

THE CAPITALIST

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Thames Festival helps London to keep partying

THE Paralympic Games may come to a close this weekend and end a season of sport that has gripped the nation, but for those looking to make the most of the Indian summer and carry on the party, there's still a chance to celebrate at London's largest free knees-up: The Mayor's Thames Festival.

In its 16th year, the annual festival will coincide with the closing of the Paralympics with a programme of events along the Thames riverbank from the London Eye to St Katherine Docks.

Performances will include a choral recital on the HMS Belfast, Colombian acrobatics and a night carnival. The festival will also mark

the passing of the Olympic Games to Brazil with a Rio-style carnival float. A fireworks display over the Thames will close the celebrations.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "It will have a significant role to play in our celebrations marking the 2012 Games, adding to the colour and excitement of an amazing year for the capital."

The Thames Festival Trust counts City of London Corporation's John Barker among its board members.
by Mark Harper

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Circolombia will be performing this weekend



LAURA LEAN/CITY A.M.

Walkers will get a chance to go inside City Hall during the overnight hike

Night hike through the City will be a peek through closed doors

IF you've always wanted a nosey around Boris Johnson's office, then the eighth annual Maggie's Night Hike might just be the opportunity you've been waiting for.

The 20-mile route takes in some of London's most iconic architecture – including City Hall – and offers walkers exclusive access to some of the Square Mile's most

prestigious buildings. Among the firms that have entered teams are HSBC, Virgin, Addleshaw Goddard and Betfair, as well as RBS, which has a three-year partnership with the charity. Maggie's runs centres that give free support to anyone affected by cancer, and is raising funds to take the total number to 15 by 2014.
by Will Calder

THEY may be more used to being snapped trackside or on a yacht in Monaco, but a host of names from the world of Formula One have moved behind the camera for a unique project to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Drivers including Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button, as well as legendary commentator Murray Walker, were all asked to take a single photo of whatever they wanted. The results – from Hamilton's cockpit view to a shot of Bruno Senna's beach paradise – will be auctioned off this Friday night at London's Wyndham Grand London Chelsea Harbour. To be in with a chance of snapping up a piece of sporting memorabilia, visit www.zoom-auction.com for more details.

IT prides itself on its "100 per cent beef" burgers and "seasoned white chicken breast", but yesterday fast-food mega chain McDonald's took a rather large step away from its meat-centric reputation. Two completely vegetarian McDonald's restaurants are slated to open in Indian pilgrimage areas to appeal to their predominantly Muslim and Hindu clientele, as both religions place restrictions on certain kinds of meat. Given the British love of a takeaway though, *The Capitalist* would like to propose a counterdeal – the chain already offers fried rice as an alternative to fries across its Chinese outlets, and its delicious sounding "Aloo McTikki burgers" – spicy Indian potato cakes – are one of the biggest sellers on its Indian menu.

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