

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Big Game 12 at Twickenham Stadium

The annual 'Big Game 12' takes place at Twickenham Stadium on **Saturday 28 December**, with 75,000 spectators expected. Due to ongoing industrial action on South Western Railway, trains will be less frequent and busier than usual, with roads being more congested than a usual match day. Where possible, local residents should avoid travelling between 12 noon and 4pm, and 6.30 to 8.30pm.

16.30 - Kick off - Harlequins v Leicester Tigers

19.20 (approx) - Kick off - Harlequins Women v Leinster Women

Match day timings are available on the Harlequins [website](#).

Festive waste and recycling collections

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 27 December	Sunday 29 December
Monday 30 December	Monday 30 December
Tuesday 31 December	Tuesday 31 December
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

Garden waste collections will recommence on Monday 6 January 2020

Richmond's New Year's Day Parade

It's been more than a decade, but Richmond is back at London's prestigious New Year's Day Parade. A group of volunteers will be working together to showcase the very best of Richmond at this year's parade, to celebrate Richmond's love of life as they march through central London.

Find out more about the parade [HERE](#)

Printed copies of the Tribune are available from Crusader Travel, Church Street, Twickenham




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The New Year is fast approaching and TwickerSeal wonders what lies ahead; 2019 has been an 'interesting' year and he suspects that 2020 will be no different.

Hopefully residents elsewhere in our borough will forgive TwickerFolk for being so absorbed with the future of Twickenham Riverside. While fatigue with the seemingly never-ending matter may make it easier to push forward with the latest proposals, TwickerSeal fears that the issue will become even more contentious in the coming year. However, let's be positive and hope for the best.

Meanwhile, our fearless leader Gareth Roberts has his sights set on a 'statement' riverside building, no not Twickenham Riverside, but City Hall as he plans his election campaign as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the South West constituency in the London Assembly and London Mayoral elections!



A HAPPY NEW YEAR ON POSTCARDS

Although Christmas cards are still in use these days, it was also common practice to send New Year postcards in the early part of the 20th century.



Our three postcards this week were posted over 100 years ago, a time when most letter-boxes in the UK rattled to the sounds of New Year postcards landing on the doormat. These cards are typical of the style and sentiments expressed on postcards in Edwardian times.

New Year's Day was a normal working day back then so you can imagine some of the hangovers that many people clocked on with that morning. These days many of us seem to need a couple of days after New Year's Eve to even start

thinking about going back to work.

Our first postcard was used for the New Year of 1908 and is typical of the Edwardian style of the day. A happy couple raising a glass to each other and surrounded by 'lucky clover leaves' with the clock reaching midnight. A delightful image.

Our second postcard also from 1908 features the January 1st date and was posted on 31st December 1907 so that it would land on the recipient's doormat on the morning of January 1st, 1908.





Lastly we move forward a few brief years to war-time France where many French Women produced hand embroidered postcards with silk thread during the First World War. These became very popular with our troops stationed in France and many of these postcards found their way back to the UK through a very efficient military postal operation.

POSTCARD FAIR SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER.

For those of you looking for something interesting to do for a couple of hours tomorrow you might like to pop over to Tolworth Recreation Centre between 8.00 and 4.00. Many stalls selling postcards, stamps, old magazines, comics, books and maps etc. I will be there with tables full of postcards including many from the local area. They are priced between 20

pence and a few pounds. Come and say hello. I'm also buying old postcards so please bring them along to show me or we can arrange a suitable time if you would like me to visit. Hope to see you there!

So, as we say in the press, "A Happy New Year to all my readers" and I hope you will continue to enjoy this column (and the rest of the Twickenham Tribune of course!) in 2020

I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. so 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, do contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!

2019 BIG SURREY
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Arts and Entertainment

By Emma Grey



Theatre

At The Exchange, Twickenham, until 31 December 2.30 performance. Join Prince Florin, Nurse Nanny Nelly and the Jesters as they attempt to save Princess Beauty from Malifica's curse, in Sleeping Beauty. This pantomime is supporting the Mayor of Richmond's local charities Home Start and the Otakar Music Trust.

Saturday 4 January 8pm. Hampton Hill Theatre. Lost Voice Guy presented by Outside the Box www.outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk

Thursday 9 January to Saturday 11 January 7.30pm plus matinee. A Christmas Carol, a youth production presented by Step on Stage Productions info@steponstageacademy.co.uk

Saturday 25 January to Friday 31 January. Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre: Main Auditorium. Amadeus by Peter Shaffer. Music, power, jealousy and the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Poetry

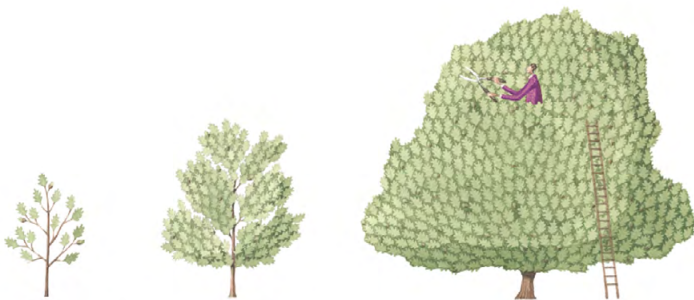
Poetry Performance at the Adelaide pub, Park Road, Teddington. Open mic spots on the first Sunday of every month from 6 to 8pm.

Music

18 January 7.30 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre, The Songs of Leonard Cohen (Keith James).

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.

If you are interested in advertising an Arts & Entertainment event write to advertise@twickenham-tribune.com for further information.



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Long Day's Journey into Night

by **Eugene O'Neill**

Directed by Simon Bartlett

Richmond Shakespeare Society



at the Mary Wallace Theatre

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Theatre**

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January 2020**

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Scan me

*"The past is the present, isn't it?
It's the future too."*

Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By TwickWatch

As the New Year fast approaches each one of us will have different aims, goals and dreams for the future. It is a time when our thoughts can also turn to those we have lost and those with ill health who still have a journey to recovery, to achieve. A time for reflection?

Many will make New Year's Resolutions. A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behaviour, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life; losing weight, getting out of debt, eating healthier, saving more money or making smarter money decisions or spending more time with your family.

This process can result in setting too many expectations and creating unrealistic goals. We end up with a long list and trying to do everything at once, relying on our emotions to keep us motivated until we achieve them. However, statistics show that only about 10 percent of people ever achieve their New Year's resolutions and break free from their bad habits.



Do you constantly think of your problems and worries? Do you constantly think about your plans and goals and on what you want to do or achieve? Are you often busy thinking about what people said or did? You need to try stop all this, because you are missing the beautiful world around you. Can you make an achievable New Year's resolution? Yes! Combating Global warming.

Whether you believe in global warming or not is a different question, but if you do or don't, then "I'm alright Jack" isn't going to work, no island is an "island". Most people have some form of Insurance Policy in their lives "to be on the safe-side". You CAN as an individual help to stop polluting the environment of the planet at the very least, "just in case".

When one person takes an action, another person may take that action, and then another person may take an action. It's sort of like a snowball that rolls downhill and picks up additional snow and then it just gets bigger and starts to have a life of its own. So, when we see one another start to take climate change or environmental issues seriously, it becomes real."

As Her Majesty the Queen said in her 2019 Christmas Message "small steps can make a world of difference". It is easier to navigate the road when you take little steps. Especially one that is filled with potholes, humps and uneven surface, which appears to never end. But it's okay, because when you take small steps you begin to understand the character of these roads.

When you take little steps, it is okay to take a detour. Such is life and such is work too since work is a big part of life. So, it's okay to explore a little. Make wrong decisions and learn from it. Most times, what we like, what we are good at, and our talent does not reveal itself when we do the safe-thing. It rears its head when we least expect it.

During 2019 Richmond Council joined 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. Details of the Richmond Council [Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan](#) are at this link.

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marveling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it precious because it was the only one, and they would protect it so it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

Stop to think about how precious and spectacular our planet is!

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A Twickenham & Richmond Tribune campaign

Friends of Richmond Park Photo Competition

Trees of Richmond Park in Winter

To celebrate Year of the Tree, the Friends of Richmond Park is running a series of four photography competitions throughout 2020, one for each season.



Photo: Tree art ©Gordon Elsdon

The first competition – WINTER – is open now! Closing date 23.59 GMT on 29 February 2020.

The overall theme is images that show the character of the Park's trees. Entrance is free.

Trees so often seem to be photographed only as background in photos of the Park's animals – it's time for trees to take centre

stage!

Each Seasonal Winner will receive a prize of a beautiful book of trees by leading landscape photographers. There will be a different book for each seasonal competition.

Find more information [HERE](#)



Departmental Overview: Department for International Development 2019



Click image above to view full report

This Departmental Overview is designed to provide a quick and accessible overview of the Department and its performance over the last year. The report focuses on the Department's responsibilities and how it spends its money, key developments in its areas of work and findings from our recent reports.



National Audit Office



Conscious New Year to All

"We are little icicles

Melting in the sun.

Can you see our tiny teardrops

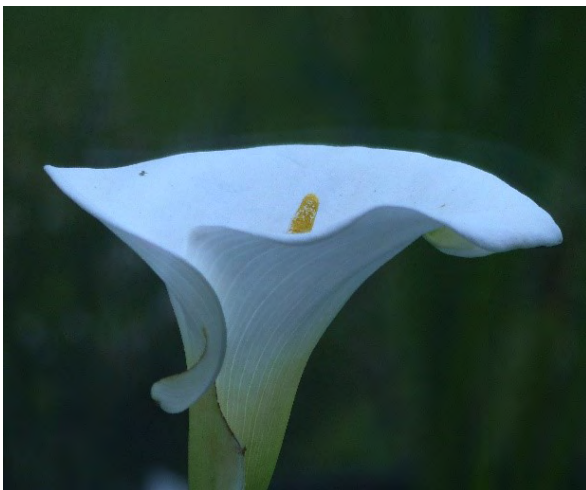
Falling one by one?" Anon.

More trees are being planted and established ones saved from felling as awareness is raised of their importance as well as their beauty. Every little action is worth the effort to support those tackling the climate emergency and our New Year's Resolutions can help by including at least one action of our

own to help local environmental groups in their work to improve where we live. We wish all readers good luck in 2020 and resilience for whatever we have to face.

This is our last regular piece for the paper and we have enjoyed being a part of the team for two years and we will send in any news of the River Crane Sanctuary when there is something interesting happening or a good photo!

You can also visit our [Website/Instagram](#) and [Flickr photo album](#). if you want to keep in touch.



*"I am the seed that grew the tree that gave the wood to make the pag
to fill the book with poetry" Judith Nicholls*

South Western Railway

New Year Eve's services

Due to RMT industrial action, South Western Railway is running an amended timetable on New Year's Eve with fewer services that will finish earlier and are likely to be very busy.

If you are reporting on planned events or travel options, your inclusion of this information will be greatly appreciated. We are doing everything we can to keep passengers informed and moving during the RMT strike action.

Please see below for a summary of services:

- Stations are likely to be busy with queuing systems in some locations
- Last services will run from London Waterloo before 11pm
- Some extra services will run after midnight on inner-suburban routes only (see below)
- No post-midnight services will run beyond Basingstoke or Guildford on the SWR mainline route
- Passengers are urged to check before they travel at [southwesternrailway.com/strike](https://www.southwesternrailway.com/strike) and follow [@SW_Help](https://twitter.com/SW_Help) for live updates

The following Late-Night Services will operate on 31 December into the early hours of 1 January:

- 00:15, 00:45, 03:15 & 03:45 – London Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, Earlsfield, Wimbledon, Raynes Park, New Malden, Norbiton, Kingston, **Hampton Wick, Teddington, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, St Margarets, Richmond**, London Waterloo.
- 01:45, 02:15 & 02:45 – London Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, Wandsworth Town, Putney, **Barnes, Mortlake, North Sheen, Richmond, St Margarets, Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick**, Kingston, Norbiton, London Waterloo.

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INUNDATED WITH FESTIVE FAILS IN GREATER LONDON?

THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION (BHF) LOVES THE GIFTS YOU DON'T!

With Londoners' homes crammed with unwanted Christmas gifts today, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) is offering a solution to help cut the clutter and raise funds for life-saving research



The festive season is one of the most generous times of the year, but the BHF is appealing to Londoners left disappointed by Santa's offerings to donate unwanted gifts to them, to help beat the heartbreak caused by heart and circulatory diseases. While it's the thought that counts, it wouldn't be Christmas without some gifts that miss the mark. But, rather than throwing these items away, the BHF is appealing for quality donations to help support the charity's vital work and save unwanted items from landfill.

"We love the gifts you don't!" said Allison Swaine-Hughes, Retail Director at the British Heart Foundation. "This year, our shops are open from 27th December, when we will welcome everything from good quality clothes, shoes, handbags and jewellery to DVDs,

CDs, books and children's toys. Electrical items can also be donated to one of our 180 furniture and electrical stores, so think of us when re-gifting that blender or coffee machine. If you want to donate a gift or cut down the clutter after the festive season, then just drop your donations in at your local BHF shop or take advantage of our free collection service. Your quality items will be saved from landfill and help us raise funds for vital research into heart and circulatory diseases."

As the UK's largest charity retailer, each year the BHF's 740 shops help raise £30 million for life-saving research. Without the public's generous support the BHF could not continue to turn bargains into scientific breakthroughs. From the clothes and shoes that don't fit to the accessories not to your taste, and the books you've already read, BHF volunteers and shop staff can transform unwanted gifts into money for heart research and help the environment. If you've had an upgrade, the BHF can also take old speakers, clothes or anything that's been replaced by Christmas gifts.

Last year alone, the BHF saved over 74,000 tonnes of items from landfill, which helped prevent 53,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere. This included 15,000 tonnes of pre-loved clothes and an incredible 180,000 sofas.

Each year, more than 14,000 people in Greater London lose their life to heart and circulatory diseases and currently 620,000 people are living with these devastating conditions across the region. Donating unwanted items is an easy way to help support the charity's vital work, so it can accelerate research into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat heart and circulatory diseases.

Donating to the charity couldn't be easier. Simply head down to your local shop or go online to arrange a home collection free of charge and say farewell to your Christmas clutter. To find out more about how to donate to our shops or to arrange your free collection, visit: [bhf.org.uk/donate](https://www.bhf.org.uk/donate)



USING UP THOSE CHRISTMAS LEFTOVERS

It's that 'Twixmas' time of the year and no doubt you have a fridge groaning with leftovers – I know we have!

If you have lots of leftover cheese do try this tasty, easy idea courtesy of Opies, a great producer of pickled walnuts – as far as I am concerned a 'must-have' every Christmas!

Luxury Pickled Walnut Rarebit

Serves 4

Prep time: 10 mins

Cooking time: 10 mins

200g strong cheddar cheese, grated
4 Opies Pickled Walnuts, drained and chopped
1 tbspc freshly chopped chives
salt and pepper
8 slices of crusty bread

Method

1. Pre-heat the grill on a medium heat.
2. Place the cheddar cheese in a mixing bowl.
3. Stir in the Pickled Walnuts, chives and season with salt and pepper.
4. Place bread on the grill pan and toast on one side.
5. Remove and top each slice with the cheese mixture, grill for about 5 minutes until the cheese browns and bubbles, serve immediately.



Hints and Tips: Perfect for using up any leftover cheese, Stilton is particularly tasty. Try adding a chopped spring onion or a sliced chilli to add an extra kick.

And that panettone, brioche or pandoro – especially if someone has left it open and it has gone a bit stale – is delicious with this recipe. It's the perfect 'Twixmas' brunch or dessert and uses mixed berries in prosecco that are widely available and also fab poured over meringue or vanilla ice cream! If you don't have the fresh fruit, don't worry – just use more of the bottled fruit instead.

PANETTONE FRENCH TOAST WITH BOOZY BERRY COMPOTE

Makes 4

Meal occasion: Quick & easy, Desserts & Baking, Vegetarian

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Allergens: gluten, eggs, milk, may contain nuts (check Panettone ingredients listing)

Ingredients – for the Compote

- 100g Opies Mixed Berries with Prosecco, and reserved syrup
- 100g fresh raspberries
- 100g fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced

Ingredients – for the French toast

- 2 eggs
- 150ml single cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla essence
- 1 tbsp. caster sugar
- 25g unsalted butter
- 2 large slices of Panettone, 2cm thick slices cut into 4 triangles
- Icing sugar to dust



Method

1. Make the berry compote: combine the Mixed Berries with Prosecco with 4 tbsp. of syrup, raspberries and strawberries in a bowl, set to one side.
2. In a small mixing bowl beat together the eggs, cream, vanilla essence and sugar.
3. Melt the butter in a large non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Coat each side of the panettone in the egg mixture and immediately fry slices in the pan for 1-2 minutes on each side until golden brown.
4. Serve immediately with the berry compote spooned over each slice and dusted with icing sugar.

Hints and Tips: Serve with Greek yogurt or Quark. As an alternative, replace the panettone with brioche or fruited bread slices. This would also be delicious with Opies Black Cherries in Kirsch.

Where to Buy:

Opies' Luxury Fruits with Alcohol are available from Waitrose, Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Ocado. RSP £6.00 460g

AND SOME CORKERS TO CONSIDER



If you're planning to pop a few corks over the New Year festivities, it might be worth a quick trip over to Aldi, whose Nicolas de Montbart champagne is on offer at the moment for just £9.99 a bottle! It's an elegant and easy drinking aperitif-style champagne with fruit and floral notes. A blend of equal parts Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, it's great value.

Or you might want to lower those units of alcohol after the excesses of Christmas? Maybe you are the duty driver? If so, check out the pretty extensive Tesco low alcohol range, including sparkings; at just £2.75 a bottle, they are almost alcohol free (0.5 per cent) and compared to some of the other low alcohol or alcohol free drinks on the market at the moment, represent very good value for money.



Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year

Another year has almost gone by on Church Street Twicker

By Shona Lyons



And it hasn't been without its trials and tribulations.

We have had countless fairs, starting with Valentines in Feb (Exceptionally windy and not the most romantic of experiences, running around like a banshee anchoring down gazebos for hours with anything heavy that could be found, rocks, sacks of soil, you name it we used it), then a little break until the Festival



Festival Guide, which we were really well sponsored for this year with help from Haymarket, Love Lawns, The People's Hive, Tsaretta Spice, Aqua Bathroom and LBRuT.



We had lovely articles in the summer guide on the Kingston Morris Dancers, our beloved John Chippy Wood Punch and Judy man who comes regularly to our events and also much loved Simon and Sheba Cassini, two talented artists who live on Eel Pie Island and have been illustrating the covers of our Xmas and Summer Guides for many years now.

Love Lawns laid the grass for our Church Street Goes Green event and it was put down and taken up well but maybe could have been laid a little bit better with some glue perhaps as it did blow up in places in the wind and there were a few complaints from the stall holders at the event. But to be fair it was their first attempt and maybe if they do it next year, lessons will have been learnt. A new event this year was High Tide, with stalls arranged by me and the music arranged by Eel Pie Records. It worked quite well and

was really well attended but a few of the local and particularly elderly residents complained that the first they knew of it was when they thought a bomb had gone off when the amplifiers were turned on, hopefully lessons can be learned from that too and our more vulnerable and elderly neighbours can be forewarned in good time.

We did have a huge headache with the grass this year as the place we had stored it, a car park in the street was granted planning permission, so we had a terrible time trying to find storage for it and for a few months moved it from place to place which wasn't easy as each roll is very unwieldy and



weighs a few tonnes. We had a lot of help from the boys (Jody and Dave) at Completely Floored and without their help the problem would never have been solved and Jon at the Eel Pie finally came to our rescue, so we can perhaps have this popular event again as we had anticipated getting rid of it completely.



The Festival went well and was really well attended by everyone. We did have a problem with the Tug of War which usually marks the start of the Twickenham Festival, but this year was postponed because of rain and didn't take place until the last week. We actually had a problem with that too, as the compere for the last few years has been Stuart Green on the Cabbage Patch but he didn't want to do it this year & we had trouble finding a replacement but luckily that was resolved when we approached a local sportsman who we thought might know how best to organise the

teams and compere the event and luckily for us, Richard Lloyd agreed (he usually takes part as the Richmond Heavies but had a bad back) and did a great job much to everyone's relief.



In Autumn the street had a few films and adverts shot, which provided us all with a bit of excitement with an all-night



advert shot for 2 nights (TJ Maxx) and the whole of the residents in the street were pretty much were found accommodation for or compensated for the noise and then we had a much smaller film shot for Richmond Studios for a sequel of the Street Cat named Bob.

Then we had our Halloween event and as a real treat, a professional photographer this year took pictures of the event for us (Alex Staggs) and it was great to see and share the lovely photos as usually I am too busy to really see it for myself and not such a great

photographer either.

HALLOWEEN IN CHURCH STREET TWICKENHAM
31 OCTOBER 5PM until 9PM

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We did have to arrange at the last moment a replacement for the Light Switch on which never happened as the Twickenham BID we were told months in advance was going to organise the Switch On at the Top of Church Street as they had for the last 5 years since they had been voted in but not from the lack of asking we finally found out at the very last minute they had decided to neglect the town centre and have the main event on Twickenham Green. The traders were really upset by

this as they had employed extra staff for the night that we had been told this was planned and also brought extra stock. So at the last minute we tried to and helped by the council who waived the need for trading permits which have to be submitted 28 days

rescue the event the usual street

in advance and also offered to help us financially to organise some entertainment, we put on an event on the 24th of November anyway to celebrate the official light Switch on Night for Twickenham. There was a little hiccup as the engineer from Try Twickenham did not get down to turn on the tree in time so really sadly the sizable crowd who had gathered to see the tree lit up didn't get to see it at the right time as it was only turned on an hour later.

Our Christmas events have just finished with the two day French Market last week and 2 weeks before that was our big Christmas Craft Fair which was so oversubscribed this year I had sleepless night for weeks wondering if it was going to be ok with the hoard of stalls booked to come. But everything went well and there were no disasters, and everyone really seemed to enjoy visiting the fairs and also taking part and having stalls at the fairs.



Now it is just a few days before New Year's and it's a good time to relax for a few weeks before we start planning our events in Church Street for 2020!

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

by Alan McHugh and Jonathan Kiley

QDos Entertainment at Richmond Theatre until 5th January

Wham, bang... if you had any doubt that the panto season has opened with a bang, then Qdos' stock of 44,000 pyrotechnics should reassure you. But it's all smoke and mirrors, and the first "character" in the role call is that catalyst to the action, The Magic Mirror. Our fluid faced and voluminous voiced image may look as if he has eaten something that hasn't agreed (a poisoned apple perhaps) but his honesty is unimpeachable.

Muddles, the comic lead, is played by the matchless mimic Jon Clegg (whom we saw at Richmond in last Christmas's [Peter Pan](#)), whose skills as an impersonator quickly engage the



audience. With spot-on comic timing, Clegg is quick-witted and personable and has a natural rapport with children, so that the matey Muddles soon becomes their favourite.

In short measure, however, we meet the Seven Dwarfs, who spend their on-stage time in sustained cartilage-cracking genuflexion. Dubbed The Magnificent Seven, they seem to hail from the Celtic

fringe, so it seems appropriate for them to sing *You Raise Me Up*, as a serenade to Snow White, and as a highlight to the show, building a human pyramid, with the concluding line "... we now feel four feet tall".

A trio of Muddles, Nurse Nancy and the Prince excels with the old panto gag of a running tongue-twister, building to "Sally selling Sushi in the Sushi store on Saturday ... Sally's sister Shirley is seen in a shoe shop on Sunday". There is little margin for error and errors are ... unfortunate. Here is another lightheight, I mean highlight.

Every panto must have a wicked step-mother, and in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* it is Jo Brand's Queen Lucretia. The top-billing is in fact brand-new to panto, and hasn't quite got the hang of the bigness of it all. Nevertheless, Brand's dry sardonicisms are her stock-in-trade, and her tongue throws acid

... ..

Read Mark Aspen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2019/12/12/snow-7

Photography by Craig Sugden





Robin Hood

by Ben Crocker

Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 31st December

Never to work with children or animals – whoever devised that pearl of wisdom had not seen Questors' polished troupe of prodigies and puppeteers.

If you think Emerson Baigent as Alan-A-Dale is fresh-faced as he saunters down like some Vegas crooner, he looks positively middle-aged when he is joined on stage by five infants in super-cute woodland creature costumes giving a charming dance to welcome us to Sherwood. The ensemble soon swells in number until the kids demand something more current, an impressively choreographed routine to George Ezra's *Shotgun*.

Lisa Morris gives us an earnest, plucky Robin, but does allow

herself some comic latitude, in particular when disguised as 'Rory MacTavish' for the archery contest, or being smacked repeatedly in the face by a dungeon door.



Francesca Young's Little Joan seems to spend most of the play scowling, but she is avenging her father's death, and is sensibly paired with Mike Hadjipateras as a comically peckish Friar Tuck. Completing the gang of goodies is Lily Ledwith as Maid Marion, who alternates between plucky helpmeet to Robin and stropky teenager to her elders in the castle.

Stealing the acting plaudits, however, not to mention the money of Nottingham's citizens, are the baddies. Kerri Logan clearly relishes the part of Sheriff, visibly drawing energy from the audience's booing and hissing to propel her through

a succession of songs, including a repurposed versions of *Don't Stop Me Now*. There's also something Thatcherian in the way she summons her henchman Dennis ...

Giving arguably the largest performance of the evening, is James Goodden as a peerless dame, Winnie Widebottom. The bluff Winnie is not only nanny to Marion and the rich orphan twins Tilly and Tommy but, among her many impressive costume changes, schoolmarm, singer and the spinning 'volunteer' attached to the target for Robin's arrows, one among many of this production's feats of stagecraft.

The pace as taut as Robin's bowstrings, making for a hit – smack in the bull's eye!

Read Matthew Grierson's review at

www.markaspen.com/2019/12/14/robin-hood

Photography by Rishi Rai





Cinderella

by Will Brenton

Imagine Theatre at Fairfield Halls, Croydon until 5th January

Hold on to your hats, or tiaras as the case may be, for you are about to be whisked into an amazing magical world. 5-4-3-2-1 ... we are counted down into the new pantomime, panto plus for the 21st Century.

“Stop, I want to get off”, I hear the purists shouting. But don't worry our uniquely peculiar and much loved Christmas entertainment has not been lost. Imagine Theatre, has opted to mount a pantomime in the concert hall: half as big again, but no wings, no house curtains.



No problem!

A vista opens onto a magical world, a concave array of fairy-castle turrets, that may become a midnight sky, the palace ballroom, or Hardup Hall, but now it is a vibrant village. A rippling stream sparkles along the street and the windmill has moving sails, where the villagers are *Dancing in the Street*, putting their all into it, turbo-charging show dancing with contemporary physicality and even break-dancing! This is a big, big opening: panto with the pulmonary pulsation of a rock concert blaster.

The Prince alleges that he can't dance. Cue Dandini with a few demo lessons. What a chance for Ore Oduba to show off all his has learnt as a past winner of *Strictly!*

Tim Vine gives Buttons breathless brisk bounce. Visual gags, slapstick and flurries of excruciating puns all come fast and furious, but then again Vine holds the Guinness World Record for the most jokes in an hour. With fellow TV presenter, CBeebies Cat Sandion, as an engaging Fairy Godmother, they soon have the children firmly on their side.

In Cinderella you always get two dames for the price of one, the “alluring” ugly sisters, Jason Marc-Williams as Tess and Alistair Barron as Claudia. They are twinned in sororal synchronisation, two flamboyant flywheels running like clockwork in the panto machine.

Baroness Hardup's spiky stilettos are filled with magnificent malevolence by Katie Cameron, doyen of Broadway musicals, adding *femme fatale* glamour and NYNY glitz to wicked stepmother dastardliness

Read Mark Aspen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2019/12/13/cinder-fh



Photography by Craig Sugden

A Strange thing happened on the way to the slopes

By Bruce Lyons



As we were battling with Black Friday and the Election one Friday a couple of weeks back, my attention was drawn to something that had largely passed unnoticed, or more to the point had not really registered, and it should have done.

Doug Goodman , who writes a weekly travel column in the Tribune, had told me about Bulgaria when I had asked his advice for my sister in law, who I was booking a fly

drive from Israel to Bulgaria for them to visit the Painted Monasteries (Doug also wrote about these too in the Summer) Yali and Amnon said that everything was incredibly good value there , the people really hospitable and the food good too! I even booked them hotels for around £15 a night B&B for the two of them.



So, there I was, as I said, battling with Black Friday, Brexit Blues and the Election when one of my regulars asked me to find, for his small group, a post New Year deal in Italy or Austria. Search as I did, I couldn't match the Bulgarian offers, they would have to pay twice the price.

In fact the best hotel in Bansko with Heathrow Flights, transfers, half board, ski passes and ski hire was around £500 and then I read in the Telegraph that Bansko has

come a long way it is now ranked , amongst the High slopes, just under Val Thorens in the rankings, but for less than half the price.

Another little bit of useless information don't drink too much snaps, I read that it us Brits who have to slope of the local A & E on the ski fields as they had a too good a time the night before!

So, today, as I was being swamped by all the crazy Summer offers (BOGOF- Buy one get one free) Massive Cabin spends on cruises free flights for River cruises I checked to see what I could get today for a post New Year offer and



guess what dear reader –it was full , the first available was 11th Jan but that was still a real bargain – best hotel, Half board, flights, transfers and ski passes and ski hire – still under £400.

So never mind the Summer Sales get your boots out and head off for Bulgaria – it not like



the Bulgaria of old when they reckoned the instructors couldn't speak English – I believe they have been coming here these last summers a brushing up on the old Anglais and now you know for good value Bansko or Borovets and some good skiing too.

WIZ TALES

Teresa Read

Traveller's Tales will now be published every other week so I thought I would fill the spot with WIZ Tales (www.worldinfozone.com) and start with my last trip to Rome.

As a regular visitor to Rome for the Global Challenge - sponsored by the Italian government - I had an unnerving experience during a visit to attend an event in the memory of Tullio De Mauro, a well-known and much respected Education Minister.

As an invited visitor I was used to travelling around Rome by coach or taxi; however, on this visit I toured the city by bus, usually crowded especially during the morning rush hour and at the end of the working day.



The Western end of Isola Tiberina



The Basilica di San Bartolomeo all'Isola on Isola Tiberina



Ponte Garibaldi at the Western end of Isola Tiberina

On this occasion I was going to revisit a restaurant on Isola Tiberina, a small island in the Tiber. The bus was crowded but I thought it was just an ordinary bus ride like one I might take in Twickenham. However, this bus ride soon turned into a shocking experience.

Among the standing passengers two small women with dark hair stood next to me ... as I looked down, I felt a chill as I saw a hand – in very slow motion – moving towards the zip of my handbag.

As quick as a flash, I reacted surprising myself. The training from my days in martial arts classes kicked in and I felled the hand of the would-be thief with a sharp downward chop on the wrist. (A huge thanks goes to John Travioli, the instructor who instilled this reaction in me).

Shocked by my own action I went into full English mode and apologised to the pickpocket! Needless, to say, the woman ignored me; the two women started talking to one another. I was told that the assailant's companion was asking what had happened and her friend in crime imitated the "knifehand strike". Neither of them said anything to me and luckily, by then, I had reached my bus stop on the banks of the Tiber.

An unforeseen start to my evening on the way to the island but a successful outcome; although shocked, I had saved my money and other important items from being stolen from my bag and finally found the restaurant I had visited on my first time in Rome.

<http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Italy>

Photos by Berkley Driscoll



FOOTBALL FOCUS

By James Dowden



BRENTFORD FC

Dalsgaard Strike gives Bees valuable away point

West Brom 1 – Brentford 1

A spirited away performance from Brentford gave the Bees an impressive draw against table-topping West Brom to kick start the festive season of football.

At a ground Brentford had never tasted victory on and with the hosts enjoying an impressive twelve match unbeaten record, Brentford made an enterprising start. A flowing passing move started on the halfway line and seconds later Rico Henry, Ollie Watkins and Said Benrahma combine to release the inform Bryan Mbeumo, whose low effort was sharply saved by Sam Johnstone in goal for the Baggies.



Brentford did eventually open the scoring just before the interval. A corner whipped in from the left-hand side from Mathias Jensen was met powerfully by his fellow countryman Henrik Dalsgaard to send the ball arrowing into the top corner.

The Bees though could not see out their lead and West Brom equalised in first half stoppage time. An almost replica of the Brentford goal, Matty Philips's delivery from out wide found an onrushing fullback Darnell Furlong, whose glancing header gave David Raya no chance.

After the break it was West Brom who added greater impetus and pushed on with greater chances and possession than Brentford.

A lovely ball with the outside of his foot from Kyle Bartley released Kyle Edwards in behind the Bees defence. His cross found Hal Robson-Kanu by the Welshman could not meet the cross. The ball however was cleared weakly by Ethan Pinnock but Bartley closing in could only slash at the ball and his strike ballooned wide.

West Brom thought they had won it at the death when Raya parried a close-range effort from Robson-Kanu on the edge of the penalty area. Charlie Austin was on hand to put the ball into the net, but his celebrations were curtailed by the linesman's flag to the relief of Brentford.

Speaking after the match Brentford manager Thomas Frank said, "I am so proud of the boys, coming here with a big personality, wanting to dominate the game on our terms,"

"That frustrated West Brom and I think for 43 minutes they didn't have a shot on target.

“Second half it was a little bit more open, but throughout the 90 minutes I think if there was a team who should have won, it would’ve been us.”

FT West Brom 1-1 Brentford
(Furlong, 45+1, Dalsgaard, 43’)

Watkins double gives Brentford Boxing Day Delight

Brentford 3 – Swansea City 1

A brace from Ollie Watkins coupled with yet another strike from Bryan Mbeumo gave Brentford their fifth consecutive home win in a row as the Bees moved into third place in the table, as they overcame fellow promotion hopefuls Swansea City.

There proved to be no Christmas hangover for Brentford as they scored twice inside the opening half hour to seize control of the match.

For the second game in a row Brentford opened the scoring from a corner, with set pieces having been a fruitful weapon in Brentford’s push for the playoffs this season. Mathias Jensen’s out swinging delivery found Ethan Pinnock at the back post. Pinnock then showed grate vision to head the ball back across goal to set up Mbeumo to head in for his fifth goal in six games.

Just five minutes later Brentford were two goals ahead, this time through top scorer Watkins. Fullback Rico Henry broke down the left for the Bees and his cross was met by Watkins at full stretch to guide the ball into the corner of the net.

The Swans had chances of their own and midfielder George Byers had efforts on goal blocked by both Josh Dasilva and Pontus Jansson.

In the second half Mbeumo, buoyed by confidence, danced into the Swansea box. Cutting inside onto his favour foot, the Frenchman curled an effort that just glanced beyond the far post.

Swansea did hit back through Andre Ayew midway through the second half as David Raya spilled an effort from Bersant Celina, which Ayew reacted quickest to slide in.

Brentford then resorted to hitting Swansea on the counterattack as Steve Cooper’s Swansea pressed for an equaliser.

However, it proved in vain for Swansea and to the Bees fans delight as Watkins claimed his fifteenth goals of the season just two minutes from time to secure the game for Brentford. Picking the ball up from Dasilva, Watkins showed excellent pace to escape the Swansea defence, before he calmly poked the ball past Freddie Woodman to propel Brentford up to third.

Brentford 3-1 Swansea City
(Mbeumo, 20’, Watkins 25’ 88’, Ayew 65’)
Attendance: 11,848

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Next up for Brentford is a trip across London to face Millwall at the Den. The game takes place on Sunday 28/12) with a 3.00pm kick off. Millwall currently lie 12th in the table but have lost just once in their past five games and so come into the game in form.

The games come thick and fast in the festive period and Brentford face another away trip, this time to Bristol and Ashton Gate, to face Bristol City on New Years day with a 3.00pm kick off. The Robins are in contrasting form to Brentford and have spiralled down the table with four consecutive defeats- Brentford will be desperate for the win.

Come on you Bees!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Beavers land Boxing Day blow as Dulwich are
knocked out

Dulwich Hamlet 1 – 2 Hampton

Goals from Ryan Hill and Kyron Farrell stretched Hampton's unbeaten run to four games as they began the busy festive season of football with three points, despite a late Dulwich fightback.

It was Dulwich, buoyed by a large crowd at their Champion Hill home, that had the better of the opening spell. Former Beavers defender Richard Orlu nearly gained revenge against his former side with a powerful header that flew over the bar from a freekick.

The Hamlet also went close through Dylan Kearney and Dominic Vose but neither could diver their efforts on target to trouble Dan Lincoln in goal for Hampton.

The Beavers were then fortunate to not fall behind as Dulwich defender Quade Taylor somehow failed to convert when presented with an open goal.

Hampton did eventually breakthrough in the thirty fifth minute through Ryan Hill, though arguably against the run of play. Hill was on hand to bundle the ball in from Wadah Ahmidi's wide delivery and despite the linesman's flag being raised, the referee overruled him to give Hampton the goal and the lead.

The flag once again came to Hampton's rescue soon after the restart as a Dulwich equaliser from a Jack Connors' freekick was ruled out for a Dulwich offside.

Just four minutes later in the key moment of the game came when Connors went to ground in



the penalty area. The referee waved away the claim and within seconds Hampton had broken upfield where Hill pulled the ball back inside the area to Kyron Farrell to double the visitors lead.

Dulwich did hit back late on in the seventy seventh minute as a Kearney freekick went low and through an unsighted Lincoln.

Dulwich kept pushing for the equaliser, but Hampton defended resolutely to see off the remaining thirteen minutes plus injury time to record another win to strengthen their playoff ambitions.

FT Dulwich Hamlet 1-2 Hampton & Richmond
(Kearney, 77', Hill, 35', Farrell, 55')

Beavers transfer update

Hampton boss Gary McCann has announced an update to the squad in the past week with the announcement of two departures from the side.

Goalkeeper Laurie Walker's loan deal from MK Dons has been terminated early in an agreement from all three parties as winter signing Dan Lincoln has secured the number one jersey through a series of strong performances.

Elsewhere Striker Jefferson Louis has swapped Middlesex for Hertfordshire and completed a move to fellow National League South side St Albans City- the 39th different club that he has signed for!

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Hampton face back to back home games in the coming week in a busy Christmas period for the beavers.

First, they welcome Bath City on the 28th December with a 3.00pm followed by a New Year's Day encounter against Dulwich Hamlet also at 3.00pm.

Bath are third in the table and will be a challenging task for McCann's young Beavers side, but Hampton know a win could see them into the playoff places for the first time this season. Hampton face a reverse of the Boxing Day fixture against Dulwich Hamlet, this time playing hosts, and having overcome the Hamlet 2-0 will start with the mental edge.

With adult tickets from just £12 why not come down and support your local non-league team as they bid to push into the playoffs.

Come on you Beavers!

Calling all men – get fit and healthy this New Year

Following the success of previous programmes, a new men's 12-week weight-loss programme is beginning in January 2020, delivered in partnership with Brentford FC Community Sports Trust.

Richmond Council and Brentford FC Community Sports Trust are helping men aged between 30 and 60 who have a BMI 25+ to get fit and lose weight.

The first 12-week programme delivered at the beginning of this year saw 20 residents collectively lose an average of half a stone. The weekly sessions include indoor group fitness sessions, healthy eating workshops and top tips for lifestyle changes.



The programme costs £5 a week and applications for the first 2020 programme are now open. Due to its success the course will run two separate sessions at Shene Fitness Centre on Mondays 7:30pm to 9:30pm and at Teddington Sports Centre on Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm.

The Monday session starts on Monday 20 January 20 and the Thursday sessions starts on January 23.

Steve from Twickenham was one of the first to sign up in 2019. He said: *“After completing this programme, I feel a lot better being lighter and more agile, and I actually enjoy exercise now! “The best part of the programme was the other participants and the coaches; everyone helped everyone else and the coaches had good tips on a better diet and how to exercise.”*

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee, said: *“The motivation that comes with the beginning of a new year, combined with group exercise and advice from qualified coaches, will make this programme the perfect opportunity to begin a new health and fitness journey. “Over half of the nation is at risk of chronic disease due to obesity – a common but preventable cause of death. The programme is affordable and fun with much of the exercise involving playing team sports. I encourage everyone eligible to consider signing up for a healthy start to the new year!”*

Residents looking to get fit and healthy this year can also sign up to the Council's Feel Good Fitness Membership which gives you access to over 200 classes, 4 pools and five gyms with tailored services and qualified instructors on hand to help with your fitness goals.

Places are limited. To apply email: health@brentfordfcst.com



Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

7th January 2020, 8.00pm

'The White Crow' (UK/Serbia/France)

Ralph Fiennes' acclaimed biographical drama captures the raw physicality and brilliance of Rudolf Nureyev, whose escape to the West stunned the world at the height of the Cold War. The film tells Nureyev's dramatic story from his humble beginnings to his defection in 1961, when he was the world's most famous male ballet dancer. The period is immaculately reconstructed.

www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office (subject to a cap of 70) - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/. A further 50 or so tickets will be available to purchase on the door on the night of screenings (cash only) on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp on alternate Tuesdays (no trailers and no ads) and are screened at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available. Film notes are provided for each screening and audience feedback is obtained via response slips.



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

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Published by:

Twickenham Alive Limited (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

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

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