

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

T&RT



# TickerTape - News in Brief

### Pop-up coronavirus test centre available in Richmond this September

People who think they may have contracted coronavirus can get tested at a temporary pop-up testing centre in Old Deer Park, on selected dates this September. You must not turn up without an appointment – if you have not booked you will not be tested.

More information on being tested and how to book your test [HERE](#)

### Bank holiday waste and recycling collections one day later

Following the Bank Holiday on Monday 31 August, Richmond Council will carry out general waste, food waste and recycling collections for domestic properties one day later than usual.

Details [HERE](#)

### Twickenham Riverside Stakeholder Reference Group Meeting

On Wednesday a 'Zoom' meeting of the Twickenham Riverside Stakeholder Reference Group was held. The council presented drawings and details of "Emerging design changes" of the proposed development. There are a number of changes, mostly driven by flood defences following discussions with the Environment Agency, resulting in the Wharf Lane buildings being pushed back from the river edge.

The Water Lane buildings have been 'narrowed' to allow for a better view from King Street to the river.

The 'Winter Garden' has disappeared, to the consternation of many SRG members.


There remains confusion and a lack of clarity regarding the provision of adequate servicing to Eel Pie Island, particularly the boatyards. The provision of boathouses has become an afterthought and there is no sign of a town square.

The council has not provided us with copies of the updated drawings as these are apparently confidential and we are not allowed to share these publicly.

### BURTONS ROAD

The Council has decided in effect to close Burtons Road to traffic. In the consultation only 14% supported this decision. Of the 14 roads consulted in five [including Uxbridge Road] there was no support at all. The support did not exceed 50% in any road: even in Burtons Road itself only 47% agreed. The 350+ residents who signed the local petition had no effect. (From Cllr Geoffrey Samuel)

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TwickerSeal was glancing through Twitter and came across a Tweet castigating the Tribune. Who was taking exception to the Tribune? None other than our dear supreme leader Comrade Gareth Roberts. And

what had caused Cde Roberts to get his Converse sneakers in a twist? Well, an incident had happened on Twickenham Green and some residents had contacted the Tribune saying there had been a stabbing. The Tribune reported as such, based on eyewitness reports.

It turned out that there had not actually been a stabbing, although there was a serious altercation involving a number of people and a male had been arrested for possession of an Offensive Weapon. Cde Roberts was incensed by the Tribune's reporting, calling it "irresponsible, sensationalist". Had Cde Roberts bothered to read the article he would have noted that it referred to eyewitness accounts and that it stated that "The details are as yet unconfirmed by the police". The Tribune subsequently updated the article to reflect new information.

It is interesting that Cde Roberts had nothing to say about the serious incident itself, a continuation of anti-social behaviour on the Green plaguing residents.

TwickerMole suggested that, if he were cynical (and he is), the utter lack of response from Cde Roberts to previous Tribune commentary on the ongoing anti-social behaviour, perhaps indicates he was more interested in having a go at the Tribune rather than the incident.

TwickerFox suggested that, if he were more cynical than TwickerMole (and he is), then perhaps Cde Roberts is miffed that the Tribune has recently published material from the Conservative Party about the problems at both Twickenham and Richmond Greens.

But TwickerSeal would like to assure Cde Roberts that it is nothing political, it just so happens that it is only the Conservative and Green parties who are listening to and standing up for residents on this issue.





# Borough View By Graeme Stoten

## ‘Two Bridges’

Twickenham bridge was opened on the 3rd July 1933. After some initial



controversy, the final design comprised of three reinforced-concrete arches supported on concrete piers adorned with Art Deco embellishments. Three permanent hinges allow it to adjust to temperature change, the first bridge of this kind to do so.

By contrast, Richmond railway bridge is a grade II listed Victorian structure rebuilt in 1908. Using the original stone faced piers and abutments, it was then refurbished again in the early 1980's, replacing girders and decking. Standing shoulder to shoulder, they provide a nostalgic reminder of the progress of industrial design and engineering over the 20th Century.





# COVID-19

By TeresaRead

## **Psychological Implications of the COVID Pandemic**

COVID-19 has impacted on all our lives for most of the year so it is not surprising that we may be feeling a little unsettled trying to adjust to the new normal. Social unrest and anti-social behaviour in addition to how the virus itself is affecting us and our families may make us feel as though the “barbarians are at the door”.

The situation has also been compared with the Second World War and Professor Edgar Jones at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King’s College London has compared the current situation with the Blitz (World War Two) in relation to the population suffering a sustained threat.”

Professor Jones’ paper, published in The Lancet, suggests that some reluctance to leave the safety of the home has been observed following lockdown, described as “deep-shelter mentality”.

*“In July, 1940, the civil defence commissioner in Reading argued stated that “frank explanation is what the public want and expect. Without it they feel that something is being hidden from them”.*

The Lancet: The psychology of protecting the UK public against external threat: COVID-19 and the Blitz compared:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(20\)30342-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30342-4/fulltext)

## **Local Statistics: total cases of COVID-19**

631 in Richmond upon Thames, 810 in Kingston-upon-Thames and 1,260 in Hounslow.

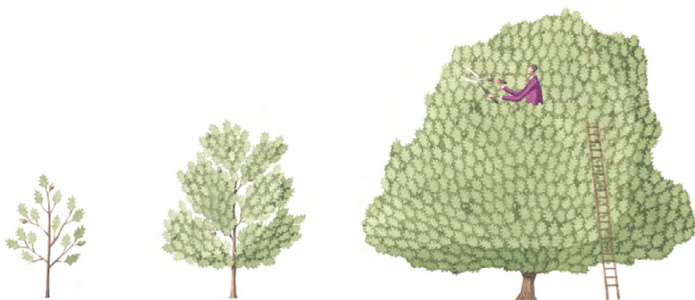
## **Countries with High Numbers of Deaths Recorded by the World Health Organization**

USA: 177,332    Brazil: 116,580    Mexico: 61,450    India 60,472

South Africa 13,502

Iran (Eastern Mediterranean) 21,020

The United Kingdom 41,465 (*recorded deaths from COVID-19 are now calculated within 28 days of a positive test*)



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darryl parkin

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# Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By: TwickWatch

There are at least three things we worry about regarding toilets, when we look to carry out our natural bodily functions. Can a public toilet be easily found and identified i.e. is there a logic to its location and accessibility? Is the toilet clean, healthy and well maintained? Will you be able to answer the call of nature safely and in privacy?

Toilets are a symbol of Japan's world-renowned hospitality culture as they should be anywhere. They are a symbol of caring for their own citizens and a reflection of the pride of the community in their environment when welcoming visitors. They don't pay local traders' money to hive off the problem to premises that may or may not be open, that may have an environment not conducive to some people to enter and where standards may be lacking and statistical monitoring non-existent. Are such schemes "a bargain" and fulfilling everyone's needs or an excuse not to "take the bull by the horns" and deal with this social issue? Of course, it costs money but weigh that against money the council wastes, the anguish suffered by people with medical needs and the reputation visitors associate with poor facilities.

Richmond has the opportunity to be a world leader but can't even deal with two small open spaces, Twickenham and Richmond Green. Their idea of "toilet bliss" is exemplified by a basic toilet and wash bowl at the Civic Centre for instance but only if you need it Monday to Friday during opening times. Similarly the Civic Centre is the tourist information centre but only during opening times – no tourists on Saturday or Sunday. Or, you can use a smelly cast iron urinal hidden away in York House gardens! I can't recall a single modern "fit for purpose" urinal in the borough.

So, it is easy to "nit-pick" but returning to Japan (and why not?) there are some imaginative solutions around. The pictures below show state of the art modern public toilets. Their nature is such that they would fit into any traditional landscape. The glass, the colours being customisable, turns opaque once the door is locked ensuring full privacy. No longer would you need to hideaway toilets. At night, the facility lights up the park like a beautiful lantern.



The doom-mongers in Richmond Council would try to find the negatives such as vandalism and safety of users.

Vandalism is discouraged by cameras! Not in my toilet I hear you say! However the same door mechanism that blanks out the glass can be used to trigger a camera ONLY when the door is unlocked, filming vandals



entering or leaving. Similarly, a panic button could turn on the camera or a microphone to the excellent council monitoring centre to call for help.

The picture to the right shows the internal facilities in a well-spaced cubicle. Easily cleanable and to meet all needs, including baby changing facilities if wanted. An auto-spray could be added to deal with ongoing future virus issues.



For an imaginative modern scheme as suggested the council could probably even get sponsorship. In the case of Richmond and Twickenham Green for instance, a sponsorship board alongside the toilets with the history of each green would attract people. Such a modern scheme would be something to be proud of.

As Harvard Business School professor Frances Frei says, "Identifying problems can be a solo sport, but finding solutions rarely is." Let's hope Richmond Council listen to the people for a change.

More detailed information on modern Japanese public toilet schemes can be found at [https://tokyotoilet.jp/en/yoyogifukamachi\\_mini\\_park/](https://tokyotoilet.jp/en/yoyogifukamachi_mini_park/).

## Clochemerle

And so to another publication of the previous century (see WIZ Tales for another famous early twentieth century book).

Clochemerle, first published in 1934, is a satirical novel by Gabriel Chevallier. A fictional town in France Clochemerle is basically the story of two opposing parties who come into conflict over the siting of a urinal, proposed as a monument to the achievements of the socialist mayor's administration.

I was reminded of Clochemerle recently by a well-known journalist who is a contributor to Private Eye. Little known to her is that our current Leader in LBRUT has often tweeted about where he wants his statue - but she knows about the need for a urinal on Twickenham Green.

It really would be a good idea if the Leader would take a leaf out of Clochemerle and provide urinals on the Greens of Twickenham & Richmond. There are some very smart toilets in the Tribune today so maybe he should take a look.



## PART 194 – DEAYTONS STORES – RETAIL GIANTS OF THE DAY in TWICKENHAM AND TEDDINGTON

We had a look at Deaytons stores in this column about three years ago but with some recently acquired old postcards, I thought the article would stand a little updating.

Shops featured in the background of many picture postcards of the area and so postcards from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (100 -120 years ago) give us an insight into how our retail streets have and are changing.

Deaytons Stores was possibly one of the first multiple retailers in our area. Both Twickenham and Teddington hosted a Deaytons on prime sites at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

My limited research first discovers an Alfred Deayton who was born in Baldock, Hertfordshire in 1842. By 1881 at the age of 39, we find him trading as a grocer and living with his wife Martha in Apsley Villas, Hampton Road, Twickenham. In 1893 he had moved to Clifden Road, Twickenham with his five sons, one daughter and two servants.

The shop(s) seem to have been started by Alfred and his son Charles (1884- 1916). The 1901 census shows Alfred managing Deaytons Stores of Broad Street, Teddington.

There seems an element of confusion in the period before and during the First World War regarding which sons were doing what as we find a large Deaytons Stores at the Dip in Heath Road, Twickenham. However, this branch was wound up and went into voluntary liquidation in October 1913 following an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders. The postcard shows a lively retail parade including a market all of which is sadly gone now. People lived, worked and shopped in much more localised areas in those days as there was very little commuting to work and there were few cars of course. Hence shops everywhere!



We then find an advert in the Richmond and Twickenham Times for a Deayton Stores at 182 – 184, Stanley Road.

Somewhere along the line an Arthur Deayton became a member of Teddington Baptist Church and was a founding member of the Boy's Brigade Company in 1892. It appears that Arthur and his son Charles carried on with the Teddington store until his death in 1952.

And so Deaytons was very much the main store in Teddington for more than half a century. It

started life as a grocers but later moved to stocking many other commodities. After Charles' death it was taken over by Williamsons who traded until the 1960s. Subsequently the building became Tesco's first site in Teddington. Tesco's eventually moved to their larger and current site further down Broad Street and the original Deaytons site later housed Bejams, Iceland Stores and Bed City.

Our first postcard shows a tram outside Deaytons in Broad Street circa 1903 (trams had arrived a year or so earlier). The second postcard shows Deaytons now spread into several shop units on the corner of the Causeway opposite Church Road.



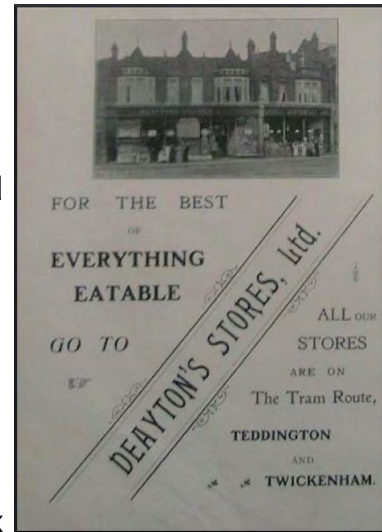
We then see three quite basic adverts from the period which featured in the Richmond and Twickenham Times between 1903 and 1910.



The last postcard from about 1906 is quite wonderful and shows the Deaytons stores now branded as 'The Peoples Market' at Heath Road, Twickenham. These are situated by the Dip and opposite where the Red Lion pub and Percy Chapmans stood at that time. There was also a thriving post office on the Heath Gardens side of Deaytons at Twickenham, now long gone as well.



As I walked past it this week all we see of the Deaytons site is an empty office block with empty flats. Our townscapes just gets more boring as time goes on don't they. Anyway we are still blessed with a proper shop in Percy Chapmans and long may it continue!



All previous articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting [www.twickenhamtribune.com](http://www.twickenhamtribune.com) Just go the archive editions which start in 2016.

With many of us spending more time at home at present it may be that you are using the time to tidy a few drawers or have a bit of a clear-out. If you trip over any old postcards, old envelopes with stamps on, or photograph albums that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at: [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first! Thanks, stay safe and well.

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# Petition for Richmond and Twickenham

## Provision of Public Toilets in Richmond & Twickenham and enforcement of Anti-Social behaviour PSPO's

A petition has been launched seeking action from the council regarding anti-social behaviour, including public urination and defecation, in Twickenham and Richmond (particularly the greens).

On 23th August a call was made to hold an emergency meeting of the Council to discuss the growing problem; however, this was refused by the council delaying any discussion until late September.

Residents can't help but feel that the administration is kicking the can down the road.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

The petition states:

***We, the undersigned, petition the Council to enforce the Anti-Social Behaviour PSPO's on public urination and defecation and provide Public Toilet and Hand Washing facilities for shoppers and visitors to Richmond and Twickenham.***

### Details

Public urination has been a problem in our spaces particularly around Richmond and Twickenham. This has escalated since lockdown restrictions were relaxed and residents are suffering from their gardens being used as toilets and businesses find people urinating in their doorways. This is unacceptable, a health hazard and the Council must enforce the Anti-Social behaviour PSPO's. Since Covid-19 most independent businesses, particularly in the hospitality sector, are no longer able to participate in the Community Toilet Scheme because of social distancing and hygiene requirements. As a result there is very limited Community Toilet provision in Richmond and Twickenham.

There is no signage to the paid toilets at Richmond Station and since the Council restricted CTS payments to independent businesses the toilets at Marks & Spencer are no longer listed on the website. With the Community Toilet website adding the caveat "We are aware that some of the businesses are not open due to Covid-19" it is clear the scheme is no longer viable and cannot provide adequate toilet facilities for visitors and shoppers in Richmond and Twickenham. This discriminates against people who need regular access to toilets and it is the Council's duty to provide proper toilet facilities in both towns.

View the petition [HERE](#)



# Anti-Social Behaviour - A Worrying Situation

Message from MPS South Twickenham "On Wednesday 26/08/2020 evening at 7:30 pm Police received a call to a fight on Hampton Road. Police attended and one of the 2 suspects were arrested for possession of an Offensive Weapon and Affray. The victims did not require any first aid. CAD 6638/26AUG20".

Following the Tribune's publication of the article about the Twickenham Green incident this week there have been comments from those who do not think that the Tribune should warn residents about the anti-social behaviour on Twickenham Green.

However, as we have seen from the psychological paper from a professor at King's College London published in The Lancet "*frank explanation is what the public want and expect. Without it they feel that something is being hidden from them*".

To this end the Tribune has interviewed some of those who were witnesses to the incident on Twickenham Green this week.

A witness interviewed this morning is local and was on the Green during the incident. He said he was surprised at so much police activity and so many police vehicles and dogs when, as he continued, "*it is impossible to get any police when you phone 101*". He speculated where the police came from as he had not seen so many police and police vehicles in the area previously: 4 police cars, a police van, a dog patrol car, and an undercover car, i.e., an unmarked car with flashing lights.



As he approached the scene police were shouting "*Get down on the ground*" to a group of youths.

The witness commented "*at the end of the day these things happen and if we allow this ASB more serious things will happen*".

Someone on the Green was reported to say that they saw a knife and the police arrested someone with an offensive weapon.

But there is more to this story - a local woman said that following the incident a knife was dropped near to the Green in Knight's Place.

It seems that the fight started on the Hampton Road side of Twickenham Green but the witness said that it eventually moved over to the Staines Road side of the Green and some of the group were seen to run up Collis Alley at the side of Sainsbury's - one of the "urination alleys". On emerging from Collis Alley those fleeing from the Green were seen to turn into Albion Road and a knife discarded in Knight's Place.

A sensational story? Let us hope it does not become part of the new normal, but it is better to know about a possible situation rather than to walk into it unawares. Remember, the police say they were called at 7.30 pm and residents were still witnessing the situation and sending texts to the Tribune an hour later. None of us like this on our doorstep but as one witness on the Green said "*if you don't stop the low-level crime it just gets worse*".

You can see the original Tribune article and update [HERE](#)

Photo by Berkley Driscoll



Sir,

## Station Yard Twickenham

On Wednesday 26th August, Richmond Council Planning Committee unanimously voted to approve a highly controversial 46 flat, 113 occupancy block of unaffordable flats, with no parking (except for 2 disabled bays) or drop off points, in Station Yard Twickenham TW1.

The architect admitted the triangular site right next to the railway line was 'challenging'. Considerable money must be spent on groundworks, including a hefty charge by Thames Water. Residents lobbying for years to make the blind bend around The Albany safer by removing a section of pavement on the railway line side were told it wasn't possible as too close to the tracks, yet there were no issues with this development being built parallel to the railway line.

The starting point for this development was NO affordable housing. By the time it was waved through, it had just 10 units. Well short of the 50% requirement. The Councillors were told that once work started, the developer would include more affordable housing if they possibly could. Oh yeah.

The Officers and Councillors on the Planning Committee also believed that none of the residents would ever have friends or family with vehicles and if a delivery were to be made to the residents, provided it didn't take too long, the Officer said they could park on the yellow lines. The reality as local residents well know, is that vehicles will be parked all along this regularly congested area after the wardens clock off and all day on Sundays.

The Councillors also considered that the little patches of 'landscaping' and the last minute promise of a 'green roof' were sufficient to tick the "green box".

Mention was made of the detrimental effect of the build on The Albany Pub trade. Cllr Fleming's request that a notice be added to the hoarding to state they were still 'open for business' was noted, but what Councillors did not seem to grasp was the fact that once this 6 storey monster is built, The Albany Pub would no longer be seen from the Bridge and as such, their fears of losing a considerable amount of passing trade – especially on Rugby days - will become a reality.

It was inevitable that this development would be voted through and this pattern will continue until every little bit of land in this Borough is built on and more and more people are squashed in, increasing the strain on doctors, dentists, schools.

There was talk of the development being for key workers, but I don't know any key workers who can afford flats where the starting price is £500k.

So within half a mile, we have a huge development at Brewery Wharf, Twickenham Station and now this Station Yard development, which all fail miserably on affordable housing.

As long as Richmond Council Officers and Councillors accept that developers put profit before people and wave developments like this through, they will never fulfil their manifesto promise.

J. Hill, Twickenham

## The Blitz

Next week we'll be commemorating the 80th anniversary of The Blitz. If readers have any personal memories of the bombing and wish to share them then please contact us at [info@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:info@TwickenhamTribune.com)





Dear Editors,

## Twickenham Riverside

The Conservatives approved of the Liberal Democrat's plan to put the redevelopment of Twickenham Riverside to an RIBA competition. Hopkins Architects, the winning architect, was chosen by a design panel selected by the Council. This is a highly respected architect. However there are major concerns about the design as it stands. The plans:

- Remove all the parking along the Embankment in front of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. Part of this area is used for parked up vehicles servicing and delivering to the island – its boatyards, businesses, rowing and yacht clubs and residents. While we agree it is time to reduce the parking, to provide greater river access and walking areas, there must be a balance in support of the businesses and residents of Eel Pie Island.
- Fail to provide safe turning and exit of the largest 16.5 metre articulated lorries that supply the boatyards with materials for their largest projects. Safe ingress & egress of these lorries must be ensured.
- Remove Pay and Display parking along the Embankment from Wharf Lane, past the Church to the White Swan – without having done a needs assessment to see what effect this will have on the town, its shops and its cafes.
- Delivers a further 54 flats on the riverside, which is higher than the 39 units in the Conservative scheme that the Liberal Democrats opposed.

The most worrying part of this scheme is that the owners of the two main boatyards have already submitted representations to a Council Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting back in February saying that the plans as they stand will close the boatyards down.

It is essential that the Council listens to the owners of the boatyards and takes appropriate action to ensure that they don't close down. We must save Twickenham's boatyards.

CLlr Kate Howard I(Cons)  
CLlr Geoffrey Samuel (Cons)

## Plants of the Woodland Gardens at Marble Hill Park

By Jack Morris



Landscape contractors, our in-house gardening team and our passionate volunteers have all been working tirelessly over the past year to develop some areas of dense over crowded woodland, into public gardens (opening in 2021); given time, this will become a thriving ecosystem which will provide suitable habitat for the vast array of wildlife already situated in Marble Hill Park, and also encourage a diverse range of valuable wildlife species which do not currently call Marble Hill home.

The woodlands were populated with thuggish plant species such as ash and sycamore along with invasive shrubs such as snowberry as well as a host of pernicious weeds. All of these species had taken over the unmanaged woodland and were competing with the environmentally beneficial species such as young oaks, yews, elms and hawthorn for light, water, space and precious nutrients. This competitions also hindered their ability to propagate, establish and continue growing effectively. The areas of woodland at Marble Hill Park have been managed using an environmentally sensitive approach and we have now started the process of introducing many native and environmentally beneficial plants. Here are some to look out for:



- 1. *Cornus sanguinea*** The leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of an array of moth species including the case-barer moth, producing clusters of white flowers popular with pollinators, the berries from the flowers after pollination are a favourite with birds and small mammals, the attractive red and yellow bark provides year-round interest.
- 2. *Corylus avellana*** known as hazel its leaves are food for caterpillars, its nuts are eaten by small mammals and birds e.g. the dormouse and woodpeckers
- 3. *Rosa arvensis*** Known as the field rose, producing creamy white open flowers in mid summer, the flowers are slightly fragrant and the bright red rosehips produced after flowering are a choice food source for birds.
- 4. *Athyrium filix-femina*** A deciduous hardy fern with delicate lacy fronds which are unfurled in spring. Known commonly as the lady fern this attractive native fern provides excellent cover for wildlife.
- 5. *Bupleurum fruticosum*** An unusual plant not very common but this historic evergreen plant produces very attractive blue-green leaves, with clusters of tiny yellow cupped flowers. Its flowers are used as a source of nectar by many insects, the shrub canopy it produces offers protection for wildlife.
- 6. *Hedera helix*** Aka Ivy is an excellent climber and ground cover for wildlife , the dense canopy offers shelter and its berries are used by birds for food
- 7. *Ruscus aculeatus*** A low shrub with small leaves, prickly to the touch, small flowers are produced in the centre of the leaves in spring followed by large red berries, a choice food for birds.
- 8. *Viburnum opulus*** Opposing, lobed leaves appear in spring, followed by distinct flat white flowers in May to July. After flowering bunches of red berries are produced in early autumn, these berries are a highly important food source to many birds but are championed among the bullfinch and mistle thrush. The often domed shrub canopy offers excellent protection and roosting opportunities for birds.





# Historic Twickenham boatyards threatened by redevelopment project

By Mark Montgomery-Smith

**Historic boatyards, some of the last serving the working Thames, are being threatened by a proposed redevelopment of Twickenham Riverside by Richmond Council**

Eel Pie Island in Twickenham, most recently known as the [Rock 'n' Roll island](#) on which legendary bands from the Rolling Stones and David Bowie, to The Who, Pink Floyd and Black Sabbath cut their teeth, has a much longer history tied to the working Thames and waterways. Now its two boatyards, which house four separate businesses, Eel Pie Island Slipways, Eel Pie Boatyard, Phoenix Wharf Slipway and Cruisemaster Marine, are being threatened with bankruptcy should LibDem-run Richmond Council go ahead with a plan to pedestrianise Twickenham Embankment and remove access for deliveries and servicing.

“I challenge you to show us a boatyard anywhere in the developed world without a car park. We have tried to inform the Council that if they take away parking, they are effectively closing Eel Pie Boatyard and Eel Pie Slipways as boatyards, but they just aren't listening. No one wants this project to go ahead”, says Mark Montgomery-Smith, owner of Eel Pie Boatyard.



The island has a long and significant history of boat entrepreneur- and craftsmanship. At the turn of the century, boats from the island boat yards were used to compare and test the relative efficiency and cost of electric and petrol power, at a time when cars were just beginning to challenge horses for transportation. In 1933, Joseph Mears, co-founder of Chelsea football club, ran a fleet of 30 vessels, the largest passenger boat service in the whole of London, all managed from Eel Pie Island. The slipways were strengthened during World War II for the wartime production of gunboats and naval patrol craft. W.E.R. Sims (Boats) designed and built umpire launches for Henley Regatta, whilst George Sims (Racing Boats) Ltd provided eights for both crews in the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. The list goes on.

Escalating land prices have put boatyards under increased pressure from developers looking to create housing or offices with river views, and Richmond Council seems adamant to continue in this vein, putting dozens of jobs, and hundreds of years of boating history at risk. Dave Johnston, veteran wooden boat builder on the island, had been planning to open a boatbuilding school to supply the specialist skills required to maintain the industry. “These plans, and the Council's unwavering intransigence to pedestrianise a working riverside in order to up the prices of new-build properties, would be catastrophic for the future of boatbuilding and boat repairs on the island and the Thames itself. We would not only be losing another craft, but also sealing the fate of boatyards in Twickenham”.

“Use the car park while you can, because it won't be around long”, says Cllr Gareth Roberts of Richmond Council. A surprising statement indeed at a time when small businesses are struggling enough as it is.

*Photo by Berkley Driscoll*



*Eye-Candy-Dandy watches the Girls go by whilst Toot and Carmen stay together forever*



*“The rain that was expected tomorrow came today. So, the weather is now a day early”* Roger McGough’s poem “Weather or Not” quoted above, highlights how we do not live in the moment and experience what is present but rather want to know what is coming even when that is often proved to be erroneous. Take a stroll down to the River Crane by Kneller Gardens and you will see the Mandarin Ducks, Egyptian Geese and others, including human animals, enjoying all weathers whilst they snooze, preen and socialise! The Green Gym Volunteers, led by Pablo, were working hard to clear areas by the Fox Bench and if you want to join in on Wednesdays it is advisable to book as numbers are being limited to six at a time. [Contact TCV](#). Learning to experience ‘Awe’ is now being shown to give us real benefits emotionally and physically as we lose ourselves in say the beauty of dark skies with endless stars as one very powerful example. Finding dark skies in the urban jungle is getting harder but we can cut down on our own domestic lighting [to help bats, insects and nocturnal animals, like the endangered hedgehog](#), and gain some benefits for ourselves too. Nature and The Arts give us opportunities for those awe-inspiring moments when we take the time to be still and experience something bigger than ourselves. Visit: [River Crane Sanctuary](#) [Instagram](#)





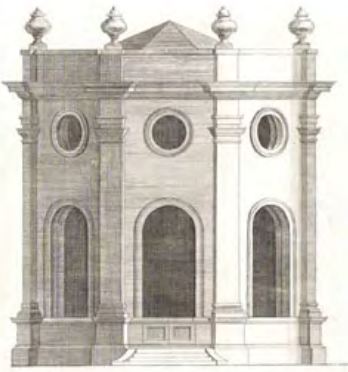
# Twickenham Luminaries: Five free virtual lectures

Twickenham Luminaries is a series of five free virtual lectures on successive evenings starting on Monday 14th September. Each talk will shine a light on a particular individual associated with a historic building in Twickenham and will be given by an acknowledged expert.

Talks will start at 6 pm and last for approximately 20 minutes with time being allowed for questions and answers at the end. The event will end before 7 pm. They will be delivered using Zoom so you will need a computer or tablet with the Zoom program/app on it. We will send you a link by email approximately one hour before the talk begins and you should follow this link at the appropriate time to join the audience. If you haven't used Zoom before, you will be prompted to download the appropriate software as soon as you try to join.

You can book your places at [TicketSource](#). Tickets are free but you will be presented with an option to purchase a ticket for £5, the proceeds of which will be treated as a donation and will be used to support the five participating organisations.

## Monday 14th September: Nellie Ionides and Orleans House, Minna Andersen



Orleans House was a home and meeting place for royalty, politicians and gentry in the two centuries it stood on the Twickenham riverside. It could be argued that the borough was deprived of one of its most historic buildings when it was demolished in 1926. Without the foresight of local resident, The Honourable Nellie Ionides, it is likely that the glorious Octagon Room would have suffered the same fate. Reputed to be the richest woman in England in the 1950s, join us in this talk to discover Nellie's life, love of art and dogs, and her legacy within the Twickenham community

Minna Andersen is a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide. Over the past 30 years, she has worked with embassies, government bodies, industry VIPs and heads of state, assisting their visits to London and offering them tailor made experiences.

They have ranged from art gallery tours and visits to famous London sights to specialist walking tours. She frequently appears in Finnish TV and news to promote all aspects of London. She is a volunteer with Orleans House Gallery and the Poppy Factory, using her skills as a speaker and as a guide to bring their history to life once more.

## Tuesday 15th September: Henrietta Howard and Marble Hill House, Dr Megan Leyland



Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk, (1689-1767) has perhaps been best known as mistress to the Prince of Wales, later George II. However, this talk will show that Howard was much more than a mistress. She overcame personal adversity to become an extraordinary figure in the Georgian court and a member of a dynamic circle of writers, poets and politicians. Arguably, one of her greatest achievements was the construction of her elegant Palladian villa, Marble Hill, and the gardens that surround it. This talk will explore how Marble Hill fits into Howard's fascinating life story, Howard's role in its creation, and her life at this most hard fought for retreat. Set within 66 acres of now public parkland, Marble Hill is the heart of our community but lives with the enormous legacy of a strong, talented

and resourceful woman at its helm.

Dr Megan Leyland is a Senior Properties Historian at English Heritage specialising in country houses and with a strong interest in gender history. She is responsible for undertaking research and producing content to support new interpretation and dissemination projects, and is currently working on a number of sites including Marble Hill, Kirby Hall and Bolsover Castle.

### Wednesday 16th September: Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill, Michael Snodin



Horace Walpole was the son of Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole. He devoted his life to politics, the arts, antiquarianism, history, collecting and authorship and, from 1749, the creation of Strawberry Hill, his summer villa. The most significant building of the early Gothic revival, it was a place of the imagination, that inspired Walpole to write *The Castle of Otranto*, the first Gothic novel. Outside, it was designed to look like an ancient castle, the ancestral seat of the Walpoles. Its interiors formed a dramatic mood journey composed of changing colour harmonies and darkness and light, the rooms filled with a huge collection of art and antiquities. This talk will explore Walpole's greatest creative achievement, and how it was the clearest manifestation of his personality, interests and place in the world.

Michael Snodin is an architectural and design historian. He is chair of the Strawberry Hill Collection Trust and was previously chair of the Strawberry Hill Trust and Head of Designs and a Senior Research Fellow at the Victoria and Albert Museum. His publications include Design and the Decorative Arts: Britain 1500-1900 (V&A 2001) and Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill (Yale 2009).

### Thursday 17th September: Pope and His Villa, Professor Judith Hawley



More images were created of the exterior Alexander Pope's Thameside villa than of any other private residence in the eighteenth century. It was an icon of his work as a classicist, poet and satirist and a gathering place for those opposed to Robert Walpole's government. Jonathan Swift, John Gay, Lord Bolingbroke and Voltaire counted among his guests. After his death, his home and garden attracted so many visitors that a later owner razed the villa to the ground in order to preserve her privacy. This talk will consider what the villa meant to Pope himself and attempt

to recreate what it might have been like for him to live and work there, surrounded by reminders of his friendships and cultural influences.

Judith Hawley is Professor of Eighteenth-Century Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has published on numerous eighteenth-century subjects and appears frequently on radio and TV sharing her interests in eighteenth-century culture with a wider audience. She is a Trustee of the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust.

### Friday 18th September: Sir John Soane and Turner's House, Ricky Craig Pound



This talk will explore the close relationship between Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) and his friend and fellow fisherman, the architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837). It will look specifically at Turner's design for his suburban retreat at Twickenham and illustrate how Soane's fascination for classical and Renaissance architecture helped Turner define its appearance and implied associations.

Ricky Pound is the current House Director and a Trustee of Turner's House. Previously he was the House Manager of Chiswick House and Marble Hill House and Gardens, both managed by English Heritage. In 2016 he curated a major exhibition on the Georgian landscape designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at Orleans House Gallery. He specialises in 17th and 18th century architectural history, symbolism and garden design.

## 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 SUP-Yoga and SUP-Pilates classes from Twickenham Rowing Club, this summer.

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





## TASTY FOODIE SNIPPETS

I thought I would share with you a few more of the interesting new products that have come onto my foodie radar recently – some are healthy and one is just unadulterated indulgence:

### Pulled Oats – Move over meat!

Many of us are moving to a plant-based diet, so I was interested to try a new meat substitute from Finland. I've always been a fan of Scandinavian food, and new **Pulled Oats** offers a very acceptable alternative to meat or soya based products. Made from Nordic oats and legumes, the texture is good, full of protein but no additives or e-numbers. We were very impressed. It's a great base for moussaka, Bolognese, lasagne – you name it! Available from [Planet Organic](#) and hopefully soon from many other places, it's definitely worth trying.



### Fiid Me!

Another new plant-based discovery is **fiid** ready meals. Made from vegetables, legumes and spices these pouches of ready meals are ambient, so worth keeping in stock for a quick meal. They are ready in just three minutes and available in selected Sainsbury's stores nationwide, fiid is available in three different recipes: Hearty Moroccan Chickpea Tagine; Italian Sundried Tomato & Lentil Ragu and Smoky Mexican Black Bean Chilli (RRP: £3.50)



### Healthier Ketchup

Whether it's a bacon butty or cooked breakfast, as far as I'm concerned it needs tomato ketchup! When I'm trying to be good I substitute it with tomato puree, but that never seems to 'cut the mustard'. Well, now there is a healthy – really good – alternative! Yes, **Real Good** ketchup does what it says on the label and it's really low in calories too! Available in Wholefoods and Ocado at around £2 for a 310g or just £3 for a big 685g bottle (I know which size will be on my list from now on.) The company does great BBQ ketchup too.



### Boosh Bone Broth

Boosh makes a range of bone broths using organic bones that are simmered for ages to produce a broth rich in protein, collagen and healthy amino acids. Simply heat for an ultra healthy hot drink or use to add depth of flavour to a host of dishes. My favourite is the Asian Spiced (hints of chilli and lemongrass) but the beef and the chicken ones are great too – and also ideal if someone is feeling under the weather and wants some light, healthy sustenance. Available from Ocado at £4.99



### Sweet Sicilian Citrus Bites

I recently discovered a fabulous company called **Orange Moon** that imports the most delicious chocolate-coated slices of Sicilian candied oranges. Available in dark or white chocolate and also some coated in both! From a sweet little 13g pack that contains just one coated slice (perfect for socially distanced dinners or wedding favours) to a super indulgent two-drawer 200g box, there is a full range on the website that I would urge you to check out. Orangemoon.uk also sells boxes of some divine almond paste treats that are unusual, and perfect gifts for that poor individual who doesn't like, or just can't eat chocolate.



# Twickenham

*Socially Distanced*

## Honey Market

**Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2020**

**12 to 4pm**

Your opportunity to purchase  
delicious local honey and  
bee related products.

Sadly due to Covid 19 Regulations we will not be allowed to offer tastings  
This is a strictly outdoor event and may be cancelled due to inclement weather

**Meet your local bee-keepers and discover  
truly local honey**

**The T&TVBKA Apiary  
41 Whitton Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 1BH**



Twickenham & Thames Valley Beekeepers Association (Registered Charity. No.296439)  
[honeymarket@twickerbees.co.uk](mailto:honeymarket@twickerbees.co.uk)



# GREEN CITY INDEX

Richmond upon Thames has topped the list as the greenest London borough according to a [Green Cities Index](#) report from the experts at apartmental rental brand [Essential Living](#).

New Report Ranks Cities with the most Green Space Across UK and Europe

- **Richmond upon Thames** is the greenest London borough scoring 48.84 out of 60
- **Central London** came out as the greenest UK city scoring 36 out of 60
- Each of the UK's four nations was represented in the top six, with **London, Birmingham,** and **Leeds** taking first, second and third positions. **Cardiff** coming fourth, **Glasgow** taking fifth spot and **Belfast** taking sixth
- **Sheffield** took the top spot for the best UK city for the lowest pollution rates

## Top 10 Greenest London Boroughs Ranked:

1. **Richmond - 48.84**
2. Hillingdon - 46.77
3. Bromley - 45.38
4. Enfield - 44.56
5. Ealing - 43
6. Southwark - 42.91
7. Morton - 42.73
8. Croydon - 41.73
9. Hammersmith & Fulham - 41.05
10. Westminster - 40.76

**Richmond** ranked highly on the percentage of green space available and also how happy each resident felt about the amount of green space in their immediate surroundings - scoring 48.84 out of 60.



Find the Green City Index on the Essential Living website: <https://www.essentialliving.co.uk/blog/the-greenest-cities-mapped/>

The new [Green Cities Index](#) study by apartment rental brand [Essential Living](#) has revealed which UK and European cities and London Boroughs are leading the way when it comes to green space for residents to enjoy.

Each city and borough within the study was awarded points based on elements such as air quality, pollution, quality of life, life expectancy, and green spaces.

A weighting system was then applied to the scores to calculate just how much green space there is in the immediate area to give the final ranking out of 60.

From parks and gardens to pollution rankings there are so many factors that make a city green. But you might be surprised at the cities topping the list for each of the categories.

# MARBLE HILL AUTUMN ZOOM LECTURE SERIES

Marble Hill:  
A lifetime in  
Twickenham  
Speaker:  
Alan Winter  
Tuesday  
8th September  
6pm

Marble Hill and  
Henrietta Howard  
Speaker:  
Dr Megan Leyland  
Tuesday 15th  
September 6pm

Marble Hill:  
Conserving  
restoring and  
reinstalling  
Speaker: Rebecca  
Bennett Tuesday  
23rd September  
6pm

Marble Hill: The  
Black Walnut and  
its importance  
Speaker: Kate  
Slack Tuesday 30  
September 6pm

TWICKENHAM LUMINARIES: A VIRTUAL TOUR 14-19th SEPTEMBER

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/marblehill](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/marblehill)

BOOKING REQUIRED:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



Richmond Road, Twickenham, London TW1 2NL



ENGLISH HERITAGE

MARBLE HILL HOUSE

*Step into England's story*

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140251, and a company, no. 03647221, registered in England.



# A goodbye message from Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar

On Friday 28th August, it is my last working day in the Metropolitan Police after 31 years' service. 31 years sounds a long time, but it doesn't feel long to me.

After completing police training at Hendon, I spent four happy years on Response Team in Tower Hamlets. I then moved to Special Branch where I worked on extremism and then became a protection officer. After that, I moved to Aviation Policing at Heathrow, the Olympics VIP Protection Operation and to Hounslow Borough, which I loved. I was then posted to the Transformation Directorate. In 2017, I was posted as the BCU Commander for South West London, covering Richmond, Kingston, Wandsworth and Merton boroughs and this has been my last posting.

Working in the South West has been the most stimulating and enjoyable posting of them all. As BCU Commander I have two main roles. The first is to provide a good local policing service to the people of South West London and the second is to lead and look after our officers and staff. As leaders we should focus on our own people and the rest will follow. Of course processes and performance are important but people come first. I'm proud of what we are doing on South West, but particularly on the people side.



I spend a lot of time talking to partners, politicians, community leaders and members of public, which is all part of my role. At the moment I am frequently asked about racial profiling and disproportionality based on skin colour. I listen and explain that our South West officers go out on the streets day and night to keep everyone safe and that I'm confident that we police by intelligence rather than by racial profiling. We are not perfect as an organisation, we are not yet representative of the people we serve and it's right that our actions are open to scrutiny. We need to listen more to the public we serve, and to our own staff, and we do need change within the Met to make the organisation more inclusive. But the racial bias in our society cannot be fixed by the Met on its own. Our officers are focused on suppressing violence and I am concerned about the increase in assaults and increased level of abuse that colleagues are facing this summer. I support my colleagues to use police powers and tactics proportionately and ethically to keep the public, themselves and their colleagues safe.

Now is a tough time to leave the organisation that I love but it is the right time for me, for personal reasons. I'm looking forward to whatever comes next. To start with that will involve resting, relaxing and reflecting. I have taken up a voluntary trustee role with London Sport, which is very exciting for me as I love London and I love sport. I'm looking forward to supporting London Sport's mission of making London the most physically active city in the world.

I am happy to be handing over a stable BCU to Chief Superintendent Lis Chapple who I know will do a brilliant job for our colleagues and for the people of South West London.

I would like to say a big thank you to all our officers and staff on the South West BCU and across London who work so hard day and night to keep London safe. And a big thank you too to our partners and to the public who support us with our work. I have been proud to serve as a police officer and it has been a privilege to work with you and do my best to make our four beautiful and vibrant boroughs safer.

# Army asked to help with temporary Hammersmith Bridge

In a joint letter to the Army and Secretary of State for Defence, the Chair of Richmond Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee and local MP, have asked for military assistance evaluating and potentially deploying an emergency temporary bridge linking Barnes and Hammersmith.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann and Sarah Olney MP have written to the Secretary of State and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), to ask if their expertise in installing bridges overseas could be utilised in identifying a short-term remedy to the impact of the Hammersmith Bridge closure.

The letter states:

*"A number of our residents have raised the exceptional expertise of our Army engineers in dealing with similar scenarios overseas.*

*"We appreciate this is a highly unusual approach, but the situation we face in our part of South West London is bleak. As a Council and MP, we cannot in good conscience leave any stone unturned in trying to find a remedy to the immediate impacts of the bridge's closure."*



Earlier this month, Hammersmith and Fulham Council announced that their Bridge would be closed to all members of the public, including pedestrians and cyclists, due to growing safety concerns.

At the same time, both councils called on the Government to urgently commit to funding the restoration project and temporary bridge, after outline commitments were made prior to the pandemic. As of 25 August, this funding has failed to appear.

Cllr Ehmann, said:

*"This is now critical. Without urgent funding, the Government is effectively blocking part of West London off from the Capital. Last week we saw hundreds of people protest at the bridge, urging the Government to put their hands in their pockets. The Government must listen.*

*"Whilst responsibility for the bridge does not lie with Richmond Council, we will explore every avenue that could offer some assistance to residents. We have already said we will waive our fees for the planning process for a temporary bridge and are working with Hammersmith and Fulham Council to see whether ferry services might provide a short-term solution. We are doing absolutely everything we can. Which is more than can be said for the Department for Transport. That's why we've taken the highly unusual step of asking for emergency support from the Army. We need someone to step up"*

See a copy of the full letter [HERE](#)



# TRAVELLER'S TALES 79

## SIGHTS OF CENTRAL ASIA



### Doug Goodman recalls a demanding tour of Uzbekistan

Back in the late 70s, when Russia was still called The Soviet Union, part of the enjoyment or perhaps frustration was the unpredictability of travel in the country. Thomson Holidays, the tour operator for whom I worked for 17 years as head of PR, launched package holidays to Moscow in 1973 for £29 and steadily increased the range of destinations for the curious and intrepid traveller. Central Asia was a popular destination and in 1980 I invited Tim Radford, a brilliant writer from The Guardian and other travel writers, to Uzbekistan to explore the ancient cities. We were accompanied by Thomson guide Jean Todd. After an overnight in Moscow we took an Aeroflot TU 154 aircraft on the three and a half hour flight to Samarkand, a major city and World Heritage Site in South Eastern Uzbekistan. It was only when we landed four hours later that we discovered we were in the wrong city in the wrong country. Bad weather had forced a diversion to Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan near the Afghanistan border and we didn't have visas for that country. Our Russian minder was more concerned about finding accommodation late at night than paper formalities. A bus awaited as we breezed through passport checks and arrived at a central hotel in Dushanbe. Over dinner served with copious amounts of vodka one guest said that he found a burning cigarette in the ashtray by his bedside and another discovered later that the bed was still warm. We never found out what had happened to the original guests ejected from their rooms in some haste to make space for us. Next morning a city tour was a bonus and as we waited to board a tiny Antonov 24 for Bukhara the airport director, a colonel in full military uniform dripping with medals, came to wish us a safe journey.



TU 154 of Aeroflot



The Author at the Border with  
Tadjikistan



Registan Square

### HISTORIC CITIES

Bukhara, Uzbekistan's third city, has over 140 monuments of great architectural interest. Time was so short that a rapid tour by bus and a stop at a tourist shop was all that time permitted. I did at least manage to buy some beautiful ceramic dishes and some local firewater. The contrast between modern Soviet blocks and the old mud and brick houses with vines growing over the verandas was stark but I much preferred the old buildings. A road trip onwards to Tashkent, the country's capital, provided a welcome chance to see the countryside and villages. Poverty was evident with more mud and brick houses and people working in the fields without any sign of mechanisation. The cultivation of melons and citrus fruit formed an important part of the economy with produce being sent to Moscow's markets. Tashkent was one of the Soviet Union's largest cities and suffered a huge earthquake in 1966. During rebuilding most of the autonomous republics contributed with workers and architects so the city has a remarkable

variety of styles. In the main street I noticed a donkey carrying goods with on one side a tall earthquake-proof skyscraper and on the other side a golden domed mosque. During a ride on the new metro I was assured that it was constructed to withstand a strong earthquake.



Mausoleum of Tamerlane



Registan



Thirst Quenching Melon

Finally we took a flight to Samarkand the highlight of the week's tour. This is one of Central Asia's oldest cities located on the Silk Route between China and the Mediterranean. Founded around the 7th century BC it has been a centre of Islamic learning while in the 14th century it was the capital of Tamerlane's Mongol empire. He became the last of the great nomadic conquerors and was the most powerful ruler in the Muslim world. He died in 1405 and is much revered in Uzbekistan. His tomb of black stone in the Guri Amir Mausoleum is the first stop for many visitors. Samarkand had such a mixture of Asian and Middle Eastern styles in its architecture, dress and food. Men wore turbans or fur hats, long coats and black boots. Women were usually veiled or wore bright headscarves and dresses over tight silk trousers.



'Best Quality'



Tim from The Guardian and Jean from Thomson



Local Bus in Bukhara



Traditional Ceramic Design



Uzbek Political Poster

## LOCAL COLOUR

Food was hot and spicy and the tea was delicious. The markets were a delightful place to explore. Samarkand has preserved its traditions of ancient crafts with embroidery, ceramics, silk weaving, copper engraving and gold work. The fruit and vegetable markets sold a wide range of exotic produce including giant melons. Our Russian guide said melons from Uzbekistan were the best and sold for a very high price in Moscow. She advised us to take a few back to the city to give to friends. The last place on our tour of Samarkand was to Registan Square, a public meeting place for centuries, with three magnificent Madrasahs- Islamic study centres on three sides of the stunning location.

Our arrival in Moscow was greeted by a blizzard and ten inches of snow. As we disembarked clutching melons the captain said we were the last flight to land before bad weather closed the airport. After nine flights in our exhausting but incredible tour we would not have wished for a diversion to Siberia.



# WIZ Tales - SAMOA

By Teresa Read

The Independent State of Samoa consists of a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand.

In 1899 a treaty between Britain, Germany and the USA divided the islands of Samoa between Germany (Western Samoa) and the United States (American Samoa).

Samoa immediately brings to mind the controversial work of Magaret Mead, an American anthropologist. "Coming of Age in Samoa" first published in 1928 - available on Amazon - is said to have influenced the 1960s sexual revolution.

The photograph at the top of the page was provided to the World InfoZone project by the Samoa Tourist Authority.

The four photographs below are the work of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce, part of America's Coatline Collection (2006).



More photographs of Samoa

Samoa

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

American Samoa

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



# The Time Has Come, the Walrus Said To Talk Of Many Things; of Shoes & Ships And Sealing Wax – of Cabbages & Kings

By Bruce Lyons



Confused, so you might be! The Master of Invention, Grant Shapps, Minister of Transport has weaved a merry web for us all to untangle, that is if any of us aspire to travel overseas!

With this week's NEW NO GO Countries the world just got a mite smaller. No more Jamaica, Switzerland or the Czech Republic and soon to be added, maybe, dear old Gibraltar. But

Hang on CUBA is making a welcome addition – a come-back no less!!

But, dear reader, it doesn't stop there, does it! – Oh No, just because it is a SAFE destination and the FCO advice is positive (and that validates your travel insurance) there's more to it. You see, whilst the UK might agree to certain corridors and no quarantine here or there – there will be protocols and disciplines to follow! Least complicated are Greece and Italy with nice web linked forms to help all keep track of us travellers and of course when in your Host country there are slightly different hygiene disciplines to follow, nothing that a knapsack full of Masks, sanitisers and surgical

Gloves won't satisfy – good idea to take some sunglasses too!!

But other destinations – and there's more sun there too – might be more challenging, some Caribbean destinations that have managed to keep Covid-19 at bay require negative valid PCR's either before or you can have it on arrival- best aim for ones that have "corridors" and they expect you to have the PCRs at check – it is much safer for all, as the other way you could get a positive on arrival!!

If I'm confusing you, dear reader, follow the BBC Travel Consultant Simon Calder's advice – see a travel agent! Brilliant advice I thought, THAT'S US BABY!!

What a clever chap- but he hasn't called yet and I have been waiting all day!



So that is it for another week – stop by if you want the T's crossed or I's dotted The Sun is heading south fast and there some great offers out there. Just have to be a bit of an adventurer – and have a need of SUN – of course.

[www.crusadertravel.com](http://www.crusadertravel.com)



# Mayor helps mark borough's connection with Chilean hero

Richmond upon Thames' unique connection with Chilean hero Bernardo O'Higgins was marked at a ceremony in Richmond last week (20 August).

Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Geoff Acton joined a small number of delegates (socially distanced) from the Chilean Embassy at O'Higgins Square in Richmond to mark the birth of one of the key figures in the Chilean independence movement and head of the country's first national government. Wreaths were laid in front of a bust of him which stands above an elegant concrete monument designed by Chilean architect Marcial Echenique.

Bernardo O'Higgins lived in Richmond for two years whilst he studied at Clarence House in The Vineyard, which used to be a private school.

The Mayor said:

*"We are incredibly proud of this very special connection between our borough and the people of Chile.*

*"It's a connection that has endured for centuries, with a statue in Richmond commemorating Bernardo O'Higgins. Whilst 2020 has been difficult for so many people across the world, it was my pleasure to welcome the Chilean Ambassador to Richmond to celebrate our shared history."*



Chilean Ambassador, H.E. David Gallagher, added:

*"This year COVID has obliged us to commemorate the Liberator's birthday with austerity. But we will be there just the same, in smaller numbers, accompanied by the Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Geoff Acton. As always, we will be deeply grateful to the Council of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for their cooperation in this solemn yearly exercise.*

*"O'Higgins acquired in London the combination of resilience and liberal ideals that were to become crucial on his return to Chile. They were to serve him in endless battles which he waged against the Spanish, from when he became Commander-in-Chief of a rag-tag Patriot Army in 1814.*

*"He declared all Chileans equal before the law, including the indigenous population. O'Higgins could speak to them in Mapuche, which he learnt at primary school in the south of Chile. He abolished titles and obliged their holders to remove their coats of arms from the fronts of their houses. He abolished bullfights. He obliged the church to bury the dead in cemeteries outside the city limits rather than within the church compound.*

*"O'Higgins had never been ambitious. He had always kept a modestly low profile."*

# Trial traffic scheme to launch in Hampton Hill

Following feedback from residents, a trial scheme that aims to reduce the amount of traffic in the Burtons Road area in Hampton Hill is being launched by Richmond Council.

Last year the Council consulted on a proposal to remove all through traffic from the Burtons Road area. This followed a series of residents' petitions and concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The initial consultation showed a split in views with many opponents proposing lighter-touch interventions. Listening to this feedback, the Council redesigned its proposals (including options for timed-restrictions) and sought the views of residents on this series of revised designs.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Committee for Richmond Council, said:

*“Overwhelmingly the residential roads blighted with wholly inappropriate volumes of through-traffic were desperate for the Council to act. More widely, half of the residents in the consultation area wanted to see the Council take some action to restrict through-traffic.”*

*“At the same time, the Government is also pressuring local authorities to introduce Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as an urgent means of encouraging walking and cycling; and to suppress unnecessary car use.”*

*“That is why, we decided to trial innovative ANPR enforced, peak-hours restrictions that aim to reduce through-traffic, while still providing valued off-peak access for local residents.”*

In light of COVID-19 and the country's emergence from lockdown, Government guidance requests that all local authorities implement urgent measures to suppress increased car usage, including the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.

Having given consideration to all the feedback from the latest consultation, and the Government's call for urgent action to protect residents from adverse road safety and air quality impacts it was decided to progress a trial of timed-restrictions (Option 3) for a period of six months.

From Monday 21 September 2020, from 7am to 10am (Eastbound only) and from 4 to 7pm (Westbound only) Monday to Friday there will be restricted movement for vehicles preventing through access along Burtons Road, Albert Road and Links View Road, with changes to the lane widths and current parking arrangements at the High Street/Park Road junction to help to mitigate some of the effects of displaced traffic.

In light of overwhelming support for two pedestrian crossing upgrades, it has also been agreed that the Council will undertake a feasibility study into the conversion of two traffic islands to zebra crossings on Park Road at the junctions of St James Avenue and St James Road.

Signage will be installed over the next week but will not come into effect until Monday 21 September 2020.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, added:

*“As we emerge from lockdown, the Council couldn't ignore our public duty to do all we can to enhance road safety and suppress air pollution.”*

*“We understand the anxieties of some about the proposals, which is why we have proposed the shortest practicable trial and why we stand ready to make adjustments if necessary throughout the six-month trial period. We will monitor the impact of these measures closely and are keen to hear how residents feel they have worked.”*





# Axing van scrappage scheme is short-sighted, says Richmond Council

The decision to axe the Mayor of London's programme of financial incentives for van drivers who want to switch to more environmentally friendly vehicles, is short sighted, according to the Lead Member for Highways and Air Quality at Richmond Council.

Since its launch in February 2019, the TfL scrappage scheme for vans and minibuses has supported small-businesses and charities to replace vehicles that don't meet the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) standards. The scheme has committed over £30 million to help thousands of small and micro-businesses prepare both for the central London ULEZ from April 2019, and for the ULEZ extension to the North and South Circulars in October 2021.



Local authorities and the public were given just a few days notice that the scheme would be axed on 28 August, a year before ULEZ is due to operate and before many businesses may have been planning to upgrade their vehicles.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, said:

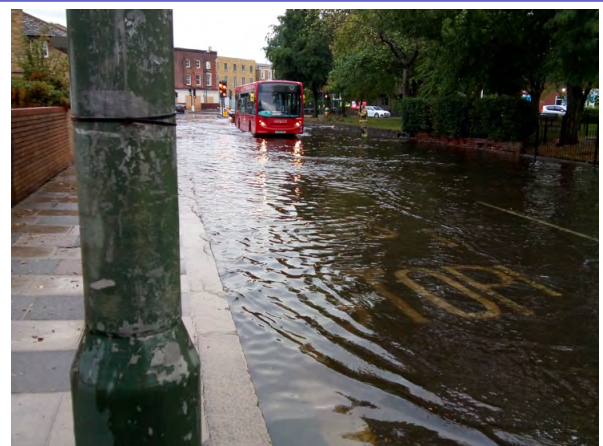
*"This is very disappointing and short-sighted. We need to encourage as many local people and businesses as possible to switch to less polluting forms of transport. But for many – the switch is a financial challenge. We know the enormous financial pressures that are facing TfL, but to give people a handful of days before pulling the scheme is simply not good enough."*

Any van scrappage applications submitted prior to 5pm on 28 August will be processed as normal. Applicants that have already been accepted to the scheme and have received a confirmation of eligibility letter can continue to scrap their vehicles and submit evidence to claim their grant payment in accordance with the scheme terms and conditions. Eligible charities who want to scrap a minibus (up to 5 tonnes gross vehicle weight) after Friday 28 August 2020 should contact TfL using the [online enquiry form](#) on the TfL website.

## Wet Weather!

We have all been subject to some heavy rain and thunderstorms recently.

Tribune reader Dik Leatherdale sent in this photo of flooding in Teddington.



## A Feast in Time of Plague: a Morality Tale

Throw open the bunker lid and step cautiously out! Venture into the real world as lockdown eases. Does one see a world of fearful caution? Does one heck! Many seem to think that the worldwide pandemic has flown off across the Atlantic, whilst others just have an *inshallah* mentality. My straw poll estimates that only 4% wear facemasks outdoors. The pedestrian one-way over Richmond Bridge is ignored, and the take-over of the pavements by cyclists has become an epidemic, augmented by electric scooters. On warm evenings, Twickenham Green has become an alcohol and urine soaked rave location.



Which brings me to Pushkin. In the early days of lockdown, I reflected that his play [Mozart and Salieri](#) could be an allegory for the way that these unusual times distort people's views and actions. I left the thought hanging that Пир во время чумы, *A Feast in Time of Plague*, another of his four *Little Tragedies* is pointedly prescient in 2020.



The setting is a trestle table at the roadside, think Twickenham Green, where a rowdy group of men and women are eating and drinking, oblivious of the plague raging all around them.

Written in 1830, *The Feast in Time of Plague* is the shortest of the *Little Tragedies*. Stranded by a cholera epidemic raging in the Russian countryside, Pushkin wrote all four plays in a fortnight. He had witnessed the effects of the plague in Armenia the previous year. It was all happening for Pushkin pestilence-wise when he should have been preparing for his wedding, poor chap.

When I wrote in passing about Pushkin's *A Feast in Time of Plague* back in April, I had not realised that others had also made that connection. Clod Ensemble, a cross-discipline performance company, is remaking its [A Feast during the Plague](#), which by astounding co-incidence was its first production twenty-five years ago. Meanwhile, at the beginning of lockdown, Grange Park Opera commissioned [a new opera version](#) of *A Feast in Time of Plague*, which is being live streamed next month.



Whew, time to get back in the bunker!

Read Mark Aspen's reflection at [www.markaspen.com/2020/08/28/feast-plague](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/08/28/feast-plague)

Photography by Pieter Bruegel, Paul Brylidge and Grange Park Opera



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# RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

## Issue 23, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

# LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

**RFS Context:** **LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE** was 619th film screened by RFS on 2nd October 2007. **Little Miss Sunshine** was the joint third from top ranked film of Season 45, it got an approval mark of 88% from those attending (It was the joint third film with **Pan's Labyrinth**, which is planned to feature in a future issue of our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings; from season 45 we have already featured its top film **The Lives of Others**, and its joint second ranked films **Les Choristes** and **Volver**, as **Issues 12, 17 & 20** respectively). **Little Miss Sunshine** can be streamed from Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

### LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Directors: Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris  
Screenplay: Michael Arndt  
Cinematography: Tim Suhrstedt  
Editor: Pamela Martin  
Music: Mychael Donna & DeVotchKa  
Language: English  
Country: USA, 2006  
Running Time: 101 mini, colour

### Leading Players:

Abigail Breslin (Olive)  
Alan Arkin (Grandpa)  
Marc Turtletaub (Doctor #1)  
Paul Dano (Dwayne)  
Steve Carell (Frank)  
Brenda Canela (Diner Waitress)  
Greg Kinnear (Richard)  
Toni Collette (Sheryl)  
Jill Talley (Cindy)



Here is a film that lives up to the expectations of a very funny trailer. It's an oddball comedy, and it's dark, and it's funny, and it's touching, and it will charm the pants off many in the audience. Here is a simple story in which our lovely contestant and her family try to find their way to California, so that she can prove to the world she is not a loser! The premise itself can



lead to years of therapy for a family that should get a group rate in psychiatric care.

Expert editing and superb comedic performances from all the principals involved will have many overlook the fact that the plotline is a little too contrived at times. The set pieces will have the audience howling with laughter as we see different characters trying to overcome some pretty irreverent obstacles. The scene at the gas station contains moments of deep sadness and offbeat humor, something that Carell pulls off wonderfully, and none will be able to look at the trunk of a car, some dubious literary material, and highway patrol the same way after seeing the infamous scene in the film.

The best is of course, saved for last, and by this time we are waiting for something outrageous which **Little Miss Sunshine** delivers unapologetically. A classic track will probably be recharged for a new generation, as the bonds of family precariously balance a moment that could be as tacky as they come.

**Sunshine** is one of the best films of 2006, an original film that relies on a script that understands the differences between generations in the same family. It doesn't explain why each character is as quirky as can be, and it doesn't build much background because it is not needed to make the film work. Kinnear, Colette, Abigail, Arkin, and Carell are a fine team and keep the film's feel fresh throughout the film. Here is a family that has no special qualities or powers, a family that will make us rejoice that creativity is still alive in Hollywood, a film that will provide us with plenty of much needed sunshine in an otherwise pretty dull summer.

*after imdb*

Despite tackling death and dysfunction, indie comedy drama **Little Miss Sunshine** radiates warmth and charm. Greg Kinnear is wonderfully woe-begone as the success-obsessed patriarch, whose goal is to get daughter Olive (Abigail Breslin) into a junior beauty pageant. Steve Carell is equally funny as his suicidal brother-in-law, swapping the wide-eyed innocence of **The 40 Year Old Virgin** for world-weary angst.

Toni Collette is underused as Mom, but this combustible mix of characters still fuel a laugh-a-minute road trip.

It's an assured debut for co-directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, who benefit from a sharp and sensitive script by Michael Arndt. Even as Richard (Kinnear) scolds little Olive for eating full-fat ice cream, he draws sympathy as a man who dreams big and ends up feeling small. The humiliation of devising a nine-step plan for success that nobody wants to buy is bad enough, but then he's pulled over by a porno-sniffing traffic cop in a scene to induce both laughter and cringing.

Occasionally the comic incidents feel a little jarring and clunky, such as Richard's attempt to stash a dead body which stops just short of **Weekend At Bernie's**. Generally though, the story unfolds with a winning blend of sophistication and silliness. Dayton and Faris boldly satirise traditional American values without the easy cynicism - hilariously encapsulated by Olive's precocious posturing at the beauty contest. More importantly, as the Hoover clan gradually get to know one another, the journey becomes fully engaging and oddly poignant. It will definitely leave you with that feel-good glow.

*after BBCi*



## BRENTFORD FC

### Several Bees Players Called Up For International Duty

Several members of the first team Brentford squad have been called up for representative honours and both youth and full international level.

Mads Roerslev and his fellow countryman Mads Sorensen have received call ups from the Denmark U21 squad for European Championship qualifying fixtures against Ukraine and Northern Ireland.



Fellow Scandinavian and club captain Pontus Jansson also received a call up for Sweden's UEFA Nations League campaign in which they will face fixtures against France and Portugal.

Josh Dasilva has been rewarded for a fine individual 19/20 Championship season with an England call up as is set to link up with Aidy Boothroyd for European Championship qualifying games against Kosovo and Austria. Dasilva previously represented England at both U19 and U20 level.

Young goalkeeper Patrick Gunnarsson will join up with the Iceland squad for their UEFA Nations League matches against England and Belgium.

Bryan Mbeumo will represent the France U21 side against Georgia and Azerbaijan in UEFA European Championship qualifiers. The Frenchman will therefore be unavailable for selection for Brentford's first game of the season against Wycombe Wanderers on 6th September.

### Ollie Watkins Wins EFL Player Of The Year Award

Ollie Watkins has been recognised for his goalscoring exploits during the 2019/20 Championship season having been named the Sky Bet Championship Player of the Season. The striker scored 26 goals as the Bees endured play-off final heartbreak with defeat at the hands of west London rivals Fulham at Wembley.

### Brentford Release 2020/21 Home And Away Kits

Brentford have announced their home and away shirts for the 2020/21 season which will be manufactured by Umbro and be sponsored by the energy supplier Utilita Energy.

The home kit features the clubs historic red and white stripes with a solid red sleeve pattern. The shorts for the home kit will be black and the socks will be red.

The away kit is a carbon grey colour with a red line above the shoulder. The shorts for the away kit will match the away shirt colour with a carbon grey design whilst the socks will be red.



The shirts are available to buy online at the Brentford FC website and retail at £48 for adults and £38 for juniors. Personalisation is also available online with player names and EFL patches branding an option.

***Come on you Bees!***

## Hampton & Richmond Borough



### **Beavers open up pre-season with two wins**

Hampton & Richmond Borough opened up their 2020/21 pre-season campaign with a convincing win away against fellow Middlesex club Ashford Town. A strong side featuring a large number of last season squads and summer signings combined with some trialists showed their superior quality against the step 4 side. Ryan Hill opened the scoring with a right footed strike and by half time it was 3-0 following two goals from two different strikers on trial.

A completely changed XI for the second half continued to dominate and goals from a centre back trialists and despite a goal from the hosts, Niko Muir scored in the final minute to give a convincing 5-1 in the Beavers first game since March.

The Beavers then followed this performance up with a second win in as many days with a mainly academy and trialist squad defeating local opposition in the form of Hanworth Villa. Academy graduate Jamie Hope scored the only goal of the game after new signing Eddie Dsane had seen a shot come back of the post.

### **Pre-season fixtured list confirmed**

Hampton & Richmond have confirmed their full pre-season fixture list with the Beavers set to play nine games in a busy and competitive set of games.

The full schedule is as follows:

- 9/08 3pm. GOSPORT BOROUGH (A)
- 01/09 7:45pm. HARTLEY WINTNEY (A)
- 05/09 1pm. BEACONSFIELD TOWN (A)
- 08/09 7pm. SOUTHAMPTON U-23 (A)
- 12/09 3pm. WALTON CASUALS (A)
- 15/09 7:45pm. EASTLEIGH (H)
- 19/09 TBC MAIDENHEAD UNITED (A)
- 22/09 7:45pm. SUTTON UNITED (H)
- 26/09 3pm. WOKING (H)

As it stands fans are able to attend the Gosport, Hartley Witney and Beaconsfield Town games but these home games at the Beveree Stadium will currently be played behind closed doors due to government restrictions.

***Come on you Beavers!***

## Move to Stage D on the Return to Community Rugby Roadmap

### includes limited contact training and inter-club non-contact fixtures

The phased return of community rugby reaches the next step, from 1 September, with clubs able to start limited and restricted contact rugby training and organise inter-club non-contact fixtures.

This follows the reintroduction of intra-club non-contact rugby union activity at the beginning of August.

The reintroduction of limited contact training has been approved by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport ('DCMS') and moves [The Return to Community Rugby Roadmap](#) from Stage C to Stage D.

The reinstatement of some contact activity is important to ensure players can continue to practice core skills and are able to start preparing and conditioning themselves appropriately as the game starts to return to normality with regular training and matches.

Varied training conditions will allow the return of tackling, lineouts and rucks, ensuring players are prepared to perform these skills safely and effectively with some restrictions. Mauls, scrums, opposed lineouts or upright tackles are still not permissible as the transmission exposure risk remains high. Contact training sessions have to be carried out in small groups of no more than six players.

Detail of the permitted training activity is available in the [return to contact training guidance](#) and [infographic](#).

Within each training session a maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed for all contact training activities (75 minutes being the total maximum time for each session).

In the remainder of the training session, players are permitted to undertake socially distanced strength and conditioning activities, small group non-contact skill development drills and/or Touch/Ready4Rugby games (the only other permitted game training activity).

Clubs are also now able to organise non-contact fixtures with other clubs using Ready4Rugby or other Touch formats and should ensure they are appropriately set up and prepared for safely welcoming other clubs and individuals to their venues.

Steve Grainger, RFU Rugby Development Director said: *"It's great news for the game that we're able to get back to contact training in the community game with some limitations. It's another step on the journey to a return to full contact rugby although we still have a way to go before we will return to our full programme of competition.*

*"For rugby union to continue a phased return, there are some fundamental skills that players need to perform, develop and maintain to ensure that they can play in a safe and effective way when a return to contact rugby match play is permitted.*

*"During the lockdown period all rugby union activity in the community game was suspended from April through to August, resulting over 20 weeks when players have been unable to perform, develop and maintain these fundamental skills.*

*"Allowing limited contact activity will provide an opportunity for players to sustain these skills, physically prepare for the reintroduction of competitive rugby appropriately, reducing the potential risk of injury whilst also mitigating the infection risk through restricting the type and amount of contact activity.*

*"Although there is no confirmed timeline for the return of full-contact competitive match play, we will provide an update to the game about competitions as planned on 1 September."*

Any return to play and training is a decision for individual clubs to make and they must continue to follow [government Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) guidelines](#), along with any local government lockdown restrictions that may be introduced.

More detailed information on the return to community rugby can be found [here](#).





# Customers of two South-West London pubs to benefit from Eat Out to Help Out September extension

## Beech House in Hampton Hill and White Swan in Twickenham

Although the Government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme ends on Bank Holiday Monday, August 31st, Oakman Inns, which operates the Beech House in Hampton Hill and White Swan in Twickenham, has chosen to continue the scheme through the whole of September.

Oakman Inns, which manages 28 family friendly pubs and restaurants across the Midlands and Home Counties, saw visitor numbers in line with industry figures. According to the company's CEO, Dermot King, the scheme appears to have achieved its aim of bringing back those customers who were hesitant about eating out. He said: "According to one recent survey, more than half said that the experience made them feel more confident about going out in the near future, and most of the rest (45%) said their confidence was unaffected."

With table-only service, their restaurants were often fully booked during the first two weeks, with many of the customers making their first visit to an Oakman Inn.

However, keen to maintain this momentum, Oakman Inns has now taken the decision to continue to offer 50% off (up to a maximum of £10 per person) all food and soft drinks consumed on the premises on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays – including breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner.



*"There is no doubt that the Eat Out to Help Out scheme has been a major factor in helping us get back on our feet after several months without any revenue at all,"* said Dermot King.

Oakman Inns has not only brought back from furlough their near 1,000-strong workforce, but has even created 105 further jobs, in order to meet the new compliance requirements.

However, King is still urging caution and looking for further support from Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

King explained: *"It has been a very encouraging start, but the road to recovery is going to be a very long one and it is going to take much more than a few months of offers to get the hospitality sector back to where it was before lockdown,"* he said. *"We urgently need a review of the fiscal disparity between supermarkets and the hospitality sector with a specific focus on VAT. We would like to see 5% VAT extended past the January deadline but extended to include all processed foods, such as ready meals, sandwiches, pasties etc – money which could be pumped straight back into healthier school meals, giving every kid a chance to have a better start in life."*

He continued: *"We also need to have a root and branch examination of the entire business rates system which provides a fairer and more coherent tax, and we would further urge the Chancellor to scrap employers' National Insurance contributions on all employees who earn under £20,000. This would help create jobs at a time when people all over the country are losing theirs. The current system effectively taxes job creation and we must bring an end to that."*

The pub group announced last week that it has been recognised for a second time in this year's Princess Royal Training Awards for their outstanding staff training and development programmes.

[{Link}](#)

# SWR's community rail partners continuing important work, despite challenges of COVID-19

Despite the continuing challenges of COVID-19, community groups on South Western Railway's network are continuing their work to revitalise stations and support local communities.

The initial lockdown made it impossible for these groups to continue their work, but, as restrictions have slowly eased, work has been able to resume.

At Swaythling station in Hampshire, the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership (CRP), has transformed two redundant spaces and turned them into areas fit for community use. The work included stripping out joists, laying new floor tiles, adding electric sockets, wall heaters and a sink, as well as uncovering the vintage fireplace.

East Hampshire CRP has re-opened their Free Shop programme at Petersfield station, which allows the local community to collect surplus food from local supermarkets that may have otherwise gone to waste.

Both these groups lease their spaces from South Western Railway on 'peppercorn rent', allowing the groups to focus their funding on improving the stations, and expand their work to other station buildings.

Mark Miller, officer for Three Rivers and East Hants CRPs, said: "We are grateful to SWR for allowing us to take on these spaces without having the pressure of a rent to account for. The station staff and manager have been brilliant throughout."



Additionally the Lymington to Brockenhurst and Isle of Wight CRPs, have worked with SWR to transfer funding from their "Music on the Move" initiative, to the new "Food on the Move" project, which delivered food to the most vulnerable people in their local area during the difficult period of lockdown.

SWR also continued to keep in touch with station adopters, volunteers who undertake gardening or artwork at stations. This year, SWR had provided more money than ever before into its station adoption fund and encouraged these station adoption groups to apply for funding, especially to replace plants that died during the pandemic. It was one of the first train operations in the country to introduce rules to allow some adoption activities to restart at stations. This made a particular difference at Lake on the Island, where a unique planter, finally arrived, thanks to the efforts of a local family.

Following, the Isle of Wight's Broadlea Primary School's successful planter, designed in the style of the former underground trains that serve Island Line, the group set out to go bigger and better this year, linking a new flower display to the school's efforts to support the local independent lifeboat service. The specially made Lifeboat planter, was funded by SWR and built using the technical skills of a volunteer from the school.

The perfect plan that had been created by the school for the unveiling, linked in with fundraising activities for the lifeboat operation, as well as water safety training for the children, was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Although the planter was saved from the school, Emma Milliard, who organised it, and her family had to wait until the easing of rules to deliver it outside the station. The final piece is now in place, including plants donated by family friends.

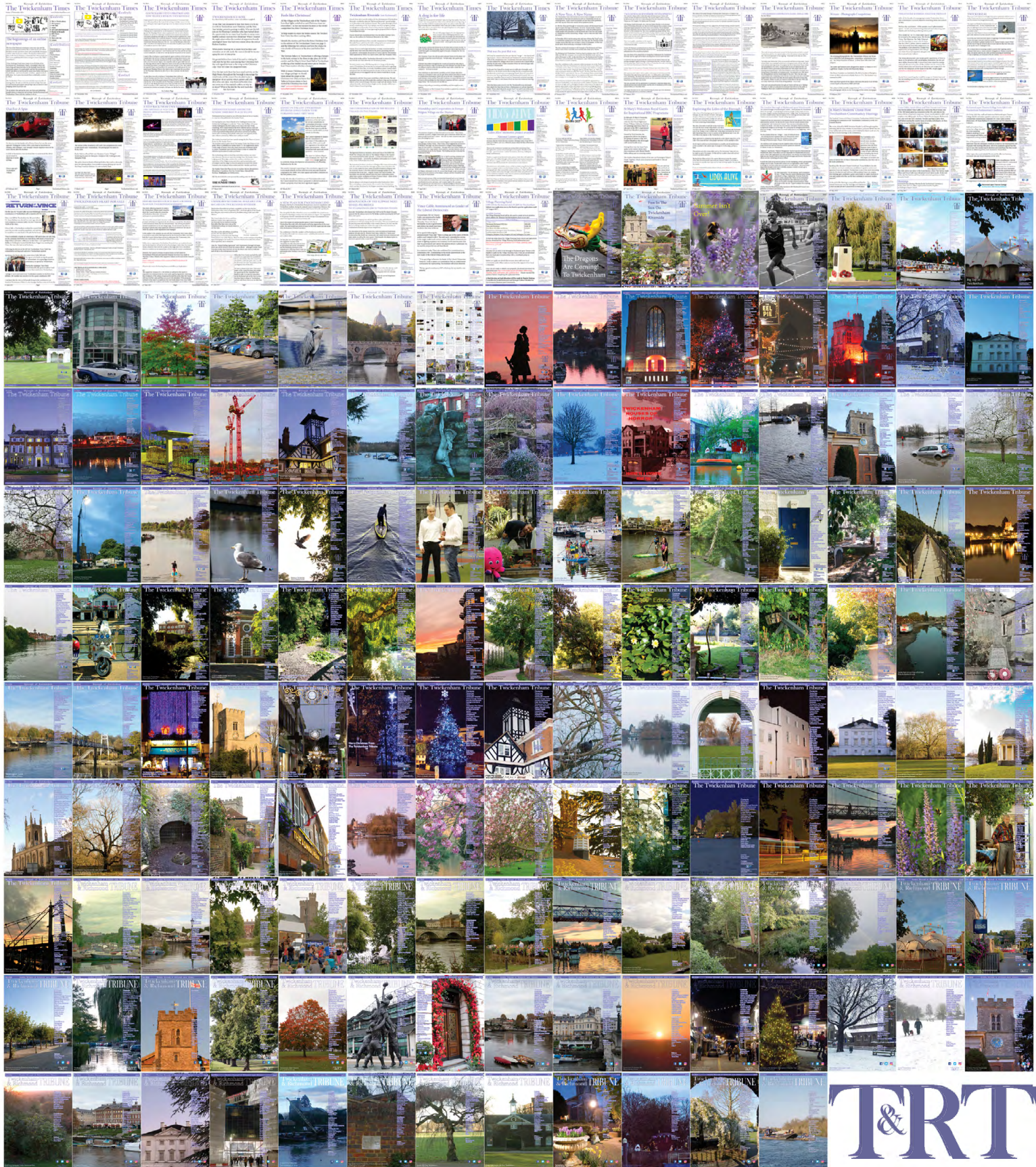
Emma, whose father, John, made the planter, said: "We had big plans before the lockdown for the children's Go Orange day and it seemed a shame to not be able to go ahead with those plans. Therefore, to put a smile on everyone's face we have put the lifeboat planter at the station as planned for everyone to see while out on their daily exercise. We are forever grateful to the crew at SSILB and we're thankful to have them still keeping the bay safe through these uncertain times."

Elsewhere, Wareham station has been brightened by a collaboration between Purbeck CRP and Wareham in Bloom. Andy Harrowell, SWR's Community Rail Manager, said: "It's been a strange time for everyone, especially for those whose jobs focus on promoting train travel. I can only offer my thanks to the CRP line officers, who have used this time productively to further support their local communities.

"Equally, we appreciate the patience of our station adopters eager to return to their activities at our stations. We will continue to monitor our rules around this area to support their safety and that of our passengers and staff. We have already provided almost £2,500 to support these groups efforts since April and stand ready to provide more funding to rebuild their beautiful flower displays, at the right time."



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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  
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