

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## **Murder Investigation In Whitton**

Police are investigating a murder in Whitton after an elderly man and woman were found dead at Redfern Avenue. A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

## **Traveller Camp**

The council is investigating a traveller camp that has been set up in Old Deer Park and is preparing legal action for its removal

## **Turing House School Planning Permission**

Turing House School was granted planning permission, at Wednesday night's planning committee, for its permanent site at Hospital Bridge Road. The decision is still subject to referral to the Greater London Authority.

## **Cafe Sunshine, Diamond Jubilee Gardens**

Cafe Sunshine will be closed on Sunday 14th July

## **Huge play date to be held in Twickenham to mark National Play Day**

Children and their families from across the borough are invited to join the Children's Centre (Achieving for Children) and the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Nancy Baldwin in the grounds of Orleans House Gallery for another action-packed [National Play Day](#) (Wednesday 7th August). Last year over two thousand children and their families enjoyed a sunny day out in celebration of the importance of play in a child's life and development. And this year promises to be just as much fun with crafty tales, multi-sports, arts and crafts, animal handling and face painting all part of the day! We'll also have the Wetlands Centre, Kew Gardens, Oral Health, Police and Fire Service making an appearance... and many more!

## **St Margarets Station Barriers**

Barriers are to be installed at St Margarets station, work will start before the end of July.

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For the last week TwickerSeal has noticed many public recycling bins overflowing, particularly those for cardboard and paper. This has increasingly become a noticeable issue in the last year, but the last week appears to have achieved 'peak overflow'.

There have been many posts this week on Twitter and Facebook with photos of overflowing bins from across the borough. There have also been efficient responses from the council's helpdesk saying that the complaints have been recorded and will be dealt with, although there has been little evidence of any remedial action.

Today the council finally announced *"Public recycling sites are currently experiencing problems with waste clearance, due to a specialist vehicle being out of service for necessary mechanical work."*

It seems that a "Hiab" vehicle is currently off the road, hence the problem. TwickerSeal finds it worrying that a single vehicle can have such an impact, especially as we try to encourage more recycling, which is only made more important as we increasingly rely on home deliveries from on-line shopping resulting in more cardboard to be disposed of. An opposition councillor suggested that the issue could be addressed "when proposals for the new procurement contract come to us in September/October"



# PART 135 – MARIANNE NORTH – A REMARKABLE WOMAN

This week we take a look at the life of an amazing woman who donated the legacy of her life's work to the British public.

Housed in a gallery of her own design and built at her own cost, one of the greatest galleries of botanical art ever painted sits quietly in our borough about 100 yards to the left of Victoria Gate inside Kew Gardens.

Marianne North was born in Hastings in 1830 to a wealthy family. Her father was elected MP for Hastings in the year of her birth. She had very limited formal education as the family travelled around Europe and the Middle East when she was a child. Generally the family spent the Winter in Hastings and Summer in London. The young Marianne was happy travelling around and devoted much of her time to painting from nature.

Her mother died when Marianne was still in her teens and she became inseparable from her father who she looked after. He died in 1869 when Marianne was 39 and this triggered her resolve to travel around the world painting its flora.

Within a year she embarked on her first independent travels as a lone woman artist to Canada and the USA. Single women travellers were a novelty in those days and she ventured into many dangerous situations in her pursuits of plants. It appears that her wealth bought her safe passage in the main and she herself wrote that humour and jokes were also great allies.

Her unique style and prolific output produced a stunning visual plant and landscape travelogue. She also discovered and collected many new plant species. Kew Gardens is

central to the Marianne North story. It was on a visit to Kew as a young child that she saw the plants that inspired her to travel and see them in their natural environment. "Unique" is an overused word these days but in Marianne's case it is entirely appropriate.

What sort of artist was she? – Botanical art is a bridge between the worlds of art and science. Marianne North flies in the face of convention by exclusively using oil paints on paper. This lends her paintings great vibrancy and impact. You will see that her works are also busy with context – showing plants in their landscapes or growing by roads and temples. Sometimes she includes various insects, birds, animals and even people. You can look at one of her paintings for a while before you suddenly spot the frog sitting on a leaf.

Between 1871 and 1885 Marianne travelled extensively and virtually all the 848 paintings on display in her gallery in Kew were painted in this period. Her travels took her to North and South America, the Caribbean, Tenerife, Japan, Singapore, Borneo, Java, Ceylon, India, Australia,



New Zealand, South Africa, The Seychelles and Chile. 15 countries in 14 years. Nearly always on foot in some of the worlds remotest mountainous and forested areas and with large quantities of luggage.

The gallery is the result of Marianne's wish to hand her paintings to the nation. In 1879 she wrote to Sir Joseph Hooker who was head of Kew Gardens offering the gardens not only her paintings but a gallery building in which to house them. This was accepted and the Marianne North Gallery which she designed and had built to her own specifications to display 832 of her paintings opened to the public in 1882.



The Press and public reaction was very favourable. The Times said "Unquestionably the most brilliant and accurate series of illustrations of the flora of the world that has ever been brought together" Queen Victoria wrote to Marianne acknowledging her generosity.

The gallery itself was completely restored in 2009 and now also has a studio at the back which shows video timelines of her life, travels and discoveries. It really is worth spending an hour or so in and its free! And now to the paintings themselves.

Each of the paintings was hung in a very specific order dictated by Marianne. To coincide with the 1882 opening, she wrote and produced an official guide to her gallery with a few lines on the background of each painting which were numbered chronologically. The guide has remained in print for the last 135 years and is now in its sixth edition. Today the paintings remain hung in exactly the original order that she wanted.

Our first postcard image shows the gallery as you will see it once you open the door. The second postcard shows one of the paintings of a Hibiscus in flower in the Seychelles. Mahe harbour and the hills beyond are also typical of Marianne's ability to not only paint the plant but also to show it in its natural habitat and location.

I guarantee that when you walk into the gallery for the first time you will be astonished at what lies within in. Do go and see it. Just jump on a 65 bus from Richmond and get off at Victoria Gate. There are books and modern postcards about Marianne and her paintings available in the gallery and the main shop. Treat yourself to something special!

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or Foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects. If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) would like to see them and I pay cash!

### **POSTCARDS WANTED**

**Cash paid for Old Postcards**

**& postally franked envelopes.**

**Required by local collector / dealer.**

**Please ring Alan to discuss on**

**07875 578398**



\* denotes new listing

Monday, 15 - Saturday, 20 July. 7.45 & 3.00 Sat 20. The Fountain Gardens, TW1 3DU. Richmond Shakespeare Society presents its annual outdoor summer production, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING by William Shakespeare. No seats provided, so take a folding seat or blanket, and picnic basket. Bar open.

Info: <http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk>

\*Thursdays, 25 July. 7.30 pm. Hampton Hill Theatre. ARTS RICHMOND AGM. All interested in the Arts, Patrons, Members, potential members, and Affiliated Societies – all welcome. A round-up of the dynamic events that Arts Richmond have promoted and sponsored throughout the borough over the past year. Also an opportunity to meet incoming Presidents.

Info: <http://www.artsrichmond.org.uk>

Saturday, 13 July 10.00-12 noon. Hampton Hill Theatre. Teddington Theatre club, one week later than usual, opens its doors to all-comers to look behind the scenes and peer into the nooks and crannies of this local amenity, whether you want to tread the boards or not.

Info: <http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk>

Thursday, 25 July. 7.00. NT Live Streaming: THE LEHMAN TRILOGY by Stefano Massini, directed by Sam Mendes. The 2008 financial crash, inside story of major institution's crash.

Info: <https://www.thehammondtheatre.co.uk>

\*Tuesday, 16 July, 11.00 am Barnes Green Retro Café. FiSH hosts Dr Charles Lee. Talk OSKAR SCHINDLER; the making of a legend.

Info: <https://www.fishhelp.org.uk>

\*Saturday, 13 July, 7.30. All Saints Parish Church, Kingston. Teddington Choral Society. THE STORY OF OPERA – from BAROQUE TO ROCK. Vocal music from Verdi, Mozart, Sullivan, Mascagni, Lloyd Webber, Purcell and more.

Info: [teddingtonchoral.co.uk](http://teddingtonchoral.co.uk)

Ongoing. Orleans House Gallery: SUMMER EXHIBITION. Other exhibitions also continue.

Info: <https://www.orleanshousegallery.org>

Ongoing. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12 noon-4.00. Turners House. Exhibitions: MINIATURE LANDS OF MYTH AND MEMORY. Don't miss. Wander around the garden now in full bloom.

Info: <https://turnershouse.org>

Ongoing- 24 August. 9.30-6.00, (Mon-Fri, Sat.-4.00)

Riverside Gallery, TW9 1TP. Richmond Printmakers exhibit TRANSFORMATION. Works of art from plain, unblemished wood, metal, stone, lino or silk.

Info: <http://www.artsrichmond.org.uk>

Jazz, rock, and blues music enthusiasts who head to the bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit Twickfolk, Twickenham Jazz Club and Eel Pie Club websites to check what's on.

Sunday 14 July, Twickfolk holds its ever popular SINGAROUND. Informal, unplugged song circle.  
Info: <http://www.twickfolk.co.uk>

\*Tuesday, 16 July. Twickenham Jazz Club plays host to the JULIAN COSTELLO BAND, featuring Costello on saxophone with Jakub Cywinski (bass) and Adam Teixeira (drums)  
Info: <http://www.twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk>

Thursday, 25 July 8.30. Eel Pie Club at The Patch presents ZOOT MONEY'S BIG ROLL BAND.

\* Sunday, 28 July: 2.00-4.00. Barmy Arms, Twickenham Embankment TWICKENHAM 60s DAY. 60s dress optional.  
Info: <http://www.eelpieclub.com>

\*Saturday, 13 July. Barnes Green, 9.30am - 5.30pm. BARNES FAIR.  
All the usual stalls and fun. FiSH will be featuring its cool water point for refilling your own water bottle, as well as their popular bottle stall.

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### Richmond Society Heritage Walks

#### **Twentieth Century Richmond Wed 17 July – Heritage Walk**

A walk focusing on the development of the Town through the 20th century.  
7:30pm from Richmond Station upper concourse.

#### **Richmond's Riverside**

Wed 31 July – Heritage Walk

A walk along the riverside between Asgill House at the corner of Old Palace Lane and the Buccleuch Gardens and finishing on The Terrace, at The Roebuck.

7:30pm from Richmond Station upper concourse.

A donation of £2 is requested



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# Reminisce about the swinging 60s in Richmond

Do you remember Richmond in the 1960s? Come and share your memories at a special 'Reminiscence Café' talk next week.

Come along to the event on Friday 19 July at Twickenham Library. Hear about the mods and rockers, Eel Pie Island ravers and clubbers, the scandals, the liberating cultural changes, at a fascinating talk by Louise Henshaw, a history enthusiast who regularly speaks for the Women's Institute.



Join in the conversation over a cup of tea and a cake at the free event.

Cllr John Coombs, Council Spokesman for Arts and Culture, said:

"Richmond has a rich and varied musical heritage, which spans over 60 years! By 1963 the Rolling Stones had established a residency at the backroom of The Station Hotel, which used to be opposite Richmond Railway Station.

"There is certainly a lot of history to celebrate and this free event is a perfect opportunity for us to share our stories."

The Richmond in the 60s event is on Friday 19 July at 11am-12pm at Twickenham Library. To book your slot at the free event, visit the library or call 020 8734 3340.

For more information about events in libraries, go to: [www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries\\_whats\\_on](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries_whats_on)

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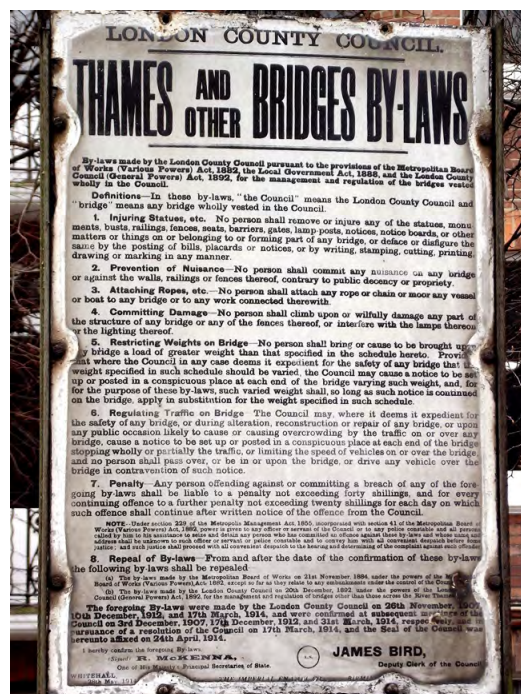
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# Fears of Heavy Vehicles on Hammersmith Bridge Voiced in 1914

A sign from 1914 that stood on the Fulham side of Hammersmith bridge until recently. As rules 5 and 6 show, fears of heavy vehicles using it are not new.

The signatory at the bottom, R. McKenna, won at Henley twice with Trinity Hall, Cambridge; the Grand in 1886 and the Stewards' in 1887. He was also in the winning 1887 Boat Race crew.



## New friends group work hard in community orchard

Eighteen residents from Hampton Hill volunteered for a community 'clean-up' this weekend, giving a local wildlife site some much needed 'TLC'.

The residents are members of the new Friends of Arundel Close Wildlife site in Hampton. The conservation site has a community orchard and meadows. It is home to many butterfly species and local nature.

On the weekend the volunteers litter picked, cut back overhanging foliage to make the area accessible, placed new bark chipping and trimmed back fruit trees.



The group have their next volunteer session planned on the 3rd August. They are now appealing for even more Hampton and Hampton Hill residents to join them.

Cllr Martin Elengorn, Lead Member for Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport, said:

*"I am delighted that residents are working hard to maintain the best balance on this site between nature and accessibility. We work closely with all our parks and open spaces Friends' groups and support positive community activities aimed at preserving the character of each".*

Charlotte Bezzant, from the Friends of Arundel Close Wildlife site, said:

*"With many bird species in decline and insect populations near collapse, it's vital to protect and nurture little pockets of land like Arundel Close Wildlife space. The fact that this small plot was once planted with fruit trees, means there is also a focal point which brings volunteers together and fosters a true sense of community. We'd welcome anyone to come along on the afternoon of August 3rd, even if it's just to have a look"*

# MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Fiona Poole

Richmond Shakespeare Society



at the Mary Wallace Theatre

## The Fountain Gardens

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**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to  
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Richmond Shakespeare Society is a registered charity No. 276271, a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and affiliated to artsrichmond

***Some Cupid kills with arrows,  
some with traps ...***

# Greens' climate emergency motion backed unanimously by Richmond Council

**A Green Party motion calling on Richmond Council to declare a climate emergency and make the borough carbon neutral by 2030 passed at Council meeting on Tuesday 9 July with the full support of Councillors from all parties.**

The motion, proposed by Green Group leader Councillor Richard Bennett, follows the Greens' successful motion of September 2018 calling for Council to take an over-arching approach to tackling Climate Change[1]. In November 2018, the IPCC report warned that humanity has 12 years (now 11) to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C[2]. Above this, the risks to humanity of floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty become much greater, impacting on hundreds of millions more people. Recognising the dire threat to all life on earth, the Greens have asked Council to declare a Climate Emergency and pledge to make Richmond carbon neutral by 2030, producing action plans to do so by January 2020.



The motion says:

“Council joins the rapidly growing number of councils that have declared a ‘Climate Change Emergency’. It rejects the idea that this declaration is a symbolic gesture and will give substance to its commitment. Council therefore resolves to become recognised as the Greenest London Borough. It will undertake the factual analysis, target setting, and produce the strategy and action plans necessary by January 2020, in order to realise this goal and become carbon neutral by 2030.”

On Monday 15 July, the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Service Committee will consider Richmond Council’s new Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy[3], which has been produced as a result of the Green Party motion in September. If passed, it will immediately be put out to resident consultation from 16 July-26 September. We call on all residents to have their say and to push Council to be as swift and determined as possible in adopting and enforcing measures to tackle and mitigate the climate emergency.



## SUP-YOGA & SUP-PILATES CLASSES IN TWICKENHAM

SUP-Yoga & SUP-Pilates classes offer a unique, dynamic and fun way to challenge your fitness on water! The sessions are taken on anchored paddleboards floating on water. The buoyancy of the water adds intensity to every movement and makes a refreshing change from usual mat classes. The classes suit all levels and abilities. EPIC SUP are running SUPyoga and SUP-Pilates classes from Twickenham Rowing Club, this summer.

To book or for enquiries contact: [coach@epicsup.org](mailto:coach@epicsup.org)



# Twickenham Green Village Fete

Sunday 7th July saw the return of the annual Twickenham Green Village Fete. The weather held off, allowing everyone to enjoy an afternoon of great music, funfair and stalls. Well done to the Friends of Twickenham Green for a very successful family event



# River Crane Sanctuary



*It is not hard to understand how artists and many others have been inspired by nature when we see all it has to offer if we but take the time to 'Stand and Stare'*

This magnified photo of a wild poppy, taken in the wildflower meadow along the River Crane Sanctuary walk last week, was mesmerising. The multitude of bees and insects feeding on the array of grasses and other nectar rich flowers were a joy to watch and comforting when so many of our pollinators are in decline with habitat loss being identified as the main

culprit. "Bees' needs Week" finishes tomorrow and **'Carnabee Street' has been turned into a 'Hive of Activity'** by organisers offering information and activities to educate, inspire and energise everyone to take action to help our endangered species to thrive. They highlight five simple actions: 1. Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees 2. Let your garden grow wild 3. Cut your grass less often 4. Don't disturb insect nest and hibernation spots 5. Think carefully about whether to use pesticides



Grow Wild at Kew have teamed up with Jo Malone and are offering wildflower seeds again with advice so visit their website to get involved. Visit our Sanctuary website and Flickr album for more photos of nature along the River Crane here in Twickenham.

The River Crane Sanctuary website <http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

# The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew is a United Kingdom World Heritage site

By Teresa Read

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew - A UNESCO World Heritage site

The history of Kew Gardens dates back 250 years starting in the mid eighteenth century. It began as a nine acre garden around Kew Palace. Today, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew is an internationally respected scientific organisation, well known for expertise in plant diversity and conservation.

There are 14,000 trees in Kew Gardens which contribute to the improvement of our air quality.

A panoramic view can be seen from the Treetop Walkway

The 200-metre Walkway is in a fairly central position within the gardens. Overlooking the 300 acres of Kew, visitors walk through the canopy which includes limes, horse chestnuts, sweet chestnuts and oaks, some up to 200 years old.

The foundations for the Treetop Walkway consist of 57 concrete piles 18 metres deep, all positioned carefully to avoid damaging tree roots. The structure is made of weathering steel which rusts over time. Sweet chestnut wood has been used for the rails.

Design draws on the Fibonacci sequence, where each new number is the sum of the two before (for example, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 13), and which determines a number of plant structures. The sequence is used for the spacing of connection points for the diagonals of the walkway trusses. The 12 metre long trusses are connected to circular nodes which are supported by pylons.



## Simple Spanish Food (or Comida)

I've recently returned from a lovely week in Mallorca and consequently have acquired my usual post-Mallorcan taste for Spanish cuisine. It is surprisingly easy and fabulous in hot weather. I love to browse the market on a Sunday morning in Pollensa and taste the delicious olives. I was impressed by the Spanish Olives stand at a recent food festival and the Queen olives are particularly good – widely available in most supermarkets and delis (and of course at food festivals!)



Padron peppers are a great starter; so quick and easy to prepare. Just wash and dry the peppers, (make sure you dry them well) and fry them gently in some olive oil (not extra virgin, just normal olive oil) and when cooked sprinkle with sea salt. Yum! Padrons are pretty widely available here in the UK – they are currently stocked by Lidl and often available at our local greengrocer Paul Cooper (who can also order them for you, given 24 hour's notice)



Paella is such an easy thing to make – and you can include whatever you like, as there are no hard and fast rules. Depending on the region of Spain, paellas can be all fish or fish and meat, often rabbit. You can add your own mix of onion, peppers, peas, sweetcorn, olives or whatever veg you have available. There is a controversy about whether to include chorizo (I always do as I love any excuse to cook with chorizo!). The one thing that is crucial though, it to use a good Bomba paella rice - It's a short-grain rice cultivated in the eastern parts of Spain. It absorbs liquid very well, but stays quite firm during cooking and is by far the best for paella. I confess to cheating and buying sachets of paella seasoning when I'm in Mallorca, as they are so easy to add to the rice and stock. The other key ingredient is smoked paprika, available in most supermarkets (and also stocked by Ralph's – the fab Spanish deli and wine shop in Whitton High Street). To be honest you shouldn't really need a recipe for paella as it is easy and fun to experiment with , but if you do, check out the BBC Good Food website [here](#)



Spanish desserts don't inspire me much as they are often lemon meringue pie or 'flan' (which is crème caramel). I'm much more excited about the lovely cheeses and I love tasting the various quesos in the markets in Mallorca – 'picante' being my preference as it is the aged cheese and extra delicious. A good chunk of Manchego with lovely fresh cherries, grapes or plums makes the ideal end of the meal for me.

Instagram: @theseasonedgastronome

# BAFTA Award for Richmond upon Thames College student Elizabeth Orji-Smith

On Saturday 29 June, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) student Elizabeth Orji-Smith attended the BAFTA Young Game Designers (YGD) award ceremony, where she won the Game Concept Award for 15-18 year olds.

The ninth annual YGD competition celebrates and acknowledges the creativity that is required when designing games. It gives young people an understanding how rewarding a career within this industry can be.

Dr. Jo Twist OBE, Chair of Games Committee at BAFTA, said, "It is fantastic to see such a high calibre of games from upcoming creative talent being rewarded. It's been another great year for the competition, and with previous winners having gone on to be BAFTA nominated, I can't wait to see this year's winners go out and make their own mark on the industry."

Elizabeth studies A Levels in Computer Science, Graphic Design and Maths at RuTC and commented earlier this year how these courses have helped her to achieve her goal of becoming a game designer. Her submitted concept 'Creatively Bankrupt' is a role player game about a small, Robin Hood like heist group, who tries to unlock a vault that holds a creative treasure.

About her win Elizabeth said, "It is exciting, surprising, and I'm ecstatic to be a BAFTA Young Game Designers winner. My game concept came from a lot of different sources including friends and podcasts and I had had the idea of a heist game in my mind for a while. Three days before the competition deadline I saw an advert for YGD and decided to go for it! For anyone who wants to enter next year I'd say come at it from the heart, understand what you love about games and spring ideas off other people as they can bring out the best in you. Just submitting an entry is so valuable. The whole experience has been such fun, making new friends, meeting amazing people from the industry and seeing what you can aim towards."



In a written message to attendees and the young finalists, HRH The Duke of Cambridge and President of BAFTA, said: "This year the entries have an overwhelming social purpose to them, focusing on issues including mental health, climate change, conservation, disability,

bereavement, and transgender rights. Many of the game ideas strive to educate players of all ages on the social issues they address, hoping to prompt real change in people's lives. I think it is fantastic to see young people using games to express themselves and purposes that they identify with."





# New Richmond Access Guide is launched

A new online access guide to Richmond upon Thames has been launched today. AccessAble is aimed at making the Richmond more accessible for residents and visitors, maximising independence and choice for disabled people around the borough.

The free online guide provides access information for hundreds of venues across Richmond including shops, restaurants, leisure centres, theatres, museums, libraries and parks.

All of the venues have been visited and assessed by an AccessAble surveyor, who has looked at a whole range of accessibility features from parking to toilets.

The online guide includes information relevant for anyone with an access need, including people with mobility impairments, sensory impairments, learning difficulties and people on the autistic spectrum. It does not label venues as “good” or “bad”, or “accessible” or “inaccessible”; it provides information to let the user decide whether the venue is suitable for their own individual access needs.

Cllr Michael Wilson, Vice Chair of the Council’s Finance, Policy and Resource Committee and Leader Member for Equalities, said:

“Making our borough as accessible as possible to those with disabilities and mobility issues is a top priority for this administration. Empowering individuals to make choices is crucial for improving independence and confidence and this new guide will help residents and visitors alike.

“We recognise that people’s freedom and access are often limited by poor design and lack of information, which contributes to social isolation and prevents people from engaging with public life.

“I hope the guide will help remove some of the barriers that some people face and in the process make Richmond upon Thames more accessible”.

Lucy Burn, Chief Executive of RichmondAid, said:

“People are disabled by the barriers in society that prevent them from having access to services, leisure activities and employment opportunities that non-disabled people take for granted.

“This is vital information for disabled people whether planning a visit to a theatre, knowing where the accessible toilets are if they are out for a walk or shopping and also using public transport. It is great there is a guide out there listing access features for a range of venues and services and will benefit disabled people living in the borough as well as visitors to the borough.”

The guide will be launched at the Voluntary Sector Forum in September, however is available online now at:

[www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/london-borough-of-richmond-upon-thames](http://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/london-borough-of-richmond-upon-thames)





## Remembering a Poet

Performance Poetry, The Adelaide, Teddington, 7<sup>th</sup> July

Review by Celia Bard

The July meeting of Performance Poetry was a poignant occasion following the tragic, accidental death of co-founder, Bob Sheed. Joint co-founder, Anne Warrington, opened the evenings programme by recalling the formation of Poetry Performance and Bob's influential impact on the group. Although the subject matter of the evening was greatly influenced by memories of Bob Sheed and others who have departed this life, the prevailing mood was uplifting, brought about by the humour in many of Bob's poems. Anne Warrington quoted *Address Book* by Maggie Butt, a poem reflecting on the dilemma of what to do with names written in an address book once those people have died.



Robin Clarke presented his own moving poetic tribute to Bob, providing a moving brief biographical account of many aspects of his life. On a lighter note was the reading of *I'm a Little Teapot*, taken from Bob's collection of poems, *It's Not What You Think*, a tongue in the cheek reflection on changing social habits and etiquette. Graham Harmes then performed another of Bob's numerous humorous poems *The Lawyer*, a poem that beautifully demonstrates Bob's talents as a wordsmith, and how highly articulate people can use words to manipulate and outmanoeuvre people.

In contrast Judith Blakemore Lawton delivered Bob's parody poem *Unstoppable*, a new twist on the Dutch story of the boy who plugged the hole in the dyke with his fist. In this version his efforts are rewarded with a good walloping from his father!

Chris Naylor amused us with his rendition of Bob Sheed's *Gender Balance* in which Golom, the hermaphrodite, thinks he had the right to use both the Ladies and the Gents toilets.

Read Celia Bard's review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/07/11/remember-poet](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/07/11/remember-poet)

Photography courtesy of the Bob Sheed estate

# Delivery

by Andy Walker

Barnes Fringe Festival, OSO Arts Centre, until 11<sup>th</sup> July

If many people's experience of delivery is a long wait in for a pizza, then it's no surprise that *Delivery* is such a pacey production – it clearly wants to avoid having to give us the free garlic beard.

The speed with which Andy Walker's script cuts from one scene to the next as expectant father Joe (Alex Walton) recounts his life story is fitting given the character's former life as a squaddie, and the production is so well drilled that you'd think Lesley Manning were more sergeant major than director. It's doubly impressive given that only last week this was a rehearsed reading: not only dialogue but action and lightning move so swiftly and effortlessly tonight that I couldn't help being caught up in it.

Walton remains present onstage throughout and delivers a nuanced performance that conveys Joe's self-doubt, rage, fear and charm, slipping seamlessly between narrator and participant in his own story. The comic self-deprecation he deploys to woo wife Angela is just as effective and affecting as the rawness of his terror when deployed on active service.

Lizzie Aaryn-Stanton is likewise engaging as primary school teacher Angela. She's a humane and compassionate counterpoint to Joe's troubled masculinity, no more so than when her journey to assembly with her class is juxtaposed with Joe weeping over the corpse of a fallen comrade in the foreground. Yet despite this contrast there is still a genuine, touching chemistry between them, as seen in their first meeting at a football match – never has talk of the offside trap been more sexually charged ... ..

Read Matthew Grierson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/07/12/delivery](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/07/12/delivery)

Photography courtesy of OSO Arts Centre



# TRAVELLER'S TALES 38

## THE HOME OF CHARLES de GAULLE



Doug Goodman visits the home of former French President Charles de Gaulle

I was in the Champagne Region of France and took the opportunity to visit the town of Colombey-les-deux-Eglises, the home of Charles de Gaulle the President of France from 1959 to 1969. Born in 1890 in Lille, de Gaulle was a military and political leader of the French nation. During World War 1 he became a second lieutenant in an infantry regiment and served under Colonel Petain. He fought against the Germans at Verdun and was wounded three times. After the war he wrote on military tactics and was much in favour of a highly mechanized, fast-moving army as opposed to static defences such as the Maginot line. He and his wife Yvonne had three children and lived a fairly quiet life in Colombey.



Colombey-les-deux-Eglises



Family Home



Memorial to De Gaulle

### FREE FRENCH

When war broke out in 1939, he once again served in the army and after the defeat of France he went into exile in London. From his headquarters in Carlton Gardens he assumed the role of leader of The Free French Forces and broadcast regularly on the BBC to resistance members in France. De Gaulle was never really trusted by Winston Churchill and received too little recognition for his abilities in the UK during wartime. In 1943 the headquarters were moved to Algiers where de Gaulle had more freedom to aid the various resistance movements throughout occupied France. He became President of the French Commission of National Liberty and was at the head of the troops who liberated Paris. He took time in semi-retirement after the war to write his memoirs before becoming President of the 5th French

Republic in 1959. Political turmoil followed with civil war in Algeria when the OAS seized power. The military wanted Algeria to stay French but de Gaulle favoured independence. Violence occurred in France and attempts were made to assassinate the president. The 1964 film 'Day of the Jackal' perfectly captures the atmosphere of that time. In April 1969 he resigned and died a year later from a heart attack.



Presidential Car



De Gaulle Was Tall



Souvenir Postcards

## MAGNIFICENT MUSEUM

Colombey-les-deux-Eglises is de Gaulle. From the flower-covered grave stone to the huge cross of Lorraine by the museum and the shops selling de Gaulle memorabilia, everywhere is a shrine to the former president. The house has been left as it was when he died with the pretty gardens and views just as he appreciated them. The museum traces his life's work and portrays the upheavals his government experienced: the civil war in Algeria, assassination attempts with his official cars on display, the Paris student riots and much more. The countryside around Colombey is quiet and good for walking with the famous Champagne vineyards just to the north with plenty of comfortable b&b accommodation. A four-hour drive from the Channel port of Calais or a TGV train from Paris make the journey to north east France easy.



Family Tomb



Broadcasting to The Free French



London HQ

# Well done” Team Richmond on London Youth Games performance

After nine months, 38 competitions and 30 top 10 finishes, young athletes from Team Richmond collected 1,138 points to finish 4th in the final Jubilee Trophy standings at the 2019 London Youth Games.

Last weekend (6 and 7 July), Team Richmond competed in the Crystal Palace finals, which saw the 2019 London Youth Games season come to a close. Over 140 participants were up against stiff opponents in their respective competitions to see who would be crowned London’s best.

It was a weekend of nail-biting action with some fantastic performances throughout from all the teams involved. Some notable performances from the Girls Basketball squad saw them win overall gold, with the Girls Hockey and Boys Basketball winning overall silver and the Boys Athletics and Diving squads winning bronze.



From the first event of the season back in November through to the Finals in July, Team Richmond secured 11 podium finishes as well as a host of individual medals. The ParaGames squads performed brilliantly throughout the season, with the Boccia squad winning the London Youth Games and progressing on to become National Champions for the second year running. The girls swimming squad won overall gold and the Inclusive Zone Basketball team became champions in London.



Cllr Martin Elengorn, Chair of Richmond Council’s Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee said:

“It is good to see so many young athletes taking part and doing so well for the borough in this year’s London Youth Games. There were notable highlights across the year in everything from cross-country to basketball to the ParaGames. Very well done to everyone who took part!”

Every year over 50,000 young people from the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, compete in over 30 different sports competitions that comprise the Games.

Team Richmond will celebrate the achievements of all their talented athletes, team managers, coaches and volunteers at a celebration evening at The Stoop, home of Team Richmond sponsors Harlequins, on Thursday 18th July.



## BRENTFORD F.C.

### BEES SIGNINGS READY FOR PROMOTION PUSH

Not long to go until the opening league match of Brentford's last ever season at Griffin Park. Home to Birmingham City on Saturday 3rd August is eagerly awaited as the club continues to bring in a number of quality signings that are geared to achieving promotion to the Premier League. Let's have a look at our new Bees who have joined their new teammates at the training camp in the Austrian Tyrol this week.

#### **PONTUS JANSSON**

Brentford have signed Pontus Jansson from Sky Bet Championship rivals Leeds United for an undisclosed fee. The Swedish international central defender completed a medical in central London on Monday, before signing a three-year contract. There is also a Club option of an extra year to keep Pontus with The Bees until June 2023.

Pontus has earned 22 caps for his country and has captained Sweden in the past year. He was part of the squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia and played in the Quarter Final defeat to England a year ago. He started for Sweden in their recent UEFA Euro 2020 qualification matches against Malta and Spain.

Pontus joins The Bees with three years of Championship experience under his belt. He has been first choice for Leeds since arriving from Torino in 2016. He leaves Leeds having played 120 games for them in all competitions.

The form of the defender last season helped Leeds to finish third in the Championship, He was named in the Championship PFA Team of the Season and scored three goals in 39 league games. Thomas Frank, Brentford FC Head Coach, said: "We are very pleased with Pontus' arrival. The defence is an area that we have been looking to strengthen and we feel that Pontus will bring a lot to the group. Pontus will add to the quality and competition for places that we need to adapt to different situations over the course of the season.

Pontus is a top defender who brings immense professionalism, a great attitude, experience, defensive robustness, leadership qualities, and threat from set pieces to our side. Everyone knows about the Brentford model but to develop the young players we have here, we also need experience and quality in the squad to get the perfect balance. To have someone with his CV turn down other offers to join us shows where we stand as a club now."

#### **MATHIAS JENSEN**

Brentford signed Danish midfield player Mathias Jensen from Real Club Celta de Vigo for an undisclosed fee on Monday. The 23-year-old has signed a four-year deal and there is a Club extension to extend that for an additional 12 months, until June 2024.

Mathias joins The Bees after one year in the Spanish top flight after making his name playing for FC Nordsjælland in his native Denmark He was a regular in the Danish top division at the age of 20 and was FCN captain aged 22. In his final full season in the Danish league he scored 12 goals in 35 league games from midfield. He joined Celta last summer, He played six La Liga

games for Celta in a variety of midfield positions.

Mathias has also come through the ranks with the Danish national team. He was Under-21 Player of the Year in 2017 and captained his country at that level in the recent UEFA European Under-21 Championships. He has also played in Denmark's Under-18, Under-19 and Under-20 teams and has earned 30 caps in total, scoring three goals.

Thomas Frank, Brentford FC Head Coach, said: "I am very pleased that Mathias is joining us as he will help to push the Club forward. Mathias is a very talented young player who can dictate the game and has a great passing ability. His arrival gives us flexibility and strength in depth in midfield, no matter what system we look to play. "Since the start of last season, we have lost four midfielders. Now, with Mathias' arrival, we have a group of top-quality central midfielders with different skill sets which we can use in various combinations."

## **DAVID RAYA**

Brentford have completed the signing of goalkeeper David Raya from Blackburn Rovers. The 23-year-old finalised his move last Saturday, 6 July, signing a four-year deal, for an undisclosed fee. The Spanish stopper joined up with his new teammates in time for this week's pre-season Training Camp in Austria.

Brentford FC Head Coach, Thomas Frank, said: "I am very pleased to have David here. He is a very good goalkeeper and fits the profile of player that we want at Brentford. On the pitch, he is a young goalkeeper who comes here after two good seasons at Blackburn Rovers. He can play out from the back and is happy covering the space in behind, allowing us to play with a high line". Raya joined Rovers in 2012 following a youth career with UE Cornellà in his native Barcelona. He assumed the number one shirt at the start of the 2016/17 season. The Spaniard missed just one league match as Rovers stormed to promotion from Sky Bet League One, keeping 17 clean sheets in the process. Last season, Raya made 41 league appearances for Tony Mowbray's side back in the Championship, keeping ten clean sheets. In total, he arrives at Griffin Park having made 108 appearances during his time in Lancashire.

## **ETHAN PINNOCK**

Brentford have completed the signing of central defender Ethan Pinnock from Barnsley for an undisclosed fee. The 26-year-

old London-born defender signed a three-year deal on 2nd July. There is a Club option for an extra year. He linked up with The Bees this week and was joining the training camp in Austria. Ethan spent two years at Barnsley. He played 12 Sky Bet Championship games for the Yorkshire outfit in his first year there but established himself last season. He played every League One game in 2018/19 as Barnsley won promotion back to the second tier. He was also named Barnsley Player of the Year and earned a spot in the PFA League One Team of the Season.

Thomas Frank, Brentford FC Head Coach, said: "Ethan is a good defender with the sort of defensive mindset we want to bring in to the Club. We like his aerial dominance and he is good at set pieces in both penalty areas. He has a good left foot and has the courage and composure to move the ball forward and find passes that we want to play".

Phil Giles, Co-Director of Football, said: "The centre back position is an area we clearly needed to strengthen this summer, since both Chris Mepham and Yoann Barbet have left the Club in the last six months. Ethan fits the bill perfectly and follows a long tradition of good players who have chosen to join Brentford from League One and League Two. We welcome him to the Club and wish him every success".



## **CHRISTIAN NORGAARD**

Danish midfielder Christian Nørgaard signed for the Bees in May on a four-year contract, with the option of an additional year, for an undisclosed fee, reported to be £2.8 million. The move reunited him with his former Brøndby and Denmark youth coach Thomas Frank.. He arrives from Fiorentina in The Italian Serie A League.

## **FAREWELL EZRI KONSA**

Brentford's England Under-21 international defender Ezri Konsa has left the Club to join Aston Villa. The 21-year-old completed a medical with the newly promoted Premier League side late on Tuesday evening, before signing for the Birmingham side. He leaves The Bees for an undisclosed fee to link up with former Brentford Head Coach Dean Smith, now in charge at Villa Park.

Ezri leaves after one season at Griffin Park, in which he established himself as a mainstay in the Brentford defence and in the England Under-21 squad. He joined The Bees from Charlton Athletic 13 months ago, where he had come through the ranks. He was almost ever-present for The Bees in the Championship last season, playing 47 games in all competitions. He only missed three league games last term and scored his first Brentford goal on the last day of the season in the win over Preston North End. Ezri also did enough to earn a place in the England Under-21 squad for the UEFA European Under-21 Championships in Italy and San Marino this summer.

## *FAREWELL DANIEL BENTLEY*

Goalkeeper Daniel Bentley has left Brentford to join Sky Bet Championship rivals Bristol City. The 25-year-old finalised a move to the South West on Friday 28 June, after both clubs agreed an undisclosed fee. Daniel departs almost three years to the day after arriving in West London from Southend United where he played 160 games for The Shrimpers and is now closing in on 300 professional games in all competitions.

The Basildon-born stopper quickly established himself as first choice at Griffin Park, missing just one Championship game in each of his first two seasons at the Club. His performances during the 2017/18 campaign, where he set a Club record for clean sheets by a goalkeeper in a single second tier season, saw him beat the likes of Thibault Courtois and Hugo Lloris to the Goalkeeper of the Year prize at the London Football Awards. In total, Daniel made 125 appearances in all competitions for Brentford, keeping 35 clean sheets.

Thomas Frank, Brentford FC Head Coach, said: "Dan has done a very good job for us over the past three years. He came in and earned his position as first-choice goalkeeper, helping us perform well in the Championship. During my time at Brentford he has been a fantastic professional, and a great character to have around the Training Ground and in the dressing room. This is an opportunity for Dan to enjoy a new challenge and a new adventure in his career. We are sorry to see him go but wish him all the best for the future and look forward to seeing him again soon."

So as at all football clubs, players come and go but it certainly appears that Brentford have improved the overall quality of the first team squad as they get ready for what could be one of the most momentous seasons in the clubs 130 year history. You read it here first!

*Come on you Bees!*

# ENGLAND SEVENS SQUADS ANNOUNCED FOR OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

Head of England Sevens Simon Amor and England Women's Sevens head coach James Bailey have named their 12-player squads for the Rugby Europe Men's and Women's Sevens Olympic Qualifier Tournaments on 13 and 14 July. The men compete in Colomiers, France and the women in Kazan, Russia with both tournaments streamed live on the Rugby Europe website.

Abbie Brown and Tom Mitchell each captain unchanged England squads from the last Rugby Europe Sevens Grand Prix rounds. The women's side finish fifth in Marcoussis while the men picked up a bronze medal in Moscow. Both were pre-qualifying tournaments for this weekend's Olympic qualification events. Day one of the competitions see England face Germany, Sweden and Russia in Pool B of the women's competition at the Central Stadium in Kazan. While the men's squad face Lithuania, Georgia and Germany in Pool C at the Stade Michel Bendichou in Colomiers.

Looking ahead to the weekend, Amor said: "With a number of players returning from injury, the competition in Moscow a couple of weeks ago was exactly what we needed and it is great that we can select the same squad for this weekend, this gives us for the first time this season consistency and momentum. Our aim is to secure Olympic qualification by winning the tournament and we are both excited and confident about the opportunity this weekend and looking forward to taking our 1st steps on the ladder on Saturday."

Speaking about the women's event, Bailey added: "It has been a good couple of weeks for us as a squad since Marcoussis and we've been preparing well for this Olympic qualification tournament. We've had time to review what went well in France and also to look at where we can make some improvements as we head out to Kazan. We know it will be extremely competitive again this weekend but we've been able to keep consistency with the squad selection which gives us good momentum. There are lots of high-quality opposition, but we travel to Russia in a strong place and with confidence."

The winners of these two tournaments will qualify directly for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. England is the nominated nation to qualify on behalf of Great Britain. The teams ranked second and third will be put through to participate in the world repechage tournament organised by World Rugby.

## Women's

Holly Aitchison  
Claire Allan  
Abbie Brown ©  
Heather Fisher  
Deborah Fleming  
Megan Jones  
Ellie Kildunne  
Alex Matthews  
Celia Quansah  
Helena Rowland  
Emma Uren  
Amy Wilson Hardy

## Men's

Jamie Barden  
Phil Burgess  
Richard de Carpentier  
Will Edwards  
Mike Ellery  
Harry Glover  
Ben Harris  
Charlton Kerr  
Ollie Lindsay-Hague  
Tom Mitchell ©  
Will Muir  
Dan Norton

England v Germany KO 10:28 BST  
England v Sweden KO 13:13 BST  
England v Russia KO 16:20 BST

England v Lithuania KO 11:00 BST  
England v Georgia KO 13:45 BST  
England v Germany KO 16:52 BST



# Steve Bates to leave RFU



England men's U20 head coach Steve Bates is to leave the RFU.

After joining in 2017 the former Wasps scrum-half, who was capped for England, has decided to explore other exciting rugby related opportunities. A replacement will be announced in due course. Bates has spent two years within the men's pathway with responsibility for coaching and managing the U20s' programme, assisting in the development of many future full international players, some of which are in contention to represent England in the upcoming Rugby World Cup in Japan.

Speaking about his departure Steve Bates said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the pathway team and the RFU academies over the last two years and have been lucky enough to coach the U20s in three World Rugby U20 Championships, reaching the final in two. I wish the RFU, and particularly the pathway, all the best for the future and look forward to supporting England to victory in the World Cup in October. I would like to thank Nigel and the team for the opportunity to experience the great depth of talent that England has at both U20s and U18s and am sure the pathway will go from strength to strength in the future."

RFU Professional Rugby Director Nigel Melville added: "I'd like to thank Steve for all his hard work within the England men's pathway over the past two years. He has had an important role identifying and developing the next generation of England players – not only the U20s, in his role as head coach, but also by supporting the U18s programme.

"As well as nurturing players as they develop towards a senior career, he has also facilitated important opportunities for those starting out their coaching career to grow and make their own mark. The work he has done with the coach development programme has been invaluable and created a pipeline of very capable young coaches. We wish Steve all the best in his future career."

## Crossrail delay: Mayor responds to Assembly criticism

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, in a joint letter with Transport for London (TfL) has responded to the London Assembly Transport Committee report Derailed: Getting Crossrail back on track. In his letter, the Mayor agreed with many of the points made within the report. But, despite the Committee's direct call for the Commissioner to consider his position in light of all that had gone wrong, the Mayor reiterated his support for TfL's commissioner, Mike Brown MVO.

In response, Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee, Florence Eshalomi AM, said: "We welcome the Mayor's letter to the Committee in response to our detailed report on the Crossrail delay.

"It's disappointing to see that blame for the project is still being passed from pillar to post and that no stakeholder so far has been willing to accept their responsibility for the delay of the project. As the Mayor has agreed with the majority of the points in our report, we look forward to seeing how these recommendations will be implemented and when."

**LONDON ASSEMBLY**

# RNLI's 'Float to Live' advice saves man's life on the Thames

A man in his twenties moments from drowning in the River Thames has told RNLI crew how he managed to stay above the water by adopting the charity's 'Float to Live' advice.

The man, who had been at a local pub in Wapping had decided to go for a swim in the river, but quickly found himself overcome by the strong currents and suffering from cold water shock.

With his muscles cramping and on the verge of drowning, he recalled seeing an RNLI poster urging people who find themselves in difficulty in the water to float on their backs until they are able to regain control of their breathing.

On receiving a call from the UK Coastguard to a person in distress in the water close to Tower Bridge, the crew of Tower RNLI Lifeboat Hurley Burly arrived on scene within three minutes to find officers on board a Metropolitan Police marine boat, holding onto the man, but unable to recover him on board.



Going alongside, the RNLI crew were able to transfer the casualty onto the lifeboat and take him to the police pier at Wapping where he was passed into the care of the London Ambulance Service and was taken to hospital.

RNLI helm Steve Doherty explained that when the man had been found in the river by the Metropolitan Police Marine Unit he had been lying on his back in the water in the classic 'star shape' recommended by the RNLI's 'Float to Live' campaign.

'He was freezing when we brought him onto the lifeboat and he had inhaled a lot of water,' Steve said, explaining that the man, who was only wearing boxer shorts, had decided to go for a swim, but had not realised how strong the incoming tide was.

'Once in the water he realised it was a bad idea but couldn't get back to the shore and started to panic. He said that he thought he was going to drown and then he



remembered the RNLI Float to Live advice and so lay on his back with his arms and legs extended until help arrived. On further questioning, in his own words he said 'I just floated on my back and that's the only reason I am alive,' explained Steve.

The crew of the lifeboat received the initial call from the UK Coastguard to a person in distress in the water at 5.07pm on Tuesday 9 July. The lifeboat, was returning from a previous shout when the call came in and immediately diverted to the scene.

The 'Float to Live' advice is a key message in the RNLI's national drowning prevention campaign, Respect the Water. It urges people to follow this potentially lifesaving advice if they find themselves in trouble after falling into cold water:

- Fight your instinct to swim hard or thrash about – this can lead to breathing in water and drowning
- Instead, relax and FLOAT on your back, until you have regained control of your breathing

Guy Addington, RNLI Community Safety Partner for the South East and London said: 'This rescue demonstrates just how effective the Float technique can be in saving lives, even in the treacherous waters of the River Thames.'

'No one should have to lose someone they love to drowning. Many of the tragic deaths recorded at the coast and on the Thames could be avoided if people understand the risks and prepare themselves by practising this method and we would urge people to share this message as widely as possible.'

'Knowing what to do if you fall into cold water can be the difference between life and death. The instinctive human reaction when you fall into cold water can cause panic and gasping for breath, increasing the chances of breathing in water. Although it's counter-intuitive, the best immediate course of action is to fight your instinct and float on your back.'

The following day, Wednesday 10 July, the Tower Lifeboat crew were tasked by UK Coastguard at 4.30pm to reports of a man in the water at Chelsea. When the crew arrived on scene they found a man struggling to stay above the water. The man who was cold and shocked, was brought aboard the lifeboat by the crew and taken to a nearby pier where he was passed into the care of the London Ambulance Service.



**Lifeboats**

# Almost half of London councils withhold 'life-changing' technology from young deaf children

- 14 of London's 32 local councils don't provide 0-4 year-old deaf children with life-changing radio aids to use at home.
- The National Deaf Children's Society says it's a "tragic waste of potential" when deaf children miss out on radio aids because of where they live, calling on all 14 councils to end the "radio aid lottery".
- Radio aids, which transmit the user's voice straight to a child's hearing technology, allow deaf children to develop crucial language and communication skills and save them from a lifetime trying to catch-up.
- **Case study:** "Radio aids have given my son a new lease of life. Without them, he feels less secure exploring, misses out on his independence and always wants to be close to me."

Almost half of London councils don't provide vital technology for young deaf children to use at home and it leaves many with a daily battle to hear their family and friends, the National Deaf Children's Society has warned.

Figures from the charity reveal that 14 of London's 32 councils (44%) don't provide radio aids for 0-4 year-olds to take home. More than 3,000 deaf children live in the areas covered by those councils that withhold this life-changing technology during the early years.

Radio aids, which transmit the wearer's voice directly to a child's hearing aids or cochlear implants, are crucial in enabling deaf children to develop their language, confidence and communication skills from a young age.

If they don't gain these skills early on, deaf children face a lifetime of playing catch-up and a greater risk of isolation as they struggle to understand what's happening around them. The National Deaf Children's Society says it is deeply unfair that thousands of children are still missing out because of where they live, describing it as a "tragic waste of potential." It wants every child to have access to the technology and is demanding an end to the "radio aid lottery", calling on local authorities across London to ensure that every deaf child has the opportunity to use one at home.

Research shows that radio aids improve interaction between young deaf children and their parents, with significant increases in conversations both in the car (144%) and outdoors (88%). Current Government data also shows that in the early years, just 37% of deaf children in London reach the expected level of development in areas like communication and language, compared to 80% of hearing children.

Nationally, 43 of England's 152 councils don't provide radio aids for young deaf children at home. The situation is improving, with the number of councils that do provide them reaching 109 (72%), up from 77 (51%) in 2016.

**Jo Campion, Deputy Director at the National Deaf Children's Society, said:**

"These figures show that thousands of young deaf children across London are being thrown into a radio aid lottery, where their chances of having one at home are based on their postcode,

not on their needs. It's a tragic waste of potential and it's deeply unfair.

“Radio aids play an absolutely essential role in young deaf children's lives at a stage when communication, language and interacting with their family and friends are vital. They boost a child's chances of picking up language, reduce the effect of background noise and help in situations where face-to-face conversations are difficult, like playing outside or travelling in the car.

“Every council has a duty to provide this life-changing support and they now have a simple choice; deliver for every deaf child in their care, or stand by and let even more of them needlessly fall behind.”

**Sophie Anastasiou's son Levindinos, five, has a moderate hearing loss. They live in Leyton, London and their area is covered by Waltham Forest Council, which does not provide radio aids for young deaf children at home.**

*For the first four years of his life, Levindinos didn't have access to a radio aid. He struggled to focus on his nursery teacher and couldn't understand the instructions he was given. When he started school, he got a radio aid, but two months later had to return it.*

*His mum Sophie decided to pay for one herself. He now uses it at home and at school, and it's made a massive difference.*

“He used to get into trouble a lot at the nursery he went to in Newham and I think the lack of radio aid access had a huge part to play in this. With a radio aid, he's had a new lease of life and many more opportunities to learn. He learnt how to write his name in two months of being at school and he's now ahead in Maths and Literacy. It's also meant that his passion for singing, playing the piano and music in general has flourished, as has his musical ability.

“If Levindinos hadn't had a radio aid to use at home, he'd have missed out on his independence because without them, he always wants to be close to me to make sure he can hear what I am saying. He feels less secure exploring without them. With the radio aids, Levindinos can cycle with his friends ahead of me, without having to lag behind so I can support him.”

*Sophie thinks that radio aids have a big impact on a deaf child's life and says they should be widely available.*

“I think it is unfair that some children have to go without access to radio aids because it's made a huge difference to Levindinos's wellbeing. He's happier because he's achieving more because he's more focused, and more able to concentrate during learning opportunities given to him. Seeing the challenges he came across was heart-breaking and I definitely wouldn't wish that for any other child, who might be experiencing that now.

“Widely available radio aids for all children at home would have a huge impact on society. Some families, like us, won't even know radio aids exist if they're not given access to one.”



# A YEAR SINCE NEW MOT TESTS INTRODUCED: OVER 10 MILLION VEHICLES IN THE UK HAVE FAILED

- One third (33 per cent) of vehicles failed new MOT tests
- brought in last year
- Drivers in Greater London have the safest vehicles – with 67 per cent of vehicles in this region passing the test
- Vehicles in the South West are the most dangerous, with a whopping 38 per cent of vehicles from this region failing
- Almost one in ten (nine per cent) vehicles failed with a ‘dangerous’ result under new tests

New research\* released by breakdown cover provider [Green Flag](#) has uncovered the pass and fail rates of motorists under the new MOT tests. The new tests were brought in a year ago in May 2018 and the research has established where the most dangerous vehicles are in the UK.

Under new MOT regulations, there are new failure and fault categories, as well as stricter limits for emissions and additions to the MOT checks. The three new failure categories are minor, major and dangerous. If a car fails with a dangerous result, it is illegal to drive on the roads. Under the new MOT rules, drivers could be fined up to £2,500 if they are driving a car without a valid MOT.

Of the 30,488,960 MOT tests taken nationwide, 10,001,293 (33 per cent) of these were fails and 20,487,667 (67 per cent) were passes. Of these, 2,817,967 (nine per cent) vehicles yielded dangerous results and 9,095,989 (44 per cent) yielded major results.

Motorbikes fared better than cars under new MOT tests, with 83 per cent of motorbikes passing, and only 17 per cent failing. By comparison, only 67 per cent of cars passed new MOT tests.

The most dangerous cars on the road in the UK have been uncovered; regions where the most fails occurred include the South West (38 per cent), Wales (35 per cent), Scotland (35 per cent), the East Midlands (33 per cent) and the North East (33 per cent).

Meanwhile, the safest motors are those in the capital, as the highest pass rate for the new MOT test was Greater London (71 per cent), followed by the East of England (69 per cent), the West Midlands (68 per cent) and the North West (68 per cent).

Mark Newbery at Green Flag commented: “Drivers should be aware of the risks of driving a faulty car. It not only endangers other motorists, but drivers and their passengers alike. Problems with vehicles will only worsen if not seen to, costing more money in the long run.

“We are urging drivers to thoroughly check their cars and repair any problems immediately, to give them the best chance of passing the new MOT tests.”

## MOT Pass Rates By Region

Region	Fails (per cent)
South West	38 per cent
Wales	35 per cent
Scotland	35 per cent
East Midlands	33 per cent
North East	33 per cent

## MOT Fail Rates By Region

Region	Passes (per cent)
Greater London	71 per cent
East of England	69 per cent
West Midlands	68 per cent
North West	68 per cent
South East	67 per cent



Half Page

Quarter Page  
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Eighth Page

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