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Government Funding Hits All Time Low

- ▶ Ealing council to see 64% drop in funding
- ▶ Funding to schools uncertain
- ▶ Programme launched to improve services

Ealing Council's cabinet meeting heard Tuesday night (14th November) that the budget gap the authority will need to close over the next four years now stands at £73million.

Public funding austerity measures, introduced in 2010, will mean that the council will have £143million less government funding to spend on local services in 2021 than it did at the start of this decade. This is the equivalent of a 64% drop in government funding, which is a greater cut than both the London and national average.

The council has taken steps to address these extensive cuts in central government funding, along with the additional challenges of rising costs and demand for services over the past seven years. This has included ongoing efficiency

savings, staff reductions, re-negotiating contracts, consolidating council assets and increasing income through charges for services as well as using its financial reserves. These challenges will remain in the coming years and the council eventually expects to have made a staggering £265million of savings between 2010 and 2021.

Last night, proposals for £4.5million in budget reductions and income generation for the next financial year were approved at the meeting. This includes proposals to delete 38 posts across the council; charging developers for planning advice; increasing local land charge search fees for property buyers; and selling parking enforcement services to private car parks. A second round of proposals will need to be considered by

councillors early in the new year, ahead of the council setting its budget for 2018/19 in February.

As government funding to local councils decreases local services will instead be funded through council tax, business rates and fees and charges for council services.

The council has sought to increase investment in the area and boost the local economy in an effort to create jobs and much needed homes which has helped to increase both council tax and business rates receipts.

Alongside this, the council has embarked on an ambitious programme to transform the way it works. This programme, called Future Ealing, seeks to improve the lives of local people by prioritising the council's limited resources and reducing budgets against

Local services will have £143million less in government funding in 2021



Ealing Town Hall

nine key aims.

Councillor Julian Bell, leader of the council, said: "Seven years of swingeing austerity cuts are causing real pain and mean further cuts are unavoidable. We have a growing and ageing population and demand for services is increasing year-on-year.

"Given this, we have set ourselves an ambitious challenge to review services and find ways to improve them with less money; be creative and innovate including harnessing digital technology.

"We have also been working to grow our way out of austerity. Our ambitious regen-

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Fundraising Dinner Raises Thousands Of Pounds For Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust raised thousands of pounds at its 30th anniversary dinner last week. The fundraising event, held at the iconic Great Hall at Syon House, raised much needed funds for the charity's sport, health, education and disability projects. The Mayor of Hounslow, Cllr Sue Sampson, was joined by dozens of guests including Brentford FC manager Dean Smith and the club's chairman Cliff Crown. Along with a three-course dinner and live auction, a buzz of excitement surrounded guest speaker John McAvoy. The convicted armed robber credits sport with reforming his life and now gives motivational speeches to prisons and schools across the country. Cllr Sue Sampson, Mayor of Hounslow, said: "I know first-hand the fantastic work the Trust does in communities throughout our borough. Funding raised



The Mayor Of Hounslow, Cllr Sue Sampson At The Fundraising Dinner

through events like this are really important. "This money will be reinvested back into the projects already up and running, to ensure they can continue. But also, to support new initiatives, which will benefit more people. "I would like to congratulate the Trust on the work they do and the difference they make to so many lives across the borough and for the inspiring speech by John McAvoy." Brentford FC CST has received widespread recognition for its community work; it was one of the first football clubs to establish a community project back in 1987. Now, it runs over 6,000 coaching sessions a year and engages with over 11,000 people. Lee Doyle, Chief Executive of the Trust said: "The event focused on progress to date and what we want to achieve in the future. There was a tremendous feeling of support, which will be translated into changing lives positively – through sport, education and mentoring." Along with health, education and disability projects, the Trust's mentoring programme helps disadvantaged youths turn their back on a life of crime. This initiative certainly resonated with the guest speaker – John McAvoy, "The environment I grew up in meant that a life of crime was all that I knew," he said. "When I was in prison I began exercising in my cell to pass the time and have some control over my body. "I was lucky enough to find a prison officer who recognised the potential I had and helped me find redemption through sport. "Working with Brentford FC CST seemed like the perfect fit: helping young people – from disadvantaged backgrounds – make positive choices in their life. "If I can inspire one person to see that they don't have to go down the same path I did; then I feel like I have achieved something." Detectives from the Met's

Melody Cafe To Close



South Parade's Melody Cafe has been served with a forfeiture notice. This means that their landlord, Marsa Ltd. will be terminating their tenancy, forcing them to shut down at the premises. The notice was dated 14th November 2017.

Dominos Pizza Arrives On High Road



Dominos Pizza will be moving into the premises previously occupied by Boys Thai on Chiswick High Road. The former Thai restaurant is located at 95 Chiswick High Road, London W4 2EF.

Announcing Ealing's Foster Carer Of The Year

On Saturday, 11 November, at a special annual awards ceremony recognising and rewarding Ealing's foster carers, Shakuntla Gittins received the Thornborough Award as Foster Carer of the Year. The annual awards ceremony is held by the council to recognise and reward its foster carers for their hard work and commitment in making a positive change for vulnerable children in the council's care. Carers were nominated by young people and social workers with the winner chosen by a panel which includes Val and Jeff Thornborough, who the foster carer of the year award is named after in recognition of the exceptional care and service they provided to young people in their care. This year's event was held the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Ealing and was hosted by cabinet member for children and young people, Councillor Binda Rai. The event was opened by the immediate past Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Dr. Patricia Walker and attended by more than 150 foster carers. All foster carers received a certificate and those who have achieved five, 10, and 20 years of service were also presented with specially engraved glassware. Shakuntla Gittins has been a foster carer for Ealing for over nine years. During that time she has looked after children of various ages, including children with complex health problems, behavioural difficulties and other needs. She was nominated for the work she has done and the care provided to a specific child who has greatly benefited from the calm, warm and inviting home she has provided. This has resulted in the child, two and a half years later, being very much a part of Shakuntla's family. Shakuntla was also nominated for her commitment and understanding of Brighter Futures, the new way Ealing is working on all aspects of fostering. She has embraced new ways of working, taken on board new ideas and regularly attends support groups to share her wealth of experience and knowledge with other carers. Shakuntla said: "I am over the moon and so pleased that people nominated me. It has been good to work with the fostering service and I appreciate the support given to me throughout the years. "I'm very thankful that Ealing puts on this event every year to celebrate and recognise the work foster carers do." Councillor Binda Rai, cabinet member for children and young people said: "This annual event is one of the highlights of my calendar. It is wonderful to meet, thank and congratulate carers who provide a lifeline to normality for the most vulnerable of our children. "Our foster carer of the year, Shakuntla, provides a home that offers security and a ha-



Cllr Binda Rai, Foster Carer Of The Year Shakuntla Gittins, Director Of Children And Families Judith Finlay

ven from the bad experiences children have had to endure. On top of that she selflessly gives her time, knowledge and experience to help others. I warmly congratulate her and all our foster carers for their dedication and hope that their example helps us to recruit future carers, who will receive so much from giving loving homes to our children." Currently Ealing has approximately 100 fostering families, but with around 340 looked after children, more carers from all backgrounds, ethnicity and age are welcome. To find out more, come to one of our regular open Information sessions. The next is being held on Monday, 4 December 2017, 7.30pm- 9.30pm at Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, Uxbridge Road, London, W5 2BY. For further information contact Ealing Fostering and Adoption Connections on Freephone 0800 731 6550, email fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk or visit www.ealingfosteradopt.co.uk

Government Funding Hits All Time Low

Continued from front page...

eration projects have helped secure transport improvements and more decent and affordable homes; and, by encouraging new businesses to locate to the borough, new jobs have been created and more income has been generated from business rates." At the same time as facing unremitting central government cuts, the council is also experiencing sustained demand for adults' and children's social care and housing, which adds to the pressure on the council's budget. Councillor Yvonne Johnson, cabinet member for finance, performance and customer services, said: "Looking after our most vulnerable residents is one of the most vital things we do but it is also the most costly. But, we cannot turn our backs on those who need us the most. Social care is in crisis across the country and we, like other councils, need a national funding solution urgently. "Although we passed on the government's social care pre-

cept to residents in their council tax bills last year, it simply wasn't enough to bridge the financial gap and meant we had no option but to use the council's savings, known as reserves, to fund the shortfall. But of course, you can only use this money once and it will eventually run out. "We are prioritising what we do to protect the most vulnerable, including trying to keep people healthy and living in their own homes for as long as possible and working to prevent problems like homelessness. This helps people live better lives and reduces demand for expensive services. We also want to build community pride and encourage residents to help look after the borough so that we can protect funding and ensure it continues to be a great place to live, work and visit." To ensure it sets a balanced budget the council is continuing to identify additional savings and efficiencies from across the organisation. Under the Future Ealing pro-

Image Released Following Sexual Assault In Ealing

Detectives from the Met's Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command have released an image of a man they want to identify following a sexual assault. Police were called to Church Place in Ealing at around 03:50hrs on Saturday, 14 October after a 20-year-old woman reported being sexually assaulted. The woman was walking through South Ealing Road when the suspect approached her, dragged her into a grassy area and attacked her. She bit the suspect's hand and was able to get away. She ran to a friend's house nearby and called police. She was treated for minor injuries. There have been no arrests and officers are now releasing images of a man police want to speak to. The suspect is described as being of middle-eastern appearance with short brown hair. He was around 5ft 8ins tall and wearing a white T-shirt, blue jeans and black shoes. He is also believed to have had a black puffa-style jacket. Detective Sergeant Dan Langton, said: "The victim was subjected to a terrifying attack by a stranger in the dead of night, and we need to catch the person responsible. "We have released an image of a man we would like to speak to in connection with this incident. If you recognise him or you have any information about the incident, please call us." Anyone with information is asked to call police on the police non-emergency line on 101 or anonymously on Crimestoppers 0800 555 111



Image Of The Man Police Wish To Identify

or by tweeting @MetCC. You can also email the team via: SapphireNW.WitnessAppeal@met.pnn.police.uk

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Chiswick War Memorial Graced With Poppies



Turnham Green's Chiswick Remembrance Sunday. Girl Guides, the Conservative War Memorial was adorned Organisations who had laid Party and the Metropolitan with wreaths of poppies after wreaths include the local Police.

Mayor Leads The Big Countdown As Hounslow Gets Ready For Christmas

With just six weeks to go until Christmas Day, a touch of sparkle is arriving in Hounslow this week as the first of the festive events takes place in the borough.

A Winter Parade in Feltham is followed by more festive cheer in Hounslow town centre on Saturday 18 November, from 6.30pm.

A lantern procession will take place from near the Blenheim Centre to the Holy Trinity Church for the Christmas lights switch on, finishing up with a dance performance in Bell Square. Visit the Bell Square website (<http://www.bellsquarelondon.com/same-sky>).

Chiswick is next when it hosts the big Christmas Lights switch on, Thursday 30 November, from 6pm, outside the George IV pub, Chiswick High Road.

Isleworth is the venue for the next Christmas event, on Saturday 2 December, from 3pm-7pm, when the popular Inspiring Isleworth Christmas



Hounslow High Street

Market comes to town, along with Santa's Grotto, a fun fair and much more.

The Council and Hounslow Highways, who manage the borough's street services on behalf of the Council, are supporting the events.

The Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Sue Sampson, who is attending all the events below, said: "Christmas is only six weeks away.

"It will be nice to see the borough starting to look festive with colourful lights, and bustling with people shopping for their gifts for family and friends.

"I hope to see many residents

at the events as we look to get ready for all the fun of the festive period."

Feltham – Thursday 16 November, from 5pm – The Piazza, The Centre, Feltham. A Winter's Night Carnival (featuring lantern parade from Victoria Junior School beginning 16:40).

Hounslow – Saturday 18 November, from 6.30pm, with a Lantern procession through the High Street, from Holloway Street, Christmas lights switch on outside Holy Trinity Church, finishing at Bell Square with Same Sky dance performance.

Chiswick – Thursday 30 November, from 6pm – Christmas lights switch on outside the George IV, Chiswick High Road, from 6pm, with local school choir.

Isleworth – Saturday 2 December, from 3pm-7pm – The traditional Isleworth Christmas Market, from 3pm including, Santa's Grotto, children's funfair rides, The 'Isleworth Eye' big wheel and choirs.

Lord Patten Meets The St Benedict's Scholars

Lord Patten presented the Patten Scholarships at St Benedict's, Ealing this week.

In his address, he said that he had been "wonderfully happily educated at St Benedict's", adding that it had formed his "strong view of what schools should be like."

Lord Patten of Barnes is Patron of St Benedict's and attends the Sixth Form Scholars' Evening each year. Chancellor of Oxford University and a Crossbench member of the House of Lords, Chris Patten was the last British Governor of Hong Kong and a Conservative politician until 2011.

In his address to parents and scholars aged 11 to 18, Lord Patten said: "I was wonderfully happily educated at St Benedict's, which formed my fairly strong view of what schools should be like." He added that schools should be more than mere 'exam factories', and should "develop talents to the full, educating rounded human beings. It's the total experience, preparing boys and girls to make a contribution to improve society; to put back

what we get out."

The evening began with an outline of the Academic Challenge programme at St Benedict's, given by Mr Stefan Scisciński. This wide-ranging programme, which includes various lively discussion forums, independent research projects and weekly talks, is designed to challenge all pupils intellectually throughout the school.

The evening gave senior scholars in their final year at St Benedict's the opportunity to talk about how they had used their awards to develop their academic interests. Matthew Barrett, who wants to study German at university, described how the immersive experience of a two week intensive German course in Vienna had dramatically improved his ability to speak the language. To prove the point, Matthew spoke in perfect German. Victoria Szymanska, who hopes to study Medicine, spoke about a course for aspiring medics she had attended at Imperial College, which had given her confidence as

she prepared her application, and had confirmed her interest in Medicine.

Finally, Aine McColgan gave an inspiring presentation about what it means to be a scholar, encouraging the younger scholars in the audience to be curious, active and independent in their learning and to challenge themselves intellectually at every opportunity – through Oxbridge essay competitions, masterclasses and courses. Aine, who wants to study Natural Sciences at university, had organised a group trip to a CERN masterclass on particle physics. The same group then used what they had learned to enter a CERN competition, for which they had to design an experiment to find the ideal nuclear fallout shelter material.

Lord Patten concluded the evening by saying: "It has been the greatest pleasure to hear what these young people have been doing as scholars and I wish them, and all the other scholars, the very best of luck."

Southall Murder Victim Named As Detectives Make Fresh Appeal

Detectives investigating the murder of a man in Southall have named the victim as Khalid Abdi Farah, from Greenford.

Officers were called at 01:23hrs on Saturday, 11 November, to reports of a shooting at Lady Margaret Road, Southall.

Armed police and London Ambulance Service attended and found Khalid, 26, suffering from gunshot wounds.

He was taken to a central London hospital by London Ambulance Service where he died just a few hours later at 03:32hrs.

A post-mortem examination will take place in due course.

A murder investigation has been launched by the Met's Homicide and Major Crime Command under Detective Chief Inspector Andy Partridge.

DCI Partridge said: "I am appealing to the public to assist our investigation by providing

any information or footage of the incident that could help us identify and find those responsible.

"We are working hard to establish the circumstances that led to Mr Farah being fatally shot in the early hours of Saturday morning.

"We know that a black vehicle, probably an SUV-type vehicle pulled up beside the Ford Focus that the victim was sat in outside some shops in Lady Margaret Road. An occupant of the black SUV then approached the victim on foot and fired directly into the car. The suspect then returned and the SUV and it left the scene at speed.

"The route taken away from the scene has been identified as along Lady Margaret Road towards the Ruislip Road and then along the Parkway heading towards the M4. This route is always busy and it is possible that the manner and speed in which this vehicle



Khalid Abdi Farah

was being driven shortly after 01.23 hours attracted the attention of other motorists. It may even be that this car has been captured by motorists with 'dash cameras' fitted. If anyone can assist with sightings or footage of this vehicle, I urge them to contact my team."

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information is asked to contact the incident room on 020 8358 0300 or via Twitter @MetCC.

To give information anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Ant McPartlin 'Feeling Great' Post-Rehab



Ant And Dec

Chiswick resident celebrity Ant McPartlin said upon arriving in Brisbane for shooting I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here that he is "excited to be back."

After a stint in rehab for a prescription painkiller addiction, Ant is finally back to host the show, which returns to ITV in two weeks time. His friend, and other of half of

the presenting duo, Dec Donnelly was overjoyed to have him back. The two live mere roads away from each other, in Chiswick.



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Interview With Head Of ISL In Gunnersbury

Sarah Pearson is Principal of the International School of London (ISL) located in Gunnersbury. We spoke to her about why the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is a great alternative to A-Levels, what makes ISL London special and what exciting things the school has coming up this year.

Why choose the IB over A Levels?

From my perspective, the strength of the IB Diploma is that it offers breadth as well as depth. There's a perception that because it's broader and students do more subjects, it doesn't go as deep, but this is not the case. Also, it's about skills development. An IB Diploma prepares students for the next steps - for example, the Extended Essay is good preparation for university essay writing. Students may find the IB Diploma challenging, but later on they will realise the strength of what they've done.

What makes ISL so special in an already multicultural London?

ISL truly embraces the fact that we are a multicultural school. This is reflected in our teaching staff who come from all over the world, as well as in our student body. We actively support the maintenance of a student's first language by offering lessons in their first language as part of the main curriculum. We also look to support the opinions and views of our students, as they bring multiple perspectives - we help develop the global citizens of the future. I think it would be difficult to find another school that has such a unique multicultural makeup, reflected in staff, student body and outlook. Everybody belongs because everybody is different.

Where do your students go after graduating?

What is most important to us is that our students go to the right university and choose the right course for them. A high number of our students remain in the UK to study, attending a range of universities including Oxford and Imperial. We also have stu-

dents who study elsewhere in Europe and around the world. Recently an increasing number are choosing to go to the US. Our Japanese students often return to Japan for higher education studies.

What are you most proud about of the school?

The idea that everybody belongs. We are not being tokenistic; we really believe that. We make a real effort to seriously consider the opinions of everybody in our community. What are the challenges of being ISLs principal in the Brexit era?

I think all schools who have students from outside of the UK worry about this in some way. However, our enrolment is strong, and we have students from the world over - not just from Europe - so right now there doesn't seem to be any discernible effect from Brexit. I don't think it will in the future because there will always be an international community in London. Is there anything big planned for the upcoming year?

Our PTA are very active; for



Principal of the International School of London Sara Pearson

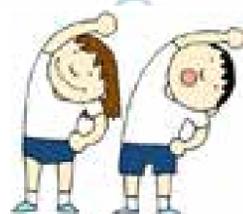
example, they run annual winter and summer fairs. This year we have been offering the Diploma programme for 40 years - being one of the first schools to do so. We will be celebrating this and looking to get our alumni

involved- it will be the main event of the academic year. For more info on the International School Of London visit: <https://www.islschools.org/Main Campus> 139 Gunnersbury Avenue London W3 8LG

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H&F Putting Disabled People At The Heart Of Decision-Making



A Meeting Of The Disabled People's Commission

H&F council is planning radical improvements in how it works with Disabled people to shape the decisions and services that affect their lives. This follows a report by H&F's independent Disabled People's Commission, all of whose members are Disabled. The commission was set up by the council last year as part of its programme to transform how the council works by doing things with, not to, local people. All residents are invited to discuss the commission's final report, Nothing About Disabled People Without Disabled People, at 7pm on Monday 13 November at Hammersmith Town Hall. Discrimination and exclusion of disabled people is not inevitable, the barriers we experience are created by society," said Tara Flood, chair of the commission. "This report makes recommendations to deliver on what disabled people have

been calling for over many years – that we must be partners in the reorganisation of society and particularly decision-making in everything that affects our lives." Cllr Ben Coleman, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, added: "We hope lots of Disabled people will come and discuss what the commission is proposing and the next steps", he said. "Too often, decisions are made for Disabled people rather than with them. We want to change that so that Disabled people in H&F themselves shape the services they need." The commissioners have spent months talking to local Disabled people about the changes they want. At the heart of their recommendations is that the council work with Disabled residents and local Disabled people's organisations to agree a "co-production" approach and a long-term funding strategy.

"Co-production" is taken to mean an equal and reciprocal relationship between the people who use services and those who design and deliver them. Among the other recommendations are that the council implement a human rights approach to its policy and service development, and using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) as the framework for change. The report and recommendations will be discussed at the Health, Adult Social Care and Social Inclusion Policy and Accountability Committee at 7pm on Monday. The committee will also be discussing the annual report of H&F's Safeguarding Adults Executive Board, as well as an update by Hammersmith & Fulham Healthwatch, an independent charity which represents people using health-care services.

Appeal For Help To Find Missing Woman

Lisa Joyce, 34, who is from Hammersmith, was last seen at 15:00hrs on Thursday, 9 November. Lisa is described as white, of thin build with long brown hair. It is not known what she might be wearing. She is known to frequent the Kings Street and Shepherds Bush areas. Officers are growing increasingly concerned for Lisa's welfare. Anyone who has seen Lisa is asked to contact officers at Hammersmith and Fulham on 020 8246 2323 or via 101. Alternatively, they can tweet @MetCC



Hammersmith & Fulham Confirms Kim Dero As Chief Executive

Kim Dero has been appointed as Hammersmith & Fulham Council's permanent Chief Executive, pending formal ratification at a council meeting on 14 November, after seeing off a strong field of contenders for the post. Kim became H&F's interim chief executive in April 2017 after working for H&F for over 20 years, latterly as Director of Delivery and Value. The appointment has been hailed by the council's Leader, Cllr Stephen Cowan, as confirmation of the outstanding leadership Kim has provided over the last seven months. "In H&F we believe in doing things differently to the way they've been done before and in radically rethinking our relationship with local people," he said. "Kim understands and shares our world view and has proved her ability to make change happen. "Being a great leader takes energy, drive and the imagination to see better ways of doing things. Kim has all that, as well as a great capacity to



connect with people, whatever their background. We're honoured she's agreed to take on the role permanently." Kim is delighted to have been given the backing of councillors to continue her change programme and says: "I welcome this fantastic opportunity to lead the transformation of council services; we need to be even more responsive to residents' needs, more agile and more innovative when developing early help and preventative approaches.

"Our staff are our assets and I value their hard work and passion - I'm looking forward to working together with councillors, staff, residents and borough businesses to make H&F an even better place to live, work, invest in and visit." Kim knows she has her work cut out. H&F is in the process of a radical programme of reinventing what local government means. Being in the heart of London means H&F has some of the country's biggest and most exciting development projects and has just launched a ground-breaking Industrial Strategy. It's also the only council in the country to have cut or frozen council tax over the last three years, while also abolishing home care charges and putting more money into adult care services. To tackle air pollution, it has also recently launched the country's first electric car club with free membership for residents and is installing 200 charging points.

St Michael And All Angels Launches WW1 Exhibition



Clay Poppies From The Tower Of London's 2014 Display

The exhibition, which opens Tuesday November 7th, features ten of the 37 men on the church's war memorials who fell in 1917. Every year since 2014, St Michael's has embarked on a project to identify and research the individuals whose names appear on the memorials associated with the church. David Beresford, a member of the church, has researched as

many of the people as is possible with data from public records, and has pieced together their stories. With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, David has used original parish documents, amongst other sources to discover how the war was fought, and the effect on families and the community. This exhibition, known as 1917: Ypres, Passchendaele and Palestine, follows several

others annually, including 1914: The first to fall, 1915: Remembering 15 more who fell and 1916: Remembering the Somme. One of the men to be featured is Bedford Park's most decorated hero, Commander Walter Sterndale Bennett, RNV, DSO and bar, who died at Passchendaele on 7 November.

Chiswick 'Dolphin' Found Dead



Thought To Be The Same Creature As Sighted Last Week (Picture @LexieCarducci)

A short beaked common dolphin was found stranded at Wandsworth Bridge on the morning of November 7th. Thought to be the same dolphin as that seen in Chiswick and Kew last week, a team from ZSL collected the body

and performed a necropsy. They are still waiting on a conclusive decision on cause of death. The Met Marine Policing Unit Twitter account tweeted "Sad to tell you that a dead Common #Dolphin was washed

up on the foreshore at Wandsworth yesterday. Our friends at @ZSLMarine will carry out tests to determine why it was in fresh water. There may be others so keep an eye out & report any sightings."

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Ealing Welcomes New London Living Wage Week Rate

Ealing Council is welcoming the increase in UK and London rates announced by the Living Wage Foundation as part of Living Wage Week (November 5-11).

As an accredited Living Wage employer for four years, the council is part of a movement of over 3,500 employers who voluntarily opt-in to paying the real Living Wage.

The council has committed to the increase, which is independently calculated to meet the cost of living, and will be introduced over the next six months.

The new London rate announced by the Living Wage Foundation, which will apply for all staff over 18 has increased to £10.20 per hour, while for the UK, rates have increased to £8.75.

The council continues to offer one-off payments for businesses who gain Living Wage accreditation through the Business Rate Discount scheme. The payment (maximum of £2000) is equivalent to two years of Living Wage

accreditation fees to businesses who qualify and is also open to employers who are already accredited.

18 businesses in the borough currently have accreditation and the council wants to encourage more businesses to do the same.

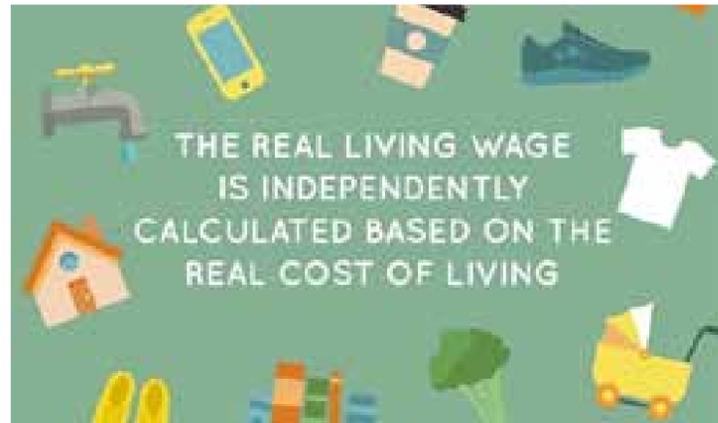
Council leader, Julian Bell, said: "As a major employer we have committed to pay the London Living Wage to our own employees and want others to follow suit by offering this incentive to responsible businesses that provide decent pay to their staff. It is encouraging that businesses have already come forward to be recognised which is not only good for local employees but good for our local economy too."

"It's fundamental for rates to continually rise as poverty is a distressing reality for too many working families in Ealing, with living costs increasing while frozen wages fail to fill the gap. We are determined to ensure people get a helping hand and make Eal-

ing a fairer place for our residents.

Councillor Peter Mason, cabinet member for prosperity, skills, employment and transformation, said: "The benefits of paying employees fair pay have been proven. In addition to boosting the reputation of the business, attracting customers and prospective staff, paying a fair wage also leads to more productive employees who take less time off for sickness and show a greater commitment to their employer."

"I would encourage businesses who are interested in gaining accreditation to speak with Ealing Council who are already Living Wage Employers and find out why it makes such good business sense." Director of the Living Wage Foundation, Katherine Chapman, said: "Year-on-year, we see organisations and businesses across the UK embracing the real Living Wage as they recognise that a fair day's pay is not only the right thing to do but can improve the quality of staff's work, reduce



absenteeism and increase motivation and retention."

"Monday's increase acknowledges that the cost of living continues to rise for workers everywhere and the leadership shown by businesses who welcome this is a cause for celebration during Living Wage Week, sending a positive message to the business community to show what others can achieve."

Businesses in Ealing who have

Living Wage accreditation include EACH Counselling and Support, City Harvest, LAQUILA IMPORTERS AND DISTRIBUTORS, PSL Leasing, Christ the Saviour PCC, Sprezzatura Limited, Twinning Enterprise, Wood Grain Design, Weird Beard Brew Co, Wellworking Ltd, Pai Skincare, Creative Staging Ltd, Suzanne Lynch Design, Belazu Ingredient Company, Mind in Ealing & Hounslow Ltd,

Proper Oils, Post and Packing (Acton) Ltd and PAG.

Businesses who wish to find out more about the council's Business Rate Discount scheme should contact the council by emailing revenues@ealing.gov.uk. Go online for more information about Living Wage Week.

Hounslow Man Wanted For Non-Recent Rape Offences



Detectives Are Appealing To Find Michael O'Leary

Michael O'Leary, 47 (30.06.1970) failed to answer police bail at Hounslow police station on 3 October 2017. He is now wanted by detectives from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Command (CASO).

All the offences relate to non recent assaults dating from 1988 to 1992 in the Houn-

slow area.

O'Leary was arrested in connection with the investigation in October 2016

He is described as white male, 5ft 6ins, medium build with short sandy hair.

O'Leary has a tattoo of a dagger on his right arm with the word "Mum." He is known to frequent the Hounslow, Rich-

mond and Kingston areas of London.

Anyone with any information is asked to call officer in the case PC Rowena Alloush at CASO on 101 or contact via Twitter @MetCC.

To give information anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

Hounslow Council Helps Highlight Unscrupulous Landlords Problem

Hounslow featured on BBC 1 TV this week (Monday 6 November) as the Inside Out programme looked at how unscrupulous developers and landlords are reaping massive income by sub-dividing houses into multiple flats.

Councillor Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, was interviewed about the problems created by the practice and the difficulties councils have in responding due to limited powers to act.

Councillor Curran said; "One of the Council's top priorities is to ensure good quality homes for residents, and we are really concerned that current laws allow really small flats to be created that are then let at very high rents.

"Where this happens, the council seeks to take enforcement action. Like all councils, however, we are limited in what we can do by current laws. We need improved powers so we can take stronger action against these rogue



Councillor Steve Curran

landlords."

"Being allowed to set up landlord licensing schemes like the one in Newham would provide another means to address the problem. Ultimately, the best solution to the housing crisis could be to build more social housing. Hounslow is at the forefront of doing this with over 400 new council homes being built." By working with the BBC

evidence of the problems has

now been presented to Clive Betts MP, chair of the Government's Communities and Local Government Committee. He has vowed to investigate private landlords, who are housing the homeless in tiny flats and said that the practice of landlords converting family homes into several flats and renting them out to homeless people on housing benefit is "an abuse of the system".

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MP Welcomes Heathrow's Start On London Living Wage



Heathrow Has Been Accredited As A Living Wage Employer

MP for Brentford and Isleworth Ruth Cadbury has welcomed Heathrow's accreditation as a London Living Wage employer, as hundreds of her constituents will get a much needed pay rise. "I'd like to congratulate Heathrow Airport Ltd (HAL) on being accredited as a Living Wage employer." Ruth Cadbury went on to say, "West London MPs and airport unions have been urging HAL to address the issue of low pay and poor working

conditions for some time and I am pleased they have listened to us. "Hundreds of staff working for HAL and their contractors will benefit immediately, and many more will over the coming months as HAL lets new retail and other contracts. "I now hope that other employers based at Heathrow, particularly the airlines, will follow HAL's example, and work with the Living Wage Foundation to become accredited too."

Under the accreditation, Heathrow workers will receive the revised London Living Wage following an increase in voluntary Living Wage rates. Employee's working at Heathrow's Support Centre in Glasgow will also receive a boost via the UK Living Wage. The accreditation will mean direct worker's in Heathrow's supply chain will also transition to the Living Wage.

Bedford Park Society Opposes CS9



Residents Have Expressed Concern Over Potential Traffic On Bedford Park's Quiet Streets

The Bedford Park Society (BPS) last week opposed Cycle Superhighway 9, stating that their members expressed concern about pedestrian safety, the effect of CS9 on local life, pollution from increased traffic congestion and "the likely level of traffic displacement into the residential streets of Bedford Park." A survey carried out by BPS

found that 74% of their membership was against the proposal, whilst 21% were in favour and 5% expressed no view. According to the official response from BPS, "Many members suggested that the wide pavement along the A4 would be a more appropriate route for a cycle superhighway for the mass movement

of commuters into and out of central London, with local measures to promote cycling within Chiswick, combined with improvements in public transport to promote switches from cars to others modes of travel." The society as a whole has stated support for this view.

Chiswick Lib Dems Demand CS9 Rethink

Chiswick Liberal Democrats have asked TfL to investigate an A4 route, as an alternative to ensure CS9 works for all. They support the introduction of better cycling facilities, however they "can't support the proposed Chiswick section of the CS9 cycle super highway in its current form." Helen Cross, Liberal Democrat Council Candidate for Turnham Green Ward, said "In our view TfL have failed to provide evidence that the CS9 scheme will deliver on these benefits for Chiswick. It's the right principle but is being implemented incorrectly"

"This scheme is expected to cost up to £70 million pounds and should support all the forms of transport it is supposed to. This appears to be a classic case of top down targets driving decisions with little consideration of local needs. Chiswick Liberal Democrats want TfL to investigate 'on-carriageway' and alternative or complementary solutions such as an A4 route to ensure CS9 works for all"



A survey of local Liberal Democrats showed that many were concerned about the environment, but were unsure about the effect of CS9 on pedestrians, public transport, traffic and businesses.

The following concerns were highlighted by Helen and her fellow candidate Chris Gillie: that CS9 as it stands is the 'wrong solution for community, consumers and business', that it will lead to reduced accessibility for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as those with disabilities, children and the elderly, and

diminished pedestrian experience.

"Chiswick Liberal Democrats want to work with TfL to get the right CS9 approach for Chiswick. The current proposal diminishes the experience for pedestrians, impedes access to public transport for vulnerable groups, potentially increases pollution and is bad for local businesses. We will continue to push TfL to take concrete actions to address our concerns and develop a better solution that works for all."

Chiswick Landlord Fined Over £12,000



The Property At The Rear Of 171 Gunnersbury Lane

A Chiswick landlord has been fined over £12,000, for illegally renting out a basement to rent out the basement underneath an outbuilding at his property. It followed an investigation by Hounslow Council's planning enforcement team of the address at 171 Gunnersbury Lane. Gurcharan Singh of the same address, was issued with a warning in 2013 by the Council to take the basement out of

residential use. Singh ignored further warnings and continued to rent out the basement until early 2017. The property was found by Council planning enforcement officers to be cramped, having no natural light and just one access route via a flight of stairs. Singh pleaded guilty at Willesden Magistrates Court on 2 October and was fined £12,081.25.

Councillor Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council and Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "Some landlords are trying to let out sub-standard illegal housing to vulnerable tenants in the hope of making a quick profit. "We are taking and will continue to take, the strongest action possible against these individuals until this blight on our borough is eliminated once and for all."



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Worst A&E Waiting Times In The Country Include Ealing Hospital

NHS A&E statistics for September show North West hospital trust, which includes Ealing and Northwick Park hospitals, has the worst A&E performance in the country. These statistics highlight the strain hospitals are under, with only 57% of people with the most serious conditions (Type 1) getting treated within the four hour national target.

This latest news adds to the growing concern of campaigners opposed to the NHS Shaping a Healthier Future plans to axe emergency services in the north west London region. This includes plans to close Ealing and Charing Cross Hospitals A&E departments and cut more than 500 beds in the region.

Published on www.england.nhs.uk, the findings show the north west London region is struggling to cope with patient demand and has the worst performance record out of the capital's five regions.

The report also shows north west London region has the highest number of people attending hospitals (27%) out of all regions in the country including A&E admissions.

With the increase in population and the importance of A&E departments, these findings heavily support the need to keep vital health services and halt plans to close services at Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals.

September A&E key findings:
• London North West Healthcare Trust (covering Ealing and Northwick Park hospitals) treated 57.0% of Type 1 patients in less than 4 hours. This is the worst performance of any Trust in the country for this measure.

• London North West Healthcare Trust treated 11,272 people with Type 1 conditions in its A&Es during the month of September 2017.

• In the capital, London North West Healthcare Trust (26,767) has the second highest A&E admissions.

• Performance for Type 1 attendances deteriorated sharply at the Trust from 68.2% in August to 57.0% in September.

• North West London (75%) is the worst region in the capital when treating Type 1 patients within the national target.

Council leader, Julian Bell, said: "We have excellent doc-

tors and nurses working in our hospitals and this performance doesn't reflect their commitment to their patients. It shows a system buckling under the pressure of increasing demand from a growing population. How will hospitals in the area cope with the removal of two busy A&Es and the loss of 500 beds? We are told these cuts will improve services – this is clearly bunkum.

"These figures are very concerning considering we have not yet reached the peak winter season when you would expect to see a rise in the number of people seeking A&E treatment.

"Some of the country's leading health experts have raised serious concern about what is proposed in our area and so I have written again to Jeremy Hunt, the secretary of state for health, to ask him to scrap these plans.

"We have lost two A&Es in the region already and cannot take any further cuts to our A&Es. We will do everything possible to fight these plans and safeguard these vital health services for our residents."



Ealing Hospital

North West London health services include London North West Healthcare NHS Trust, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation

Trust, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Find out more about the

council's Save Our Hospitals campaign. Sign the petition at sohp.net

MP Calls For Parliament To End 'Menace Of Mattock Lane'

Ealing Central and Acton MP Rupa Huq led a parliamentary debate on public order legislation and access to abortion yesterday.

Rupa called for the government to establish buffer zones outside family planning clinics. This follows a letter organised by Rupa that was co-signed by another 112 MPs from across five Parliamentary Parties, with signatories from 4 party leaders including Jeremy Corbyn MP, the Leader of the Labour Party.

Dr Huq has been a leader on this issue in Parliament and recently questioned the Home Secretary, following a near unanimous vote by Ealing Borough Council to impose a Public Spaces Protection Order around the Mary Stopes Clinic on Mattock Lane. At that time the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd MP, told Dr Huq that she would observe the issue to see if "any further support is needed".

Commenting, Rupa Huq said: 'I was pleased to have the op-

portunity to raise the issue in Parliament, and to highlight the need for women to access legal and necessary health-care without fear of harassment, intimidation or public shaming. This debate is not the end of the campaign, and I look forward to continuing to work with colleagues across the House to argue for a national solution. As a proud resident of Ealing I was delighted to see my home borough take action. Last month, the eyes of the world were on Ealing, but we can and must do more. The government must support local communities by introducing new legislation to protect people. Residents of Ealing have been prevented from enjoying their surroundings for 23 years. Residents and service users have firsthand experience of the menace of Mattock Lane. People in Ealing deserve their street back to enjoy and to use.

From the friends and colleagues who attended the



debate to the messages of support from fellow MPs who could not attend, it is clear that this is not an issue of left or right, but an issue of right and wrong. I've been campaigning on this issue since

before I entered Parliament. Women across the country who need services like those offered at the Mattock Lane clinic are entitled to their privacy and their dignity. My letter attracted cross party

support, and I am glad that from the tone of the debate last night that the government appear receptive to the needs of women accessing these services. I look forward to campaigning vigorously in-

side and outside Parliament to secure a positive result and bring an end to the gendered harassment and intimidation that takes place on a daily basis.

Hammersmith Woman Missing

Police are renewing appeals for help to find a woman who went missing from her west London home almost a week ago.

Katie Chopra, 41, left her home on Everington Street in Hammersmith on the morning of Tuesday, 31 October. She was seen at approximately 07:00hrs in Hammersmith Broadway Shopping Centre. Officers have since received a reported sighting of her in the Eastbourne area on the same day.

Katie is described as a white female, about 5ft 8ins tall, of medium build with shoulder length blonde hair. She was seen wearing black leggings, a grey T-shirt, a thin black padded jacket, white trainers and a large pink and beige woollen scarf. Her family and officers are becoming increasingly concerned for her safety as her disappearance is out of character.



Katie Chopra

Saurav Chopra, Katie's husband said: "This is completely out of character for Katie. Obviously I am very, very worried and ask that anyone with any information no matter how insignificant they think it is comes forward and lets the police know.

"Katie if you are reading this, myself and Noah are missing

you very much and we want you to get in touch and let us know that you are safe and well."

Anyone who has seen Katie is asked to contact officers at Hammersmith and Fulham via 101 or @MetCC. Alternatively, they can call Missing People on 116000.

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Last Chance; The Nitty Gritty of Stopping a Hard Brexit

by MP for Brentford and Isleworth **Ruth Cadbury**

If Brexit isn't going to be a complete disaster, as business leaders are finally admitting it almost certainly will be, then the EU Withdrawal Bill must be amended. That means Parliament has to get this legislation right, otherwise not only will our economy and our rights be put at risk, but so will the credibility of our democratic institutions and the standing of the UK across the world.

I apologise that my blog this week is rather dry and legalistic. But between now and Christmas, I'm going to be involved in the scrutiny of one of the most complex legislative projects ever undertaken in the UK. And as your MP, scrutinising and voting on legislation is at the core of my role as your elected representative. Here goes...

This week saw the beginning of the Bill's committee stage, with two days of debate down and (at the time of writing) we still have six more to go before Christmas, with several debates lasting late into the night. The Bill repeals the European Communities Act 1972 and converts EU law into UK law with the intention that there is certainty from the moment we leave the EU. I acknowledge that the majority of voters in the UK, though not in my constituency, voted to leave the EU. However, the electorate did not vote to take back control only to see our domestic constitution, parliamentary sovereignty and liberties taken by government ministers. I fear, in conjunction with MPs on both sides of the House, and many many people in the Real World, that this is exactly what this Bill does.

So as to play my part in making the best of a very bad job - here are a number of changes I'm supporting; some proposed by the Labour front bench, some are cross-party and some I'm supporting with smaller groups of Labour and minor party MPs.

Firstly, I have serious concerns about the extent of powers that have been outlined in the Bill that allow Ministers to make changes to other laws without proper parliamentary consent. I believe these are sweeping powers that require effective oversight or accountability and such safeguards and clear enforcement mechanisms are currently lacking in the Bill. I feel so strongly about this, that I voted against Clause 1 of the Bill setting out the repeal of the 1972 Act on exit day, because we have no knowledge of what law will replace the corpus of EU law, including membership of the Single Market, the Customs Union, etc that are enshrined in the Act. I believe there is no legal basis for transition after exit day.

Secondly; as I said in the election this year, Brexit should not result in any detrimental change to workers' rights, equality law, consumer rights or environmental protections, and so I am opposing any attempts to diminish, qualify or limit these throughout the consideration of this Bill. These should be protected without qualifications, limitations or sunset clauses and I believe we must also make sure UK rights keep pace with EU rights after Brexit.

I would like to see all relevant and substantial rights in the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights converted into domestic law. I support amendments which would ensure that this single, clear document of rights can continue to protect people's rights which the Government has so far refused to include.

On Trade; it is vital to avoid a cliff-edge for our economy when we leave the EU in 2019. I believe this will require a transitional deal based on the same basic terms that we currently enjoy - including within the single market and inside a customs union with the EU, acting as a bridge toward a lasting new partnership with the EU.

On the environment, the Bill fails to properly capture and convert all EU environmental law into domestic law, and it fails to secure environmental law from future modification without full Parliamentary scrutiny. This is both undemocratic and risks weakening our environmental protections.

The Withdrawal Bill currently fails to include EU principles properly meaning that a vital part of existing environmental and animal protection will simply disappear when we leave the EU, such as article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU protecting the legal status of animals as



sentient beings.

The Bill does not adequately set out a pathway for replacing the vital governance functions currently undertaken by EU institutions, including regulation, monitoring, oversight, accountability and enforcement. Nor does it include the power to bring infraction proceedings if environmental rules, such as air quality standards, are not respected. I regret that in the months following the election that lost them their majority, the Government are not listening to MPs from across the House, nor representatives of key sectors of the economy, charities and trade organisations. Time will tell as to whether the Government take these points seriously, and accept sensible amendments; or whether they are so cowed by the Ultra-Brexiteers on their own Right Wing, that there will be no significant change and the UK, or this Conservative Government, will sail off the proverbial cliff.

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Cabinet Question Time Comes To Isleworth On 30 November

Residents get the chance to quiz members of Hounslow Council's Cabinet on council services and local matters at the latest question time event on Thursday 30 November. It takes place at the Music Room, Spring Grove House, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, TW7 4HS, from 7pm to 9pm.

Chairing the event, will be Chief Superintendent Raj Kohli, Borough Commander for Hounslow Police. Following positive feedback from the previous four events held in Chiswick, Feltham, Brentford and Heston, a different part of the borough has been chosen for residents to raise with Cabinet, any issues they have in the area where they live and work.

All residents are welcome and



admission will be on a first-come, first-entry basis. If you wish to submit a question to Cabinet in advance of the event, please send your question to communications@hounslow.gov.uk by Friday 24 November.

Year-Round Tennis Dome Rejected By Hounslow Council



After being refused permission by Hounslow Council to retain the Tennis Dome between April and October each year, Dukes Meadows continue to appeal.

The Dome currently is up between October and April each year, but permanent cover-

ing of the hard-surface tennis courts is impossible outside of this time. Dukes Meadows (DM) have challenged Hounslow's decision by appealing to the Secretary of State. They have also submitted a further planning application to retain the dome over the

Summer.

If residents wish to write in support or against this planning application any representation should be sent to Natalie Lynch the Case Officer via email: Natalie.Lynch2@hounslow.gov.uk quoting the reference 00503/B/P32.

Hounslow Council Reacts To Police Changes

Hounslow Council has expressed a cautious welcome to the announcement of plans for changed policing in the borough. The plans by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, include the closure of Chiswick Police station as part of a reduction in the number of police front counters in London, to save £8 million - equivalent to the cost of 140 police constables.

The Mayor believes this is necessary to protect and support frontline policing as much as possible and keep Londoners safe, in the face of Government cuts to police funding. Councillor Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said: "Keeping local residents safe is one of Hounslow Council's top priorities and we work closely with the police to achieve it.

"We appreciate that money spent keeping police stations or front counters open, is money that could fund police officer numbers and note that just eight per cent of crimes



were reported at police front counters in 2016, down from 22 per cent in 2006". The proposals follow wide consultation with public meetings in every London borough as well as feedback gathered from surveys and other written responses. Around 4,000 Londoners submitted their views. The final plans include maintaining a 24/7 police front counter service in every bor-

ough, Police officers patrolling crime hotspot areas so they can reach the scene of emergencies quickly, and a doubling of Dedicated Ward Officers based at new hubs closer to their local ward and the community they patrol. Community sessions will also be held every week in every ward in locations such as leisure centres and council buildings.

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Local Nursery Eyes International Expansion

Local Nursery group Buttercups (with nurseries in Chiswick and Homefields) was chosen by the Department for International Trade to be part of its Early Years Education trade mission to China, earlier this month.

As an Ofsted Outstanding childcare provider, Buttercups were representing the UK sector, offering expertise and advice whilst exploring opportunities for collaboration.

More than 700 Chinese partners met with Paul Whitehouse, Buttercups Director, and the 13 other UK representatives, in a number of forums and networking events in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Delegates were also able to observe first hand existing early years provision in China and see the scale of investment involved. "The extent to which the EYFS is known and welcomed by many already in China was a real surprise. The scale with which it was implemented was also a shock with some nurseries being 200 or 300 place settings," said Paul Whitehouse.

With the largest education system in the world, China looks set to have an industry worth £340 billion by 2020. It is a measure of their high regard for UK nursery provi-



(above) The 14 UK delegates with Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary for the Department for International Trade and their Chinese hosts



Buttercups Director, Paul Whitehouse, discusses nursery provision with one of the Chinese delegates.

sion that they are inviting UK companies to discuss expansion into this booming market. Paul said, "The trip was an excellent chance to imagine expansion for which the barriers, to an organisation of our size, would initially seem insurmountable." As a follow up to the trade mission, representatives from a Chinese Real Estate firm visited Buttercups Day Nursery in Ealing this week.

Rowing Coach Dies On Thames



Chiswick Lifeboat In Action

A man in his seventies suffered a fatal collapse while coaching a youth rowing team on the morning of Saturday 28th October.

The incident happened near Kew Bridge and the RNLI Chiswick Lifeboat was launched.

The RNLI said, "On Saturday morning 28 October 2017 Chiswick RNLI lifeboat was

called to a report of a rowing coach who had collapsed in his vessel near Kew Bridge.

"When the crew arrived the London Ambulance Service paramedics were already dealing with the casualty after the young rowers he was coaching had helped bring the coach's vessel to shore. "The rowers had seen that he

denly slumped forward. "Despite the treatment by the LAS paramedics, tragically, the coach did not recover. "The young rowers were very cold and at least one had been in the water. They were taken on board the lifeboat, given blankets and taken back to their rowing club."

Woman Challenged Over Shoplifting In Chiswick



A woman was challenged by staff from Sainsbury's and a member of the public, on

suspicion of shoplifting from the superstore in Essex Place. According to a local resident,

she 'went berserk' before police were called to deal with the situation.

'Spooktastic' Fun At Chiswick Day Nursery



Halloween has been marked by children at Devonshire Day Nursery in Chiswick with an array of fun filled, 'spooktastic' activities.

The event is marked annually at the Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding' nursery located on Bennett Street with a dressing up party and face painting.

Pumpkins have been the focus of many educational activities including exploring the texture of the seeds, textures, colours and shape as well as carving. There have also been themed craft activities and exploration of slime and gloop. Devonshire Manager Emmy Avery said, "Mid-autumn cel-

ebrations are always great fun at Devonshire Day Nursery and we introduce light-hearted activities to mark the season. Children are invited to dress up and are enjoying a range of sensory and creative activities in line with traditional Halloween festivities"

Renowned artist selling work in Chiswick

Art lovers are being given the one-off opportunity to acquire original paintings and Limited Edition prints by the celebrated naive artist Noel Barker for just two days at unprecedentedly low prices.

Noel Barker first picked up a paint brush and put paint to canvas in her early 50s. Noel set up her studio in Chelsea and that's where Noel Barker Naïve art was born. Noel was soon exhibiting her work around the world.

Noel and her husband travelled extensively and a lot of her paintings reflect the inspiration she gained during these travels. Some others are a result of Noel's quirky interpretation of day to day scenes and her wild imagination! With no formal art training, her art has an originality and freshness that has not been constrained by working to rules.

Noel will be 93 in December and she has recently moved from her coastal home to Chiswick to be closer to her



UP AND AWAY - OIL ON BOARD

family. There is now insufficient storage space available for Noel's extensive catalogue of original paintings and Limited Edition prints, so these are now being made available at a one-off show at the Parish Centre in Chiswick on the weekend of 16th & 17th December, at prices that will represent an unprecedented opportunity to art collectors, and which will provide a wonderful opportunity to buy that very special Christmas present.

Noel will be attending the sale

on Saturday 16th December so you will have an opportunity to meet and speak to the artist personally. The Parish Centre, 2 Dukes Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 2AE Saturday 16th December 9.30am - 5pm Sunday 17th December 9.30am - midday Please check out Noel's website. www.noelbarker.co.uk

For any enquiries prior to the sale please contact: georgie-holman@hotmail.com

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Toys R Us bankrupted by its supply chain

Permjit Singh PhD – visiting lecturer and founder: Cash for Invoices Limited

The Financial Times described the tale of popular US toy retailer Toys R Us that was pushed into bankruptcy by its supply chain. It turns the spotlight on an area that many shoppers do not know even exists let alone them appreciating its importance to them being able to choose from a wide range of games and toys.

Toys R Us in essence has supply lines with dozens of makers and distributors offering it a bewildering variety of games and toys. These manufacturers and distributors span the globe so Toys R Us had a web of connections through which these games and toys reach its shelves. A break in that supply chain means delays and possibly 'out of stock' signs on shelves until the connection is re-established perhaps through another link in the chain.

If the chain is broken at multiple nodes in quick succession, as happened to Toys R Us, then the company's trade ceases and it is in effect bankrupted.

What caused the sudden rupture in Toys R Us's supply chain?

Overlaying this supply chain

is a multitude of agreements whereby Toys R Us is able to get the games and toys on credit, meaning it pays suppliers for them after delivery – from 30 - 120 days after. When trade is normal, cash comes in from a steady stream of sales of games and toys at tills across the company's global chain of shops, and that cash pays its vast chain of suppliers within the agreed credit periods.

According to the Financial Times report, a CNBC News leak said Toys R Us was considering bankruptcy. That acted as a circuit breaker: connections were cut in the supply chain of credit agreements, supplies were no longer made (and so sales could not take place) without Toys R Us paying cash on delivery for its games and toys.

A very common source of finance is for a company supplying games and toys to sell its trade credit invoices it sends to its retailers, such as Toys R Us. Instead of waiting for Toys R Us to pay the invoice, the invoice can be sold at a discount to a factoring company for cash. The supplier is happy because they have been paid and so is Toys

R Us because they continue to get supplies.

A supplier could instead continue to give credit to Toys R Us (issue invoices) but purchase credit insurance in case the retailer defaulted on paying those invoices. This alternative works as long as credit insurers are willing to take risk in retailers such as Toys R Us and their premium is affordable by suppliers.

The CNBC leak set off a 'dangerous game of dominoes' according to Toys R Us chief executive David Brandon, meaning not one but several key players in keeping the credit supply chain, and so Toys R Us, intact, began to topple. Without credit insurance, factoring, and conventional credit from suppliers, Toys R Us had to buy its games and toys as they were delivered (cash on delivery). That takes an awful lot of ready cash. If it is not available, shelves soon begin to empty, payments become overdue, staff are not paid, and operations grind to a halt. In other words: bankrupted.

Keeping the supply chain oiled and connected is essential to keeping shelves stocked and customers happy.



VAT threshold risk for SMEs in November Budget

Phil Hammond could be about to drop another clanger - in his 22 November budget.

He is considering lowering the VAT threshold above which companies must pay VAT. Reducing that from the current £85,000 to £43,000 could bring in an estimated £1-1.5 billion per annum to the Treasury and affect half a million companies currently not caught by the VAT net. Reducing it to £25,000 could rake in £2 billion a year.

Whilst the money could be spent on essential infrastructure, it will not be welcome by the half a million companies thought to be affected. They'll have to deal with VAT returns and the administration that entails, plus begin to issue VAT invoices. Annual costs could be £675 according to official estimates, says the Financial Times, plus the £40 registration fee. Mike Cherry, Chairman of the Federation of small businesses commented on the publication of

the Office of Tax Simplification's (OTS) 'Value Added Tax (VAT): Routes to Simplification' report, which includes a possible reduction of the VAT threshold:

"Any reduction of the VAT threshold against the current backdrop of unprecedented uncertainty and spiralling costs will have a hugely negative impact on growth within the small business community. The OTS is right to address the issue of 'thresholditis'. It's equally right to suggest that a smoothing mechanism which doesn't force any more small firms into the VAT system could encourage more businesses to grow beyond the £85,000 cliff edge."

Businesses hitting the threshold have a couple of choices at least: avoid growing to remain outside the VAT threshold. That has the negative consequence of limiting their growth. They can outgrow the threshold and start to pay VAT. Some will however fail to declare their additional revenue

and so (illegally) evade VAT. To find the cash to pay VAT to HMRC, companies can bring forward the collection of cash on invoices they've sent to their customers. One way to do this is offer an early payment discount. Another is to sell their invoices to a factoring company. Factoring invoices can be inflexible because it obliges the company to sell all its invoices even at times when it is flush with cash, provide a charge over some or all of its assets, and it comes with a plethora of fees and charges that ramp up funding costs.

Single invoice finance by contrast enables the company to sell just one invoice, when it wants, and (at least in the case of Cash for Invoices Limited) without having to give any security (such as a debenture or personal directors' guarantees) and pay just one fee.



On the couch with Nicholas Rose: Autism Spectrum Disorders Trends and Therapy



Over recent years I have increasingly come across patients where either they or their family members have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or other associated conditions; some examples include ADHD, epilepsy, dyspraxia, obsessive compulsive disorder, dyslexia.

I have also understood that for parents getting children assessed, stated and into appropriate services the challenge has been getting increasingly difficult. BBC News article What is the provision for children with special needs? 2nd June 2016 states:

"Parents have long complained that they have had to battle to get the right support for children facing challenges with their education. The changes introduced from 2014 were an attempt to improve the system.

But many school leaders say

they are struggling to offer adequate support for SEND pupils. A survey by The Key found 82% of mainstream schools in England said they did not have sufficient funding and budget to provide for these pupils".

And a review of annual statistics from the Department of Education that present figures on the numbers of children with assessed Special Education Needs or SEN shows the percentage with an "Autism Spectrum Disorder" as having risen from 20% in 2010 to 26.9% in 2017. And the statistics coming out of the USA are even more alarming. According to the article "Autism cases on the rise; reason for increase a mystery" published on WebMD states that in the 1970's about one out of every 2000 children had autism but now it is estimated that one in every 150 children at the age of 8 has ASD.

It appears that scientists are not entirely certain why diagnosis is on the increase. Is it because we are getting better at spotting the symptoms? Is it because the demands of our education and work environments has been changing in such a way that people with ASD are more easily recognised? Is it that more people are being born with ASD? But at the moment the exact cause of ASD is unknown, current thinking is that it may occur as a result of genetic predisposition, environmental or unknown factors. In essence no one knows at the moment. However from my experience what is most clear is that people with ASD and its associated conditions, suffer in ways rarely understood by those that they come into contact with. At home, work and school they are punished, victimised, bullied and discriminated against and often do

not get either the understanding or support that might enable them to live more fulfilling lives.

People may have ASD and associated conditions if you observe something that you think is different in the way language is used, how they respond to other people, how they interact, whether they avoid eye contact and / or they have a number of specific behaviours. For example, developing a highly specific interest in a particular subject of activity.

And in addition the difficulties people can have maybe compounded by depression and anxiety that comes about as a result of their painful and isolating struggle to live as they see others doing, to succeed as others do and to have meaningful relationships.

In therapy our work with people who have ASD and associated conditions has the same

basic underlying assumption - as we get to know and understand ourselves better we are able to make better choices, be more skilful in our actions - in short know our strengths and weaknesses and increase our understanding of opportunities and threats specific to us as individuals.

When I am working with patients who have ASD the most important thing for me to do is to discard all my expectations of how I should experience this person. It is so tempting to come up with a list of things that someone else might do differently or better to improve their situation however my patients rarely make progress by being told what to do. Progress comes from them being able to explore how they experience life, what they see, hear, feel and think and for them to come up with ways to improve and address the areas

of life that they are finding most difficult. There is help out there so don't delay - go out and find it!

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Rev Martine Osborne

St Michael's Church,
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'When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.'

This is the compelling opening line of Frank McCourt's award winning Angela's Ashes. The book was published in 1996 and sparked a new literary genre known as the 'misery memoir.' It's a long time since I read it but one thing I remember is that the Church does not come out of this book well.

Everyone seems to go about riddled with guilt, and under great pressure to confess their manifold sins – or risk burning in hell. Many people have a negative impression of the practice of confession. But, in an era where we are more likely to encounter the practice of cover up rather than confession, I want to say a few words in its favour.

First, confessing or 'fessing up' can be truly liberating. Not just for ourselves but for others too. If we recognise we've done something wrong and respond by saying, 'Oh man, I can't believe I've done that...' or 'I'm so sorry, I don't know what came over me...' it's hard, in these circumstances, for the person you have offended to go on being angry.

Unless you have a reputation for making gaffe after gaffe (without naming names in politics here!) a quick and genuine confession is a very effective way of diffusing even the most difficult of situations.

We all make mistakes, we all mess up. But only some of us admit it and say sorry, when we do.

The joy of confession!



Also, the more that we fess up, the more it encourages others to feel free to admit their own mistakes.

A very dear Church friend of mine called Fred, who is sadly no longer with us, had a wonderful habit of always repenting of his sins whenever we prayed together. He was a wonderful, kind and generous man but was also very thankful that he felt so completely forgiven for things he'd done in the past. When this really good man prayed so openly and honestly about the stuff he'd got wrong, it really helped me and others to open up about what we had got wrong too. After praying with Fred, you always came away feeling much freer and less burdened than you had been before.

At this time of the year in the Church, we start to read stories about a character called John the Baptist. He was a huge figure in Palestine around about the time Jesus started his ministry. The Baptist did not mince his words or message. He was teetotal, wore clothes made of camel hair, lived in the desert and ate locusts and honey. He called people to repent, to confess their sins – and in symbolism of this, he 'baptised' them in the River Jordan. If he didn't feel some people were authentic in their repentance, he called them 'a brood of vipers' and warned them of 'the wrath that is to come.'

I confess, for example, that

So the whole 'confess with fear and trembling' thing is there, sure enough, in the Bible. But then Jesus shows us, in his ministry, that when we confess, we need not do that in fear. But in the certainty that we are loved and forgiven.

We see this, for example, in the story Jesus tells of the Prodigal Son. Where a son is abusive to his father and goes off and wastes all his inheritance on 'wild living.' Eventually in disgrace the son has no one to turn to but the father. And so he returns home, rehearsing his confession as he goes. But how does the father respond? Does he meet out some appropriate punishment, some burning in hell? No. He runs out to meet his son. He puts a ring on his finger and dresses him in robes. He calls for the fatted calf to be slaughtered and arranges a big party to celebrate. Because his son was lost and is found. He was dead and is alive again.

So this is what we can expect when we fess up to our mistakes. Not punishment and retribution. But acceptance, forgiveness and celebration.

Confessing is also not all about admitting mistakes. There's also a very positive aspect to it. When we confess our passions in life. Again, something we may not do enough of.

I confess, for example, that

I am a supporter of Arsenal Football Club. Despite current travails at the Emirates, the familiar chant, 'I'm Arsenal til I die, I'm Arsenal til I die..' applies to me. I'm sure I will support the club for the rest of my life. I confess that.

I also confess that I am a vegan. That I love vegetables and believe they are not just healthier to eat but also a vegan diet helps reduce animal cruelty and environmental damage to our planet. I confess that. I also confess I am a Christian. That I've decided to follow Christ because I believe my life has been saved by him. My sins are forgiven – and this has set me free to be a much bigger, richer, more generous person than I would otherwise be.

So whatever burdens you may be carrying, find a way to put them down. And that way starts with confession. Admitting your faults and mistakes in the first place. And admitting your passions too. The things that bring your life alive. Confess! With joy. And be free.

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© Tony Inwood.

Alarm over decline in flying insects

Scientists have long suspected that insects are in dramatic decline, but new evidence confirms this.

Research at more than 60 protected areas in Germany suggests flying insects have declined by more than 75% over almost 30 years. And the causes are unknown. "This confirms what everybody's been having as a gut feeling - the windscreen phenomenon where you squash fewer bugs as the decades go by," said Caspar Hallmann of Radboud University in The Netherlands. "This is the first study that looked into the total biomass of flying insects and it confirms our worries." The study is based on measurements of the biomass of all insects trapped at 63 nature

protection areas in Germany over 27 years since 1989.

The data includes thousands of different insects, such as bees, butterflies and moths. Scientists say the dramatic decline was seen regardless of habitat, land use and the weather, leaving them at a loss to explain what was behind it.

They stressed the importance of adopting measures known to be beneficial for insects, including strips of flowers around farmland and minimising the effects of intensive agriculture.

And they said there was an urgent need to uncover the causes and extent of the decline in all airborne insects.

"We don't know exactly what the causes are," said Hans de Kroon, also of Radboud Uni-

versity, who supervised the research.

"This study shows how important it is to have good monitoring programmes and we need more research right now to look into those causes - so, that has really high priority."

The finding was even more worrying given that it was happening in nature reserves, which are meant to protect insects and other living species, the researchers said.

"In the modern agricultural landscape, for insects it's a hostile environment, it's a desert, if not worse," said Dr de Kroon.

"And the decline there has been well documented. The big surprise is that it is also happening in adjacent nature reserves."



The loss of insects has far-reaching consequences for entire ecosystems.

Insects provide a food source for many birds, amphibians, bats and reptiles, while plants rely on insects for pollination. The decline is more severe than found in previous studies.

A survey of insects at four sites in the UK between 1973

and 2002 found losses at one of the four sites only.

Dr Lynn Dicks, from the University of East Anglia, UK, who is not connected with the study, said the paper provides new evidence for "an alarming decline" that many entomologists have suspected for some time.

"If total flying insect biomass is genuinely declining at this

rate (around 6% per year), it is extremely concerning," she said.

"Flying insects have really important ecological functions, for which their numbers matter a lot."

The research is published in the journal Plos One.

Cancer drugs grown in chicken eggs may lower their cost

Researchers in Japan may have found a way to produce cheaper drugs that could be used to treat a range of diseases from chicken eggs.

They have successfully genetically modified hens to produce eggs containing large amounts of interferon beta protein, a protein used to treat various illnesses, including multiple sclerosis and cancer.

The protein is very expensive, costing between \$300-\$1000 for just one microgram, according to pharmaceutical company, Cosmo Bio who co-led the research.

For treating MS, for example, the interferon dosage can start at 30 micrograms and increase from there.

The research was jointly conducted by scientists from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Cosmo Bio.

According to Mika Kitahara, a spokesperson for Cosmo Bio, this technology will reduce the price of cancer drugs at least by 90% if proven successful in further trials.

The conventional production of interferon needs large aseptic (sterile) facilities, but eggs work as a protein-producing aseptic system, said Kitahara. sao Oishi, chief researcher from the cell and molecule mechanism research group at AIST said the research was conducted to test whether the

eggs from genetically modified chickens can be used for cheap production of these proteins.

A range of biological systems can be used to try and create drugs, such as bacteria, yeast and some mammalian cells, but "some proteins just don't suit these systems," said Professor Helen Sang from the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh in the UK. For those that don't quite work, "making protein from egg-white is relatively easy," she told CNN.

"Interferon was discovered as a cell-signaling protein molecule in the body which acts against viruses," said Dr. Robert Bermel, director of the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis at the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute. Later it was used to treat autoimmune diseases -- where a person's immune system attacks their body -- like multiple sclerosis, he adds.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) affects the brain, spinal cord and eyes, resulting in a range of symptoms, such as vision problems, numbness and difficulties walking. Bermel explained that interferon protein molecule is expensive because manufacturing it is a tedious process requiring strict quality control.

"Interferon for MS can be manufactured from bacteria like insulin or from Chinese hamster ovary cells." The quantity of interferon

produced this way, however, is very little. "The new research) sounds like a relatively inexpensive way to mass produce it," he says.

Previously, the Japanese scientists tried to produce the modified protein by inserting the required genes into chicken chromosomes using a virus as a vector, but said this produced an "irregular result." The new method aims to more accurately and stably produce the protein by knocking in edited genes, using a gene-editing tool called CRISPR. The researchers are currently writing up their findings for academic publication. More research is needed and the interferon beta protein will need safety clearance through trials before it can be used to treat patients. However, Sang explained it's not as simple as modifying these chickens to get endless supplies of the drug at a lower cost.

"You'll have to show (the drug) is exactly the same as the drugs that have gone through all the clinical trials," said Sang, whose own team has been working on transgenic chickens for over a decade. As well as simply making the drugs in the eggs, they will also need to be purified and validated through additional research, she said.

If this new source of interferon is shown to be the same, structurally, "then there is a lot of advantage in terms of scale," said Sang. You can

start with a few hens then scale up quickly, she said.

One drug, Kanuma, produced using modified chickens has already been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency, a rare

inherited condition where the body does not produce enough of a protein that helps the body break down fatty material.

The immediate hope is for the cancer-battling medicine to result in affordable medical

products. The team is looking forward as well, with research underway to produce human antibodies using the same method.

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36 Hours in...Minsk, Belarus

Alex Holman writes about a recent trip to Minsk

DAY 1

When someone mentions Minsk it automatically reminds me of an episode of Friends when Phoebe's boyfriend, David, left her to work in Minsk after receiving a last minute job offer. Apart from that T.V. reference I had never really heard much about Minsk.

What I did know about Minsk was that it's the capital and largest city of Belarus, and that Belarus is situated in Eastern Europe. I also knew that Belarus is the last European country where the death penalty still applies. So I made sure to stay on my best behaviour during my visit.

I was certainly surprised when I arrived in Minsk. It is a city that reminds me a bit of Havana. Well, not exactly like Havana... while Havana looks like it's stuck in a 50's time warp, Minsk is more like stepping into the 70's. But a city that looks like it's from another era is definitely an interesting one to see.

Boutique Hotel Buta
I took a room at Boutique Hotel Buta for my short stay in Minsk which is a beautiful hotel and, in my opinion, exactly what a boutique hotel should look like with wow features, like the sparkling grand chandelier in the lobby area. Our bedroom was very spacious and the king sized bed was adorned with luxurious bedding. There is free secure parking on site and the hotel is conveniently located only a few minutes away from the city centre.

We arrived mid-morning so we stocked up on food from a local shop to take with us to our first destination to eat when we got hungry.

Independence Avenue
While Minsk has a great public transport system we wanted to get a feel of the city by walking. We made our way to the longest street in the whole of Belarus, Independence Avenue, and walked to our next destination while taking in all the sights of the city. Over the years Independence Avenue it's actually grown in length and width and has changed



Hotel Buta

names 14 times.

Minsk Botanical Gardens

After about an hour of walking we arrived at the Minsk Botanical Gardens, which is the 3rd largest in Europe, right after the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London and Madrid, Spain. It covers an area of 96 hectares, contains around 9000 plants and is situated in the city's Chelyiskintsev Park.

We spent the whole afternoon walking around the Botanical Gardens and enjoying the large variety of plants, trees and flowers. The gardens are beautifully maintained with plants and trees from all corners of the world. There are little lakes with swans and ducks swimming around and statues dotted all around the gardens. The air was fresh and the flowers were beautiful and time flew by with us hardly noticing.

As I favour tropical plants the orchid orangery was definitely one of my favourite features of the gardens. In here you can find many succulents and tropical plants. There is

also a cafe in the orangery building to have a spot of coffee if you get tired from all the walking around. Apart from the orangery cafe we didn't see many places to buy food so if you're thinking of coming here to eat I'd advise bringing a picnic like we did! There are lots of areas in the gardens to sit amongst trees and nature to eat your picnic lunch. It's the perfect escape in the centre of the City.

The View Restaurant

We knew that after a long afternoon at the Botanical Gardens we'd want to eat dinner close to our hotel, so we pre-booked a window table at a restaurant called The View. The View is a 28th floor restaurant and it provides unobstructed views of the city on days when the skies are clear, which luckily for us, they were. There is an outdoor patio with lots of seating but because the evening was a bit chilly we were glad we had reserved our indoor table. The views over Minsk were really lovely, especially as the sun was casting its late



The National Opera and Ballet Theatre

afternoon glow over the city and finally setting. The whole ambience in the restaurant was pleasant.

For my main meal I ordered the ravioli with wild mushrooms, garlic puree and onion chips and my partner ordered the beef steak "Chateaubriand" with seasonal vegetables and Bordeaux sauce. The ravioli was cooked well and turned out to be a nice, flavour-filled meal, and the beef steak was done to order, tender and delicious. For pudding we ordered the warm apple pie with yoghurt ice cream and caramel, and the chocolate fondant with pistachio ice cream. Both dishes didn't disappoint. It helps that

chocolate fondant and pistachio ice cream are both, separately, probably my absolutely favourite puddings of all time and, together, the dish was also fantastic.

The National Opera and Ballet Theatre

The evening didn't end there because after dinner we headed straight to the National Opera and Ballet Theatre where we enjoyed a wonderful ballet performance of Swan Lake accompanied by a fantastic orchestra. The building itself was amazing and grand, and if you are an opera or ballet lover and don't like spending hundreds to watch a show, I strongly recommend booking

tickets to a performance in Minsk. It was the highlight of my trip.

DAY 2

We had a lot of sight seeing to do today so we got ourselves ready and out of the hotel early for breakfast.

Bistro De Luxe Restaurant

The hotel recommended we eat at Bistro de Luxe, a French styled bistro just a short walk from the hotel. We arrived at the stylish bistro where we were greeted by a friendly English speaking member of staff who lead us to a table on their outdoor terrace.

The breakfast menu seems to offer something for everyone. I ordered oatmeal with fresh berries and my partner

ordered the omelette with ham. We also shared some grapefruit with caramel between us, which was recommended by our lovely waitress. All the food is delicious and prepared to a high standard and we both thoroughly enjoyed our breakfast.

Church of Saints Simon and Helena

Our first stop after breakfast was the Church of Saints Simon and Helena, a very impressive Church which you can see from about a mile away due to its red colour. Built over one hundred years ago, this Church was one of the only buildings left standing after the city was largely destroyed during World War II, which makes it one of Minsk's oldest buildings and quite a historical landmark.

Independence Square

The Church of Saints Simon and Helena sits in Independence Square, one of biggest squares in Europe. Previously known as Lenin Square, this landmark still houses a statue of Russian communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin.

KGB Headquarters

Just a little way up Independence Avenue is the building of the State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus (also known as the KGB Headquarters), another beautiful building in the city centre, looking

more like a theatre than a power centre with the main entrance sitting behind extravagant stone columns.

Island of Tears

We then made our way to the Island of Tears, a memorial which commemorates the 771 Belorussian soldiers who died in the decade-long war with Afghanistan ending in 1989. It's positioned on a little island on the river Svislach and you have to cross a small footbridge to get there from the embankment. At the centre stands a chapel with sombre figures of widows, mothers and sisters at its base, and nearby is a fountain with a weeping childlike angel figure.

Grand Cafe Restaurant

We stopped off at Grand Cafe for a bit of lunch. For our starters we ordered the tomato fish soup and the tuna tartare, both were very delicious and full of flavour, and for the main course we tried the risotto with shrimp and the chicken Kiev. The risotto was one of the best I've tasted, the perfect mix of al dente and creaminess, and my partner also highly rated his chicken. We were highly impressed with Grand Cafe, and the staff were very attentive and spoke very good English.

Victory Park

For the last part of our day we took



Independence Square

a walk around Victory Park, the largest park in Minsk, which has lovely views, nice pathways and a giant lake running through it. Victory Parl was a beautiful place to walk around and the perfect way to

end our trip, a little calm inside a buzzing city.

Alex stayed at the Hotel Buta - Prices and availability:
<http://hotel-buta.by/en/>
For further info on Minsk:

<https://the-view.relax.by/>
<https://yesbelarus.com/about-belarus/minsk-height/>
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The View Restaurant: Pic by Relax.by



Church of Saints Simon and Helena

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Chiswick schoolgirl Lara Tarabey is currently editing the Entertainment page of The Chiswick Herald as part of her work experience.

The Tabard Theatre: Rob Newman



Phil McIntyre Entertainment Presents ROBERT NEWMAN A History of Western Philosophy (Work in Progress) Join Rob as he premieres brand new (and usually controversial) material inspired by his recent award-winning Radio 4 series *Neuropolis*. Over the last twenty-five years Rob has continually surprised audiences with innovations, surprise changes of direction and inspired thinking. This

show will be no exception to that tradition. "He is the funniest comedian I have ever seen...a passionate, chaotically brilliant comedian." - The Sunday Times "Newman combines proper scientific argument with dazzling shafts of wit." - The Times "He is one amazing comedian" - Time Out "Newman's comedy probably has more constituent parts

than any other comic's and yet the whole is still greater than the sum of those parts... Very, very funny." - The Scotsman "A performance that mixes hard fact with dizzying flights of comedic fantasy." - The Guardian 19 November - 21 November, 7:30pm start time Tickets: £12.50 <http://tabardtheatre.co.uk/whats-on/rob-newman/>

Magical Lantern Festival Returns

The Magical Lantern Festival will be returning to Chiswick House and Gardens this month. The official festival website says "Prepare to enter a magical experience and discover life-size and larger-than-life lanterns in all shapes and forms, from 'Santa and his Reindeers' to a magnificent giant lantern recreation of an 'Ancient city from the Song Dynasty'." It is recommended that visitors do not travel to the festival by car. The festival will run from November 24th 2017 to January 1st 2018.

Chiswick Choir In Concert 2nd December

Hilary Campbell starts her third year with an all Mozart programme. The Chiswick Choir's autumn concert consists of Mozart's works as a young man in Salzburg, featuring his exuberant Coronation Mass, Alma Dei Creatoris, Regina Coeli and the much loved Ave Verum. The soprano Lucy De Butts will sing the glorious Exultate Jubilate. The Choir has this autumn appointed 4 bursaries, one for each choir section. They are music students embarking on a singing career. The position gives them experience of a range of choral works and is doing much to improve and enhance the choir's singing. The Choir are again accompanied by an excellent orchestra of young professional musicians led by Abigail Dance. Mozart Treasures: Chiswick Choir, 7.30pm Saturday 2nd December, St Michael and All Angels, Bath Road, W4 1TT Conductor Hilary Campbell



Tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/chiswickchoir or from Choir members. Admission £15 65+ / Students £12 Under 18 £5

X Factor: Viva Latino Week



Last weekend, the X Factor came up with a never-before seen theme for the show: Latino week. All about embracing the Latin American culture, the theme was an excellent idea, since Spanish songs such as Despacito and Bailando have been taking over the charts recently. Although the show has a set theme each week, the challenge that contestants face is to not stray from what they know best. Kevin Davy White was an excellent example of

contestant in the girls category who usually performs her own original songs performed Ciao Adios. The judges were unimpressed, explaining to her that she should have put her own twist on the song so that it suited her tone and the type of artist she wants to become. Overall this week was a success in terms of incorporating current themes and styles of music, which will attract young viewers who follow the charts.

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London Borough of Hounslow, Civic Centre
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Chiswick Choir

Autumn Concert 2017
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Mozart.

TREASURES

Coronation Mass | Regina Coeli
Exultate Jubilate | Ave Verum Corpus | Alma Dei Creatoris

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Chiswick Herald

Incentives to get West London buyers moving before Christmas

Buyers can secure £10,000 towards their stamp duty at Brentford Lock West

Homebuyers keen to secure themselves a new home at the award winning, Brentford Lock West development are being offered an additional incentive to reserve their new home now. The developer, Waterside Places, is offering to contribute £10,000 towards stamp duty on selected plots, for purchasers completing before Christmas 2017.

Chalico Walk is the latest release of homes at Brentford Lock West, offering a collection of one, two and three-bedroom apartments and penthouses in a waterside location. Each of the homes has been highly specified to include interior designed fully-fitted kitchens and contemporary bathroom suites. All the homes enjoy the added benefit of a private balcony and many of the homes enjoy water views.

Since the homes were first launched earlier this year, they have enjoyed a strong appeal, with 70% of the apartments at Chalico Walk now reserved. With Help to Buy also available on selected plots, the development has enjoyed significant interest from local first time buyers, many of which have moved from the neighbouring areas such as Ealing, keen to make Brentford their new home.

With access onto the water and green open space on your doorstep Brentford is able to offer buyers a sense of tranquillity, while still offering access to a host of local amenities and connections into the Capital - making it a popular choice among buyers of all ages.

John Robinson, Development Director at Brentford Lock West, commented: "The interest we have enjoyed at Brentford Lock West has been fantastic. Brentford really does have a lot to offer - from the numerous parks close by, to its popular, Sunday market and the regular paddle boarding sessions, which take place right in front of our development. There is a real sense of community here and so many opportunities to get out and get active. We hope that by introducing our stamp duty incentive, we will be able to assist even more aspiring home owners to secure a new home at Brentford Lock West."

Chalico Walk makes up the first of the homes to be released as part of phase two at Brentford Lock West. A waterfront building of 42 one, two and three-bedroom apartments,



Chalico Walk overlooks Brentford's Grand Union Canal. The homes at Chalico Walk will be ready to move into for Christmas 2017.

Just a limited number of two and three bedroom apartments remain. Prices at Chalico Walk start from £565,000. All of the homes benefit from a private balcony or terrace and many of the homes enjoy water views. Help to Buy is available on selected plots. For more information and to book an appointment at the marketing suite, please call the Brentford Lock West sales team at Stubbings Property Marketing on 0203 504 6403, email brentfordlockwest@stubbingsltd.co.uk or visit www.brentfordlockwest.co.uk. The Sales and Marketing Suite is open daily 10am-5pm.

Brentford Lock West forms part of a long-term regeneration project to breathe new life into Brentford



through the anticipated delivery of approximately 500 new homes. Close to local shops, leisure facilities, beautiful parks and waterside

walkways, the scheme has been carefully designed to maximise the water frontage whilst offering stylish homes, community spaces and

commercial buildings in a new desirable west London destination.

LOCK WEST

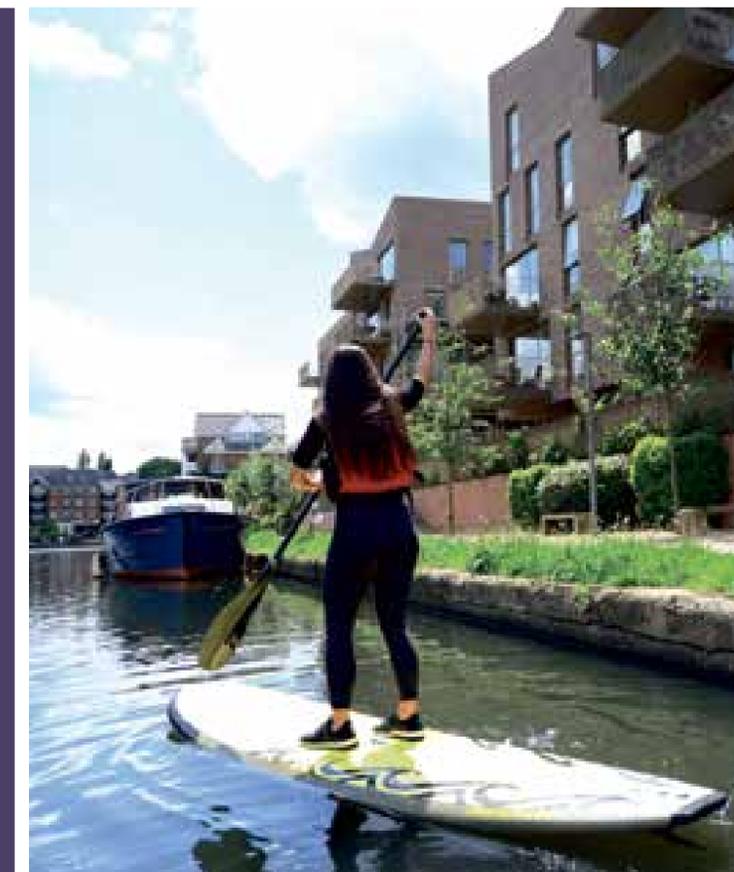
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WATERSIDE
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*£10,000 towards stamp duty offer on selected plots only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply. Subject to availability.

**Price correct at time of going to print. †Limited availability and subject to terms and conditions. Image not of actual buildings for sale.



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**Beaumont Road, W4****£530,000**

Borthwicks are happy to bring to the market well-presented split level, two bedroom, two bathroom property located on this popular, residential road. Accommodation comprises dining room, large reception room, kitchen, bathroom, two double bedrooms and en-suite shower room. Property has just been repainted inside and outside and has newly fitted carpets through. It would benefit from updating the bathroom and the kitchen. Property is located within easy reach of Chiswick High Street with its many restaurants, cafes, and shops. Good transport links offering speedy connections to Central London. Offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC rating C.

**Ivy Crescent, W4****£835,000**

A stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom split level apartment with garden and Freehold title comprising solid Dutch oak flooring in the living area and bedroom with plenty of built in storage, original Victorian spiral stairway leading down to private garden, open plan hand built kitchen with Corian work tops and integrated appliances, and a stunning wet room. Top floor offers family bathroom and 2 good size bedrooms with fully fitted luxury carpets. All original windows were restored in 2012. This property needs to be seen. Ivy Crescent is located close to Chiswick High Road and within a very short walk to Chiswick Business Park and Chiswick Park Station (District Line).

**Corney Road, W4****£1,075,000**

Borthwicks are delighted to bring to the sales market this four bedroom Edwardian family home in ever popular Grove Park area of Chiswick. Accommodation comprises double through reception, eating in kitchen with doors leading to south-west facing garden. Three double bedrooms and family bathroom on the first floor, with stair leading to additional top bedroom and bathroom. Property also benefits from large cellar that could be transformed into additional bedrooms, gym or play area (STPP). Corney Road is conveniently located close to both A316 and A4 providing speedy links in and out of the city.

**Chiswick Village, W4****£450,000**

Beautifully presented Share Of Freehold property comprising large reception room with dual aspect and south facing balcony, double bedroom with ample handmade built-in wardrobes and access to the Handless Camden style kitchen has a Corian work top with seamless sink and breakfast bar, integrated Italian appliances The ceilings have been fully soundproofed so there is no noise pollution from upstairs . EPC Rating: D

**Rothschild Road, W4****£275 per week**

A bright purpose built first floor one bedroom apartment located on Rothschild Road. The accommodation comprises of a lounge with kitchen area, double bedroom and bathroom. The property is well located being only a short walk to Chiswick Park Tube Station (District Line) and is within easy reach of Chiswick High Road with its many restaurants, gastro bars, cafes and shops. It is also close to the A4/M4 offering speedy access in and out of the city. Current EPC rating D. Available 23rd November. Fees apply.

**Bridgman Road, W4****£300 per week**

Delightful one bedroom flat with great transport links, a private rear garden and lovely central location. The property comprises a wooden floored lounge and a good sized eat in kitchen which was recently refurbished. There is a double bedroom to the rear of the property that is carpeted and has ample space for storage. The rear garden is accessed from the kitchen and is a grassed area that would be perfect for a summers BBQ or spot of sunbathing. EPC rating D. Fees apply.

**Devonshire Road, W4****£340 per week**

Borthwicks are pleased to offer this one bedroom flat in the heart of Chiswick, located right on the sought after Devonshire Road, moments from Chiswick High Road and a short walk to Turnham Green tube station (District Line, Zone 2). This property comprises of a reception room, large double bedroom and separate bathroom with bath and shower and a small private outside place. The property has recently been redecorated. Early viewings essential. Available now. Current EPC rating B. Fees apply.

**Heathfield Court, W4****£474 per week**

Luxurious two double bedroom property accessible by lift and with off street parking is situated in a prime central Chiswick location close to all Chiswick High Road's amenities including Turnham Green and within easy distance to Chiswick Park tube station. With secure entry, the accommodation consists of two double bedrooms, a spacious lounge, a fully fitted kitchen and separate shower room. The flat boasts off street parking, communal gardens and a 24 hour care taker with heating & hot water included. Located in a well-respected and maintained block it is moments from Chiswick High Road as well as having easy road access in and out of West London and further transport facilities. Current EPC rating C. Available mid-November. Fees apply.

**Cunnington Street, W4****£499 per week**

A spacious three bedroom Victorian family house located in a quiet tree lined residential street in Chiswick. The accommodation consists of two double bedrooms and a single bedroom, two bathrooms, a spacious double reception and a fully fitted eat-in kitchen. There is a secluded west facing courtyard garden. The house is close to Chiswick High Road and its' superb range of shops, bars and restaurants. Chiswick Park underground station (District Line) is a short walk away and motorists have easy access to Heathrow Airport, the M25 and the West via the A4/M4. Current EPC rating D. Fees Apply.

**Ravenscroft Road, W4****£375 per week**

Two bedroom property that has been fully refurbished to bring it up to a modern standard and vibrant home, consisting of a bright and airy lounge with double doors leading to a secluded patio garden that is a real suntrap in the summer, there is also a modern fitted kitchen, a good sized double bedroom, a smaller single second bedroom and a tiled bathroom with shower over bath. The flat is also carpeted though out. Located Minutes from Chiswick Park Tube Station (District Line) it is great for the commuter and also for the driver the A4 is only minutes away. Current EPC rating. Available 31st December. Fees apply.

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Computer generated image of West Park Gate. Internal images depict a typical Countryside home and may include optional upgrades at an additional cost. June 2017.





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Grove Park Road, Chiswick W4
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FOR SALE

The Coach House, Brentford TW9
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WC, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, garden. EPC: D. Freehold. Guide price: £1,650,000.



FOR SALE

Oxford Road South, Chiswick W4
4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, WC, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/dining/family room, utility room, garden, part. EPC: D. Freehold. Guide price: £1,550,000.



FOR SALE

Crabbrook Road, Chiswick W4
3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, downstairs WC, double reception room, kitchen, garden. EPC: D. Freehold. Guide price: £975,000.



TO LET

Sharp House, Shepherds Bush W12
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, reception room, open plan kitchen, balcony. EPC: B. Furnished. Guide price: £399 pw.



TO LET

St Albans Avenue, Chiswick W4
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, reception room, garden, garden room. EPC: E. Unfurnished. Guide price: £950 pw.



TO LET

Wata House, Acton W5
Bedroom, bathroom, reception room, open plan kitchen, balcony. EPC: B. Unfurnished. Guide price: £600 pw.



TO LET

Flanders Road, Chiswick W4
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen and dining area, garden. EPC: F. Unfurnished. Guide price: £550 pw.



TO LET

Beulogne House, Isleworth TW7
2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, Open plan reception kitchen, utility room, winter garden. EPC: B. Furnished or unfurnished. Guide price: £425 pw.



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Activity is revving up at Triumph House

New homes at former motorcycle dealership in Acton prove popular – with 30% now reserved

Triumph House, an impressive collection of 14, studio, one and two bedroom, new build apartments located moments from Acton High Street have proved popular among new home buyers, with 30% of the homes now reserved, off-plan.

The aptly named Triumph House, which sits on the site of a former motorcycle dealership Whitby's, boasts an impressive array of new build apartments, with a range of layouts and sizes available. All the apartments have been highly specified and include access to their own private balcony.

The homes enjoy a central location, with easy access onto Acton's high street and all that this emerging part of west London has to offer. With seven train stations to its name, Acton is well connected, offering residents at Triumph House excellent connections into the city and beyond. Acton Town tube sta-

tion is a short walk from the development, while nearby Acton Central and Acton Main Line Station, which forms part of the Crossrail programme, are both within easy reach.

Gary Durden, Director of Portdevon comments: "It's been great to receive so much interest in Triumph House. The apartments enjoy a great location, right in the heart of Acton. The area has so much going for it. There's a real sense of community here, it's got a bustling high street, it offers access to a large number of parks and green open spaces and it's so well connected too – making it a popular choice among young professionals and investors alike. With Help to Buy available on the development too, we hope to see the interest we have experienced to date continue."

Each of the homes at Triumph House will be well specified, comprising fully fitted high gloss kitchens and contemporary bathroom suites. Each apartment also benefits from its own private balcony, providing sought after, outside space.

The site, which has now been developed into contemporary, new build apartments enjoys a strong motorcycling past. Previously home to the locally acclaimed Whitby's dealership in the early 1900s, the premises were then purchased and run by motorcycle enthusiasts

Brian Hunter and Tom Dickie – both famous within the motorcycling circuit in the 1960s and 70s.

In 1966 Tom Dickie won the Manx Grand Prix, before going on to win the 24-hour endurance race Bol d'Or in 1970. In addition to com-

peting alongside his friend and colleague, in 1969 Brian Hunter took part in the Trans-Atlantic Air Race between London and New York, transporting the eventual winner for the UK leg of the race on his Triumph Tiger 110. Two bedroom apartments at

Triumph House start from £499,950. Help to Buy is available on selected plots.

For more information contact Portdevon on 020 3301 0513 or visit www.triumphhouse.co.uk



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W3

An impressive collection of 14 studio, one and two bedroom apartments, perfectly positioned to capitalise on all that Acton High Street and this exciting part of west London has to offer.

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KEW BRIDGE ROAD, KEW BRIDGE, TW8

This stunning four bedroom flat is bright and incredibly spacious and boasts two balconies, two bathrooms and gorgeous views over towards the River Thames. EPC: B81

○ **£1,650,000** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/11879557

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WESTCROFT SQUARE, CHISWICK, W6

This fantastic five bedroom house is spacious arranged over four floors and features a beautiful dining room and a spacious kitchen with an AGA. EPC: E40

○ **£2,250,000** F/hld Foxtons.co.uk/1183853

CHISWICK OFFICE SALES 020 8996 6000



VALETTA ROAD, WENDELL PARK, W3

This beautiful four bedroom period house benefits from a double reception room, an open-plan kitchen, a top floor bedroom with an en suite and a private garden.

○ **£1,250,000** F/hld Foxtons.co.uk/12255585

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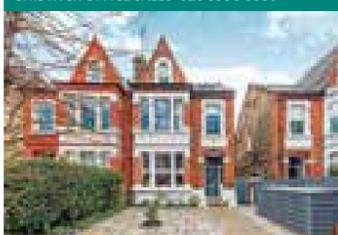


PARK ROAD, GROVE PARK, W4

A rare opportunity to purchase this three bedroom detached architect-designed villa featuring superb open-plan living space. EPC: E45

○ **£1,175,000** F/hld Foxtons.co.uk/111173

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CHISWICK HIGH ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

Centrally located and with original features throughout, this two bedroom period flat features a fantastic 75' private garden and a 50' cellar. EPC: E54

○ **£999,950** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/12266724

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MARLBOROUGH ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

This fantastic top floor two bedroom apartment offers striking interiors with beautiful open-plan living space and an en suite master bedroom. EPC: C78

○ **£875,000** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/13633092

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JAMESON CLOSE, ACTON, W3

Set in a peaceful gated mews, this fantastic three bedroom cottage offers beautiful living space and a mezzanine-level master bedroom. EPC: D65

○ **£825,000** F/hld Foxtons.co.uk/12260330

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LINDEN GARDENS, CHISWICK, W4

This uniquely designed one bedroom house offers ample living space over three floors, beautiful finish and an incredible location. EPC: D59

○ **£749,950** F/hld Foxtons.co.uk/12233307

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DURHAM WHARF DRIVE, BRENTFORD, TW8

Set in a beautiful riverside development, this fantastic three bedroom apartment offers stunning interiors and an incredible terrace.

○ **£750,000** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/14076373

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BEVERLEY ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

This outstanding two bedroom split-level flat is set within an attractive period conversion, and provides stylish interiors and wonderful views. EPC: E49

○ **£595,000** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/12266760

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WOODSTOCK ROAD, BEDFORD PARK, W4

Situated in a classic red brick mansion block, this three bedroom flat boasts bright open-plan living space finished to an exceptional standard. EPC: F36

○ **£895 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/22252907

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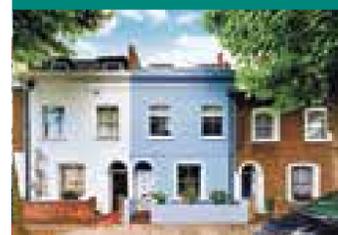


ST MARYS GROVE, GROVE PARK, W4

Boasting gorgeous interiors and décor, this spectacular six bedroom house is beautifully presented throughout, offering an extremely generous living space. EPC: E53

○ **£2,250 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/22236396

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PAXTON ROAD, GROVE PARK, W4

Stylish and bright throughout, this four bedroom three storey house benefits from a decked roof terrace with views into Chiswick House and Gardens. EPC: D56

○ **£695 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/22263127

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BARROWGATE ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

Set on a prestigious road in Chiswick, this beautiful five bedroom house offers stunning interiors throughout and two en suite bedrooms. EPC: C69

○ **£1,550 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/2198664

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KINGS PLACE, CHISWICK, W4

Set on the desirable Chiswick High Road, this stunning two bedroom apartment features slick and stylish modern interiors. EPC: B87

○ **£545 PER WEEK** L/hld Foxtons.co.uk/24057814

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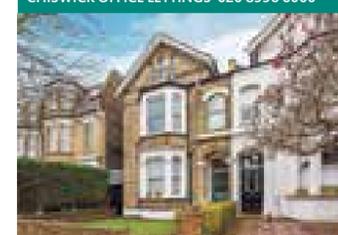


UPHAM PARK ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

This stunning two bedroom flat located just off the Chiswick High road has been refurbished throughout to a high standard. EPC: D64

○ **£500 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/23397395

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SUTTON COURT ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

Recently renovated to an extremely high standard, this beautiful one bedroom ground floor flat boasts a modern finish. EPC: G8

○ **£360 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/23659165

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BRACKLEY ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

Finished to an exceptionally high standard throughout, this lovely ground floor flat boasts a spacious reception room, a large modern kitchen and a garden. EPC: E53

○ **£346 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/22233037



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MALBOROUGH ROAD, CHISWICK, W4

This fantastic two bedroom apartment offers stylish accommodation on the fourth floor of a highly desirable modern development. EPC: B82

○ **£595 PER WEEK** Foxtons.co.uk/23379151

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THORNEY HEDGE ROAD, CHISWICK
£384,950 LEASEHOLD

SALE



Offered for the market below free the first floor 2 bedroom property in a quiet residential street off Chiswick High Road. Conveniently located for the amenities of Chiswick High Road and Greenway tube & British Rail. There is easy access to A404 and North Circular Road. **EPC C**

FAIRLAWN AVENUE, CHISWICK
£450 pw

NEW PRICE



Recently refurbished two bedroom two bathroom flat in a superb location close to the High Road directly comprising a wonderful 2 stylish bathroom/shower room, modern fully fitted kitchen, natural floor wood floor and new carpets throughout the flat in split level. Early viewing recommended. **EPC To Follow**

FAIRLAWN AVENUE, CHISWICK
£475 pw

NEW PRICE



Recently refurbished two bedroom two bathroom flat in a superb location close to the High Road directly comprising a wonderful 2 stylish bathroom/shower room, modern fully fitted kitchen, natural floor wood floors and new carpets throughout the flat in split level. Refurbished to a high standard. **EPC To Follow**

CHISWICK HIGH ROAD, CHISWICK
£175 pw AVAILABLE: 20/01/2017



Single studio flat on Chiswick High Road, just a short walk from Chiswick Business Park. Comprising of single studio room with bed and kitchenette, and a separate flat shower room with WC. Neutral floor and wood flooring throughout. **EPC C**

MARLBOROUGH RD, CHISWICK
£346 pw AVAILABLE: 01/08/2017



Two double bedrooms furnished flat just off Chiswick High Road. The property comprises of a bright lounge area, fitted kitchen, shower room, a further separate bathroom, two bedrooms, good quality furniture and built in wardrobes. 5 mins walk from Chiswick Park station. **EPC B**

OLDFIELD HOUSE, CHISWICK
£325 pw

LET



Partially furnished 2 double bedroom first floor flat with balcony in small purpose built scheme in Tannock Green tube. **EPC C**

SOUTHFIELD ROAD, CHISWICK
£266 pw AVAILABLE: 20/08/2017



Conveniently located first floor fully furnished 1 bed flat with open plan lounge/kitchen, bathroom with fitted shower, spacious double bedroom with fitted wardrobe and laminate wood floors. Only 10 mins walk from Tannock Green Tube. **EPC C**

BOWLES HALL BRENTFORD
£245 pw



New furnished studio flat situated on the 2nd floor of a small purpose built block. Comprising of a good size lounge, a fully fitted kitchen, a raised galvanized double bedroom with bed and wardrobe, bathroom with bath and electric shower. The flat has new reserved off street parking spaces. **EPC C**



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Brentford intend to continue winning ways



Brentford Manager Dean Smith

An in-form Brentford side were looking to continue their winning ways on Saturday when they visit Wales to face Cardiff. Despite the Welsh side having lost their last league match away to Bristol City, their campaign has been a lot more successful than Brentford's seeing them perched at third in the cham-

pionship table, nine points ahead of the West London club who are currently sitting in twelfth position. Having been victorious in their last three fixtures, Dean Smith says this is partly down to their "big togetherness" and hopes his side will "har-ness that and keep it going." Although Brentford had be-

gun the season slowly and were unable to find a way out of the relegation zone, however, they have been able to rescue their campaign with a run nine league matches in which they're undefeated. Smith is motivated to continue this way, but believes to do so "we need to make sure we don't drop off the work ethic."

England and Germany rue missed chances

Last Friday England hosted the German national team at Wembley and it was clear from the lineup that England manager Southgate was using this fixture to test younger, less experienced players against formidable opponents, in this case current holders of the World Cup. The most notable inexperienced starters were



Marcus Rashford and Mesut Ozil tussle at Wembley

goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek and forward Tammy Abraham. England their first scare of the night just inside twenty minutes when Sane found himself in enough space on the edge of the eighteen yard box to take a shot at goal, and his wonderful, curling effort fired across goal onto the crossbar. Germany came dangerously close to scoring again only two minutes later when a through ball released Werner through on goal and his drilled shot towards the bottom corner was palmed away by Pickford. However, the ball fell to Sane in the centre of the box and his placed effort beat Pickford, but Jones was able to head the ball off the

line. In the 39th minute came Germany's next golden opportunity after a through ball somehow found its way through the English defence to put Werner through on goal for a second time, yet once again Pickford was able to get low and palm the finish away from goal. Just before the break came England's best chance of the half after Abraham was able to maneuver some space for himself in the opposition box and although his shot was blocked, a huge deflection took it only inches past the wrong side of the post. Somehow England managed to go into the break with their clean sheet intact. Despite Germany's dominance in the first half, the best

chances of the second fell to England, the first only four minutes after the break when Trippier's magnificent cross was met by a leaping Vardy in the centre of the box, but he could only watch as Ter Stegen got low and got his fingertips to the ball to push it away from goal. The final chance came in the final minute of added time from and English set piece. Rashford drilled his free-kick into the towards the six yard box and was reached at the back post by Maguire who was able to nod the ball down in the centre of the box. Lingard was able to get onto the knock down, but could only blast the ball over the crossbar. Despite the huge array of chances, the friendly finished 0-0.

QPR looking to bounce back

Before the international break Queens Park Rangers fans suffered a rollercoaster of emotions. The victory at Loftus Road against Sheffield United to knock them off the top of the Championship table secured them back to back victories after a seven match winless streak would have left QPR fans overjoyed. However, this win was followed by a 4-0 thrashing away at Nottingham Forest meaning the two week break offered the opportunity to recuperate.

On Saturday they will now host an Aston Villa who will also be hoping to bounce back from a defeat before the international break when they sustained a 2-1 home defeat to Sheffield Wednesday. Despite this loss, Aston Villa are still perched at sixth, a play-off position, which is a stronger position than that which QPR are currently sitting in being fifteenth. Yet if the



home side are victorious they will be only one point behind the visitors and potentially the play-off positions as well.

Chelsea hoping to build on their league form



The return of N'Golo Kante was a big factor in Chelsea's win against Manchester United

Chelsea are travelling to the Hawthorns Stadium on Saturday for their league clash against West Bromwich Albion. The visitors will be confident going into this fixture knowing that they have been victorious in their last four matches, however, they will be even more motivated to earn all three points knowing that they have Burnley, Arsenal and Liverpool all on three

points behind them hoping Chelsea will drop points presenting the opportunity for one of them to capture that fourth spot for Champions League qualification. Victory won't be easy, especially since the home side have recently been placed under lot's of pressure due to being winless in their last ten fixtures, proving how crucial it is for West Brom to pick up

three points. Not to mention defeat could potentially leave them in the relegation zone. Although admitting "we started this season with a lot of problems. We were up and down." Following his side's important 1-0 victory over Manchester United, Chelsea manager Conte is positive "This game showed if we want, we can."



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England battle Brazil in goalless draw

by Sport Editor Louis Yamani

The England national squad were in positive spirits after holding champions of the world Germany to a 0-0 draw last week and were hoping to build on that result in their second friendly fixture this international break when Brazil visited Wembley. The lineup hinted that Southgate was once again attempting to test younger, more inexperienced players against the strongest national sides, as shown by the selection of Liverpool defender Joe Gomez, Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford and Ruben Loftus-Cheek who is on loan at Crystal Palace from Chelsea. Loftus-Cheek was aiming to build on his previous man of the match performance against Germany last week. The first glance of goal came only just after ten minutes when Alves was able to break down the right wing and drill a powerful cross into the centre of the box. The cross was met with a placed header towards the front post by Jesus, but Hart was able to get across his goal in time to claim the header. England's first sight of goal

came five minutes later after Rashford was able to break through the ranks of Brazil's midfield with some tricky footwork and great dribbling. He decided to take on the shot from range, but he was asking a lot of himself and his low, driven shot was calmly collected by a well positioned Ramses Becker. Unfortunately ten minutes before the break England suffered their first loss of the night when youngster Ruben Loftus-Cheek had to be substituted due to injury. However, Southgate reassured Crystal Palace fans that it was nothing serious "It's a problem with his back which he has had periodically," Southgate continued after the match "It should settle down fairly quickly. I don't expect it to be a problem." Loftus-Cheek was replaced by another youngster, being Jesse Lingard. Although the first half held few clear cut chances thus finishing without a goal, only two minutes after the break Brazil came incredibly close to breaking the deadlock. Neymar received the ball outside of the English box and



Neymar and Brazil could not find a way past England in Tuesday's friendly at Wembley

with some fantastic, fancy footwork, he was able to create the opening for himself to split open the home side's defence with a perfectly weighted through ball. Coutinho was just about able to latch onto it, but due to pressure from the English defenders he was unbalanced and falling whilst attempting his finish. Hart was able to spread himself well to save the shot and

parry the ball to safety. With fifteen minutes to go Southgate introduced two new youngsters into the match. Dominic Solanke, who is a promising forward for Liverpool, replaced Jamie Vardy for his first ever international cap. Tammy Abraham also replaced Rashford to make his second international appearance, his first being against Germany last week.

Only a minute after these changes were made Fernandinho, who had been substituted on earlier, came the closest to putting the visitors ahead. After picking up the ball on the halfway line, he dangerously strode forward until he reached thirty yards away from the opposition goal, at which he unleashed a spectacular effort towards the bottom corner. A beaten Hart

was relieved that his old team mate could only watch as his effort struck the post and bounced out to safety. The match of few chances finished as a draw with the home side unable to create any clear cut chances and the few created by the visitors could not be finished. Despite two goalless draws over the international break Southgate was pleased with the results as he stated "It gives me plenty to think about" he continued "We are in the early stages of piecing this team together and it gives me huge heart." He identified that the biggest positive England can take out of the two games is the fact that "We took some brave decisions and, goodness me, the young players have rewarded me with some top performances." Not only did Loftus-Cheek's performance earn him man of the match against Germany, but against Brazil Joe Gomez was another youngster who received the man of the match award for his formidable defensive display in England's back three.

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Fulham aim to end winless streak

Fulham have been unable to find a victory in their past five matches and have suffered two consecutive 2-0 defeats, home against Bristol City then away to league leaders Wolves. Fulham head coach Slavisa Jokanovic is worried that "For a month now, we have not been at the right level." However, on Saturday they will host Derby County and Jokanovic sees this match to be crucial as "We must fight all together and show more quality. If not, then we are in trouble." The head coach is wary that defeat could potentially leave his side in twentieth, one position from the relegation zone. Despite losing their final match before the international break in a 4-2 home defeat



Fulham manager Slavisa Jokanovic

to Reading, Derby were previously undefeated for seven games and have been far more successful than the home side this season. This is

shown by the fact Derby are seventh in the Championship, ten positions and six points ahead of Fulham.