

The Twickenham Tribune

TWICKENHAM CORPORATION BATHS. 1930's to 1980

By Alan Winter



This week our postcard journey around the local area takes us back to central Twickenham and the very topical subject of the old outdoor swimming baths site. This is of course part of the ongoing “What shall we do with our town centre riverside?” question.

The baths were built in the 1930's, in a concrete and brick art deco style. Twickenham Baths was municipal architecture in the grand sense with its wide hall, twin staircase and deep arches. It occupied the site of Richmond House which was demolished in the 1920's. The pool itself was an old-fashioned lido, the last word in leisure, generously proportioned and with ample room for sunbathing on the paved areas. There were fountains at each end of the pool and a diving board in the middle at its deepest point. The postcard circa 1960 shows the diving platform and the overall length of the pool. There was also a spacious canteen with a sweeping corner terrace. A hot cup of oxo and a chocolate wagon wheel was a must have after the hours spent at the pool in those long hot summers. Before you ask, yes I learnt to swim there in the late 1950's and yes it may well be me on top of the diving platform – or is it you!

Next week our postcard journey through our history will take us to Teddington where we shall see postcards of a landmark that still serves the public in Waldegrave Road and a wonderful Edwardian shop front in Park Road.



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Published by:
Twickenham Alive Limited
Registered in England & Wales
Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE

A reminder that the West London Postcard Club holds its monthly meetings at Chiswick Town Hall starting Friday 17th Feb. New members will be welcomed. Come and meet members at their bi-annual postcard fair which will be held in Church Road Teddington on Saturday 11th Feb. I will be there with a stock of local postcards so please come along, browse the stock and say hello.

If you have any postcards to dispose of, any questions on this subject, or ideas for future articles, please drop me a line at

alanwinter192@hotmail.com

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(include your name and postcode)

All 4 players must play the same round.



Photos of pets or wildlife.

This competition is run in conjunction with Strawberry Hill Golf Club www.shgc.net

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Places People Play



TWICKERS FOODIE - SPANISH INNOVATION

by Alison Jee

On arrival at the Tim Syrad Wine Tasting I quickly noticed that quite a few of the attendees obviously knew one another. And I soon discovered why; many of them have been on numerous overseas wine tours organised by Tim, (some as far away as South America) and their thirst for more of his wine expertise seems unquenchable!

We were attending a 'Spanish Innovation' tasting – billed as a deliberately 'Rioja free' occasion. Tim took us through a number of lesser-known regions, which involved some wonderful and relatively unknown local grapes.



Tim says: “No one can dispute the success of Rioja and its importance to the Spanish wine industry. As a result, wine regions across Spain have been energised to invest and develop local industries and promote indigenous grape varieties as a point of difference.”



There were times when Tim was vying for attention, as the comments around each table on the different wines became more confident (and, of course, louder). His knowledge is certainly most impressive, and he was quickly and assuredly able to pull back the attention of the room for his descriptions and origin of the next wine. The tasting highlighted Denominacion Origen (DO) areas such as Rias Baixas, Monterrei and Bierzo to the north west, Cigales, Toro and Rueda in north central, Priorat in Catalonia and Yecla and Malaga in the south east.

The quality was certainly high – if I am honest, certainly higher than I would have expected for the price of the evening. One of the highlights was the Albarino from Martin Codax showing an amazing freshness and depth (see below for the chance to win a bottle); the Priorat Reserva 2008 Les Pusses which was terrific value given its status and quality, and the Oloroso sherry we sampled towards the end was – to echo Tim's words – “delight in a glass!”

A delicious two-course supper with a Spanish theme was served during the evening. And Tim provided another delicious wine to match each dish. The wines are all available afterwards to purchase and mixed cases are always offered.

I thoroughly recommend signing up for newsletters – timsyradwines.com/wine-tastings. Tim runs events in Richmond, St Margaret's and Teddington on a regular basis as well as his organised wine tours.



Competitions and Offers

CHINESE NEW YEAR COMPETITION WINNER

The question “At which festival in China do people traditionally eat Moon Cakes? Chinese New Year or Mid Autumn Festival” **Answer: Mid Autumn festival**



The winning answer randomly selected was from Lucy (from Twickenham) who won a selection of Chinese food courtesy of the Food Sanctuary in York Street, Twickenham – just in time to celebrate the CHINESE NEW YEAR – 28 January 2017 - The Year of the Rooster

新年快乐 Kung hay fat choi

www.foodsanctuary.co.uk

The Chinese Zodiac from Ann in China:

You might know that many Chinese people strongly believe that the time of a person's birth is the primary factor in determining that person's characteristics. Legend says Buddha invited all the animals to his kingdom, but only 12 came: rat was the first, then ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Buddha named the year after the animals in the order of arrival.

WIZ Facts

More facts from CHINA: Hong Kong

www.worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=HongKong



WIN – A BOTTLE OF THIS FABULOUS ALBARINO, COURTESY OF TIM SYRAD WINES

Tim Syrad Wine Tasting has kindly offered a bottle of this delicious Albarino from Martin Codax to the lucky winner of this week's competition. It is 'pale straw' in colour and on the nose fresh passion fruit, pear and citrus aromas rise from the glass. On the palate it is zesty, with good flavour intensity and great freshness on the long finish.

TO ENTER, please email us here at win@TwickenhamTribune.com with your contact details, inc postcode. Closing date is Friday 10 February. Entrants must be over 18. The prize is as stated and no cash alternative is available.



Arts and Entertainment

by Erica White

This coming weekend, on Sunday 29 January the launch of the [EEL PIE ISLAND EXHIBITION](#) is being celebrated at Richmond Yacht Club, Eel Pie Island, 2-5.00pm, where oral interviews will be recorded, cake and tea will be served and a short film about the river will be shown. The exhibition's new home will be 1-3 Richmond Road, Twickenham (opp. York House).

Visit: mat@digital-works.co.uk or 07949.

A [WEDDING FAIR](#) will take place on Sunday, 5 February, 10.30-3.30 at The Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington. Brides, grooms, events organizers will find ideas galore from over 40 experts displaying millinery, artisan cakes, handmade accessories, to say nothing of couture wedding dresses.

A reminder: the Mayor's charity concert, [RICHMOND TALENT SHOWCASE](#) at the beautiful Normansfield Theatre at Langdon Park, Kingston Road on Saturday, 28 January. Doors open 6.30 for curtain up at 7.00pm. Tickets: £12.50 adults, £6 children
Tickets and information: Elise Campbell, 020 8891 7123.

A [COMMUNITY CONCERT](#) at Holy Trinity Church on The Green, Twickenham is announced for Saturday, 4 February at 8.00pm. This promises to be a pleasantly informal evening of classical and more contemporary musical items, showcasing the musical talents of local residents, young and older. They have assiduously polished up their skills and combine to raise funds for some necessary refurbishment to this 175 year-old Grade 11 listed building. Tickets: £8 adults, £3 under 18s may be obtained from church office on weekdays, or on door. More information: email admin@holytrinity.org. Tickets may also be obtained at church office on weekdays.

If it's gentle exercise you are after why not join one of the walks that are escorted through Bushy Park regularly? Every Friday walkers meet at 10.30 am for start at Laurel Road Gate, TW12 1JH and ending at Hampton Hill Gate TW12 1PA. Buses: R68,285 (Oxford Rd stop, and R70 (Cross St stop). Free parking in Laurel Road.

And on Sundays, walkers meet at 10.15am at the Pheasantry car park inside the park and make their way through to the Dysart Arms on Petersham Road. Free parking.

Both walks last about 1 hour plus, and are on flat or slightly rising ground, mainly on earth paths. Strong shoes recommended.

While on the subject of exercise, did you know that 4 out of 6 of the borough-wide fitness centres are on the Twickenham side of the river? All are offering a six-week fitness programme. Teddington Pools & Fitness Centre, Teddington Sports Centre, Hampton Sports & Fitness Centre, and Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre. Information: 020 3772 2999

or visit: www.richmond.gov.uk/fgf_offers


IF you are still looking for something to do that costs nothing, why not offer to do some volunteering?

The Library service is looking for volunteers: call 020 8734 3301, email: libraryvolunteer@richmond.gov.uk

The Twickenham Museum, 25 The Embankment, opposite St Mary's Church and faces the slipway is also looking to widen its team of volunteers. The museum is on the route of weekend walkers and visitors from far and wide. Just a couple of hours a month and it is a great way to meet people. You also learn something about all the villages that make up the Twickenham side of the borough.

Current exhibition is [WORKING FOR A LIVING IN TWICKENHAM FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY](#).

Visit: www.twickenham-museum.org.uk or call 020 8408 0070 during opening hours (Tuesdays and Saturdays 11-3 and Sunday's, 2-4).



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TWICKENHAM SOCIETY TALKS

The Twickenham Society hosted a talk by the Assistant Executive Officer of LBRuT, Mandy Skinner, on Twickenham Riverside on Tuesday 24 January. An update was given on the Council's plans to take the Francis Terry plan forward and residents were able to ask a number of questions including the issue of parking.



On Thursday 30 March there will be a talk by Terry Johnson, retired Superintendent, Metropolitan Police about a well known figure of the 1960s. Mandy Rice Davies became a household name in connection with the Profumo Affair.

www.telegraph.co.uk/history/11804870/Profumo-Affair-caused-real-damage-to-British-security-claims-historian.html

Twickenham Society meetings take place in the Twickenham Club in Church Street at 7.30. Members are free and Guests £2.

Rose by Any Other Name: Juliet Goes to the Theatre A Theatre Thought by Mark Aspen

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet”, said our poor hapless Juliet. But would a rose by another name smell as sweet? Probably: but would you want to smell it if it had a less attractive name, “old socks” for example?

Many of us who have lived locally for some time will remember the proper brewery at Mortlake. There had been a brewery here since the 1400’s, but then, in December before last, a Singaporean development company gulped it down in one go, without even a burp. Another historic site goes to build yet more luxury flats that probably won’t even be lived in. But in those days of yore, what was the all-pervading aroma in that area? For six hundred years it was of hops and yeast and wort. “Wort”, what an evocative word ... aah!

So why, in the name of Bacchus, are the uppy flats being sold on the old sorting office site opposite Twickenham Station called Brewery Wharf?! Even the greatest real ale aficionado would not want to live within the whiff of a half-created pint. Two million hard earned pounds for the smell of wort! In the early nineteenth century there was what we would now call a micro-brewery there, a family affair in the back of a pub. But there could never have been a wharf there: except when it is spate, you can paddle in the middle of the River Crane. A beer **bottle** might float there! O, those romantic estate agents, who call every group of houses a “village”.

What has this to do with a theatre thought, you may well ask. Well, it seems that we are getting a new Community Building in the spring on the Brewery Wharf site, a “landmark facility”, with “atheatre space” for an audience of “nearly” 320 people plus six studios. So, a “space”, a rose by any other name and smelling sweet. And so, sweet Juliet, to the theatre ...

Read full article at; www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/a-rose-by-any-other-name-a-theatre-thought



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Word On The Street

Amphitheatre?

Architects who took part in the Council competition for Twickenham Riverside were amazed by the long list in the Brief for the site which included housing, council offices, shops and an **amphitheatre**.



Where would an amphitheatre fit into this small site with everything else? Quinlan and Francis Terry seemed to know the answer.

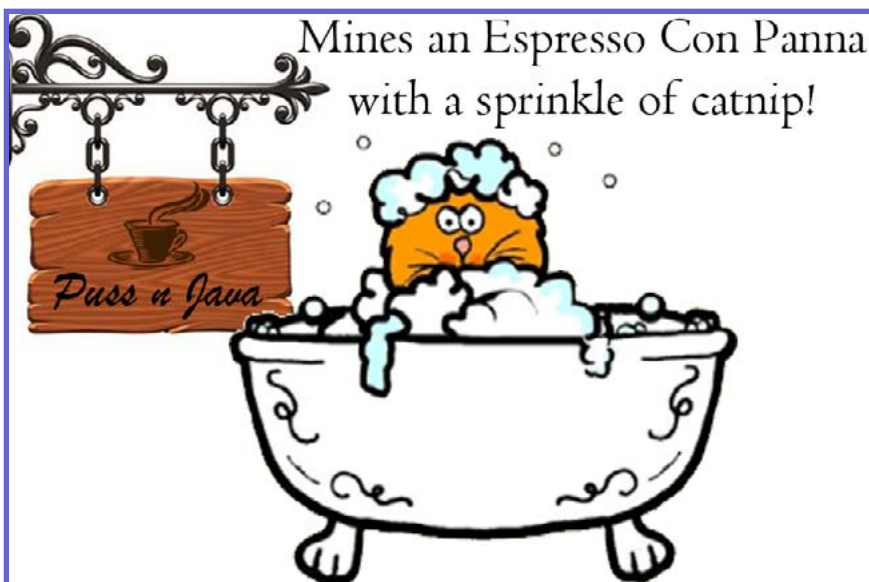
Kneller Hall

Kneller Hall featured in the postcard page in Edition 11. Plans to sell Kneller Hall have caused uncertainty for The Royal Military School of Music. It is thought that the Army musicians will not move until 2020 but dates cannot be confirmed at the moment.



No cat groomers, but plenty of coffee shops!

An enquiry on Twitter for a recommendation of a cat groomer in the Twickenham area led to a flurry of Twitter discussion. Turns out Twickenham is pretty short on cat groomers, but has plenty of coffee shops. Perhaps it's time to combine the two? Relax with a cuppa while Tiddles get's pampered!



RESCUE
SAVE
LOVE
Ickle Misty
@UnlovableT

Follow

Can anyone recommend a cat groomer in the Richmond/Twick area? @twickerati @vetrichmondhill @TwickTribune @TotallyRichmond @ARCAAnimalRescue

HAVE YOUR SAY

TOP COMMENTS ON TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE THIS WEEK

3,000 people support the Twickenham Lido project. Comments can be read on the Change.org petition site.

J. Twickenham

Richmond, Teddington, Whitton and Hampton all have a swimming pool which local residents can walk to. This is an opportunity to reinstate the same quality of life for Twickenham residents. A swimming pool brings health, fun and happiness into the heart of our community. More empty retail space and fast food restaurants do not.

M, Teddington

Of course this should be a lido! We don't need any more housing - we need public places we can visit and which bring us together. Many of us haven't forgotten the loss of the ice rink in Richmond. Council : STOP selling off our spaces for shops and housing.

Petition at:

twickenhamlido.com

Feel the Love!
In Church Street
Twickenham...

Valentine Fayre Sat 11 February
From 12 midday until 6pm

Don't miss the Church Street Valentine Fayre! There will be stalls with all kinds of gifts, cakes, street food, a dog groomer and also live entertainment. There may also be a gift from the Saint Valentine of Church Street!

There are a few theories about the origin of valentines. One of the most popular stories is the one based in the time of the Roman Empire, when there was a cruel emperor called Claudius. He made it illegal for couples to marry because he needed single soldiers to sign up to his army, and he thought that they would make better soldiers if the men were single as they wouldn't worry about the fate of their wives and children if they were to die in battle. But Christianity also existed at this time and there was a Christian Priest called Valentine who married couples in secret. He was caught and sentenced to death for his disobedience. In prison he befriended his jailer's blind daughter who the jailer asked the priest to teach. A miracle happened to the girl and whilst having lessons from Valentine, her sight was restored. His death sentence was the 14th of February and he left a message to the girl signed "from your Valentine" After his death Valentine was canonised and became a saint and the day was forever associated with love & friendship, the giving of gifts, cards, letters and flowers.



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TWICKENHAM ALIVE FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Thanks to Try Twickenham for their sponsorship



The Twickenham Alive Film Festival is a community-based film festival inviting submissions of short films, up to 10 minutes.

The theme for submissions is 'Where You Live' and the films can be on any aspect of the area, way of life, attractions, culture, sport or environment of the entrants' home area. Entrants in the student category may choose their own theme, which should be explained in the synopsis. Please contact us if you need further clarification.

Films can be of any genre, such as documentary, drama or animation. The central theme is 'Where you live', but there are other categories including travel, sport, animation, music and junior.

To make an entry contact film@twickenhamalive.com or visit www.TwickenhamFilmFestival.com

ONE OF THE FILMS SHOWN IN 2015

CATEGORY: ANIMATION

This film was a collaborative production between 12 young people aged 15-16 from Westfield Arts College and guided by professional film-makers at My Pockets.

THE BOY WHO STAYED IN

Running Time 02' 38"

Steve is scared of the world. He views the world through his letterbox.



Pressure on train services and Crossrail2

News of the Jockey Club's intention to pursue the redevelopment of Kempton Park for housing has caused concern, not only in the immediate area, but further afield.

On the Twickenham side of the Thames there has been talk of 3,000 new houses in Kempton Park and fears of additional pressure on train services, with trains arriving full at our local stations.

It has been suggested that CrossRail2 where trains will call locally, at Fulwell, Teddington, Hampton and Hampton Wick will alleviate overcrowding on local trains.

Crossrail 2 is a proposed new railway serving London and the wider South East. It would connect the National Rail networks in Surrey and Hertfordshire via new tunnels and stations between Wimbledon, Tottenham Hale and New Southgate, linking in with London underground, London Overground, Crossrail 1, national and international rail services. It will add capacity to the regional rail network, cutting journey times across the South East. It will also support economic regeneration by providing the infrastructure needed to support 200,000 new homes and 200,000 new jobs.

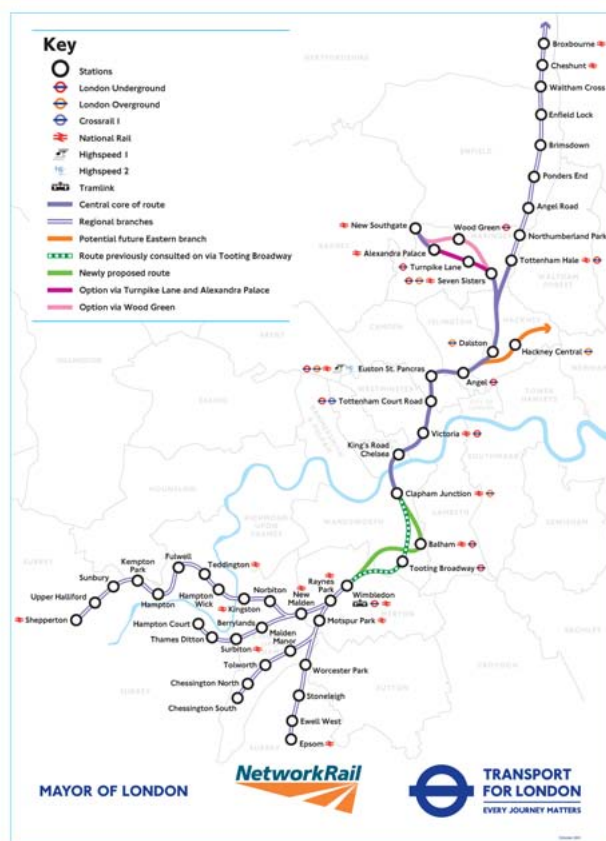
With regard to Twickenham, a spokesperson for Network Rail, said: "We've considered a wide range of options in deciding where the future Crossrail 2 route should run to provide the greatest benefit to passengers both north and south of London.

"The primary focus of the scheme is to increase the capacity of the transport network in and around London, and trains will be running a metro-style service, where-by they stop at each station in order to provide this extra capacity. Passengers at Twickenham already benefit from fast and regular services to Clapham Junction that take 12-15 minutes. By contrast, a metro-style service would take between 35-38 minutes.

"In addition, running Crossrail 2 services to Twickenham would require permanent removal of the Kingston Loop services. This would break the existing half hourly direct connection between Putney, Richmond and Teddington / Kingston, which is well used for local journeys."

Thank you to TfL for the map

Crossrail 2 route (autumn 2015)

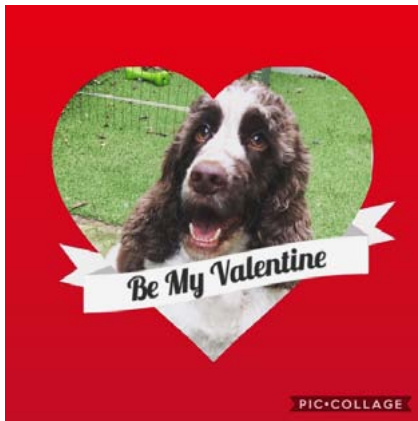


Feel the Love in Church Street Twickenham, this February the 11th

By Shona Lyons

On the 11th of February, Church Street's cobbles will be packed with traders, having made the trip to our romantic riverside setting from far and wide, enticed by the heady mixture of love and romance that is sure to be a major element of what we think is the first Valentine's Fayre this borough has ever had.

There will be a host of stalls selling everything from heat shaped pies, truffles, cakes, fragrances, holistic and aromatherapy products, jewellery, & much more! Meet some of the people behind the many stalls that will be making this Fayre special.



Daisy Tolmie : Pet Groomer at the Green Groom, Twickenham Green

Having groomed some of the most prestigious pets in London, having started out grooming in Harrods, which is where I learnt all you need to know about animal care and providing only the best service and grooming, I can happily say that the Dogs of Twickenham have stolen my heart. So what better way to give back to the community than offering competitions, discounts and goodie bags at the Twickenham Valentines Fayre. I'll be offering lots of advice on how to maintain your pets coat at home between grooms, which

products are best for you and your pet and also answering any other questions you may have. Feel free to drop by and see what we do at The Green Groom and join many, many happy clients who bring their precious dogs to be pampered. [facebook.com/thegreengroom](https://www.facebook.com/thegreengroom)

Zerrin Sutcu "My name is Zerrin, I am working since 25 years as a professional trainer and NLP Master with businesses and individuals. I love my job and enjoy every minute of it. In the past years I seized the opportunity to learn something new and took part in lots of workshops as a participant, but these were mainly new methods, psychology, soft skills development etc. 2 years ago whilst taking part in a training session, I discovered my pleasure

in working with art and self-expression, so I took workshops for bracelet making and quilling. These 2 activities are now the part of my life where I can shut down all troubles and concerns of daily life. I love doing small quilling flowers, magnets, pictures as well as bracelets, each time wondering with excitement how it will look at the end. So when loving to do them so much, why not try earning some money with it? This is my story about my first ever stall at Church Street St. Valentine's market. Lets meet and see together how it works out....:-))"





Louise Calloni : Jeweller

“Do you never know what to get a loved one for Valentine’s Day? Well this is your lucky year there is a whole fair dedicated to helping you find the perfect gift in Church Street on 11th February. What better gift to give than a handcraft piece of jewellery. Bring along your amore then they can choose their very own piece or have a look and decide yourself.

In my spare time I hand make jewellery using semi-precious gems and fresh water pearls, but my favourite and most popular pieces are my Pure Silver leaves. Each one is totally unique and comes from individual leaves.

Seeing the excitement and happiness on people’s faces is why I do what I do. To bring a bit of joy to someone whether they are choosing something for themselves or as a gift, I just know they will love it.

I can also take on requests, is there a special leaf you’d like turned into Pure Silver to keep forever, from a bride’s bouquet or from a bush planted in memory of a loved one, get in touch.



I look forward to seeing you at Church Street on 11th February. Louisesjewellery.co.uk



Crusader Travel, 57-58 Church Street, will be offering Cuban Cocktails on the day and expert travel advice from specialist tour operators on Cuba. All bookings to Cuba on the day, will get £50 off the retail price and another special Cuban surprise!

020 8744 0474

www.crusadertravel.com
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St Mary's University, Twickenham Update

St Mary's Academic Receives Award for Excellence in Bioethics

Research Fellow at St Mary's Professor David Albert Jones has received the 2017 Paul Ramsey Award.

The annual honour, awarded by The Centre for Bioethics and Culture Network (CBC), recognises excellence in bioethics. The Paul Ramsey Award honours those who have made an outstanding contribution to academic discourse and are actively engaged in society; facing the challenges of the 21st century.

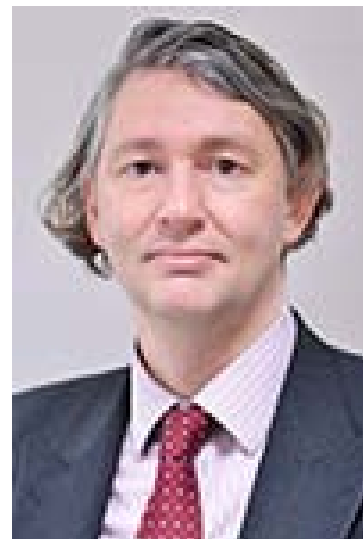
The Award is named after Paul Ramsey, a distinguished writer on bioethics who is regarded by the CBC as one of the most important ethicists of the twentieth century.

Speaking of the award Prof Jones said, "I am honoured to be recipient of the 2017 Paul Ramsey Award, to be associated with his name and to be associated with former recipients, a great cloud of witnesses.

"Ramsey was the doctoral supervisor of my doctoral supervisor, and the first writer who taught me to acknowledge the essential indignity of death and the dignity of the person who dies well. Technologies and societies change but the greatest challenge remains to see the patient as person and the doctor as person."

Chair of the award committee Ben Mitchell Ph.D said, "Having worked tirelessly on "ethics at the edges of life," David Albert Jones is a worthy heir of the late Paul Ramsey's concern for those who suffer, especially those most vulnerable. A scholar, thought-leader, and galvanizer, Jones is leader in ethics education in Europe."

In 2002, Prof Jones established the MA in Bioethics & Medical Law at St Mary's and in 2008 and co-founded the Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies. In addition to being a Research Fellow at St Mary's University, Prof Jones is also director of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre in Oxford.



First Wednesday Coffee and Chat at St Mary's University, Wednesday 1st February for prospective teachers

Are you or do you know someone who wants to become a teacher?

The PGCE Primary programme at St Mary's will be hosting one of its First Wednesday Coffee and Chat sessions in the Dolce Vita Café on campus at 1.30pm on Wednesday 1st Feb.

These sessions give you the chance to ask any questions about studying for a PGCE Primary and find out about our flexible Part-Time Pathway.

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted and with 97% of graduates employed within six months, the PGCE Primary programme at St Mary's gives students the skills and experience necessary to succeed as a primary teacher.

You do not need to book to attend, but if you have any questions please contact susan.taylor@stmarys.ac.uk



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

The Leader's Question times are part of the Village Planning process. In 2013 the Council agreed to move forward with proposals to develop the Village Plans by including guidance on local planning considerations. The process gives local people and businesses the lead role in developing local planning guidance.

A video of the Strawberry Hill Question time is online: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y315JspRWbo&feature=youtu.be

A video of the Twickenham Question time is online: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K92iXe10c-8



PAVEMENTS: COMMUNITY NOMINATIONS FUND

The Community Nominations Fund has put aside £35k for pavement repairs in each "village" in 2017/18. The funding is in addition to more than £3.7m allocated within the Planned Highway Maintenance Programme, which is the Council's overall budget for improving pavements and roads each year. The Community Nominations Fund focuses on smaller repairs, rather than large full pavement works.

Cycle from Fountainbleau to Twickenham

Cyclists and fundraisers are invited to take part in a charity cycle ride from Fountainbleau to Twickenham this autumn, to celebrate 40 years of Twinning between the two towns.

The 263 mile route lasts five days and four nights, from 13-17th September. It passes through small villages and medieval market towns in Northern France on a mix of quiet roads and traffic-free lanes.


After crossing the Channel at Dieppe, riders are transferred to Brighton to then pedal the last hilly miles north to Richmond where they will be welcomed by the Mayor, while their families and friends enjoy a French market and local entertainment.

Funds raised by this event go to local charity Street-Invest, which is dedicated to improving the lives of street children around the world. There are 40 places available for the ride, which is open to residents of Richmond upon Thames, guests from neighbouring boroughs and beyond. Places are still available.

www.streetinvest.org/

THE TEDDINGTON SOCIETY PRESENTS :

TEDDINGTON LOCK
FROM ITS BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT DAY



An illustrated talk
By
KEN HOWE

At 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm
On Thursday 23rd February 2017

At
The Wimbledon Room, The Lensbury, Broom Road, Teddington

Admission : £5.00 including a complimentary glass of wine

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cheques payable to the Teddington Society 54 Elmfield Avenue, Teddington, TW11 8BT. For bank transfers, contact Sally Howland on 020 8977 9404 or by email to sallyhowland@btinternet.com.

Question about pedestrian and cycle-bridge across the River Thames

The following is transcribed from a recording of the question Mark put to the panel and the ensuing discussion /responses that followed, at the recent Leader's Question Time in Twickenham.

In summary

Mark was pleased to have taken the time out to attend this event. He is also grateful to Lord True for his open and honest reply to Mark's request. And also to Pamela Fleming, for her subsequent promise to ensure a pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Thames is included as an "aspirational project" within the Village plans. (Listen at 1:07:12 on YouTube link)

The transcript

Mark Wing: "I've been actively campaigning since 2010, when we had the Barefoot Consultation, for a pedestrian and cycle-bridge across the River Thames, connecting Twickenham and Ham. I've engaged with a number of individuals on the council but not really taken too formal an approach with it thus far. I've been working on some ideas with an architect (Richard Woolf) who's based in Richmond and lives in Ham. (This evening) I just wanted to register that this is something we are very keen to see happen. Believing it provides a wonderful, truly fantastic, legacy for the generations to come. There have been 3 or 4 bridges mooted since 2010. We (Richard and I) have always been very keen to convey that the best location for the bridge would be from Radnor Gardens across to Ham Lands and that opens up some discussions to be had. I'd therefore like to find the right opportunities and create the right formal approach to have a proper debate about this subject. We have plenty of social media conversation about it and lots of positive feedback. There is obviously also some people who are concerned about our idea and we understand that is to be expected. We just want to make sure that the right conversation is being had and that the right members of the council can demonstrate to us that they are actually actively taking an interest in this and would perhaps encourage myself and Richard to step forward and find the right, formal, way to move these discussions forward.

I'm just a resident here and I live locally. I appreciate that this could also have been raised at the Strawberry Hill or Ham Village Talks too."

Chairman, Robin Ghurbhurun (CEO Richmond College): "So the question is really a request for a formal debate from the Council on the subject of a pedestrian and cycle-bridge across the River Thames."

Lord True (Head of Council): "This is something that came up. I believe as an aspiration there is room for it in the Village Plan. The problem (this helps address) is the relative economic weakness of parts of Ham and the increase of footfall and movement back and forth that we need. So, socially it is a very good idea. The problem is that I'm not the sort of person who will go around promising 'oh that's a good idea we must do something there' as this only debases the coinage of politics.

It will cost a lot of money. We'd have to get the right design. Have to be sure the bridge will be clear of the necessary activities on the river. Have to be sure where the footings are. And there are many of the Friends of Radnor Gardens who are not so keen for it to take off from there. So it's an idea that the council, if I'm being candid, is not actively working on at the moment. It's something that would be nice to think about and I understand that has been the case for some time.

Maybe we ought to do more about, perhaps if there was a demand. Classically, this is the sort of thing that might be activated if it was supported by a lottery application or similar form of finance. Of course we don't want to undermine the ferries or other river based activities. But as an idea it is certainly something I'd like to look into, but given all the other things we have to pursue it is not something we are actively pursuing. I wouldn't want to discourage you by saying it will never happen. But remember that someone has got to write the check and weigh it up against all the other things we need to do."

Chairman, Robin Ghurbhurun (addressing Lord True): "I think Mark is asking for a feasibility discussion, after 7 years of working on this. Is this a discussion that can be had?"

Lord True: "Well I think at some point we could once again look at 'the river path concept'. I'm not a Twickenham person, but I find the whole river along this stretch to be absolutely ravishing. With the wonderful buildings and wonderful open spaces alongside it, makes it one of the absolute jewels – this should be one of the bright spots – in the whole of London. But it's all divided up disparately, with different management. The property is managed differently and you get bits of Port of London Authority alongside Richmond Council areas, etc. I've always had this idea to get everyone to sit round the table together and make this an official group of people who said 'yes we want this to be something special'. From time to time I give that a bit of a nudge. But it's never quite got going because people have other things to do. Within that sentiment, the

uses of individual parts of the river could come up for discussion. So I have an open mind about it... (Planning consent difficulties raised by person in the audience) ...It would be difficult to get planning authority in Radnor Gardens, but that doesn't mean we should canvas the discussion. Obviously it is not possible to design a bridge here. However, it is a really interesting idea and maybe if the tooth fairies were to come down and provide the funding and remove any of the obstacles it might be a nice things to see happen, but we are a long way from this happening."

Mark Wing (response): "Thank you very much. I just want to get the debate going. It's already happening online. We have discussed it in the past, but I'd like to know somebody on the council is interested in picking it up. We've used language like 'it is a big idea. And it is a big idea that this area really does need'. I don't see why there would be planning restrictions. I would encourage you to look at a recent article on our blog indicating five really good reasons why that particular location will work very well and you can see how the design doesn't actually encroach on the Gardens any more than the existing pathway does. So I would encourage people to look at that. It's not that we are trying to convey a particular design right now. We just want to get the debate happening. But a design is important for when I get fed back these kind of comments. And from a costing point of view we do believe this bridge will represent a hugely powerful and important piece of transport infrastructure for the area and when you think that it will connect Ham House, Strawberry Hill House, York House and then Marble Hill House then it really does lend something to tourism and leisure pursuits. It's the perfect midway point along the river. And on the point about Hammerton Ferries, we're absolutely convinced that it would add value to people's enjoyment of Hammerton Ferries, not destroy Hammerton Ferries as a business. Anything closer to Hammerton Ferries might do so but this particular location is the perfect midway point. And the other thing is that I am amazed to understand that Richmond Borough Council is the only Borough that sits across the river and yet we haven't had a new bridge built since 1929. The growth in the population – and there has been a lot of talk about this tonight – warrants this. It will get people out of their cars and improve their use of the natural environment and as a result their wellness. There are lots of good socio and economic reasons that exist for this bridge. It would clearly pay for itself no end."

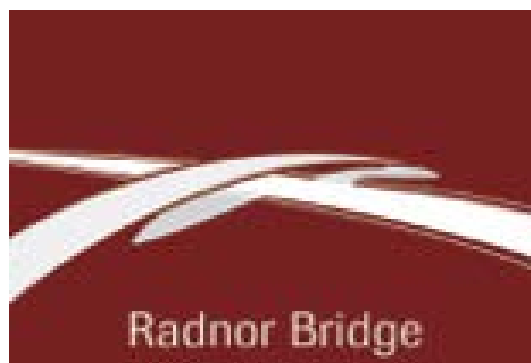
Lord True: "Well look, you've made a very strong case which we've all heard. I did in my enquiry say that I can see the economic socio and environmental benefits of the bridge and I do believe the concept is important. But what I'm not going to do is be misleading in saying that suddenly we are going to dust this down and promise you that we will build the bridge, because I don't have the means nor do I have the public ascent for that currently. But its an interesting idea that's been put on the table but its not one that I personally can take to the Borough, I do what the borough asks. And so from my own perspective, I think it is a very interesting idea and I hope it stays on the table."

Mark Wing: "Thank you".

Pamela Fleming (Councilor): "I just wanted to add that this is an opportune moment. We are doing a planning document. We have the village planning. And while it is a rather large village planning project,... Its very aspirational for a village planning project but I think it is one to bring in to the discussion whilst we're having meetings on the village plans and at the drop ins. Obviously there are lots of other priorities that people are going to have but I think it should be there on the table in the discussions we are having.

Mark Wing: "Thank you".

Chairman, Robin Ghurbhurun: "So Mark you've got a partial invitation there, which is hopefully what you needed."



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