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Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today

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Westminster Estates among the country’s greenest

Three housing estates in Westminster have been awarded the Green Flag Award in recognition of their outstanding green spaces. These help provide “an oasis for residents in the heart of London.”

The Green Flag Award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world. It aims to ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, regardless of where they live, and that these places are well maintained and managed. The award recognises the hard work of those who work to preserve these places.

Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Estate in Pimlico has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme for the thirteenth year in a row and Churchill Gardens, also in Pimlico, was awarded for the seventh time. Meanwhile Lisson Green in Marylebone has won for the fourth. They join other award-winning green spots in Westminster, including some of the Borough’s Royal Parks.

Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Estate was recognised for continuing to be a hub for wildlife and biodiversity. This includes hosting its own beehive on the estate which helps to produce a delicious crop of honey every year. “It’s really lovely on the estate,” a Lillington local, Florence Heath, said. “I love walking in from the busy city streets into this green oasis, which is beautiful all year round and can really boost your mood! It’s great for the little ones too as they play in the gardens and enjoy the flowers.”

Lisson Green continues to engage the community in their surroundings.

West London’s NHS service set to go over budget by £112 million

By LDRS Reporter
Owen Sheppard

West London’s NHS service is set to go £112 million over budget this year, more than double the amount that was predicted.

A letter from NHS chiefs, sent internally and to local councillors and MPs, said as a result of the deficit, local hospitals will have to make “efficiencies” by “removing waste”. Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter fears the changes will see a “rationing” of services, and said GPs will be discouraged from referring patients to hospitals, something the NHS denies.

Explaning the soaring costs, the letter says: “Our operating plan set out that we were heading for a £51 million deficit at year-end, but our month-four position now suggests that we are risk of an additional £61 million overspend.”

It says North West London’s population has grown by 5 per cent since 2015. But demand for acute care surgery and treatment in hospitals and A&E rose 18 per cent in that period. And demand for emergency care went up 25 per cent.

The letter was penned by Mark Easton, chief officer of North West London’s Clinical Commissioning Groups, and by Lesley Watts, CEO of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

They list several ideas for how to save money. But it warns: “Some of these ideas will be about removing waste and duplication and will not affect patient services. Some ideas, especially those affecting patients, will generate strong views, and we will need to make some difficult choices.”

Seven ways to save money are suggested in the letter, including:

More non-emergency surgeries performed within North West London, rather than spending money on sending patients to other specialist centres elsewhere.

Follow-up appointments and procedures taking place at home, over the phone, or with their local GP.

Finding cheaper ways to buy “over the counter” medicines.

Mr Slaughter, Labour, said: “None of this has been implemented yet but it’s imminent.

“They’re panicking, I think. It’s heavy stuff. It’s talking about rationing patient care, and having much worse outcomes for patients.”

“Westminster City Council believes in creating a ‘City for All’ with one of our key aims being to create a healthier and greener city and we know how much quality green spaces matter to our residents.”

This award celebrates the dedication and time that goes into maintaining the green spaces on our estates to such a high standard.”

by installing new interactive signage while Churchill Gardens also harbours wildlife in its large and complex urban estate.

“Challenging estates issues, lack of capital funding and disagreement over previous proposals have made it difficult to progress long-standing issues.

“Our position has worsened over the last year due primarily to increased demand for unplanned [emergency] care in hospital, a failure to achieve savings plans, and a lower uplift to budgets than the rest of London.”
Plans to relocate Victoria coach hub scrapped

Plans to move Victoria Coach Station have been cancelled, according to ‘Transport for London’.

The Victoria Coach Station is used by 14 million passengers each year, providing transport for 1200 UK destinations and 400 foreign cities.

The news arrives eight months after TFL announced they were looking at alternative locations to the current Victoria site, following news that some of its leases were set to expire on the 3.3-acre plot at present owned by the property company Grosvenor. The Art Deco terminal could not have been demolished as it is a Grade II listed building, but property experts spied the site’s potential, estimated to be worth up to £150 million.

One proposal was to relocate the site close to Royal Oak Station near Paddington, but the idea was scrapped after residents campaigned against it.

TFL have instead decided to change the layout of the terminal and are looking at potential ‘satellite’ stations away from the centre of the city, easing pressure from Victoria, which currently oversees the arrival and departure of a quarter of a million coaches every year. TFL have said they will work with transport operators, London boroughs and passenger groups to help identify supporting sites.

Passenger groups breathed a great sigh of relief at the news. Tim Bellenger, director of policy and investigation at passenger body London TravelWatch, said, “Its loss would have been a terrible blow for coach services and their passengers across the UK. It is a well-managed facility, in a good location which provides good connectivity. It also has excellent facilities. Our view was that there simply wasn’t a viable alternative location for a comparable facility.”

“This news will be welcomed by passengers, particularly the elderly and disabled who value the easy bus-to-bus interchange”, he added.

Sheep graze freely on Hampstead Heath for the first time in decades

Sheep will graze freely on the rolling grasslands of Hampstead Heath for the first time in decades.

A small flock of five Oxford Down and Norfolk Horn sheep were released onto the North London park for a week-long trial.

Their grazing could prove a eco-friendly way of looking after the centuries-old Heath, according to the City of London Corporation, which runs it.

“Grazing is known to play a major role in boosting species-rich wildlife habitats and reducing the use of machinery,” the Corporation said.

“Unlike mowing, grazing produces a mosaic of vegetation heights and types, improving ecological sites for species including amphibians, small mammals, invertebrates and wildflowers.”

It follows months of speculation about livestock being brought back to the much-loved, 790-acre Heath for the first time since the 1950s. In March, The Times newspaper reported that cows were also being considered.

The sheep are provided by Mudchute Farm and Park on the Isle of Dogs, East London.

They were released to graze at The Tumulus, a Roman monument over an ancient burial ground close to Parliament Hill, that is managed by Historic England.

Volunteers from the Heath and Hampstead Society and Heath Hands will support the project by monitoring the sheep and engaging with visitors.

John Beyer, vice chair of the Heath and Hampstead Society, said the idea was inspired by early 19th-century landscape paintings by John Constable.

“This idea came up at a Society lecture given by painter Lindy Guinness, who showed paintings by John Constable of cattle grazing on the Heath,” said Mr Beyer.

“This romantic vision happily coincided with the aim of Heath staff to experiment with grazing rather than tractors to manage the landscape.

“We are delighted to work with the City Corporation to find more sustainable ways of preserving the Heath.”

Karina Dostalova, chairman of the Corporation’s Hampstead Heath management committee, said: “The Heath has a long history of sheep grazing with farmers taking their flock to the site before taking them to market in the City...

“Reintroduction of grazing has been an aspiration for many years, and we are glad to be working with our partners on this exciting opportunity.

The pilot will be managed by the City of London Corporation in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society, Heath Hands, Historic England, Mudchute Park & Farm and Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

TRAFFIC WATCH
LONDON HOME FOOTBALL
LONDON MENS’ HOME FOOTBALL
September 14, Fulham v West Brom, 12:30
September 14, Tottenham v Crystal Palace, 15:00
September 14, QPR v Luton, 15:00
September 17, Chelsea v Valencia, 20:00
September 22, Arsenal v Aston Villa, 16:30
September 22, Chelsea v Liverpool, 16:30
September 24-25, Arsenal v Nottingham Forest, TBC
September 25, Chelsea v TBC, 19:45
September 27, Fulham v Wigan, 19:45
September 28, Chelsea v Brighton, 15:00
September 28, Tottenham v Southampton, 15:00
September 28, QPR v West Brom, 12:30

October 1, Tottenham v Bayern Munich, 20:00
October 3, Arsenal v Standard Liege, 20:00
October 5, Fulham v Charlton Athletic, 12:30
October 5, QPR v Blackburn, 15:00
October 6, Arsenal v Bournemouth, 14:00

LONDON WOMEN’S HOME FOOTBALL
September 15, Tottenham v Liverpool, 14:00
September 15, QPR v Fulham, 14:00
September 22, Chelsea v West Ham, 14:00
September 22, Tottenham v Reading, 14:00
September 26, Arsenal v Fiorentina Women, 19:30
September 29, Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion WFC, 16:00
September 29, QPR v Denham, 14:00

Compiled by Fahad Redha
For full sports fixtures see P 60

New HIV diagnoses fall by a third in the UK

Annual HIV data from Public Health England shows new diagnoses at their lowest level since 2000.


This continued decline is primarily due to easier HIV testing, condom provision and anti-retroviral therapy (ART) drugs that maintains a low level of HIV in the body and prevents the virus spreading.

“The number of people diagnosed late is lower than ever before.”

Dr Valerie Delpech, Head of HIV Surveillance at PHE

In 2018, 94% of people with HIV in the UK were successfully virally suppressed and people with or without HIV have the same life expectancy.

However, the challenge remains in ensuring early diagnosis: in 2018, approximately 43% of newly diagnosed individuals were at a late stage of infection.

PHE currently aims to control HIV by 2030.

For more information, visit: www.gov.uk
One in six bus drivers ‘asleep at the wheel’
By LDRS Reporter Jessie Matthewson

One in six London bus drivers have fallen asleep at the wheel in the last year, new research has revealed.

And a third of drivers have had a “close call” due to tiredness in the past twelve months, according to a Loughborough University study.

London buses cause a disproportionate number of deaths and injuries on the streets of the capital, accounting for 14 percent of pedestrian deaths while making up less than two percent of traffic.

Now the study commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) has found more than 20 percent of drivers fight sleepiness multiple times a week.

The report, which surveyed over 1,000 bus drivers, said demanding shift patterns and long work hours increased fatigue.

TfL has now earmarked £500,000 to tackle driver exhaustion.

And from next year, the transport network will require all bus companies in the city to have a safety management policy; something not currently required.

Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander said TfL’s response was “the start and not the end” of efforts to reduce driver fatigue.

But critics of TfL’s safety record said the Mayor has failed to learn lessons from previous accidents.

Tom Kearney, a businessman and bus crash survivor, who campaigns on bus safety, welcomed the report, but said it showed that the Mayor had “learnt nothing” from the Croydon tram crash.

Seven people died when a tram derailed at Sandilands in 2016, and a further 62 were injured when the tram driver is believed to have briefly fallen asleep at the wheel.

Mr Kearney said: “TfL recognise that they’ve got a problem, and buses cause a huge amount of collisions and deaths.

“But they are knowingly running a system that puts the speed and frequency of buses above people’s lives.”

The publication of the report came as the union Unite, the biggest representative of bus drivers in London, organised a demonstration at City Hall to draw attention to poor working conditions.

Unite regional officer John Murphy said the Mayor had “done the right thing” by requesting the research, but that progress for drivers was “too slow”.

He said: “TfL must take decisive action and force bus operators to stop flogging their workers to the point of exhaustion.

“The safety of the general public and workers is being placed at risk because of fatique being suffered by London bus drivers.”

Speaking at the drivers’ demonstration on Saturday, Sadiq Khan said the “world first” fatigue report was a step towards improving working conditions.

He said: “I’m really proud to be the son of a bus driver; what I’m not proud about is what I saw when I became Mayor; the kind of conditions that bus drivers are working under in our city.”

He added: “For those who aren’t aware of the fatigue that bus drivers suffer it is eye-opening, and it should be a wake up call for Transport for London to do much more to improve the conditions of bus drivers.”

A spokesperson for the Mayor said Mr Khan was taking action to improve safety on London trams, buses and across the network.

She said: “Sadiq is committed to improving safety for staff and passengers across the TfL network. Nobody wants a tragedy like Sandilands to happen ever again.”
Royal Trinity Hospice is named ‘Outstanding’
By Anandi Shah

Royal Trinity Hospice has been awarded the highest possible quality rating, ‘Outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission. The CQC praised the hospice for “going the extra mile” for its patients and said Trinity provided outstanding care.

Every year, Trinity provides free palliative and end of life care to 2,500 patients living in Wandsworth and parts of Lambeth, Merton, Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea, as well as providing a range of psychological and social support for families, carers and loved ones of all ages.

In CQC’s latest report, it found Trinity staff to be “continually kind and compassionate as they put patients and their relatives at ease” and “observed that patients, family members and friends are always treated with dignity and respect.” In addition, inspectors found the hospice to be outstanding in meeting the needs of people from the whole community.

Inspectors rated Trinity as ‘Outstanding’ in three of the five domains assessed by the CQC, with the top grade being given in the categories of ‘caring’, ‘well-led’ and ‘responsive’. The remaining two domains (‘effective’ and ‘safe’) were rated as Good. Trinity’s last CQC inspection in 2014 found it to be a Good service overall.

“I am thrilled that Trinity has been found to be outstanding by the CQC. It is testament to the expertise, compassion and dedication of every member of the Trinity family and reflects their determination to support our patients to live every moment they have left, to die with dignity and to be there for those left bereaved.”

Dallas Pounds, Chief Executive of Royal Trinity Hospice
For more information about the hospice, visit: www.royaltrinityhospice.london

Violent crime on Britain’s railways
By Harry Parsons

Crime recorded on British railways increased 12% last year, according to British Transport Police. 68,313 crimes were recorded in 2018/19, a 12% increase from the 60,867 crimes recorded the previous year.

Violent crime accounted for a fifth of all cases, showing a 16% rise to 13,591. The number of sexual offences also rose during the period, an 8% rise to 2,635.

The most common offence recorded was the theft of passenger property, responsible for over a fifth of all crime on railways.

British Transport Police figures show the following crimes have also increased on the rail network, including:

**Possession of a controlled substance (up 52% to 2,305)**
**Theft from person (up 36% to 7,593)**
**Theft from vehicle (up 26% to 823)**

Assault on police (up 17% to 750)

The railway station with the most thefts was Barming in Kent, with 12 thefts per 100,000 passengers in 2018/19, twice as many as Cambridge North, the station with the second highest number of thefts per passenger.

Deputy chief constable Adrian Hanstock noted last year’s increase in crime was “of concern” but “anticipated” as record numbers of passengers continue to use the railway network each year. “As stations become increasingly commercial environments, a large proportion of this increase is as a result of theft of passenger property, anti-social behaviour or shoplifting,” he said.

“Despite this increase, when put into context, it is important to remember that the chance of becoming a victim of crime on the railway is very low.”

“We now police more than 3.3 billion journeys each year, the equivalent of a third of the world’s population passing through our jurisdiction.”

People with hidden disabilities can access Blue Badges for the first time
By Anandi Shah

“It is a pivotal moment for thousands of people with hidden disabilities across the country, many of whom face unacceptable discrimination or even abuse when using disabled parking spaces.”

Justin Tomlinson, Minister for Disabled People

In the biggest change to Blue Badges since the 1970s, the Department for Transport has issued new guidance to councils in England on Blue Badge parking permit eligibility, along with a new online eligibility checker to clarify the scheme for people before applying.

It is an important part of the Government’s drive for greater parity between physical and mental health.

“The scheme, which is already a lifeline for so many disabled people, will make a huge difference to those with non-visible conditions such as autism, dementia, Parkinson’s and arthritis.”

Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary

It will offer a lifeline to people who often find road travel difficult, while also helping combat loneliness by helping to stay connected to family and friends.

To help tackle the expected increase in applications, the department has agreed with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to provide £1.7 million in the first year of the programme.

The expanded scheme coincides with the launch of a review, which will ensure the correct use of the badges and enhance public understanding of non-visible conditions. It will also help councils tackle fraudulent use of the badges.

At the end of 2018, the Local Government Association estimated that the theft of Blue Badges had risen by 45% in 12 months.

However, not everyone with non-visible disabilities will qualify for a badge. It will fall to the relevant local authority to decide if an applicant meets the eligibility criteria, as is currently the case.

Councils may need to review parking provision to increase the number of spaces.

The National Autistic Society are ‘delighted’ that these rules have come into effect and say many autistic individuals and their families throughout England will be relieved.

For more information, visit www.gov.uk/dlt
Decorative Antiques and Textiles Fair returns to West London

The Autumn Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair returns to Battersea Park London from 1-6 October for its third outing of the year, with 160 exhibitors announced over two floors.

The Decorative Fair is the central period design show for the interior design trade, bringing together specialist dealers in decorative antiques and design, interiorn classics, and accessories, of every era from early Georgian to post-modernism. Works of art are offered dating from antiquity to the contemporary.

The centenary year of the School of Bauhaus provides the theme for the 2019 Autumn Foyer Display, where avant-garde 20th century designs will take centre stage. The School generated a rich variety of artistic movements during its years of productivity, and its’ students experimentations inspired diverse developments in the worlds of architecture, design and new modes of living. All items in the foyers display are drawn from exhibitors and are for sale.

The Fair will present a range of exhibitors from Art Deco Gallery London to Kiki Design to Villa Rosemaine and more; all offering international collections and exhibits of furniture, artefacts, textiles and costumes.

The Fair opens Tuesday 1 October from 12pm til 8pm, and from 11am daily through Sunday 6 October 2019. Closing times vary. It takes place at Battersea Evolution, Battersea Park, London.

For full visitor information and to apply for complimentary tickets, visit www.decorativefair.com.

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Horse & Rider
Dame Elizabeth Frink
New Bond Street

For years, Frink's *Horse and Rider* stood patiently on the corner of Dover Street and Piccadilly outside a Caffè Nero, surrounded by brass-edged tables and cane chairs, with back-packs and single-use cups unceremoniously dumped onto the plinth. Then, suddenly, the horse and rider were gone, ridden off into the sunset. The bronze was originally commissioned by Trafalgar House, a property and engineering company founded in 1913-1976. It was made in 1981 by Britten himself but it was unveiled as a Sculpture of the Decade at the 1983 Biennial of the Americas in San Antonio, Texas. It was re-cut and is much lower than the original. The sculpture was unveiled in 2018, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Royal Academy at Burlington Gardens and have promised to maintain it. The horse’s rear end faces the Ralph Lauren shop on the corner, and the plinth has been re-cut and is much lower than the original. The sculpture was unveiled in 2018, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the RA, and the opening of the David Chipperfield designed extension, which evolved from the Museum of Mankind. It was also ready to receive the 60 million extra visitors piling off the Elizabeth line at Hanover Square. They were ready, but Crossrail was not.

Elizabeth Frink was one of Britain’s foremost and popular sculptors in the twentieth century, studying at the Guildhall and Chelsea Schools of Art, she was elected a Royal Academician in 1977 and awarded a DBE in 1982. She is well-known for using animals and Man as her models, with horses being dominant, although she also sculpted dogs, wild boar, cats, birds of prey and a baboon. She was also a prolific printmaker, working in lithography, etching and aquatint, but she always returned to one of her abiding motifs, man and horse. The last of three casts of *Horse and Rider* was erected in Winchester for a summer open air exhibition in 1981, on loan from her agent Leslie Waddington to Hampshire County Council, who organised three such artist-specific sculpture biennials in Winchester, namely William Pye in 1979, Elisabeth Frink in 1981 and Henry Moore in 1983. The sponsor of the 1981 biennial was Trafalgar House, thereby linking the Winchester cast with the original in London. The cast was permanently placed outside Trafalgar House in Winchester in 1983 and was given Grade II status for ‘a sculpture of high artistic and aesthetic quality, cast in bronze from plaster, subtly detailed and well-composed.’ Of the sculpture she said, ‘A symbol of a man on a horse, a man riding free and a horse free...intended to be completely ageless. He could come from the past or go into the future. I like to feel that work to’s and fro’s from past to present.’

Don Grant

Blue Plaque:
Sir Benjamin Britten
1913-1976

There are memorial plaques to him at three of his London homes: 173 Cromwell Road, 45a St John’s Wood High Street and 8 Halliford Street in Islington.

It is hard to know where to start with Ben Britten, but he was without doubt the greatest composer of the twentieth century. He wrote copiously for opera, for chamber music, for young people and especially for his beloved Suffolk. He was made Companion of Honour in 1953 and was given an Order of Merit in 1963 and at the last he was ennobled as Baron Britten of Aldeburgh in 1976, the year he prematurely passed away.

And yet to the shame of the town of Aldeburgh, which more recently has been known as Chelsea-on-Sea and not always affectionately, there is no monument to either him or his life-long partner Peter Pears. There is no larger than life sculpture, no bust in the Moot Hall and no portraits. It is as if the town, even its current population, is still embarrassed by his sexuality. He had a lovely place on Crag Path, but moved to the Red House out of the way of everyone in the town which now celebrates all his work.

There is, though, a beautiful memorial stained glass window to Britten by John Piper in St Peter and St Paul, the local church. He would have liked that as he had worked with Myfanwy Piper, John’s wife. And he is buried in the civic part of the churchyard where his black-slate stone is parked next to Pear’s, a kind of double-header. He turned down Westminster Cathedral.

I know, I know, there is also Maggi Hamblin’s immense four metre high Scallop (2003) dedicated to Britten which was vehemently opposed by most Aldeburghers on the beach front for which she raised the funds. The steel sculpture has part of George Crabbe’s poem from Peter Grimes: “I hear those voices that will not be drowned”. The laugh on these bigots is that the beach land on which the statue sits is just outside the curtilage of the town itself. It is as if Maggi had her proverbial tongue out too.

Britten created the extraordinary Aldeburgh Festival in 1948 with Peter Pears and others, which because of its popularity had to be moved to the run-down Maltings at nearby Snape and opened there in 1967. And though it burnt down two years later Britten was not thwarted and it opened again to huge acclaim in 1970. In the immediate postwar years the greatest composers, poets, writers, artists, playwrights and thinkers came to the Festival to meet the great man and enjoy his company. As Ronald Blythe put it so beautifully in *The Time by the Sea*: “Benjamin Britten........might have said to have come out of the sea like one of those oceanic beings who blow horns in the cartouches of ancient maps.”

He had a wonderful sense of fun too, none more so, if you think about than his celebrated War Requiem finished in 1962 which had been commissioned for the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral. I mean he was a pacifist. I would have loved to have met him. He died on my birthday in 1976.

Derek Wyatt

**Books & Poetry on Aldeburgh**

*Aldeburgh: The History of an Ancient Borough* by HP Clodd (Adlard) 1959

*The Aldeburgh Scallop* by Maggi Hamblin (Full Circle) 2008

*The New Aldeburgh Anthology* Compiled by Ariana Banke & Johnathan Reekie (Boyell Press) 2009

*The Time by the Sea: Aldeburgh 1955-1958* by Ronald Blythe (Faber) 2015

**Biographies of Britten**

Published in the centenary of his birth

*Benjamin Britten: A Life for Music* by Neil Powell (Hutchinson) 2013

*Benjamin Britten: A Life in the Twentieth Century* by Paul Kildea (Allen Lane) 2013
Chelsea History Festival
By Harry Parsons

The first Chelsea History Festival will open on Wednesday 9th October. The inaugural event takes place along the Royal Hospital Road, at founder venues the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Chelsea and Chelsea Physic Garden. The festival will host a programme of over 35 events including talks, music and guided walks.

Wednesday 9th October
The opening day commemorates the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, one of the most daring military operations of WW2. Celebrated Arnhem veteran, Victor Gregg will be in conversation with bestselling historian Rick Stroud. Following this, military historian Antony Beevor will give a lecture on the famous military campaign.

Thursday 10th October
In the evening, attendees will listen to an evening performance of Ralph Vaughan’s The Lark Ascending, featuring one of the world’s leading baritones, Roderick Williams, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea’s Wren Chapel.

Friday 11th October
British journalist and author Max Hastings will headline Friday’s proceedings with a talk on his new book Chastised: The Dambusters’ Story, 1943, set to be published in September.

Saturday 12th October
Saturday will see out the festival with over 20 scheduled events taking place. Among the highlights are talks from war surgeon David Nott about his experiences in Aleppo, and Sonia Purnell on her New York Times bestseller A Woman of No Importance.

The Festival hopes that a diverse programme of free and ticketed events will inspire, enlighten and entertain visitors from near and far. The Festival will also provide a platform for both established authors and emerging talent to help make history more accessible.

Founder of Britain’s Chalke Valley History Festival, James Holland has been instrumental in consulting on the schedule, together with the Chelsea History Festival’s creative director, artist and author Harry Parker. Holland says, “It is great to see the Chelsea History Festival join the calendar of history events in Britain. Royal Hospital Road in Chelsea is so rich in heritage and provides a magnet this setting at the heart of one of the great cities of the world. Being so easily accessible to many millions of people makes it an ideal location in which to share the stories that have shaped our world.”

Tickets are on sale now, ranging from freeto £30. The full programme is available at www.chelseahistoryfestival.com.

Teenager Fionn Ferreira wins the 2019 Google Science Award
By Lina Kurdi

On Monday 26th July 2019, Fionn Ferreira from West Cork, Ireland was pronounced the winner of the Google Science Fair competition in a ceremony at the Google headquarters in California.

The annual Google Science Fair award was launched in 2011. This international competition challenges 13 to 18-year-olds to use Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths to produce a project, which resolves a social issue of importance to them.

18 year old, Ferreira won the $50,000 prize for his project tackling plastic pollution. Ferreira’s project focused on the removal of microplastics from water. Microplastics are any plastic particles 5mm in diameter.

In Europe there are currently no filtering methods for microplastics in wastewater treatment centres. Consequently, microplastics enter waterway systems, rivers and oceans as by-products from industrial and cosmetic processes and as microfibres shedding from clothes during washing machine cycles. Microplastics not only pollute our waters, but fish consume these minute plastics mistaking them for food. These fish are then caught for human consumption and microplastics have been found in tap water.

Ferreira invented a Ferro-fluid (a liquid which reacts to a magnetic field) by combining oil and magnetite. This Ferro-fluid was tested in water contaminated with microplastics. The microplastics bind to the Ferro-fluid. The solution was then extracted with a magnet leaving only water.

In the future, with further research, Ferreira’s Ferro-fluid method of extracting microplastics from water can be up scaled and used in wastewater treatment centres. This will potentially prevent microplastics from entering waterway systems, polluting aquatic and marine eco- systems and contribute to tackling this current climate crisis.

Ferreira is currently in his last year of Secondary school and is presenting talks on his ground-breaking scientific invention.

For more information about Ferreira and his project: www.google/sciencefair.com www.fionnferreira.com

London Design Festival
is putting on special events in Broadgate, Paddington and South Kensington.

Please be seated
14-22nd September 2019 9-5pm
Finsbury Avenue Square
Broadgate
London EC2M 2PP

Please Be Seated, designed by internationally acclaimed British designer, Paul Cocksedge, is a large-scale installation fusing innovation and designer, Paul Cocksedge, is a large-scale installation fusing innovation and technology in response to the changing rhythm of the community.

Paddington central design route
14th-22nd September 2019 9-5pm
Paddington Central
Sheldon Square
London W2 6PY

Paddington Central will also be one of the Festival’s Design Routes and will display a vertical-stepped tower by Paddington-born designer Adam Nathaniel Furman, who will enliven the Grand Union Canal with his signature vibrancy and impactful colours.

Exhibition Road Day of Design
Exhibition Road
South Kensington
Sunday 22nd Sept
11am – 5pm

The finale will host Exhibition Road Day of Design, a street celebration, which will explore the role of design in food consumption, usage of energy and waste. The day will also feature free, drop-in installations, talks and workshops as well as a food-waste feast, hosted by climate change experts; drawing attention to huge food waste, enough to feed 870 million people. Visitors will also have the opportunity to discuss Earth’s future.

For more information on each event, visit:
https://www.londondesignfestival.com/event/please-be-seated
https://www.paddingtoncentral.com/
https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/exhibition-road-day-of-design
London is named ‘acid attack hotspot of western world’ with victims as young as 10

Acid attacks in London have catapulted, with some victims under the age of 10.

According to new figures released by the Metropolitan Police, the number of violent corrosive liquid offences soared from 66 in 2012 to 752 last year. Of these, seventeen attacks have been carried out on children under the age of ten, including a two-year-old boy who suffered burns to his face when acid was thrown whilst in his pushchair near his Islington home in April 2017. His mother, then 36, and father, 40, who were out with him were also hurt. There have been no arrests made since the attack.

Acid attacks in London have catapulted, with some victims under the age of 10.

Another shocking case that occurred in March of this year in Worcester was a three-year-old boy who was sprayed with sulphuric acid by his own father.

One of Britain’s leading criminologists said: “London has sadly become the acid attack hotspot in the western world.”

Dr Simon Harding, associate professor in Criminology at the University of West London, stated that criminals had turned to acid as it is cheap, easily accessible and induces terror in both rivals and the public.

He also attributed the increase in these attacks to surged in knife crime in 2017 and 2018 and stated that using bleach in attacks had often been used as a last resort, targeting someone who was truly hated.

Analysis of data, obtained under a Freedom of Information request, also revealed that domestic violence and religious or racial hatred were among the motivations for attacks.

Newham topped the list of 32 boroughs with the highest number of acid attacks between January 2015 and December 2018. Among the attacks carried out during this period was when Arthur Collins, the ex-boyfriend of The Only Way Is Essex star Ferne McCann hurled acid across a packed Dalston nightclub in April 2017.

He is now serving 20 years for the attack that injured 22 people.

New legislation has been passed to combat this issue: in November, it became a criminal offence for the public to possess sulphuric acid above 15 % concentration without a licence. Offenders face a two-year prison sentence and unlimited fines.

The Provisions in the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, will prohibit the sale of corrosive substances to under-18s and give police extra powers to stop and search those suspected of carrying acid. However, former delivery rider Javed Hussain, 36, who was sprayed in his face with acid by two robbers in an attempted bike theft in Hackney in 2017, said: “More needs to be done. The legislation is feeble and the criminals are smarter than the law.”

Scotland Yard said it would not tolerate attacks and is now working with the Home Office, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the National Police Chiefs’ Council to target offenders through intelligence, as well as the Crown Prosecution Service to increase the number of convictions.

Acid attacks in capital:

Newham 316
Barking and Dagenham 146
Tower Hamlets 113
Hackney 91
Redbridge 88
Havering 68
Waltham Forest 46
Enfield 44
Kingston-upon-Thames 43
Westminster 32

Hammersmith Bridge will be closed for ‘three years’ with £120 million repairs

By LDRS Reporter Owen Sheppard

By LDRS Reporter Owen Sheppard

Repairing Hammersmith Bridge will cost up to £120 million and take about three years, it has been announced.

The Grade II* listed, 132-year-old crossing was closed to vehicle traffic in April, after surveyors found cracks in its iron structure.

Work to assess the extent of the repairs and the work needed to restore it has been ongoing.

On September 3, Hammersmith and Fulham Council leader Stephen Cowan said: “Following detailed investigation by a team of world-leading specialist engineers, Transport for London and [the] council have agreed the works needed to repair Hammersmith Bridge.

“The bridge is not only a beautiful example of innovative 19th Century British engineering, it’s also a vital 21st-century river crossing.

“It can be made fit for purpose for generations to come. That’s what we’re doing and we’re focused on getting the bridge reopened to cars and buses as quickly as possible.”

A statement from the council said the £120 million price tag was an “early stage estimate” and includes a “contingency due to the unknowns”.

The council also said £21 million has been committed to the first-stage of the repairs.

How did it happen?

The Council has repeatedly said that the Victorian bridge was never designed to carry the weight of multiple buses and thousands of cars each day.

In April, several microfractures were found in the iron pedestals that fix the suspension bridge into the ground.

It was feared that the microfractures could cause the whole pedestals to shatter under too much weight. This led to the decision on April 10 to ban all vehicle traffic indefinitely, with only pedestrians and cyclists allowed to cross it.

More money woes for TfL

The huge bill comes as TfL continues to grapple with an enormous annual spending deficit.

In March, TfL announced that its operating deficit for 2019/20 had been revised down to £742 million, from £897 million.

The council’s statement said it and TfL are “continuing to explore the most appropriate funding route for the main construction”.

Mr Cowan and London Mayor Sadiq Khan had called on the Department for Transport to help fund the repairs.

A DfT spokesperson said it still has not received a formal request for funding from the council or TfL.

Millions already spent by TfL in years before

TfL spent £5.3 million on minor repairs of the bridge from 2015, and about £900,000 over four years on hiring wardens, who failed to control the number of buses crossing the bridge.

In April, immediately after the bridge closed, the council said the wardens’ failure to limit the bus traffic had put too much weight on the bridge’s pedestals, and weakened its structure even more.

It was also reported earlier this year that a major repair job, budgeted at £27 million, was due to be carried out on the bridge in 2016. Those works, which included replacing corroding bolts, resurfacing, and repainting, were postponed to late 2017, but never took place.

The council’s new statement also said that, once reopened, TfL will continue to limit the flow of buses over the bridge.
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Cash for Chaos

Past. Wanna make some money? Sweet dough? Moolah? Now’s the time. Don’t tell no one else, yer know, keep it on the downlow ‘cos this is just for us, the elite like. I’ll give yer the name of a horse that’s guaranteed to lose. Bet against her and you’ll make a fortune. She can barely pound the track anymore and she falls more often than a fortune. She can barely pound the track anymore and she falls more often than a fortune. She can barely pound the track anymore and she falls more often than a fortune. She can barely pound the track anymore and she falls more often than a fortune.

It may sound a bit conspiracy nutty to link the chaos in British Politics to elite wealth creation but it is, increasingly, the only way to make sense of the bonkers situation we’re in now. Yes, “first-past the post” democracy is eminently exploitable by autocrats and wannabe demagogues. An unwritten constitution relies on shared beliefs and when they erode we can no longer rely on it to protect us. Party systems set up to elect leaders that our representative MPs have little confidence in is another recipe for disaster along with unchecked media xenophobia. It all adds up. Possibly, it is only a “disaster” may just be part of the normal functioning of capitalism. “An economic system that requires constant growth,” she writes, “while bucking almost all laws of physics.”

In Naomi Klein’s book The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, she claims that the societal collapses that have accompanied so many “free-market economic policies aren’t the result of stupidity or mismanagement but are integral to the “free-market project”, which needs disasters and chaos to advance. Although Klein hints that these disasters may be manufactured by corporations using shady influence with the news making him a million pounds which, in 2015, was quite the haul, and just as surely drove anti-Semitism up a notch or two. “The time to buy,” he apparently said, “is when blood is running in the streets.”

Lenin believed that it was only in conditions of catastrophic upheaval that humanity progresses fastest. Which is not so different from free-market disaster capitalists who seem to believe that economic advances are best won through the destruction of societies.

The coming years will be a bad time to be ill advised, warned the writers presciently. “A time fraught with snares for anyone who is unprepared. We could be on the verge of financial upheaval when blood will, indeed, ‘run in the streets.’ Many people will suffer staggering losses of income who also take the right investment steps, at the right time, will earn handsome profits.”

Though they argued that knowledge of political machinations and opportunism was the way to profit on misery, they didn’t go as far as suggesting influencing policy to start the “blood” running. What makes one pause to think though is that Blood On The Streets was co-written by one William Rees-Mogg.

Before going into Government, his son Jacob started the investment firm Somerset Capital Management. According to the Daily Mirror, their “publicly-available accounts show its operating profit rose from £14.7m in the year to March 2015, to £18.3m in 2016, £27.8m in 2017 and £34.1m in 2018.”

Advantages were so frustrating, Spread Betting surged in the 2000s. This wasn’t buying or selling actual stocks but betting on those tiny changes in direction that stocks may take. Opportunities for major profits and huge risks were thin on the ground before the 2008 crash and even thinner after that. As regulations threatened the financial services. They needed aavour and in 2016 it came.

Social media has dubbed it ‘disaster capitalism’. Creating chaos in order to profit on market reactions to it. The more divisive a political climate the more profit there is to make. The disaster capitalism industry has form. War profiteering has a long and undistinguished history. The shield makers of the Trojan wars didn’t go hungry. Famously Nathan Rothschild got early news of Wellington’s victory at Waterloo. He immediately sold his British stocks triggering the market to follow suit as all other traders believed he must have inside knowledge of the result and the French must have won. It drove the prices of the entire market down, and just hours before news of the victory came through, Rothschild bought the depressed stock which soared with the news making him a million pounds which, in 1815, was quite the haul, and just as surely drove anti-Semitism up a notch or two. “The time to buy,” he apparently said, “is when blood is running in the streets.”

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Lenin believed that it was only in conditions of catastrophic upheaval that humanity progresses fastest. Which is not so different from free-market disaster capitalists who seem to believe that economic advances are best won through the destruction of societies.
Once more unto the bleech

By Peter Burden

Since the Prime Minister was elected by just tens of thousands of die-hard Conservatives a month ago, he has been entertaining the rest of Europe by rampaging across the stage of British politics like a rogue elephant in musk and a blonde wig. To his many gullible supporters, he has been issuing promises as seductively as a Ponzi salesman, deploying his famous, bogus charm like a Mayfair brothelkeeper.

Pledges of money for popular causes like Education and the NHS are distressingly easy to make, and their effects will linger long enough to keep supporters onside until after the General Election that Johnson seeks. It is strongly claimed by opposition parties that the £1.8bn he has promised the Department of Education will be thrown into the pot, all the current funds.

Whether or not the £4.6bn pledged to the Department of Education will turn into extra spendable money remains to be seen.

With characteristic guile, the Prime Minister is exploiting the misconception held by most parents of children in state education that if enough money is thrown into the pot, all the current shortcomings will be resolved. It doesn’t suit his purpose for he and the ministers involved to spell out that money is only part of the solution; the other, more significant factor in improving educational outcomes is parental engagement and input; but it’s now deemed politically insensitive to suggest that parents themselves could do a great deal more than they do to influence both the education, as well as the health of their children.

Any parent knows that it’s easier to indulge your kids when they’re pestering you for sweets, fizzy drinks, Big Macs and computer games than it is to say ‘No.’

It’s always harder to encourage children to do their homework than it is to let them get away with skipping it. It’s easier to let them watch junk TV than it is to read them a book. It’s harder to sit around a table at mealtimes and communicate than it is to let the children wander off to do their own thing.

Current orthodoxy attributes poor GCSE results to poverty, and yet immigrant communities in London, often among the poorest sections of society, consistently show significantly better results, simply because parents stress the value of education and encourage their children to work hard and finish their homework.

Similarly, childhood obesity is more prevalent in poorer sections of society not because they can’t eat a healthy diet, but because many parents find it difficult to confront their children about their choices and behaviour. Advice and incentive would contribute as much to their children’s health as money spent on hospitals.

A significant proportion of hospital admission among adults, too, are for ailments which are a direct result of individuals’ own health mismanagement, partly brought about by the generally accepted principle that whatever the extent of self-inflation of a condition, the individual has a right to be treated at no cost to themselves. The ugly irony is that this perception is on its own one of the major contributing factors to the alarming decline in public health.

Mr Johnson knows that pledges of money for Health and Schools will always play well with these supporters of his No-Deal ambitions.

Now watch while World-King Boris imitates the action of the tiger, stiffens up the sinews and summons up the blood as he imagines himself engaged in his most ambitious mission yet; to encourage their children to work hard and to stress the value of education and computer games than it is to say ‘No.’

We are in a double bind. The Government is in charge of the political agenda in Parliament and at present unless the Speaker intervenes, which is unlikely, then Parliament will have been proroged by the time you read this article.

It is an extraordinary length of time that the PM has asked for; five weeks. Normally, when you prorogue Parliament it is for ten days at most. The Queen will not be amused.

The Referendum of 2016 has brought the country to a peaceful version of a civil war if that is not a contradiction in terms! We did not vote for a No Deal in the Referendum. We voted to Remain or to Leave. By four per cent, the country voted to Leave. David Cameron and his advisers on the process should have to spend some time in the Tower of London. The Referendum was ‘binding’ not illustrative. It was a simple majority no more no less for the biggest decision since going to War in 1939. The bar should have been much higher. You could not make it up. The whole nation has been failed miserably by our political leaders.

Our new Prime Minister acts more like an English President. He has no majorities in three of the four countries which make up the slightly less United Kingdom. By bribery he holds ten votes from the DUP in Northern Ireland but without a backstop a united Ireland seems more likely. And, if that is not spelt out more clearly the bombings in Northern Ireland will return. As it is its Parliament has not sat for over a year and no-one seems to mind in Westminster. Would the right wing militia groups in Northern Ireland seek to bomb our English cities? I would not rule it out.

The English have had a raw deal. They have no Parliament. The biggest and wealthiest (England would rank in the top ten of of the richest nations in the world) has no legislature. A more sensible arrangement would be for four lower Parliaments representing our four nations and a Senate over the top but as we stumble through the next year, the voice for England will become louder and a consequent break up of the Kingdom seems more likely. We shall see.

A No Deal will be catastrophic without a delay to the 31st October deadline. It is clear that Whitehall cannot handle the process. The civil service has failed to be reformed for forty years and is no longer fit for purpose. Margaret Thatcher introduced the ‘Agency’ model like the Highways Agency and the Electoral Commission and much more besides which have become an arms length model from Westminster and which have failed: witness the shambles of CrossRail and HS2 let alone our piecemeal road programme. Billions of tax payers money has been extravagantly spent without the Treasury being across them. This is a failure of democracy.

Parliament is tired and short on vision. Brexit has awoken the opposition but once this happens normal service will be resumed. We are then back to President Boris making our country less interested in helping the bottom quartile of our people who have already experienced terrible funding cuts on their support systems and in different housing and policing. It shames our nation that this has happened without the BBC taking the Government to issue. The Beeb seems more interested in protecting itself and its future than troubling to make the case. Boris may be tempted to cut off its funding entirely.

We are where we are but it is most uncomfortable.
The fear of losing our entitlements
By Nick Salaman

I was lucky. They taught me, with an iron rod, what was called Scripture (later known as Divinity) at school when I was nine. It does leave me at a disadvantage in terms of computers and contemporary gadgetry where, frankly, I flounder. We didn’t have those; but what we did have is an inexhaustible supply of good stories and characters in the Bible which devotees of PG Wodehouse, for instance, will certainly recognise.

One of my favourite quotes is: ‘Now King David waxed old and well-stricken in years, and they covered him in clothes. But he gat no heat. I am sure that, in one translation (was it whale?) into my handkerchief. I have been caned by the headmaster after lunch at school (which they did). I have run after seemingly-never-ending convoys of American trucks, crying out ‘give us some gum ‘chum’ (which they did). I have been caned by the headmaster after lunch at school for trying to secrete the bouncy-fatty-gristly thing that passed for meat-stew (was it whale?) into my handkerchief. I wore ill-fitting clothes and painful leaky shoes made of something like cardboard, marketed under the Utility label.

We all did things like that, and we experienced the wartime British in conditions of austerity and adversity unimaginable, it seems, to the likes of Philip Hammond and Mark Carney. Yes, I am coming, as you may have suspected, to the Brexit question. As the poet says: ‘Even the weariest rivers wind somewhere to the sea.’

I am a Leaver by heart and a Remainder by head. I am a Remainder in the morning (I think of the Ode to Joy and the London property market) and a Leaver at night (Britons never shall be slaves etc). But whatever I am, it makes me hot under the collar and gats me a very great deal of heat to hear the cries of disaster from the two eminent faint-hearts I’ve mentioned and a whole lot of others like them. Leaving Europe will not be a disaster almost beyond the Kuiper Belt of contemplation. We had that in 1939 (there were people, masters of Europe, who wanted to destroy us) and we managed to deal with it. After the No Deal is done, if it should come to it, it will be an exercise in the greater or lesser pulling-in of the belt, nothing more.

Whether it is a good thing or not that we might have to do it is another question, but the enduring of it is not impossible. If we cannot tolerate the thought of discomfort to be experienced in the interests of removing ourselves from the tyranny of the unelected, then we are indeed a fat and lazy nation. Is leaving without a Deal a thing we could do? Yes it is. Is it a thing we should do? It might well not be. But conjuring up pictures of disaster is no argument against it. Hammond and Carney should be ashamed of themselves, but then they weren’t even in trousers when the bombs were falling and the doodlebugs were crashing all around. They were twinkles in their mothers’ eyes, and sometimes one wishes they still were. The thing about the prospect of national cataclysm is, it’s rather like love. It’s all been experienced many times before. That’s why a sense of history is so important. History not hysteria is the watchword.

I commend to you Hilaire Belloc’s Ballade of Good Tidings, published I think around the time we came off the Gold Standard in 1931.

Ballade of Good Tidings
By Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953)

The other day the £ fell out of bed,
With consequences that are far from clear;
For instance, Eldorado Deeps, instead
Of jumping up, incline to lurch and veer;
And while Commander Turtle thinks it queer,
Professor Gruff is willing to explain;
But anyhow, the quiet profiteer
Will miss the Riviera and Champagne.

The out o’work will miss his loaf of bread.
The half at work will miss his pint of beer,
The city clerk - who might as well be dead –
Will miss the slight advance in his career.
And very many of my friends, I fear,
Like Algernon (who hasn’t got a brain)
A-pacing hollow-eyed on Brighton Pier,
Will miss the Riviera and Champagne.

Ladies and Lords who once on glory fed,
Renaldo, Pharamond and Guinevere,
And Francis, that in glittering armour led,
The long defiles of lance and halberdier,
High Captains of an elder world,
give ear -
Caesar and Buonaparte and Charlemagne -
The nobler masters of our modern sphere
Will miss the Riviera and Champagne.

Ersoi
Prince, Oh my Prince, ’tis heavenly to hear!
Stroke the piano; croon it once again...
‘The Rich, the Very Rich, this very year,
Will miss the Riviera and Champagne!’
The plastic toy industry
The tale of how we wrote off the future of our children
By Ali Borhani

There are days when each of us has a moment of epiphany when reality hits us on the forehead, shakes and reverberates our ribcage and gives us goose bumps about what we have been blind to.

I had one of these moments this summer, my six-year-old son asked me, wordlessly by simply smiling and accelerating his pace, forcing me to follow him from one toy store to another from the ELC (the Early Learning Center) to Hamley’s and several other toy shops. Shop after shop and, my sense of bewilderment only grew, my stomach twisting and dropping. At one point I went deaf and could not actually hear his voice only the echo of his sheer excitement to be buying yet another toy that he would be bored with within 2-3 weeks max.

I pinched myself and I sat down and tried to explain to the young man that at home he had a room full of different, attractive monsters I have seen in my his Sea Monsters, the cutest and most enjoyable attending, and where he draws by a visit to the painting class that he enjoys attending, and where he draws his Sea Monsters, the cutest and most attractive monsters I have seen in my entire life.

Well, now I want to talk about another Monster, which has grabbed the headlines of late. This monster has been polluting our seas, oceans, rivers, jungles and forests; from landfills to every corner of a modern society one can find the footprints of this Monster.

The total global toy industry is worth UK£73.7bn (USD 89bn) and the share of United States market is a strong and staggering with a dangerous 25% market share of the total industry sales, standing at UK£17.1bn (USD 20.7bn).

The total global toy industry is equal to the GDP of Kenya or 2 times bigger than the GDP of Tunisia.

It is almost impossible to step into a toy store and not be overwhelmed by the amount, weight and vulgar presence of plastics.

Now embedded in each of those toys are at least 2 or sometimes 6 AA batteries and then you need another comprehensive analysis of the integrated damage that the toy industry has on the environment.

According to some estimates a good 50% of these batteries are not recycled properly and could end up littering the environment. After all which mum with two infants would make that extra trip to a designated outlet or facility to dispose the batteries in a responsible manner.

The very toys we buy for these future heirs of planet earth, are made in various forms, shape or fashion as if not seasonal, monthly or in most cases a weekly stepping stone to boredom before a new toy is launched, and before our children are taken over by the three avalanches of:

1. Advertising machine be it above the line, or social media
2. The peer pressure of another friend, cousin or classmate
3. Our inability to spend quality time with them, and succumbing in substituting our guilt with a toy after a business trip

The question here is not how we can cut their addiction to plastic toys, but perhaps how we can substitute their craving to a more meaningful form of entertainment?

What if tomorrow USD 20bn of the money that we as parents spend on toys would have been allocated to setting up a fund to fight the polluted seas, oceans and around the planet?

Why can’t we cut our budgets on toys for only one year by a quarter, globally and to set up an SPV, perhaps we can even call it the Monster Fund, an SPV that could invest clearly in fighting this malaise?

A fund that could hire the best brains, stellar anthropologist, environmentalists and infant and children psychologists that could help the fund to not only identify new games for the children, but also to engage the best financial experts to develop a game plan that can be free from a Plastic Footprint in the game-rooms of our children.

We have to stop making our children numb from childhood. We have to remind them that being in nature, being out there being able to swim, to fish and to eat without the worry of pollution is the biggest joy in life.

The idea for an SPV/fund is not a fantasy. The fund raising is a matter of will; we have to have the courage to fight the Monster, to fight together and to do so by allocating in cash a mere quarter of our annual toy budget for only one year.

The fund can then pull in further Private & Public benefactors and we can draw on various countries like Scandinavia, Japan, and the EU.

The dividend? The future with a clean, sustainable, meaningful and purposeful environment in which our children, grand-children and future generations can live, thrive and flourish. I once read “little things matter and those who say they don’t, have never spent a night in a bed with a mosquito”.

The Monster is in our children’s bedrooms. Let us not lose sight of what we can accomplish together.

Ali Borhani is the Managing Director of 3Sixty Strategic Advisors Ltd. It is the readers’ responsibility to verify their own facts. The views and opinions expressed in this article/commentary are those of the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any other individual, agency, organization, employer or company.
**International News**

**By Harry Parsons**

**Nigeria: 6800 people impacted by floods.**

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), over 6,800 people living in displacement camps in Maiduguri have been impacted by floods in recent weeks. "They are essentially displaced within a displacement camp," said Eric Batonon, Director of the NRC, referring to the thousands who were left homeless after torrential rain in northeast Nigeria destroyed makeshift tents and caused severe flooding to displacement camps throughout the region.

Many have sought shelter in the overcrowded tents of their relatives and friends. Such conditions are a petri-dish for water-borne diseases such as Cholera. The Adamawa State Government has officially declared an outbreak of the disease in three local government areas during the rainy season. The total number of cases reported as of August 16th is 633, a number expected to rise due to the forecast of extra rainfall.

The rainy season presents opportunities for armed groups to target and infiltrate displacement camps. On August 20th in Dikwa, a female suicide bomber detonated a bomb, killing herself and injuring four civilians. This was the first attack of its kind in the area since December 2018.

**Helsinki’s Oodi named public library of the year**

On 27th August, Helsinki Central Library Oodi was named as the Public Library of the Year for 2019 at a conference in Athens hosted by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The annual award is presented to a public library that is either newly built or set up in premises not previously used for library purposes. Libraries from over the world were considered for the award, including the Green Square Library and Plaza in Australia, the Bibliotheek LocHal in the Netherlands and Tūranga, New Zealand.

Library Oodi opened in December 2018 and has already welcomed over two million visitors through its doors. Anna-Maria Soininvaara, director of Oodi, attributes the success of the library to its participatory design process. "Oodi was designed together with customers for a living period of time. We received more than 2,000 ideas from customers to serve as the basis of the architectural competition. ALA Architects designed an amazing and unique building that takes all the elements most desired by customers into account. [...] The Public Library of the Year award tells us that the world has also taken notice of this."

The Finnish library system has always strongly supported the education system, providing access to information and literature. In 2016, Finland was named as the most literate country in the world.

**Florida, USA: Campaign to remove invasive Pythons.**

Two huge Burmese pythons have been caught in Big Cypress National Preserve, as part of an ongoing initiative to remove the invasive species from the state.

Native to Southeast Asia, it is believed that as many as thousands were shipped to Miami to be sold as exotic pets in the 1990s. Estimates of how many Burmese pythons currently occupy the state range between the tens to hundreds of thousands. According to research, their arrival has coincided with the severe decline of several mammal populations in southern Florida.

On July 26th, Kevin Reich, member of the Python Action Team, hand-captured an 18-foot female python weighing nearly 84 pounds. According to The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the creature was the second-largest snake ever to be removed by the group. Remarkably, moments later, fellow hunter George Perkins announced his capture of a snake nearly identical in length.

These two high-profile cases arrive amid news that Florida will expand its efforts to collar the growing number of Burmese pythons that have long plagued the Floridian ecosystem.

Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida, expressed his concerns over the growing problem. "As these pythons have permeated through, they’ve really disrupted the natural food chain balance, [...] We’ve been advancing python management policies for several years. There’s been some success but we need to do more, and so we are here to announce some of the next steps we are taking." DeSantis has said that the state will double its resources for python removal and that the state Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture have reached a crucial new agreement to begin hunting pythons in 130,000 acres of state parks.

**Mexico: Dozens killed in arson attack.**

An arson attack in the Mexican port city of Coatzacoalcos has left at least 28 dead and another 11 severely injured. On August 27th, armed assailants burst into the Caballo Blanco nightclub, opening fire on revellers before setting the building ablaze with gasoline and Molotov cocktails.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador called for local prosecutors to be investigated as "the alleged perpetrators had been arrested, but they were freed." Veracruz governor Cuitláhuac García identified the principal suspect as a man known as La Loca. García said the man had been detained by marines in July, but was released after being turned over to the state prosecutor’s office.

In Mexico, the number of violent crimes continue to rise after hitting record levels in 2018. The deaths follow an attack in April in Matatlan, Veracruz that killed 13 people. The attack on the nightclub was the worst single act of violence since President Obrador took office in December, who was sworn in on a pledge to bring peace to the nation by curbing corruption and drug wars. The President pointed to past governments for laying the groundwork for the crime. “This is the rotten fruit of the economic policy that was imposed, the policy of pillage”, the President declared.

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**Johannesburg** prohibited the display of the country’s old apartheid-era flag, ruling that its ‘gratuitous’ use espouses hate speech and racial discrimination.

The ‘Apartheid Flag’, nicknames Orange, Blanje, Blou, consists of three horizontal blue, white and orange stripes used for small flags of Great Britain, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal in the middle. It was first adopted in 1928, pre-dating the arrival of apartheid laws in 1948. The old South African flag has often been seen as a symbol of for a lost period of time. It was case of Union of South Africa and its successor state, the Republic of South Africa until 1994, when it was replaced by the current ‘Rainbow Flag’, ushering in a new democracy and marking the end of the apartheid-era.

During the ruling, Judge Phineas Mojapelo condemned those who continue to wave the flag. “Those who display the old flag choose deliberately to not only display the old flag, but also consciously and deliberately choose to not display the new, multiracial flag,” said Mojapelo, “They choose oppression over liberation.”

Mojapelo conceded that the ban is a partial one, stating that use of the old flag is protected by law for artistic, academic or journalistic purposes.

The ruling followed a petition to the court by the Nelson Mandela Foundation after the flag was displayed in October 2017 during a protest by white South Africans against the killing of farmers. The foundation, a non-profit organisation established to promote Mandela’s vision of freedom and equality for all, took to Twitter to celebrate the decision; “The Apartheid flag is gone! The Equality Court has today ruled that gratuitous displays of the old flag are legally hate speech! A win for democracy and all South Africans!”

**South Africa: ‘Apartheid Flag’ Forbidden**

On 21st August, a landmark ruling from South Africa’s Equality Court in
Another Earth
By Scott Beadle FRAS

Of all hobbies and pastimes astronomy has to be one of the most relaxing. You don’t worry as a bird watcher might, whether you will ever see that infrequent migratory visitor again next year. We’re not gardeners watching rabbits eat the new planted vegetable patch. Nor fisherman wondering whether the monster pike, even bigger this year, that still hides in the reed bed, will fall for your lure again!

No, our subjects essentially live forever. I’ve watched Sagittarius for the last sixteen years rise over the Beznar dam in southern Spain, a magnificent site and I know it will do it again, at the same spot, all the years of my life, every year into perpetuity.

Astronomy can of course be a bit exasperating and expensive, as anyone whose taken out a second mortgage to go eclipse hunting and found themselves under a cloudy sky in some god-forsaken mosquito infested dump on the other side of the planet can attest too. And that’s not to mention my own experience of building a sophisticated observatory in E Sussex, which but seems to have its own perpetual micro climate above it, consisting of one continuous rain cloud!

 Nonetheless astronomy is an observational science, so observe we do, and in a similar time frame to me observing Sagittarius, so too have astronomers been using both ground and space-based telescopes to discover over 4,000 exoplanets so far, within approximately 100-500 light-years of the Sun.

Most of these planets are found by observing the light curve, as the planet transits the face of their parent sun. First, we obtain the spectrum of the host star (composition), then another spectrum when the planet and its surrounding atmosphere pass in front, then subtract one from the other and hay presto, now you have the composition of the faraway exoplanet’s atmosphere. The first success with this technique was of a planet 63 light-years away in Vulpecula (The Little Fox) and it consisted of sodium. Weird but no-one really cared as it was so brutally close to its star no life could exist anyway.

However the technique worked and over 800 exoplanets have had their spectrums analysed, all in the hope that we will finally find a more earthlike planet at a comfortable distance from its star, We’ll even find one whose air is wonderfully packed with water vapour and oxygen.

Oxygen is abundant, however, no sterile planet should have free oxygen, because that element bonds with just about everything to form oxides, leaving no loose O2 floating around. The only reason for free oxygen is life, which continuously releases it. Here on Earth, oxygen appeared only after life began. Astronomers believe that will be true everywhere.

Sooner or later, we’ll find such a planet, and then we’ll know where life almost certainly exists, and which will produce headlines around the world.

“READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Earth-like planet with oxygen discovered, only 60 light-years away, aliens next door, read all about it!”

Everybody, from your boss, priests, parliamentarians, bankers etc., who normally discuss science about as often as Parliament dealing with Brexit.

Star travel isn’t going to happen in our life time, nor our children’s. Once found, New Earth will remain the stuff of dreams and fantasies. It will be the subject of star parties, film production, and an endless desire to understand anything they said. Their speech would be utter gibberish, (a bit like Parliament dealing with Brexit).

Star travel isn’t going to happen in our life time, nor our children’s. Once found, New Earth will remain the stuff of dreams and fantasies. It will be the subject of star parties, film production, and an endless desire to understand anything they said. Their speech would be utter gibberish, (a bit like Parliament dealing with Brexit).

Homeworlds are an endlessly curious species, there are probably trillions of planets throughout the universe, if we survive and grow up and truly respect our own planet, then sometime in the very, very far distant future we might get to meet some of the rest of our cosmic travellers, at least in our own, most beautiful galaxy.
Making your Future Work
Shifting to love what you do and do what you love.

After the two-week summer holiday, many people don’t want to come back to the same job or manager, or organisation. Even if they decide to hang on for the end of the year bonus, they start seriously looking in September. Similarly, after the Christmas break, more people commit to the inevitability of divorce in January than any other month of the year. Are you ready to divorce your boss?

There are many more options than you think. But before you do anything else, do a bit of spring cleaning: update your LinkedIn profile, re-write your basic CV, clean up your personal accounts with Facebook, Twitter (etc.) and review your personal, professional and social media network for job-hunting.

Start looking at the job ads in trade or professional publications; what appeals and why? Is it the job, the company, the location, the salary, the opportunity, the promotion? Start working your network and seek out former colleagues, bosses, mentors and ask their advice; engage friends and family on your behalf; be more intentional about networking at events, seminars and training sessions. Develop more of a picture of your ideal next job. Perhaps find a career coach.

Adopt the mindset of a recruiter: what is the job description and person specification for your ideal job? Where would they look for such a candidate? What gaps do you have between the required person specification and that of your ideal job? What are the elements of the job description that you will have to do, but perform less well or struggle to enjoy?

Now go back and re-work your CV and LinkedIn profile and develop a cover letter. You need to build a story that makes it obvious to any reader that the job you want is the absolutely natural next step for your career. You also need to pepper your CV and LinkedIn profile with the keywords that automated engines will use to pick you out from the crowd. Focus on outcomes not just activities i.e. when I did this, the result was that. The outcomes need to connect to increased revenue, reduced cost, new investment or better management of risk.

You have clarity of what job you want and the crucial documents with which to start your campaign. The next step is to get your story out to the right people. Post your CV to job boards, talk to recruiters, consider speculative letters to individuals and tap alumni networks. Look at the websites and Twitter feeds of potential employers and apply direct. Check out LinkedIn groups for your special area of interest and follow target companies on LinkedIn.

All of this will get you to the point where you are invited to a telephone or video interview. You will have options and choices.

For now, reflect on shifting to love what you do and do what you love.

Charles McLachlan
Charles is founder of FuturePerfect and Portfolio Executive Growth Academy www.portfolioexecutive.biz

Cryptocurrency
By Harry Parsons

The rise of cryptocurrency started with Bitcoin. Amid the 2008 economic crisis, the pseudonymous Satoshi Nakamoto, a Banksy of the financial world whose identity still remains a mystery, posted a paper to a cryptography mailing list outlining his concept for an online currency.

The House of Commons Treasury Committee outlined their definition of a cryptocurrency in a 2018 report on the subject, ‘cryptocurrencies are intended to function as a means of payment for goods and services. They differ from traditional currencies in that they are not issued by central banks, and in that they can be transferred electronically between users without the involvement of intermediaries or the control of a central authority.’

Nakamoto’s vision was made possible by the underlying technology, blockchain; a distributed ledger system designed to record economic exchanges between two parties. Blockchain brought to each transaction the guarantee of both permanence and privacy. It was these features that attracted many to it in the first place. Enter Silk Road, the online black market for illicit goods; founded in 2011 and transacted solely in Bitcoin; over $1.2 billion worth of deals were made on the site before its closure in 2013.

Bitcoin achieved a status of notoriety for its proximity to the site, many dubbing the virtual currency as no more than a vehicle for criminal activity. Despite this, cryptocurrency became very popular and its growth continued. In December 2017, the peak of cryptomania, there were well over 1,000 different cryptocurrencies in existence and Bitcoin had a total market capitalisation of over $313 billion. This growth was accompanied by a host of new problems in the space: phishing scams, fraudulent ICOs and the high environmental cost of cryptocurrency mining. These issues pointed to significant teething troubles within the space.

The industry is nascent even today; the relative size of the cryptocurrency market ($767.6 billion) is still small (Apple: $950.6 billion. Amazon: $891.06 billion) and, according to the House of Commons report, no existing cryptocurrency bears a true likeness to a traditional currency; Functioning currencies are generally understood to serve as a store of value, a medium of exchange and a unit of account. As yet, there are no so-called ‘cryptocurrencies’ that serve all these functions. Well-functioning cryptocurrencies currently exist only as a theoretical concept [...]’

Outside the payments sector, the opportunities for blockchain are vast, and many are already in place today. Take Provenance, for example, a start-up utilising blockchain to help track physical products along the supply chain. Using the platform, buyers can verify that the product they are receiving is exactly what they paid for. Founded in 2013, the company has over 200 retailers in the food and drinks industry, with brands as big as Unilever and Sainsbury’s using their software. Elsewhere, auction platform Maecenas used blockchain in 2018 to sell a 31.5% stake in Andy Warhol’s painting 14 Small Electric Chairs, the first instance of a valuable piece of art being sold through the technology.

Recent news points to an exciting, yet turbulent road ahead in the blockchain landscape. The outcome that cryptocurrencies will become as ubiquitous as Euros and Dollars is an unlikely one. Blockchain might never be as disruptive as it was touted to be. Instead, the technology continues to be used as a method of streamlining business practices; maximising efficiency and improving transparency and trust along the way.

Nevertheless, optimism remains. In June 2019, Facebook unveiled its plans for Libra, a new digital currency supported by more than two dozen companies ranging from Visa and PayPal to Uber and Spotify. The project is the largest of its kind, designed to bring cryptocurrency to the mainstream, and targeting the 1.7 billion people without access to a bank account. The project must overcome many obstacles before its proposed rollout in 2020, and whether or not it can achieve its desired effect depends on regulatory changes and greater awareness around the potential of cryptocurrencies. What it does signal, however, is that many large corporations are at least entertaining the idea of a decentralised economy.
City of London hit by nearly one million cyber-attacks every month.

by Harry Parsons

5G rollout

By Harry Parsons

£30m to spark rollout of next generation 5G in rural areas and help countryside capitalise on tech revolution

New competition launched to test groundbreaking 5G applications in rural areas comes alongside proposed planning reforms to improve and extend mobile coverage.

Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan has launched a £30 million UK-wide competition to spark a tech revolution in countryside communities and help rural Britain seize the opportunities of 5G technology. Up to ten rural locations will be chosen to run innovative trials of 5G applications and stimulate commercial investment in 5G technology which offers mobile speeds 10 to 20 times faster than previous generations. The Rural Connected Communities competition is the latest wave of £200 million funding to pioneer 5G testbeds across the country and deliver the benefits of the highest speeds of mobile connectivity available.

This technology is already being used in the Orkney Islands to remotely monitor salmon fisheries and improve the efficiency of wind farms, and in Shropshire, the 5G trials are showing how farming can be transformed through targeted crop-spraying and soil analysis with drones and tractors. The new funding will build on projects like these and trial other uses of 5G in rural communities to help drive business growth, enhance lives and encourage innovation.

Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan said: “The British countryside has always been a hotbed of pioneering industries and we’re making sure our rural communities aren’t left behind in the digital age.

“We’re investing millions so the whole country can grasp the opportunities and economic benefits of next generation 5G technology.”

“In modern Britain people expect to be connected wherever they are. And so we’re committed to securing widespread mobile coverage and must make sure we have the right planning laws to give the UK the best infrastructure to stay ahead.”

The Government has today also launched a consultation on proposals to simplify planning rules to improve rural mobile coverage.

Reforming planning laws for mobile infrastructure is part of the Prime Minister’s plan to level-up connectivity for communities across the UK, further support the roll-out of 5G and boost our economy. The consultation on potential changes to permitted development rights for mobile infrastructure in England includes proposals on:

- Changing the permitted height of new masts to deliver better mobile coverage, promote mast sharing and minimise the need to build more infrastructure;
- Allowing existing ground-based masts to be strengthened without prior approval to enable sites to be upgraded for 5G and for mast sharing;
- Deploying radio equipment cabinets on protected and unprotected land without prior approval, excluding sites of special scientific interest; and
- Allowing building-based masts nearer to roads to support 5G and increase mobile coverage.

The Government is also seeking views on what measures industry could offer to mitigate the impact of any new infrastructure, including assurances of a greater use of existing sites and the removal of redundant masts.

Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Rt Hon Esther McVey MP said:

“We’re committed to delivering the homes people across the country need, and that includes delivering the right infrastructure such as broadband connectivity and good mobile coverage. There is nothing more frustrating than moving into your new home to find the signal is poor.”

“But that’s why we are proposing to simplify planning rules for installing the latest mobile technology, helping to extend coverage and banish more of those signal blackspots, particularly for those living in rural areas.”

Mark Bridgeman, Deputy President of the Country Land and Business Association, said:

“The vast potential of the rural economy will only be fulfilled when everyone in the countryside has full mobile connectivity, and we welcome DCMS’s intent to deliver the Prime Minister’s promise of internet access for all.

“The current situation, where only 67% of the country can access a decent signal, is unacceptable and Government is right to focus on planning reform as a means to removing current barriers, but there must also be a balance between the interests of landowners and mobile operators.”

Hamish MacLeod, Director at MobileUK, said:

“The current planning system does not support the fast, efficient rollout of 5G technology that is vital for the UK’s digital economy. We welcome the Government looking at simplifying planning processes to deliver better connectivity, and we stand ready to work in partnership to ensure these much-needed reforms happen as quickly as possible.”

Julian David, CEO, techUK said:

“5G is an essential component of the UK’s digital fabric. It underpins innovative technologies from drones to AI. techUK welcomes this initiative and sees this Government has long recognised the benefits offered by 5G to businesses and consumers, making considerable investment already in 5G testbeds and trials, including 5G RuralFirst, led by techUK member Cisco.

“As important as the financial support for innovative uses for 5G is, the recognition that the way planning rules are implemented is a big factor in the level of connectivity. I am pleased the Government is now proposing to simplify those rules as they apply to mobile masts in England and urges them to move swiftly to make these changes.”
The shortlist for the 2019 Booker Prize has been released, and includes a Margaret Atwood novel that hasn’t even been published yet. The Testaments, Atwood’s decades in the making follow up to The Handmaid’s Tale is as yet unread by anyone except the author. Atwood’s mysterious sequel is up against five other writers including Salman Rushdie’s Quichotte, a reinvention of Don Quixote, as an American salesman on a road-trip.

Turkish author Elif Shafak’s 10 Minutes, 38 Seconds in this strange world, which stark title refers to the final moments of brain activity of a fatally assaulted sex worker in Istanbul, Nigerian Chigozie Obioma’s An Orchestra of Minorities; a tale of a poultry farmer who must sacrifice everything for love, and his second time on the Booker Shortlist, Londoner Bernadine Evaristo’s Girl, Woman, Other the story of 12 British black women and American Lucy Ellman’s over 1000 page stream of consciousness doorstopper Ducks. This shortlist was cherry picked from 151 longlisted authors with the winner of the 50,000 pound prize is to be announced at the Guildhall on Monday October 14.

The new upwards momentum of Atwood and Rushdie should prove Atwood and Rushdie should prove bestsellers whether or not they take home the prize, the Booker has been renowned for transforming the careers of lesser known writers. Last year’s winner Anna Burns sold 963 copies of her novel Milkman in the week before the prize; she sold 9,446 the week after. Her book, set in the Northern Ireland Troubles, has now sold more than 500,000 copies and been translated into 40 languages.

The prize rules were changed in 2013 to open it up to writers beyond the Commonwealth provided they wrote in English and published in the UK.

Saturday 2nd 11am–5pm
Free entry with this advert

www.chelseabookfair.com

Weekend festival of words

A new partnership with the British Library, in order to create a pioneering Words Weekend-Travelling Word Bank, aptly deemed ‘a word map of modern Britain’. 6-8th December 2019.

By Anandi Shah

Words Weekend is programmed by Fane Productions, which works with a diverse range of artists at the top of their respective professions, including agents, publishers and producers with a focus on creating dynamic live platforms to present and promote both the client and their work; be it books, TV series, podcast or other ventures.

The inaugural event will serve to document modern English usage in each of the regions visited throughout the country and used to create a word map of Modern Britain that will in turn become part of the British Library’s extensive archive of accents and dialects. It will essentially be a celebration of the spoken word.

The festival will take place at Sage Gateshead from 6-8th December 2019 and will be comprised of fifty events and workshops. Over 35% of events will be free to the public to attend and all will be fully accessible with British Sign Language interpreted to cater to everyone’s needs.

“This project really captures what Words Weekend was set up to achieve; to create a national platform for diverse and under-represented voices. We can’t wait to hear yours!”

Beth Gallimore, Artistic Director of Words Weekend

Speakers at the festival will include many famous faces, such as Grayson Perry, Stacey Dooley, Nadiya Hussain, Kerry Hudson, Marian Keyes, David Olusoga and Elif Shafak, with many more to be announced in the coming months.

In the past two years, 450,000 tickets have been sold through events with notable and prominent artists including John le Carré, Margaret Atwood, Nigella Lawson, Dolly Alderton, Stacey Dooley, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Grayson Perry.

“We’re delighted to support Words Weekend in celebrating the linguistic diversity of the UK.”

Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English at the British Library

At each Festival venue, Words Weekend will install pop up recording booths, where members of the public will be invited to record a word or phrase they find amusing in their local dialect or used with friends and family. They will also be asked to explain how they use the word and to reflect on its personal significance or importance to them.

These recordings will be deposited and archived at the British Library and subsequently be made available online for schools, broadcasters, universities and researchers.

For more information about Words Weekend, visit: www.wordsweekend.com
For more information about the British Library, visit: www.bl.uk
The Prix Goncourt is perhaps the biggest literary prize in France. First awarded in 1903, its stated intention is to uplift fledgling authors and provide them with the support to be able to write a second. Initially this ‘support’ was a hefty monetary reward, but as the prize’s reputation has grown, the prize money has become a symbolic 10 Euros [though if the exchange rate falls any lower it could render any British winners overnight millionaires] due to the cocky, if justified, assumption that bestowment of the prize will earn the writer far more in immediate sales.

The prize is famous enough that Edmond and Jules Goncourt: The novelistic brothers who founded the prize has long receded into functional anonymity. The novels they wrote together are forgotten, often deemed unreadable to modern sensibilities. Though of course you can still see some poor lost souls reading Varney the Vampyre so perhaps there are some serious Goncourtheads out there apoplectic with rage at that last comment; but for the most part their novelistic output has vanished.

There is one major exception to this rule and that is their shared journal, which was written between 1851 and 1886, unpimped even by the agonising death of Jules Goncourt from syphilis in 1871. For over four and a half decades the Goncourts’ poured their anxieties and poisonous anger at their lack of success into the innocent paper. A colossal and vituperative sense of lack of success into the innocent paper. The Goncourts glide through the artistic heights of the Parisian Belle Epoch like sardonic vipers and dismiss most of it with little more than a contemptuous sniff.

Coming from a moneyminded, aristocratic background the brothers were able to survive the various failures of the novels, plays and magazines they released in their “hard and horrible struggle against anonymity”, with nothing more than an increase in their already heroic supplies of bile: “Oh, if one of Dostoevsky’s novels, whose black melancholy is regarded with such indulgent admiration, were signed with the name of Goncourt, what a slating it would get all along the line” opines Edmond with not the faintest hint of irony. As cornerstone members of the literary scene the journals fairly abound with the artistic intelligentsia: Flaubert, Hugo, Zola, Rodin, Turgenev, Wilde, Degas and many more show up in an endless whirl of dinner parties, bars and brothels, where these titans of the 19th century all behave in a uniformly awful fashion. Bizare sexual exploits, backbiting, jealousy, plagiarism and incredibly crude humour are the glue that bind these beatific saints of culture into what is less a friendship than a cold war.

The thing about the journals which makes them stand out beyond being the 19th century equivalent of Motley Crue’s ‘The Dirt’, is the fact that in all the Goncourts’ striving for artistic recognition and jealousy, the actual Journals are almost certainly their magnum opus in terms of quality. Unshackled from their desperate need to be on the cutting edge that has helped their novels become increasingly impenetrable with the passing of the years, their journals, written just for themselves without any particular air, their entries frequently sparkle with literary diamonds. A casual mention of Baudelaire is rendered thusly “He was without a cravat, his shirt open at the neck and his head shaved, just as if he were going to be guillotined.” There is a definite unusually novelistic satisfaction that comes from the selected passages (in English it is only possible to get a 400 page condensed edition) that makes the Journals an unlikely page turner.

Edmond and Jules Goncourt: the Brothers who wrote the Goncourts at one point loftily assert ‘John the Baptists of modern neurosis’ offer a scintillating and Pepysian window of 19th century Paris that most biographers and historians would cheerfully sacrifice their first born to obtain, the question does remain how much can you trust them. The surviving Goncourt, Edmond began to publish it in 1886–7 after becoming terminally frustrated with the continued lack of critical and commercial appreciation that he felt was their god-given right. Some of the figures in the journals contest their representation and being what it is the journals are fairly teeming with unsubstantiated and spiteful rumour that Edmond was clearly only too happy to reprint. So much did they make up? It’s impossible to say, Edmond was noted for constantly scribbling notes on his shirt cuffs even mid-conversation which he would recycle into the journal so perhaps all of it is 100 percent authentic. Those of a cynical mindset however should be referred back to Andre Gide who, on being assured by an angry acquaintance that the Journals cannot be trusted remarked “the words that he puts into the mouths of various people, however false they may be according to you, are almost never uninteresting. Watch out, for the more you reduce his stature as a stenographer, the greater you make him as a writer, as a creator”.

The works are certainly a product of their time; the brothers initially embody a casual misogyny in their relations with women, though Edmond’s protracted friendship with Princess Mathilde Bonaparte slowly reverses it in a way that Edmond doesn’t even seem to notice. There is also an unfortunate tang of anti-Semitism that becomes apparent towards the end, with Edmond increasingly writing, does paint the kind of social atmosphere that led to the Dreyfus Affair. But whilst the self proclaimed ‘illustrious club’ got into the act of anonymous modern neurosis that was the Dreyfus Affair. But whilst the self proclaimed anti-Semitism that becomes apparent towards the end, with Edmond increasingly writing, does paint the kind of social atmosphere that led to the Dreyfus Affair it’s self. The Goncourts at one point loftily assert that “a book is never a masterpiece, it becomes one.” It would gratify, but naturally not surprise them, to learn that their journals have joined that illustrious club.
Writers’ Country
by Don Grant

Great Britain is not made up of counties, but ‘countries’?

Had you not noticed? If one is travelling in Hampshire near Alton, one is in ‘Jane Austen Country’. A trip across Exmoor, and suddenly a road sign announces ‘You are entering Lorna Doone Country’, and a few miles further on, as one clatters past a fog-bound Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor in a coach and four, one is told one is in ‘Daphne du Maurier Country’. Along the Winterbourne Valley and on to Dorchester in Wessex, better known as Casterbridge in ‘Thomas Hardy Country’. He disguised some towns, but not others, so that Winchester became Wintoncester, Christminster was Oxford, Melchester was Salisbury, Newbury became Kennetbridge, and Budmouth, Weymouth. The most famous use of a writer’s name to fix it topographically in the mind, is undoubtedly Shakespeare, although some Yorkshire folk would argue that ‘Brontë Country’ takes the high ground morally, and geophysically, as the sisters based most of their novels around Yorkshire, and in the case of Wuthering Heights, the wild and windy moors of the North Yorkshire Moors and the wild and windy moors of the North Yorkshire Moors and the wild and windy moors of the North Yorkshire Moors, whereas the Bard never once used Stafford-upon-Avon as a location for any of his plays, although Richard III took ownership of Warwick Castle. Scotland, Verona, Venice and Denmark, yes, but never Warwickshire by name, although the Forest of Arden was the setting for As You Like It. There are a few other contenders in Yorkshire for the right to have a country named after them, and James Herriot’s part of the North Yorkshire Moors and Dales, was amongst the first to cash, in with an immensely popular series of novels, and other books, particulary Coniston Water and Lake Windermere in Swallows and Amazons and Swallows and Amazons, and Swallows and Amazons, and Swallows and Amazons, were not it for Beatrix Potter, who is comfortably enconced in Peter Rabbit’s burrow and surveys the whole of the Lake District from her famous hill-top farmhouse ‘Hill Top’. Others call the whole Lake District ‘Wordsworth Country’, which could be contentious. Geoffrey Chaucer had pretty well sewn up Canterbury as his own, but not as a country, more a city destination. A. A. Milne’s domain is in the Ashdown Forest where Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin and his pals would much about playing Poohsticks, but it only amounted to a hundred acres of woodland, and does not really constitute a country. H. E. Bates was an author who wrote about ‘the countryside’, although his Larkins series of novels The Darling Buds of May, A Breath of French Air, When the Green Woods Laugh and Oh! to be in England deserved to have a country named after them in Kent. Jerome K. Jerome’s Three Men in a Boat is more of a journey, from Kingston to Oxford on the Thames and back down with the stream, and does not really constitute a country. E F Benson wrote ghost stories, but became equally famous for his Mapp and Lucia series of novels, set in Rye, but which he called Tilling. The Barsetshire Chronicles does not really have a dominion, as Barchester is a fictional cathedral city made up by Anthony Trollope in the fictional county of Barsetshire, ‘a little bit of England which I have myself created’, but drew on both Somerset and Dorset as possible models, with Winchester being the most likely candidate. It is said that the original St Trinian’s School films were located in Barsetshire, and M. R. James used the city for his ghost story The Stalls of Barchester Cathedral in his 1911 collection More Ghost Stories, James was more associated with East Anglia and the north Norfolk coast with such scary tales as Whistle and I’ll Come to You from Ghost Stories of an Antiquary and A Warning to the Curious and Other Ghost Stories that chilled the blood, although he never seemed to warrant a whole country. Catherine Cookson is forever associated with the North-east of England, where she based many of her books, but visitors to South Tyneside are no longer being advised that they are entering ‘Catherine Cookson Country’ put up by the council signs hailing her association with the area. After 25 years they are being replaced, and it said that ‘while it was proud of the success of the branding, it was considering a new one to promote South Tyneside and a attract new investment’. Laurie Lee is hopefully safe from the vagaries of Stroud District Council, as he has his own country, namely the Cotswolds in general, and will forever be remembered for his evocative and beautifully-crafted descriptions of rural life in the Slad Valley with Cider with Rosie and other...
Non verbis, sed rebus

Aaargh . . . Jim Lad! . . . the Spyglass inn

THE BEST LAID PLANS
O’MICE AN’ MEN

In Dublin’s fair city

Waiting for who?

I wandered lonely
HEATHCLIFF
CATHY!

Where’s there’s a Will

DO NOT GO
GENTLE

Fiddle faddle

Last night I dreamt

Pol dark and handsome

Cider inside her

In Xanadu

If

KISS ME HARDY
Lay Doone

It’s a truth universally acknowledged

Great Scott

They didn’t mean to go to sea

It should never ‘appen

They fuck you up your mum and dad

I’M ROBIN THE RICH
TO GIVE TO THE POOR

WHISTLE AND I’LL COME TO YOU MY LAD

What the Dickens!

Thereby hangs a tale
Open Events

Open Morning 2019
Saturday 28th September
9.30am – 12.15pm
Tours
9.30am – 10.30am
11.15am – 12.15pm
Headmistress' address and presentations
10.30am

Open Evening 2019
Thursday 3rd October
4.30pm – 6.30pm
Tours only between
4.30pm – 5.45pm
Headmistress' address and presentations
5.45pm

Sixth Form Open Evening 2019
Wednesday 9th October
5.15pm – 7.00pm
Headmistress' address and presentations
5.30pm
A level subject exhibitions and refreshments
6.00pm

School in Action
See the school in operation with an address from the Headmistress. Prospective pupils and parents for all entry points are welcome to attend these events:

Wednesday 6th November 2019 9.00am – 10.45am
Tuesday 21st January 2020 9.00am – 10.45am
Thursday 30th April 2020 9.00am – 10.45am

11+ Entrance Exam 2020
Registration deadline: Friday 22nd November 2019
Activity Morning: Thursday 9th January 2020
Consortium Exam: Friday 10th January 2020

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Hatching Dragons Westminster: Q&A with Victoria Watson, nursery manager

Q: What makes Hatching Dragons different from other nurseries?
A: At Hatching Dragons, we provide a 50:50 immersion in two of the world’s most important languages, English and Mandarin, and we wouldn’t be able to do that without our highly qualified staff, who promote children’s wellbeing and extend their learning in innovative and creative ways.

Q: Many nurseries aim to do that, but how do you achieve that in Hatching Dragons Westminster?
A: We take the time to plan our lessons very seriously. We consider children’s needs and interests while doing that. However, we also make the most of our musically trained practitioners, who expose our children to the benefits of music in our daily routine, along with child-initiated play.

Q: We know about the benefits of bilingualism, but why Mandarin?
A: There’s a lot of evidence that indicates that Mandarin is the language of the future. We are working towards preparing our children for a multicultural society, where they can understand and be part of it very easily. Besides, they see their artistic and cognitive skills highly developed… there are so many reasons!

Q: What are the advantages of joining a nursery in Westminster?
A: With our beautiful surroundings, we have the advantage of visiting the local parks and facilities. For example, our children enjoy regular trips to St James Park and partake in weekly storytelling sessions in Victoria and Pimlico library. Plus, we are very close to their parents’ work, so it’s very convenient for them.

Q: What’s next for Hatching Dragons Westminster?
A: Actually, we are very excited because we are moving to a new space next year! We are thrilled that we’ll be able to provide a bigger and better space for our children. And we are already starting to get a lot of enquiries about it, so we can’t wait to start this new adventure.
Prince’s Gardens Preparatory School

Nestled in the heart of Kensington, a stone’s throw from some of London’s most acclaimed institutions, Prince’s Gardens Preparatory School for boys and girls aged 3-11, is due to open its doors in September 2020.

A lison Melrose, Headmistress, told KCW Today about their exciting plans to renovate four Victorian townhouses at 10-13 Prince’s Gardens.

State-of-the-art science laboratories, music and art studios and an amazing ‘maker space’ are some of the innovative redevelopments underway for the project; highlighting the school’s commitment to academic excellence and character development.

The school will also have direct access to both a wonderful garden space to the rear and Hyde Park, surrounded by the inspirational museums along Exhibition Road.

It demonstrates the emphasis of the school’s teachers for nurturing a global perspective in their pupils and preparing them for the exciting challenges that life can offer through a myriad of activities.

Alison Melrose said: “This is such a tremendous opportunity, which places the school firmly in the academic hub of London.

We want our pupils to relish all that school life has to offer so that they leave us confident and excited about their future.”

The rigorous and wide-ranging curriculum draws on the school’s access to London’s museums and outdoor spaces which serve as fantastic stimuli for collaborative learning projects and creating the next generation of independent, curious children.

Details about the plans will be held at an information event on Monday 23rd September at 10am on the premises of the Royal Geographical Society.

Go to www.princesgardensprep.co.uk to reserve a place at this event.
At this time of year, we often think about children returning excitedly to school, clutching new, trendy water bottles, desperate to catch up with their friends. The truth is that we are all learning every day, and we often don’t notice it. The working landscape is changing too, particularly in the Capital. People still work in offices, hospitals, care homes and shops, but many more people work from their favourite coffee shop, or from their kitchens.

If we think back ten years or so, there were very few Search Engine Optimisers, Social Media Managers … and certainly no Uber Drivers! Technology these days is moving at an incredible pace, opening up new jobs and whole new vocational areas.

Life is full of amazing career opportunities, and taking advantage of them is only possible when we have the right skills. This starts with having secured the basic knowledge that opens so many doors. Maths and English qualifications are as important to adults as they are to school pupils.

If you had a bad experience at school or didn’t get the opportunity to secure those all-important certificates, then help is at hand. Westminster Adult Education Service offers a wide range of Maths and English courses (including GCSEs) that can take you from whatever level you’re working at now – to wherever you want to go.

It can be very intimidating admitting to somebody else that you are concerned about your Maths or English skills. The most important thing to remember is that this is a common problem, and our friendly staff are able to quickly put you at your ease and get you onto the right path for progress.

Teaching in the 21st Century is very different from what went before. Blackboards, chalk and exercise books are a thing of the past; teaching is interactive, exciting and, believe it or not, fun. Classmates are encouraged to work as a team, cracking the codes to mathematical problems or playing English quizzes. Learning happens much more quickly when you are not working on your own, and it is retained more easily too.

Achieving the standard of Maths and English needed for most jobs in the Capital not only opens up better-paid employment, but it also allows you to move on to new areas of study. It could inspire you to take a course in a different area, but it could equally inspire you to look at university level courses. Once you start to love learning, the sky is the limit!

Career Changers, take note: we can help you too. If you have always yearned for a career in Fashion, Design, Media make-up or maybe Health and Social Care, then it is not too late for you to make a change this year. Find out more today: www.waes.ac.uk

Every year we take students on a journey that many of them never thought possible, learning things they never knew existed – building confidence, building friendships and reaching for new goals. Come along to our centres to enrol, see www.waes.ac.uk or call 020 7297 7297.
Education

online: www.KCWToday.co.uk

ENROL NOW FOR COURSES STARTING IN 2019

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- See our higher level programme offer, which can be funded by advanced learner loans.

- Make your change in 2019 by enrolling for a qualification or expanding your creativity with leisure learning.

Drop in to our centres, call us or visit our website – we are here to help.

- Lisson Grove
  219 Lisson Grove, London, NW8 8LW

- Amberley
  Amberley Road, London, W9 2JJ

- Pimlico
  Lupus Street, London, SW1V 3AT

* Subject to Terms & Conditions.
ORTHOGRAPHY: the accepted way of writing words with the proper spelling, according to accepted usage.

One of the more complex and responsible tasks of being an editor is maintaining the interest levels of the constant stream of interns who spend a short time with us.

Whilst abilities and ages vary, (from 14-year olds through to MAs in journalism), their knowledge of how to use words is an interesting and infinite source of surprise. Finding ways to encourage and increase respect for the ‘word’ and the value it brings to their work can be rewarding.

The internet has done much to deter and suppress good writing styles. In spite of it being a vital research and information platform, if we are not careful it will decimate the beauty and precision of our language and erode the imagination and writing skills of younger generations further. Too much information is being digested too swiftly. Social media is the prime culprit, fostering a lack of respect for our language and obstructing the desire to seek out better alternatives. Words and their meaning are abused daily through lack of orthography and the use of abbreviation and deviation.

Whilst we have benefited in overwhelming terms from the arrival of the Internet it is increasingly evident that this digital tsunami is undermining appetites for traditional reading and writing, endangering the benefits that attend these good practices. Contemplation, the art of thinking, discovery, respect and the value of written words, are replaced with shortcuts to knowledge via instant communication ‘skills’ and vocabulary lacking in substance.

We need to rally round, with collective responsibility to maintain and uphold one of the greatest inventions of all times ‘the written word’. Good quality journalism, lessons on the importance and use of words in print have never been more important.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our title has grown in content, stature, and circulation. We are constantly amazed and delighted to receive praise and accolades from readers not only in London but from all over the UK. Most people we talk to are passionate about print and reading as we are at KCW Today and agree vehemently that print should be encouraged to continue its important role in society especially more than ever before.

YOUNG PERSONS’ WORD ACADEMY

Through our work we encourage and attempt to re-kindle and ignite the importance of words and what they can do for young people in their future careers. The art of writing and the importance of the written word, and how it can work for them in the business world and their career, are just some of the roles they learn here.

SUPPORT AND DONATE

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O

f the dozen most expensive cars ever sold at auction, Ferraris, and the most money a classic car has fetched privately was also a Ferrari, in this case a 1962 GTO, which reputedly sold for $70m, which was $20m more than another GTO which sold in the saleroom for $48.4m, including fees. Way down in eleventh place was the only British car, a 1956 Aston Martin DBR1, which went for $22.8m. Slightly less practical was a 1954 Mercedes-Benz W196 ex-Juan Manuel Fangio Formula 1 GP winning car, which notched up $29.6m at a Bonhams auction at Goodwood in 2013. The beauty of buying classic cars, or clocks and watches, is that they do not attract Capital Gains Tax, as it is still regarded as a wasting asset, which makes sense when dealing with race horses, and to some extent, wine, as they have a useful life of fifty years, but when applied to say, the Duc d’Orléans Breguet Sympathétiques quarter striking clock, it was still ticking and still striking over 170 years after it was made, and it sold a few years ago for $6.9m at auction. Apart from some deeply vulgar Graff, Chopard and Jaeger-LeCoultre diamond-encrusted watches, festooned with gems and gold, and worth tens of millions, a beautiful Breguet Grande Complication Marie-Antoinette pocket watch from 1827 fetched $30m.

There is a thin line between ‘restoration’, ‘reproduction’ and ‘conservation’, and there are some unscrupulous dealers around who do little to respect the integrity of a vehicle’s provenance. Define ‘repair’ (to make good), as opposed to ‘renovate’ (to make new), ‘restore’ (to reinstate) or ‘conserve’ (to preserve by protection). Key to all these is the word ‘provenance’, this is crucial to the value of the classic racing or sports car which involves establishing the precise identity of the vehicle, a complete history of ownership, and documentation attesting the specific events in which the car participated, with reference to specific teams or drivers. Classic car collector par excellence Nick Mason bought the charred remains of a camera car that was burnt out during the filming of Steve McQueen’s turkish film _Le Mans_ in 1971, whilst being driven by Derek Bell. As he had the chassis, engine and gearbox serial numbers, he was able to ‘restore’ the Ferrari 512S to pristine condition. There are occasions when cars surface with the most slender grasp of authenticity. We have all been party to the paradox known as ‘my grandfather’s axe’, whereby ‘my father’ replaced the steel head of the proudly-displayed tool when it shattered, and ‘my son’ replaced the beechwood handle when it split. ‘My daughter’ added some tape for a better grip, but is it still ‘my grandfather’s axe’? This paradox is also known as the ‘Ship of Theseus’, as, over time, the planks of wood were replaced as they began to rot, as were the masts and sails, until every piece of the original vessel was replaced. Is this still the ship of Theseus, carrying him and the youth of Athens back and forth across the Aegean? Supposing the shipyard had kept all the rotting planks, and made another, presumably unseaworthy, ship out of the old, discarded timbers. Is this the ship of Theseus? Some unscrupulous classic car restorers have been known to fabricate two, or more, vehicles out of one crashed car. A recent landmark court ruling put the onus firmly on would-be buyers to confirm a car’s provenance, after three judges overturned an earlier ruling that saw Stanley Mann being sued by a Mrs Mercedes Travis Brewer over a 1930 Bentley Speed Six. Mrs Brewer claimed the dealer said the car had an original Speed Six engine, but she argued that was not the case, and said other parts of the car were not original either and so the Bentley could not be considered a Speed Six model. One ingenious gang of restorers went so far as to source 1920s steel from discarded railroad tracks in India to build the chassis of a fake Bugatti, enabling the car to withstand even the most stringent metallurgical analysis.

There are wine fakers out there as well, who go to extraordinary lengths to get the correct bottle, cork and label. The wine inside the bottle is usually incidental, as these wines are for buying and selling or just plain showing-off. In October 2018, Sotheby’s sold a bottle of 1945 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Grand Cru for the staggering price of $558,000, so the Chinese and Japanese markets are ripe for exploitation, as they are relatively unsophisticated when it comes to matters oenological. A couple of years ago, a Japanese millionaire on-line writer bought a dram of 1878 Macallan single malt in a hotel bar in St Moritz for 10,000 Swiss francs (£7,600), which he declared at the time, ‘it had a good taste. It’s not just the taste, but also history.’ Sadly, neither its history, nor taste, stood the test of carbon dating carried out by researchers from the University of Oxford, who smelt a rat, which suggested it was created between 1970 and 1972. Further lab tests by Fife-based alcohol analysts Tatlock and Thomson indicated that it was probably a blended Scotch, comprising 60% malt and 40% grain, ruling it out as a single malt. The hotel apologised and Mr Zhang was reimbursed. Surely everybody knows that a whisky, like brandy, left in the cask for more than twenty-odd years will start to deteriorate, as the spirit takes on the impurities of the barrel. Once in the bottle, it becomes inert. Glenmorangie used to buy _quercus alba_ (white oak) bourbon casks from America, because their laws stipulate that it can only be barreled once with sour mash bourbon whiskey, little realising that any residual raw oak flavour had disappeared and gone into the bourbon. Up to 60 per cent of the flavour and colour of whisky comes from wood. To were...

An unrestored Mercedes-Benz Gullwing 300 SL went for 35% more than a fully-restored model at a recent auction in the States, so maybe the steering-wheel is turning the other way, and that there will be an increase in ‘fake originality’ and ‘fake patina’, and will there be a speciality business in restoration work that looks like no restoration has been done at all? The largest classic car restorers in the world are not in East Sussex, or even in Switzerland. Nor are they in America. They reside in the Philippines and are run by an Australian businessman Jim Byrnes, of the Byrnes Motor Trust Restoration who has anything up to 400 Rolls-Royce and Bentleys, E-type and XK120 Jaguars, MGAs, MGBs, Sunbeam Tigers, Mustangs and Porsches. On one trip he bought 37 Jaguars languishing in a scrapyard in Texas, from which they managed to reassemble five. There is a newer trend, namely ‘continuation cars’, which are entirely new, with previously unused chassis numbers and all new components. These ‘remastered’ or ‘reborn cars’ are born again, thanks to extremely thorough restorations done in the newly-created workshops of the cars’ original manufacturers. The hope is that people will buy into an extra authenticity now revealed as not entirely present in a car restored by a specialist. In Italy, a court recently ruled that the iconic Ferrari _GTO_ was a ‘work of art’, and could not be replicated, after Ferrari brought a case against a company in Modena, Ferrari’s home town, who were planning to produce replicas. Of the 36 models made between 1962 and 1964, it is believed that 36 still survive, including the one that was sold for $48.4m by Greg Whitten, a software tycoon and early employee of Microsoft, who had bought it in 2000 for an undisclosed sum.
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Motoring at Goodwood
By Doug Nye

The Goodwood Estate, between the South Downs and Chichester in the county of Sussex, is synonymous with two great sports; top-class horses, and motor racing...

While Glorious Goodwood's horse-race connections go back over 200 years to 1802, when the then 3rd Duke of Richmond & Gordon introduced the sport on his land for the amusement of local army officers, three of his descendants have continued to earn the respect of racing car enthusiasts worldwide.

Setting the wheel rolling was Freddie Richmond, as he became known to the motor racing world. He had never expected to become the 9th Duke of Richmond and Gordon. The title should have devolved upon his five-years older brother Charles. When Freddie was born in 1905 he was plain Mr Frederick Gordon-Lennox.

It became Freddie's ambition to become an engineer, and he and big brother Charles cycled to visit Sir Henry Royce, of Rolls-Royce fame, in retirement at nearby West Wittering.

The Great War broke out, and in 1918 Charles enlisted, but was captured and was known to them as plain 'Fred Settrington'. The friendships he made and was known to them as plain ‘Fred Settrington’. The friendships he made with his workmates became, “...the most enduring of my entire life”.

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Freddie March served with the RAF, mainly as a ground controller until 1946. Immediately post-war Britain was geared to get back into the motor sport world. However, the Goodwood Estate found itself left with an abandoned aerodrome, the former RAF Westhampnett, with its surviving perimeter track intact in Freddie's back yard. In June 1946, the Cambridge University's motor club won permission to run an airfield race meeting. Freddie used this as a precedent to steer his new ambition through the bureaucratic maze of 1940s government. He had to charm the Ministries of Air, of War, Town & Country Planning, Agriculture, Works, Supply and Fuel...the Board of Trade; plus the Sussex County and Chichester Councils.

Freddie was well-regarded locally and in June 1948 it was announced that a motor race meeting was to be held at 'Goodwood' on the former RAF Westhampnett aerodrome, plus a British Grand Prix, soon after, at Silverstone airfield near Northampton.

Saturday, September 18, 1948 saw the Goodwood Motor Circuit opened, using the frost-heaved, hastily-laid wartime perimeter track resurfaced with a non-skid asphalt mix. It measured 2.4 miles round, and 30 feet wide. Sponsorship of £500 came from The Daily Graphic newspaper. The eight-race programme attracted 96 entries. BBC radio broadcast live commentary, and 15,000 excited spectators packed in.

Paul Pycroft's special-bodied SS Jaguar 100 won the opening race, and the day after his 19th birthday Stirling Moss became the day's youngest race winner, while the feature Goodwood Trophy for racing cars fell to Reg Parnell, in a sensationally exotic new Maserati Grand Prix car.

The Goodwood Motor Circuit was active as a frontline International course from 1949. Moss recalled it as "...a very special place, a circuit with a unique atmosphere, and of all the British aerodrome circuits the most rewarding whenever you got it exactly right..."

In his long career 'Golden Boy' won 22 of his 60 races there as Goodwood became a stage for superb motor racing at every conceivable level from club saloons...
and production sports cars to Formula 1 and World Championship sports and GT cars. Emergent new car makes like Cooper used Goodwood to test its new designs, ultimately to win back-to-back Formula 1 World Championship titles 1959–60.

Goodwood became a place of inspiration hosting British legends Stirling Moss, Tony Brooks, Peter Collins, Mike Hawthorn, Graham Hill, Jim Clark, Jackie Stewart et al, plus such towering racing greats as five-times World Champion Juan Manuel Fangio, his Argentine compatriot Jose Froilan Gonzalez, the first-ever Formula 1 World Champion Driver ‘Nino’ Farina, and the great Piero Taruffi all racing there.

Sports car endurance racing became a real Goodwood forte, initially with the day-into-night Goodwood Nine-Hour classics of 1952–53 and 1955. Jaguar’s factory team cars regularly led them, but broke, always to the profit of deadly British rival, Aston Martin. In 1958 the RAC Tourist Trophy race was revived at Goodwood. Aston Martin shone again, winning both that year and in 1959 Goodwood. Aston Martin again, winning both that year and in 1959 when, despite setting fire to their leading winning car to Germany and back and throw in the works Ferraris. Stirling Moss was paired with his Argentine compatriot Jose Froilan Gonzalez, the first-ever Formula 1 World Champion Driver ‘Nino’ Farina, and the great Piero Taruffi all racing there. Stirling Moss offered a deal to John Wyer to supply the car. In the event Wyer agreed and in addition to transport the car to Germany and back and throw in the service of two works mechanics. The effort was totally justified as Moss driving brilliantly dragged the car back to victory after his team mate Jack Fairman had crashed and lost several minutes digging the car out of a ditch, before getting it back to the pits. Next was Le Mans where Aston had entered works cars every year since 1949, and never managed outright victory, and after 1958 hopes were tempered, but Moss was to influence the result. His demon pace during the first hours of the race trapped Ferrari into running far above a sensible pace and their attack was mortally wounded as one by one the works cars retired through the night and early Sunday morning allowing the Roy Salvadori/Carroll Shelby car to cruise through to glorious victory after 10 years of endeavour.

So the Championship decider was at the Tourist Trophy at Goodwood. Aston Martin entered 3 cars against four works Ferraris. Stirling Moss was paired with Roy Salvadori, Jack Fairman/Carroll Shelby, and Paul Frere/Maurice Trintignant. In practice Moss set pole position time at 1’31.44 ahead of the Ferrari, Shelby was 7th in practice.

In those days the star driver could qualify in a second team car, which Moss duly did. Thank God he did for Aston Martin, the Tourist Trophy and Goodwood that September day. At the start the Aston led away, but at the pit stop after two and a half hours, disaster, as fuel from the refuelling hose split onto the hot exhaust and the car caught light, the whole pit and car including the crew were engulfed, and that was the end of it, and probably Aston Martin’s hopes. However thanks to the generosity of the Whitehead brothers, who retired their privately entered car to allow the works team a pit, and also to some decent team management by Aston Martin, who could see a way back if Moss was given his chance in the number 2 car, but particularly thanks to the genius that was Stirling Moss in those days, from the jaws of disaster, victory was snatched. Moss was installed in the second car and gave a lesson in the art of sports car driving to all who witnessed that day. His sublime car control enabled him to carve into the lead of the Ferrari team; he set fastest lap after fastest lap eventually doing a lap of 1.31.8, just 0.4sec off pole. He powered the car back into the lead, supported of course by Carroll Shelby to bring the Aston home to win by thirty two seconds, and with it the world Championship for Aston Martin. It was indeed “Glorious Goodwood” that September afternoon sixty years ago.”

Goodwood
Tourist Trophy
1959
By Maitland Cook

On 5th September 1959, 60 years ago the works entered Aston Martin DBR1/300 won the 6 hour Tourist Trophy race at Goodwood to clinch the Sports Car World Championship for the team and to seal their most successful year ever, having won the Le Mans 24 Hour Race and the Nurburgring 1000 km race. Behind the wonderful success that warm summer afternoon lays a different tale….

1958 was supposed to be the year that Aston Martin won the World Championship and Le Mans, but as so often the best laid plans go awry. They won at the Nurburgring, but failed at Le Mans, and after leading all three cars retired by early morning leaving the team to drown their sorrows….quite literally at a mammoth 6 hour drinking party back at the village of La Chartre.

For 1959 the team effort was to be focussed on the Formula 1 Programme with the sports car racing programme hampered by lack of budget. The Championship was measured on the best three results. Aston Martin did not plan to go to the Nurburgring in May, but Stirling Moss offered a deal to John Wyer, the CEO of Aston Martin, where he would pay all the expenses if they would supply the car. In the event Wyer agreed and in addition to transport the car to Germany and back and throw in the services of two works mechanics. The effort was totally justified as Moss driving brilliantly dragged the car back to victory after his team mate Jack Fairman had crashed and lost several minutes digging the car out of a ditch, before getting it back to the pits. Next was Le Mans where Aston had entered works cars every year since 1949, and never managed outright victory, and after 1958 hopes were tempered, but again Moss was to influence the result. His demon pace during the first hours of the race trapped Ferrari into running far above a sensible pace and their attack was mortally wounded as one by one the works cars retired through the night and early Sunday morning allowing the Roy Salvadori/Carroll Shelby car to cruise through to glorious victory after 10 years of endeavour.

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Motoring Events

Auctions

September 14
Goodwood Revival
America has Detroit, Italy has Modena, and Britain has Goodwood. The Revival is a must-see event on anyone’s calendar and the auction is not one to miss either. A WW2 Willys Jeep (as well as a pre-war saloon made by the same company) is joined by everything from an early Citroen 2CV based van to an obscure war saloon made by the same company (a pre-WW2 Mercedes 170) to an obscure 1968 Ford racing car. Actually, there are two obscure race cars from Ford alone, on sale here. And that’s barely scratching the surface of what’s on offer.

Goodwood Motor Circuit, PO18 0PH
bonhams.com

September 20-21
A sale of Porsches and Ferraris
Two of the most iconic brands with racing pedigrees that few can match. Enzo Ferrari famously started building road cars only to fund his passion for racing. Porsche meanwhile had production cars that very closely matched their racing counterparts, though a handful of pure thoroughbreds have slipped past Stuttgart. Everyone’s got a favourite car, but chances are you also have a favourite Ferrari as well as your ideal Porsche 911. A 250 Lusso and a very early Targa, preferably in emerald green, if you were wondering.

Dallas Burston Polo Club, Stoneythorpe Estate, Southam CV47 2DL
silverstoneauctions.com

September 21
Brooklands Motor Museum
Many consider the Series 1 Jaguar E-Type to be the most beautiful car ever made. The red convertible on sale here is joined by a grey 2+2 Coupe, as an original Mini Clubman, three Royal Enfield motorcycles, and a Mercedes coupe from the firm’s golden era of quality. Or, for something a little speedier, a 2014 AC Cobra replica.

Power comes from a 6.3 litre, or if you prefer, 383 cu in, V8 that, by American standards, qualifies it as a “small block.” It may be the perfect choice if you’d rather not go through the hassle of building your own.

Brooklands Rd, Weybridge KT13 0SL
historics.co.uk

October 5
CCA October Classic Car Sale 2019
Rally is the key word here as two of the most iconic Group B racers go under the hammer. The Lancia Delta Integrale and the Audi Quattro have etched their names into automotive folklore. Where they’re going, they don’t need roads thanks to their advanced four-wheel-drive systems that are still the basis for modern “all-wheel-drive” systems today. The Quattro in particular has gained so much notoriety that Audi’s system is still called that to this day.

November 2
Regent Street Motor Show
A showcase of 125 years of motoring including veteran, vintage, classic, and modern-day cars. Something for everyone with lots of things to see and do including interactive displays and entertainment throughout the day from 10.30am until 4pm. A family friendly environment with the Street pedestrianised from Piccadilly Circus to Oxford Circus. The usual shopping appeal of Regent Street with a great opportunity for some early Christmas shopping too!

regentstreetmotorshow.com

November 22 – December 2
LA Motor Show
Whether it’s new vehicle shopping, free test drives, experiencing the latest tech or exploring an assortment of customised rides and supercars, there is something for everyone at the show.

LA Convention Center at 1201 S Figueroa St. in Downtown Los Angeles, USA
laautoshow.com

September 12-22
IAA Frankfurt International Motor Show
Hyundai has teased an all new concept to debut here while Mercedes has revealed the EQV, an all-electric version of its Vito line of vans. Audi’s new RS6 will debut here; while the long-anticipated VW RQ and Porsche Taycan will both finally be revealed at the show.

These are all new electric cars that both brands have been testing for over a year. Opel, Vauxhall’s sister brand, will also reveal a green rally car based on the Corsa.

Frankfurt, Germany
iaa.de

October 10-13
Rally Legend
One of the most exciting sorts (types) of motorsport, rally has created some great stories. From modified hatchbacks like the Metro 6R4 to purpose-built thoroughbreds like the Lancia Stratos, this is the place to see some of the greatest cars ever to drive where the going gets rough.

San Marino, Italy
rallylegend.com

October 24-27
Auto-moto d’Epoque
The biggest vintage car and spare parts market in Europe, this has been the biggest international event for motoring enthusiasts and for fans of the wider culture tied to the automotive field for years. At Auto-moto d’Epoque, collectors and aficionados can choose between more than 4,000 cars put up for sale by the main car manufacturers, and find original spare parts and automobilia of all prices and makes.

Padua, Italy
auto motodepoca.com

November 15-17
Interclassics Brussels
Brussels, Belgium
The fifth edition of InterClassics Brussels will pay tribute to five of the most legendary car designers in history. A unique collection of classic cars designed by Pininfarina, Bertone, Zagato, Touring and Ghia will be on display from 15 through 17 November 2019 at the Heyzelduring InterClassics Brussels at the Brussels Expo. A total of fifteen classic cars will bring the history of these great Italian designers to life.

interclassics.be

RACES

Formula 1
September 20-22, Singapore Grand Prix
September 27-29, Russian Grand Prix
October 11-13, Japanese Grand Prix
October 25-27, Mexican Grand Prix
November 1-3, Malaysia Grand Prix

World Endurance Championship 2019
August 30, 4 hours of Silverstone
October 4, 6 hours of Fuji
November 8, 4 hours of Shanghai

World Rally Championship
August 22-25, ADAC Rallye Deutschland
September 12-15, Rally Turkey
October 3-10, Wales Rally GB

World Endurance Championship
August 22-25, Singapore Grand Prix
September 27-29, Russian Grand Prix
October 11-13, Japanese Grand Prix
October 25-27, Mexican Grand Prix
November 1-3, Malaysia Grand Prix

Formula 1

Formula 1

Formula 1

Formula 1
The Mini turns 60
By Fahad Redha

It’s almost impossible to imagine what small cars today would be like if not for the Mini. Alec Issigonis’ design was a great example of getting something right the first time. In his quest for maximum interior space he hit the jackpot. By turning the engine 90 degrees so that it runs along the width of the car, and combining the engine and transmission into a transaxle, the Mini boasted a level of packaging that is hard to beat.

Today, cars of all sizes follow this basic layout. Even some mid-engined sports cars, including the Lamborghini Miura and a number of Lotus models, employ this basic concept. Moving its little wheels to the corners of the car also helped free up interior space. But this had another added advantage. This made it more apt to turn than a car with larger overhangs (the bit of body that extends beyond the wheels). That helped give it legendary go-kart like handling, giving it great success in rally where shorter wheelbases are preferred to high powered brutes.

Purists who insist that the best cars are rear-wheel drive may lament one of the Mini’s influences. Before it came along it was only a quirk on some French cars. But as the Mini became popular it proved itself as a better layout for regular, affordable cars. Aside from the space advantage, having the engine over the driven wheels also helped reduce the turning circle and gave the car more traction over rough terrain, something anyone who’s driven an empty pickup truck can attest to!

Cars driven by the proletariat have moved on to this layout because as far as the consumer is concerned, it’s more usable every day. They can leave the drifting to the bourgeoisie in their BMW M3s and Mazda RX-7. Though it is worth mentioning that one of the last holdouts in rear-wheel drive was the Toyota Corolla. One of its selling points against rivals from Datsun and Honda was exactly that. But in the 1980s it too succumbed. With over 44 million sold, it is the best-selling car of all time. Draw whatever conclusion you want from that.

Since BMW acquired the brand in the 90s it has reinvented the Mini. While some may decry the new car as not being a true Mini, there’s no denying its success. It is bigger than the original, but relative to modern cars, it’s still small enough to be considered ‘mini.’ And it keeps the original’s short overhangs and go-kart handling characteristics.

There are lots of cars that have made an impact to the cars we drive today, from the Model T Ford to the E-Type Jaguar. But few have remained as ingrained in people’s imagination as the Mini. Anyone, even someone who knows next to nothing about cars, can recognise one immediately. And if nothing else, that alone is worthy of respect.

Regent Street to become Route 66

Already established as the country’s biggest free-to-view car-themed spectacle enjoyed by more than 500,000 visitors, this year’s glittering Illinois’ Route 66 Regent Street Motor Show (Saturday 2 November) will also serve as one of the stand-out events marking Regent Street’s distinguished 200th anniversary. Adding to the excitement, the Show is teaming up with Illinois Route 66 for the third year in succession.

It was back in 1819 that Regent Street took its name from the Prince Regent who had instructed celebrated architect John Nash to build London’s first purpose-built shopping street, and what is today a world-famous global destination set right in the heart of the capital city.

To mark this momentous milestone, several stylish celebrations are planned along the length of Nash’s iconic curve throughout the forthcoming months including, of course, the Regent Street Motor Show. As tradition dictates, the crowd-pleasing attraction will be staged on the eve of the Bonham’s ‘London to Brighton Veteran Car Run’ and will feature a magical mix of motoring past, present and future.

Though Regent Street precedes the introduction of Karl Benz’s game-changing 1885 Motorwagen, its hallowed facades have witnessed the full evolution of motoring from those early days of self-propelled horseless carriages right up to the latest city-friendly electric cars; an amazing journey through time, echoes of which will be reflected in the landmark 2019 Show.

As ever the formative early days will be wonderfully represented by more than a hundred extraordinary pre-1905 pioneers taking part in the annual ‘Veteran Car Concours d’Elegance’ before heading off on their route to Brighton at first light the following morning. The unique concours is always an huge attraction, even more so as many of the intrepid time-travellers, who come from all over the world to be part of the occasion, are dressed in eye-catching period costumes.

At the other end of the spectrum, ‘the Motor Show’ always provides a glimpse into the next 200 years of powered personal transportation with thought-provoking displays of futuristic vehicles, many propelled by the latest innovative generation of low carbon drivetrains.

Equally arresting collections of evocative classic and desirable contemporary cars bridge the decades between the dawn and impending eras of motoring and take on even more significance this year with Regent Street honouring its full history both as a major thoroughfare and as an internationally renowned shopping destination.

Whether it is a road trip on Route 66 or a visit to Regent Street in its 200th year, there is lots to savour in 2019. Further details of the not-to-be-missed Show will be revealed in the coming months.

For more information, visit regentstreetmotorshow.com

Glorious Goodwood

ISBN: 978-1-47212-824-9
322 pages.
Publisher: Constable
£25.00

For centuries the Goodwood estate has been the home of English sport.

This fascinating account brings to life the story of how a small hunting lodge became the iconic location for the world famous Festival of Speed, a story intricately bound up with that of the Dukes of Richmond.

The dukes were great ‘movers and shakers’ of their time; art patrons, political influencers, royal confidants, architectural innovators, but above all they were passionate supporters of the sports for which Goodwood is famous: horseracing, motorsport, foxhunting, cricket, flying, shooting and golf. The author James Peill vividly captures their story and the character of each duke; some of whom were radical innovators, others steadfastly traditional, each having a wide-ranging impact on the development of Goodwood towards what it is today.

This story unfolds within the broader context of English history, taking the reader on a journey through time from the seventeenth century to the present day. Beginning with Charles II and his mistress Louise de Keroualle, the parents of the first duke, Glorious Goodwood introduces us to a world of historical figures who have played a part in this story, including George Stubbs, Canaletto, the Emperor of Russia, Queen Victoria, Jackie Stewart and Edward VII, who famously hosted Privy Council meetings in the Tapestry Drawing room at Goodwood during raceweek.

There is a rich sense throughout of the uniquely British heritage embodied in Goodwood and the way that this has been shaped over time. The author James Peill is the curator of the Goodwood Collection and his intimate knowledge of the subject combines with an engaging writing style to create an evocative insight into this little gem of history, culture and sport nestling in the glorious English countryside. Phillippe James
Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today

**Vintage**

*The Vintage Collection*

**BY JASMINE ROSSELL**

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**Antiques**

**Ebury Trading**
Lavender Hill, Clapham, London, SW11 5QJ
020 7788 0881
www.eburytrading.co.uk
Unique antiques which include lights, decorative art and furniture.

**Ed Butcher**
Studio 9, 65-69 Lots Rd, Chelsea, London, SW10 0RN
020 7751 4474
www.edbutcher.com
Features mid-century furniture, lighting, accessories, art and props.

**Grays Antiques**
Grays, 58 Davies Street, London, W1K 5LP
020 7629 7034
www.graysantiques.com
Vintage fashion, glassware and jewellery.

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**Specialises in original Folk Art and Vernacular Furniture.**

**The French House**
Unit 15, Parsons Green Depot, 33-39 Parsons Green Lane, London, SW6 4HH
020 7371 1753
www.thefrenchhouse.co.uk
Antique mirrors, garden ware, architectural furniture, beds, storage and many more.

**The Old Cinema**
160 Clapham High Road, London, SW4 1PR
020 895 4166
www.theoldcinema.co.uk
Vintage furniture from various styles and eras.

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**Hat Shops:**

**Pip Hackett Millinery**
Studio 54, Great Western Studios, 65 Alfred Road, London, W2 5EU
020 7723 1102
www.piphackett.co.uk
Hats that range from the 1940s film noir, to Victorian and the Roaring Twenties.

**Atelier Millinery**
30 Windmill Street, London, W1T 2JL
020 734 3848
www.ateliermillinery.com
Classic headwear for men and women including flat caps, bridal styles, berets and more.

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**Jewellers:**

**The Antique Jewellery Company**
First Floor, 49 Maddox St, Mayfair, London, W1S 2PQ
020 7206 2477
www.antiquejewellerycompany.com
Homemade jewellery, from vintage to modern and everything in between.

**The Vintage Jeweller**
32 Hatton Garden, Holborn, London, EC1N 8DL
0800 689 5265
www.thevintagejeweller.co.uk
Vintage and antique pieces, designer, contemporary and fine jewellery.

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**Bag Shops:**

**Bagista**
Bagista Ltd, 122 King’s Road, Kings Walk Shopping Centre, Unit 7, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TR
020 3940 9822
www.bagista.co.uk
Vintage and antique pieces, designer, contemporary and fine jewellery.

**Handbag Clinic**
382 Kings Road, Chelsea, SW3 5UZ
020 3771 7846
www.handbagclinic.co.uk
Designer bags, vintage and second-hand bags.

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**Bookshops:**

**Henry Pordes Books**
58-60 Charing Cross Rd, London, WC2H 0BB, United Kingdom
020 7836 9031
www.henripordesbooks.com
Old and antiquarian books and modern favourites.

**Peter Harrington**
100 Fulham Road, London, SW3 6HS
020 7591 0220
www.peterharrington.co.uk
Historian, literature, photography, vintage, travel bookands many more.

**Shapero Rare Books**
32 Saint George Street, London, W1S 2EA
020 749 0876
www.shapero.com
15th to 20th century books, history, children’s books and more.

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**Bridal Wear Shop:**

**Jane Bourvis**
7 Portobello Green Arcade, 281, Portobello Road, London, W10 5TZ
020 876 3603
www.janebourvis.com
Antique wedding dresses, headpieces and veils.

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**Clothes Shops:**

**Beyond Retro Vintage Clothing**
58-59 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1F 7JY
020 7836 5647
www.beyondretro.com
Men and women’s clothes from the 1960s to the 1990s.

**Rokit**
42 Shelton Street, London, WC2H 9HZ
020 7836 5647
www.rokit.co.uk
Men, women and children’s clothes shop with a variety of vintage, designer and modern-day clothing.

**Circa Vintage**
64 Fulham High St, Hammersmith, London, SW6 3LP
020 7736 5038
www.circa-vintage.com
Women’s clothing store with collections that include antique and designer vintage clothing.

**The Vintage Showroom**
Seven Dials, 14 Earlham St, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9HZ
020 7836 3964
www.thevintageshowroom.com
Men’s clothes shop that offers a wide collection of vintage hats, clothes, footwear and jewellery.

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**Comics:**

**30th Century Comics**
18 Lower Richmond Road, Putney, London, SW15 1JP
020 8788 2052
30thcenturycomics.co.uk
Vintage American comics, vintage British comics and annuals and books that range from the 1900s –1980s.
Museums:

Pollocks Toy Museum
1 Scala Street, London, W1T 2HL
0207 636 3452
pollocks@pollocks.com
Victorian toys, tin toys, dolls, teddy bears, folk toys and toys from all around the world.

London Sewing Machine Museum
Balham High Rd, Tooting Bec, London, SW17 7BA
020 8767 4724
www.craftysewer.com
London Sewing Machine Museum has more than 600 sewing machines on display, all ranging from the 1850s to the 1950s.

British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum
23 Rosendale Road, London, SE21 8DS
020 8670 3667
bvwm.org.uk
A collection of early radios, televisions, loudspeakers and radiograms.

Camera Museum
44 Museum St, Holborn, London, WC1A 1LY
020 7242 8681
www.cameramuseum.uk
Displays a wide range of cameras from the 1800s to the current digital age.

Sweet Shop:

Hardy’s Original Sweet Shop
25 New Row, Covent Garden, London, WC2N 4LA, 01992 568 603
www.hardysweets.co.uk
Vintage, retro, modern and American sweets guaranteed to satisfy everyone’s taste buds.

Events:

Art Festival
Vintage By The Sea
31st of August and 1st of September 2019
Marine Rd W, Morecambe, LA4 4BU
01524 424 000
www.vintagefestival.co.uk
Music, markets, art, food and beverage, fairground and more.

Auction

Barons Classic Car Auction
Car Viewing: 19th of September 2019, 15:00pm - 19:00pm
Auction: 20th of September 2019, 9:00am – 1:00pm
Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Rd, Esher KT10 9AJ
023 8086 8409
www.barons-auctions.com
A Jaguar heritage, classic and sports car auction.

Kerry Taylor Auctions
14th of October 2019
Kerry Taylor Auctions LTD 249-253 Long Lane, Bermondsey, London, SE1 4PR
020 8876 4600
kerrytaylorauctions.com
An Antique, vintage fashion and textiles auction.

Classic Car Night
10th of September 2019 18:00pm – 23:00pm
Ace Corner North, Circular Road, Stonebridge, NW10 7UD London, United Kingdom
020 8961 1000
www.london.acecafe.com
Join other classic car owners to appreciate and celebrate all kinds of classic cars together.

Vintage Fair

Hammersmith Vintage Fashion Fair
15th of September and the 13th of October 2019
Both at 10:30am – 16:30pm
Hilton London Olympia Hotel, Kensington High Street, London, W14 8NL
020 8843 3028
www.pa-antiques.co.uk
Handbags, clothes, embroidery, shoes, hats, gowns, textiles and many more at the fair.

Bethnal Greens Affordable Vintage Fair
13th of October 2019 10:30am – 16:30pm
York Hall, 5 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London, E2 8PJ
www.judyvintagefair.co.uk
Shop for vintage, handmade and retro items at the east London event that features over 60 stalls.

Frock Me
6th of October 2019 11:00am-17:30pm
Kings Rd, SW3 9EE London, United Kingdom
Chelse Old Town Hall.
www.frockmevintagefashion.com
Expect to find all things vintage at the Frock Me Fair with over 60 exhibitors and fashion from the 1920s to current.

Flea Market
Open every Saturday from 11:00am-18:00am
And Sunday’s from 10:00am-17:00pm
Vinegar Yard, St Thomas St, Bermondsey, London SE1 3QJ
www.realondon.com
A vintage fair that will offer a selection of vintage clothes, furniture, vinyl, accessories and many more.

VINTAGE AT GOODWOOD REVIVAL 2019

Sara Tiara
173 Portobello Road
London, W11 2DY
01202 280017
www.saratiar.com
Unique headwear and garments.

London Vintage Luggage
18 Delancey St, London, NW1 7NH, United Kingdom
07850936469
www.londonvintageluggage.com
Antique items, vintage props, luggage and trunks.

Froggy Went Courting
Unit 10, Topland’s Country Business Park, Cragg Vale, West Yorkshire, HX7 5RU
07972 913 105
froggywentcourting.co.uk
Specialising in men’s 1920s, 1930s and 1940s fashion.

Collectif Clothing
71 Brushfield Street, Old Spitalfields Market, London, E1 6AA
020 7702 3155
www.collectif.co.uk
Vintage clothing from stand-out fashion eras for both men and women.

Voodoo Vixen
Bansal House, Bracknell Industrial Estate 185 Forest Road, Essex United Kingdom, IG6 3HX
020 8543 3028
www.voodoovixen.co.uk
Specialises in women’s 1920s to 1960s fashion.

House Of Foxy
1st Floor, Unit 3, Wellington Mills Quebec Street, E1 6AA
01422 376 461
www.thehouseoffoxy.com
Women’s vintage clothes shop that specialises in 1920s to 1960s clothing.
60 years of buckling up
By Fahad Redha

In the world of medicine, there is a concept called herd immunity. Since there will always be people who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, they rely on the rest of the herd being vaccinated to keep them safe from infectious diseases. So, when you get the jab for your children, you’re not just keeping them safe from diseases like measles and polio, you’re protecting many other people as well.

Seatbelts work on a similar principle. Being buckled up of course keeps you from ploughing into the dash. But it will also keep you from becoming a projectile across the cabin. It therefore protects everyone in the car as well. Few inventions have had as big of an impact as the three-pointed seatbelt which, like the Mini, turned 60 this year; the 13th of August to be precise.

But while the Mini was a commercial success for British Leyland, the three-pointed seatbelt has been a life-saving invention. Volvo which invented it, knew immediately what an important invention it was. No wonder the company chose not to patent it and allow any other company to use its design.

The idea came from the world of aviation. Nils Bohlin was a former aviation engineer who was recruited by the company in the 1950s. His previous line of work had been ejector seats. The Swedish car-maker tasked him with using his expertise on the extreme forces that a crash can have on the human body. His job was to apply this towards keeping the passengers inside the vehicle.

The late 1950s were not a good time to be in a crash. Few cars even had seatbelts of any kind and those that did wrapped it only around your lap. It’s better than nothing, but not much else. Your head and upper body is still free to move in a crash. And given the design of dashboards at the time, particularly in America, this never ended well. “Most occupants were like yolks in an egg,” according to Car and Driver’s Alexander Stoklosa, “waiting to be scrambled.”

Bohlin’s design helped ensure that the forces of the crash were distributed more evenly across strong areas of the body. It also helped keep the vital parts from flying at something or someone in the cabin.

The first cars ever sold to customers with this technology were the Volvo PV544 and Amazon 120, though initially only in the Nordic countries. The company spent a long time convincing the rest of the industry of the value of three-pointed seatbelts. It went as far as to put on demonstrations and presentations with live-action crash test dummy demonstrations and also cited its own data and research proving their worth. The company tracked 28,000 crashes in Sweden and was able to prove that deaths and injuries dropped by 50-60 percent.

Taking all of this into account, it’s no wonder that Volvo is such a byword for safety. While it may not have the glamour of a racing pedigree, it’s definitely something that should be appreciated.
BUSINESS

See website for more information
International Chamber of Commerce
The ICC delivers a wide range of high-level events in the UK and overseas; roundtables, seminars, side events and conferences, offering a host of opportunities to communicate key messages, discuss world business issues and meet international business experts.

September 10
Speed Networking with Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea Chamber Holiday Inn
This will be a fast-paced event of half an hour of speed networking swiftly enabling you to meet many more guests than typically before a more leisurely chance to network while enjoying delicious wine and canapes at the newly refurbished Holiday Inn. Please don’t forget to bring lots of business cards.

September 12
Lewisham Breakfast Meeting
Lewisham Way
It is said to “hope for the best and prepare for the worst”. Protecting your business will help business to reduce impacts of incidents that might affect delivering a service. There will be a talk about Business Continuity, types of incidents that could affect a business and best practise. The second part of the workshop will be a table-top exercise for attendees to identify risks to their business and work through a scenario.

September 19
Member 2 Member Cocktail & Exhibition
The French Residence
The French Chamber of Great Britain’s largest Cocktail & Exhibition of the Year: 18 exhibitors and 170 participants in 2018! With the chance to book a stand space, this is a unique opportunity to present your products and services to the French Chamber’s network. Or choose to attend and discover more about your fellow members! This is the 20th edition of this much loved event.

September 19
CulturED 2019: A Teachers’ Networking Event
The Place
This year’s CulturED will explore the themes of communication, identity, environment and well-being, with creative workshops run by the British Museum, Cubitt Artists, House of Illustration, Into Film, Jewish Museum, London Metropolitan Archives, October Gallery, The Place, The Poetry Society, The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, Roundhouse and Wac Arts. The evening is suitable for both primary
Events

September 26
Setting up your business in the UK: from Ideas to Inception, Key Challenges and Solutions
Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK
Is your company considering expanding into the UK market, or are you in the initial stages of doing just that? Held in collaboration with Strain Keville solicitors, members of the Chamber, this breakfast seminar seeks to address key obstacles of setting up a business in the UK and how to overcome these and other concerns you may have.
020 7009 9070
126 Wigmore St, Marylebone, London W1U 3RZ

October 1
First Tuesday Networking
Radisson Blu Edwardian V
The evening will take place in the Scoff & Banter Bar and Restaurant at the historic Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt Hotel in the heart of Kensington. Enjoy a cocktail at the specially commissioned contemporary glass bar, before heading into the light and airy restaurant with its wooden floors and unusual objects d’art.

Hotel
020 7795 0304
68-86 Cromwell Rd, South Kensington, London SW7 5BT
www.KCWToday.co.uk

October 2
Showcase your Business & pitch for funding to Angels & VCs
WeWork Fox Court
It’s Time to Stop Learning and Start Doing! This event is designed to help you showcase your business in front of an audience of investors what your business is all about!
020 3695 7895
14 Grays Inn Rd, Holborn, London WC1X 8HN
businessfundingshow.com

DANCE & OPERA
Ongoing
The Phantom of the Opera
Her Majesty’s Theatre
Lurking deep beneath the lavish Paris Opera House lives the Phantom. A ashamed of his physical deformities and an object of intense fear among the public, he lives in the shadows. The Phantom has one companion, Christiane Daae, his protégée and the object of his obsessive love. The Phantom of the Opera is gloriously grand in style. The show’s immensity of plot, its scenery and, of course, its music, has drawn over 100 million people worldwide to see it. Powerful narrative and traditional illusion have come together to create the most successful theatre show in history.
57 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QI
phantomoftheopera.fromtheboxoffice.com

Ongoing
Live at Lunch
Royal Opera House
Drop by for free lunchtime performances, featuring Royal Opera House artists and guest artists. Experience an exciting programme of free lunchtime performances inspired by the heritage of the Royal Opera House and its operas and ballets. Artists from The Royal Opera, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, The Royal Ballet and a range of guest artists perform in the newly opened-up spaces of the Royal Opera House.
020 7304 4000
Bow St, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD
roh.org.uk

September 12
Stuart Waters: Rock Bottom
The Place
A place where transformation can happen. Rockbottom is a riveting exploration of one man’s journey into and out of the deep end of human existence. Combining bold storytelling with highly physical choreography, Rockbottom is a moving and incredibly honest self-portrait of personal struggle with depression and addiction. Sharing the highs and lows in his semi-autobiographical story with humour, warmth and honesty, choreographer and performer Stuart Waters shines a light on the roles of resilience and support in recovery. This thought-provoking night-out is a reflective tool for everyone concerned with mental well-being.
020 7271 1100
17 Duke’s Road, London WC1H 9PY
thelplace.org.uk

September 12
Stuart Waters: Rock Bottom
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A place where transformation can happen. Rockbottom is a riveting exploration of one man’s journey into and out of the deep end of human existence. Combining bold storytelling with highly physical choreography, Rockbottom is a moving and incredibly honest self-portrait of personal struggle with depression and addiction. Sharing the highs and lows in his semi-autobiographical story with humour, warmth and honesty, choreographer and performer Stuart Waters shines a light on the roles of resilience and support in recovery. This thought-provoking night-out is a reflective tool for everyone concerned with mental well-being.
020 7271 1100
17 Duke’s Road, London WC1H 9PY
thelplace.org.uk

September 17
“Gli sposi malcontenti”
St John’s Smith Square
Newly-wed Casimiro and Eginia hardly seem to be enjoying a state of marital bliss. Why does Eginia sleep on her own, and why is her ex, Artidoro, still hanging around? He now seems to have his own, and why is her ex, Artidoro, still hanging around? He now seems to have
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Bow St, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD
roh.org.uk

September 17
“Gli sposi malcontenti”
St John’s Smith Square
Newly-wed Casimiro and Eginia hardly seem to be enjoying a state of marital bliss. Why does Eginia sleep on her own, and why is her ex, Artidoro, still hanging around? He now seems to have an eye for the undoubted charms of Casimiro’s sister, Enrichetta, but she’s also attracted the lustful interest of dull

The Decorative Antiques & Textiles FAIR

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British Museum
Artistic exchange between East and West has a long and intertwined history, and the exhibition picks these stories up from the 15th century, following cultural interactions that can still be felt today. Objects from Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa highlight a centuries-old tradition of influence and exchange from East to West. The diverse selection of objects which include ceramics, photography, glass, jewellery and clothing, as well as contemporary art, showcasing how artistic exchange influenced a variety of visual and decorative arts. The exhibition concludes with a 21st century perspective, through the eyes of four female artists from the Middle East and North Africa who continue to question and subvert the idea of Orientalism in their work and explore the subject of Muslim female identity.
020 7323 8000
britishmuseum.org

Japan Matsuri
London’s very own festival of Japan returns to Trafalgar Square. A regular fixture now in the London calendar, this free annual festival brings people together to enjoy Japanese food, music, dance, and activities for all the family.

House of Illustration
Posy Simmonds' sharp satire and progressive female characters have defined a career spanning 50 years. The exhibition will feature her early-career pastiches, iconic cartoon strips for The Guardian and children's books such as Fred, which became an Oscar-nominated film. It will also include the first ever British graphic novel, True Love, unseen pages from Tamara Drewe and drawings from Simmonds’ new 2018 book, Cassandra Darke.
020 3696 2020
houseofillustration.org.uk

Japan Matsuri
September 29
Trafalgar Square

FAIRS & FESTIVALS
September 29
Japan Matsuri
Trafalgar Square

and dusty Dr Valente, a man likely to turn nasty if thwarted…
020 7222 1061
St John’s Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA
sjss.org.uk

EXHIBITIONS
Ongoing Museum of the Moon
Natural History Museum
A six-metre spherical sculpture, features detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Allowing visitors the chance to see the far side of the Moon, the artwork will offer a new and exciting perspective of Earth’s celestial neighbour. The sculpture is accompanied by a surround-sound composition by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones. Suspended from the ceiling and lit from within, the Moon will create a show-stopping centrepiece within the Museum, offering a space for reflection within the Museum, visitors can contemplate their own relationship with the Moon and its influence on life on Earth.
020 7416 5000
Lambeth Road London SE1 6HZ

Ongoing Turn It Up: On Paradoxes
Horniman Museum
Jide Odukoya’s photographic series shows Nigeria abuzz through the lens of traditional Nigerian weddings, presented as some of the world’s most opulent ceremonies. Turn It Up: On Paradoxes deploys a critical lens to explore the paradox of parallel Nigerian worlds; contrasting cosmopolitan affluence and extravagance, with underlying economic poverty. His work focuses on global consumerism and overindulgence, Nigeria’s contagious spirit of celebration, and moments of everyday intimacy.
020 8699 1872
100 London Rd, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ
horniman.ac.uk

Ongoing First World War galleries
The Imperial War Museum
Discover the story of the First World War through the eyes of the British people and the Empire, both on the home and the fighting fronts. On display are over 1,300 objects from IWM’s collections including weapons, uniforms, diaries, keepsakes, film and art. Each object on display gives a voice to the people who created them, used them or cared for them, and reveals stories not only of destruction, suffering and loss, but also endurance and innovation, duty and devotion, comradeship and love.
020 7746 5000
Lambeth Road London SE1 6HZ

Ongoing Turn It Up: On Paradoxes
Horniman Museum
Jide Odukoya’s photographic series shows Nigeria abuzz through the lens of traditional Nigerian weddings, presented as some of the world’s most opulent ceremonies. Turn It Up: On Paradoxes deploys a critical lens to explore the paradox of parallel Nigerian worlds; contrasting cosmopolitan affluence and extravagance, with underlying economic poverty. His work focuses on global consumerism and overindulgence, Nigeria’s contagious spirit of celebration, and moments of everyday intimacy.
020 8699 1872
100 London Rd, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ

Turn It Up: On Paradoxes
Horniman Museum

Posy Simmonds' sharp satire and progressive female characters have defined a career spanning 50 years. The exhibition will feature her early-career pastiches, iconic cartoon strips for The Guardian and children’s books such as Fred, which became an Oscar-nominated film. It will also include the first ever British graphic novel, True Love, unseen pages from Tamara Drewe and drawings from Simmonds’ new 2018 book, Cassandra Darke.
020 3696 2020
2 Granary Square, King’s Cross, London N1C 4BH
houseofillustration.org.uk

September 28-29
All Change!
London Transport Museum
The next stop is the Acton Depot. For the September Open Weekend, the museum has been inspired by the golden age of travel and London’s rich heritage of rail termini. Hear about the ambitious visions for these striking buildings, from the celebrated to the condemned. Discover how the creation of new rail routes transformed the lives of city dwellers and continue to play a significant role in how residents and visitors travel around London.
0343 222 5000
Covent Garden Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7BB
ltmuseum.co.uk

Posy Simmonds: A Retrospective
House of Illustration

British Museum
Artistic exchange between East and West has a long and intertwined history, and the exhibition picks these stories up from the 15th century, following cultural interactions that can still be felt today. Objects from Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa highlight a centuries-old tradition of influence and exchange from East to West. The diverse selection of objects which include ceramics, photography, glass, jewellery and clothing, as well as contemporary art, showcasing how artistic exchange influenced a variety of visual and decorative arts. The exhibition concludes with a 21st century perspective, through the eyes of four female artists from the Middle East and North Africa who continue to question and subvert the idea of Orientalism in their work and explore the subject of Muslim female identity.
020 7323 8000
Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3DG
britishmuseum.org

FAIRS & FESTIVALS
September 29
Japan Matsuri
Trafalgar Square

London’s very own festival of Japan returns to Trafalgar Square. A regular fixture now in the London calendar, this free annual festival brings people together to enjoy Japanese food, music, dance, and activities for all the family.
japannmatsuri.com
Events

September 30 – October 6
Battersea Park
A family-owned fair that launched in 1985, the first to specifically unite the antiques and interior design trades. Today it holds three events a year: A Winter Fair in January, a Spring Fair in April and an Autumn Fair during the busy ‘design season’ in late September. 020 7616 9327
Battersea, London SW11 4NJ
decorativefair.com

October 3 – November 1
Festival of Film
Royal Albert Hall
Damian Gough, aka Badly Drawn Boy, comes to the Hall to discuss his acclaimed soundtrack to 2002’s About a Boy, while a trio of silent film classics will be presented with live accompaniment: Keaton’s comic masterpiece, The General, and the decidedly eerie German Expressionist The halls annual celebration of movie music is being headlined by spectacular Films in Concert presentations of Skyfall, Baahubali – The Beginning and Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire, in the main auditorium, alongside a first ever ‘symphonic battle’ between in the current rise of all festivals, inspiring countless other vegan way in creating dynamic uplifting vegan.

Weekends until December 22
Southbank Centre Food Market
Delighting foodies and explorers alike, our market is home to some of the best street food in London. Our stall-holders are passionate about cooking up dishes bursting with fresh, vibrant flavours from across the globe. No wonder our market is one of London’s top food destinations. Find the market on Southbank Centre Square each weekend, including bank holidays. 020 3879 9555
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX
southbankcentre.co.uk

Excel London
The show is brimming with all things to do with baking, decorating and sugarcraft. Gain insight from celebrity experts, stock your shelves with the latest baking equipment, and be wowed by our spectacular Cake Competition and exquisite display tables, plus many more treats for your taste buds! It’s a fabulously sweet day out! 020 7069 5000
Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, Royal Docks, London E16 1XL
excel.london

October 26-27
Vegfest
Olympia
The UK’s biggest vegan festival VegfestUK makes its return to the iconic Olympia London for the 7th consecutive year on October 26th 27th 2019. Since 2003, VegfestUK has led the way in creating dynamic uplifting vegan festivals, inspiring countless other vegan events across the globe, and playing a central part in the current rise of all things vegan. Harmsworth Rd, Hammersmith, London W14 8UX
london.vegfest.co.uk

Ongoing
Go Ape
Battersea Park
For the fully-grown Tarzans and Janes, you won’t even feel like you’re in the city, as you’ll be fully immersed in the pursuit to conquer some of the longest and highest crossings for a full 2-3 hours. Friendly instructors are ready and waiting to propel the youngsters into a leafy world of canopies too, including bridges and zip wires. 01603 895500
Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ
goape.co.uk

October 11
Astronights
Science Museum
An overnight science extravaganza at the Science Museum. If your child has ever wanted to explore the Museum after dark, or if the idea of spending the night in one of our iconic galleries fills them with excitement, then they’ll love Astronights, sleepover for children. With workshops, science shows and activities, rounded off with breakfast and a breathtaking IMAX 3D film; it will be a night they never forget. 020 7942 4000
Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD
sciencemuseum.org.uk

December 11 – January 5
The Paper Dolls
Polka Theatre
New Wimbledon Studio Theatre
When a little girl makes a string of paper dolls, she takes them by the hand and their carers to dance together and have fun here at Sadler’s Wells. Led by professional dancers, come along to this unique opportunity designed to encourage young children aged 2-4 to do with baking, decorating and sugarcraft. Gain insight from celebrity experts, stock your shelves with the latest baking equipment, and be wowed by our spectacular Cake Competition and exquisite display tables, plus many more treats for your taste buds! It’s a fabulously sweet day out! 020 3879 9555
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX
southbankcentre.co.uk

FAMILY & CHILDREN

See website for dates
Family Fridays
Sadler’s Wells
A new monthly workshop that encourages young children aged 2-4 and their carers to dance together and have fun here at Sadler’s Wells. Led by professional dancers, come along to this unique opportunity designed to start you and the little ones on a dance journey. These sessions will cover a range of dance styles and will encourage co-operation, creative thinking and social interaction. 020 7863 8000
Hammersmith Rd, Hammersmith, London W14 8UX

Ongoing
Sadler’s Wells Theatre
Family Fridays
See website for dates
Sadler’s Wells Theatre
See website for dates
Sadler’s Wells Theatre

A new monthly workshop that encourages young children aged 2-4 and their carers to dance together and have fun here at Sadler’s Wells. Led by professional dancers, come along to this unique opportunity designed to start you and the little ones on a dance journey. These sessions will cover a range of dance styles and will encourage co-operation, creative thinking and social interaction. 020 7863 8000
Mezzanine level, Sadler’s Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4TN
sadlerswells.com

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Cobb, The Paper Dolls comes to life with stunning puppetry and original music in Polka Theatre's much-loved production.
0844 871 7646
93 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QG
polkatheatre.com

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

Until October 6
Urban Impulses: Latin American photography from 1959 to 2016
The Photographers' Gallery
Featuring the work of over seventy photographers and artists, Urban Impulses embraces half a century of Latin American photography from 1959 to 2016. Offering a diversity of artistic approaches, from street documentary to collage, the show traces a constellation of significant historical events that have marked the region: the Cuban revolution, military dictatorships in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay, along with mass social movements which, in still unconsolidated democracies, have given way to repression.
020 7087 9300
16-18 Ramillies St, Soho, London W1F 7LW
thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Ongoing
Moons Beyond Counting
Royal Observatory
Discover the moons of the Solar System in this brand-new show narrated by our Royal Observatory astronomers.

From the Earth's closest neighbour in space, our Moon, to the moons of the distant gas giants, this show explores our Solar System's natural satellites. Voiced by Royal Observatory astronomers, discover more about the appearance and features of our own moon, as well as a selection of the many different kinds of moons out there that orbit the other planets.
020 8858 4422
Blackheath Ave, Greenwich, London SE10 8XJ
rmg.co.uk

Robert Capa: D-Day In 35mm
Imperial War Museum
On 6 June 1944 Robert Capa landed on the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach with the 16th Infantry Regiment of the US Army. Born in Hungary, Capa made his name as a photojournalist covering the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), capturing evocative images that were published in magazines across Europe and America. On display are 10 of the photographs taken by Capa during the assault on Omaha Beach, alongside personal accounts and objects related to Allied soldiers who landed that fateful day.
020 7416 5000
Lambeth Rd, London SE1 6HZ
iwm.org.uk

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September 15
Children in distress
Foundling Museum
Listen to a new composition alongside works from Vivaldi, Schubert and Brahms, on the theme of children. The Avant Piano Trio and singer Natasha Day present a programme of music exploring stories of children in danger, and the safety of a home. Enjoy a newly-commissioned piece alongside music by Vivaldi, Schubert and Brahms.
020 7841 3600
40 Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 1AZ
foundlingmuseum.org.uk

September 17
Moonlight and Bach by Candlelight
St Martin-in-the-Fields
Music and she intends to specialise in this field.
020 7766 1100
Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, London WC2N 4JJ
stmartin-in-the-fields.org

September 24
The Good, The Bad & The Ugly
Handel & Hendrix
Guy Withers (tenor) and William Cole (harpsichord) explore some of Handel’s most heroic and exciting music, and characters in the form of three Kings: Bajazet (Tamerlano), Grimoaldo (Rodelinda), Belshazzar (Belshazzar).
020 7495 1685
24 Frith Street, Mayfair, London W1K 4JB
handelhendrix.org

THEATRE

Ongoing
9 to 5 The Musical
Savoy Theatre
Bonnie Langford and Brian Conley, the smash-hit musical features an Oscar, Grammy and Tony award-nominated score by the Queen of Country herself, Dolly Parton.
0844 771 6787
Savoy Cr, London WC2R 0ET
theshayovertheatre.com

September 24
What to do with Granny’s Jewellery?
Olympia
Jewellery specialist Anabel Yorke provides tips on what to do with unworn jewellery. All proceeds go to West London Action for Children.
020 7806 5541
25 Blythe Road, W14 0PD
olympiaauctions.com

September 29
Anahera
Finborough Theatre
11-year-old Harry Hunter is missing. While they wait for news, Anahera, a newly qualified Māori social worker, pushes everyone to their limits, Anahera
020 7579 6344
Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB
ltmuseum.co.uk

Until October 26
“The Dear Warp and Weft at Hammersmith!”
A History of Kelmscott House
William Morris Society
When William Morris reported to his wife Jane that he proposed leasing Kelmscott House, Hammersmith in 1878, he said 'the house might be made very beautiful with a touch of my art'. Certainly this 18th century riverside house, where he spent the last eighteen years of his life, is one of the most significant of Morris's homes. Whilst living at the property he began carpet weaving, wove his first tapestry Aanthus and Finch and continued his innovative approach to design, printing and dyeing techniques. When away from the house, Morris longed to return to these practical crafts.
020 7574 3735
26 Upper Malls, Hammersmith, London W6 9TA
williammorriissociety.org
Events

Park Theatre

Beexer and O’Rourke live on the fringes of society in a dingy London flat, struggling to make ends meet. Despite living life at the bottom of the heap, the savage banter of their dysfunctional friendship keeps the pair afloat. When their dodgy landlord, Dollar, makes them a ‘business’ proposition, O’Rourke finds himself selling out for the cost of a few months’ rent. The prize? Take care of a mystery special package. Just for a few months. Easy job. Easy money.

020 7870 6876
Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4 3JP
parktheatre.co.uk

Until October 5

Queen of the Mist

Charing Cross Theatre

Queen Of The Mist, which received its UK première in a sold-out run at the Jack Studio Theatre in April, is based on the astounding and outrageous true story of Anna Edson Taylor, who in 1901 on her 63rd birthday set out to be the first person to survive a trip over Niagara Falls in a barrel of her own design. With a soaring score incorporating turn of the century themes with LaChiusa’s insightful and engaging style, this award-winning musical is the story of how one woman risked death so that she could live.

0844 930 650
The Arches, Villiers Street, London, WC2N 6NL
charingcrosstheatre.co.uk

Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

If you have an event that you would like listed in the next edition, please send any information to: fahad@kcwtoday.co.uk

Westminster at War

London Walks

By Stephanie Hawthorne

Just how well do you know London? As a Londoner of more than 50 years’ standing, I thought I knew the capital inside out. One of London’s leading guided walks companies proved me wrong.

At a loose end on a quiet Sunday in August and needing some gentle exercise, I rediscovered London Walks www.walks.com and chose pretty much at random a walk entitled Westminster at War; it was brilliant with the main thrust the Blitz and the Battle of Britain. I discovered so many new facets in a well-trodden area, even though I thought I knew the route backwards.

We started by Embankment Tube station at 13.45pm for a two hour tour. Our first stop was Cleopatra’s Needle and the Sphinx where we saw damage in the plinth from a bomb. We witnessed by fragments of a bomb dropped close by, in the first raid on London by German planes a few minutes before midnight on 4 September 1917. The damage was deliberately left unpierated as a tribute.

We then went to the Savoy Hotel which has a flat roof with a balcony where journalists holed up in the Second World War. It was an ideal viewing point for them as German bombers on moonlit nights would follow the contours of the River Thames which reflected the moonlight and enabled the bombers to find their way around, despite the total blackout and total darkness. As a hotel on the riverfront, what could be a better viewing station? The overseas journalists were even briefed on the progress of the Second World in the Savoy’s American Bar. Incidentally, the guide told us, there was a huge increase in traffic accidents in the war as a result of the blackout which you never hear about.

We learnt dozens of other snippets such as the site of the first Headquarters of the RAF in the Strand in the former Hotel Cecil where there is a plaque to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the RAF in 1918.

The guide also told us that the Blitz spirit was sometimes a bit of PR. We walked at a steady pace to Piccadilly Circus where an underground dance hall (Café de Paris) supposedly the safest dance hall in London was hit by a bomb on 8 March 1941. 34 people were killed and around 80 injured. Our guide told us of an eyewitness who said, as the ambulance men were treating the bomb victims, thieves would steal the jewellery from the glitterati, in a couple of instances even chopping off the victim’s fingers to steal their diamond rings.

We also learnt about Edward Murrow; a famous American journalist who did outside broadcasts from St Martin’s Le Grand as the bombs fell. He put his microphone on the ground to record the sounds of people calmly walking to bomb shelters, “like ghosts with steel shoes.” He wanted to show there was no panic in London. He was also instrumental in bringing America into the war.

We passed Eisenhower’s headquarters in St James’s Square and de Gaulle’s headquarters of the French Government in exile; the Vichy Government passed a law to guillotine him for treason. Near Carlton Gardens we saw the Foreign Secretary’s fabulous perk of a grand private mansion in Carlton Gardens; must be worth £200m, at least!

Off the Mall, we saw statues of the Lafayette family gather at their father’s home in Arkansas to bury the hatchet and prepare the former plantation for its Estate Sale. Until, that is, they make a discovery that changes everything. Branden Jacobs-Jenkins takes on the rich tradition of American family drama in his gripping play about ghosts and the legacies we are left with. Ola Ince directs Appropriate in its UK première at the Donmar.

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41 Earlham St, Seven Dials, London WC2H 9LX
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Compiled & edited by Fahad Redha

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Stephanie Hawthorne is an award-winning financial journalist
What does it mean to be human when technology is changing everything? That’s the pressing question behind the Barbican’s new ‘Life Rewired’ autumn season. And considering the musical talent on offer, it looks as thought-provoking as it is handsomely priced.

Plug in and drop out on Saturday 28 September as London-based techno producer Max Cooper examines our obsession with the infinite; from the explosion of computer data to the depiction of the unobtainable in religious art. Cooper’s live music score will be set to new visuals. 8.30pm. Tickets from £17.50.

The season continues with an evening of film, live performance and conversation with Beatie Wolfe on Tuesday October 8. The Anglo-American singer/songwriter explores what music can look and sound like in the digital age, while reflecting on what’s been lost as a result of our technological advances. 7.30pm. £12.50.

The season’s highlight is an evening with American composer and sound artist Holly Herndon. Following the release of her superb new album *PROTO* on independent London label 4AD, she brings a new vocal ensemble to the stage on Wednesday October 16. Holly, artist/philosopher Mathew Dryhurst and ensemble-developer Jules LaPlace, have developed a unique way of using AI for sound generation, vocal processing and visual manipulation featuring *Spore* (a nascent machine intelligence, housed in a modified gaming PC). Expect the unexpected. 8pm. £17.50.

The final concert of the series sees the return of celebrated veteran analogue synth pioneer and composer Suzanne Ciani to the Barbican on Saturday October 19 as she supports Nine Inch Nails keyboard player Alessandro Cortini. The double bill will be your first chance to hear tracks from his new album, *Hoodies All Summer*, complete with a full band. It’s his first release since 2016’s Mercury-nominated *Made in the Manor*, 7.30pm. From £17.50. www.royalalberthall.com

Interview: Biss tackles Beethoven at Wigmore Hall

“Terrifying.” That’s how American pianist Jonathan Biss describes the prospect of his forthcoming season performing all 32 of Beethoven’s Sonatas at Wigmore Hall.

He readily admits that he’s been fixated on Beethoven since the age of nine or 10. “As long as I’ve been interested in music, it’s been about Beethoven,” he says. “And particularly his Sonatas.”

It’s those mighty Sonatas that will occupy him at Wigmore Hall for the next year. The 38-year-old pianist gets underway on Sunday September 29 with five Sonatas, including the *Waldstein* (No. 21). And by the time he finishes in 2020 he’ll be just in time to mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth.

“There are few places that I’d rather play Beethoven,” he admits. “It’s intimate; the audience is so close. And everything just explodes from the stage. It’s almost technicolour.

“And there are no other pieces that attract me as strongly or widely as the sonatas; their territory is so broad. I always knew I might try to play them in a concert cycle. I wake up thinking about the Sonatas. I go to bed thinking about the Sonatas. And sometimes I dream about them!”

Wigmore Hall approached Biss for the major anniversary cycle as he approaches the end of his nine-year project to record the complete set of sonatas. He will give more than 50 Beethoven performances across the world over the next season, which requires a level of dedication, practise and organisation that must be daunting. Right?

“I’m very organised,” he says with a smile. “I’ve got a big chart! I’m playing these pieces all over the world. I know when I need to begin practising certain works and when they need to be ready. At some point, I just have to let go and play them. I can’t go on practising a single piece for hours. I need to move on.”

Concerts begin at 7.30pm. Tickets from £18. www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Review: *Eels* slither their way into Apollo hearts

The self-proclaimed world’s number one entertainers’ jumped onto the Hammersmith Apollo stage to the *Rocky* theme song blaring out. Fists up; guitars at the ready.

It was a statement of intent from the California quartet *Eels* late last month. And they proceeded to power through two hours of tunes for their devoted fans. What began as a seated show suddenly saw the crowd on their feet as frontman Mark Oliver Everett goaded his faithful into a frenzy. The opening three covers didn’t hurt; *The Who’s* *Raspberry Beret*, as the band turned up the amps and let loose.

A display of Everett’s new castanets was met with applause, as was his frequent self-deprecating humour: “That was a lot of consecutive rock of a man my age…” Whether the tunes were old, *Novocaine for the Soul*, or new *Bone Dry*, Everett proved that his 24-year reign as bandleader extraordinaire is no fluke. A rasp may have crept into his voice and a more than a touch of grey in his hair, but he can still write and deliver a mean ole’ song.
Helene Schjerfbeck
Royal Academy: The Garrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries
Until 27 October 2019
Admission £14
www.royalacademy.org.uk

The RA seem to have an extraordinary knack of conjuring up exhibitions of ‘neglected’ artists, as though from a cupboard under the stairs. The last ‘overlooked’ artist was Felix Vallotton, still in the Sackler Galleries until 25 September, which exposed the Swiss to a wider audience. Helene Schjerfbeck’s name does not exactly skip off the tongue, and she is not particularly well-known in the UK, although she had great success in the Nordic countries, particularly her native Finland, and across mainland Europe, from the late 1800s until well into the Twentieth century. She was precociously from the age of eleven, and she was discovered by a fellow Finn and genre painter Adolf von Becker. He shoed her into the Finnish Arts Society in Helsinki, even though the minimum age of enrolment was twelve. She studied there for four years, being taught the academic side of painting and drawing through copying, and then spent a further two at Von Becker’s private academy in Helsinki, learning how to paint in oils. She won a scholarship from the Senate of Finland with her naturalistic painting of Wounded Soldier in the Snow, which attracted a great deal of attention. Later she moved to Paris, where she studied at the Academies Trelat and Colarossi, where she met a number of Nordic students, with whom she made friends, including Marianne Preindlsberger and Maria Wilk, with whom she went to an artists’ colony at Pont-Aven in Brittany. After a further stint in Paris, she went to the artists’ colony in St Ives, where she stayed with Marianne and her husband Adrian Stokes RA, an accomplished landscape painter. During this period she met and fell for an unknown artist, described variously as English, or French, but he broke it off under the pretext that he did not think she was strong enough to bear children. On her return to Paris for the last time, as she was running out of funds, she exhibited The Convalescent at the Paris Salon, an insightful and touching scene of a sick child engaged in some distraction at the kitchen table, whilst wrapped in a sheet. It was purchased by the Finnish Art Society, but she would soon turn away from that style of painting.

Her return to Finland, to live with her mother, with a reputation as a skilled academic artist, led her to be sent to the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg to make copies of paintings by Franz Hals, Diego Velázquez and Gerard ter Borch for the Society’s collection, and then to Vienna and Florence to make further copies of Holbein, Fra’ Angelica, Filippo Lippi and Georgione. Between these trips, she taught at the Society’s drawing school, but sorely missed painting her own work, which she found frustrating and stifling artistically.

The exhibition is arranged in five stylistic sections, with the first displaying early portraiture, and landscapes done in Brittany and St Ives, with the unusual Shadow on the Wall, painted in Pont Aven. Moments of Silence contains larger canvases, including portraits of her mother done seven years apart. There is a definite influence of Whistler, not just because they are painted in profile, and of a mother, dressed in black, but because she had started to simplify her application of paint and use of flat space. The most fascinating gallery contains 17 self-portraits, painted from the age of 22 to the age of 83, the year before she died. They depict an extraordinary journey from rosy-cheeked mannequin, to ever-abstracted cadavers, with faces resembling three kicks in a mud wall. The haunted eyes blindly stare out at the viewer, the mouth a mere slit and the skin tones dissolving into flattened smudges. They are powerful and raw evocations of mortality, tinged with a mixture of resignation, regret and resolution. Self-portrait (Black Background) was commissioned by the Society in 1914, and, for her, was an acceptance by the art establishment after years in the wilderness, and this is exemplified by the self-confident and defiant pose, with just the possibility that she might just smile. When her mother or friends were not available as subjects, she turned to the mirror, saying, ‘This way the model is always available, although it isn’t at all pleasant to see oneself.’ She subscribed to European fashion magazines and would incorporate the latest hairstyle, headgear or dress into her paintings, sometimes with audacious effect, as in Circus Girl and Girl from Rydikuhne II.

The Modern Look includes family, friends and models, with mask-like faces, including the two mentioned above, and The Skier (English Girl) or The Motorist, based on her nephew Måns, but he was merely masquerading, as he had neither a driving license nor a car. Her still-life, Blackening Apples, painted in 1944, has the same morbid fascination with death and decay as her self-portraits, although, in this case the apples really are blacker than black, although Three Pears on a Plate, the last work she did, is another vanitas painting, where, at least, the pears might still be edible.

Don Grant
Once Upon A Time In... Hollywood
Director: Quentin Tarantino
Running Time: 161 Minutes

Quentin Tarantino is not broadly thought of as a thoughtful director. Whilst his films frequently overflow with obscure references to cult film ‘arcana’, this trait is generally assumed by his detractors to be the actions of a magpie savant as much as an auteur. In other words that Tarantino is layering his references less for audience benefit, than for his own; a directorial tic.

With Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood however, Tarantino has clearly been thinking a great deal. Not about his usual preoccupations (well, the film is choke-a-block with breathless shots of women’s feet, so that fetish is still running hot) but about rather un-Tarantino themes like obsolescence and a fear of the future. It’s perhaps taken longer than usual, due to his unusual preoccupations, but somewhere down the line the perpetual enfant terrible of Hollywood has mutated into a member of its Old Guard. Even his grossly cherubic head which has been forestalling the ravages of age for years, Tarantino has clearly been by anything life might throw at him, chained down attack dog is occasionally glimpsed. Whilst seemingly unruffled to him, behind which the shape of a fraying charisma and dissipating talent, all take and no give. Whilst Rick is all the seemingly laid back Cliff, but the Booth (Brad Pitt) his stuntman/driver/handyman/paid best friend. Rick is high-handed and insensitive to the point of obnoxiousness in his interactions with the seemingly laid back Cliff, but the friendship seems genuine, even if it’s all take and no give. Whilst Rick is all fraying charisma and dissipating talent, Cliff has something of a nihilist’s calm to him, behind which the shape of a chained down attack dog is occasionally glimpsed. Whilst seemingly unflappable by anything life might throw at him, Cliff’s career as a stuntman has stalled due to some seemingly credible rumours that he murdered his wife and got away with it. As a result, his gig as Rick’s major-domo is basically all he has and the two’s co-dependency has deepened to the point where they are each other’s entire support structure and social circle.

Dakota Fanning’s unrecognisable turn as Sharon Tate have moved in next door; when Rick notices that megastar director Roman Polanski and his actress wife Sharon Tate have moved in next door; if he could just score an invite perhaps he could score a role and resuscitate his dying career. One thing’s for sure, if the right person comes to the door they’ll be making a killing... Tarantino’s beloved editor Sally Menke tragically died in 2010 and it’s interesting to imagine what Once Upon A Time...In Hollywood would have been like with her still in the picture. Tarantino’s films with Menke were rapid fire machines, whilst Hollywood is a meandering 161 minutes. The length seems part of the directorial design, as Tarantino has made what he calls a ‘hang out’ movie; the plot secondary to the pleasures of the viewer getting to ‘hang out’ movie; the plot secondary to the pleasures of the viewer getting to spend time with the characters. Richard Linklater’s stoner classic Once Upon A Time...In Hollywood would have been like with her still in the picture. Tarantino’s films with Menke were rapid fire machines, whilst Hollywood is a meandering 161 minutes. The length seems part of the directorial design, as Tarantino has made what he calls a ‘hang out’ movie; the plot secondary to the pleasures of the viewer getting to spend time with the characters. Richard Linklater’s stoner classic Dazed and Confused is perhaps the ultimate example of the form, but Tarantino thankfully doesn’t quite go to Linklater’s lengths of having no plot at all. That said, there is a deliberate shagginess to the story; a lack of a central thread binding individually stunning scenes together; anyone hoping for the crackerjack plotting of Reservoir Dogs is out of luck.

Still the world Tarantino has created is fantastically drawn, In Hollywood manages to recreate the popular image of LA of the late Sixties to a truly incredible degree. This is a world that throbs with the constant noise of adverts, top 40 radio hits and blaring televisions; In Hollywood is practically drowning in Pop culture. There’s an interesting parallel between the fairy-tale evoking title of the film and the fact that the cultural image of 60s Los Angeles has become as much of a modern folk memory as anything in the Brothers Grimm’s canon. What is less interesting is Tarantino’s unfortunate tendency to show off his immaculate toy box via long scenes of characters driving through LA’s tangled roads in mute silence which, whilst atmospheric, can’t help but drag when it recurs for what feels like the 9th time. However, beyond the technical wizardry, a hangout movie lives or dies on its performances. Pitt in particular does some of the best work he’s done in years; his inhuman good looks have always obscured the fact that he’s essentially a character actor caught in a leading man’s body. By casting him as the less emotionally rounded secondary character, Pitt’s natural charisma burns through all the brighter and his comic timing has only improved with age. DiCaprio on the other hand effortlessly communicates the internal tsunami raging inside the kind of man who previously thought emotional introspection was a kind of cologne. He rages, he sobs; still projecting movie star charm but erratically, like a sputtering engine. The supporting actors also acquit themselves to a high standard. Margot Robbie as Sharon Tate in particular performs almost exclusively with her face and body language, a lightning in a bottle performance that is getting drowned out in controversy over her relatively few spoken lines. Tate in the film represents a kind of rising balloon contrast to Rick’s falling one; all wide-eyed enjoyment cut with a piercing unease for the audience haunted by their knowledge of history. Rather than ghoulishness though, this simple portrait of a young woman enjoying her first real taste of stardom is a rare reassertion of Tate as a living human being, rather than her usual depiction as merely a famous corpse in the Manson myth.

Of course this wouldn’t be Tarantino without a dip into the old ultraviolence and during a brief ten minute burst, he delivers it in spades. It will undoubtedly put off many, but it’s so excessive the scene plays more like Tom and Jerry than Hotel. Far more unnerving is Dakota Fanning’s unrecognisable turn as Squeaky Fromme at Spahn Ranch in the film’s tense crescendo, tense for people who aren’t unnaturally well informed on their Manson lore anyway. That’s not really what Tarantino’s going for however, this really is a fairy tale of a bygone age, with a director who desperately wants to rewrite history and make it last forever.
Singin' In The Rain
Directors: Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen
Running Time: 103 minutes

To say 'they don't make 'em like this no more' is significantly underselling the distance between the current production – based models used by Hollywood studios and their pre-1969 status as something closer to medieval fiefdoms. Actors from the biggest stars to the lowliest extra were kept in contracts seemingly drawn up by the same firm that represent Satan, which gave the studio power to stage-manage nearly every aspect of their personal lives to a nearly fetishistic degree. Immense back lots containing everything from Arabian bazaars to floating naval ships meant that studio executives recreate the whole world at the snap of their fingers and, most importantly, stars were drilled within an inch of their lives to be singing, dancing, entertaining machines. The luxuries of basic human existence were for the little people.

Whilst most Hollywood musicals of the 40s and 50s were adapted from Broadway shows, Singin' In The Rain is entirely its own thing. Arthur Freed, MGM's head of musicals and songwriter in his own right, decided, with the kind of epochal arrogance reserved for studio executives with no real oversight, that the time was ripe for a musical made up exclusively of songs he'd written in the past. Not wanting to have to do all the work himself, he called in writer duo Betty Comden and Adolph Green from New York to come up with a story to tie the songs together and to write the script. Comden and Green at first refused the assignment, as their contract with MGM guaranteed them the right to write the lyrics to all songs. After a tense two weeks they discovered their agent had invented this clause out of whole-cloth and they had no choice but to concede. Whilst their agent might have been the kind of snake that gives the profession a bad name, he inadvertently did cinema a favour as Comden and Green proved a dynamite combo.

As most of the songs had originally been written during the time when silent films were giving way to “talkies”, the screenwriters came up with the concept of swashbuckling romantic hero with a vaudeville background who survives the transition by falling back on his abilities as a song-and-dance man. Once they'd arrived at the concept they were stuck for an opening, flipping desperately between opening with a silent movie premiere, a magazine interview with a Hollywood star, and a star-meets-girl. As most of the songs had originally been brought on as both the lead, co-director and choreographer, positions he occupied with the intensity of a drill sergeant or perhaps a rabid dog. As one of the foremost dancers of his time, Constantly screamed on mechanical and would verbally lacerate them for even the slightest misstep or flubbed line. Whilst Stanley Kubrick usually gets all the ink as one of cinema's great directorial sadists, Kelly's vicious perfectionist tendencies were so unstrained that the choreography for Good Morning, Good Morning took over 14 hours of continuous takes, to the point where Reynolds feet were bleeding at the end of the day. Whilst O'Connor was an old hand at dancing with a background in vaudeville, the Kelly-induced stress was still enough that he was smoking four packs of cigarettes a day for the entire shoot. Far more vulnerable was Debbie Reynolds, who was only 19 and had never danced professionally before. There was only time for three months of training before shooting started which was nowhere close to enough for what Kelly had in mind. Constantly screamed at, belittled and forced to dance for hour after hour, her salvation only came when she was found crying under a piano by a visiting Fred Astaire who felt so bad for her that he gave her personal lessons which helped give her the edge she needed to get through the scenes. For her part Reynolds channelling Buddha somehow managed to avoid having a grudge against Kelly (the fact that he held himself to equally insane standards, even dancing the titular Singin' In The Rain with a fever of 103, probably helped) but later mused “The two hardest things I ever did in my life are childbirth and Singin' In The Rain.”

Beyond the technical aspects of the movie, which include some really nifty effects that still look striking today, the script is genuinely funny, with more of a mean streak than the movie’s reputation might suggest. However the underlying storyline of the beloved studio head R.F. (Millard Mitchell) being bullied and manipulated by the all powerful star Lina Lamont (Jean Hagen) does ring slightly bizarre considering the dictatorial powers and frequent sexual dominance with which they policed their female employees. R.F.’s character was based on Arthur Freed; who is mentioned in Shirley Temple’s autobiography as exposing himself to her when she was a child during a casting meeting for the Wizard of Oz, only to throw her out in a fury when she laughed uncomprehendingly at him so the kindly image of R.F. perhaps rings a little hollow. Despite all this darkness behind set, and indeed it’s title, Singin’ In The Rain is an unbeatably sunny experience; showcasing Classic/Totallarian Hollywood and its power over all of its powers. A little over 15 years after Singin’ In The Rain’s release the world it portrays would vanish forever. Television and declining audiences would eat into the studio profit margins until by 1969 the studios would sell their backlots, pull their featured players and what remained as Manson and Altamont proved the harbingers for the gritty auteur driven dramas of New Hollywood. Singin’ endures, may it never stop raining.

Singin’ In The Rain is being screened as part of the BFI Musicals Season October 2019-January 2020
Dining out

Cellarium Cafe and Terrace
Deans Yard, Westminster Abbey, The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3PA
T: 020 7222 0516

When considering the Church of England, fine dining is unlikely to be the first association that springs to mind; communion wafers might be spiritually filling but the Body of Christ isn’t included in our Five a Day for a reason. Beyond such theologically suspect diets; Parliament Square isn’t exactly overloaded with culinary temptation to the point where Cellarium rather took me aback. A cafe-restaurant that’s sprung up in an unused undercroft in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, Cellarium has the kind of setting that would cause a restaurant entrepreneur to start hyperventilating. The breakfast area is in a vaunted ceilinged vault, thankfully with more than accommodating windows and a spiffy white paint job to make the space feel surprisingly light and airy rather than evoking the Cask of Amontillado. The undercroft was originally constructed in the 14th century as a storage space for food and drink referred to in Latin as a cellarium, which one would assume is probably not a coincidence.

Whilst part of the original structure, you thankfully don’t have to buy a ticket to the Abbey proper every time you’re feeling peckish near Parliament. No meal has seen more drastic re-invention by London’s culinary high priests than the humble breakfast so it was with some trepidation that my date and I arrived at Celerium had arrived at. With some relief we can report that the Cellarium breakfast menu does not try and reinvent the wheel but instead simply serves up the classics very tastily indeed. The centrepiece is naturally the Full English (priced at a not unreasonable £9.75) which better men than I have failed to resist. The platter wasn’t exactly heaving, but the quality of the meat and eggs left me very satisfied and not so stuffed I couldn’t move, which felt like something of a novelty. My date went for the Eggs Benedict (a slightly pricier option in regards to bang for your buck at £8.00) and reader, I would love to comment on it, but she had scarfed the lot before I even thought to ask to try some, which is probably quite the comment on its quality in itself.

Beyond good hearty and (mostly) reasonably priced fare, the real gem that makes Cellarium worth checking out is the upstairs lunch area and terrace. The ancient ceilings give way to huge skylights revealing a striking, quasi-interior view of the Abbey’s towering crenellations stretching into the sky in all directions. Whilst autumn is disturbingly close this is worth a visit whilst we still have some blue skies left to us as it’s really quite a sight and one which is completely invisible from the outside. Whether driven to the Abbey for sightseeing or a desperate compulsion towards absolution, there are definitely worse temptations you could yield to than a visit to Cellarium.

Max Feldman

Masala Zone
147 Earls Court Road
London SW5 9RQ
Reservations online only: www.masalazone.com

The Masala Zone is not marked on the map of London Transport, but it should be; definitely Zone 1.

Situated a few metres from Earls Court underground station, the Masala Zone Indian restaurant is an inviting and warm environment to settle into. In spite of the restaurant’s large interior (over 110 covers) the lighting, subtle decor and exquisite displayed craft objects provide a personal atmosphere. Although large, smaller intimate areas for couples are comfortably separated from larger parties.

My companion chose a non-alcoholic cocktail to start. A welcome relaxer with a combination of apple, orange, lemon, lime juice and ginger ale. I went for a regular gin and indian tonic. The crisp spicy pappadums arrived with three delicious chutneys to dip into. One with red heat, one with a mint and coriander and one sweet mango.

Well settled, enjoying the lively street food stuffed puri puffs to start. The Puri puffs were a wonderful light crisp puff with a mash, tamarind and yoghurt filling. Such a unique texture and taste combination. All those street folk can’t be wrong and they weren’t. One of my favourites. I chose a Sauvignon Blanc to accompany the meal.

Well settled, enjoying the lively street folk can’t be wrong and they weren’t. One of my favourites. I chose a Sauvignon Blanc to accompany the meal.

My companion moved on to thali, comfort home cooking. Loved by many Indians and now by us. Among our favourites was a delicious prawn curry accompanied by chapatis, dalh, and broccoli in a creamy coconut sauce. I had a delicious mixed grill of meats, chops and kebabs, but, of course, I had to taste my companion’s choice, too. All these dishes were beautifully cooked and prepared; the dalh and other accompaniments are prepared fresh three times a day.

The service for a restaurant of this size was extraordinarily good. The staff arrived and disappeared seamlessly and were hardly noticeable in spite of the large amount of covers they manage. We were told that a great deal of care and time is spent training the staff. Each is given a three month introduction to the culture of the restaurant and how to serve with courtesy. Time well spent. In what was a large and busy room, everybody seemed to be happy and receiving food on time, without any feel of rush; the staff swift, smiling and unobtrusive.

A slight confession; I love dahls. (and have made it myself). And although there was a dalh dish among the thali combinations, I spotted a black dalh on the menu and had it as a side dish. What a beguiling, smoky, spicy taste. A stand out choice for me. Must get that recipe! Arms duly twisted, we shared a kulfi Indian dessert, with raspberries, ginger, coconut and cream (probably some other subtleties too), a new and unusual dessert taste.

This was a confidently and imaginatively presented meal. Some simple, but extremely tasty dishes made for interesting and unusual dining. Refreshingly far above your ordinary Indian meal.

And yet, not expensive; Thali £15-19, Main courses up to £18. Biryanis up to £15. A good house wine around £ 14.50 and many very good quality wines for those with more ambitious tastes.

Finally, we chose a refreshingly aromatic Assam tea and my companion a mint tea. A clean finish to send us happily out into the bustling street.

This same experience can be enjoyed in Bayswater, Camden Town, Covent Garden, Islington, Soho and Selfridges. Get into your comfort zone.

Tim Epps
Afternoon Tea
at the Copthorne Tara
Scarsdale Place, Kensington, London W8 5SY

Situated in Scarsdale Place, the Copthorne Tara is an easy 2 or 3 minute stroll from the heart of the shopping area on Kensington High Street, which is just far enough away to provide a serene retreat. The tea room at the Tara has recently been remodelled to bring a little bit of English country drawing-room ambience to what is a distinctly modern hotel. Our waitress Roxana was engaging and full of enthusiasm for the different Whittards’ herbal choices, but first we just had to sample one of the intriguing house cocktails that present a great alternative to the traditional glass of Champagne or Prosecco also on offer.

Earl Grey Citrus Bloom was wonderfully delicate and refreshing, majoring more on the lime infusion and cucumber than the Earl Grey, and with only a single shot of vodka in each, you can certainly afford to order another. ‘Afternoon Tea’, is, after all, an indulgence! With no need to rush off, designer Keef and I nibbled away at the various treats with only a small twinge of nostalgia for the demise of ordinary bread. For this line of soldiers, the changes have been rung: brown and white are no more, but instead welcome tomato bread, lemon bread, cocoa bread, olive bread and pesto bread to partner their various fillings.

I’ve become slightly immune to the level of skill the pastry cooks display; have you ever tried to cut a cream filled multi-layered concoction into 5cm squares without it all squidding sideways? Let alone the complications in making it in the first place; they then have to dream up some elaborate, but tiny chocolate disc that contains four Shakespeare sonnets or something equally tricky, then plant it all on a sliver of fresh strawberry to avoid it looking too dull. We made short work of all that artistry, then descended to the lowest shelf for the fruit scones, jam & cream. Back on familiar territory and loving it, we finished on a coffee and for Keef, a Laphroaig. Anna Russell, Duchess of Bedford is credited with ‘inventing’ afternoon tea nearly 200 years ago, and it’s still going strong. Long may it continue.

The Tara Tea Lounge is open 12.00 noon to 17.00, 7 days a week. Traditional Afternoon Tea £19.00 per person.

Dining out

Brown’s Art Walks
By Max Feldman

In London’s most fashionable areas, eye-watering rents see floor space change hands so often that three month old coffee shops are practically hallowed as venerable institutions. There’s no substitute for genuine experience however; Brown’s Hotel has been running since 1837 and since the days its doors were first opened to London’s cognoscenti, the venerable hotel has built up two things: a list of famous guests longer than most guest books and an inimitable sense of style. Mayfair may have been one of the central arteries for art in London; the elegant streets fairly studded with galleries. Brown’s chic corridors reflect the predilections of its borough and are decorously festooned with art of all stripes. It’s Brown’s proximity to Mayfair’s galleries that has led me to be standing in the hotel’s English Tea Room at 10.30am on a Saturday. Whilst most decent, god-fearing Londoners are either writhing in a hung-over purgatory at this time or, perhaps more likely, still out on the tiles; my unconscionably bright eyed friend [she’s one of those morning people you hear about] were joining a group of strangers for an alluring selection of scones, brioche and tea. The reason? All of us had traded in our lie-ins for a guided tour of Mayfair’s greatest galleries and hidden secrets officiated by BBC Art Correspondent Maeve Doyle.

There were approximately six of us not counting Maeve and I was the only one who’d brought a guest, so we were thrown straight in to getting to know each other. Whilst I rather latched out with a selection of sociable, interesting tour companions, I do feel that this had as much to do with Maeve’s hosting as anything else. A veritable sage of art, she balanced out her intimidatingly broad library of knowledge with a wicked sense of humour and soon had all of us at ease, laughing and joking whilst subtly drawing us together with pointed questions and personalised info drops that had us happily bound together by the time we set out from Brown’s at 11am. On the tour you have around a cool 2 hours to perambulate through the four galleries before heading back to Brown’s for a three course lunch and a sommelier curated wine selection at 1pm. Whilst this feels like a lot of time, in practice there is actually a faint rush to get through everything to make it back, particularly considering how easy it is to get sucked into a conversational rabbit hole about any of the galleries or Mayfair’s artistic history.

Our four galleries were the John Martin Gallery, LAZINC, the Maddox Gallery and 20th Century and Contemporary Art gallery, all of which were substantially different experiences. Obviously each tour depends on what exhibitions are currently running, but for our run we pin balled between John Cale’s moody twilight river landscapes to Jamie Hewlett’s psychedelic Tarot selection and step back in history to Basquiart. The highlight of the tour, at least for this pop art fiend, was a stopover in a print making workshop where we were giving a crash course and got to keep the fruits of our labours. By the time we made it back to Brown’s we were all firm friends and Maeve once again skillfully took us through what we’d seen with a little personalised quiz that had each of us analysing the art we’d seen like seasoned professionals.

After a really first class lunch and perhaps more than a little worse for wear from our sommelier’s selection, we all regretfully parted ways full, happy and fairly sparkling with joie de vivre. Lie ins are overated.

To book a place on one of the Art Walk Tours, please contact Brown’s Reservations on +44 (0) 207 518 4172 or email reservations.browns@rocfortehotels.com

www.KCWToday.co.uk
020 7738 2348
September 2019

Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today
Sri Lanka: A distant Emerald Isle
By Paul Davis

Serendipity is not always what it seems. The island variously known through millennia as Serendip, Ceylon and Sri Lanka has a landscape close to a vision of paradise and a history littered with human atrocity.

An exemplar of man’s inhumanity to man. Before the arrival of Europeans in the 14th century, rivalries between wealthy kings for over 2000 years had precipitated intrigue, battles and retribution for treason of the most unimaginable invention. Elephants have long been integral to life and war; execution, being trampled by 5-ton tusker was one way of dispatching a traitor’s disloyalty.

The age of exploration brought Marco Polo and Ibn Barutta to the Island in the 14th century. They both marvelled at the beauty and civilisation of the island. The following century was more about exploitation and violent colonisation; the Spice Wars had begun. The island was first invaded by the Portuguese when its name was changed to Ceylon. The target was cinnamon and nutmeg; both thought to be cures for the plague in Europe. Medieval acts of genocide were enacted and often rebuffed by the kings of Kandy from the impenetrable jungle highlands.

The Dutch were the next to attempt domination of the spice trade and exploit the wealth of the island. Then in 1796, the British arrived and established a colonial base. Again, desperate battles were fought and as many men died from exhaustion, tropical diseases and leeches as in battle. Eventually, a hundred years of peace was achieved. In 1867, the introduction of carefully selected varieties of tea by James Taylor, a Scottish planter, brought a new form of prosperity and reputation to Ceylon through the export of the world’s finest tea. Roads and the railway were built to assist trade and control.

In World War II, the natural deep-water harbour of Trincomalee was an essential base for supplies in the fight against the Japanese. Lord Mountbatten held his headquarters in the magnificent botanical gardens at Kandy.

In 1948, Sri Lanka was granted independence. Since that time, it has suffered nearly 30 years of desperate civil war, the Tsunami of 2004 and the terrorist bombings of April 21st this year. In spite of these recent years of turmoil and destruction, Sri Lanka is still recognised as the Lonely Planet top traveller destination. Perhaps because it is also known as “The best safari destination outside of Africa” (www. Forbes.com). Their economy is heavily dependent on tourism and has been badly dented by the Easter bomb attacks. As long-distance travel is increasingly seen as a source of climate change, it is hard to predict how long this revenue will continue.

The landscape, temples and ruins are appropriately spectacular attractions. The people and the food are delightful. The train rides and surfing beaches have become top ten world experiences. Young backpackers are happily flocking back, but not in the numbers that the economy needs.

Long before this, the Lord Buddha visited the island 3 times in the 6th century BC and the most sacred relic, his tooth, is housed in a formidable shrine in Kandy. The Perahera that annually celebrates the remnant is arguably the longest running pageant on the planet; in one form or another it has been held each July for over 2000 years. Lasting 10 nights, as many as 80 palanquinned elephants in exquisite bejewelled cloaks, thousands of dancers, drummers, fire jugglers, sword bearers, stilt walkers and burning torch bearers set out from 5 temples and slowly process for hours through streets lined with half a million roadside spectators. It is like rolling back in time and is surprising that it’s not on more people’s bucket lists.

One aspect of Sri Lanka that is much less known, is the presence of the Vedda or WanniyalaAetto, (Forest People). They are genetically related to the better known, Australian Aborigines who migrated from around the Indian ocean when the landmass of India, Indonesia and Australia were all connected. In the Mesolithic era 30,000 years ago, the Vedda began to settle in the forests and retained their hunter gatherer skills. Like the Native American Indians, they progressively lost their traditional hunting grounds. UraWarageWanniy, the village leader at Dambara refused to give up their ancestral lands. He took the Vedda case all the way to the International Court in Geneva and won an inspiring speech about how his people had nurtured the forests for thousands of years. There are now several tribal reservations within the national parks that have as many as 350 extended families living in their traditional way of life. At Dambana, there is a fascinating museum of the ancestry, characters and lifestyle of these forest dwellers. The previous village leader, Tissahamy, allegedly lived to the ripe old age of 109, but then, time is not recognised by their culture. UraWarageSubahanda, otherwise known as Sudda, one of the elder spokesmen shows his lost jaw under his beard from chewing betel. He carves fine axes and small spears from ebony as well as making delicate bows. He may lead a primitive life but he pulls a hard bargain from the visitors.

At a time when modern man is destroying the planet’s forests, the life of the Vedda may last longer than the current world politicians meeting at the G7.
Going deeper
2019 Buddhist Society Summer School
By Lynne McGowan

A week filled with Buddha’s teachings and meditation held in the Royal Agricultural College. Oh what bliss, it appealed on paper and proved in reality to be better than expected. New friendships were struck amongst fellow travellers on the same road, a community of seekers trying to find wisdom from the ancient texts and by meditation, mastering the skittish ‘monkey mind’.

Founded by the merrily named Christmas Humphreys in 1924, the Buddhist Society is one of the most historic in Europe and much respected throughout the world. Based in Ecclestone Square and boasting a beautiful garden and large library on Buddhism; classes, courses and seminars are held for both general public and members only. Presided over with genial courtesy by the Society’s President Dr Desmond Buddulph CBE, a man as much at home in his own skin as in the company of Mick Jagger or the Dalai Lama. He spoke of his main aim to reach a wider audience with the key concepts of Buddha’s dhamma (teachings) beginning with the Four Noble Truths. These teachings of The Way are profound and go deep. In life there is unsatisfactoriness and suffering, furthermore lacking true insight is disabling. In his view the ability to let go is paramount and that sometimes we imprison ourselves to the point of being stuck. In accepting anicca (impermanence), overcoming delusion and doing the right thing, we can lose our inflated sense of self and be happier. It sounds simple, but life’s path is strewn with stumbling blocks for everyone, so attending regular Society talks are supportive and the yearly Summer School an immersive refuge.

Mornings began at 6.30 with gong stimulating acupuncture points and doing gentle stretches, the afternoon tai chi class went deeper into the Chen short form. Two morning sessions and one evening meditation session began under the austere guidance of Venerable Sogan, a zen monk dressed in a black Japanese Koro robe. Thankfully whilst delivering his delightful instructive tales he was smiley and informal. Talks were ministered throughout the day and early evening by teachers and monks from various institutes and viharas (monasteries) and in between the canteen kept us fortified with a wide choice of dishes for carnivores, omnivores and herbivores alike. Returning teachers Martin, Colin and Roy gave insightful talks with humour and eloquence and Mary Stewart explained the Bodhisattva Green Tara with her many manifestations. A fascinating speaker was the lofty and enigmatic Venerable Kassapa who spoke compellingly on a new kind of intelligence and different types of happiness. An unforgettable speaker for me was the Venerable Dhammasami from an Oxford vihara who arrived with a bevy of beaming Burmese and Thai monks and lead a penetrating 5 minute mudita, a meditation on appreciative joy. With wit and charm the 84 year old Venerable Pia Kru Sanu Lom from Wimbledon was star of the week. His fervent chanting of sutras in Pali and his exulting devotion to the dhamma were a delight to behold as was his matching outfit of saffron robe, socks, briefcase and bobble hat.

www.thebuddhistsociety.org
Poem on a pill
By Anandi Shah

I once received a lovely gift a couple of years ago; it was a grain of rice inscribed with my name. I could only envisage the level of meticulous precision which it would require to painstakingly etch my mere six-letter forename.

By that logic, it would be inconceivable to imagine, perhaps, even a poem engraved on a similar surface… shall we say… a pill?

However, that is ‘precisely’ what has been achieved by the new Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, who has composed a 51-word poem, entitled *Finishing It*, which has been micro-engraved onto a 20mm long, 10mm wide replica of an anti-cancer pill by specialist artist, Graham Short for the Institute of Cancer Research, London, specifically for its Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery, which will open next year. This ‘Poem on a Pill’ serves to highlight the astonishing precision science, which will hopefully mark the end of cancer.

“Science and poetry are closer associates than many people assume…”
Simon Armitage

Of course, as inspiring and rousing as Armitage’s poem is, we must not forget the man who made it possible, Graham Short.

Short, who is 73 is a micro-artist who resides and works in Birmingham and is best known for having engraved a portrait of Jane Austen onto the transparent section of four polymer £5 banknotes, a portrait of the Queen onto a needle and the words ‘nothing is impossible’ along the sharp edge of a razor blade. His unique methods of working include working from 12-5am, consuming beta-blockers to reduce his heart rate and swimming 10,000m per day.

A poem on a pill may seem unfathomable to some, nevertheless, cancer ravishes countless lives globally and cancer evolution is one of the most obstructive challenges that researchers endure, as cancer cells which may respond well to initial treatment, are capable of mutating to evade it.

So, what could be more powerful to spread this important message, other than “…something so minimalist could aim to bring down something so enormous and destructive…?”

The Institute of Cancer Research, founded in 1909 is one of the world’s leading cancer research organisations. Visit: www.icr.ac.uk/about-us for more information.

Trust Arts Programme receives £110,000 funding from Youth Music
By Anandi Shah

Youth Music, an arts programme based at Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals has awarded £110,000 to Vocal Beats, a music education project run by the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in Sutton.

The funding, provided by The National Lottery via The Arts Council England, will enable the project’s expansion, giving people aged 0-25 improved access to creative music making.

This marks the first creative partnership between the two hospitals and is supported by The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

**Vocal Beats** is a weekly music project which enhances young patients’ hospital experience and wellbeing, through developing musical skills, which include learning how to ‘beabox’, play the ukulele and sing.

The sessions are ‘conducted’ by singer-songwriter Heather McClelland and State Dowdeswell, and champion beatboxers Bellatrix and MC Zani.

“**Vocal Beats** has boosted my confidence in singing and allowed me to come out of my shell a bit more during my stay. Reminded me of why I love music”.

From a participant, aged 14

The expansion of Vocal Beats to The Royal Marsden’s Oak Centre for Children and Young People in Sutton, will also facilitate five musicians in the early stages of their career to gain valuable experience in working within the clinical setting with 1:2:1 mentoring.

“Since it started in 2015, the Vocal Beats programme at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust has demonstrated that taking part in high quality creative music activities can improve feelings of wellbeing, develop new music skills, increase confidence and self-esteem whilst building supportive relationships for young people in hospital.”

Karen Taylor, patient experience project manager and arts lead at rbhtArts

**Vocal Beats** has recently launched its ‘Youth Ambassador Programme’, which provides young people with the opportunity to co-produce music using an online network alongside those who are also inpatients with chronic and/or life limiting conditions. Four ambassadors have since been appointed and so the funding means more are able to get involved.

For more information on Vocal Beats: rbht.nhs.uk/arts
For more information on Youth Music: youthmusic.org.uk
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Flu and the importance of Flu vaccination

Every autumn, all General Practices vaccinate their Patients who are most at risk of developing severe complications of flu. It is very important that you have a flu vaccination if your General Practice calls you for a flu vaccination as studies have shown that among those people who die or suffer severe complications from flu, the majority are unvaccinated.

2019 marks the centenary of the 1918-1919 Influenza pandemic; estimates of the global mortality burden of this pandemic are in the region of 50 million deaths, and subsequent pandemics have also had significant mortality burdens. The next pandemic is inevitable, although it is difficult to predict when it will occur. Flu vaccination, rapid diagnostics and antiviral treatments will allow us to be better prepared, although as people have increased global mobility, the next pandemic will spread further and faster.

Flu

Influenza, or flu, is a viral infection that mainly affects the respiratory system. The usual symptoms are fever, chills, headaches, aching muscles, joint pain and fatigue. Flu is highly contagious and spreads easily through coughing, sneezing and contact with infected surfaces.

In most people, flu is a self-limiting illness, however some people are more susceptible to the effects of flu and they can develop serious and potentially fatal complications such as pneumonia. Flu can be more severe in the following; pregnant women, anyone aged 65 years and over, anyone who lives in a residential or nursing home, children and adults with an underlying health condition, such as a heart or lung condition and children and adults with weakened immune systems.

As flu is caused by viruses, antibiotics are not effective in treating flu as antibiotics only work against bacterial infections, therefore antibiotics do not relieve flu symptoms or shorten the time of your flu illness. We advise that when you have an episode of flu, you rest, stay warm and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration and take paracetamol or ibuprofen to help lower a high temperature or treat aches.

Flu Vaccination

Flu vaccinations help protect us individually from contracting flu and prevents the spread of flu between families and communities. The vaccine remains the best defence we have to protect against the spread of flu, and we encourage everyone eligible to get it each year.

The flu vaccine is available every year and free on the NHS to people in all of the following groups:

- **Children** aged 2 and 3 on 31st August 2019
- **Children in primary school**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Everyone** aged 65 and over

Everyone including children and babies over 6 months of age who have a long-term health condition such as a heart or chest condition, previous stroke, kidney and liver disease; the list of long-term health conditions is not definitive, your Practice Nurse or GP can assess your condition and decide if you could benefit from a flu vaccination.

*Everyone* who cares for an older or disabled person.

**All Frontline health and social care workers.**

Eligible people can have their flu vaccine at their GP surgery or a local pharmacy offering the service. Every year, each General Practice invites all their eligible flu vaccine patients to have their vaccination. Considerable numbers of patients in the UK receive a flu vaccination. In my Practice last autumn, we vaccinated 1 in 6 of all our registered Patients. General Practices will vaccinate their Patients from September onwards, and if you have not had your invitation before the end of November, then you should contact your General Practice. Typically, the flu season starts in October, with the peak in January or February, hence get your flu vaccination before the end of November, so you are protected for the peak of the season.

The vast majority of people have no side effects to the vaccine at all; your arm may feel a bit sore where you were injected, and some people get a slight temperature and aching muscles for a couple of days afterwards.

Visit www.nhs.uk for further advice and details. This article does not constitute personal medical advice.

Dr Raj Chandok is a General Practitioner and Commissioner working to deliver patient-centred, high quality Long Term Conditions care across North West London

VisitHealth brings diagnostics and nursing care to your home

Medical care is becoming more flexible, with the need for it to fit into our busy schedules. London’s first on demand at home healthcare means you can book a medical appointment in your home when it suits you.

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How does VisitHealth work?

You can browse their wide range of tests and services on their website or if you need more advice call one of their team of medics and book your appointment. A medic will then come to you, wherever is convenient, with any equipment they need. Results are often with you same day and are sent by email or post.

VisitHealth services can help the whole family, whether that’s nursing care for people with immobility issues or that need elderly care, health check-ups, cancer blood tests or pregnancy blood tests and sonographies for adults; or allergy blood tests or strep throat tests of children.

But can healthcare be carried out accurately and safely at home?

Visit Health is different from some at home testing as all diagnostics are carried out by a fully trained medical professional with strict procedures and guidelines and top-quality technology.

Home health visits are safe and give reliable results quicker than ever.

Find out more at www.visithealth.co.uk. Visit fees start from £59.

Appointments available:

Monday to Thursday 07:00 – 22:00, Friday to Sunday 06:00 – midnight.
New London Retirement Village opening spring 2020

The Cinnamon Care Collection is delighted to announce their new retirement community Eden Court, Battersea, which is due to open in Spring 2020. This new stylish Retirement Village with contemporary retirement apartments will offer outstanding services and support with extensive luxury communal facilities, varied social activities, all within a thriving community in the heart of the Capital.

Conveniently located on Battersea Park Road in the heart of London, Eden Court is a collection of 28 stylish one and two-bedroom apartments, supported by extensive resident services to offer so much more than traditional retirement developments.

From retirement apartments with a range of communal facilities for secure independent living, to the best nursing, residential and dementia care in a bespoke care home, Eden Court will offer a range of accommodation, care and support options to enhance lifestyle and meet changing needs.

The apartments range in size from 450sq.ft to 800sq.ft and include fully fitted German made Hacker kitchens with solid Minerva worktops, Neff oven, ceramic hob and fridge. Main bedrooms have fully fitted wardrobes and a beautifully designed en-suite with level access shower. Prices range from £400,000 to £735,000.

One of the key benefits of moving to Eden Court will be the range of services provided to make life easier and more enjoyable for residents. All properties at Eden Court are sold on a 125-year lease with the common and communal areas and external parts of the building and grounds being maintained to the very highest standards by Cinnamon. The service charge also includes all your utility costs (heating, lighting, water) as well as providing a concierge service, a transport service, dedicated activities and events team, village manager and admin team. There’s also the reassurance of a 24-hour emergency call system which is responded to by an in-house trained member of staff.

Come Spring 2020, new residents will be able to relax in the café bar enjoying a drink and a light snack or join in a variety of social activities organised by the events team. There will be an on-site hair and nail salon and the Activity Studio will host a range of activities planned around residents’ hobbies and interests.

Residents can enjoy dining with friends in the restaurant where they can expect an exciting seasonal menu of delicious and healthy dishes using the very highest quality ingredients. Private dining will also be available by arrangement so residents can celebrate those special occasions with friends and family.

A beautifully landscaped courtyard garden and a roof terrace will provide a choice of outside spaces to enjoy all year round. There is also plenty to do nearby and the private transport service covers recreational trips as well as scheduled trips for routine shopping and for taking residents to local healthcare and medical appointments by prior arrangement.

Cinnamon Care Collection is an award-winning group of luxury care homes and Eden Court their second retirement village, having opened Emerson Park, Kent, in 2018.

To find out more about Eden Court telephone the advisers on 020 7062 1550 or visit www.cinnamoncc.com/eden-court.
Five ways to improve heart health

Current figures indicate that there are approx. 170,000 deaths each year in the UK from cardiovascular disease. However, maintaining a healthy heart doesn’t need to be a chore; there are several simple ways in which everyone can look after their ‘ticker’, and reduce the risk of cardiovascular problems.

With World Heart Day on the horizon (29th September), here Dr Carl Shakespeare, Consultant Cardiologist at The Lister Hospital (part of HCA Healthcare UK), shares five top tips for anyone looking to boost overall heart health:

Eat a healthy diet to maintain a healthy weight:

Dr Shakespeare says: “Maintaining a healthy weight is really important for good heart health. Adipose tissue, also known as fat tissue, promotes the build-up of plaque around the arteries which significantly increases the risk of heart disease. Obesity also increases the amount of work and effort required by the heart to pump blood around the body.

Eating lots of fruit and vegetables will provide an excellent, regular source of vitamins and minerals to ward off cardiovascular disease. Wholegrains are also great to eat regularly as they provide a good source of fibre. An easy way to do this is to replace white bread and pasta with wholegrain varieties.

Everyone should aim to keep their BMI within the healthy range of 18 and 25. Anything above 25 is often associated with higher cholesterol, higher blood pressure, and an increased risk of a heart attack or stroke.”

Quit smoking

Dr Shakespeare says: “It’s important to emphasise that it’s never too late to stop smoking, and improvements to health will be seen soon after the habit has been ‘kicked’. There are many reasons why smoking is a bad idea however, one of the key reasons is that the chemicals in tobacco damage the lining in the arteries, causing them to narrow as a result of a build-up of plaque (also known as atherosclerosis).

Carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke can also start to replace some of the oxygen in the blood, which will cause blood pressure and heart rate to rise, subsequently forcing the heart to work harder to supply enough oxygen to the body.”

Exercise regularly

Dr Shakespeare says: “Exercise can help to strengthen the heart, reduce stress, and keep weight under control. Physical activity can also help to minimise other conditions which may strain the heart, including diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. All exercise is beneficial for heart health and overall wellbeing! For those who can’t do rigorous exercise, going for regular short walks will still be incredibly beneficial. Significant benefits can be seen from even exercising for just 20 minutes, three times a week.”

Manage your blood pressure

Dr Shakespeare says: “High blood pressure causes atherosclerosis in the arteries, which eventually prohibits blood flow. Healthy arteries should be strong and elastic, with a smooth inner lining so the blood can flow freely and supply the organs with oxygen. Over time, the subsequent strain from this will cause the heart muscle to weaken and work much less efficiently.

High blood pressure doesn’t have obvious symptoms, so it’s important to get checked out by a doctor every 2 years. If left uncontrolled, it could result in a heart attack. If blood pressure is high then cutting down sodium intake, drinking less alcohol, and taking up more exercise can help. Dark green vegetables and beetroot can also help to decrease blood pressure.”

Limit alcohol intake

Dr Shakespeare says: “Whilst alcohol is medicinal in moderation, drinking too much can cause abnormal heart rhythms, high blood pressure and damage heart muscle, as well as increasing the risk of strokes, cancer and liver problems. It can also result in elevated levels of triglycerides or fats in the blood. It’s best to limit consumption and stick to the recommended number of units per week; the current guidelines are no more than 14 units for both men and women, spread over a number of days.”

HCA Lister Hospital T:020 3993 8874

Driving with Dementia

By Anandi Shah

Dementia UK has released guidance on people driving with dementia.

Many fear that since the disease causes a loss in coordination, spatial awareness and difficulty recalling directions, a person diagnosed with dementia may need to cease driving altogether.

However the law states that these individuals do not necessarily need to stop driving. They must inform the DVLA as soon as the diagnosis is confirmed, which can be completed by email, post, phone or downloading the CG1 form.

The DVLA will then request information from the person’s consultant or GP, after which they will make the final decision as to whether driving will still be permitted. Failure to inform the DVLA could result in a fine of £1000. Insurance providers must also be informed straight away or the insurance will be invalid.

The licence could then be renewed for a specific period of time; usually one year; a driving assessment may be required, or the licence is cancelled.

At times, a person with dementia may choose to surrender their licence.

The Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline frequently deals with these sorts of worries and concerns. It encourages positive discussion and empathy with the person affected, by offering different perspectives of ceasing driving, such as the amount of money that could be saved, using other modes of transport, planning excursions or consulting their GP, who may be more influential in these matters. The DVLA can be directly notified should nothing else works.

Dementia UK provides specialist dementia support for families through our Admiral Nurse service.

If you need advice or support on living with dementia contact Dementia UK’s Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline on 0800 888 6678 or email helpline@dementiauk.org. The Helpline is staffed by experienced Admiral Nurses, who give vital support by telephone or email.
From the Riverbank
Part 14.
By Don Grant

Poaching fish has two meanings. One involves placing a whole foiled salmon in a fish kettle with a slosh of dry white wine, a few sprigs of fresh herbs, a couple of bay leaves, slices of lemon and onion and a sprinkling of black peppercorns, then put in the oven for under half an hour. The other involves going down to the river at night with hooks, lines, marlin spikes and nets. The urban view of the poacher is seen romantically through rose-tinted glasses, with a rogueish farmhand taking a rabbit, pheasant or fish for the pot of an impoverished family kitchen table, but, in reality, the theft of fish from rivers and lakes has attracted organised gangs, often armed, and frequently ruthless, catching salmon, sewin and trout to order. Salmon poachers take every shape and size, and so do amateurs with pitchforks or gangs with snares attached to the end of poles, or gill nets, and harpoons. Recently there have been a series of thefts from ponds and lakes of carp, which is a delicacy for Eastern Europeans in general, and Poles in particular, who eat as the main course on Christmas Day. It is not just carp that are being targeted, removing all species of coarse fish: roach, bream and perch. Although Eastern Europeans have repeatedly been linked with fish theft in the UK, all the evidence and reports in these cases point the finger of blame at organised gangs of Britons intent on supplying unscrupulous fishery owners with cut-price specimen fish, with prize carp selling for between £500 and £10,000. The owners of well-stocked rivers and lakes can charge up to £100 a day to anglers or fishing syndicates keen to hook a heavyweight champion. Gangs will also pre-sell their catch through the back-door to hotels and restaurants, rather than drive about the country looking for a buyer. A few years ago, police in Hertfordshire arrested and questioned four Eastern European men who were targeting British waters, accusing them of poaching fish without a license and he could be fined £2,500 or, in extreme cases, given a jail sentence. In a typical year there were 200 related prosecutions in Somerset and Devon, with more expected in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

It is not always illegal to catch riverfish and keep them. However, there are strict limits on the size and number of fish that can be caught, and when. Anglers also require a ‘rod licence’, effectively a fishing tax, and must have permission to fish in the water, often for a fee. Restrictions, however, are routinely flouted and ex-policemen from the West Midlands police are currently working with the Angling Trust, the Environment Agency and the police, to track down the criminals. One fishing tall tale involves a Water Conservation Officer, leaping out from behind a tree on the Test and confronting a shifty-looking man in a flat cap, Wellingtons and a Barbour, carrying a bucket in which there were two handsome brown trout. ‘Been fishing, sir? Could I see your rod license, please?’ The man explained that, no, he has not been fishing, and that the trout were in fact his pets, and he was taking them out for their daily exercise. The officer is totally unconvinced by this explanation. ‘No, seriously,’ said the man. ‘I take them down to the river every day, put them in the water, and walk upstream, and they keep abreast of me.’ ‘Come on, pull the other one,’ he sighed exasperatedly. ‘Listen, when I think they have had enough exercise, I put the bucket on the bank, whistle, and they leap back into it, and we all go home.’ Clearly, the warden is unimpressed, and reminded the man that it was an offense to fish without a license and he could be fined heavily. ‘Alright, if you don’t believe me, watch,’ as he put the trout into the river. ‘Go on, then,’ said the officer sceptically. ‘Whistle to your pet fish and let’s see them jump back into the bucket.’ ‘What fish?’ asked the man.

It’s drawing towards the end of the fishing season, when the leaves are on the turn, the hedgerows are groaning with blackberries and apple trees are dropping their fruit. The wild brown trout season in Scotland lasts a tad longer than the six months down south, starting in mid-March and ending in the first week of October. There is no closed season for rainbow trout, as they are not an indigenous species to the United Kingdom and they can be fished for all year round, with pike fishing, coarse and sea fishing also permitted all year round. Salmon fishing varies from river to river in Scotland; the Findhorn opens from 11 February to 30 September, while the Tweed season lasts from 1 February to 30 November. Soon, it will be time to clean one’s rods and lines for the last time, and pack up the kit for the winter, putting away the colourful patterns of Grey and Royal Walffs, Parachute Adams, Olives, Iron Blues, Blue Winged Olives, Wateries, Caddis or Sedge, Coachmen, Daddy Longlegs, Hares Ear, Cud de Canard and Black Klinkhammers into their airtight boxes, to stop the moths from munching them during the six months hibernation. Just after the winter solstice around 22 December, the days get longer and the nights get shorter and it’s only four months until one gets one’s rod out again. O deep joy.
London Men’s Home Football
September 14, Fulham v West Brom, 12:30
September 14, Tottenham v Crystal Palace, 15:00
September 14, QPR v Luton, 15:00
September 17, Chelsea v Valencia, 20:00
September 22, Arsenal v Aston Villa, 16:30
September 22, Chelsea v Liverpool, 16:30
September 24-25, Arsenal v Nottingham Forest, TBC
September 25, Chelsea v TBC, 19:45
September 27, Fulham v Wigan, 18:45
September 28, Chelsea v Brighton, 15:00
September 28, Tottenham v Southampton, 15:00
September 28, QPR v West Brom, 12:30
October 1, Tottenham v Bayern Munich, 20:00
October 3, Arsenal v Standard Liege, 20:00
October 5, Fulham v Charlton Athletic, 12:30
October 5, QPR v Blackburn, 15:00
October 6, Arsenal v Bournemouth, 14:00

London Women’s Home Football
September 15, Tottenham v Liverpool, 14:00
September 15, QPR v Fulham, 14:00
September 22, Chelsea v West Ham, 14:00
September 22, Tottenham v Reading, 14:00
September 26, Arsenal v Fiorentina Women, 19:30
September 29, Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion WFC, 16:00
September 29, QPR v Denham, 14:00

Home Nations Men’s Football
September 9, Northern Ireland v Scotland, TBC
September 9, Scotland v Belgium, 14:15
September 10, England v Kosovo, 19:45

Home Nations Women’s Football
October 8, Belarus v Wales, TBC
November 8, Norway v Scotland, TBC
November 9, England v Germany, 19:45

Rugby World Cup
September 20-November 2
See rugbyworldcup.com for more information

Cricket
September 10, Hampshire v Surrey, 10:30
September 10, Nottinghamshire v Kent, 10:30
September 10, Somerset v Yorkshire, 10:30
September 10, Warwickshire v Essex, 10:30
September 16, Essex v Surrey, 10:30
September 16, Hampshire v Somerset, 10:30
September 16, Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire, 10:30
September 16, Yorkshire v Kent, 10:30
September 23, Kent v Hampshire, 10:30
September 23, Somerset v Essex, 10:30
September 23, Surrey v Nottinghamshire, 10:30
September 23, Warwickshire v Yorkshire, 10:30

Tennis
courtesy of Sky Sports
September 9-15
WTA Zhengzhou Open, Zhenzhou, China
WTA Hana-cupid Japan Women’s Open, Hiroshima, Japan
WTA Coupe Banque Nationale, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
WTA Jiangxi Open, Nanchang, China
September 16-22
ATP Moselle Open, Metz, France
ATP St. Petersburg Open, St. Petersburg, Russia
WTA Guangzhou Open, Guangzhou, China
WTA Tour Toray Pan Pacific Open, Tokyo, Japan
WTA Korea Open, Seoul, South Korea
September 23-29
ATP Shenzhen Open, Shenzhen, China
ATP Chengdu Open, Chengdu, China
WTA Tashkent Open, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
WTA Wuhan Open, Wuhan, China
September 30-October 6
ATP Rakuten Japan Open Tennis Championships, Tokyo, Japan
ATP & WTA China Open, Beijing, China

Golf
courtesy of englandgolf.org
September 9-15, Junior Solheim Cup, Gleneagles
September 10-12, Duke of York Young Champions Trophy, Royal Portrush Golf Club
September 11-13, Irish Senior Men’s Open Stroke Play Championship, Carlow,
September 11-13, Men’s Home Internationals, Lahinch Golf Club
September 12-13, U16 Boys’ England v Ireland, Hunstanton Golf Club
September 14, Boys’ County Champion of Champions, Frinton Heath Golf Club
September 14-15, Senior Men’s County Champion of Champions, Flitford Heath Golf Club
September 14-15, Irish Senior Women’s Open Stroke Play Championship, Carlow,
September 11-13, Men’s Home Internationals, Lahinch Golf Club
September 12-13, U16 Boys’ England v Ireland, Hunstanton Golf Club
September 14, Boys’ County Champion of Champions, Frinton Heath Golf Club
September 14-15, Senior Men’s County Champion of Champions, Flitford Heath Golf Club
September 15, Men’s County Champion of Champions, Flitford Heath Golf Club
September 16, Women’s County Finals, Delamere Forest Golf Club
September 17-19, Senior Men’s Home Internationals, Ainmouth Golf Club
September 18-20, The Women’s Senior Amateur Championship, Royal St.

David’s Golf Club
September 21-22, English Champion Club, Romford Golf Club
September 22, West of England U16 Amateur Stroke Play Championship, Tracys Park Golf Club
September 22, East Region Junior Team Trophy, St Ives Golf Club
September 24, East Region Ladies’ 36 Hole Stroke Play Championship, Hadley wood Golf Club
September 27, English Men’s County Championship, Huddersfield Golf Club

Marathons in the UK
September 8, Baccus Marathon, Dorking, Surrey
September 8, Farmham Pilgrim Marathon, Farmham, Surrey
September 8, Glencoe Marathon, Glencoe, Highland
September 8, Great North Run, Gateshead, Northumbria
September 8, New Forest Marathon, New Milton, Hampshire
September 8, Yorkshireman Marathon, Haworth, West Yorkshire
September 15, Purbeck Marathon, Swanage, Dorset
September 15, Richmond RUNWEST Marathon, Richmond, Surrey
September 22, Rutland Marathon, Rutland, East Midlands
September 22, Goodwood Motor Circuit Marathon, Chichester, West Sussex

September 22, Hull Marathon, Hull, Yorkshire
September 28, North York Moors Coastal Marathon, Ravenscar, Yorkshire
September 29, Glasgow Half Marathon, Glasgow
September 29, Windsor Half Marathon, Windsor, Berkshire
October 6, Bournemouth Marathon, Bournemouth, Dorset
October 6, Chester Marathon, Chester, Cheshire
October 6, Clarendon Marathon, Winchester, Hampshire

International Marathons
September 8, Bali Marathon, Bali, Indonesia
September 22, Buenos Aires Marathon, Buenos Aires, Argentina
September 22, Montreal Marathon, Montreal, Canada
October 5, Kenya Wildlife Marathon, Taiba Hills, Kenya
October 6, Casablanca Marathon, Casablanca, Morocco

Cycling
September 7-14, Tour of Britain
September 8, Bucks County Classic, Doylestown, PA, USA
courtesy of cyclingnews.co.uk

Compiled and edited by Fahad Redha
Japan at the centre of the World
By Derek Wyatt

As we have seen with Ben Stokes’s wondrous innings at Headingley recently, sport has a way of capturing a Nation’s attention and for days afterwards it was, at least amongst most men, the first and frequently the only topic of conversation.

Similarly, in 2015, at Brighton’s soccer stadium on the south coast of England at the outset of the Rugby World Cup, Japan beat South Africa, one of the favourites, with the last play of the game. Thirty thousand delirious supporters of rugby (and now all things Japanese) went absolutely nuts. The next day at least a million people claimed they were there. In Japan, such was the sudden and unexplained euphoria for the game, its main newreaders and weather forecasters on NHK (think BBC) started wearing the Japanese national rugby jersey when broadcasting!

In a few weeks’ time, the 2019 Rugby World Cup begins. For the first time since it started in 1987, it will not be held in a Six Nations country or one of the Tri-Nations (South Africa, Australia or New Zealand). Quite extraordinarily, they will be in Japan, where rugby ranks fourth to soccer, baseball and sumo.

Japan will be the centre of the sporting world not just for the six weeks of the Rugby World Cup, but also for the summer Olympics which they host next year. My take is that our Features editors across all media will suddenly “discover” Japanese fashion, food, sake, music, literature, architecture and technology.

Hooray.

Like a number of other rugby playing countries: Argentina, Italy, France, NZ, Australia and South Africa, the Japanese Rugby Union does not own any of its stadia and so has had to borrow from its soccer counterparts for the World Cup.

In 2015, Japan won three of its four games in the opening rounds, but failed to make it through to the quarter finals beaten by Scotland and South Africa simply on bonus points. All three had won three and lost one but the former had 4 bonus points, Scotland had 2 whilst Japan had none. This was the first time a country having won three of its four games failed to advance. Be sure that this has not been lost on the major rugby playing countries who will want to score upwards of a hundred points against lesser nations just for the security of the bonus points.

As it stands I am not in favour of the Rugby World Cup. I can see no reason to humiliate lesser nations, known as tier 2 or tier 3, by sixty or seventy points.

Since 1987, only Argentina from the ‘younger’ nations has made it through to a semi-final; neither Ireland or Scotland has ever advanced past the quarter finals and the winners have been NZ (1987, 2011 and 2015), Australia (1991 and 1999), South Africa (1995 and 2007) and England (2003). There have been no breakthroughs from such countries as Italy, Georgia, America, Canada, Russia, Fiji, Samoa or Tonga. The World Cup needs fundamental reform.

I would rather have a senior World Cup for men and women at the same time; ditto tier 2 and 3. The tier 2 and tier 3 fixtures could start earlier in the overall World Cup competitions, if you are still with me.....so they would start in Week 6 whilst the tier one finals would start in Week 3 with all the finals being played over two days (week1) at the end of the competition. It will never happen.

It will never happen because the old ‘white’ countries have two votes each on the main rugby world board, whilst the newer rugby playing members or unions have one. Until democracy finally arrives in world rugby it will never be a global game.

As for who will win RWC19, most of the sound money is on the All Blacks winning for a third consecutive time which would be a first. I am not so sure. I think Australia, England or South Africa have as good a chance. Sounds familiar though these are the only nations to have won the competition. Maybe then it is time for Wales though they never travel well. And France? Well they have lost two finals in 1987 and 2011, but it is not a case that they do not travel well, it is a case of what mood they are in on the day! So, why not then dear old England just to make Eddie Jones smile.

Have some fun looking at my animated CV: vimeo.com/223960456

Knight’s Double
Walter Lawrence Trophy Women’s Award 2019

England captain Heather Knight has won this year’s Walter Lawrence Women’s Award after scoring a sparkling unbeaten 159 for Berkshire against Cricket Wales. Knight’s innings, which was scored off 125 balls and included 15 fours and 1 six, saw her side home by 3 wickets after chasing down Wales’ total of 232 for 9 in the Division 2 match at Pontarddulais CC on May 26.

Knight has been an England regular since her debut in 2010, attaining the captaincy in 2016, and to date she has played in 7 Tests, 98 One-DAY Internationals and 63 T20 Internationals. The 28-year-old all-rounder led her country to a thrilling win in the 2017 Women’s World Cup, which climaxd with a nail-biting victory over India at Lord’s. Following the team’s success she was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s 2018 New Years Honours list and in April 2018 was named one of the five Wisden Cricketers Of The Year.

Knight joins her England colleagues, Nat Sciver and Tammy Beaumont as a second-time winner of the award, having previously won with a score of 157 for England against Australia in 2013. She will receive a special silver medallion and prize of £500 at the Walter Lawrence Trophy Presentation Dinner in The Long Room at Lord’s on November 13.

Cameron Delport of Essex still leads this year’s Walter Lawrence Trophy with a 38-ball century scored on the second night of this season’s Vitality Blast T20 competition, at Chelmsford on July 19. The 30-year-old South African, who holds a British passport, put Surrey to the sword finishing his innings on 129, scored off 49 balls and including 7 fours and 14 sixes.

Oliver Batchelor of Leeds/Bradford MCCU is the winner of this year’s MCC Universities Award with a mighty 215 not out, scored against Cardiff MCCU in the 3-day drawn match at Usk CC on April 25. During his remarkable innings, which included 29 fours and 1 six, he shared a 3-wicket stand of 247 with Ben Pearson and helped his side post a total of 458 for 5 declared.

The quartet of Walter Lawrence Trophy awards, supported by Perce Cliquiot, encompass four distinct areas of the game: the Walter Lawrence Trophy, for the fastest century of the season; the MCC Universities award for the highest score by a batsman from the six MCC Universities against the first-class counties or in the MCCCU Championship; The Walter Lawrence Women’s Award for the batsman who makes the highest individual score in a season from the ECB Women’s One-Day Cup and all England Women’s matches played on home soil, and, finally, the Walter Lawrence Schools Award for the highest score by a school batsman against MCC.

Now in its 85th year, the Walter Lawrence Trophy, awarded for the fastest hundred of the season, is open to all domestic county competitions as well as One-Day Internationals, T20 Internationals and Test Matches in England.
Crossword, Bridge & Public Notice

This is the eighty first Wolfe Cryptic Crossword

Jenny Keene of W8 is 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 KCW Today 80-100 Gwyane Road London SW11 3UW, or scan it in and send by email to wolfe@kcwtoday.co.uk

www.leaandsandeman.co.uk/Fine-Wine.
Contact Sandor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SECTION 17 LICENSING ACT 2003

Licensing Act 2003: Notice of Application for a new Premises Licence

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THE LICENSABLE ACTIVITY application is to permit for the provision of late night refreshment Monday to Saturday: 23:00 to 23:30 and the sale by retail of alcohol from Monday to Saturday: 10:00 to 23:00 and Sunday: 12:00 to 22:30

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Andrew’s Bridge Tips

With Andrew Robson

Against a trump contract, the opening lead from a doubleton is generally overrated. The likelihood of being able to trump the third round of the suit before declarer has removed all your trumps is small. Better to find an alternative lead, such as top of a sequence of two or more touching high cards. However when you have the controlling card in trumps, the ace, the lead of a doubleton becomes much more attractive. Declarer is bound to have difficulty drawing your trumps.

Dealer South Both Vulnerable

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West North East South

Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

West correctly preferred to lead from his ♥ shortage than from his ♦ sequence. He led ♥ 8 - top card from a doubleton is standard practice enabling partner to know that you have none left after you follow with a lower card on the next round. Declarer won with ♥ Q and led a low ♥. West rose with ♦ A - essential - and led ♥ 6. Declarer won with ♥ J in dummy and led a second trump. East won ♠ K and led a third ♥. West trumped and the contract was defeated. It may appear that ♦ A lead to East’s ♥ A and ♥ 10 switch would defeat the contract in a similar manner. But declarer can discard his third ♥ on dummy’s ♥ Q and so avoid West trumping the third ♥.

ANDREW’S TIP: Lead from shortage when holding the ace of trumps.
Chess

By Barry Martin

It was the evil twin brother that done it

The focus, expectancy and burning question of the first round of the 7th Sinquefield Cup, St Louis, 15th-30th August, was the Carlsen-Girigame, and... had Carlsen exercised his ‘evil twin brother’ who had crippled his confidence and play at the board in the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz Tournament, 8th-15th August, that immediately preceded the Sinquefield Cup?

However, Carlsen wasn’t the only player to lose and astonish his audience with blunders; so did numbers of the other players in this tournament. Garry Kasparov immediately commented on the overall debacle and said what many were thinking, that the main explanation lay in the increased number of top flight tournaments that top players were expected to play in.

Kasparov stated ‘They, the players, are overworked, because it’s hard, there’s so many mistakes, so many blunders!’ He continued, ‘Wow, I don’t know where to start! When I made blunders 2 years ago, I could justify it by being old and rusty, these guys are making blunders that even I’m getting confused!’ He referred to MVL’s, ‘...blunderous howlers’ against Richard Rapport that led to the latter’s easy win. And, Carlsen losing a rapid game ‘he (K) could finish off blindfold’, against Levon Aronian, on missing 23...Re4+!’

‘I could have missed that today or maybe 2 years ago, but 25 years ago, I doubt it!’ ‘Something is dead wrong!’

Carlsen had a month’s rest before this event, but up to then had won 7 tournaments, what a huge effort. Everybody expects him to win every tournament he enters, but that’s a huge amount of pressure. The cram packed schedule is affecting the players adversely. For example, the Sinquefield Cup came in the immediate aftermath of the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz, so it was decided to combine the closing ceremony of the latter tournament with the opening ceremony of the Sinquefield Cup, that took place on Thursday evening 15th August in the St. Louis World Chess Hall of Fame. Surely a breathless affair knowing that many of the players were appearing twice in both what was and what was to come. It could become quite confusing for the tired player and devotees alike!

Kasparov continued, and picked up where I left off in my last month’s column when I mentioned the internet blogs damaging effect on some players with adverse random comments. Kasparov, ‘I don’t have a solution. I feel sorry about my former colleagues, because seeing them making blunders and looking at the internet, seeing lol, lol, lol, lol, from a bunch of amateurs, that makes me feel sick! People are celebrating when MVL or Magnus are making a blunder. I don’t like it.’ One comment from a blogger on the subject of too many rapid and blitz tournaments summed it up, ‘Chess used to have class. It’s become bit of a freak show recently.’

Kasparov, ‘I’m nostalgic about the times when I played Karpov. We could make a blunder and nobody dared to criticise us, fans today can see instantly from computer evaluation that they (the players now) that they’ve blundered ‘It was FIDE that done it’, he said, ‘placing the blame firmly at the feet of FIDE, for the packed schedule. For example, the Grand Chess Tour was extended for this year making 8 tournaments instead of 5 or 6, as there wasn’t an Olympiad, Candidates or World Championship, giving more host countries like Africa, India, Romania tournament possibilities, but FIDE then suddenly introduces 4 more qualification events into the calendar, which players are not likely to refuse as they are FIDE qualifiers, and that means numerous top players have to play almost every week to keep up if they want to qualify for top events!’ This pressure is certainly exerting a negative effect overall on players’ games and more likely seen in rapid and blitz matches where the rest period between each game is extremely short too!

Carlsen is right in putting the emphasis on the number of back-to-back tournaments that top players feel obliged to engage in at this present time and FIDE needs to have a better constructive time line in positioning top tournaments with adequate recovery times between them.

Carlsen talking with Maurice Ashley felt he could expose his innermost thoughts and joked the chess world into realising the reality for him of playing so badly in the recent GCT Rapid and Blitz tournament, and what’s it really like at the top of the tree when everything is going so badly wrong. Carlsen, ‘Everything’s going wrong, my confidence is long gone and now I just don’t really care anymore. To be honest, my number one wish now is for the tournament to be over; it cannot come soon enough. So, yeah, you’re probably going to see more of the same tomorrow, (3 loss him a row). I just cannot really be bothered at this point!’ It has been quite astonishing for the the chess world to hear such defeatism and probably a cry for help buried in Carlsen’s confession, but coming from a world champion, particularly in a sport that not only prides itself but operates from mental self control in its participation.

In explanation Carlsen went onto say, ‘I feel ok in general but I guess when things start to go wrong, it’s easy to start doubting yourself. I’ve tried to play more aggressively, then I tried to play a bit safer but it doesn’t really seem to work out anyway. When I’m playing I’m constantly doubting myself.’ This loss of confidence is a critical issue and one hopes he manages to cast out ‘the evil twin brother’!

Carlsen has started after 6 rounds in The Sinquefield Cup to achieve 6 draws giving 3 points, and seems to have stabilised his ship, thankfully!

Despite the messy journey outlined above he started the ‘disaster tournament with a fine win over one of the favourites MVL. As white, Carlsen outwitted MVL’s typical positional exchange sacrifices which ran out of steam in the long run. This month’s puzzle from round one of the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament joins the end game battle with Black having moved his King out of check, 80..... h1-h2, and White’s response was 81.f4!, the beginning of a 10 move checking sequence leading to Carlsen’s win! Answer upside down below. An instructive demonstration in an end-game position avoiding a drawn result!
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