would only be provided following an “end of scheme review”, a complex financial assessment of the profits the development company will make.

A Battersea Power Station spokeswoman said it was due to, “technical issues around renovating the Grade II building and the weakening pound have pushed building costs up on the site... the company is hopeful that the 250 homes will be provided later in the project.”

Still, the decision was met with immediate disapproval by London Mayor Sadiq Khan. He was quick to comment, “If we are serious about tackling London’s housing crisis, we need all councils in London to be pushing in the same direction. This decision has let Londoners down.”

Mr. Khan, however, has no power to stop the decision, as it falls under an amendment to planning permission granted by former Mayor Boris Johnson, for the £9bn flagship development project south of the river. Mr. Khan urged Wandsworth planning committee to reconsider.

Affordable homes currently built in London are provided under a Section 106 Agreements: a legal accord between local authorities and developers, containing a planning obligation to enable restrictions on the use of the land or the operation of the development or to make contributions toward the local infrastructure and facilities.

Wandsworth’s planning committee chairman, Richard Field said: “The committee had a very difficult choice between accepting a potentially lower number of affordable homes, or refusing the application and risk losing all of them.”

This development also directly funds the [Northern Line] Tube extension which is bringing 25,000 jobs to Battersea.

To compensate for the overall reduction, the developer said it would build the 386 affordable flats three years earlier than previously planned, which means residents of the flats will receive their keys by 2020.

Head of Policy and Communications at PricedOut, a campaign for affordable house prices said, “Just because there is a stall in house price inflation does not mean that developers should be allowed to scale back the affordable negotiated during planning.”

Generation Rent

Fourteen per cent of tenants are spending more than half of their income on rent

One in seven private renters are spending more than half of their income on rent, according to new figures released by the Local Government Association (LGA).

The LGA has warned the lack of affordable housing will cause a generation to be stuck in a “rental logjam” as many are unable to save up enough money for a deposit to buy a home. The average deposit now amounts to 71 per cent of a first-time buyer’s annual income. Local leaders are calling for the government to enable the building of a new wave of rented homes which are actually affordable for families and which will mount to no more than a third of the total household incomes.

LGA published a study on July 3rd revealing that 43 per cent of private renters spend more than 30 per cent of their income on rent: The same percentage of those renting from a Housing Association. 37 per cent of those renting from a local authority are also spending the same proportion on rent. Lastly, the private rents currency average at £852 across the country, with rents which are defined as ‘affordable’ ranging up to 80 per cent of market rates, at an average of £545 per household.

This will result in making it far more difficult for younger people to save a deposit to buy their first house. Previous LGA research revealed under 25s today are now half as likely to buy a home as they were 20 years ago.

Deposits in the South East are 85 per cent of the average household income, whereas in the North West they average 55 per cent, whilst deposits reach the highest national price in London, at 133 per cent of a household’s yearly income.

LGA Housing Spokesman, Cllr Judith Blake stated, “When one in seven private renters are spending half of their income on rent, it’s no wonder we have a rental logjam, with a shortage of homes with genuinely affordable rents, and young people struggling to have enough income left over to save for a deposit.

Only an increase of all types of housing, including those for affordable or social rent, will solve our housing shortage and a renaissance in house building by councils is ultimately needed if we are to boost affordability.”

Number of families made homeless rises by 17%

The number of families finding themselves homeless over the past year has risen by nearly a fifth from five years ago, official data shows.

Government figures show 59,090 households were accepted as homeless by councils across England between April 2016 and March 2017. This is 17% higher than the number made homeless in the year 2011-12.

The Department for Communities and Local Government says it is investing £50m to 2020 to tackle the issue. But the figures, just published, also show nearly 200,000 people are at risk of homelessness and have sought help through their local authority.

Homelessness and housing charity Shelter said the fire tragedy at Grenfell Tower had put the issue of homelessness into the spotlight. Its director of...
communications, Anne Baxendale, said: “While Shelter is calling for those affected to be placed in good quality temporary accommodation nearby, and [we] hope officials make good on their promise to do so, we know many local authorities simply don’t have enough affordable accommodation for those on low incomes.

“It’s a similar story across all London Boroughs and the country more widely, so it’s no surprise that today’s homelessness stats reveal the problem is getting worse nationally, with more households becoming homeless every year.”

The charity highlighted that a quarter of households staying in temporary accommodation had been doing so for more than a year. While 1,290 families were spending more than the six-week legal limit living in bed and breakfast accommodation.

A Department for Communities and Local Government spokesman said: “This government is determined to help the most vulnerable in society, and is committed to ensuring people always have a roof over their heads.

“Statutory homelessness acceptances are less than half the 2003 peak. However, the government is committed to do more to prevent more people becoming homeless in the first place.”

London Hospices Choir whose song The Living Years was the top selling charity single in the Christmas Number 1 race.

A digitally-savvy Chair, Derek has championed the adoption of digital technology across the hospice. Last year, he facilitated Trinity’s partnership with the Royal College of Art and Harvard University which led to the award-winning digital design project, ‘Normalising Death’. His passion for digital technology has also seen Trinity launch a new website, an online retail boutique as well as initiate pilots into how digital technology can help people live and die better.

Derek said “It has been a privilege and a joy to be the Chair of Royal Trinity Hospice over the last six years. I have tried my best to create a warm friendly atmosphere in all that I have done. I have been helped hugely by a great bunch of Trustees and a talented and enthusiastic senior management team. Trinity will always have a special place in my heart.”

Royal Trinity Hospice has appointed Adrian Williams as its new Chair. Adrian has been a Trustee since June 2014. Since retiring from the City Adrian has sat on the boards of several companies and non-profit organisations in the UK and overseas.

Statutory homelessness acceptances are less than half the 2003 peak. However, the government is committed to do more to prevent more people becoming homeless in the first place.”

Royal Trinity Hospice says goodbye to Derek Wyatt

Derek Wyatt, The Chair of Trustees of local charity Royal Trinity Hospice is set to retire after six years in the post. During his tenure, Derek has raised Trinity’s profile by securing Trinity’s Royal name, initiating the William Hoare annual lecture series and most recently originating the idea for the

London Hospices Choir whose song The Living Years was the top selling charity single in the Christmas Number 1 race.

A digitally-savvy Chair, Derek has championed the adoption of digital technology across the hospice. Last year, he facilitated Trinity’s partnership with the Royal College of Art and Harvard University which led to the award-winning digital design project, ‘Normalising Death’. His passion for digital technology has also seen Trinity launch a new website, an online retail boutique as well as initiate pilots into how digital technology can help people live and die better.

Derek said “It has been a privilege and a joy to be the Chair of Royal Trinity Hospice over the last six years. I have tried my best to create a warm friendly atmosphere in all that I have done. I have been helped hugely by a great bunch of Trustees and a talented and enthusiastic senior management team. Trinity will always have a special place in my heart.”

Royal Trinity Hospice has appointed Adrian Williams as its new Chair. Adrian has been a Trustee since June 2014. Since retiring from the City Adrian has sat on the boards of several companies and non-profit organisations in the UK and overseas.

Royal Trinity Hospice says goodbye to Derek Wyatt

Derek Wyatt, The Chair of Trustees of local charity Royal Trinity Hospice is set to retire after six years in the post. During his tenure, Derek has raised Trinity’s profile by securing Trinity’s Royal name, initiating the William Hoare annual lecture series and most recently originating the idea for the

The Royal College of Midwives’ director for policy, employment relations and communication, Jon Skewes said, “The incredible pressures midwives are under due to increasing demands on services are a factor here. This combined with years of pay freezes and pay restraints has left our health professionals demoralised and disillusioned.”

More nurses and midwives are leaving the NHS than joining

More midwives and nurses are leaving their jobs in the UK than joining for the first time on record, with figures having risen 51 per cent in just four years, according to figures released on 3 July by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Originally, concerns focused around the large drop in EU registrants in the wake of Brexit. Still NMC figures show that it is the departure of UK nurses that is having the biggest impact, as they make up the 85 per cent of the register.

In 2016/17, 29,434 UK nurses and midwives left, compared to 19,818 in 2012/13 and 45 per cent more UK registrants left than joined last year. The overall number of workers leaving is 34,941 compared with 23,087 in 2012/14.

Unions say there is a shortage of 40,000 nurses and 3,500 midwives in England alone. They blame the pay cap and workplace pressures.

Director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers Saffron Corderoy said, “The NHS is severely stretched and we need to keep and value our staff. This is important for the quality and particularly
Catalonian Independence Referendum

Puigdemont said that if the majority vote is against independence, he will call new regional elections to see if Catalans still want a pro-independence government.

However if the vote is for independence, both Spain and the European Union must accept [that] reality.'

German gay marriage voted in

A decisive majority of German MPs have voted to legalise same-sex marriage, only days after Chancellor Angela Merkel dropped her opposition to allowing such a vote. The reform grants couples now limited to civil unions full marital rights, and allows them to adopt children.

Mrs Merkel's political opponents were strongly in favour, and the Chancellor, who only signalled her backing for a free vote on the 26th June, voted against it. The bill was backed by 393 lawmakers, 226 voted against and four abstained. The German legal code will now read: 'Marriage is entered into for life by two people of different or the same sex', AFP news agency reported.

Following the vote on June 30th, Mrs Merkel said that for her marriage was between a man and a woman. But she said she hoped the passing of the bill would lead to more "social cohesion and peace".

Italy to crackdown on flow of migrants

It is has finalised a deal with France and Germany to tighten the regulation of charities operating in the Mediterranean and to enact a ‘code of conduct’ in an attempt to filter the flow of migrants arriving at Italian ports.

In a joint press statement on 3 July, Rome, Paris and Berlin confirmed they have agreed upon a ‘code of conduct’ for Non-Governmental Organisations working in the Mediterranean.

The agreement follows as Italy recently presented other EU member states with an ultimatum, threatening to close its ports to foreign boats carrying migrants unless it received more active support in tackling the migration crisis.

The Italian government is finding itself under intense political pressures, and measures need to be taken in order to find a solution over the increasing numbers of refugees. More than 73,000 migrants, from countries ranging from Guinea to Bangladesh, have arrived to Italy by sea in the last year, a 14 per cent increase on the same period in 2016, which was in itself a record year.

Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni said, “the government fears the first and second wave of its reception centres are full, requiring a third one to be built, and it is eager for other countries to share its burden.”

The overall response has seen charities react angrily, as the code of conduct is drawn up in Italy and endorsed by other EU countries, sets out to constrain their ability to save passengers from overcrowded and unsavoury smuggling boats.

One of the most controversial aspects of the migration crisis this year has been the proliferation of charity groups operating rescue boats off the Libyan coast, which critics see as a “pull factor” that is attracting migrants and enticing smugglers.

Although the details of the regulatory crackdown have not been released yet, officials in Rome have been considering banning NGOs from entering Libyan territorial waters, forcing them to limit communication with migrant boat, and encouraging them to co-ordinate more closely with the Italian coast guard.

French President plans to lift state of emergency

French President Emmanuel Macron intends to lift the state of emergency this autumn, which has been in effect since the terrorist attacks in November 2015 resulting in 130 deaths.

“I will re-establish the freedoms of the French people by lifting the state of emergency this autumn, because these freedoms are the precondition of the existence of a strong democracy,” Macron said in an address to both Houses of Parliament.

Macron has set out a new tough anti-terrorism law, specifically allowing the lifting of the state of emergency, which has already been extended five times. The current provision expires in mid-July, when Macron’s new centrist government is expected to extend it again until 1 November while the new law is prepared.

The legislation has been approved by France’s top administrative court despite concerns from rights groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. Amnesty complained last month that committing a terrorities was abusing anti-terrorism measures by using them to curb legitimate protests.

The new anti-terror law would give French authorities greater power to act to protect an event or location thought to be at risk from attack, without first seeking permission from the courts.

The draft law would also allow places of worship thought to be promoting extremism to be shut down for up to six months. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe argued it struck the “right balance” between respecting freedoms and reinforcing security.

Only a day after Macron announced his plan to lift the state of emergency, a 23-year-old man has been charged with plotting to assassinate the President at France’s Bastille Day parade, confirms a judicial source.

The self-described nationalist, told investigators that not only was he targeting the President, but also spoke of his extreme views against, “Muslims, Jews, blacks, homosexuals,” the source added.

The man was arrested at his home in the north-west Paris suburb of Argenteuil on Wednesday after attempting to buy a Kalashnikov Assault rifle online.

Three kitchen knives were found in his vehicle and following an analysis of his computer, it was found that he had conducted searches on potential targets on the internet, the source said.

He was charged on 1 July with plotting to commit a terrorist act, the judicial source confirms.
The government has announced that it will end the accord that permits other countries to fish in UK waters. The agreement allows Irish, Dutch, French, German and Belgian fishing vessels to work within six and 12 nautical miles of the coastline of the United Kingdom.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said the decision was made to ‘take back control’ of fishing access to UK waters. When the UK left the EU it would become an “independent coastal state”, he said, and he went on to claim that the EU’s common fisheries policy had been an environmental disaster and the government wanted to change that, upon Brexit, to ensure sustainable fish stocks in future.

Whilst the European Commission said that it had “took note”, they felt the convention had been superseded by EU law. Michael Creed, Ireland’s minister for agriculture, food and the marine, however, said that the announcement was “unwelcome and unhelpful.”

“Brexit poses very serious challenges to the seafood sector and this announcement will form part of the negotiations,” he said. By contrast the Scottish government in Holyrood backed the decision enthusiastically, claiming that they had been pushing for it “for some time”.

The London Fisheries Convention sits alongside the EU Common Fisheries Policy, which allows all European Union countries access between 12 and 200 nautical miles of the UK and sets quotas for how much fish nations can catch. The relationship between the UK and Ireland is further governed by a separate arrangement. Government figures say fishing contributed £604m to UK GDP in 2015 and employed around 12,000 fishers. In 2016, the fish processing industry supported around 18,000 jobs.

The European Union and Japan have formally agreed a free-trade deal outline. The agreement paves the way for trading in goods without tariff barriers between two of the world’s biggest economic areas.

The “political agreement” between the two economies still requires some areas of negotiation to conclude, though officials insist the key snags were overcome in the first week of July. “We promised to do everything in our power to conclude political and trade talks between Japan and the European Union on the eve of the G20 summit. And we did it,” European Council President Donald Tusk told a news conference.

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement was pushed over the line towards a final treaty signature in the coming months by the election of Donald Trump and his moves to ditch a Pacific trade pact and leave talks with the EU in limbo.

Fears of cheaper import competition for European car makers and Japanese dairy producers were among the thorniest issues, but officials said they shared alarm at Trump’s apparent shift away from multilateral open trading systems towards an aggressive “America First” policy.

“Together, we are sending a strong message to the world that we stand for open and fair trade. As far as we are concerned, there is no protection in protectionism,” European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that with 40 per cent of world trade, the EU and Japan would form the world’s biggest open economic area, accounting for a third of global economic output.

Photograph © Michael Brooks
Improving ties between Egypt and Hamas unsettle Palestinian politics

A series of meetings between Hamas and senior officials in Cairo have brought about an improvement in relations between Egypt and the Islamist Palestinian movement, with implications for Gaza, Palestinian politics and the wider region.

Ismail Haniyeh, who became Hamas’s leader in May this year, said in a speech in Gaza in early July that ties with the Gaza Strip’s neighbour to the south-west were warming. “We have launched a new chapter with Egypt and the relations have witnessed a big move,” said Haniyeh.

For much of the last decade, Egypt has joined Israel in enforcing a land, sea and air blockade of the Gaza Strip, a move to punish Hamas and its armed wing, which seized the territory in 2007 and has controlled it since. The situation has worsened in the past month as Israel, at the request of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA), has cut electricity to Gaza, leaving it with barely four hours of power a day.

The sanctions are part of a years-long effort by the PA, led by the rival Fatah party, to force Hamas to relinquish power in Gaza and join a unified government. Power cuts have hit hospitals and water treatment plants, squeezing Gaza’s two million people amid a draining heartache.

Meanwhile, Hamas’s interior ministry has begun to prepare a buffer zone between the Gaza Strip and its border with Egypt. Bulldozers have begun clearing ground dozens of meters in width along the border. The ministry stated that the works were intended to bolster security and strengthen the organisation’s control along the border. It also said a 12 kilometre patrol road with guard posts, lighting and cameras along it will be paved along the border. Gaza security forces chief Tawfiq Abu Naim said the project was agreed upon during the last visit by a Hamas delegation to Egypt. The buffer zone will be 100 metres wide, stretching into the Palestinian side of the border, he said. It will be a closed military zone and will help monitor the border and prevent infiltration and smuggling.

“The message to the Egyptian side is a calming one: Egyptian national security is part of Palestinian national security, and we will not let the peace along the southern border be disturbed,” Abu Naim said.

Saudi Arabia witnessed a radical power shift on Wednesday 21 June, as King Salman appointed his son Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the deputy defence minister, next in line to the throne.

The 31-year-old Prince is to replace his cousin, the King’s nephew, Mohammed bin Nayef, a well known counter-terrorism figure greatly admired by Washington for crushing an al-Qaeda bombing campaign in 2003–2006. As veteran security chief, he led the Saudi campaign against IS and al-Qaeda in a time when Riyadh faced tensions with Iran and Qatar, while also being at war with Yemen.

Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 58, has been removed from his role as head of domestic security, state media confirmed, although he has pledged allegiance to his cousin. The King’s decree also means that Prince Mohammed bin Salman will be appointed as deputy prime minister while continuing his role as the world’s youngest defence minister.

“When I met him [the crown prince] in Jeddah in 2013, he described himself as a lawyer. Today he’s a heartbeat away from ruling the most powerful country in the Arab world,” reported BBC’s Middle East editor, Jeremy Bowen.

Despite his age, the prince’s political and governmental journey started in 2007, when he served as full-time adviser to the Council of Ministers for two years. He was special adviser to his father in 2009, who at the time was governor of Riyadh. He was appointed defence minister in 2015, following his father’s accession to the throne.

For the younger generation of Saudis, the young royal, who is known for his bold economic reforms and aggressive foreign policy toward arch-rival Iran, confirms that things are changing. Following decades of Saudi affairs led by typically 70 and 80-year-old kings, Prince Mohammed navigated the world stage with ease, reportedly charming both US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Reuters.

Yet, he has attracted both domestic and international criticism as Defence Minister when leading Operation Decisive Storm, a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. The operation, launched more than two years ago, consisted of eight Sunni-Muslim Arab countries fighting Iranian-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The Saudi-led war in Yemen saw devastating effects on the impoverished country. Rights group accused his leadership of causing the killings of countless civilians and have called on the United States, UK and France to cut off the weapon supply to Saudi Arabia.

Despite some disapproval in his foreign policy and economic reforms, his views are widely welcomed among young Saudis. In April 2016, he introduced Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia’s vision of the future, aiming to make the Kingdom the investment hub of the Arab and Islamic world.

The Crown Prince aims to privatise the economy, making it less reliant on oil, as it’s the second largest producer of oil. The overall aim is to establish an e-government system by 2030. He has also called for more entertainment options for the Kingdom, both for families and youth. The cabinet also passed regulations to lessen the power of the religious police.

The Prince is also engaging younger Saudi Muslim scholars who are active on social media and better known among the Saudi youth, reports al-Jazeera.

To commentators, Prince Mohammed bin Salman is moments away from being the second most powerful man in Saudi Arabia.

For cooler journeys, all of our Hammersmith & City, Circle, District and Metropolitan line trains are now air-conditioned.

Search TfL Improvements
Donald Trump’s travel ban comes into effect

People from six mainly Muslim countries and all refugees now face tougher US entry due to President Donald Trump’s controversial travel ban. It means people without “close” family or business relationships in the US could be denied visas and barred entry.

Lawyers took up positions at US airports, offering free advice. But there was no sign of the chaos that affected travellers when the first version of the ban was brought in at a few hours’ notice in January. That is because the executive order does not affect people who already have valid visas or green cards. The Department of Homeland Security said it expected “business as usual at our ports of entry”.

Supreme Court ruling upheld the temporary ban, a key Trump policy. But the judges provided a major exception, for those who have “a credible claim of a bona fide relationship” with someone in the US. The effect is that citizens of the affected countries with a close relative in the US, such as a spouse, parent, child or sibling, will potentially be allowed in.

In a last minute change, the Trump administration extended the definition of close family to include fiancés. However grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces are not considered to be “bona fide” relations. The rules apply to people from Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, as well as to all refugees.

According to the new rules, for the next 90 days those from the six countries without a close relationship will not be able to enter the US.

FARC arms handover

Farc rebels in Colombia have handed over all of their personal weapons, completing the transfer of arms a day ahead of a revised schedule, United Nations’ monitors in Colombia say.

A total of 7,132 weapons have been registered and boxed away, the UN says. They added they had also found and emptied 77 out of the Farc’s arms caches hidden around the countryside.

Qatar will face restrictions after failing to accept ultimatum by Arab bloc

Qatar will continue to face restrictions after failing to accept an ultimatum enacted by its Middle East neighbours, following a meeting in Cairo with four foreign ministers on 4 July.

The Arab bloc, made up of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, have decided to sever diplomatic ties with the small oil-rich nation last month following a joint statement accusing Qatar of destabilising the region.

The meeting came as the deadline for Qatar to accept the list of necessary demands, with an extra 48-hour extension granted by the Saudis in the hopes of reaching an agreement.

Qatar has been under scrutiny for not, “understanding of the seriousness and gravity of the situation,” reports Al Jazeera. Saudi foreign ministers have announced further steps will be taken against Qatar at the appropriate time, and would be in line with international law.

The arms handover was a key condition in last year’s peace agreement. The deal seeks to end more than five decades of conflict and negotiations between Colombia’s 900 largest left-wing rebel group and the government.

However US monitors have warned that the task of locating and emptying the Farc’s remaining caches could take many months because of the difficulty in reaching them. Some of them can only be reached by river or foot through dense jungle and mountain terrain.

Many are booby-trapped and need to be painstakingly dismantled.

Many Colombians are concerned that if there is any delay, these weapons could fall into the hands of criminals, paramilitaries or the ELN, Colombia’s second-largest left-wing rebel group.

All these groups are seeking to occupy territory relinquished by the Farc under the peace deal and take over their drug-trafficking activities.

Colombia legally recognises union between three men

Three homosexual men have claimed to have gained legal recognition as a “polyamorous family”, possibly the world’s first, in Colombia, which legalised gay marriage last year. “We wanted to validate our household... and our rights, because we had no solid legal basis establishing us as a family,” said one of the men, Victor Hugo Prada, in a video published by Colombian media on Monday.

He said he and his two partners signed legal papers with a solicitor in the city of Medellin, establishing them as a family unit with inheritance rights. “This establishes us as a family, a polyamorous family. It is the first time in Colombia that has been done.”

Lawyer and gay rights activist German Rincon Perfetti said there are many three-person unions in Colombia but this was the first one to be legally recognised.

The Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, addressed the four ministers’ statement by explaining that cutting ties with his country would be seen, “as a siege that is a clear aggression and an insult.”

A few of the bloc’s demands to Qatar include, to shut down media channel Al Jazeera, closing air-space to Qatar Airways, restricting diplomatic relations with Iran, and cutting ties with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Diplomats have also accused Qatar of not, “understanding of the seriousness and gravity of the situation”, reports Al Jazeera. Saudi foreign ministers have announced further steps will be taken against Qatar at the appropriate time, and would be in line with international law.
Parliament Squared  
By Derek Wyatt

YOU KNOW, You know when you know that something is not quite right but you’re unsure what to do? Well that’s me today. We no longer know what to do with anyone over 60. It is personal. I am over 60.

When it was my parents turn they had certainty. They were working one day and then as they turned 60 and 65 respectively they no longer had to go to work. They had so looked forward to this happening to them. They had been saving furiously and had chosen to retire to Vancouver Island where their son and daughter and three grand children lived (my Mum was Canadian).

It was a disaster. My Dad missed his pint at the Legion and watching and umpiring cricket in the summer. My Mum loved it. She was home after forty two years away. My Dad came home. Thirty nine years of marriage and six years of war time wooing ended. It was no recompense to him that he came to deeply regret his decision.

But it was a disaster in another way.

Both my parents were good at their jobs and contributed wisely to the various organisations who had employed them. Suddenly they were cast off. What a mad idea to let those with wisdom in an organisation be lost to it. Why were they not asked if they would consider going down to three days a week or whatever.

Since I left Parliament (or stood down in Westminster currency) in 2010 I have worked for myself, ducking and diving trying to make a honest crust. It has not been easy. What a fool to resign from a job in the middle of the worst economic crisis since the 1930s (I would have lost my seat anyway, I had a slim majority of 79) but you take my point. 2010 was tough. It is still tough seven years on.

But now there is no certainty; there's nothing. There is no actual retirement age unless like PwC partners it is written into your employment contract or terms of trade. Whilst we all accept we are fitter and in better health than our parents and grandparents were when 60 or 65 we can go on. And on. And on. And we do. This is bonkers. If you are in the senior management team or close to it you are at the top end of the salary scale and therefore if you have a company pension scheme you will have the largest contributions. So every year you cost the company more. Park that notion.

If you do stay on what happens is that the best middle managers start quitting because their line to be a senior manager has been foiled. Losing your best talent is not a good idea. Especially as to fill those breaches you will have to pay more for an external candidate who may or may not settle in and thus could disturb the company culture.

Into this melée has arrived the head hunter. There are millions of them. They seemingly mutate daily. I am not sure what the collective noun is for them but a quick suggestion would be a Helpfulness of... Then as senior management loses its confidence they employ consultants and hugely inflated fees. This is a collective madness.

Let us start again. It is a good idea for there not to be a retirement age. If you are 40 reading this article the strong likelihood is that you will live till your late eighties or early nineties. Put another way, under the rules for my parents you will be retired for 25 years or more. Currently, leaving aside compulsory euthanasia, the state does not have a clue about how to pay for your health, your housing, your care package and your pension. This is very serious.

And another thing, people over 60/65 are more likely to vote and to vote Conservative. Of course, they were shaken to their roots during the election just past when the Prime Minister would not agree the triple lock on their pensions, their winter fuel allowance and their free TV licences over 75. This was then compounded when out of nowhere the PM declared that our care package would probably be taken from the equity we had in our houses for those lucky enough to have a house. (Let us pause here and remind ourselves how many of our children in their 30s are still renting).

So what this tells me is that no-one in Westminster whatever the party has really done the sums for us oldies. And if they have they are not telling. The only way of caring properly for those over 60 is to tax those under 60 higher than they are currently. We are done. We have huge debts which are unlikely ever to be paid off (2025 is the latest date but this is a flight of fancy). We have the biggest crisis in the housing market ever.

And then I think, actually the way our Government functions tells us it is past it’s own sell by date. We need a new version of a Royal Commission made up of politicians of all faiths and none and experts and you and me to look at the post 60 issues and a new Secretary of State to boot. We need it today.

It is not going to happen.
You have been warned.

Strength & Stability.
By Peter Burden

Since June 8th, a large number of UK voters (including me) have been wandering around, dazed and confused, muttering to anyone who will listen. ‘Where the hell are we?’

We don’t really know; but we do know how we got here.

David Cameron took up the metal-studded gauntlet thrown down by flamboyant man of the people, Nigel Farage, and made the UK electorate a manifesto promise to hold a referendum over Europe. No doubt he thought the challenge would fail, but it would clear the air, and dispel the nasty pong of xenophobic oratory. Cameron’s mistake, for which he is already perceived as one of the least satisfactory British Prime Ministers of modern times, was to structure the referendum in such a way that a minority of the electorate could force an absolutely crucial and, in this case, disastrous change on the British Constitution.

A referendum is not a first past the post parliamentary election, and there is no historic basis for treating it like one. It seems elementary that a majority of the whole electorate must be respected; the will of the 38%, not the 62% who did not demand it.

Now as we lurch unsteadily towards an attempt to agree terms in complying with this request by 38% of the population, it has become blindingly clear that leaving the Customs Union, and denying the free movement of other EU citizens is going to have disastrous consequences in many areas of the nation’s existence. Added to this is the hideous irony that the immigration from non-EU countries, which is what prompted the fears of many ‘leave’ voters, will not be affected in the slightest by the UK leaving the EU.

And yet, there seems to be an extraordinary, inexplicable conspiracy of silence among members of the ruling party (and even among the Labour opposition) who must see the looming catastrophe, but do not have the courage to declare that the only way to deflect this threat to the state of our finances, workforce and foreign relations is to abandon what is becoming ever more clearly a thoroughly misguided course of action.

Mrs May’s debacle following the hubris of her calling for more support clearly demonstrates that she miscalculated badly in overlooking the 62% who didn’t ask for Brexit, and, indeed, their disapproval of the aggressive negotiating stance she had adopted, trying to face-down the EU negotiators, like Just William confronting Mr and Mrs Brown with hands on hips and catapult poking out of a trouser pocket.

The European leaders, stronger now with the tough but reasonable Macron, are showing more dignity than the British negotiating team; undoubtedly, they know they need us and would like to agree terms.

But we need them a little bit more. In the meantime, with Mrs May floundering around like a mermaid with her tail nailed to the rocks, there is no single credible replacement in sight from within her own party.

‘Strong and stable government,’ was her mantra going into the June 8th vote. In a photo which much of the media ran, her tail nailed to the rocks, there is no sign of silence among members of the ruling party.

‘Strong and stable government,’ was her mantra going into the June 8th vote. In a photo which much of the media ran, her tail nailed to the rocks, there is no sign of silence among members of the ruling party.

In any case, they appear to have given up already.
Hail the 22 Bus
Get your kicks on route 22
By Sandra Leamon

All life rides on the 22 at some point or other. It sets off from Putney Common with a nice bunch of Londoners on board. Chatty souls who’ll tell you how London used to be before they knocked everything down. One old feller once said to me as we passed a glass-fronted abomination “that’s where the old abattoir was. Me mother loved it”. Blimey. And then he addressed the whole bus asking if anyone remembered the fairground that used to come to Fulham Broadway about a million years ago. Astonishingly, two women did. And, better still, one said she met her husband there. On the bumper cars, no less. Just bumped into him, I suppose.

From there on, the 22 pulls it’s stomach in an attempts to squeeze its way down the Kings Road tackling a tricky bottleneck outside Marks & Sparks where it’s the law to keep all Range Rovers at a standstill in the middle of the road. As it Nears Sloane Square the passengers tend to perch rather than sit. So much more elegant. And then, in a noisy, squawking migration, everybody flaps off their perch and flies into Peter Jones. How come they don’t hang on till Harrods? Sloane Square is a quiet affair. Nobody there takes the bus. Wouldn’t be seen dead on one, darling. But by Hyde Park corner the odd tourist clammers aboard and usually asks if the Wellington Arch is Marble Arch. I always tell them it is. Saves them a trip up Park Lane.

Then we smugly whiz up the Piccadilly bus lane passing some of our absolute best bits and pieces. The In and Out, the Ritz, the Academy (where I once heard an American tell her friend that the Queen took ballet classes) and finally, we come to a halt at Piccadilly Circus. Where there’s not a single Londoner in sight!

Poor old Eros has got no idea what’s going on anymore. Once upon a time he was firing his arrow down Shaftesbury Avenue to show us the way to the theatre. Now he’s just hoping to shoot one of the nightmare street performers.

But it’s the centre of our city and you can see it all from the 22. Better still, you can ride right past it.

Letter to the Editor

As I come to the end of my first 60 days as CEO of London’s Air Ambulance, I would like to emphasise the importance of local support to our charity and share some words of thanks with the people of Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster.

It’s a great feeling when you find out a company has donated a large sum of money to the charity, but it is vital to never lose sight of our grass-root supporters. To me, a local cake sale is just as important as a big corporate partnership. This charity was built on community spirit; it’s a service funded by the people of London for the people of London and that’s something I really want to focus on during my time as CEO.

Right now one of our supporters, Stuart, a member of your local community, is getting ready to take on Prudential RideLondon Surrey 100 for a second year in a row. Last year he raised £6,000 for our charity and this year he has already raised an incredible £1,195. This kind of local support means everything to us.

The money raised by communities goes towards delivering our advanced trauma team by helicopter or rapid response car to critically injured people across the capital and it’s thanks to your help that London’s Air Ambulance was able to treat 41 people in Kensington and Chelsea last year and 123 in Westminster. Now we need your help again to raise awareness of our charity status.

Whilst 8 out of 10 people have heard of the London’s Air Ambulance service around two-thirds of people in London are not sure or don’t think that London’s Air Ambulance is a charity. This is a massive hurdle to overcome as we try to gain more support and may be explained by the fact that, on average, people believe 47% of our funding comes from either the NHS, central government or local government. In reality, we receive the majority of our income from public donations. People also believe that we exist to transport people to hospital or from hard to access areas, when in actual fact, we deliver a doctor and paramedic to a patient’s side to deliver treatment only usually found in a hospital emergency department – this includes open chest surgery, anaesthesia, blood transfusions and advanced pain relief.

Over the last few years the charity has focused on acquiring a second helicopter and securing extended daylight flying hours, with these aims achieved we will now focus on the challenge of increasing awareness of our charitable status. It is the work you do promoting, fundraising or volunteering in your local community that helps spread the message that we rely on public donations. Together, I know we can carry on helping critically injured people in London.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you for everything you have already done for London’s Air Ambulance. It is down to you that we have treated more than 36,000 patients in our 28 years of service and your continued support will help us save lives long into the future.

Sincerely, Jonathan Jenkins
CEO of London’s Air Ambulance

DUDLEY SUTTON’S
I WISH I HAD WRITTEN THAT

Father’s Bedroom by Robert Lowell

In my Father’s bedroom: blue threads as thin as pen writing on the bedspread, blue dots on the curtains, a blue kimono, Chinese sandals with blue plush straps. The broad-planked floor had a sandpapered neatness. The clear glass bed-lamp with a white doily shade was still raised a few inches by resting on volume two of Lafcadio Hearn’s Glimpses of unfamilar Japan. A warped olive tree was punished like a rhinoceros hide. In the flyleaf: ‘Robbie from Mother.’ Years later in the same hand: ‘This book has had hard usage On the Yangtze River, China. It was left under an open Porthole in a storm.’

Take a subscription of KCW TODAY for 2017/8 and receive a copy delivered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 month’s subscription
UK £ 46.00 (Tick box)
Overseas on request

Fill out form with cheques made payable to: Kensington, Chelsea Today Limited and send to Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today, 80-100 Gwynne Road, London SW11 3UW or email news@KCWToday.co.uk. Or telephone 020 7738 2348 to pay. By BACS or visit www.KCWToday.co.uk to pay by PayPal.
Nine points to assess on Defined Benefit transfers

By Stephanie Hawthorne
Award winning financial journalist

S
ince the former Chancellor George Osborne’s pension freedom reforms in 2015 there has been a dramatic rise in employees wanting to transfer out of their private sector final salary pension schemes with some long serving members entitled to hundreds of thousands of pounds to put in a more flexible defined contribution (DC) pension pot.

But this decision is not to be taken lightly as there are a lot of dangers in leaving a secure Final Salary or Defined Benefit (DB) pension and for many it makes sense to stay put and receive a guaranteed inflation proofed income for life.

Here is a checklist from WEALTH at work of nine important pointers to help employees who are considering transferring their pension:

1. Is the transfer value offered a good deal?
   One way employees could find this out is by comparing how many years of annual income would be needed to match the transfer value offered. This can be achieved by carrying out a calculation which compares the ‘cash equivalent transfer value’ (the lump sum the pension scheme will offer in exchange for giving up any future claims to a pension from the scheme) against the ‘current’ annual pension entitlement payable at the scheme’s normal retirement date. For example, if a defined benefit (DB) annual income guarantee is £5,000 and the transfer value is £100,000, then the conversion factor would be 20 times (100,000/5,000).

2. Would they be able to buy an annuity which offers the same benefits?
   When considering if it’s a good deal employees could also look at how much it would cost to buy an annuity which offers a similar income as those guaranteed by their DB scheme. For example, a pension transfer value of £30,000 offered in lieu of a DB scheme valued at £1,500 a year, which also comes with a 50% spouse pension, and annual inflationary increases would actually cost £68,000 to buy an annuity with the same benefits.

3. Is the cash really needed?
   If employees are considering transferring to a DC pension to take all of the income as cash, they should make sure they understand the tax implications; usually the first 25% of what is taken out of a DC pension is tax-free but the remainder is taxed at their ‘marginal’ rate; the rate of income tax paid when all of sources of income are added together. That doesn’t mean they shouldn’t transfer and there are good reasons for some people doing so, for example; if they want to pass money on to dependants, prefer the idea of flexibility, or have other significant sources of secure income. But even these are not definitive reasons for doing so and before employees give up a guaranteed index-linked income (income that will increase in-line with inflation), they should make sure they know what they will need the money for.

4. What ‘perks’ could be lost out on?
   Most DB schemes have good benefits. Often they include 50% for a spouse/partner’s pension (upon death, either before or after retirement), children’s pensions and some offer increases of up to 5% on the deferred pension until the point at which benefits were taken (to help keep the values in-line with inflation), and then provide inflation proofing once in payment. Others also have an element of death benefits in payment if the scheme member passes away within five years of receiving benefits. Some DB scheme members may also be entitled to ‘scheme protected tax-free cash’ higher than the standard 25%. These benefits would be lost in most circumstances if transferred into a DC pension.

5. Is a partial transfer available?
   Partial transfers could be a good option and middle ground.

6. Are they going through a divorce?
   Pensions can be included as assets in divorce settlements. There are several options that couples can take when thinking about splitting their DB pension assets during a divorce. One of these is to transfer the DB pension into a DC scheme so that the income can be fully accessed and split between the two parties.

7. Have they ever contracted-out?
   Employees who were contracted out of the ‘State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme’ (SERPS) between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997 should check the Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) value (the minimum pension value which an occupational pension scheme has to provide) if they are considering a pension transfer. The amount is said to be ‘broadly equivalent’ to the amount the member would have received had they not been contracted out. Employees should make sure that they understand the current value of the income being offered as often it will be quoted at the date they left the scheme and not the uprated value they would get at the scheme retirement date. Depending upon the scheme rules and when a member left the scheme, increases to deferred GMP can be very attractive, even as high as 8.5% per annum.

8. What security measures are there?
   Some employees may be worried whether their scheme is secure, and if it will be able to continue to pay out as promised. The PPF (Pension Protection Fund) will generally pay up to 90% of a pension value if the scheme fails, but there is an annual cap of £34,655 (after the 90% level is applied).

9. Are they equipped to understand their options without advice?
   Employees who have a DB pension scheme with a transfer value of £10,000 or more will be required to take financial advice if they wish to transfer their pension.

Jonathan Watts-Lay, director, WEALTH at work, a provider of financial education, guidance and advice in the workplace, comments: “As we can see, pension transfers are complex; there are many things employees should consider before they make any decisions. It’s important for employees to get a good understanding of their own personal situation and take advice from a suitably qualified financial adviser who specialises in this type of transfer”.

Business & Finance
Where the historic and modern are equally valued.

Over 200 years of auctioneering has taught us the importance of balance, from the personal touch to the online experience. It's you we value.

Bonhams
MONTPELIER STREET - KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Buyers and sellers, visit us at bonhams.com/itsyouwevalue or get the full experience at Montpelier Street.

+44 (0) 20 7393 3900 | itsyouwevalue@bonhams.com
Mobile banking ‘fast overtaking’ bank branch visits

Typical consumers will visit a bank branch only four times a year by 2022, turning instead to their mobile phones for services, according to industry forecasts. At present, people visit seven times a year on average, analysts CACI have claimed. It forecasts that contact with banks will actually rise, but this will occur primarily through apps, with desktop banking also shrinking.

Hundreds of branches have closed in the UK in recent years, with banks pointing to changing consumer habits. Although the number of visits to banks may be falling, the proportion of those who use a branch, however infrequently, is relatively unchanged. This has prompted a warning from the forecasters that the public still see branches as having a role to play.

On June 27 the industry marked the 50th anniversary of the first cash machine, and many ATM manufacturers claim that new technology allows the most up-to-date machines to carry out contactless transactions, free of charge, and many ATM manufacturers claim that new technology allows the 50th anniversary of the first cash machine, and many ATM manufacturers claim that new technology allows the most up-to-date machines to carry out contactless transactions, free of charge.

All these shifts are happening faster than five-year forecasts made a year ago.

“The speed and convenience of mobile banking is a huge contributing factor to its ongoing popularity, especially as banks add more and more functionality to their apps. Understanding who is using it, and how, is key for banks to ensure it works for everyone,” said Jamie Morawiec, associate partner at CACI. “However, with more than half of the population still expected to visit a branch in 2022, the branch still has an important role to play.

Four arrests in UK following scam call reports

A series of scam call reports involving fraudsters posing as IT support staff, have resulted in four arrests in the UK. According to Action Fraud, the UK’s national fraud and cyber-reporting centre, there were 34,504 computer software service fraud reports over the past year, targeting victims with the average age of 62 and typically paying out £600.

In addition to Microsoft, criminals have claimed to have worked for BT and TalkTalk among other services. The investigation indicated the calls originated in India, although two men and two woman have been accused of involvement in England.

Scammers usually convince victims they have detected a fault in their PC and claim they need remote access to it, before demanding a fixed fee. Unknowingly, victims share their bank account details and often times are targeted again at a later date.

So far, they include a 29-year-old man and 31-year-old woman from Woking in Surrey. Both were arrested on suspicion of fraud and both have been granted bail. A 37-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman were arrested in South Shields, Tyne & Wear, also on suspicion of fraud. They were released pending further inquiries.

City of London Police commander, Dave Clark said, “These arrests are just the beginning of our work, making the best use of specialist skills and expertise from Microsoft, local police forces and international partners to tackle a crime that often targets the most vulnerable in our society.”

Microsoft has recently released an online advice article on how to avoid being scammed and what to do if you suspect you have been fooled in the past and may not have realised it until now.

UK house prices rise again

UK house prices have risen again in June after three months of decline, according to mortgage lender Nationwide.

House prices in May fell by 0.2%, but were quickly met with a 1.1% in the following month.

Still, Nationwide economist, Robert Gardner cautioned that “monthly growth rates can be volatile, even after accounting for seasonal effects.”

The average house price in the UK rose by £2,590 to £211,301. Annual house price growth edged up to 3.1% from 2.1% in May.

Mr Gardner has also noticed a shift in regional house price trends, especially in London with the slowest annual pace since 2012, by 2.1%.

He also noticed the gap in percentage rises between the strongest performing region and the weakest. By the second quarter of the year, East Anglia saw a 5% annual growth, and North of England, with 1% mounting to the smallest figure on the record.

Mr Gardner also pointed out that London saw a “particularly marked slowdown, with annual price growth moderating to just 1.2%, counting for the second slowest pace of the 13 UK regions.”

Still, commentators said that the regional shifts were significant.

Managing director of Garrington Property Finders, said: “for London’s house prices to be growing at the second slowest rate in the country would have been unthinkable for much of the past decade. Instead growth is now spread much more evenly across the country—with the market fragmenting into a patchwork of smaller hotspots and cold spots.”

Nationwide said that the rising cost of living would curtail household spending which in turn, would create a “drag” on housing market activity.

A lack of homes being built, and few properties being put up for sale, meant house prices would still rise by 2% this year, the building society forecast.

Businesses in London grow faster

Businesses in London have grown at a faster rate than the usual UK average in May, according to the latest Lloyds Bank Regional Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI).

Business activity maintained an overall momentum with the London PMI registering 55.7 in May, greater than the UK average of 54.4.

Growth cooled slightly from last month’s recent high, when PMI was at 56.9, and was driven by a strong pipeline of new orders. A reading around 50.0 signifies expansion in business activity.

The Lloyds Bank PMI is the leading economic health-check of UK regions. It is based on responses from manufacturers and service businesses about the amount of goods and services produced during May compared with a month earlier.

Rising new business demand has fuelled growth in the Capital, resulting in the creation of new jobs. Employment levels have risen for the past seven months in a row.

Cost pressures for London firms eased slightly in May and prices charged by businesses rose at the slowest rate seen since February.

The Lloyds Bank PMI, is the leading indicator of activity and growth in the wider economy. The survey is based on responses from manufacturers and service businesses about the amount of goods and services produced during May compared with a month earlier.

Mr Gardner has also noticed a shift in regional house price trends, especially in London with the slowest annual pace since 2012, by 2.1%.

He also noticed the gap in percentage rises between the strongest performing region and the weakest. By the second quarter of the year, East Anglia saw a 5% annual growth, and North of England, with 1% mounting to the smallest figure on the record.

Mr Gardner also pointed out that London saw a “particularly marked slowdown, with annual price growth moderating to just 1.2%, counting for the second slowest pace of the 13 UK regions.”

Still, commentators said that the regional shifts were significant.

Managing director of Garrington Property Finders, said: “for London’s house prices to be growing at the second slowest rate in the country would have been unthinkable for much of the past decade. Instead growth is now spread much more evenly across the country—with the market fragmenting into a patchwork of smaller hotspots and cold spots.”

Nationwide said that the rising cost of living would curtail household spending which in turn, would create a “drag” on housing market activity.

A lack of homes being built, and few properties being put up for sale, meant house prices would still rise by 2% this year, the building society forecast.

Businesses in London grow faster

Businesses in London have grown at a faster rate than the usual UK average in May, according to the latest Lloyds Bank Regional Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI).

Business activity maintained an overall momentum with the London PMI registering 55.7 in May, greater than the UK average of 54.4.

Growth cooled slightly from last month’s recent high, when PMI was at 56.9, and was driven by a strong pipeline of new orders. A reading around 50.0 signifies expansion in business activity.

The Lloyds Bank PMI is the leading economic health-check of UK regions. It is based on responses from manufacturers and service businesses about the amount of goods and services produced during May compared with a month earlier.

Rising new business demand has fuelled growth in the Capital, resulting in the creation of new jobs. Employment levels have risen for the past seven months in a row.

Cost pressures for London firms eased slightly in May and prices charged by businesses rose at the slowest rate seen since February.

The Lloyds Bank PMI, is the leading indicator of activity and growth in the wider economy. The survey is based on responses from manufacturers and service businesses about the amount of goods and services produced during May compared with a month earlier.

Mr Gardner has also noticed a shift in regional house price trends, especially in London with the slowest annual pace since 2012, by 2.1%.

He also noticed the gap in percentage rises between the strongest performing region and the weakest. By the second quarter of the year, East Anglia saw a 5% annual growth, and North of England, with 1% mounting to the smallest figure on the record.

Mr Gardner also pointed out that London saw a “particularly marked slowdown, with annual price growth moderating to just 1.2%, counting for the second slowest pace of the 13 UK regions.”

Still, commentators said that the regional shifts were significant.

Managing director of Garrington Property Finders, said: “for London’s house prices to be growing at the second slowest rate in the country would have been unthinkable for much of the past decade. Instead growth is now spread much more evenly across the country—with the market fragmenting into a patchwork of smaller hotspots and cold spots.”

Nationwide said that the rising cost of living would curtail household spending which in turn, would create a “drag” on housing market activity.

A lack of homes being built, and few properties being put up for sale, meant house prices would still rise by 2% this year, the building society forecast.

Co-operative bank receives £700m rescue package

The Co-operative Bank has secured a £700m rescue package to stop the lender collapsing. Investors have agreed to swap their debt for a stake in the bank. The bank also said it would to separate its pension fund from the Co-operative Group’s scheme, which has £8bn of liabilities. The Bank of England’s Prudential Regulation Authority said it had accepted the plan to return the bank to a firm footing.

“Supervisors will remain closely engaged with the bank while the actions announced today are taken forward. Implementation is subject to certain regulatory approvals,” said the PRA, which is responsible for supervising the UK’s banks and insurance companies.

The debt-for-equity swap with hedge funds means that the Co-op Group’s stake in the bank will fall from 20% to about 1%. The Co-op also said that the relationship agreement between the group and the bank, covering the promotion of bank services to members of the wider business and other matters, “will naturally fall away and come to a formal end in 2020”.

It added that it “is supportive of the plan and intends to vote in favour of the £700m rescue package to stop the lender collapsing. Investors have agreed to swap their debt for a stake in the bank. The bank also said it would to separate its pension fund from the Co-operative Group’s scheme, which has £8bn of liabilities. The Bank of England’s Prudential Regulation Authority said it had accepted the plan to return the bank to a firm footing.

“Supervisors will remain closely engaged with the bank while the actions announced today are taken forward. Implementation is subject to certain regulatory approvals,” said the PRA, which is responsible for supervising the UK’s banks and insurance companies.

The debt-for-equity swap with hedge funds means that the Co-op Group’s stake in the bank will fall from 20% to about 1%. The Co-op also said that the relationship agreement between the group and the bank, covering the promotion of bank services to members of the wider business and other matters, “will naturally fall away and come to a formal end in 2020”.

It added that it “is supportive of the plan and intends to vote in favour of the £700m rescue package to stop the lender collapsing. Investors have agreed to swap their debt for a stake in the bank. The bank also said it would to separate its pension fund from the Co-operative Group’s scheme, which has £8bn of liabilities. The Bank of England’s Prudential Regulation Authority said it had accepted the plan to return the bank to a firm footing.

“Supervisors will remain closely engaged with the bank while the actions announced today are taken forward. Implementation is subject to certain regulatory approvals,” said the PRA, which is responsible for supervising the UK’s banks and insurance companies. 
Hundreds of courses for 16-18s & adults

WEST LONDON COLLEGE

Are you ready?
Choose the #WestLondonWay

Hammersmith & Fulham College
Ealing Green College
Southall Community College
Acton Construction & STEM Centre

Apply today
wlc.ac.uk

Apprenticeships
GCSEs
Vocational Diplomas
Access to HE
HNDs
Degrees
ESOL/English
E-Learning
Professional courses
Peace over Whitehall
By Douglas Shanks

I’m feeling a glow of goodwill towards fellow man and HM Inspector of Taxes following the electorate’s very sensible re-affirmation of democracy. (Was our voting system ever in more need of dusting down than now?) Instead of making her stronger, the British made the Prime Minister considerably weaker, and very sensible it was too, while stopping short of electing Glastonbury’s big new thing. ‘To be honest, I’m starting to warm to the Leader of HM’s Opposition, as Mrs May continues her somewhat clumsy Jim Hacker pastiche every time she answers a question; or doesn’t.

I was reduced to asking Little John Handley if he could think of anything we could have a rant about this month, but he was too busy picking early-summer daises with Maid Julie in the meadows by the Annexe (AKA The Yew Tree) next to our office in a barn in a field in Sussex, adjacent, as it happens to, Glyn/debourne. After all the excitement of the election, with the Sherriff of Downing Street suitably Magna Carta-ed, there’s a fin d’orépaw feeling amongst the Merry Metropolitans. I suppose it begs the question, is this the calm before the storm?

Our world is very much the owner managed business, struggling against the odds, and the state, for survival. If no government is good for business, then it must follow that a deranged, weak government, wholly reliant for its survival on a lunatic sectarian fringe, and already showing signs of self-destruction over the pay freeze, must be better.

The pay freeze thing bothers me, mainly because it looks like tinkering at the edges. What we really need is a government of national unity to take on the Civil Service and reform it from within, taking a cue from Plus One Colin’s pruning of his roses down in Camber, lacerated to within a thorn of their lives.

There’s even been a bit of a return to the pre-Avoidance War initiated by Baron Brown the Wicked. We do act for some normal clients, (well at least on the normal curve), but a lot of our work is at the sharp end, with clients literally facing jail sentences or penury if we get it wrong. After Brexit, there was a rush of settlements on some pretty touch-and-go cases, all in our clients’ favour.

Financial Crisis Revisited … or not?
By Slim

There is a lot going on in the financial markets and much of it is behind the scenes. At such times it pays to have a clear head and trust the obvious signs. Last month we discussed the massive distribution of stocks from the big institutions to the general public and that this is a bearish sign. Since then it has been very much more of the same and in addition other warning signs are supporting this potential next move. We have been watching the implied volatility closely. On Tuesday 27 June it hit a level of 7.62% which is lower than at any time since before the so called financial crisis of 2008. When plotted on a chart against price the lower the IV, the more likely the price is to fall and vice versa. This is of such importance that we cannot over-emphasise the message it conveys. It is never wrong, but does not assist with timing. What it does guarantee though is that the next major move is down and the longer it takes to start the further it will go.

It is important to also keep a wary eye of the yield curve. Even while interest rates have been almost zero for nearly a decade the bond market experts have still had plenty to talk about. Well that’s if you watch Bloomberg and CNBC; for most of us watching paint dry is more exciting! Slowly though the US Federal Reserve has raised their benchmark interest rate a few times over the past year and more is possible. Even The Bank of England is making noises in this respect.

If you are still reading; well done! The yield curve is a curve showing several yields or interest rates across different contract lengths (2 month, 2 year, 20 year, etc. …) for a similar debt contract. The curve shows the relation between the (level of) the interest rate and the time to maturity, known as the “term”, of the debt for a given borrower in a given currency.

Typically the shorter term yields are less than the longer term. What has been happening in recent months is that the shorter term rates have been rising more than the longer term rates. This is generally interpreted as bearish for economic prospects and stock markets

At the time we thought it was a case of clearing the decks for the tougher regime announced by such user-friendly entitled sections of the 2017 Finance Bill as the Enablers of Tax Avoidance section. May and her lot were on the face of it as heavy-handed as Brown (and odder Osborne), asking tax payers to own up to being Serial Tax Avoiders before being defined as such by HMRC. (This is really most unconstitutional, because it’s making villains of people who’ve broken no law.)

Where does that leave us? I’m a huge admirer of the footballer David Luiz. Alan Shearer once said “but do you really want an optimist as a centre half?” (One of the most famous centre halves in history being Jack Charlton, a different kettle of fish, which for the cognoentities does indeed coin a phrase). Given the huge success of his return to Chelsea last season, I’d have said the answer was yes, and so hopefully you’ll agree you do want an optimist as a tax advisor. With a government more intent on infighting and doing deals with people who really should have no voice whatsoever in government, I think you’ll find the executive stays out of HMRC’s hair, and HMRC will go back to its pragmatic pre-War on Taxpayers best.

If you’ve got a tax skeleton, this might just be the best time for a while to settle.

Doug of Lodley is being anointed DSC Metropolitian’s emollient tax partner
Oil: A Bright Week in a Gloomy Year
By James Billot

After a bearish six months, oil is set to undergo its longest rally in 2017. Following a series of heavy storms in the Gulf of Mexico and ongoing maintenance operations in Alaska, U.S. crude production has fallen by nearly 100,000 barrels per day over the past week.

This fall in output has led to a subsequent spike in the price both West Texas Intermediate Oil (WTI) and Brent Crude, which have risen to $45.21 and $47.74 respectively.

On June 21, oil hit its lowest prices in 2017, with WTI falling to $42.53 and Brent to $44.82. The commodity is now on course to have its longest rally in 2017, and many observers are speculating that the market is finally seeing a rebalance.

The U.A.E.’s Minister of Energy, Suhail bin Mohammed al-Mazroui, stated yesterday that OPEC, in control of 60% of the world’s oil production, will therefore make no additional cuts to their current supply curb. “I think OPEC countries and non-OPEC countries who joined us have done their part,” affirmed al-Mazroui. “We are not worried about market recovery”.

While this price rise will bring much cheer to OPEC and other oil-producing states, there are still a large number of obstacles, both long and short term, that lie ahead. The U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) revised estimation for 2018 that U.S. oil output will reach 10 million barrels per day has added to lingering fears that the current global oil glut will continue.

This estimation, compounded by Donald Trump’s promises of further deregulation in the oil and gas industry, is likely to force a re-jig in OPEC policy at the group’s next meeting in July.

OPEC is also facing newer challenges from other oil-producing nations, namely Brazil. Oil exports in Brazil have tripled since 2013, and the country is now producing over 1.5 million barrels per day. Brazil is now expected to be the second-largest source of non-OPEC oil supply by the end of the year.

The future of oil therefore remains in a precarious position. Much will depend on OPEC’s ability to adhere to its own production cuts and, given the well-publicised disputes between member nations, if unity can be maintained in the group.
Grenfell Tower: Kensington’s permanent shadow
By Owen Fulda, Anna Kretschmer and Kate Hawthorne

The catastrophic disaster and events surrounding Grenfell Tower have left deep scars and a permanent and widening shadow over Kensington, its community and the whole country.

Those who have seen their lives forever changed and torn apart by this tragedy still face an uphill battle for the return to any sort of normality. There lies ahead the painful waiting period for the truth; to find out what has happened to those who were not found and whether the public inquiry will produce significant findings as to the real cause and who is accountable.

Below is KCW Today’s timeline to the events surrounding and leading up to this 2017 apocalypse.

July 2009
Lakanal House, Camberwell. Six people killed in the worst tower block fire on record so far. The fire started from a piece of electrical equipment in a ninth-floor flat. 999 operators, who believed fire safety measures would be sufficient to prevent flames and smoke reaching inside the flats, had told those who died to stay inside their homes.

The All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety & Rescue Group call for a fire regulation and safety review

Fire suppression measures in all tower blocks with similar designs were reviewed identifying approximately 4,000 buildings without fire sprinklers. They recommended that due to the speed that the fire spread in Lakanal House, building regulations should be reviewed.

July 2010
Grenfell Action Group is formed. Originally the group was started to oppose the insensitive redevelopment of Lancaster Green, a green space adjacent to Grenfell Tower. It has grown to more broadly ‘defend the rights of the residents of Lancaster West Estate’.

June 2016
Grenfell Tower refurbishment completed.

The outstanding fire safety review called for by the All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety & Rescue Group is again delayed by the Housing Minister.

February 2017
Southwark council pleads guilty to forty counts of breaching fire safety regulations over the Lakanal House fire in 2009.

Following the council’s guilty plea, Dan Daly, London Fire Brigade’s assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety, clarified that LFB’s advice in the event of a similar incident remained the same.

“If buildings are built and maintained correctly, walls, floors and doors in flats and maisonettes you protect from fire, a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes, so, if there is a fire elsewhere in the building but not inside your home you’re safer staying in your flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you.

Stay put and call 999.”

April 2014
The ‘Fire Safety Scandal’ blogpost on the Grenfell Action Group site calls for a fire risk assessment of Grenfell Tower. The group’s complaints were forwarded to the estate management and RBKC council.

January 2013
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Council send a legal letter to the administrator of the Grenfell Action Group blog, asking to remove content.

The letter, dated 25th July 2013 and signed by RBKC’s senior solicitor Vimal Sarma, notes the ‘critical’ nature of the blog and the blog’s opposition to development around the estate.

The letter asks for ‘acussions against named individuals’ to be removed from the blog as they could constitute ‘unsubstantiated accusation of criminal behaviour and could be seen as ‘defamatory’.

The blog should also refrain from ‘personal comments about any individual’s performance or actions whilst working on or for the Estate Management Board’.

May 2014
Grenfell Tower refurbishment begins.

The complex chain of contractors and sub-contractors is headed up by construction company Rydon. The fire-resistant zinc cladding specified by architects and approved by residents is replaced by the building contractors in the refurbishment contract.

November 2015
Grenfell Action Group call for an independent investigation of Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) due to its ‘negligence, incompetence and systemic failing’.

The group point to a 2009 report by Maria Memoli of Local Governance Ltd., which was conducted by residents in the borough who felt that problems with KCTMO including safety and unsatisfactory repairs, had not been addressed despite residents following correct complaints procedures over several years. The report notes a ‘culture of ignoring complaints’. Grenfell Action Group says that the 2009 Memoli report has not been acted upon by KCTMO.

January 2016
Grenfell Action Group’s post ‘Grenfell Tower Still a Fire Risk’ highlights household bulk rubbish blocking access to the tower’s communal entranceway, and the failure of estate management to address this. Whilst refurbishment works are ongoing this is the only entry and exit point in Grenfell Tower.

January 2016
The shadow housing minister, proposes an amendment to the housing and planning bill which would require landlords to make their homes safe and ‘fit for human habitation’. The bill is rejected by 312 votes to 219, due to ‘unnecessary regulation’.

Parliament’s register of interests states 72 of the MPs who voted against the bill had interests linked to the Lettings Industry.

June 2016
Sadiq Khan says questions needed to be answered about advice given to residents to stay in their flats in the event of a fire.

Temporary shelters are opened for now-homeless residents. The names of missing and feared dead begin to emerge.

Local residents begin donating clothes, food and shoes in huge quantities.

June 2016, 09:45: Firefighters continue to battle the flames and reach the 21st floor to rescue residents. London Mayor Sadiq Khan says questions needed to be answered about advice given to residents to stay in their flats in the event of a fire.

Local witnesses report people jumping off the Tower and a baby being caught by a member of the public after being dropped from the burning building.

London Fire Service’s ladders only reach a height of the 12th floor.

June 2016, 12:00: Theresa May expresses her sadness at the “tragic loss of life” and orders a cross-Whitehall meeting in order to deal with the disaster. The Queen issues a message of condolence.

June 2016, 16:00: Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation admits it was aware of residents concerns about fire safety at the block. Tensions boil over at the scene of the disaster among angry locals.

June 2016, 17:00: Firefighters reach top floor of Grenfell Tower after being hampered by broken gas pipes. Firefighters put in 24-hour shifts nearing 24-hours to tackle the fire.
June 15, 01:14: The blaze is brought under control - 24 hours after it began.

June 15, 09:00: Trained dogs are sent into the blackened building to search for victims. Police admit it could be weeks before the final death toll is known.

14:00: The Prime Minister visits Grenfell but draws criticism for failing to meet with any affected residents. Jeremy Corbyn and London Mayor Sadiq Khan, talk with victims.

June 16: Theresa May orders public inquiry and announces a £5 million fund for emergency supplies, food, clothes and other costs. Victims to be rehoused within three weeks at the latest, says Downing Street.

The Queen and Prince William visit survivors and emergency service workers at the Westway Sports Centre, where some Grenfell residents slept for a second night.

June 17: Scotland Yard announce criminal investigation into the disaster. Focus turns to the cladding fitted to Grenfell Tower and product reportedly used on the building is banned in the US.

Tenant list given to police by the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation not accurate. No complete list of all the people living in the tower can be found.

The Prime Minister orders councils across the UK to undertake urgent safety checks on all high-rise buildings.

The first victim of the blaze is named as Syrian refugee Mohammed Alhajali. Thousands of people sign a petition to allow his family into the UK for his funeral.

June 18: Kensington and Chelsea Council are relieved of responsibility for taking care of the survivors of the disaster and their work is handed over to a new Grenfell Fire Response Team. The police now believe more than 58 people are unaccounted for.

Downing Street announces £5,500 will be given to each household who saw their property destroyed by the fire.

June 19, 11am: Firefighters halt work to join residents at the north Kensington site for a minute’s silence.

The official number presumed dead stands at 80. Metropolitan Police Commander Stuart Cundy says: “The awful reality is that we may not be able to identify all those that died.”

June 20: The newly-elected MP for Kensington Emma Dent Coad slams the co-ordination of the response to the Grenfell Tower fire as “appalling”.

June 21: Affected families move to Kensington Row complex, where homes are on sale starting at £1.6m, in late July.

The chief executive of Kensington and Chelsea Council, Nicholas Holgate, resigns.

June 22: Tests carried out on high-rise council buildings in England uncover seven blocks of flats fitted with combustible cladding similar to that used on Grenfell Tower.

June 23: Police considering manslaughter charges as they reveal insulation and cladding tiles at the building failed safety tests.

June 24: Hundreds of residents of the Chalcots estate in Swiss Cottage north London woken during the night and told to leave their homes immediately. Camden Council became the first in the country to order an evacuation of blocks at risk of a similar fire to that in Grenfell Tower.

June 25: Labour’s John McDonnell tells Glastonbury the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire “were murdered by political decisions”. The cladding, installed at the block in 2016, reportedly sold as Reynobond PE, consisted of two sheets of aluminium that sandwich a combustible core of polyethylene.

No aluminium cladding made with pure polyethylene, the type used at Grenfell Tower, has ever passed the US National Fire Protection Association test, experts in the United States say.

Some survivors of the fire are evicted from the Holiday Inn Kensington Forum at short notice after the local council are unable to extend their booking.

June 26: The Government faces an estimated bill of more than £600m for replacing flammable cladding on housing blocks after the disaster. 60 Blocks have failed fire regulation tests to date.

June 27: It emerges that gas pipes within the tower were left exposed, despite the orders of a fire safety expert.

June 28: Police yet to identify anyone from the 23 flats, located between the 11th and the 23rd floor.

The police request data and documents from more than 60 companies involved in the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower.

June 29: Retired judge Sir Martin Moore-Bick is appointed to lead the public inquiry into the disaster. He says the inquiry will be “open, transparent and fair” and one that “gets to the truth as quickly as possible”.

Kensington and Chelsea Council’s first meeting since the disaster is abandoned leading to condemnation from Downing Street.

June 30: Kensington and Chelsea Council leader Nicholas Paget-Brown resigns saying he has to accept responsibility for “perceived failings”.

Robert Black, chief executive of Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO), also resigns.

July 1: Residents living in the so-called “finger blocks” which surround Grenfell Tower have been exempted from paying rent until earliest January 2018.

Barandon Walk, Testerton Walk and Hurstway blocks have been left without hot water.

July 2: In an attempt to identify the missing residents the government exempts illegal sublettings of Grenfell flats.

The Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA) contacts football clubs across UK to check on stadiums’ external cladding.

July 3: Judge Bicknell says his inquiry will “go right back to the construction of the tower” in the 1970s to examine warnings that may have been missed.

Firefighters who tackled the blaze will be the first recipients of hundreds of free holidays crowdsourced by members of the public on Facebook.

July 4: A three-hour meeting is held between survivors, Met Police Commander Stuart Cundy and Westminster coroner Dr Fiona Wilcox. Survivors informed that the “recovery phase” could last until the end of the year, and Dr Wilcox.

July 5: Sajid Javid, the Communities Secretary, announces that a special ‘Task Force’ made up of experts will manage the council’s housing, regeneration, community engagement and governance services.

The Grenfell Response Team says 139 formal offers of housing have now been made to survivors. 14 offers have been accepted and many are still in hotels.

A total of 87 discoveries of human remains made at Grenfell Tower. Some 250 detectives comb through the wreckage by hand, sorting more than 15 tonnes of debris per floor.

Cladding from 190 high-rise buildings in England has failed combustibility tests. Buildings at London’s King’s College Hospital, Sheffield Children’s Hospital and the North Middlesex Trust have failed fire safety tests.

July 9: Kensington and Chelsea’s new leader, Elizabeth Campbell states a bridge is required to fill the chasm between the council and the community.

London Fire Brigade to renew equipment with higher aerial platforms.

If you wish to volunteer please register your interest at: grenfellvolunteers@rbkc.gov.uk to include contact details, skills and availability.

Anyone concerned for loved ones in the fire can contact the Metropolitan Police casualty bureau on: 0800 0961 233.

The British Red Cross is raising money to help people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. To donate please visit: https://beta.redcross.org.uk/appeal/London-fire-relief-fund

A full list of charities and services providing emotional support and community resources can be found at: https://www.peoplefirstinfo.org.uk/news/emotional-support-for-those-affected-by-grenfell-tower.aspx
The Wynne Statues
By Sir David Wynne
Cadogan Square & Cadogan Place Gardens

David Wynne could arguably be crowned the most kinetic sculptor in London. Certainly, his Queen Elizabeth Gate which he designed with Giuseppe Lund at the Hyde Park Corner end of South Carriage Drive, takes the biscuit, if not the Battenberg cake, and which Richard Dornent described as ‘just plain naff’.

It was also described as ‘romantic candyfloss’ and ‘three-dimensional knitting’, but The Queen Mother, for whom it was commissioned by Prince Michael of Kent to commemorate his aunt’s 90th birthday, absolutely loved it.

He had, however previously, come to the public’s attention with his monumental black marble sculpture of Guy the Gorilla for London Zoo, now in Crystal Palace Park. He also made Boy with the Dolphin, a whimsical, yet powerful piece of design and engineering on Cheyne Walk, which has a grace and free-spirited daring, rare amongst his other sculptures. Girl with a Dolphin depicts a female nude bronze standing on a granite plinth in Cadogan Place Gardens, with five birds fluttering between her uplifted hands. Dance with a Bird in Cadogan Square continues the motif of movement and animals, while The Dancers, also in Cadogan Place Gardens, dispenses with birds and depicts a naked couple entwined in an awkward dance. The intention, no doubt, was to capture freedom of movement and abandonment, but the resulting mélange is a car-crash.

Wynne had previously sculpted The Beatles, the Queen and the Prince of Wales, actors Sir John Gielgud and Lord Attenborough, and musicians Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Sir Thomas Beecham, who remarked that the bust reminded him of all the mistakes he and his orchestra had made over the years.

He seemed to accept criticism with alacrity, citing the famous quote Jan Sibelius made to his fellow composer Bengt von Törne: ‘Never pay any attention to what critics say. Remember, a statue has never been set up in honour of a critic!’ That is not strictly true, if one includes the statue to the literary critic Charles Augustin Saint-Beuve in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris. It is said that the art establishment took against Wynne because he never went to art school and was self-taught, plus the irritating fact that the public appeared to like his work. It could just be that his work was bally-proportioned and awkwarly sentimental in his representation of figurine. The Cadogan Estate commissioned him to sculpt the three statues in their elegant Queen Anne and Georgian squares in the seventies, the northern part of which was designed by Humphry Repton in 1806. All credit to them for commissioning contemporary work to enhance their open spaces, but maybe they could not afford a Frink or a Flanagan. Pepsicola, who have a vast collection of sculpture in the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at their world headquarters in Purchase, New York, including works by Hepworth, Moore and Rodin, own five editions of Wynne’s work, including The Dancers and Dance with Bird, Girl with a Dolphin, Grizzly Bear and the truly awful Girl on a Horse. 

Don Grant

Blue Plaque:
Sir Arthur John Gielgud
OM. CH.
(1904-2000)

Dame Judi Dench unveiled an English Heritage Blue Plaque honouring Sir John Gielgud in April, this year. It was erected at his home, 16 Cowley Street, Westminster, in the presence of Sir Ian McKellen, Sir David Hare, Michael Pennington, celebrities and friends.

Sir John was very attached to his home and lived there from 1945 to 1976. He shared it with his sister, Eleanor, who was his secretary, and in the Sixties, his partner Martin Hensler, lived there until Sir John died. They kept several pets, including two owls and a cockatoo. The house, Georgian, built of brown brick, received a Grade 2 listing during his residency.

At the unveiling, Professor Ronald Hutton, Chairman of the Blue Plaque Scheme, said, “Sir John Gielgud was one of the finest actors of his generation, beloved by his peers; he is remembered for his complete mastery of Shakespeare, and is thought by many to have been the greatest Hamlet of the 20th century”.

He was an inspiration to young actors, for example, Paul Scofield, Michael Redgrave and Alec Guinness. He was one of the trio with Ralph Richardson and Laurence Olivier, who dominated the British Stage for much of the 20th Century.

Sir John’s father, Frank Henry Gielgud, was a City of London Stockbroker, who was of Lithuanian and Polish descent. His family had lands and a castle which they lost opposing Russian rule. They settled in England. His mother was Kate Terry-Gielgud. They had four children. His aunt was Dame Ellen Terry. Sir John attended Hillside Preparatory School in Surrey, where he did enough to get by in cricket and football, but excelled in English and the school’s Shakespearean plays. He proceeded to Westminster School. The fact this school was near the West End theatres did not escape him! Next came Lady Benson Dramatic School and finally RADA.

His family made it clear if he was not supporting himself by the age of twenty five, he would have to go to work in an office.

Well, he certainly did and was awarded an Oscar, a Grammy, an Emmy, a Tony and Best Supporting Actor for Arthur. Furthermore, he was knighted for services to the Theatre.

Sadly he was convicted of importing homosexuals in public places. The high profile court case did much to bring about a change in the law regarding homosexuality.

In 1929, when Sir John was in his twenties, Harcourt Williams, newly appointed Director of the Old Vic, invited Sir John to join the company. It was in an unfashionable area in South London, run by Lilian Baylis for working class audiences to give them Shakespeare and Opera. He saw it as an opportunity to hone his skills in Shakespeare. In 1935 he was one of the youngest actors to take the role of Hamlet. Later his name became associated with the role of Hamlet.

At the old Vic he met Ralph Richardson, they became friends and had a professional association for fifty years. Sir John directed Romeo and Juliet, alternating between Romeo and Mercutio with Laurence Olivier, their sole performance on stage together.

Peggy Ashcroft, a long time collaborator, was Juliette.

His long, impressive career included performances in the plays of Oscar Wilde, Harold Pinter, Alan Bennett, Chekov, David Storey and Charles Wood.

Sir John was primarily a Shakespearean actor, but from the 60s, his work included roles in contemporary theatre. Avant-garde plays were becoming popular.

At first he did not take films seriously, but went on to appear in over one hundred, including Granada TV serial, Brideshead Revisited. He received a Golden Globe Award and two Baftas.

Sir John became President of RADA and the Gielgud Theatre is named after him.

Sir Arthur John Gielgud saw the Theatre as more than an occupation or profession, saying, “For me, it has been a life!” On his 95th birthday, Michael Coveney, Critic, said, “Sir John Gielgud is the lone survivor of those great actors whose careers laid the foundation stones of modern Theatre...people of my age and younger can only take on trust the impact of the Hamlet, whose influence lasted more than thirty years. Even the recordings do not quite convey the mellifluous magic of the voice, once described by Guinness, as ‘a silver trumpet muffled in silk’. 

Marian Maitland.
Cygnus (The Swan)
By Scott Beadle FRAS

Back in El Valle Lecrin for my summer sojourn in southern Spain at 36 degrees North where I can observe better the nearer equatorial constellations and stars eg. Scorpio and Sagittarius. However even here, although they’re very clear by eye, I am in a valley and the heat rising off the Sierra de las Guajaras makes the air very unstable at times and that of course makes the image very poor at high magnification in a telescope.

So, the best constellation to look at, not so affected by atmospheric scintillation is Cygnus right above me. Along with Vega in Lyra and Altair in Aquila it is referred to as “The Summer Triangle” and beloved by mariners in my day (pre-Sat Nav/GPS) as easy sextant targets for a good navigational fix.

For astronomers, there is of course a lot more going on. Deneb for instance is one of my favourite stars; a blue super giant estimated to be around 3220 light years distant and yet one of the brightest stars in the heavens to the naked eye; just try and imagine how incredibly powerful stars in the heavens to the naked eye; just try and imagine how incredibly powerful that star must be to shine so brightly at this distance. Within this constellation are some beautiful sites the “North American Nebula” (due to its shape), the “Pelican Nebula” and the “Veil Nebula”. But if you move down the neck of the Swan you see a not too bright star Eta (η) Cygni, and just to the NE about a Moon’s width away is a much fainter though powerful blue star with an incredibly interesting name called HDE 226868 weighing somewhere between 10 and 20 times the mass of the Sun.

But, hey ho, there’s something wrong. This bloated blue star, massive as it is, is being swung around every 5.6 days. How can that be? It appears to be caught in the gravitational grasp of an immense object.

Spectroscopic orbital analysis proves that its companion must weigh about 8.7 solar masses and lie about 30million Kms away from it, in fact relatively close to it, yet the object twirling this massive star around remains invisible.

Usually massive stars are extremely bright but our most powerful telescopes today can find nothing there, so our first deduction is that it is a heavy and an under-luminous object.

We then find that this exact spot of sky emits an intense beam of X-rays, a powerful type of energy that always a signal of violence. Physics tells us that anything spiralling toward a black hole should be whipped up to speeds frenzied enough to cause X-rays, and sure enough this turns out be the highest energy X-ray source in the sky; a source so important that it is universally known in the X-ray catalogue as Cygnus X-1. Finally, tremendous changes occur in a millisecond, (a thousandth of a second), faster than an eye blink. Such near instantaneous variations prove Cygnus X-1 is no larger than 1/20th the size of the Moon. Put all the parameters together and you have an ironclad case for a black hole.

It can’t be a neutron star because infalling material would release energy on impact, but evidence of a black hole is because the infalling atoms only create X-rays while in orbit, after that nada. It’s hard to convey just what is required to be a black hole but maybe explaining that if you could compress the mass of Everest into an atomic nucleus you would have a black hole.

When the Large Hadron Collider first went on line many people said it would create a black hole that would devour the Earth, but the Earth is hit every day by cosmic rays far in excess of any of the highest energies achievable in the LHC.

Yet black holes are scarce because matter does not voluntarily pack itself so firmly. There is one at the centre of our galaxy and probably most others but that still doesn’t make them common. Most stars will leave the “Main Sequence” as bloated giants, then white dwarfs. Some will become dense neutron stars, a teaspoonful weighing as much as 14,000 tons. A star has to be at least 3.5 times heavier than the Sun and in its final life cycle to become a black hole.

When their nuclear furnaces no longer emit enough outward pushing pressure such stars cannot resist the gravitational urge to collapse. The smaller they get the smaller they want to be, until their gravitational escape velocity reaches 299,792km/ per/sec. Light itself, then cannot leave, and the stars effectively disappear.

Cygnus X-1’s singularity, the collapsed star at its centre, achieved black hole density when it became 6km wide and probably shrivelled even further to less than the size of a beach ball. The surrounding “event horizon” would be something like 26km; on this scale an invisible no-trespassing zone. Step across it and you are doomed.

Fortunately, this will not be the fate of our Sun. In 5 billion years, it will have left the “Main Sequence” and absorbed the Earth as it swells into a Red Giant, before settling back to White Dwarf status. At the same time Andromeda will be colliding with the Milky Way, what a magnificent sky for astronomers that will be. On the assumption we’ve colonized other worlds.

Will we be around to witness it?
With summer here, why not learn a new skill? From archery to ceramics, from ballet to photography, there’s something for everyone.

City Lit

Explore El Pais Vasco
Come and discover unique aspects about this fascinating region in northern Spain and southern France. From modern cities, quaint villages and green landscapes to world class cuisine and Spain’s best wine region, the Basque Country, has something for everyone.

1-10 Keeley St, London WC2B 4BA
020 7831 7831
citylit.ac.uk

Christie’s Education

Chinese Art in London
July 17 – 21
Chinese Art in London is Christie’s Education’s five-day summer school in Chinese art. Taking London-based collections of Chinese objects as its starting point, this course is an exciting opportunity to access an informative series of specialist-led lectures, and experience first-hand viewing and handling in museums, galleries and behind-the-scenes in Christie’s warehouse.

8 King Street, St James’s, London, SW1Y 6QT
020 7389 2025
christies.edu

English National Ballet

Dance is the Word
July 21 – August 15
Dance writing can be fun, moving and evocative. In this course you will watch dance and learn to write about the moving body. You will develop a writing voice in a fun and friendly class, using storytelling techniques from fiction and non-fiction, experiment with the “I” in storytelling techniques from fiction and voice in a fun and friendly class, using our special wooden blocks to create a structure that won’t topple over.

Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London
SW3 4HT
020 7730 0717
nam.ac.uk

Sotheby’s Education

Foundations in Contemporary Art
July 24-28
This intensive five-day course provides a basis for the analysis and interpretation of international contemporary art in all its forms. Chronologically organised, lectures will consider key issues in contemporary European, American and International art from 1960 to the present day, and will be complemented by special visits to London galleries and museums.

30 Bedford Square, Bloomsbury, London
WC1B 3EE
020 7462 3232
sothebysinstitute.com

Fashion & Textiles Museum

Pattern Making on a Mannequin
July 26
Through modelling fabric on body forms, participants will learn to make a bodice shape with calico which will then be transferred onto paper to create your very own patterns. On this fun hands-on workshop you will learn quick and easy methods to allow you to create simple bodice shapes with a choice of necklines and sleeve shapes. By the end of the workshop you will gain the confidence to design your own bodice shape, mixing and matching a whole range of elements and methods taught throughout the day.

83 Bermondsey St, London SE1 3XF
020 7407 8664
ftmlondon.org

William Morris Society

Summer holiday arts & crafts workshops: we love printing!
July 26
A workshop in two parts: create a print using natural materials inspired by William Morris designs and his garden, then make your own printing blocks or use our special wooden blocks to create your own wallpaper.

Kettnscott, Lechlade GL7 3HJ
01367 252486
williammorrisociety.org

Heartstart

Resuscitation training
August 1, September 5
Have you ever thought about learning how to save someone’s life? Would you know what to do if someone suffered a cardiac arrest, heart attack or was choking? The Heartstart initiative is coordinated by the British Heart Foundation and participants receive a certificate of attendance.

City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, SE1 2AA
020 7783 2534
resustraining@londonambulance.nhs.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden

A Passion for Plants – Gardening for Beginners
August 10
Come along to learn some gardening tips from our Education Team. You’ll be shown how to: grow and care for plants, take cuttings, plant seeds, use containers and more. There will be a selection of things for you to take away with you to grow at home as well as ideas for original and thoughtful gifts.

66 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London
SW3 4HS
020 7352 5646
chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

The Photographer’s Gallery

Histories of Photography September 4-October 25
This course introduces participants to the richness and diversity of photography’s histories. It takes its point of departure from photography’s early origins in the mid-nineteenth century, it navigates through the many transformations that the medium has undergone since, and finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.

16-18 Ramillies Street, Soho, London
W1F 7LW
020 7087 9300
thephotojournalists.org.uk

Modes of Contemporary Documentary September 6 – October 25
Max Houghton leads this eight-week journey looking at essential modes of contemporary documentary photography, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between image and text. Her imaginative choices will offer a fresh take on documentary practice, as it finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.

The Idler Academy

How to write a poem with Clare Pollard
Online Course
Poet Clare Pollard gives you the necessary tools and techniques to start writing your own poetry. Over six video-based lessons, Clare explores the style, structure and history of classic poetic forms like ballads, sonnets and dramatic monologues. Great poets, like Keats and Tennyson, learned through modelling, imitating, even stealing. In this vein, How to Write a Poem teaches you to read the classics in order to learn what you can take from them.

See website for dates

Resuscitation training

August 1, September 5
Have you ever thought about learning how to save someone’s life? Would you know what to do if someone suffered a cardiac arrest, heart attack or was choking? The Heartstart initiative is coordinated by the British Heart Foundation and participants receive a certificate of attendance.

City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, SE1 2AA
020 7783 2534
resustraining@londonambulance.nhs.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden

A Passion for Plants – Gardening for Beginners
August 10
Come along to learn some gardening tips from our Education Team. You’ll be shown how to: grow and care for plants, take cuttings, plant seeds, use containers and more. There will be a selection of things for you to take away with you to grow at home as well as ideas for original and thoughtful gifts.

66 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London
SW3 4HS
020 7352 5646
chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

The Photographer’s Gallery

Histories of Photography September 4-October 25
This course introduces participants to the richness and diversity of photography’s histories. It takes its point of departure from photography’s early origins in the mid-nineteenth century, it navigates through the many transformations that the medium has undergone since, and finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.

16-18 Ramillies Street, Soho, London
W1F 7LW
020 7087 9300
thephotojournalists.org.uk

Modes of Contemporary Documentary September 6 – October 25
Max Houghton leads this eight-week journey looking at essential modes of contemporary documentary photography, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between image and text. Her imaginative choices will offer a fresh take on documentary practice, as it finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.

The Idler Academy

How to write a poem with Clare Pollard
Online Course
Poet Clare Pollard gives you the necessary tools and techniques to start writing your own poetry. Over six video-based lessons, Clare explores the style, structure and history of classic poetic forms like ballads, sonnets and dramatic monologues. Great poets, like Keats and Tennyson, learned through modelling, imitating, even stealing. In this vein, How to Write a Poem teaches you to read the classics in order to learn what you can take from them.

See website for dates

Resuscitation training

August 1, September 5
Have you ever thought about learning how to save someone’s life? Would you know what to do if someone suffered a cardiac arrest, heart attack or was choking? The Heartstart initiative is coordinated by the British Heart Foundation and participants receive a certificate of attendance.

City Hall, The Queen’s Walk, SE1 2AA
020 7783 2534
resustraining@londonambulance.nhs.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden

A Passion for Plants – Gardening for Beginners
August 10
Come along to learn some gardening tips from our Education Team. You’ll be shown how to: grow and care for plants, take cuttings, plant seeds, use containers and more. There will be a selection of things for you to take away with you to grow at home as well as ideas for original and thoughtful gifts.

66 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London
SW3 4HS
020 7352 5646
chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

The Photographer’s Gallery

Histories of Photography September 4-October 25
This course introduces participants to the richness and diversity of photography’s histories. It takes its point of departure from photography’s early origins in the mid-nineteenth century, it navigates through the many transformations that the medium has undergone since, and finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.

16-18 Ramillies Street, Soho, London
W1F 7LW
020 7087 9300
thephotojournalists.org.uk

Modes of Contemporary Documentary September 6 – October 25
Max Houghton leads this eight-week journey looking at essential modes of contemporary documentary photography, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between image and text. Her imaginative choices will offer a fresh take on documentary practice, as it finishes with its definitive acceptance as an art form in the later half of the twentieth century.
Chinese maths in London? Why and how?
By Professor Hugo de Burgh

Teacher asks: ‘If China is the whole, what is Zhejiang?’ A young mother in the front row answers: ‘a part’. ‘Good’, says teacher. ‘Now tell the class, using a complete sentence. And then get the whole class to repeat it back to us, in unison. Then we will all write it in our copy books.’

This is how Dr Deborah Morgan, who heads the National Centre for the Teaching of Mathematics, started her talk on Shanghai Maths, held earlier this month at Kensington Wade. The talk on Shanghai Maths, held earlier this month at Kensington Wade, was introduced by academics who pushed an ideology of ‘progressive’ teaching which was deeply damaging. Even Scotland’s schooling, traditionally more rigorous than England’s, went downhill. Although a minority of state schools kept to high standards, whenever they could afford to, parents fled to the independent sector.

It was the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) global education league tables that really got the attention of journalists and parents, who started to lobby for reform. When those tables clarified that pupils in the UK lag well behind those of many other countries, and in particular that Shanghai children are several years ahead, British would-be reformers had an incontrovertible argument. The poorest 30 per cent of Shanghai children outperform the maths results of the richest 10 per cent in England, and this despite the fact that Chinese schools rarely have fancy teaching aids, or electronic devices and the class sizes are huge by UK standards.

Why do they do so well? There are two aspects to this. First, the teaching style of mathematics is being introduced all over the English-speaking world. And how.

In the 50 odd years since comprehensive schools were forced on most of the country, successive experts, employers and headteachers from the few remaining grammar schools have been pointing to the collapse of standards in English state schools, particularly of maths and own language. Throughout the 80s and 90s schools’ ministers of different parties wanted to improve teaching, but were stymied by the teaching unions and by academics who pushed an ideology of ‘progressive’ teaching which was deeply damaging. Even Scotland’s schooling, traditionally more rigorous than England’s, went downhill. Although a minority of state schools kept to high standards, whenever they could afford to, parents fled to the independent sector.

As Dr Morgan demonstrated at Kensington Wade, everybody is involved. The teacher asks a question, designed to reveal or illustrate a mathematical concept, and a pupil answers it with a complete explanation. She or he then gets the whole class to repeat it and write down the answer. If there are doubts, they are discussed in front of everybody. ‘dong niao zi 聪明’, get your brain working, the teacher calls out, exhorting everybody has grasped the concept in hand, does the teaching move on. Instead of just problem solving, pupils must think about the relationships between numbers and not just absorb without comprehending.

Morgan considers this way of learning ‘more deeply conceptual’, although it looks like rote learning. By taking small steps together, what the teachers call ‘pudian’ 推演, everybody focuses on the same matter and you see the children concentrating hard. This is how solid foundations of understanding are acquired, contrasting she says, with the insecure foundations of those who have gone through the English system, jumping from topic to topic and all at different levels.

Little children love reciting, memorising and play-acting and there is plenty of that, in the schools which I have visited. The Chinese classes are shorter than ours, and probably more intense; they are followed by 15 minutes of unstructured play. English primary school lessons can last for 70 minutes, without children learning as much or as well. The Chinese pupil will reinforce what has been learnt during the day, with homework every night.

I have to say that I find it quite humiliating that our country has been unable to start reforming teaching without resorting to learning from a country which, thanks to a similar ‘progressive’ ideology, had no schools at all 35 years ago.

Then, young people were supposed to ‘pick up’ skills from revolutionaries; something not dissimilar went on in England at the same time. When my son started primary school in London in 1991 I was astounded to find the contempt in which the mainly working class parents held the teachers, who had rejected tried and tested teaching methods and let our children mess around ‘developing self consciousness’ so that if they learnt anything in those years it was from mother at home. After trying to reason with the teachers we signed up for an independent school where he flourished.

Later generations are luckier, thanks to reforms championed by all parties. This government is making the most sustained effort of any to reverse the situation. As part of the endeavour, over the next few years, 8000 primary schools will start to teach maths Chinese style. The Education Department has set up maths hubs, and 30 Chinese teachers are being seconded to the UK each year to guide the process and teach our teachers how to teach.

At Kensington Wade, whose first pupils arrive this September, we will be starting out with maths with the Chinese way, and provide the foundations which will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives.

Professor Hugo de Burgh
is Chairman of Kensington Wade School
Homophobic bullying falling in British schools

The level of homophobic bullying in Britain’s secondary schools has fallen by a third in a decade, according to a study from the University of Cambridge. The study, commissioned by the gay rights charity Stonewall, says the use of insulting language is less frequent and schools are more likely to prevent attacks on gay pupils.

But the report says 45% of gay pupils still face bullying. Such behaviour needs to be “urgently addressed”, says Ruth Hunt, Chief Executive of Stonewall. The study, carried out by the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge, suggests gay, lesbian and transgender pupils in England, Wales and Scotland are less likely to face homophobic bullying than five or 10 years ago.

In 2012, 55% of gay pupils surveyed faced bullying because of their sexuality, and the report for 2017 suggests that has fallen to 45%. The culture of school and homophobic remarks are far less prevalent. But there are wide regional variations in levels of tolerance. While 36% of gay pupils report bullying in south-east England, it is a more common experience in Wales, where 54% of gay pupils face bullying, and the West and East Midlands, where 51% do so, according to the survey.

“While our new school report shows an improved experience for pupils in England, Wales and Scotland, there is still much to do,” said Ruth Hunt. “Almost half of LGBT [lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender] young people are still bullied at school for being LGBT,” he said.

Changes to GCSE’s creates confusion over university admissions

A new set of reforms in GCSE’s grading system has created a wave of confusion over university admissions.

The changes were announced by the Department of Education (DfE) and Ofqual, after explaining plans to switch the numerical grades, from 9 to 1. But confusion arose when parents and students were preparing for university applications, questioning how numerical grades would translate to official passing grades.

Under these new reforms, universities are setting different “pass” grades to smooth the transition as much as possible. Many universities however, are having trouble meeting the overall consensus of what the admissions passing grade should be.

University College London stated a C grade pass now requires a grade 5. Universities such as King’s College, and London School of Economics have set the benchmark at 5 as well.

Whereas, Manchester, Leeds, and Liverpool University set the benchmark at grade 4. This will prove difficult as students who get a grade 4 in English and Maths, will already be below the threshold for several universities.

Founder of careers advice charity My Big Career, Deborah Streatfield, said “students and parents are confused and looking for advice, it’s inconceivable that a simple task of deciding a pass has led to a ridiculous ‘standard pass’ and a ‘good pass’.”

This summer, the first batch of GCSEs in Maths and English are the first to be graded under the new system, with nine being the highest.

Head of ASCL teachers’ union, Suzanne O’Farrell commented, some schools might be ‘future proofing’ their pupils’ results by treating grade 5 instead of grade 4. But it would not be until next year that it would become apparent how universities would interpret the pass grade.

Top UK universities miss out on gold award in controversial Tef test

Many of the UK’s leading universities have failed to achieve the highest awards in a controversial assessment of teaching quality that has sent shockwaves through the traditional higher education hierarchy. Among the elite Russell Group universities, just eight out of 21 institutions that took part in the government’s “teaching excellence framework” (Tef) were awarded the gold rating, while 10 got silver. In one of the biggest upsets, the world-renowned London School of Economics, which is currently rated second in the QS global rankings for social sciences, was awarded the lowest bronze rating.

The Tef was introduced by the government in an attempt to provide a picture of teaching quality and learning outcomes in higher education to help prospective students make better-informed choices about which university to attend. The government has indicated that universities that have a Tef award will be able to increase tuition fees in line with inflation.

Sir Christopher Snowden, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Southampton, expressed deep concerns about the Tef and said his institution would be appealing against its bronze award. “It is hard to have confidence in a teaching excellence framework which appears devoid of any meaningful assessment of teaching,” he said.

“I know I am not alone in having deep concerns about its subjective assessment, its lack of transparency and with different benchmarks for each institution, removing any sense of equity and equality of assessment.”

A total of 295 universities, colleges and alternative providers of higher education volunteered to take part in the first year of the framework – of the 134 universities and specialist higher education institutions that were given ratings, 32% (43) scored gold, 50% (67) silver and 18% (24) bronze.

Among other prestigious institutions to receive a bronze award was the SOAS University of London, Oxford and Cambridge both got gold, as did Nottingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Imperial College, Birmingham and Exeter.

The rankings are awarded by a panel of 27 assessors and are based on statistics including dropout rates, student satisfaction survey results and graduate employment rates; including the proportion of graduates who go on to work in high-skill jobs. While critics argue that none of the indicators directly measure teaching quality, the results are expected to nevertheless have a significant impact on student recruitment, in particular in the international market.

Madeleine Atkins, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which published the Tef results on Thursday, said: “Students currently invest significant amounts of time, and indeed money and incurring debt, in their higher education.

“They are quite right to expect a high-quality academic experience. To hold any Tef award universities and colleges must already have cleared a high bar. The Tef measures excellence over and above this bar.”
Worldwide Pisa education test target ‘dropped’ in Wales

A key target to improve Wales’ scores in global education tests has been dropped by the Welsh Government. Ministers wanted to see Welsh pupils achieve a score of 500 in every subject by 2021 in the Pisa tests. However Welsh Education Secretary Kirsty Williams told a committee of AMs: “It’s not my target.

Introduced in 2014, the target replaced the previous aim of seeing Wales ranked among the top 20 best-performing countries by 2015. Students in Wales were the lowest of the UK nations in science, reading and maths in the 2016 tests, scoring 478 in maths, 477 in reading, and 485 in science.

The Pisa tests, (a major study of educational performance), are taken by 15-year-olds in 72 countries every three years. After the 2016 results, the fourth time Wales had done worse than the other UK nations, First Minister Carwyn Jones admitted that the results made for “uncomfortable reading”.

In a meeting of the Assembly’s Children, Young People and Education Committee on Wednesday, the Education secretary was asked by Plaid Cymru Education spokesman Llyr Gruffydd whether the Welsh Government still retained the 500 score target. Ms Williams said: “I have been clear that my expectation is for the Welsh education system to make progress in the Pisa scores. But, as I said, it’s more complex than that.

“We need to make progress in specific areas. We have made progress for our lower performing children that we’ve raised them up and they’re doing better than the OECD average.”

There has been support for the Education Secretary from the National Union of Teachers (NUT), which said it had “never subscribed to the notion of setting arbitrary Pisa targets”.

SATs

Nearly two in five primary school pupils in England fail to meet the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths. This is according to figures from the national curriculum tests, Sats, sat by 11-year-olds earlier this term. 61% did reach the expected level which is an improvement on last year’s 53%.

While ministers praised the hard work from schools, head teachers say the results don’t tell the whole story. While ‘only’ 61% met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, greater numbers of pupils did so for each of the three.

71% of pupils reached the standard in reading, up from 66%. In maths, it was 75%, up from 70%, grammar, punctuation, and spelling saw 77% of pupils make the grade compared with 73% last year. Finally, 76% of pupils met the standard in writing, more than last year’s 74%.

This year’s pupils were the second to sit the new, tough tests as part of a new national curriculum introduced in 2014. In 2015, the number of primary school leavers failing to make the grade fell from 50% in 2015 to 53%.

These results are used to measure primary schools’ success in ‘league tables.’ “Schools and pupils have responded extremely well,” School Standards Minister Nick Gibb told BBC News. “Today’s results show sustained progress in reading, writing and maths and are a testament to the hard work of teachers and pupils across England.

“Thanks to their commitment and our new knowledge-rich curriculum, thousands more children will arrive at secondary school having mastered the fundamentals of reading, writing and maths, giving them the best start in life.”

But the National Association of Head Teachers said that these results should be taken “with a pinch of salt.” “Sats data only gives parents part of the picture when judging a pupil’s success or a school’s effectiveness,” General Secretary Russell Hobby said. “League tables are the least helpful way of knowing if a school is the right place for your child. At the moment, parents and schools know that these results have to be taken with a pinch of salt.”

He concluded that while schools do need to be held accountable, “inspectors should look at more than just data” and that the data doesn’t show the work being done to help pupils achieve their full potential.

Funding for schools to come from free school meals, Tory manifesto pledges

Schools will see an additional £1 billion in funding, the Conservatives have pledged, with £650m coming from stopping free lunches. Currently, they are available to all infant pupils.

In addition to this, the Conservative manifesto pledges to remove the ban on Grammar and review admission policies. It would also mean that teachers would not need to pay back tuition fees while they stayed in teaching. Maths’ specialist schools will be required in every big city, more academies and independent schools, and faith schools are also on the agenda. Universities are to be supported in setting up investment funds for spin-offs from research. The changes on school funding follows a campaign led by head teachers over cash cuts. They are also on the agenda. Universities are to be supported in setting up investment funds for spin-offs from research.

The National Audit Office says that schools have a £3 billion gap in funding. Head teachers’ leaders criticised the Conservatives for “sleight of hand,” saying that this is to “counteract the rising costs which are hitting schools.” The additional funding will come mostly from scrapping free hot lunches for all infant children which are currently used by approximately two million children. The National Association of Head Teachers said it was a “poor policy decision” to scrap a project that has “yet to be evaluated”.

Schools have had a budget of £1 billion to launch the free meals in 2014, including the cost of installing kitchens. There will however, be free breakfast for all primary pupils, at a cost of £60 million. Extra support for disadvantaged students will also remain. School meals will, the Conservative party says, once again be means tested, meaning that the poorest students will not have to pay.

The remainder of the budget will come from other places. Changes to the Student Loans Company, which will save £200 million, “departmental efficiencies” which will be worth £160 million, and £10 million from the tariff on sugary drinks. “We have protected and increased school funding to the highest level on record, but we accept there is more we can do,” a Conservative spokesman said.

This extra money means no child will lose out.”

Labour has said that all Primary school pupils should have a free meal funded by adding VAT to private school fees. It has promised to invest over £20 billion in schools in England by 2022 as part of a package of pledges in education that it says would protect real term school funding and cut class sizes for five to seven year olds. The Lib Dems have projected £7 billion in spending over the same period over the same period.
Anniversary

Red Harvest
Dashieil Hammett

This month we're going deep undercover as we wade into Dashiell Hammett's neon-soaked nightmare with Red Harvest. "Play with murder enough and it gets you one of two ways. It makes you sick, or you get to like it." Red Harvest

When most people dip their toes into old-school detective fiction, it tends to be the lyrical cynicism of Raymond Chandler and his famous knight in sour armour, the P.I. Phillip Marlowe. Whilst Chandler may have been one of the best and Marlowe is every bit as an important literary figure as Sherlock Holmes or Poirot, Dashiell Hammett and his brutal rogues gallery of detectives, criminals and cruel-eyed women (though there's often not that much separating one from the other, except for the make-up) are often unfairly placed a rung or so below in the public perception.

Unlike Chandler who began writing his pulp stories as a transplanted upper-class Englishman, Hammett was the real deal, an ex-Pinkerton detective who had lived a hard and traumatising life, including a stint as a soldier in the First World War. Pinkerton's specialised in strikebreaking and strong-arm jobs as much as detective work and when Hammett was offered $5,000 dollars by his superiors to murder a strike leader in 1922, his disgust at his profession drove him to quit for good. At a loose end he turned his hand to writing what he knew about; the blood and violence lurking in the seamy underbelly of the American Dream.

Whilst his later, more famous novels (with co-incidentally famous film adaptations, though Red Harvest was adapted into Kurosawa's Yojimbo which went on to inspire Leone's A Fistful Of Dollars) like The Maltese Falcon and The Thin Man get all the ink, it's his first white-hot novel Red Harvest that was the seismic shock which announced a whole new genre of hard-boiled fiction. Pared down, with sentences that back and thud in a machine gun staccato, Hammett created a dark new world that thousands of later writers would populate with their own tales of greed and compromise. Set in Prohibition-era America when organized crime was at its peak, Red Harvest was published in 1929 and offers a cynical portrayal of the kind of corruption that could be found in countless cities across the country. The only honest citizen in Personville has been brutally murdered, and it takes the steady (if nigh psychopathic) dedication of the Continental Operative (who never even gets a name) to tear down the conspiracies that hold the town trapped in a web.

Even by the standards of early crime fiction The Op is as hard as they come. Like many other tough-guys of crime fiction, he is injured to violence, but he is also amoral and exhibits a distinct lack of compassion tempered with wry humor.

This darkly alluring combination of qualities and Hammett's concise writing style makes for a reading experience that is thrilling and unforgetable. So ground-breaking was the Op, it's been argued the hard-boiled pedigree of Chandler's Philip Marlowe and MacDonald's Lew Archer owe their existence to his influence. The deadpan Op, whose psychological fencing with high society and the underworld alike straddles the grey boundary between civilisation and the instinct to kill, is ever fascinating, and ever a page-turner. This is far from a Spillane-style testosterone drunk slugfest though, in the words of Raymond Chandler: "Hammett was the ace performer... He was spare, frugal, hard-boiled, but he did over and over again what only the best writers can ever do at all. He wrote scenes that seemed never to have been written before."

Whilst you may think that hard-boiled fiction might have no surprises left, the genre's first cut may still be the deepest. Max Feldman

Independent Bookshop Week
24 June–1 July

Independent Bookshop Week (IBW) kicked off on Saturday 24th, with 400 independent bookshops all over the UK and Ireland taking part in special events including readings and signings, and exclusive books and merchandise.

The week saw authors and publishers teaming up with The Booksellers Association to celebrate local bookshops, and shine a light on how local shops and their booksellers provide a special service to their communities.

Ahead of the week, the IBW Book Award prize winners were announced. The Adult category winner is Days Without End by Sebastian Barry (Faber & Faber), while winner for Children's category is A Poem for Every Night of the Year, edited by Allie Esiri (Macmillan Children's Books) with Picture Book category prize going to Tidy by Emily Gravett (Macmillan Children's Books).

The new Bookshop Search app has been launched to accompany the celebrations, which pinpoints local bookshops and exclusive bookshop offers. The new IndyBound Book Recommendations’ website has also just been launched featuring book reviews from indie booksellers. KCW Today joined local author and poetry editor Allie Esiri, whose A Poem for Every Night of the Year has won the Children's category prize, in Notting Hill bookshop Lutyens and Rubinstein.

Esiri’s new poetry collection gathers together a diverse range of poetry, from the classics: “If you’re looking for I wandered lonely as cloud, there it is, in Spring” she smiles, to modern classics and contemporary poets.

“I didn’t want it to be the same book that you might find on your grandparents bookshelf”, she explains of her editorial choices. “It includes many, indeed most, of the classics. But it is up to date”, featuring well-loved modern authors like Maya Angelou and Seamus Heaney and contemporary poets Rachel Rooney and Tony Mitton.

The selection marks the turning of the seasons, commemorates important historical events, celebrates festivals like Christmas or Diwali, but also places importance on the everyday and smaller moments in time. “I think for most people these days poetry is only really heard at weddings and funerals. But I think poetry really is not just for the big things in life but for the little things too”, Esiri explains.

A Poem for Every Night of the Year suggests bedtime reading and the sharing of poetry read out loud together. Indeed, Esiri is passionate about sharing poetry with children of all ages, and emphasises the importance of reading out loud alongside solitary reading.

“It is so rewarding working with children and poetry”, she says of her work in schools. “If a child learns a poem by heart you can see them grow three inches in height with pride at being able to recite a whole poem. And then you have that for life, inside your head, your own little library of poems that you can draw on in times of need”.

Shows and festivals are a key part of her “mission, to reach as broad an audience as possible”.

“Poetry was always written, historically, in the oral tradition. We pass on lullabies and rhymes and stories. In the past maybe a balladeer would come in to your village square and recite a poem. For many, especially at secondary school age, poetry out loud is so much more accessible”.

A Poem for Every Night of the Year, edited by Allie Esiri, is published by Macmillan Children's Books. At Lutyens and Rubinstein: 21 Kensington Park Road, W11 2EW www.lutyensrubinstein.com
John Keats
(31st October 1795 - 23rd February 1821)

England is a land which has produced many wonderful poets but in my, not
even slightly, humble opinion, John Keats is amongst the top five and yet
he was a mere twenty-five years old when he died and was only a serious
poet for six of those years. Until he was nineteen he studied as an apothecary and
surgeon before abandoning a promising career to writing. During his lifetime, like
many great artists, he was not appreciated and only about 200 volumes of his works
were published. He died in Naples trying to cure himself of the family disease,
tuberculosis from which his mother, Frances, had also died. He undoubtedly caught
it whilst nursing his younger brother, Tom, who also succumbed to the disease. As
he wrote in Ode to a Nightingale: “Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and
dies.” In the early nineteenth century TB was considered an unmentionable disease
as it was falsely and ridiculously attributed to masturbation and its real cause was not
recognised until 1820, just a year before Keats’s death.

Keats was a master of sensual imagery and this was unquestionably achieved by
his genius use of one part of speech; not the noun or the verb but the unusual and
hugely apt adjective. Some of the most famous lines in all poetry come from Ode to a
Nightingale:

> Perhaps the self-same song that found a path
> Through the sad heart of Ruth, when, sick for home,
> She stood in tears amid the alien corn;
> The same that oft times hath
> Charmèd magic casements, opening on the foam
> Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn.

Those few words send shivers down my spine, make the hairs on the back of my
neck tingle and make me want to weep because of their sheer beauty. Which words
seem to stand out more than any others? Surely it is ‘alien’ and ‘forlorn’? Why those
extraordinary, but so fitting adjectives? I can almost touch this tragically beautiful and
lonely woman and hear the song of that mystic bird.

In September of 1819 Keats was walking by the River Itchen near Winchester
and it moved him to write one of his most loved poems, Ode to Autumn. In this,
eto, the use of the adjective inspires the reader to feel exactly what the poet feels. We
can almost smell the dying of Summer and the air has a bite to it not felt for several
months. “Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;” Why did he use that rare and
lovely word ‘winnowing’ and can’t you feel it on the back of your neck? And haven’t
we all seen the Autumn dancing of the gnats heralding the beginning of Winter?

> Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
> Here, however, it isn’t only the
> adjective ‘waifful’ that makes the line have such a powerful impact but also the verb
> ‘mourn’. That is genius.

In this small appreciation of John Keats I have tried briefly to show my love and
passion for his work, which he achieved in such a short life. Tragically, he died before
the world recognised his talents and felt that he had wasted his life. Mike Daunt

Keats–Shelley Memorial House

26 Piazza di Spagna is situated at the foot of the Spanish Steps in Rome and was Keats’s final dwelling place before he
died in 1821. Now the Keats-Shelley Museum, Keats house
in Rome contains a wealth of treasures and curiosities relating
to the works and lives of the Romantic poets. One of its most
impressive features is the library which contains 8000 volumes
from the Romantic period, making it one of the biggest
collections of Romantic literature in the world.

Percy Bysshe Shelley, another of the great Romantic poets
of the age, had met Keats in England. When Shelley heard
from a friend that Keats had contracted Tuberculosis he invited
Keats to stay with him at his residence in Pisa but other
arrangements had been made for Keats to go to Rome instead.

When Keats died Shelley was so moved by the tragic loss
that he took to his pen and wrote Adonis, another Romantic
masterpiece. Shelley himself died in Italy at the age of 29 when
he drowned in a sailing accident off the Gulf of Spezia.
Vineet Bhati London
10 Lincoln St, Chelsea, SW3 2TS
Open: 6.30–10.35pm
020 7225 1881

“T

his is certainly homey” is the joke that occurs when stepping into Vineet Bhati London, a restaurant concealed inside a handsome (and doubtlessly eye-gougingly expensive) townhouse just off King's Road, frustratingly for my inner Borsch-Belt comedian, however the food on offer is anything but a joke. Vineet Bhati London is the reincarnation of Rasoi Vineet Bhati, the brainchild of Indian masterchef Vineet Bhati. After making his name in Mumbai, he found himself frustrated by the strict culinary conventions of his home and he shifted his base of operations to London in 1993, with an eye to modify and reinvent. He was the first Indian chef to be awarded a Michelin star (for Zaika in Kensington) in 1993, with an eye to modify and reinvent. After beginning with some Prawn Chaat and swiftly gained another for Rasoi before setting his sights on global expansion.

However this string of successes hit an unexpected roadblock when some landlord finagling (the bane of all things good in the Royal Borough) took another scalp by forcing Rasoi to close. Vineet Bhati London has risen from its ashes however and if anything the temporary closure seems only to have focused Bhati's drive and ambitions, leading to a dining experience unique in Chelsea. No lunch menu, no side orders, the approach is uncompromising; but if you are happy to allow yourself to be led you will find yourself in some extremely capable hands. Inside the townhouse Bhati (or to be more specific, Bhati’s wife) has tastefully laid out some of the rooms into pleasingly dinky dining rooms, perfect for hosting intimate get-togethers. It was so intimate in-fact that the two other couples dining complimented each other on how happy they looked with each other (which was a bit passive aggressive towards me and my date really) so privacy isn't exactly number one on the list of priorities.

In regards to food, there is absolutely no contest in that the so-called Experience Menu is really the only option worth trying here, mainly because it’s the only option. Considering that it’s made up of eleven courses, it’s easy to feel something of a sense of trepidation when sitting down; but considering the ‘haute cuisine’ sized portions and the general lack of carbs it’s more akin to grazing than an endurance test and the size of the menu allows Bhati to take you on an odyssey of considerable variety. After beginning with some Prawn Chaat that was more inhaled than eaten, the next course was an unexpected game of Where’s Wally with two delectable pieces of sleekly black Amritsari haddock hidden amidst a small cairn of black rocks (learn from your intrepid reviewer: The black rocks are not meant to be consumed!) which caused a minor turf war between my date and me as we frantically shuffled through the stones searching for a phantom potential third piece of haddock. From there it was a flight through all manner of culinary cul-de-sacs from glazed pork chops whose tenderness and sweetness left us with appropriately glazed expressions to elaborate lattice works of chocolate that make a mockery of the very idea of diets. In addition the meal was paired with six different curated wines; perfectly matched to whichever part of the tongue the meal had travelled to; all were thirstily appreciated. By the end of the meal sated was an understatement worthy of describing Donald Trump as “a bit of a bragrat”. The only thing to bear in mind is that befitting so many courses, a diner will be at their table for quite a while and whilst the quality of the food (and quantity) of the food more than warrants it, it’s quite a pricy night out; with a set price of £105 (£175 with wine flight).

By Max Feldman

Temperatures Rising?
By Edward Burns

One of my favourite sommeliers once said to me “The problem with the English is that they drink their white wines too cold and their red wines too warm” and I think he has a point!

There are no hard and fast rules to observe when serving wine, however, I am happy to share some of my thoughts on the matter. One of the most common misconceptions with red wine is that it should only be served at room temperature. I have known friends of mine to leave decanted wines by the fire and have served near on steaming wines at the table. This will not only affect the alcohol levels, but will leave the wine with a slightly stewed finish, as well as reminding you of drinking Glühwein on a winter’s night!

Personally, I prefer serving a red wine a couple of degrees cooler than it should be (12-14 degrees). When a wine is poured into the glass, due to the larger surface area and the warmth of your hand, the wine will naturally warm up thus allowing the full flavours and aromas to waken.

Another of my friends inherited a habit from his father, of serving Champagne at near freezing temperatures. This inhibits the Champagne's ability to show its full spectrum of flavours, as the cold leaves it in a dormant state so that you may as well be drinking Prosecco or cheap sparkling wine.

On the plus side, chilling a bottle also suppresses tannin and makes alcohol less noticeable on the palate. So if you have a wine that is either too young or alcoholic, an hour in the fridge will make it far more approachable. If you do not have an hour to spare, put the wine in an ice bucket with plenty of ice and a handful of salt. The salt helps to lower the freezing point and in ten minutes you will have a cold bottle of wine.

Both the style, age and grape variety impact on what temperature a wine should be served, however, it is far easier to let a wine warm up in the glass than to cool it down. Hopefully this guidance is useful, as I have said, there are no rules, but you may be missing out on the full flavours, aromas and potential of your glass of wine this evening!

Burns & German Vintners Ltd, Chelsea, SW3
T: 020 3011 5965
www.bgvintners.co.uk
Kurobuta:
Japanese Junk Food meets High End dining
By Max Feldman

When it comes to Pan-Asian fine-dining, London has been stuck in something of a rut. The trail initially blazed by high-end tastemakers such as Nobu, Buddha Bar and Zuma have become increasingly homogenised to the point where most high-end Pan-Asian restaurants are effectively interchangeable: the same quasi-hotel lobby chic layout, the same blandly inoffensive dance or classical quietly burbling through the speakers, and what is basically the same menu, tweaked in only the most minor ways to avoid upsetting the apple-cart. It’s not that these restaurants are bad, they’re just overly safe; curated high-end experience all assembled from the same blueprints. Without the spark of innovation there’s little to distinguish one restaurant from another and the best chefs in the world can’t help if the raw ingredients have gone stale.

With this in mind, when I ventured into the newly opened Kurobuta Marble Arch to speak with Chico Luciano, Kurobuta London’s Managing Director, I wasn’t expecting anything but more of the same, if overly familiar style and experience. Instead I walked into a restaurant that owed as much to its design as a trendy nightspot in Miami beach than the hermetically sealed sterility that I’d come to expect. Pictures drape the walls from seminal rock acts like Nirvana and Guns ‘N’ Roses whilst hidden speakers pulsed to the tune of 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant. Fed up with the straight-up the very best, better/ than London’s Pan-Asian giants a run for their money. Punchy aesthetics are key to Kurobuta’s instant appeal for customers hungry for something new. Whilst the open-plan kitchen directly from across South-East Asia, rather than settling for anything close to second best. This perfectionist drive seems to inform every element of his organisation, from exclusively sourcing their sake (which is otherwise unavailable in London) from niche and independent producers in Japan, cutting out the middlemen, to employing specialist pastry chefs to eliminate the need to purchase buns; when talking to him Chico’s passion for quality and maintaining the uniqueness of the dining experience. Despite only having just recently opened the doors on their second location, already it looks like Chico and the highly trained team that he has assembled from what seems to be every conceivable facet of the industry are eyeing further expansion, in both London and further afield. Kurobuta’s Marble Arch branch is only newly opened, Chico laughingly comments that in King’s Road, the restaurant has become so ubiquitous that locals are reportedly describing it’s pull as almost “unavoidable”.

It’s this dedication to standing out to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea

Ambition; they are certainly a brand and concept to experience and watch out for. The Rock ‘n’ Roll, careless/ Rockstar ethos provided by replacing the subdued anonymous generic music commonly found in Pan-Asian restaurants. The classic 80s and 90s bangers blaring across the restaurant is the perfect example of Chico’s refusal to stay within the rigidly defined lines of what a restaurant of this sort is ‘supposed’ to be like, explains Kurobuta’s concept and brand. In particular he is proud of the unique and often obscure sushi and sashimi that they have on offer, to the point where they require any sushi or sashimi chef to have a minimum of ten years’ experience before they can join the Kurobuta Group and even then only if they’ve been trained in a specific way. Often these exacting expectations lead to chefs being parachuted into Kurobuta’s Kitchen for stultifying conventions he envisaged replacing the subdued anonymous quality food and expertise of high-end London’s Managing Director, Kurobuta Chelsea
Jackson’s & Rye

When it comes to having a dual citizenship, among the many things that might play against me at times, the perks do outweigh the cons. I’ll get to the point immediately. I can, and do, celebrate as many holidays as possible, a kind of child of two divorced nations, and I always calculate the rate of success by the amount of food that is allowed and/or expected to be eaten.

This American style restaurant in the heart of London, will take care of filling in any gaps of homesickness. For those who are perhaps feeling the distance of family and friends, or the authenticity of American food, Jackson’s & Rye, will fill you up with great food and great company.

Upon entering the little red restaurant on the 4th July, I was pleasantly surprised by the festive atmosphere. Star-striped flags were jauntily aligned alongside the old-school counter of the sixties styled diner. The atmosphere was jolly, although packed during dinner service, I cannot but stress what a lively and celebratory diner. The atmosphere was jolly, although packed during dinner service, I cannot but stress what a lively and celebratory atmosphere the restaurant created.

It’s just as worth going there any other day as well, but as this the 4th July food left me beyond content, and I could tell it had the same effect on the crowds of jolly young yanks sitting at the table next to me. For those who would like to taste a little piece of heaven, I would suggest the St. Louis style Ribs. They virtually melt in your mouth and by the time you’ve come back to your senses, the plate is empty.

As a serious food-enthusiast, I nonchalantly decided upon an order of ribs, smoked beef and the most delicious cookie sandwich I have ever eaten in my life, all of which was for only £25.

A couple of friends sitting next to me ordered the heavenly Pecan Pie, which I was so close to ordering as well, but I’ve decided to save my stomach from myself and have it on my next visit. This was in fact, the set menu for the fourth of July week, but it worked out for the best as I’m sure if I had more options I would’ve overloaded and rebooted in standby mode.

Jackson’s & Rye was a place of celebration and togetherness, not just a restaurant in Soho indulging Americans to celebrate their holiday away from home. Instead it was an unexpected slice of home itself which managed to cross the pond and create an atmosphere that is rarely served with such perfection.

Jackson’s & Rye
56 Wondour St, Soho, London W1D 4JF
Hours: Open today · 8am–11:30pm
T: 020 7437 8338

Iraqi food at its best! Enjoy a welcome drink and 4 courses at this traditional Iraqi feast, you will definitely leave satisfied!!

Thursday 27th July 2017 at Maida Hill Place, 2-4 Fernhead Road, London W9 3ET. Tickets available to buy online (link below)

Whether you are familiar with the cuisine, a big foodie or just generally want to try new things, this opportunity will allow you to be introduced to a world of new flavours.

Menu and venue details are found on the link below, The Sunflower Kitchen hopes to leave you wanting more!

To book on visit: http://grubclub.com/the-sunflower-kitchen-iraqi-supper-club/20847

The Sunflower Kitchen

www.instagram.com/thesunflowerkitchen
@TheSunKitch

Luxuriating in Northern Ireland
By Ione Bingley

Having checked the weather forecast for the weekend, rain, rain, storms, rain, one could be forgiven for having some reservations about embarking on a wet and wild weekend in Northern Ireland. However, gliding past the 50 shades of green that cloak the rolling hills outside Belfast, a nostalgia rises for a childhood of damp bucolic backcountry, we headed to the official opening of a new wing, complete celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Culloden Estate and Spa for two nights in the lap of luxury. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Culloden is certainly still going strong. Sinking into a sea of huge pillows, facing an enormous flat screen and waiting for the marble bath to buoy up my complimentary rubber ducky, it’s easy to see why it has been enjoying such a success.

In the morning, the divine smell of Espa products, which infuses the whole hotel, led us into the peaceful depths of the low-lit spa for a soothing massage. Feeling very relaxed we floated around the 50th anniversary tour, taking us through the many magnificent function rooms, lounging areas and old and new wings, before being delivered to a spread of delightful canapés including platters of crab and fresh oysters. And the culinary excitements didn’t stop there, the tasting menu that we had the pleasure of experiencing later that evening was superb.

Sad to leave, but with one last treat in store we alighted at Mount Stewart, an extraordinary 19th century house packed with historic artefacts, with stunning and strange, surrealist-inspired gardens designed by the Marchioness of Londonderry. Dripping with history and magic, Northern Ireland will definitely require a return trip.

With thanks to Hastings Hotels, Tourism Ireland and N01 Lounges. For more information visit: www.hastingshotels.com www.ireland.com
From Pillar to Post: The walking tour that reveals London's postal history
By Owen Fulda

Train geeks rejoice! The Mail Rail; a subterranean network of automated trains stretching from Paddington to Whitechapel which kept the Capital’s communication network flowing for over 75 years, is set to open to the public on July 27. The Postal Museum have resurrected a section of track so that you can experience the hidden history of Mail Rail in thrilling motion witnessing how millions of items of mail are delivered every day, round the clock, deep beneath the streets of London.

And if you want to learn more I highly recommend From Pillar to Post; London’s only walking tour centred on the history of the GPO (General Post Office), specifically its early presence and impact in central London. It is a brilliant way to spend a weekend morning, discovering the fascinating history hidden within London's streets. The two hour tour starts in Farringdon and ends in Bank, uncovering along the way the rich postal heritage of London's roads and buildings, interwoven with the City’s wider history.

The tour begins outside the old Metropolitan Railway Parcels’ office at Farringdon Station. Like today, there was no monopoly on the parcel post and you could pay many different companies to deliver your parcel for you. The various disparate railway companies provided a regular, well honed parcel service, if a little complicated and expensive when utilising more than one company which could pay many different companies to deliver your parcel for you. The various disparate railway companies provided a regular, well honed parcel service, if a little complicated and expensive when utilising more than one company at a time. In an endeavour to create a nationwide service the GPO commenced its own ‘Parcels Post’ in 1883. They initially made a loss having overestimated the number of parcels that would be delivered.

The telephone kiosks introduced by the GPO are well illustrated in Smithfield Meat Market, with an eye-catching row of the iconic K2 and K6 red kiosks. Both were designed by Giles Gilbert Scott (later Sir), who also designed Battersea Power station and Bankside Power station, now Tate Modern. The K2 kiosk is almost certainly based on the tomb of Sir John Soane, the celebrated architect. Sir John Soane’s tomb is one of only two Grade One listed tombs in London, the other tomb is that of Karl Marx.

Next stop on the tour is St Bart’s Hospital, West Smithfield, where one passes an old and inconspicuous wall box. Companies would often have their own wall box for their mail that they would then pay the GPO to collect from.

The telephone kiosks introduced by the GPO are well illustrated in Smithfield Meat Market, with an eye-catching row of the iconic K2 and K6 red kiosks. Both were designed by Giles Gilbert Scott (later Sir), who also designed Battersea Power station and Bankside Power station, now Tate Modern. The K2 kiosk is almost certainly based on the tomb of Sir John Soane, the celebrated architect. Sir John Soane’s tomb is one of only two Grade One listed tombs in London, the other tomb is that of Karl Marx.

Next stop on the tour is St Bart’s Hospital, West Smithfield, where one passes an old and inconspicuous wall box. Companies would often have their own wall box for their mail that they would then pay the GPO to collect from.

The large ‘A’ sized example at Bart’s not only incorporates two peculiar angled apertures, but also a door situated outside the hospital so that the mail can be collected even if the gates are shut.

Into view soon after came four huge buildings that formerly made up a GPO empire. The King Edward building, former GPO headquarters and previously a home to the National Postal Museum, is now owned by Merrill Lynch. A hint of its former GPO importance is indicated by a sculpture in the wall of the building depicting a Caduceus, a Staff with two entwined snakes, belonging to Mercury/ Hermes, messenger to the Gods. Around the corner stands the statue of a hero of the GPO, Rowland Hill, the creator of the Uniform Penny Post. This is known to most as that which gave us the 1d black postage stamp, the first in the World, helping to open the postal service to all.

The tour continues on the other side of the road with a walk through Postman’s Park, adjacent to another former GPO Head office; GPO North. The park has a rich history of its own, but it was so called because of its proximity to the former GPO buildings and the popularity of the park with GPO workers resting there between duties. In the park is also situated a memorial established by the painter George Frederic Watts. This consists of a series of plaques that commemorate those often unheralded elsewhere, who had performed heroic deeds (some of whom were children) and all of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. As you exit the park be sure to notice the bench dedicated to ‘the Central Telegraph Office female staff who helped keep communications open during two World Wars’. John Palmer, a theatre owner from Bath, conducted a successful trial run of a mail coach travelling from Bath to London in 13 hours against the usual time taken of nearly triple this. From then on the time gained by delivering mail by mail coaches was clear and postal delivery was revolutionised. Many of the mail coaches set off from London along the Great Roads from The General Post Office, Sadly just prior to the First World War this office was pulled down to widespread public outcry. Already proving too small for the increase in mail volume, it had earlier been popular as a gathering point for the public who would assemble to observe the spectacle of the departing mail coaches. Smaller mail van, a substantial hit to the unwary, Charles Dickens recorded the death of a pedestrian under the wheels of a galloping mail van in a neighbouring street in “Little Dorrit.”

The tour also touches on the Post Office Underground Railway that runs underneath some of the areas traversed on the tour. Work on the Railway began prior to the First World War, and was then halted due to the War when the underground tunnels were used to store artworks from museums and galleries such as the National Gallery. The railway opened in 1927. It was used to transport mail using driverless trains, underneath London, to the mainline stations which provided access across the country. Built partially to avoid the traffic congestion overhead, some might argue that little has changed in London today.

However, with the closure of most of the large sorting and distribution offices, routing of mail outside London and cessation of use of the London railway termini for mail purposes meant that the requirement for a bespoke underground railway, by now renamed Mail Rail, was no more. By the time of Mail Rail, the transport revolution had been going for many years with the GPO availing themselves of the opportunities available. Mail was first carried on overland trains in 1830. Again the innovation of the GPO is evident; mail carried by trains was instituted soon after experimentation with the railways and train travel first began.

The well known novelist, Anthony Trollope, is credited with the introduction of the first British pillar box, when working as a Surveyor’s Clerk for the GPO. The pillar box was trialled in the Channel Islands in 1852 and similar boxes were introduced to the streets of the UK mainland by 1853. The first pillar boxes appeared in London in 1855 though no examples of these survive today. Possibly one of the most popular of all the pillar boxes is the Penfold, the only pillar box named after its designer and famously used as the name of Danger Mouse’s sidekick.

The tour ends outside the National Exchange and the imposing Bank of England, by Bank station. Here stands a First World War memorial that also commemorates the role of the London Regiment, City of London Battalions and the 8th Battalion (Post Office Rifles), providing a fitting and sombre end to the tour.
July Festivals

Even the threat of torrential rain and rivers of mud can't keep music festivals from being an integral part of the British summer. Whether you’re a bearded hipster or a head-banging black metal aficionado there’s a festival for every taste. After Glastonbury it can be easy to assume that you’ve missed the boat as far as festivals are concerned, so KCW are offering a list of some of the best festivals going this late in summer, both old favourites and underground hits.

Latitude Festival: 13th-16th July
Henham Park, Suffolk. Genre: Pop/Indie. Price: £197.50
Headliners: the Specials, MIA, Cyprus Hill
An artsy rollercoaster of a festival, Boom Town is an actual mock ’town’ packed with live music, stand-up comedy and arts and crafts. Blending ska, reggae, dance, dub and swing with a dash of hard rock, the festival is covered with incredibly elaborate stages and decorations with fancy dress heavily encouraged. Boomtown comes complete with an ever evolving backstory which sets the theme of each year’s festival.

Beat Herder: 17th-19th July
Headliners: Crystal Fighters, Seaford Mods, Kels. For those whose tastes run more towards musical outliers. There’s plenty of Breakbeat, Reggae and Dance-Punk for those with more specialised tastes than an average festival caters for.

Benicassim: 13th-16th July
Headliners: The Weeknd, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kasabian
Due to the nearby beaches and good weather, Benicassim manages to draw in as many as 50,000 festival goers determined to have fun in the sun. Much more of a party festival than the relatively chilled out Primavera, Benicassim is regularly attended by huge numbers of Britons hoping to escape the inevitable mud of the traditional English festival and the music reflects this, with a strong Anglo influence.

Secret Garden Party: 28th-30th July
Headliners: Jake Bugg, Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls, Loudon Wainwright III
The Secret Garden Party has been going since 1994 and is steeped in tradition and atmosphere. Though recently with its more pop orientated lineup, the folk aspect is sometimes found more in the audience than the artists.

Reading and Leeds Festival: 25th-27th August
Reading and Leeds. Genre: Pop/Rock/Metal. Price: £212.50
Headliners: Kasabian, Eminem, Muse
Definitely leaning towards harder rocking stuff than your average festival, Reading and Leeds tend to attract a hard partying crowd. Fans of pop-punk played at ear-splitting volume will find plenty to like, though those looking for a more relaxing time might be better served elsewhere.

Bestival: 7th-10th September
Headliners: The xx, A Tribe Called Quest, Pet Shop Boys, Justice
Coming at the close of festival season, Bestival has something for everybody. With circuses, poetry readings, comedy, live performance on top of a line-up unconstrained by genre, it’s almost guaranteed that even veteran festival cynics will enjoy.

Summer Festival Essentials

By Owen Fulda

So Glastonbury has been and gone once more. Ed Sheeran’s headline performance may not have gone down a storm in all quarters, but at least it didn't rain, for once! Festival season is now in full flow, but don’t fret, there are still plenty more chances to get out and shake your tailfeather to some tunes in a muddy field.

Preparing for a festival, whether it’s just a two-dayer such as SW4 or Lovebox or a five day extravaganza in Croatia like Outlook or Soundwave, preparation is key. Of course it’s crucial to take as little as possible, because like a party, it’s a festival after all. Whether you’ve spent all night raving and returned to your tent just in time to see the sun come up, or just want to have a chilled out weekend with some mellow guitar anthems, we all need a comfy place to park our derrières.

So once you’ve arrived at your chosen festival, you've got to make sure you’ve got all the things you need to enjoy your stay. Here are ten festival essentials you need to pack.

1. Sturdy Tent
   A fold out chair complete with foot rests, neck rest pillows, and beer holder is arguably the most fundamental piece of festival gear. Whether you’ve spent all night raving and returned to your tent just in time to see the sun come up, or just want to have a chilled out weekend with some mellow guitar anthems, we all need a comfy place to park out derrières. Sitting in three-inch deep mud or a sun-baked slab of grass resembling green concrete is nobody’s idea of fun.

2. Rain Gear
   Traversing a muddy field once the sun has set can be tricky in itself, but stumbling around in the pitch black while trying to find the loo in a semi-drunkened coma is nigh-on impossible. And that is exactly why you need a head torch! Yes smart phones now come complete with a built-in torch, but if you haven’t already lost yours by day two, you’re not doing it right. A light strapped to your head rather than in hand also makes pulling your trousers up significantly easier. Winning!

3. Mosquito Repellent
   If you can afford a festival ticket, then you’ll be looking like a poached langoustine. Mosquito repellent is equally vital, because sleeping in a freezing cold/boiling hot tent is hard enough without the constant need to scratch at dozens of antagonising bites.

4. Sun Cream
   As effective and about one third of the price of our Solar System actually makes an appearance in the UK, you’ll want to avoid coming back from Secret Garden Party looking like a poached langoustine.

5. Sunscreen
   Ladies would be wise to invest in a shewee. If you don’t know what that is, google is your friend. Men don’t need to worry about that, which frees up a bit more room for booze. Don’t forget to pack a tube or two of Berocca multivitamins to kick that hangover into touch. (Tesco’s own brand is just as effective and about one third of the price).

6. Energy Bars
   They are a quick hit of protein that Rodigan (MBE) set at Boom Town. But the light at the end of the tunnel... it can be easy to assume that you’ve missed the boat as far as festivals are concerned, so KCW are offering a list of some of the best festivals going this late in summer, both old favourites and underground hits.

7. Basic First Aid Kit
   Stumbling around in the pitch black while trying to find the loo in a semi-drunkened coma is nigh-on impossible. And that is exactly why you need a head torch! Yes smart phones now come complete with a built-in torch, but if you haven’t already lost yours by day two, you’re not doing it right. A light strapped to your head rather than in hand also makes pulling your trousers up significantly easier. Winning!

8. Emotional Support Animal
   If you can afford a festival ticket, then you’ll be looking like a poached langoustine. Mosquito repellent is equally vital, because sleeping in a freezing cold/boiling hot tent is hard enough without the constant need to scratch at dozens of antagonising bites.

9. Sunscreen
   As effective and about one third of the price of our Solar System actually makes an appearance in the UK, you’ll want to avoid coming back from Secret Garden Party looking like a poached langoustine.

10. Sun Cream
    Ladies would be wise to invest in a shewee. If you don’t know what that is, google is your friend. Men don’t need to worry about that, which frees up a bit more room for booze. Don’t forget to pack a tube or two of Berocca multivitamins to kick that hangover into touch. (Tesco’s own brand is just as effective and about one third of the price).

Energy bars can save almost literally your life if you’re struggling in the latter stages of a festival. A quick hit of protein and carbs to bloodstream gives you a boost to get off your backside and hit that Rodigan (MBE) set at Boom Town. There’s nothing worse than running out of food and being forced beg, steal and borrow on the last day of a festival, but we’ve all been there. Or is that just me? But the light at the end of the tunnel... that first proper shower when you get home makes all the pain and suffering worthwhile.

Hang on, why do we even go to festivals again?
A brief History of Hats
By Antonia Williams

From the Bowler to the Boater, the Flat Cap to the Fascinator, Britain's love affair with hats is in a league of its own, the nation's devotion to headwear dating back centuries. Traditionally, hats were loaded with totemic power in their ability to signify class, occupation, and gender.

The Top Hat:
Throughout the 19th century, the top hat was an essential of Victorian life. A man in a topper was thought to be a respectable, well-to-do, and a man of class, occupation, and gender.

Although many of us do the watching rather than the wearing, not to mention the riding, the time of the year has just passed when the British elite grace the Ascot race tracks draped in elegance and extravagance. Amidst the sea of haute couture, the track has also become renowned for people-watching-enthusiasts competing for who can spot the most outlandish of them all.

Although attendees are restricted to a strict head to toe dress code, hats are still the favourite accessory to show off. Christy's & Co Ltd have been manufacturing hats since 1783 and have supplied thousands of pieces to Ascot attendees.

Ascot holds a long history of royal associations and horse racing. In fact it was Queen Anne in 1711, when riding out near Windsor Castle came upon an area of heath, who said it was, "ideal for horses to gallop at full stretch." The Queen held a series of equestrian events on that very site.

The Panama Hat:
Originally Ecuadorian, the Panama long has held the renowned position of the most fashionable summer hat. Made and woven out of papa toquilla, a plant only indigenous to Ecuador, the Panama has been around at least since the 16th century.

In the mid-18th century the hat made it across the gulf and into the United States. During the Spanish-American war of 1898, the US government supposedly ordered 50,000 hats for troops in the Caribbean.

The hat made its debut in Paris when a Frenchman brought it to the World Exhibition in early 1855. As the Panama started its reign in Europe, it didn't take long for it to cross the Channel and arrive in England.

The black band around the hat is said to have originated in 1901, the year of Queen Victoria's death.

In 1985, the Panama Hat was selected by the Conran Foundation for the Boilehouse Project at the Victoria & Albert Museum, as one of "the 100 best designs ever."

The Beret:
Holds a long political history and deeply cherished by the French. It was first adopted by artists such as Picasso in 1895. In later days, it was worn by Madonna and Brigitte Bardot, morphing it into 'modern chic'.

The Fedora:
Originally designed for women in 1882 and more popular in women's suffrage movements, it became more commonly associated with men after Prince Edward was photographed wearing one in 1924. The Fedora was soon to become the 'gangster' hat, when featured in movies such as 'The Godfather'.

The Fascinator:
Its origins date back to the Renaissance. This large band, with clips, feathers, ribbons etc., is usually worn to the side and does not cover the whole head. It was popular in the 1900s and brought back into modern fashion by London-based milliners Stephen Jones and Philip Treacy. Is it also wrongly believed by many to be 'The Ascot hat', but according to the dress code, hats worn at the track must have a base diameter size of 4 inches.

The Flat cap:
Originated in Tudor times. It was also dubbed the 'classless' hat, since it was worn by both upper and lower classes. It became an icon of the working class in the 19th and 20th century.

Ascot:
By the early 20th century Ascot had become the epitome of British high fashion, and much of the height was the headwear, then as now.
Walking through Liberty’s is like entering an Aladdin’s Cave of treasures with dark, timber paneled walls, leaded windows reminiscent of a grand old manor house and tables piled with delights from east and west. The emporium in Great Marlborough Street built in 1924 belongs to a golden age of luxury brand department stores. It’s oak beams may be Tudor but Liberty’s has survived to present day with a willingness to embrace young designers and continuing to offer a unique shopping experience for any age.

Like many successful retail stories it all started with one ambitious entrepreneur blessed with a surname associated with freedom and travel; symbolised by the Mayflower ship weather vane perched on the roof of the store. Arthur Lasenby Liberty was born in Bucks, but adored eastern bazaars and took advantage of the colonial passion for fabrics, furniture and oriental rugs. With £2000 loaned from his father-in-law-to-be, he purchased ½ a shop in Regent Street with three employees selling a magical mix of wares.

First and foremost the name Liberty conjures the exotic, sinuous fabric patterns of the Art Nouveau era, images immediately recognised and emblazoned into the British psyche. Back in the late 1800s the store imported fabrics from the Far East and created a brand new quintessential ‘English’ look to rival Paris fashion with the help of Arts and Crafts designers William Morris and Charles Voysey. Beloved by bohemians and Pre-Raphaelite artists alike, Liberty’s rode the zeitgeist wave of the times with luminaries such as Oscar Wilde championing the fabrics to Americans and declaring: “Liberty is the chosen resort of the artistic shopper!”

Menacing Chinese dragons have evolved into an abundance of flora to suit the taste of gentlefolk and the soft silks and lawns using vivid vegetable dyes are still used to embellish everything from cushion covers to the collars of Barbour jackets. A glorious renaissance happened for Art Nouveau Liberty textiles in the swinging sixties with the famous Lotus collection heralding a cool Britannia era. Liberty fabrics have become iconic, arguably the most famous being Ianthe in a distinctive Art Nouveau pattern originally designed by Frenchman R Beaucleir in 1900 and has become a signature Liberty print. Over 1000 floriferous patterns grace the stable of Liberty and collaborations with designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Manolo Blahnik help keep the brand abreast of trends. Liberty’s 2016 Chesham Cabinet collection of fabrics and wallpapers comprises quirky associations and inspiration from celebrities such as the late actor Roger Moore and the artist Grayson Perry.

www.libertylondon.com
**Events**

**July 2017**

**DANCE**

**July 12 – 15**

**Dorrance Dance**

Sadler’s Wells

The masters of tap mix urban beats with powerful physicality in this slick and dynamic fusion of sound and movement. Introducing New York sensation Dorrance Dance onto the Sadler’s Wells stage, dance innovator Michelle Dorrance brings tap into the age of electronic music with an earthy, intensely rhythmic take on the traditional dance form.

020 7863 8200

Sadler’s Wells

Sadlerwells.com

**July 14 – 15**

**Dance Overture 17**

New Wimbledon Theatre

Overflowing with energy, this exuberant display of jazz, ballet, contemporary dance and musical theatre combines dynamic young dance talent with the work of emerging and established choreographers, many of whom are alumni of the college. An inspirational night out for all aspiring young dancers.

0844 871 7646

93 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QG

**July 18 – 23**

**English National Ballet: My First Ballet**

Cinderella

The Peacock

Everyone’s favourite rags-to-riches story, in a beautifully adapted ballet version for children aged three upwards. With a narrator to help the young audience follow the story, and a shortened version of Prokofiev’s ravishing score, “My First Ballet”: “Cinderella” is a unique collaboration between English National Ballet and English National Ballet School.

020 7863 8222

Portugal Street, Holborn, WC2A 2HT

Sadlerwells.com

**July 19 – August 6**

**Tanguera**

Sadler’s Wells

This summer escape to the sultry streets of Buenos Aires with the return of the spectacular tango musical Tanguera which brings a love story from turn-of-the-century Argentina to life.

020 7863 8000

Sadler’s Wells

Sadlerwells.com

**July 23**

**BARE!**

Rich Mix

BARE is a true celebration of youth culture, a night of poetry, films, theatre and music from a range of performers.

020 7613 7498

35-47 Bethnal Green Rd, London E1

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Ongoing**

**Bernar Venet, Looking Forward: 1961-1984**

Dulwich Picture Gallery

1961-1984 traces the development of the artist’s distinct conceptual mode, focussing on examples of works that were pivotal in defining his practice. It will be the French artist’s first solo show in London since the ICA in 1976. He was in his thirties at the time yet had already been the subject of a career retrospective in New York and was widely esteemed for his role in the development of conceptual art.

020 7493 4492

Dulwich Picture Gallery

6 Burlington Gardens, London W1S 4PX

Dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

**Ongoing**

**The Private Made Public**

Dulwich Picture Gallery

As part of the Gallery’s bicentenary celebrations, enjoy a series of displays throughout the year that reflect the Gallery’s founding principle of bringing great works into the public realm.

Dulwich Picture Gallery

Ends July 22

Sadler’s Wells

Sadlerwells.com

**FAIRS & FESTIVALS**

**July 13 – 16**

**Big Screen on the Green**

Various locations

Chelsea's only open-air screening event where like-minded fans can enjoy an action-packed festival of great British sport and culture.

IYAFestival.org.uk

**July 14 – 15**

**The 50 Plus Show**

Olympia

Don’t miss your chance to gain support for his role in the development of conceptual art.

020 7493 4492

Hammersmith Rd, London W14 8UX

Olympia

**July 13 – 16**

**Creative Youth**

Ends July 16

International Youth Arts Festival 2017

New Wimbledon Theatre

Showcasing the best talent nationally and internationally, Kingston’s International Youth Arts Festival (IYAF) provides a platform for emerging artists under 27 years old.

020 8549 2120

Kingston upon Thames KT1 1BL

Creative Youth

International Youth Arts Festival 2017

Ends July 16

The Postal Museum will reveal the surprising and fascinating story of the first social network, and make their extraordinary collections available and enjoyable for all. From interactive galleries to an immersive subterranean rail ride, modern research facilities to a wide-range of learning activities, The Postal Museum will offer something for everyone, from all backgrounds and of all ages.

020 7239 2570

Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA

Postalmuseum.org

**July 17 – 23**

**The 50 Plus Show**

Olympia

The Postal Museum will reveal the surprising and fascinating story of the first social network, and make their extraordinary collections available and enjoyable for all. From interactive galleries to an immersive subterranean rail ride, modern research facilities to a wide-range of learning activities, The Postal Museum will offer something for everyone, from all backgrounds and of all ages.

020 7239 2570

Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA

Postalmuseum.org

**Dance Overture 17**

Sadler’s Wells

Sadlerwells.com

**Bernar Venet, Looking Forward: 1961-1984**

Dulwich Picture Gallery

1961-1984 traces the development of the artist’s distinct conceptual mode, focussing on examples of works that were pivotal in defining his practice. It will be the French artist’s first solo show in London since the ICA in 1976. He was in his thirties at the time yet had already been the subject of a career retrospective in New York and was widely esteemed for his role in the development of conceptual art.

020 7493 4492

Dulwich Picture Gallery

6 Burlington Gardens, London W1S 4PX

Dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

**ENDS JUly 29**

**Nathalie Du Pasquier, From time to time**

Pace London

An exhibition of works by Milan-based artist Nathalie du Pasquier.

020 3206 7600

6 Burlington Gardens, London W1S 3ET

Pacegallery.com

**ENDS JUly 22**

**Bernar Venet, Looking Forward: 1961-1984**

Blain Southern

Bernar Venet, Looking Forward: 1961-1984 traces the development of the artist’s distinct conceptual mode, focussing on examples of works that were pivotal in defining his practice. It will be the French artist’s first solo show in London since the ICA in 1976. He was in his thirties at the time yet had already been the subject of a career retrospective in New York and was widely esteemed for his role in the development of conceptual art.

020 7493 4492

BlainSouthern.com

**ENDS JUly 22**

**Postal Museum**

The Postal Museum will reveal the surprising and fascinating story of the first social network, and make their extraordinary collections available and enjoyable for all. From interactive galleries to an immersive subterranean rail ride, modern research facilities to a wide-range of learning activities, The Postal Museum will offer something for everyone, from all backgrounds and of all ages.

020 7239 2570

Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA

Postalmuseum.org
Tobacco Dock
Bringing the best of Japan to London, celebrating J-culture including traditional and contemporary exhibitors, performances, food and more.
020 7926 7085
tobaccodock.com

July 23
Lambeth Country Show
Brockwell Park
A unique line-up that celebrates the very best of the city and countryside. Horticultural shows, sheep dog & owl displays, home grown vegetable and flower competitions, numerous craft & food stalls and a very own on-site farm shop will be there for all to enjoy. All this will be on offer and more with a distinctively urban south London vibe.
020 7926 7085
livetotri.co.uk

July 23
Prudential RideLondon Cycling Show
ExCel London
Developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies in 2013, Prudential RideLondon is a world-class festival of cycling. The fifth edition will take place over the weekend of 28-30 July 2017. 020 7069 5000
Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL
exceldr.com

July 29
Holi Festival of Colours
Wembley Park
It all started on the 29th of June: a large number of people came together in Berlin for the first ever Holi Festival of Colours in Europe and helped create an indescribable atmosphere on an unforgettable day.
holifestival.com

July 22 – 23
AFROPUNK
The Printworks
Come to AFROPUNK London 2017 to feel the music, free your mind, and enjoy an incredible lineup of ground breaking icons and emerging talents. Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 7PJ
afropunkfest.com

July 22 – 23
Ealing Blues Festival 2017
Walpole Park
45 Disraeli Rd, London W5 5HS
ealingsummerfestivals.com

July 22 – 23
AJ Bell London Triathlon 2017
Attracting over 13,000 participants and 30,000 spectators each year, this iconic event has become a must do event in the sporting calendar. With a variety of distances, routes and wave categories to choose from, it doesn’t matter whether you’ve never done a triathlon before or are an Olympic champion, everyone is welcome.
020 7926 7085
londontriathlon.org

July 26
Family Gamelan Taster Session
Southbank Centre
Bring your family and friends to play a Javanese gamelan percussion orchestra. Composers as varied as Claude Debussy, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich and Björk have taken inspiration from gamelan music, and now you can learn to play this beautiful instrument.
020 3879 9555
belvedere Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 8XX
southbankcentre.org

July 26
Craft a Character Masterclass
The Printworks
Fred Faktura has invited Natasha de Samarkandi, who, with Renegade Inc., was host to the first of a series of events ‘restructure, shifting perceptions and sensory experiences of space’, Fred Faktura: Summer one of a series of events

Faktura: Summer

According to Wikipedia, the concept of *faktura* is associated with Russian Constructivism, and is the visual demonstration of properties inherent to materials, referring to the material aspect of the surface. Three artists, Suzanne Holtom, an early modernist, with an interest in ‘restructuring, shifting perceptions and sensory experiences of space’, Fred Thackeray-Vincent, a product designer and painter based in Berlin, and Natasha de Samarkandi, who, with Renegade Inc., was host to the first of a series of get-togethers in a studio in Fulham, as an independent exhibition of contemporary painters who are ‘exploring the manipulation of material and rediscovering the forgotten art of painting’. Is painting dead? Not in SW6 it ain’t. All three artists are interested in painterly skills and the physical application of paint as a medium. The results are vibrant and textural, with each focusing on subtly different aspects of the manipulation of paint. Don Grant
Events

online: www.KCWToday.co.uk

Summer dance in the city
By Anna Kretschmer

As is tradition, ballet companies go on break each summer and tour their repertoire around the world. London’s resident Royal Ballet are jetting off to Australia this year, while English National Ballet are touring internationally to Japan and around the UK.

Londoners don’t have to take a summer holiday from dance, however, as there is some exciting summer programming coming up.

ENB’s beautiful Romeo and juliet will be at the Royal Festival Hall as part of their UK tour from the 1st-5th August. Their popular My First Ballet series is a real treat for young children; My First Cinderella is at the Peacock Theatre 18th-23rd July.

Mariinsky Ballet, Russian superstar company, are in residence at the Royal Opera House this summer.

Their signature style and big name dancers, along with some blockbusting repertoire, make them a real hot ticket. This year they are dancing an exciting mix of classics. Don Quixote 24 July-5 August Swan Lake 27 July - 7 August Anna Karenina 3-4 August Contrasts 8-9 August La Bayadere 10-12 August Wayne Macgregor Company are at Camden’s Roundhouse theatre with their +/- Human. Contemporary ballet innovator Macgregor stages immersive dance in the exhibition space, curated by Random International, every Friday and Saturday night.

Sadler’s Wells continues its contemporary and world dance programme throughout the summer. Stand-out includes: Tanguera, a romance set in turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires 19th July-6th August

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company presents Flamencura. 8th-12th August

Polka Theatre
Work with a professional actor and learn the art of creating and crafting believable characters using different techniques. There will be a mixture of improvisation exercises, role play, physical and text work so bring lots of creativity and come prepared to play.

ENB’s beautiful Romeo and juliet will be at the Royal Festival Hall as part of their UK tour from the 1st-5th August. Their popular My First Ballet series is a real treat for young children; My First Cinderella is at the Peacock Theatre 18th-23rd July.

Mariinsky Ballet, Russian superstar company, are in residence at the Royal Opera House this summer.

Their signature style and big name dancers, along with some blockbusting repertoire, make them a real hot ticket. This year they are dancing an exciting mix of classics. Don Quixote 24 July-5 August Swan Lake 27 July - 7 August Anna Karenina 3-4 August Contrasts 8-9 August La Bayadere 10-12 August Wayne Macgregor Company are at Camden’s Roundhouse theatre with their +/- Human. Contemporary ballet innovator Macgregor stages immersive dance in the exhibition space, curated by Random International, every Friday and Saturday night.

Sadler’s Wells continues its contemporary and world dance programme throughout the summer. Stand-out includes: Tanguera, a romance set in turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires 19th July-6th August

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company presents Flamencura. 8th-12th August

Royal Observatory
A planetarium show for under-7s. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Join Ted the Teddy Bear on a journey throughout the Solar System, looking for the Great Big Bear in the sky. Blackheath, London SE10 8XJ

July 15
Bicycle Thieves (Ladri di biciclette)
Prince Charles Cinema
Unemployed Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) is elated when he finally finds work hanging posters around war-torn Rome. His wife, Maria (Lianella Carell), sells the family’s bed linens to retrieve Antonio’s bicycle from the pawnshop so he can take the job. However, disaster strikes when Antonio’s bicycle is stolen, and his new job is doomed unless he can find the thief. With the help of his lively son, Bruno (Enzo Staiola), Antonio combats the city, growing increasingly desperate for justice.

020 7749 3654
7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY
princecharlescinema.com

July 15 – August 28
Big screen on the beach
Roundhouse
Redline in a deckchair and enjoy cinema with the sand between your toes, with a new series of outdoor summer screenings set on the Roundhouse’s urban beach in the heart of Camden.

0306 678 9222
Chalk Farm Rd, London NW1 8EH
roundhouse.org.uk

Polka Theatre
Work with a professional actor and learn the art of creating and crafting believable characters using different techniques. There will be a mixture of improvisation exercises, role play, physical and text work so bring lots of creativity and come prepared to play.

ENB’s beautiful Romeo and juliet will be at the Royal Festival Hall as part of their UK tour from the 1st-5th August. Their popular My First Ballet series is a real treat for young children; My First Cinderella is at the Peacock Theatre 18th-23rd July.

Mariinsky Ballet, Russian superstar company, are in residence at the Royal Opera House this summer.

Their signature style and big name dancers, along with some blockbusting repertoire, make them a real hot ticket. This year they are dancing an exciting mix of classics. Don Quixote 24 July-5 August Swan Lake 27 July - 7 August Anna Karenina 3-4 August Contrasts 8-9 August La Bayadere 10-12 August Wayne Macgregor Company are at Camden’s Roundhouse theatre with their +/- Human. Contemporary ballet innovator Macgregor stages immersive dance in the exhibition space, curated by Random International, every Friday and Saturday night.

Sadler’s Wells continues its contemporary and world dance programme throughout the summer. Stand-out includes: Tanguera, a romance set in turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires 19th July-6th August

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company presents Flamencura. 8th-12th August

Royal Observatory
A planetarium show for under-7s. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Join Ted the Teddy Bear on a journey throughout the Solar System, looking for the Great Big Bear in the sky. Blackheath, London SE10 8XJ

July 15
Bicycle Thieves (Ladri di biciclette)
Prince Charles Cinema
Unemployed Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) is elated when he finally finds work hanging posters around war-torn Rome. His wife, Maria (Lianella Carell), sells the family’s bed linens to retrieve Antonio’s bicycle from the pawnshop so he can take the job. However, disaster strikes when Antonio’s bicycle is stolen, and his new job is doomed unless he can find the thief. With the help of his lively son, Bruno (Enzo Staiola), Antonio combats the city, growing increasingly desperate for justice.

020 7749 3654
7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY
princecharlescinema.com

July 15 – August 28
Big screen on the beach
Roundhouse
Redline in a deckchair and enjoy cinema with the sand between your toes, with a new series of outdoor summer screenings set on the Roundhouse’s urban beach in the heart of Camden.

0306 678 9222
Chalk Farm Rd, London NW1 8EH
roundhouse.org.uk
Events

Opens July 23
Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year
Royal Observatory
Insight Astronomy Photographer of the Year is the biggest international competition of its kind, annually showcasing spectacular images shot by astro-photographers worldwide.
020 8858 4422
Blackheath Ave, London SE10 8XJ
rmg.co.uk

July 23
Breathless (À bout de souffle)
Prince Charles Cinema
Petty thug Michel (Jean-Paul Belmondo) considers himself a suave bad guy in the manner of Humphrey Bogart, but panics and impulsively kills a policeman while driving a stolen car. On the lam, he turns to his aspiring journalist girlfriend, Patricia (Jean Seberg), hiding out in her Paris apartment while he tries to pull together enough money to get the pair to Italy. But when Patricia learns that her boyfriend is being investigated for murder, she begins to question her loyalties.
020 7494 3654
7 Leicester Pl, London WC2H 7BY
princecharlescinema.com

Ends August 5
Chrystel Lebas: Regarding Nature
The Photographer’s Gallery
Chrystel Lebas (b.1966, France) uses photography and moving image to explore and illuminate the often complex relationships between human beings and nature; her interest is in looking at how landscapes carry psychological significance and reveal concealed histories. Preferring to photograph during twilight hours, she exploits the magical effects of the particular dipped light to accentuate the ‘sublime’ and draw attention to our place within the natural world.
020 7087 9300
16-18 Ramillies St, Soho, London W1F 7LW
thephototheographergallery.org.uk

MUSIC

Ends July 29
Extravaganza Macabre
Battersea Arts Centre
Spend a summer evening being transported to Victorian London with a whirlwind of plot twists, live music and mischief. A freak storm parts two sets of characters, transported to Victorian London with true fire instrumentation and rousing performances. Further acts to be announced, check back for details.
020 7841 3600
40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ
foundlingmuseum.org.uk

July 13
Woman at Point Zero and Four Arab Composers
Royal Opera House
In this special, one-evening concert, The Royal Opera joins forces with Shubbak Festival to showcase works by five composers from the Arab world.
020 7240 1200
161 Old Street, London, EC1V 9NG
roh.org.uk

July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 26
Straight Outta Camden
Camden Assembly
Every Saturday, running right through the early hours at Camden Assembly will be turn up tunes, party hip-hop and R&B classics for only £5.
020 7424 0800
49 Chalk Farm Rd, London NW1 8AN
camdenassembly.com

July 16, August 6, 20
Sunday Concert
Foundling Museum
The Lodore Trio present a diverse programme of works from across the centuries in this afternoon concert
020 7841 3600
40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ
foundlingmuseum.org.uk

July 17
Foundling Community Choir Concert
Foundling Museum
Join the Foundling Community Choir for their end of term concert in the Picture Gallery
020 7841 3600
40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ
foundlingmuseum.org.uk

July 18
Devendra Banhart
Hackney Empire
Devendra Banhart has confirmed a headline show at Hackney Empire on July 18th in support of his latest album, “Age In Pink Marble”.
020 8985 2424
291 Mare St, London E8 1EJ
hackneyempiere.co.uk

Every other Wednesday
Folkroom Fortnightly
The Harrison
The Folkroom is London’s best kept secret; when it comes to folk music at least. A free fortnightly gig just around the corner from King’s Cross station, the gigs are home to some of the most influential acts you’re ever likely to see. You might find yourself watching fireside guitars, or gathered around the old upright piano watching acoustic or even entirely unplugged performances by the best acts London has to offer!
020 7278 3966
28 Harrison St, Kings Cross, London WC1H 8PJ
harrisonbar.co.uk

July 19 – 20
Merchant of Venice
Royal Opera House
“The Merchant of Venice” is the only opera from British-Polish pianist and composer Andrzej Tchaikowsky. It was finishing the work when he died from cancer in 1982 at the age of 46. Its world premiere came thirty years later in 2013 at the Bregenz Festival, in a production commissioned by David Pountney in his farewell year as the festival’s director. The production was widely praised:
020 7240 1200
Bow St, London WC2E 9DD
roh.org.uk

July 20
Bach Violin Concertos by Candlelight St. Martin-in-the-Fields
This concert includes John Lando’s entertaining and informative “Meet the Music”, an optional interval event where you can explore the music further and experience a thrilling ‘orchestra walkabout’.
020 7240 1200
Bow St, London WC2E 9DD
roh.org.uk

July 21
Golden Girl Ava sings for you…
Brasserie Zedel
Ava’s diva classic vocal style serves you an evening of nostalgic swing/jazz & features a ballet Classics. Perfect night for romance, friends or fun.
020 7787 2227
42-44 Battersea High St, Battersea, London SW11 3HX
quecumbar.co.uk

July 21
Jazz Verse Jukebox with Junoké Fashola
Hoxton Hall
The eclectic Jazz Verse Jukebox concludes its current season at Hoxton Hall on Friday 21st July at Hoxton Hall, with an all-female international line-up of wordsmiths & singers.
020 7768 0860
130 Hoxton St, London N1 6SH
hoxtonhall.co.uk

July 23, August 10, 24, September 10, 24, October 8
Irish Music Sessions
The Harrison
Traditional Irish music jam session. Open to musicians of all levels to join in. Sunday Roasts are served all day until they run out and we serve a full dinner menu from 6-9.30pm.
020 7278 3966
Kings Cross, London WC1H 8JF
harrisonbar.co.uk

July 23,26, August 2,26
Natalie Rushdie
Brasserie Zedel
Making her “Live at Zedel” debut, Natalie Rushdie brings her inimitable talents to the stage for a celebration of some of her favourite Broadway & West-End musicals.
020 7734 4988
20 Sherwood St, Soho, London W1F 7ED
brasseriezedel.com

July 28
Folk at the Foundling: Mid-Summer Special
Foundling Museum
Enjoy a line-up of international artists, including new musical project Vesevo, who give a modern twist to southern Italian music, The Neapolitan trio of Antonio Di Ponte (voice and guitar), Antonio Fraioli (violin and arrangements), and Francesco Paolo Manna (frame drums), transform traditional music through their rapid-fire instrumentation and rousing performances. Further acts to be announced, check back for details.
020 7841 3600
40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ
foundlingmuseum.org.uk

August 1
Brian Wilson
Hammersmith Apollo
Music legend Brian Wilson is currently wowing fans around the globe celebrating the iconic album “Pet Sounds”, in honour of its 50th anniversary.
020 8563 3800
45 Queen Caroline St, Hammersmith,
ETRUSCA

An auction of Fine Jewellery and Interiors

26th July 2017 - 2pm

Available to view Friday 21st-Wednesday 26th
Signet Gallery, 378 King’s Road, Chelsea, SW3 5UZ

www.etrusca.co.uk  0207 089 8933  info@etrusca.co.uk
London W6 9QH
eventimapollo.com

August 2
The Fallen Heroes
St. Martin-in-the-Fields
The Fallen Heroes are a London, UK based band who have been together for over ten years, playing funky New Orleans Rhythm & Blues blended with a contemporary London sound all over Europe and USA.

Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JF
stmartin-in-the-fields.org

August 5, September 2, October 7
Pete ‘Tiger’ Sheppard - Gypsy guitar duo
Le QuecumBar
Don’t miss the mighty sound of Pete “Tiger” Sheppard & Co, stonking Gypsy swing guitar.
020 7787 2227
42-44 Battersea High St, Battersea, London SW11 3HX
quecumbar.co.uk

August 7 – 20
A Spoonful of Sherman
Brasserie Zedel
Following two sold out runs the show returns for two weeks only; this magical evening of cabaret celebrates a century of Sherman song - writing. Robert and Richard Sherman are the most successful songwriting partnership in the history of Hollywood, composing more movie musical songs and acclaimed film scores than any other writing team.
020 7734 4888
20 Sherwood St, Soho, London W1F 7ED
brasseriezedel.com

August 10
Kate Nash
Shepherd’s Bush Empire
Don’t miss the award-winning singer and activist, Kate Nash as she commemorates the ten-year anniversary of her platinum-selling debut album, “Made Of Bricks”, by playing a run of shows this summer.
020 8354 3300
Shepherd’s Bush Green, Shepherd’s Bush, London W12 8TT
academymusicgroup.com

TALKS & TOURS

Ongoing
London Duck Tours
Hop aboard one of London Duck Tours’ distinctive yellow vehicles and enter the wonderful world of amphibious travel. It is far more exciting than just an ordinary sightseeing bus tour or river trip. See some of London's most talked about sights, learn interesting facts about the city and be entertained by an action packed live commentary before the thrilling splashdown onto the river Thames!
020 7928 3132
55 York Road, Lambeth, London SE1 7NJ
londonducktours.co.uk

Ongoing
War Paint: Brushes with conflict
National Army Museum
Explore why artists and soldiers have painted scenes of conflict, in our first temporary exhibition at the new museum. Artists and soldiers have painted scenes of conflict for many reasons; to create records, report news or commemorate events. But above all, war paintings are personal perspectives on war and its vast impact on people and places. War Paint features over 130 paintings and objects exploring the connections between artists and war and the men and women who map, record, celebrate and document it.
020 7730 0717
Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT
nam.ac.uk

Ends July 28
Thurrock Tour
Royal Opera House
Discover the fascinating world of the craftspeople who create stunning costumes, scenery and sets for the Royal Opera House on a tour of the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop and Costume Centre.
020 7240 1200
High House Production Park, Vellacott Close (off London Road), Purfleet RM19 1AF
roh.org.uk

July 12
Antisemitism: The Longest Hated JW3 Jewish Community Centre
Confronting the most persistent hatred of any people in the history of the world and focusing on the impact that Jews made on the modern world, the rise of nationalism and the rise of modern racial antisemitism.
020 7433 8989
341 Finchley Road, London NW3 6ET
jw3.org.uk

July 12
20th Anniversary Celebration with local Wild Things’ authors Stanfords
Stanfords Bristol invites you to celebrate its 20th anniversary with a very special event: an evening with Wild Things authors Sophie Pierce and Matt Newbury, Laurence McJannet and Dave Hamilton.
020 7836 1321
12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP
stanfords.co.uk

July 13
Join author Rachel Felder in discussion with a panel of experts who will reveal their favourite hidden spots in the capital. Panelists include chef and restaurateur Henry Harris; Rare Tea Company CEO Henrietta Lovell; “Time Out2 London editor-in-chief Caroline McGinn; and Present and Correct owner Neal Whittington.
020 7836 1321
12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP
stanfords.co.uk

July 13
Natasha Pulley in conversation with Foyle’s
Foyle’s
Following the huge success of her debut novel, “The Watchmaker of Filigree Street”, Natasha Pulley will discuss her latest book, “The Bedlam Stacks”, a story of a profound friendship that grows in a place that seems just the right side of magical.
020 7434 1574
107 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0DT
foyles.co.uk

July 18
The Gender Games: Juno Dawson in Conversation with British Library
Gender is a contested, confusing space; not just for trans people, but for everyone. Join Juno Dawson in conversation with Matthew Todd, as she provides a personal insight into society's expectations of gender and what we can do about them.
0330 333 1144
96 Euston Road, Kings Cross, London NW1 2DB
bl.uk

July 24
Alan Turing: Life, Work, Legacy
British Library
Alan Turing (23 June 1912 – 7 June 1954) is now celebrated for his crucial contribution to the Allied victory in WW2 and for being the genius mathematician who set the foundations of modern computing. However, during his lifetime, he was a relatively obscure figure. A victim of the prevalent attitudes toward homosexuality, he was chemically castrated before committing suicide at the age of 41. Jim Al-Khalili is joined by scientists and experts in an evening dedicated to Turing.
0330 333 1144
96 Euston Road, Kings Cross, London NW1 2DB
bl.uk

THEATRE

 Ends July 9
Romeo & Juliet
Shakespeare’s Globe
This vibrant, volatile take on Romeo and Juliet will fearlessly confront the darker themes present in the play, the grotesque glamourisation of violence, and the brutality of death. The production will enjoy a dynamic mix of musical styles and soundscapes, including classical and modern pop.
020 7902 1400
21 New Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT
shakespearesglobe.com

 Ends July 15
Food
Finborough Theatre
On a stretch of Australian highway, sisters Elma and Nancy run their family takeaway joint; their days heavy with deep fryin and memories. While they quietly wage war with their past and dream of a brighter future, a young life-loving Turkish traveller arrives, bringing a charm and sensuality that turns their world upside down.
0844 847 1652
118 Finborough Road, Kensington, London SW8 1UP
finboroughtheatre.co.uk

 Ends July 17
The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui by Bertolt Brecht, in a new adaptation by Bruce Norris
Donmar Warehouse
Chicag! A city of jazz and gangsters, prohibition and poverty. Amongst the murk of the Great Depression, there’s room for a small-time crook like Arturo Ui to make a name for himself. Ui and his henchmen just want to look after you, to offer protection for workers, for jobs, for businesses. Nothing to fear. But a little bribery here, some harmless corruption there, and soon something much more dangerous takes hold.
0844 871 7624
Seven Dials London, 41 Earlham St, London WC2H 9LX
donmarwarehouse.com

 Ends July 22
The Philanthropist
Trafalgar Studios
Out in the ‘real world’ the Prime Minister and his cabinet have been assassinated and England’s most treasured writers are being murdered one by one! Back in the cosy bubble of university life, a bachelor, Don, anguishes over sex, marriage, anagrams, and the meaning of life. Did someone suggest academics were ‘out of touch’?
0844 871 7632
14 Whitehall, Westminster, London SW1A 2DY

July 3 – 5
Skate Hard, Turn Left: Preview
A female sporting community built on sweat, speed and fierce ownership is growing at a phenomenal pace. In sports halls all over the UK, skaters are redefining what it means to be a woman in sport. Taking up space. Taking charge. A revolution is happening and it’s happening on wheels.
020 7223 2223
Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
b.ac.org.uk

 July 12 – 15
Hearing Voices
Coronet Printroom
Hearing Voices is a multi-media song-cycle for solo voice, ensemble and recorded voices, exploring the pain, laughter and protest of women who
have experienced mental illness across generations.

020 3642 6606
103 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3LB
the-print-room.org

**July 14 – October 15**
**Much Ado About Nothing**
Shakespeare’s Globe
Claudio and Benedick return home from the first wave of the revolution. Claudio has been pining for his love, Hero. Benedick loves her cousin Beatrice and Beatrice loves Benedick; but because neither will admit it, nothing seems likely to bring them together. Only the intrigues of a revolutionary with a dark heart, force Benedick to prove his love for Beatrice; by vowing to kill his best friend, Claudio.
21 New Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT
shakespearesglobe.com

**July 17 – August 5**
**Oliver Twist**
Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre
Discover the original story of Victorian London's most famous child with “Oliver Twist” created for everyone aged six and over. It will have you on the edge of your seat and wanting more.
0844 826 4242
Inner Cir, London NW1 4NU
openairtheatre.com

**July 22**
**The Scar Test**
**Soho Theatre**
Based on verbatim interviews, “The Scar Test” explores life inside Yarl’s Wood Detention Centre, a place in which those seeking safe haven are thrown into a dark world under lock and key where their lives are regulated, privacy is non-existent and where every detainee has a story to tell.
020 7478 0100
21 Dean Street, Soho, London W1D 3NE
sohotheatre.com

**July 25 – August 19**
**Just to Get Married**
**Finborough Theatre**
Approaching her 30th birthday in early 20th Century England, the clever and poor Georgiana Vicary is waiting for the handsome but shy Adam Lankester to propose to her. Her friends expect her to get married, her adoptive parents expect it and more importantly, she expects it of herself; but will her conscience allow it?
0844 847 1652
118 Finborough Road, Kensington, London SW10 9ED
finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Compiled and edited by Fahad Redha
Summer in London

by Anna Kretschmer and Owen Fulda

Once again we Londoners are blessed with a plethora of outdoor and indoor events to celebrate summer in our capital city. Whether you’re an avid watcher of sports, obsessed with the arts or have a burning desire to learn more about gin, wine or beer, there’s sure to be something in our London Summer events to get you out and about.

OUTDOOR SWIMMING
The Serpentine Lido in Hyde Park is a popular inner-city spot to cool off. Or why not head up to Hampstead Heath to bathe in the Highgate Ponds? The Ladies’ Pond is a dreamy tree-shaded pool where you can lounge in a meadow and swim surrounded by water-lilies and dragonflies, or try the Mixed and women’s pool where you can lounge in a meadow and swim surrounded by water-lilies and dragonflies, or try the Mixed and women’s pond, or book a private hot tub.

DAYS MUSIC FESTIVALS
BST, Hyde Park. Electric Festival with this year’s headliners ranging from Justin Bieber through to Green day and Phil Collins. Over two weekends 30th June - 7th July.

Greenwich Music Time, Old Royal Naval College. A series of concerts from individual artists rather than a mixed bill. Including Little Mix, Hall and Oates, and Cliff Richards. 1st-7th July

Wireless, Finsbury Park. The hip hop, electronic and grime festival hosts Nas, The Weeknd, Tim Westwood, Fatty Wap and Chance the Rapper among many others. 7th-9th July

Kew The Music, Kew Gardens. Legendary club Hacienda take to the stage with club anthems performed with a live orchestra, alongside band James and singer-songwriter Passenger. 11th-16th July

Lovebox, Victoria Park. The London Day Festival that started it all returns this year with Frank Ocean, Chase & Status and Solange. 14th-15th July

Citadel, Victoria Park. Indie band Foals headline this one-day festival which also includes dance and art workshops, discussions and Disco Dodgeball. 16th July

51st State Trent Park, nr Cockfosters. Launched in 2015, the festival champions US House, Garage, Soul, Disco and Caribbean. 5th August

Visions, London Fields. Craft beer and food events accompany the indie one-dayer in various intimate venues around London Fields. 5th August

Sunfall, Brockwell Park. Newcomer underground festival with both day and night parties. 12th August

SW4, Clapham Common. The August Bank Holiday party never ends on Clapham Common, host to all the big names in dance music with after-hours revellers after the Common closes. 26th-27th August

Hol Festival of Colours, Wembley Park.

This bonkers explosion of colour and music takes place on July 29. It looks like organised chaos (in the best way possible!). Check www.holifestival.com/uk/en/our-city/london for more info and tickets.

SOUTH BANK
Underbelly Festival Until September 30 www.underbellyfestival.com/whats-on

Underbelly, the live entertainment company, has combined the popular London Wonderground and Udderbelly Festivals into one event, the similarly named Underbelly Festival. The new extravaganza is running at the Southbank from until September 30, with a mix of live comedy, circus acts, burlesque and musical entertainment.

Highlights on the bill this year include Al Murray, Sara Pascoe, James Acaster and Stephen K Amos, as well as cult cabaret favourite Briefs, and the London premiere of Driftwood from Australian circus company Casus. Don’t miss Sh*t-Faced Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet with a genuinely inebriated cast member chosen each night, no two nights are ever the same in this raucous, riotous, rampage through Shakespeare’s greatest works. Or get your dancing heels on at social dances with live music, including A Night at the Harlem Savoy, 11th September. Monday 11th September 2017

The Southbank Centre’s Summertime screenings returns bringing the best of cinema to one of the most spectacular settings in London. Experience 14 nights of handpicked premieres, contemporary, cult and classic films presented with surround sound and state-of-the-art projection onto London’s largest outdoor screen.

DJs play film-inspired sets prior each film, while you tuck into picnics or treats from food stalls, and on selected nights there will be live introductions from familiar faces. Screenings of classic movies such as the Jaws and Deliverance double bill on August 19 will be epic, but there are also contemporary releases such as triple Oscar-winner Moonlight which follows an African-American boy’s journey from youth to young manhood, considered to be one of the most talked-about and deeply-felt films of recent times.

Luna Cinema runs from June - September in parks and spaces around London including Brockwell Lido, Kensington Palace, Alexandra Palace and Westminster Abbey. Feel good family and summer hits include Splash! Dirty Dancing and Back to the Future. http://www.thelunacinema.com

On a balmy evening, Regents Park’s famous Open Air Theatre is a must for any London summer.


A Tale of Two Cities. A new play adapted from Dickens. 7th July - 5th August.

Olive’s Twist. Dickens’ classic, adapted for both adults and younger audiences aged 6+. 17th July - 5th August.

Jesus Christ Superstar. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s hit musical. 11th August - 23rd September.

OUTDOOR CINEMAS
Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House August 10-23. www.somersethouse.org.uk/whats-on/film4-summer-screen

Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House returns bringing the best of cinema to one of the most spectacular settings in London. Experience 14 nights of handpicked premieres, contemporary, cult and classic films presented with surround sound and state-of-the-art projection onto London’s largest outdoor screen.

DJs play film-inspired sets prior each film, while you tuck into picnics or treats from food stalls, and on selected nights there will be live introductions from familiar faces. Screenings of classic movies such as the Jaws and Deliverance double bill on August 19 will be epic, but there are also contemporary releases such as triple Oscar-winner Moonlight which follows an African-American boy’s journey from youth to young manhood, considered to be one of the most talked-about and deeply-felt films of recent times.

Luna Cinema runs from June - September in parks and spaces around London including Brockwell Lido, Kensington Palace, Alexandra Palace and Westminster Abbey. Feel good family and summer hits include Splash! Dirty Dancing and Back to the Future. http://www.thelunacinema.com

Rooftop Film Club, on the top of the Bussey Building in Peckham, and the Queen of Hoxton in Shoreditch shows a wide selection of cult classics and new releases throughout the summer.

SPORTING EVENTS AND SCREENINGS
Pimm’s is celebrating the Wimbledon fortnight by opening a tennis-themed takeover of the Selfridges Roof Deck, where tennis fans can watch the latest Wimbledon action on big screens while enjoying the sun in true Pimm’s style above Oxford Street.

Close to the Grounds, Pimm’s is
Events

July 2017

online: www.KCWToday.co.uk

also teaming up with The Ivy Café in Wimbledon Village to offer a special Pimm's menu across The Championships Fortnight, including the new exclusive ‘Pimmbledon cocktail’.

England’s cricket team play four Test matches against South Africa beginning on July 6 and then three against the West Indies commencing August 17. Tickets are available from www.ecb.co.uk/tickets/england.

The World Athletics Championships take place at the London Stadium from August 5 - 13 and feature both Usain Bolt and Mo Farah’s last appearance on the world stage. Not to be missed. Tickets available at http://www.london2017athletics.com/tickets.

**LONDON ZOO**

As the sun goes down, the curtain goes up on the most original after-hours event of the summer: Zoo Nights at ZSL London Zoo, every Friday from 2 June to 14 July, between 6pm and 10pm. Taking its inspiration from the natural world, Zoo Nights will celebrate bioluminescence, nature’s very own lightshow. And, as night falls over the city, stunning neon effects will transform the Zoo, creating an amazing backdrop for a trip to the Zoo like no other.

Zoo Nights is just for adults, so you’re free to explore the wildlife after hours, taking in fun tours and talks with grown-up themes: mating, death and the gruesome bits, it’s zoology, certificate 18! Live and new for 2017, this is the Zoo as you’ve never seen it before, serving up a unique mix of wildlife and city life that’s just for adults (18+) and only £17.50. Tickets from www.zsl.org/ticket/zoo-nights

**BEER FESTIVALS**

**Great British Beer Festival 2017**

August 8 - 12 at Olympia London

https://www.gbbf.org.uk/

Beer lovers flocking to London this summer to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Great British Beer Festival will not be left disappointed as festival organisers are busy brewing up an experience unlike ever before.

Britain’s biggest beer festival is a paradise for beer connoisseurs with more than 900 real ales, international and other craft beers, ciders and perries. Organised by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and run by thousands of volunteers, the Festival has played a huge role in raising the profile and popularity of UK brewers over the years.

London Craft Beer Festival 5th Birthday, August 4 - 6 at Shoreditch Electric Light Station, Hoxton Square

londoncraftbeerfestival.co.uk

With over 45 of the world’s finest breweries involved; this festival takes beer drinking to a whole new level. This carnival of beer is all about celebrating the very best of the modern beer culture, and London’s place right at the heart of it. The ‘all in’ tickets range from £35 for Sunday afternoon to £150 for the whole weekend, and mean you get total freedom to try what you want, and best of all in unlimited quantities!

**OTHER ALCOHOL FESTIVALS**


The UK’s biggest and oldest Gin Festival returns to the magnificent Tobacco Dock for another celebration of gin. There will be over 100 different gins to try, including brand new gins not available at the February event and exclusive gins you won’t see anywhere else.

Check out the gin masterclasses and the opportunity to meet gin distillers in person, a gin cocktail bar, live music and gorgeous food.

**Honest Grapes Uncorked Wine Festival**, July 25 at China Exchange, Gerrard Street, Soho www.honestgrapes.co.uk/events/honest-grapes-uncorked.

Enjoy a huge selection of wines from over 35 producers from all over the world, delicious food, and the chance to meet some of the growers in person and discover the glassware and gadgets that take wine drinking to the next level. From partners such as Fishers Gin, Exton Park, Avina, and many more. Buy three tickets (£25 each) and get a fourth free!
ART AND PEACE
AN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART
14th - 18th August 2017
Mall Galleries,
The Mall London SW1
Free Admission

FORTY ARTWORKS, highlights from the Beijing International Art Biennale exhibitions 2003-15, will be shown in London for the first time from 14th to 18th August 2017. The works include ink paintings, oil paintings, wood block prints, sculptures, watercolour paintings and mixed media, all by renowned Chinese artists.

The China Arts World Tour, hosted by The China Artists Association (CAA), celebrates the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Britain. It aims to promote and strengthen mutual understanding and exchange between The China Artists Association and fine art communities around the world.

Ambassador Liu Xiao Ming said: “This exhibition about Art and Peace not only showcases the unique charm of contemporary Chinese art but also expresses Chinese artists’ commitment to world peace and development, and the Chinese peoples’ love for peace and aspirations for a shared future for mankind.”

In 2017, China Arts World Tour goes through Italy, Finland, Britain and Georgia. The project was funded by China National Arts Fund in 2016. After a successful run in Italy and Finland, the international tour is coming to London.

The Director of The Federation of British Artists, Lewis McNaught, said: “I am delighted and honoured to welcome The China Artists Association to the United Kingdom and, in particular, to Mall Galleries. We all hope this will be the first of many valued opportunities to promote and encourage a mutual understanding between contemporary Chinese artists and our visitors and member artists, working in the UK and across Europe”.

The Chairman of China Artists Association Liu Dawei said: “Art and peace resemble twins. They can’t be separated and what happens to one occurs to the other.”

Exhibition:
Press View 14th August 2017 (11:00-12:00am)
Seminar: 14th August (3:00-4:00pm)
Opening: 14th August 2017 (6:30pm)
RSVP: info@sinoeuropeancnts.co.uk
Open to the public:
15th - 18th August 2017 (10am-5pm)
Publicity images can be obtained from www.sinoeuropeancnts.co.uk

Info:
U.K. Contact:
Sino European Arts
info@sinoeuropeancnts.co.uk
T: +44(0)7711896858
www.sinoeuropeancnts.co.uk
116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED
United Kingdom
Sargent: The Watercolours
Dulwich Picture Gallery
Until 8 October 2017
Admission £15.50
www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Although he had been painting in watercolour since he was a boy, his work as a portraitist in oils completely overshadowed this difficult and demanding medium. Dulwich has managed to bring together 80 works from all over the world to celebrate his extraordinary skills as a painter who returned to the medium from 1900 to 1918 when he was in his forties, and had achieved enormous success as a society painter. One suspects that one reason he took up watercolour again was to ‘loosen up’ after years of the strict pressure of painting in the studio. He travelled extensively in Europe and the Middle East, painting as he went, sometimes with friends and his sister, Emily, his most faithful sketching companion. He was unconventional in his choice of subject matter, in that he did not ‘do’ buildings in toto, or broad landscapes, but rather as fragments, as the Gallery states. He would focus on close-ups, framing his composition just as a photographer would with his camera, so the enormous Neptune statue in Bologna would not feature the complete edifice. He ignores the 4m. high bronze of the Roman sea god holding a trident, and demonstrates his skills at painting the underside of the bowl, held up by a couple of cherubs. In Venice, he is more occupied with the texture and light on stone than the buildings themselves, and, where he painted the bigger picture, such as the domes of Santa Maria della Salute, Venice, they are partially obscured by ships’ rigging in the foreground. With his landscapes, he eschews the panoramic view and zooms in on a particular boulder in a stream, capturing the flowing water around mossy rocks with a fluency and fluidity that is almost like a snap-shot of a moment in time.

Alphonse Mucha, Subercaseaux in a Gondola is a little gem, showing the French painter in shadow painting Sargent who is painting him, with an audacious back-light orange and yellow curtain behind him, and reflections on the water that, in a few deft strokes, just say ‘Venice’. He also painted Bedouin tribesmen and quarrymen with coils of thick rope working at Carrara, as well as his nieces, which are amongst the most charming of compositions, The Lady with the Umbrella being a masterclass in painterly skills. He was adept at capturing feminine beauty, but his sensuous male nudes in the final room may give us a clue to the American’s sexuality. Jacques-Émile Blanche, who was one of his early sitters, said in his unreliable memoir, that Sargent’s sex life ‘was notorious in Paris, and in Venice, positively scandalous. He was a frenzied bugger.’ He certainly knew Oscar Wilde, Henry James, Percy Grainger and the flamboyant and exotic Robert de Montesquiou. Whatever his predilections, his private life remained tightly buttoned down and we are left to marvel at what female pulchitrude Sargent the painter managed to lay down on paper and canvas.

After 1918, he never returned to continental Europe, but spent time in Florida, Maine, New Hampshire and the Rockies, still painting whatever was in front of him, from the local flora to alligators in the Everglades, as well as lakes, seascapes and boats up the Eastern seaboard. He never lost sight of the precept ‘less is more’, coined by Robert Browning from his poem about Andrea del Sarto, called The Faultless Painter, or in the words of his painting teacher in Paris, Carolus-Duran, ‘to express the maximum by means of the minimum’. Visitors can certainly extract the maximum from this perfectly-formed and delightful exhibition with a trip to Dulwich, a mere ten minutes from Victoria.

Don Grant
Hokusai: Beyond The Great Wave
British Museum.
Great Russell Street.
London
WC1B 3DG.
Until 13th August 2017
Closed 3rd - 6th July

Katsushika Hokusai bound a restless wave within the limits of a woodblock measuring 25.8 cms by 37.9 cms. The print, from this woodblock, is known as The Great Wave and is one of a series entitled 36 Views of Mt Fuji. The publisher, Nishimura, commissioned Hokusai to create this work. Thousands of Impressions of each design were issued. Prints were cheap and much in demand. The Great Wave became an icon and could be the most famous work in Japanese art.

Hokusai and his art are the subjects of an informative exhibition currently running at the British Museum. Hokusai was born in 1760 in Japan, which was called Edo at that time. He was an unusual character who moved house 90 times in 93 years! In common with other artists, he sometimes changed his name and used Gakyo Rojin, which means ‘Old Man Crazy to Paint’. He set himself up as a woodblock Printer, excelling in brushwork and understanding the human body and the natural world. There was a Japanese tradition of Ukiyo-e which consisted of images of entertainers, actors and prostitutes. He brought a new look to this art form. His life was not easy; he suffered a stroke which he managed to cure himself. His wife died in 1828 and his profligate grandson managed to reduce the family to abject poverty.

Hokusai’s poverty was solved Hokusai’s poverty was solved by the gentle spray that falls from the sea can summon, ready and poised to fall upon three speedy skiffs bearing fishermen seeking a catch for the market. It has space, perspective and distance.

Does the wave represent Hokusai’s problems in life? Does Mt Fuji represent his religious cult? Historians have observed that the wave looks back to Mt Fuji from a position furthest out in the Pacific from the Japanese coast. This could represent Japan’s changing attitude to the rest of the world which wished to trade with her, but she wished to remain aloof. Hokusai has brought distant horizon into this work which had not been much discussed.

Hokusai was an adherent of the mystical Nichiren cult of Buddhism, which is reflected in his designs for temples and a whole section of a shrine which he painted himself. He believed that all life is connected and his scientific drawings of birds, insects and animals are evidence of these thoughts. To him Mt. Fuji was sacred and it was considered by many to be a deity.

The star of the Exhibition is the Red Fuji. This print shows Western influence. They are mounted on long textile hangings. The Seven Lucky Gods is amusing and a set of ghost story book illustrations are lively and his notebook of people in national dress is impressive.

The Exhibition alternates groups of paintings with groups of prints which all focus on Hokusai’s interest in nature, history and spiritual subjects. We learn much about him from the Exhibition.

The Enoshima is an example of group of prints which show a powdering, threatening wave arising with all the power which only smoke. Hokusai’s work was discovered by the the Modernists twenty years after his death and is said to have influenced them.

Hokusai’s early paintings appear somewhat static and the tonal shading shows Western influence. They are mounted on long textile hangings. The Seven Lucky Gods is amusing and a set of ghost story book illustrations are lively and his notebook of people in national dress is impressive.

The Exhibition ends with seven large paintings of varying subjects in different styles. The enthusiastic brush strokes of the demon enjoying his feast are eye catching. A friendly tiger and a prayer scene evoke abstract impressionism. However, Hokusai’s woodblock prints overshadow the paintings, one especially, The Great Wave towers above them all.

This is a memorable Exhibition.

Marian Maitland.

It is essential to book.
T: 020 7323 8181
britishmuseum.org
We are watching: OZ in London
CHELSEA Space
16 John Islip Street
SW1P 4JU
Until 14 July 2017
www.chelseaspace.org

The trouble with an exhibition such as this is that, those of a certain age cannot see it as a distant, academic slice of history, because one actually lived through it. I WAS THERE! I well remember buying the first copy, having been submitting little drawings and caricatures to Tony Elliot’s Time Out and, not only having them accepted, but getting a modest stipend, albeit a few months later. I knew someone from art school who was working on the design of this new, radical-chic, underground, counter-culture magazine, and went down to see them, working out of a basement in Notting Hill. Richard Neville was a good-looking, funny, articulate Aussie, who was seriously cool and oozed confidence, and Felix Dennis was altogether more serious, while Jim Anderson was in the background, hippy-cool and aloof.

Cherie Silver is the Chelsea Arts Club Trust Research Fellow at CHELSEA Space, and has curated an exhibition of impressive depth and scope, chronicling OZ magazine from its black and white beginnings in the early sixties in Australia to the full-on, psychedelic explosion of colour and experimental graphics which took illegibility to a whole new frontier in the late 1960s in London. Far out, man. It’s all in the exhibition, including all 48 issues and Martin Sharp’s dazzling posters and inserts, including the infamous School Kids Issue for which the three protagonists were arrested and sent to the High Court on charges of obscenity. The people who supported the trial are notable and noted, including David Hockney, Andy Warhol, Caroline Coon, John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Germaine Greer and their defense lawyer, Geoffrey Robinson. The establishment were wrigglingly uncomfortable with this new approach to publishing, which addressed such issues as race, gender prejudice, homosexuality, drugs, anti-war sentiments and the mistreatment of prisoners, and were intent on shutting down the underground press once and for all. They failed. The artwork loaned from the various archives is peculiar to those particular years from 1967-1973, and could not have been born from any other period in history. The Aussie cartoonist and artist Martin Sharp, whose mates included Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger and Nick Roeg, really pushed the envelope with his idiosyncratic and surreal imagery, influenced by Eadward Muybridge’s moving man photographs, as well as Hokusai, van Gogh and Rene Magritte. His Magic Theatre poster and cover for OZ number 16, which alluded to Herman Hesse’s novel Steppenwolf, has been described by writer Jonathan Green as ‘arguably the greatest achievement of the underground press’, although both his posters of Jimi Hendrix, entitled Electric Circus, and the Bob Dylan, whose hair was influenced by Leonardo da Vinci’s knot design and Aubrey Beardsley, are iconic images of the sixties.

So, if you want to trip down the mind-bending lanes of yesteryear, wearing flowers in your hair, then this is the show for you, and if you can remember going to it, you weren’t there.

Don Grant
Royal Academy Summer Show
Until 28 August 2017
Admission £15.50
royalacademy.org.uk

The soi-disant English Summer Social Season traditionally starts with the Badminton Horse Trials in May, followed by the Chelsea Flower Show, Wimbledon fortnight, Henley, the British Grand Prix and Cowes Week. Ascot has been hijacked by the chavs, and dubbed Chavscot by the Daily Mail, the Derby at Epsom has Poundland as its one of its sponsors and Chelsea Flower Show is reduced to an oversubscribed bun-fight in a bear-pit. The RA Summer Show can be summed up in the words of Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Kars, plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose; the hanging varies from year to year, but the list of suspects making up roughly 20% of the represented by its members, the usual suspects makes up 6 works of art. There are around 1,100 artists represented, with up to 6 works each, including a number of artists who, having once found a rich vein, keep tapping it, either for the benefit of their fans, or that they simply have not moved on from the relative safety of their chosen genre. Norman Ackroyd’s etchings are safe and delightful, and display enormous technical talent, The Shaw in Winter being a masterclass in printing, using a number of effects to give the picture its depth. Bill Jacklin’s paintings and prints are instantly recognisable, utilising whirling masses of people, either at Grand Central Station, Rockefeller Ice Rink or the beaches of Coney Island. Humphrey Ocean’s spare paintings and screenprints are so pared down, they venture into abstraction, but still just about hold onto figuration, while Anthony Eyton’s Indian Festival, Varanasi is at the other end of the spectrum and about as busy as it can get. Simplicity is what Tim Shaw offers us with his felt-tip Raven, while Bernard Dunstan has a most adept chalk nude entitled Resting No. 2. Cornelia Parker seems to have run out of breath (à bout de souffle, in her own words) as regards innovative and original ideas, recycling her trademark sculptures involving flattened silver-plated objects on wires. A snip at £25,000 for two teapots, one intact and the other soiled.

Two other artists who disappoint, not just in subject, execution and extortionate prices, are Mark Wallinger, who is asking £198,000 for a seriously dreadful acrylic painting, ID Painting 37, and Anish Kapoor RA wants £650,000 for his silicone and fibreglass mess called Unborn. Per-lease! Taking us gently back to earth is Mick Rooney, whose romantic fantasies are both charming and beautifully painted in oils or gouache and tempera on paper. David Remfroy never disappoints, however, and he has 3 vibrant oils in Gallery III, while the veteran Joe Tilson has lost none of his edge with Stones of Venice screenprints series. There is more than a hint of the curate’s egg about this show, with a few Marmite soldiers to add to the confection.

Don Grant

Refurbishment of the Garden Museum
5 Lambeth Palace Road
London SE1 7LB

Within the ancient, deconsecrated, Parish Church of St. Mary-at-Lambeth, in the shadow of the Palace of Lambeth, a modern garden museum has evolved. A beautiful, cloistered garden, designed by Dan Pearson, surrounds it, and, in an elaborate tomb lie, John Tradescant the Elder, and his son John, the Younger, plant pioneers and gardeners to King Charles 1. Sacred history and love of God’s gift of gardens set the atmosphere which pervades this rare Museum.

The Church, once so important to prestigious people at Lambeth Palace, eventually fell into disuse and was deconsecrated in 1752. In 1756, the Museum’s founder, Rosemary Nicholson, discovered the Tradvescants’ tomb. The Museum was first known as the Garden History Museum and later became the Garden Museum. It opened in 1977.

This museum has recently undergone a major refurbishment and re opened last May. It now has much improved gallery spaces for showing, history, garden design and the hard labour aspect of gardening. It has an education space, cafe and bar. The food is fresh and appetising and is served by friendly staff.

Exhibits are varied and include photographs, drawings and paintings. I particularly liked a book of pressed flowers, collected by a soldier, in World War 1, which was donated by his daughter. A whole wall showing early watering cans you will be pleased to see the Tudor thumb pot and the early hooves. If you have ever thought about protecting the turf from prints of their hooves, as they pulled a mowing machine which had a pair of boots, typically worn by ponies, from gardens. An unusual exhibit is a pair of teapots, one intact and the other squashed. A snip at £25,000 for two teapots, one intact and the other soiled.

Anish Kapoor RA wants £650,000 for his silicone and fibreglass mess called Unborn. Per-lease! Taking us gently back to earth is Mick Rooney, whose romantic fantasies are both charming and beautifully painted in oils or gouache and tempera on paper. David Remfroy never disappoints, however, and he has 3 vibrant oils in Gallery III, while the veteran Joe Tilson has lost none of his edge with Stones of Venice screenprints series. There is more than a hint of the curate’s egg about this show, with a few Marmite soldiers to add to the confection.

Frederick Cornwallis, all Archbishops of Canterbury, are probably also in the same vault. The coffins were stacked up in a brick lined vault in a secret chamber. A mitre was found too. The coffins can be viewed through a glass panel.

John Tradescant collected seeds, bulbs, curiosities of natural history and ethnography. He created the Museuem Tradescantium, which was the first Museum open to the public in England. Marian Maitland.

The Garden Museum
Open Daily. 10.30-5.00 pm.
Saturdays until 4pm.
Tel: 020 7401 8865
gardenmuseum.org.uk
Construction Drawings at the RA Summer Exhibition

For the first time in 249 years, construction drawings are the focus of this year’s architecture room at the Royal Academy of Arts’ Summer Exhibition, which this year is curated by British architect, Farshid Moussavi.

The annual London exhibition is one of the biggest events in the UK’s art and design calendar, and the largest open submission show in the world. Each year the exhibition displays a spectrum of art in all forms and mediums, an extraordinary mixture of emerging artists and household names. The architecture room is a regular feature of the exhibition, unveiling work from London’s architecture students to some of the world’s most acclaimed ‘star-architects’. Traditionally, the room is filled with elaborate drawings and detailed models, but this year, in a radical move, Moussavi decided to do something different. Moussavi chose to showcase the types of drawings that set architects apart from the artists, sculptors and photographers; ‘construction coordination drawings’, which highlight, in her words, the role of architecture as ‘instruction-based art’.

“This year, I thought we could concentrate on showcasing what we architects specifically do, distinct from the painters and sculptors, which is to produce a set of construction coordination drawings,” she explained. “Although these are of course drawn on the computer these days, I believe that they are nonetheless beautiful, and show a view of buildings rarely or never seen by the public.”

Moussavi was keen to select work that shows the “full complexity of the different systems and parts of buildings”, ideally colour coded. “I am hoping that the architecture room will show the complexity and richness of buildings beyond their outward appearance... Since at the RA, architects are a different category to painters, engravers, printmakers, draughtsmen and sculptors, we need to continue asking what makes them different rather than similar.”

The technical drawings on display provide instructions for everything involved in a building project: from the façade and structure to heating and cooling, fire safety and sustainability. As described by the exhibition’s organisers: “Standing within a building, or looking up at its façade, most of us are unaware of the conflicts that have needed to be resolved between all the different services and structures that share the space.” This complexity is often hidden from view. “These drawings are not just pragmatic depictions of design and engineering, but mesmerising works in their own right”.

Displayed in a variety of ways, wall-mounted technical pieces surround three central tables containing early stage conceptual hand-drawn collages by Gordon Benson, drawings by Peter Cook, Will Alsop and Trevor Dannatt. These drawings are contrasted by mathematical visuals by Isosaki and Ron Arad. Each wall contains a grouped collection of pieces ranging from layered isometric representations, fragmented technical details following conventional drawing techniques, and more wilful abstractions driven by formal composition. Work includes drawings by David Adjaye, BIG, Frank Gehry, Foster and Partners, and Farshid Moussavi herself.

Moussavi is best known as a co-founder of the former architecture practice, Foreign Office Architects, possibly most well known for their Yokohama Pier design, in Yokohama, Japan. She moved on to found her own office in 2011, and has since completed notable projects including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland and Victoria Beckham’s London boutique.

The Summer Exhibition runs from June 13 until August 20 at the Royal Academy of the Arts.
Scottish Ballet…
The men take one for the TEAM!

Scotland’s national dance company, Scottish Ballet, returned to the London stage at The Sadler’s Wells Theatre with a programme that aimed to show the company as a tour de force with two very different pieces, but with an over-arching theme and display of group dances.

It was very much an evening of two halves. The first a piece by French contemporary choreographer, Angélique Preljocaj called MC 14/22 (Ceci est mon corps). Put simply a piece created to challenge the senses for a very long 55 minutes of contemporary movement that oozed barbaric violence and male testosterone bandaged up to the sounds of baying, crashing, squelching, grinding; noises that were relentless for the duration.

For some a pill best left in the wrapper. For many a tonic that was so bitter, one would have to add a double gin to the tonic at the much awaited interval to make it taste more palatable; or at least make sense of what one had just endured. MC 14/22 had been mothballed for some years and some would say should have been so forever.

A very brave move by Scottish Ballet’s latest Artistic Director, Christopher Hampson, a superb choreographer in his own right. The canny Scottish always like a good deal and in Hampson they have three for the price of one! An Artistic Director, choreographer and also Chief Executive all rolled into one ambitiously talented and articulate individual. Hampson’s brave hearted vision was delivered as prescribed as a contemporary resurrection of the biblical Last Supper by Scottish Ballet’s all male cohort. The twelve male dancers gave full commitment to Preljocaj’s unusual yet thought provoking language of dance. The piece starts with masculine tenderness as a male washes another male with water but very quickly moves into a world of violence with the male body stripped to its core to show the juxtaposition of glorified strength against the condemnation of force. The backdrop starts with six steel-tubed tables stacked up like a surreal mortuary of male bodies deceiving death by movement in the dark. Then suddenly these same tables take on a new light as they are deconstructed and built into a line of six long tables for the tableaux last supper. The violence is brutal with recurring grotesque muscular distorting bodies taking centre stage. At one point the audience is taken further out of their comfort zone as one dancer tapes another dancer, as he performs a series of recurring movements. Each time he finishes the series of movements more tape is applied to the limbs and body until the dancer becomes a mummified body trying to perform the original dance… this became gripping to say the least and for some it would have been a talking point for the interval as to how much gaffer tape was used in the end, and didn’t he do well to appear two minutes later without any tape. On its own Preljocaj’s MC 14/22 would have been a ‘strictly disaster,’ but Hampson had a game plan for the evening… a game of two halves.

Crystal Pite is on a crest of a wave as her choreography sets sail around the world. Canadian born, Pite has recently triumphed with her work Flight Pattern for The Royal Ballet. Emergence was Pite’s first piece created for a major classical dance company; National Ballet of Canada in 2009. It too has taken flight and is also performed by Seattle’s Pacific Northwest Ballet. The first nestling place for Scottish Ballet’s Emergence was at the Edinburgh Festival last year.

Pite is very clever in her use of large groups of dancers on stage. Her inspiration for the piece was from a scientific paper on “The connected lives of Ants, Brains, Cities and Software” by American science journalist Steven Johnson. Pite delved into the connection of the social organisation of bees and the hierarchical nature of classical ballet companies. Pite’s fascination of swarm intelligence is clear to see in her work where large groups of people are responding to local stimuli. The notion of a large group of ballerinas, all identically costumed like birds, taking flight with their pointe shoes travelling across the stage as one is riveting. The dancers stop, start, and dart in an instant with swirling patterns and straight lines with a hypnotic and mesmerising effect. With the dark orange backdrop, with nest like large patterns taking centre stage, the forty plus dancers come to a frenzied climax of relevés and bird like arm movements that depicts that final moment of first flight from the nest!

The juxtaposition of human violence against the beauty of nature and its scary first steps to freedom makes for an engaging evening of dance. Gin without Tonic… Pite without Preljocaj would not be the same.

Together Everyone Achieves More; Great TEAM work Scottish Ballet!
Investec Opera
Holland Park
Giacomo Puccini
La Rondine
Director Martin Lloyd-Evans
Conductor Matthew Kofi Waldren
Magda de Civry Elizabeth Llewellyn
Ruggero Matteo Lippi
Lisette Tereza Gevorgyan
6 June 2017

I've had a couple of days before I was due to see LGMC at the Cadogan Hall. Al invited me out for dinner, but was delighted when I suggested we take in the show. Now between you and me, if I'd thought I had half a chance now, any more than I did when we were we kids, it might have been awkward, but we had a laugh, and a cry, just like we'd had at David's funeral. The joy in each other's company, tempered by the death of a wonderful man, perfectly reflected the LGMC evening, as we watched in frank amazement, the politicised videos telling the story of the psychological and indeed physical torture of gay men since 1967. The music was well chosen and beautifully presented with a rollicking finale. From there Al and I entered what to me felt like heaven, and in fact was Home House where we had the sashimi wrapper and raincoat (also fine Canali).

London Gay Men’s Chorus
AGIT-POP celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act 1967
Cadogan Hall
9 June 2017

LGMC were fabulous and put on a rip-roaring evening but first you have to know about Al Canning. Al was a big star at school, equally popular, beautiful, respected, and as far as the college was concerned trouble. In the market town just south of Swindon there were plenty of pretty-enough petite brunette women, but Al was a willowy-blonde film-star, and, since that was pretty much how I saw myself, I adored her. A bit of a hippy herself, you might think of her as a female Syd Barrett, who taught us to be cool you had to be kind. If you'd given me one school friend I could hook up with once more I would always have picked Al Canning.

And so it was when our close mutual friend David Jayne died at the tragically young age of 58, I got a LinkedIn invitation from Al Canning, would I be going along to David's funeral in Holland Park? Lest this happen I was planning to go to David’s funeral in Devon, but I’ve gone to it on foot to see Al, and of course we had an amazing day laughing like we did when we were 17, and worrying that David would be missed, which of course he wouldn't, given the legendary hospitality of the Jaynes. When Al corrected a prosaically uttered by a fellow guest (“He isn't my husband …yet”) I just bathed in the moment and assumed I'd never hear from Al again.

But I did. And it was a couple of days before I was due to see LGMC at the Cadogan Hall. Al invited me out for dinner, but was delighted when I suggested we take in the show. Now between you and me, if I'd thought I had half a chance now, any more than I did when we were we kids, it might have been awkward, but we had a laugh, and a cry, just like we'd had at David's funeral. The joy in each other's company, tempered by the death of a wonderful man, perfectly reflected the LGMC evening, as we watched in frank amazement, the politicised videos telling the story of the psychological and indeed physical torture of gay men since 1967. The music was well chosen and beautifully presented with a rollicking finale. From there Al and I entered what to me felt like heaven, and in fact was Home House where we had the sashimi wrapper and raincoat (also fine Canali).

Early summer wrapper

I went with older daughter Hannah and her fiancée Katy to support Gill Perkin's Oasis’s cabaret in support of the HIV charity at the Sound Lounge, Love Happens Here. It was an outstanding evening with fabulously angry burlesque from Ruby Jones, and opened by the ever-excellent Mark Bunyan's Lehrer-esque piano. On a final note, one to watch out for: it was a great privilege visiting the Perren Street Studios to see Working Title (Larry Sabin excellent on guitar taking on Hendrix on home soil and equally strong vocals, Helena Pearson on bass, and Ollie Symonds on drums) warming up for their 25 June 2017 Hampstead Heath gig. With a power-trio's staple of Hey Joe well-worked, and with their own stamp, as ever it was the original material that fascinated, particularly Pearson's beautifully stylised lead-bass. So there you are.
Chuck
Chuck Berry
Price: £9.99

“If you tried to give rock and roll another name, you might call it ‘Chuck Berry’.”
John Lennon

Chuck Berry’s last album was 1979’s creatively titled Rock It, which was a martyr to dated production techniques: Hail! Hail! Processed Drums and Ill-advised Keyboard Solos! might have been a more apropos title. In the decades following the father of rock and roll and occasional pervert (if you want to depress yourself look up his penchant for installing cameras in the women’s bathrooms of the restaurants he owned) seemed to have moved happily into the ‘strictly live performances’ period of his career. Berry played countless one night stands without a fixed backing band (though he brought his own instruments so he could charge promoters an ‘instrument rental fee’); just blowing into town and assembling any available musicians to back him, refusing to give them a set list beyond “Chuck Berry songs” before playing whatever he felt like in whatever order he wanted, arrogantly assured that any musician worth their salt would know his stuff inside out and therefore be able to keep up. The thing is he wasn’t wrong; Chuck Berry was unarguably the father of what we think of as Rock and Roll (whilst a strong case can be made for Little Richard, Berry was the first to place the guitar front and centre) and his early hits had an effect on music similar to that of David Bowie and Leonard Cohen’s elegaic final records, it’s scorching early work as a meditation of his life and career. Does it? Of course it doesn’t. It doesn’t even come close. It was never going to; Berry’s early work is at the very core of rock’s DNA; an entire lifetime of thunderstorms trapped in a Coke bottle. Instead Chuck (for that is its name) sounds like the kind of record that a touring musician would make; rough around the edges and clearly doesn’t give two fucks if you don’t think it’s the bee’s knees. It has airs but no graces and as a result it’s about the best closing statement you could wish for from rock’s notoriously prickly patriarch.

The whole album is a ramshackle affair that careens from the fridge daddy-o in casual conversation? Probably not, but it’s the lean and swinging last word basically duck-walking a huge swathe of 20th Century culture into existence without breaking a sweat. On the other hand he was a difficult bastard (Keith Richards is quoted as claiming that “I couldn’t warm to him if I was cremated next to him”) with a history of statutory rape and the aforementioned bathroom scandal and for some that might be enough to give Chuck a skip. He’s a contradictory figure and if this record isn’t a masterpiece then it certainly isn’t a disappointment. Hail, Hail, Rock and Roll.
Singles: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack Deluxe Edition
Various Artists
Price: £11.99

Whilst Pixar tend to get all the column ink as the bleeding edge of the animated world (and considering that their upcoming movie is Cars 3 perhaps their crown is more illusory than it used to be) the Japanese Studio Ghibli have been quietly producing uncompromising works of breath-taking wonder like Spirited Away and Grave Of The Fireflies with an almost perfect track record since their formation in 1985. Whilst The Red Turtle is not a pure Studio Ghibli film (they were one of the associate production houses in this Japanese-French-Belgian collaboration) their unique sensibility is clearly present in this pared-down tale of isolation and rebirth directed by Academy Award winner Michael Dudok de Wit. The Red Turtle only takes 80 minutes to unfold its wordless tale of a shipwrecked sailor, but it enchants from its opening shot: a seething grey sea, tossing vertiginously like a monochrome version of Hokusai’s The Great Wave, with the tiny speck of a flailing man bobbing desperately amongst the raging surf. Escaping by as much luck as skill our unnamed protagonist finds himself on a desert island that manages to be both lush with life and vegetation and yet starkly desolate. Alone but for some oddly emotive beach crabs, the castaway begins to construct a boat with admirable swiftness (as in immediately. I probably would have taken a day of lying on the beach first, but perhaps he’d left the oven on) in order to set out. However a rather intractable problem eventually presents itself when a territorial (or perhaps just lonely) giant red turtle takes it upon itself to sink his boat. What follows is an ever-increasing arms race between turtle and man that soon turns towards magical realism. To reveal any more would be to deprive the film of its surprise (sadly not a concern for the audience that its trailer shares), but what seems at first to be a simple tale of escape makes an unexpected switch into something quite different.

The lack of dialogue (though there are grunts and cries of passion) makes perfect sense considering the castaway’s solitude and far from feeling pretentious, the silence quietly (pun grudgingly intended) cuts away all extraneous fat from the story, leaving just the gorgeous visuals to tell this oddly universal story. Dudok De Wit favours the thin, “clean” lines common to many European comic book artists, like Jean Moebius Giraud and Georges Herge Remi. With the help of Ghibli’s artists and technicians, supervised by Grave Of The Fireflies/Tale Of The Princess Kaguya director Isao Takahata, The Red Turtle is both minimalist and vividly rendered, from the computer-animated waves to the well-articulated hand-drawn human figures.

The pure aesthetic beauty of The Red Turtle carries the movie a long way, compensating for moments when it ranges too far into the elliptical, or even the inexplicable. It also helps that no matter how surreal and allegorical that Dudok De Wit and Ferran get, they ultimately keep the story grounded in the immediate needs of their protagonist. Roughly every 10 minutes or so, something breathtaking happens, whether it be a daring escape through a tight underwater tunnel or a tidal wave that swamps the island, leaving devastation in its wake. Yet even amid the life or death moments, The Red Turtle finds time to appreciate the childlike joy of uncorking a bottle, or the gray-toned wonder of a moonlit beach. This film is a triumph of illustration, serving a story that’s intensely aware of both the big mysteries of human existence and the small ways that a crab scuttles across the sand.

Cameron Crowe’s 1992 Seattle-based romantic comedy Singles has been mostly (justifiably?) forgotten: it’s a fairly simple inoffensive comedy featuring a cast of attractive late-20-somethings, all of whom (except one) live in the same apartment complex, date each other and hang out at a coffee shop. If this sounds eerily familiar it’s because it’s the missing link that evolved into Friends: originally Friends was going to be a spin-off series, but when those plans fell through, the producers just transplanted the basic conceit from Seattle to New York and watched the money roll in. Singles is more than a distantly remembered trivia point in the history of Friends however, as due to blind luck as much as planning Singles had the unintended privilege of documenting the Seattle grunge scene just before it took off. Grunge megastars like Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Alice In Chains and Mudhoney (Nirvana are conspicuous in their absence) all have pre-fame cameo roles which were effectively included as in-jokes. Cameron Crowe lived in Seattle at the time and was close friends with many musicians on the then-underground scene, but became reason enough for the grungy faithful to trek down to a cinema and give their hard-earned dollars to the man who’d made Peter Gabriel THE musician to blast from a boom-box outside your love interest’s room, no-one could have predicted it.

If the movie was big though, the soundtrack was a bona-fide sensation, hitting double platinum back when that actually meant something. Twenty-five years later, it’s admittedly somewhat difficult to imagine a time when soundtracks commanded such power, but that’s exactly what happened with Singles. The film’s flame-wearing sidepiece arrived nearly three months before the film’s release, riding on the first wave of ‘90s alternative with future titans Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Alice in Chains. All three were a year or two removed from their proper breakthroughs, and Singles served as a handy tour guide straight out of the Seattle Sound’s proverbial gift shop, complete with liner notes on some of the central influences on said scene, beginning with the already defunct Mother Love Bone’s epic Ohio Dancer/Crown of Thorns, the Lovemongers’ cover of Zeppelin’s Battle of Evermore and The Jimi Hendrix Experience’s May This Be Love in addition to the latest jams from the local heroes, with Mudhoney’s Overgrown and Screaming Trees’ Nearly Lost You (which still bursts out of the box like a rabid wolf). Hell, even the outliers found a seat at the table: The Smashing Pumpkins’ post-Gish jam Dress closes things down with one of Billy Corgan’s greatest solos while Paul Westerberg kicked off his post-Replacements career with two original charmers.

This expanded re-release comes as pop-culture seems to be beginning to re-evaluate Grunge’s musical legacy in the wake of Chris Cornell’s (who has several cameos in both the movie and soundtrack) death. Rather than any individual album (great as they may be) Singles offers one of the broadest reaches into a genre that was actually much more multifaceted than the cliché of flannel and depression lets on. Coming complete with reams of extra tracks, (some great, some more understandably cut from the成品 product), Singles resurrects a very specific moment in music history without making too big a deal about it. Looking like you’re trying isn’t cool and Singles is very cool indeed.
Health

New technologies revolutionise prosthetics
By Fahad Redha

Lamborghini, best known for high performance cars is teaming up with the Houston Methodist Research Institute to study using composite materials, similar to that used in its supercars, for the development of better prosthetics. The project will be conducted by Dr Mauro Ferrari, the Institute’s president and CEO whose research will collaborate with five other collaborating institutes in Italy.

The partnership will study biocompatibility issues in using these materials for implants or devices placed under the skin. The hope is that they are lighter and will last longer than existing prosthetics, as well as being “better tolerated by the human body, and more resistant over time than those currently used,” according to Lamborghini.

Carbon fibre composites is used by companies like Lamborghini because of its lightweight and strength. For a car, these are key to its performance and handling. More recently, it has also been employed by BMW and Toyota for use in their hybrid models since saving weight is a great way to improve fuel consumption.

“The next revolution in medicine,” as The Guardian describes it, is 3D printing prosthetics. “Leading prosthetics can cost up to $100,000,” the Open Hand Project (OHP) says. “By using emerging technologies like 3D printing, we can cut that down to a fraction of the cost which means that these devices can reach a far broader audience!”

The OHP hopes to make this more accessible to the public. Its website provides downloadable files that can be 3D printed, making them far more affordable. It also allows individual investors and designers to offer their creations to those in need.

As many as 30 million people worldwide are in need of prosthetics, many of them living in developing countries. However, as many as eight in ten do not have the devices they require. The WHO says that there is a shortage of 40,000 trained prosthetists in poorer countries. There is also the cost associated with travelling long distances for treatment, including assessing their needs and producing and fitting prosthetics. The treatment alone can take days and the result is far from perfect.

“Slowly but surely,” The Guardian’s Ian Birrell wrote, “3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, has been revolutionising aspects of medicine since the start of the century, just as it has had an impact on so many other industries.” This would also be particularly great for children, as a new, larger one can be 3D printed as they grow.

If you would like to reverse the signs of ageing, a revolutionary non-surgical face lift called the ‘thread lift’ may well be the best possible option outside surgery.

This treatment uses absorbable threads to lift and rejuvenate your facial skin, resulting in a fresh, youthful appearance.

These treatments target specific areas of the face and are recommended to lift and contour brows, crow’s feet, cheeks, nasolabial folds and marionette lines, jawline and neck area. The procedure lasts between 1 and 2 hours.

Are you between 60 and 85 years old and keen to contribute towards our understanding of Alzheimer’s disease?

The CHARIOT: PRO substudy is researching how various factors such as genetics, biology and environment might contribute to the development of memory problems.

We are looking to enrol 500 healthy volunteers to help us with this ground-breaking research. The CHARIOT: PRO substudy will last about 4 years and will involve visits to our sites in West London.

Would you like to help?
You may be able to take part in the CHARIOT: PRO substudy if you:

- Are aged 60 to 85 years
- Have a close friend, relative or spouse who can attend 4 of the study visits with you
- Have no major health issues
- Have no memory problems*

*Even if you think you have experienced memory changes, you might still be able to take part. A study doctor will discuss this with you to determine if this research is right for you.

If you think that you, or someone you know, can help us with this important research, please contact the CHARIOT: PRO study team today.

For more information, please call us on 020 7594 7371 or email: chariopro.study@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College London

Chariot register

Non-surgical Facelift (thread lifts)

If you would like to reverse the signs of ageing, a revolutionary non-surgical face lift called the ‘thread lift’ may well be the best possible option outside surgery.

This treatment uses absorbable threads to lift and rejuvenate your facial skin, resulting in a fresh, youthful appearance.

These treatments target specific areas of the face and are recommended to lift and contour brows, crow’s feet, cheeks, nasolabial folds and marionette lines, jawline and neck area. The procedure lasts between 1 and 2 hours.

READER OFFER

For your complimentary consultation and 10% off introductory offer*, please call: 020 7565 0333

*Ts&Cs apply. This article must be presented to redeem your 10% discount. Valid until March 31st (one voucher per person).

Cosmetech, Chelsea Private Clinic, The Courtyard, 250 Kings Road, London SW3 5UE

www.cosmetech.co.uk

**NON-SURGICAL FACELIFT**

BEFORE

AFTER

Introducing PDO (Lift Lift). It is a premium non-surgical facelift, the Princess Lift® PDO - Lead Fine Lift. It is a premium lifting thread which is absorbed after proliferating collagen by stimulating fibroblast.

“...I couldn’t be happier with the result...”

Gillian Taylforth

“Absolutely delighted...”

Gillian Taylforth

“...convinced this is the best facial treatment I have ever...”

Julia Haworth

“...the best treatment I have ever had...”

Julia Haworth

For your complimentary consultation and 10% off introductory offer*, please call: 020 7565 0333

*Ts&Cs apply. This article must be presented to redeem your 10% discount. Valid until March 31st (one voucher per person).
Health

Colorectal cancer specialists bring expertise to Chelsea with new rapid service

Mr Oliver Warren and Miss Sarah Mills, Consultant Colorectal Surgeons, have been setting high standards in the treatment of colorectal and intestinal conditions in Chelsea for the last 3 years.

Here they tell us about their new fast-track service for residents worried about their health.

Tell us a bit about the new service you’ve developed.

It’s a rapid access service for people who are worried they may have colorectal cancer, also known as ‘bowel cancer’, and basically it does what it says on the tin! It’s a brand new service for people who have any symptoms that might suggest bowel cancer, and it’s available here in Chelsea at HCA Sydney Street, provided by Leaders in Oncology Care (LOC) in partnership with The Lister Hospital. We also see those who have a strong family history of bowel cancer.

What are the benefits of the service?

For people experiencing symptoms associated with bowel cancer, such as bleeding from the bottom, a change in the way their bowels work or loss of weight, finding out if it’s a sinister diagnosis is very stressful. The new service aims to cut the wait for appointments and test results and shorten the whole process so that we can get patients onto the correct course of treatment as soon as possible.

You can either self-refer to the service or you can be referred by your GP, and we guarantee that you’ll be offered an appointment to see a consultant in 3 working days. You’ll then have diagnostic tests such as a colonoscopy done within 5 days and often you’ll have the results on the same day. The turnaround time for a biopsy is also 5 days.

But it’s not all about speed. You will always be under the care and supervision of highly experienced consultants throughout your treatment and at HCA UK we’re fortunate to have some of the most advanced tools at our disposal, such as CT colonography, an alternative, less invasive approach than standard endoscopy. We also have the support of The Lister Hospital just around the corner, which has 61 beds, 4 operating theatres, an endoscopy unit, onsite intensive care unit and was recently rated ‘outstanding’ by the CQC. We work with a dedicated Colorectal Nurse Specialist at Sydney Street to facilitate an easy and efficient patient journey on the pathway. Our patients also benefit from multi-disciplinary team meetings where leading oncologists, radiologists, pathologists and surgeons come together to discuss each case thoroughly in order to decide on the best course of action for each individual patient.

What prompted you to start this service?

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in both men and women. We have worked together in the NHS for many years, even before we became consultants, so we’ve seen countless patients come through the door. Recently though, as people have become more knowledgeable and aware of the warning signs, we’ve seen an uplift in demand for services. In the local Chelsea area alone there has been a 300% increase in referrals to secondary care on the current NHS pathway, so we are trying to fill a need that is there.

What are some of the warning signs that people should be looking for?

Some of the most common symptoms of colorectal cancers are rectal bleeding, change in bowel habit, weight loss, anaemia and a family history of bowel cancer.

But it’s also important to know that many of the common symptoms can be attributed to other conditions such as haemorrhoids, diverticulosis, polyps or inflammatory bowel disease (such as Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis) and only around 5-6% of cases turn out to be cancer.

We believe the main message is to act quickly, and get a definitive diagnosis. We have seen too many patients who ignored symptoms hoping they would go away, sometimes with really troubling consequences.

Whether your symptoms turn out to be cancer or not we will be able to advise you on the best course of action; for example in the case of polyps, these can lead to cancer later in life so we can set patients on a surveillance programme.

So whether you’re 23 or 103, if you are worried come and see us!

For more information please visit The Lister Hospital website: www.thelisterhospital.com/about-us/our-treatment-centres/hca-sydney-street or call 020 3131 6447 for appointments.

Looking for world-class medical care?

Our doors are now open in Chelsea.
Health

We specialise in delivering clinical care at home, providing professional one-to-one nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Acute Nursing Care in the comfort of your own home
Acute Nursing Care is provided to clients at home within the community setting, through high quality person centred care.

Clinical therapies that fit in with your life
Clinical therapies, including physiotherapy and rehabilitation are provided at home, fitting in with daily routines.

Regulated and inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), our services are designed, monitored and managed to meet the CQC Essential Standards of Quality and Safety.

Area Served
Our services cover London and the surrounding areas.

For more information contact us on 020 3137 5370 or: referral@homelinkhealthcare.co.uk

Do you suffer from any of the following post childbirth symptoms?

- Mild to moderate incontinence
- Urinary urgency
- Vaginal laxity
- Pelvic prolapse
- Dryness
- Sexual dysfunction

ThermiVa®, a new non-invasive treatment, is now available in London at Chelsea Private Clinic.

“ThermiVa® offers a non-surgical solution to many common gynaecology problems that can arise after giving birth. Rediscover your younger self today” - Professor Jim Dornan MD (Hons) FRCOG FRCPI

Contact us today to find out more about the procedure and our prices.

020 7565 0333
frontdesk@cosmetech.co.uk

www.cosmetech.co.uk

ThermiVa®
Rediscover your younger self

Helping you take care of yourself

World class clinical care in west London

Kensington’s Bupa Cromwell Hospital offers an exceptional healthcare resource for Londoners. Whether using private health insurance or ‘self-funding’, our world-renowned services are available to everyone, and just a five minute walk from Kensington High Street, Earl’s Court or Gloucester Road.

- private GPs with walk-in appointments
- the latest diagnostic technology, with no waiting times and quick results
- London’s leading consultants, with appointments available at short notice
- tailored health screening packages to suit every need
- Women’s Health Centre with female-only specialists

Call us on 020 7460 5700 or email contact.centre@cromwellhospital.com to discuss your healthcare needs.

bupacromwellhospital.com
One of the companies at the forefront of autonomous cars is Volvo. The Swedish firm has been developing systems that can detect animals as well as pedestrians, but has recently found a flaw. While the so-called “Large Animal Detection system” can spot and avoid deer, elk, and caribou, it is baffled by kangaroos.

The unique movements of the large marsupial, which accounts for 90% of animal collisions in Australia, confuses the system. “When it’s in the air, it actually looks like it’s further away,” said managing director of Volvo Australia, Kevin McCann, “then it lands and it looks closer.”

This is because the object detection systems in the cars rely on the ground as a reference point, Volvo’s Australian technical manager, David Pickett, told the ABC.

Volvo does offer semi-autonomous features in the S90/V90 and XC90 which it says gives “a taste of the future of autonomous driving.” These systems maintain a safe distance with the car in front and can supposedly spot potential collisions in urban environments. The company plans to release a self-driving car by 2020 and promises no fatalities involving its cars by then. Volvo has also announced that all newly released models from 2019 onwards will be either hybrid or all-electric.

But you may see driverless cars on our roads sooner than that. The CargoPod will begin a pilot project in the Borough of Greenwich. The Greenwich Automated Transport Environment Project (GATEway) has teamed up with online supermarket Ocado to deliver to over 100 customers in the Berkeley Homes, Royal Arsenal Riverside development.

GATEway focuses on the so-called “last-mile” issue. This refers to getting people home where a car or public transport won’t take them. In other words, direct to their door. “Last mile” includes walking, cycling, or hiring a little vehicle, including an autonomous one.

The CargoPod is a small electric car that can carry up to 128 kg (282lb). If it proves successful, Ocado hopes to have a “wider roll out of autonomous vehicles which, in the future, may play an important role in cutting inner city congestion and air pollution.”

And Dubai, a place not known for restraint, will deploy “robot patrols.” The little driverless cars will have biometric software to scan for wanted criminals or anyone suspected of or currently breaking the law. It even comes equipped with its own drone that can be launched via a rear sleeve, both of which are monitored by a command room.

“It can recognise people in any area and identify suspicious objects and can track suspects. It has a drone and the user [police officer] needs to access the car through fingerprint. It will be deployed at tourist destinations in Dubai,” Brigadier Al Razooqi said.

Fortunately, neither it nor the CargoPod will run into any Kangaroos.
I

n the late summer, the Grant family would take two or three weeks holiday, usually in Italy, as it coincided with the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, the fiendishly fast, banked track thirty kilometres outside Milan. The trip would start early in the morning, with dad loading up the car with everything from a picnic table and chairs, to a stove, clothes and towels for five, maps and books, his typewriter, toys, a picnic hamper with plates, knives and forks. What would not fit in the boot would go on the roof-rack, wrapped up in a tarpaulin and secured by a terrifying device called ‘an octopus’. No matter how tight it was fastened, it would always come loose and start flapping. We would

set off for Lydd in Kent and board an antiquated Silver City Bristol Freighter, which took two cars and their passengers. The front of the aircraft opened up like two giant clam-shells, and the cars would be driven up a ramp by groundcrew. We passengers were strapped into full-harness belts in leather seats, and the twin engines would splutter and fart into life, with a clattering of pistons and billows of blue smoke. The noise was deafening as this improbable flying machine gathered speed down the runway, fishtailing until it hauled itself into the air, and soon we were flying past Dungeness and out over the sea, shining like a Ken Howard painting. Twenty minutes later, we landed in Le Touquet, and after minimal customs

dumping around the corner, which, we later discovered, due to the violent banging of the headboard on the wall, was used by signore della notte the headboard on the wall, was used by

for that weekend and then drive us down to the coast. We only managed to get to the race twice, once in 1955, when motor racing was dominated by the Silver Arrows, driven by Fangio, Moss, Karl Kling and Piero Taruffi. Fangio and Moss had the streamlined versions, their last appearance in a GP after the Le Mans tragedy, while the other two were open-wheeled models. I seem to remember the Pope being driven around in an open-topped sports car and waving in a very papal manner, but I may have dreamt that. The second time my brother and I were taken was in 1961. Dad booked himself into a swanky hotel in Milan, and us into a somewhat seedy hotel in Susten, a welcoming family which he had stayed at many times before, we were shown around the Ferrari factory, to cover the race for an American western dubbed into Italian.

He was not interested in sitting around in the sun, and would seek out the daspelled shade of a beach-bar drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes, whilst reading a book. After lunch, we children were packed off for a siesta, while Eba would trapse back down to the beach in the heat of the day, sitting under her umbrella, savouring the bliss of solitude without kids. We had snorkels, masks and flippers, and I would love gazing at the magical underwater world alongside it. There were big trains

lit with little table lights past in the middle of the film in an O Winston Link tableau, with passengers sitting at tables lit by little table lights and bats flitting between the audience and the screen. With his gravelly Italian voice, Alan Ladd will never seem the same.

The little house dad finally settled on was only yards from the sea, the pianataria and the lateria, and we were sent out first thing in the morning with a zinc pail to be filled from a vat of cold, latte freddo with a ladle, burro with a rivet seal, and some bread. Dad could not function without an espresso from his aluminium coffee maker and a cigarette. Eba was very much at home on the beach, with her flamboyant straw hat, one-piece swimming costume, towels and an umbrella, whereas dad's body was unused to the sun and appeared as alabaster next to his wife and children, who had been on the beach every day for over a week getting nut-brown while he was off working. One fore-arm was much more browner than the other, as it spent most of its time leaning out of the car window, and he usually wore a straw hat.

Dad was there to cover the race for his magazine, and he would either drop us off on the Ligurian coast west of Genoa and drive back up for practise, or put us all up in a hotel on Lake Maggiore and the railway now goes through the mountains above the town, as does the main road, which used to echo to the sound of souped-up Fiats and Vespas. The Hotel Miramare, where we first stayed while dad was out looking for somewhere to rent, is still there with its strange mix of art-deco/neo-mughal-

gothic architecture and colouring, and the road seems a lot less busy than it was. Ice-cream was a great favourite, both in the hotel bar and in the dazzling neon-lit gelateria in Finale Liguria, where we used to sit and promenade in the warm evenings. We used to put 5-lira aluminium coins on the track and wait in the bushes until a train came along and flattened them into anamorphic ovals. On the other side of the track was an outdoor movie theatre with bench seating, and dad took us there to watch American westerns dubbed into Italian.

and it is open to the sea, the pianataria and the lateria, and we were sent out first thing in the morning with a zinc pail to be filled from a vat of cold, latte freddo with a ladle, burro with a rivet seal, and some bread. Dad could not function without an espresso from his aluminium coffee maker and a cigarette. Eba was very much at home on the beach, with her flamboyant straw hat, one-piece swimming costume, towels and an umbrella, whereas dad's body was unused to the sun and appeared as alabaster next to his wife and children, who had been on the beach every day for over a week getting nut-brown while he was off working. One fore-arm was much more browner than the other, as it spent most of its time leaning out of the car window, and he usually wore a straw hat.
LONDON’S ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY SPECIALIST
ESTABLISHED 1977

Rolls-Royce GT1 diagnostics for Rolls-Royce Phantom and Ghost.

Full body off restoration

Bentley GT and Flying Spur
Latest ODIS diagnostic software. Access to technical database direct from Crewe. Full Geko accessibility allows coding of all immobiliser 3 and 4 components including kessy, engine control module and 2nd generation keys.

Full engine upgrades

SUMMERS HERE!

FOR SALE:

Bentley Arnage T

LHD Rolls-Royce Corniche

RHD Bentley Continental

FOR SALE:

Nell Gwynn House Draycott Avenue Chelsea London SW3 3AU
T. +44 (0) 20 7584 8363 info@chelseaworkshop.com
www.chelseaworkshop.com

Partners: Larry Hawkins & Peter Eatenton
World Athletics Championships are just the tonic London needs this summer
By Owen Fulda

Recent events in London have brought the city to its knees. A string of terror attacks followed by the catastrophic Grenfell Tower inferno have left communities scarred and angry. But it wasn’t too long ago that our capital city was united as one as the city hosted the 2012 Olympic Games. We supported not only the British athletes but male and female competitors from all nations; those who were able-bodied as well as the inspirational Paralympic athletes.

During those 16 summer days, the vibrancy, passion and hospitality of London and its citizens became the envy of the world. Londoners of all races and religions celebrated as Team GB won a record 65 medals, 29 of which were gold. Mo Farah, born in Mogadishu, defeated a world-class field and became the first British athlete in history to win 10,000 metres gold. Now a ‘double-double’ Olympic champion, Farah’s stature has seen him become one of the most inspirational symbols of multiculturalism in the UK.

Sadly those relatively utopian times seem far away in the current, fractious climate of our capital. Although lest we forget that just 12 months before the Games were held, London was gripped by violent rioting sparked by the shooting of Mark Duggan by police, and that not less than 24 hours after London was awarded the right to host the Olympic games (at the expense of Paris), 56 Londoners were murdered in the 7/7 atrocity. But Londoners as a collective are as resilient as they come. London has seen worse than these troubled few months. The Blitz and the IRA bombing campaign may have shaken the city but London will always prevail.

In times such as these, sport has an important part to play in bringing communities together and strengthening cultural identities. It may seem a stretch to suggest that because there is no common cause to get behind this summer (the Lions tour of New Zealand is huge in its own right, but it doesn’t nearly possess the magnetism of a football World Cup) that Londoners have turned on each other. While Labour and Tory supporters trade tiring vitriol on social media and Brexit looms large, the city needs something to celebrate and to take its collective minds off the trauma it has suffered this year.

Thankfully, between August 5 and 13, the World Athletics Championships are being held at the 60,000 capacity London Stadium. The Championships will feature the opportunity to see the legendary 100 metre sprinter Usain Bolt do what he does best once more, before he bids farewell to the sport he has dominated for a decade. In a sport where athletes often make headlines for the wrong reasons, the Jamaican eight-time Olympic champion has been a ray of light in a somewhat murky world. Farah has also declared that the Championships will be his final track event, although he will still compete in marathons and road races.

‘Legacy’ was a much-used word during the 2012 Olympics. Sebastian Coe certainly fashioned an astonishing Games, one of the most successful ever, and unquestionably the finest episode in British sporting history, lapping even England’s football World Cup victory in 1966. But has there really been a tangible legacy? Can we say that the IAAF awarded these World Championships to London is down to, in part at least, the Olympic legacy?

Four years ago Lord Coe stepped down from his role as Olympic legacy ambassador and spoke of his regret that school sport became a political football during the Olympic Games. In doing so he called for a 10-year legacy plan in the face of a mounting childhood obesity crisis. Coe said he wanted the “four big meaty chunks” of legacy that he had been tasked with coordinating; increasing sports participation, volunteering, the economy and regeneration to all have permanent homes in government departments before the end of the year. The raw numbers have since shown participation at least, to have sadly decreased across most sports.

Ticket sales for the World Championships have however been high, which is evidently positive for athletics in the UK. Such was the demand in fact that an extra 60,000 tickets were put on sale in June for the 10 days of competition, allowing fans to buy tickets for previously sold-out sessions, such as Bolt’s 100m final on Saturday 5 August and the opening and closing nights, on Friday 4 and Sunday 13 August respectively.

“We are delighted for fans of major sporting events in the UK that we’ve been granted increased capacity for the stadium during the Summer of World Athletics,” said championship director Niels de Vos. “When we initially opened the ballot last summer 201,000 tickets were requested for the men’s 100m final night, as well as a number of sessions being completely oversubscribed. This means we can aim to fill every seat in the stadium for sold out sessions. We are so pleased that we can once again give more fans an opportunity to be part of the championships and this announcement confirms our final availability for ticketing.”

One nation who will not be participating in the championships is Russia due to their alleged state-sponsored doping regime. Moscow’s head of sport and tourism, former gold medallist Nikolay Gulyaev, remains adamant, however, that the ban is due to politics rather than doping. The former speed skating world record holder believes Russia is in fact the victim of a smear campaign.

Despite World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) publishing reports last year claiming that 1000 Russian athletes committed state-sponsored cheating between 2011 and 2015, Gulyaev believes there is an agenda against his nation. “The great sports’ arenas need to stage sports competitions, not political ones,” said Gulyaev. “It’s just political games. I know how it works. I used to be in certain situations in the Olympics that had nothing to do with sport.”

Gulyaev added that he did not want to see athletes turn on one another but in his opinion the upcoming championship in London would be a poorer event without Russia. It’s fair to say that the vast majority of athletes compete ‘clean’, and will certainly not agree with his sentiment.
T20 cricket blasting off again
By Owen Fulda

The NatWest T20 Blast returns in July, shifting back to being played, for the most part, in a six-week block after the recent experiment with making it a Friday night show. Friday nights are still a cornerstone of the fixture list, though, joined by Sundays.

Gyms in Zone One don’t need to break the bank
By Owen Fulda

So you’re looking for a gym in zone one that’s not going to cost you a Premier League footballer’s weekly wage. Good luck! But wait, what’s this? There’s a gym near Bayswater underground station offering monthly memberships for less than £30. I bet the equipment is old and rusty, and the changing rooms in dire need of redecorating. Wrong! Previously an LA Fitness gym, this gym has been transformed into a PureGym which opened late last year.

The renovation saw them say goodbye to the swimming pool to maximise floor space, a decision which has actually worked really well in my view. The gym is spread over two spacious floors and contains over 220 pieces of quality state of the art gym equipment such as LIVESTRONG spin bikes by Matrix, vibrating Power Plates and TRX training frames. They also offer over 50 free classes a week. Conveniently, you don’t worry about being locked into a 12 month deal as they offer ‘no contract membership’ which means you can join and cancel anytime.

Of course, a gym as cheap as this does inevitably have certain pitfalls. Firstly gaining entry to the gym itself can be akin to the defeating Crystal Maze, at least for me. Upon becoming a member you are sent an access code which you type into a keypad to enter the gym. Unfortunately, as I was informed by text message, my code had not been activated yet. After some brief cursing I searched, in vain, for a member of staff. This was so there I was, all pumped up and ready to go, looking plaintively through the big glass windows at all the equipment I couldn’t use. Eventually I gave up, and after bashing with customer service back at home I made another successful attempt later.

While I have to say the equipment is certainly decent, it can be tricky to actually get a chance to use it, especially of an evening. Helpfully you can log in to your PureGym account and see a live update of how many people are currently using the gym. But if you like a nice quiet workout, your only hope of finding such sanctity is during work hours, Monday to Friday. No surprise there. But at the end of the day this is a no frills gym, so you can’t really expect the earth.

If you’ve read all the way to here, I have some bonus information. If you sign up through www.payasygym.com your monthly membership can be less than £25 per month! Now that is amazing.

If you’re not already convinced, allow me to list a few of the available classes. Zumba (of course), Pure Box Fit, Muscle Gain Induction (great for making sure you’re lifting with correct form and won’t injure yourself), Pure Yoga, Pure Abs, Pure Circuits, Pure Fat Burn, Pure Cycle. There are three personal trainers available, which is great if you need one and great if you don’t like being pestered by them too, because most gyms seem to have about 30 in my experience. The changing rooms and showers are more than adequate, and there are plenty of lockers too. Overall PureGym Bayswater is incredible value for money given its location (Bayswater House, 6 Moscow Place, London, W2 4AP), just don’t go in with overly high expectations!
Crossword, Classified & Public Notices

This is the fifty eighth Wolfe Cryptic Crossword

Bill Neville of N10 2HA was last month’s winner, congratulations. Please let me have any comments or suggestions you may have and remember if you haven’t totally finished the whole crossword still send it in as the first correct or substantially correct answer picked at random will win a prize of a bottle of Champagne kindly donated by Lea and Sandeman. Send your grids either by post to Wolfe, at Kensington and Chelsea Today 80–100 Gwynne Road London SW11 3UW or scan it in and send by email to wolfe@kcwtoday.co.uk. www.leaandsandeman.co.uk/Fine-Wine.

ACROSS
1 US state without a red complexion. (6)
29 Singer change to get in. (7)
3 Married? perhaps you need one first. (5)
4 Army sang mellow yellow. (7)
5 Put on nothing before front of the fire. (6)
6 Spoon bashful soggy land. (6)
7 Jewish tribe in a late attempt to ameliorate. (9)
8 Passionate as Jupiter’s moon after car test in back road. (9)
9 Ward where there are no visitors is a lonely state. (9)
10 Impudence on a measure of fuel. (6)
11 Put fire to light carried for a loved one. (5)
12 Arrive refreshed holding a flower. (5)
13 Female that may tip the scales. (7)
14 Test in back road. (9)
15 Mineral source. (7)
16 Firstly name a petroleum heater that has a volatile liquid. (7)
17 Similar to a volatile liquid. (7)
18 Proposition finds them around mineral source. (7)
19 Proposition, but in the sky. (8)
20 Put fire to light carried for a loved one. (5)
21 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
22 Spoil bashful soggy land. (6)
23 Sounds as if you could do this to your gut with this cut. (6)
24 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
25 Skids defence with holy man and forms a piece of desk furniture (6)
26 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
27 Jewish tribe in a late attempt to ameliorate. (9)
28 dinners party meal & three times bestselling recipe (8)

DOWN
1 Alloy always holds steadfast and faithful. (5)
2 Come of age on the stalk or shelf. (5)
3 Put on nothing before front of the fire. (5)
4 Army sang mellow yellow. (7)
5 Married? perhaps you need one first. (6)
6 Spoon bashful soggy land. (6)
7 Jewish tribe in a late attempt to ameliorate. (9)
8 Passionate as Jupiter’s moon after car test in back road. (9)
9 Ward where there are no visitors is a lonely state. (9)
10 Impudence on a measure of fuel. (6)
11 Put fire to light carried for a loved one. (5)
12 Arrive refreshed holding a flower. (5)
13 Female that may tip the scales. (7)
14 Test in back road. (9)
15 Mineral source. (7)
16 Firstly name a petroleum heater that has a volatile liquid. (7)
17 Similar to a volatile liquid. (7)
18 Proposition finds them around mineral source. (7)
19 Proposition, but in the sky. (8)
20 Put fire to light carried for a loved one. (5)
21 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
22 Spoil bashful soggy land. (6)
23 Sounds as if you could do this to your gut with this cut. (6)
24 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
25 Skids defence with holy man and forms a piece of desk furniture (6)
26 Ant eater found inhabiting beginning of dictionary. (8)
27 Jewish tribe in a late attempt to ameliorate. (9)
28 dinners party meal & three times bestselling recipe (8)

We can relieve you of the burden, and give you all the help you want: whether it’s just obtaining the grant of probate for you, or dealing with the whole process all the way through to production of final estate accounts. We are Probaters. Call 0845 034 7344 or check our website www.probaters.com

TREATMENT ROOMS AVAILABLE TO RENT IN CHELSEA:
We are interested in businesses with existing clients in the locality.
Call 07764 988 333 for further information.

Dinner & Event Catering Chef

Wonderful – the recipes are truly varied and imaginative*
Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester
“The best”
Chris Evans
“Delicious and Happy Food”
Dame Vivienne Westwood
Dinner and Event cooking from your home/work. Gurp areet Bains, Celebrity Chef, creator of the world’s healthiest meal & three times bestselling recipe book author, presents his Dinner Party & Event Catering Menu.
For more information:
T: 0871 238 5767
Email info@gurpareetbains.co.uk

LICENSE APPLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
(a) HK Difference Ltd, c/o AGK Partners, of (b) 1 Kings Avenue, London, N21 3NA has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the GRANT of a license for (c) for supplying alcohol to our customers between 11am and 8pm on week days and weekends as refreshments.

FOR THE PREMISES
(d) HK London situated at (e) 311 King’s Road, Chelsea, London SW3 6EP.

A REGISTER OF LICENCING APPLICATIONS can be inspected at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentaltransport/licensing.aspx or in person at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW, tel. 020 7341 5152, by appointment with the Licensing team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.
Any person wishing to submit representation to my/our application must give notice in writing to the licensing authority at the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 10/07/2017.
The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.
It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

STANLEY VICTOR HEFFORD

SADLY PASSED AWAY ON 7 JUNE 2017 AGED 85 ON HIS BIRTHDAY, WHILE ON HOLIDAY IN HIS BELOVED KITTZBÜHEL, AUSTRIA.

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2PM ON FRIDAY, 14 JULY 2017 AT WELLINGBOROUGH CORPS, THE SALVATION ARMY, SALEM LANE, WELLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS, NN8 4JE.
Skiing with intuition, digging deep with strategic thinking

The Altibox, Norway, chess tournament held in Stavanger, June 5th-June was one of the strongest rated events the world has seen with the average ELO rating a smidgeon under 2800! However this was not one of Magnus Carlsen’s finest playing in front of his home crowd. He finished 8th in this 10 player tournament, and some have suggested that perhaps his performance of late in Classical timed competition has become tainted with his progress in Rapid and Blitz competitions, where intuitive moves outnumber strategic in-depth thinking.

However inspired instinctive moves may seem, they don’t come from long in-depth reasoning that Classical chess involves. The two forms of chess require response from two different sections of the human brain. However, immediately preceding the main Altibox Classical competition and on the 4th June, Carlsen won the Blitz competition, and subsequent to that has just won the first leg of the Grand Chess Tour, a Rapid and Blitz tournament held in Paris, by winning a play-off against Maxime Vachier-Lagrange in a final to decide the overall winner, each having collected 17.5 points through their efforts in both sections.

Numerous serious chess players over the decades have refused to play fast chess games. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration. Most human brains cannot rapidly think through that many moves. It is the continuation, the in-depth analysis of all the future moves, given the the ‘present’ board structure that obviously counts, and there may well be several possibilities at that point, and at every succeeding point to take into consideration.

Skiing with intuition, digging deep with strategic thinking

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?

The following game is a Carlsen v So World Championship match next in the cycle of who should wear the crown?
To help you settle in London, choose the expert in both cultures

Breteuil
SALES & LETTINGS • PARIS & LONDON
280 Fulham Road, SW10 9EW • 020 7351 6308
breteuil.co.uk