

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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The Pubs Are Open! The Prince Albert, Twickenham

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

4th December 2020



TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium prepares to welcome 2,000 fans

England Rugby is delighted to be able to welcome 2,000 fans to Twickenham Stadium for the final Quilter International of the Autumn Nations Cup on Sunday 6 December when England play France (KO 14.00 GMT).

See article at the end of this edition for more information

Dispose of face coverings sensibly

Residents are being urged to dispose of single-use face coverings properly, after a sudden increase in them being found littered in Richmond upon Thames' streets and parks. With the rules currently stating face coverings should be worn in enclosed public spaces, such as supermarkets, indoor shopping centres and on public transport, Richmond Council is asking people to try and wear reusable face coverings in the first instance, and if single-use ones are worn, to dispose of them responsibly after wearing.

New support programme to help businesses rise-up from COVID

A new programme of support is being launched to help smaller businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Phoenix Enterprise Programme, is launching on **Tuesday 8 December** at an online event from 1 to 2pm. It will help support pre-start, start-up and small businesses across all industries, reinvent, repurpose and rebuild.

Over the next few months, virtual workshops, power networking events, business clinics and free 1:1 support will be offered – enabling local businesses to access expert advice from specialist consultants.

There will also be two specific business support programmes aimed at the hospitality, leisure and tourism sector as well as the creative industries.

Interested businesses can attend the launch event to hear more about the FREE support programme. Register to attend [HERE](#)

[Visit the News page for more stories](#)



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TwickerSeal has been hearing all sorts of grumbings recently about the money the council is throwing at the Twickenham Riverside development.

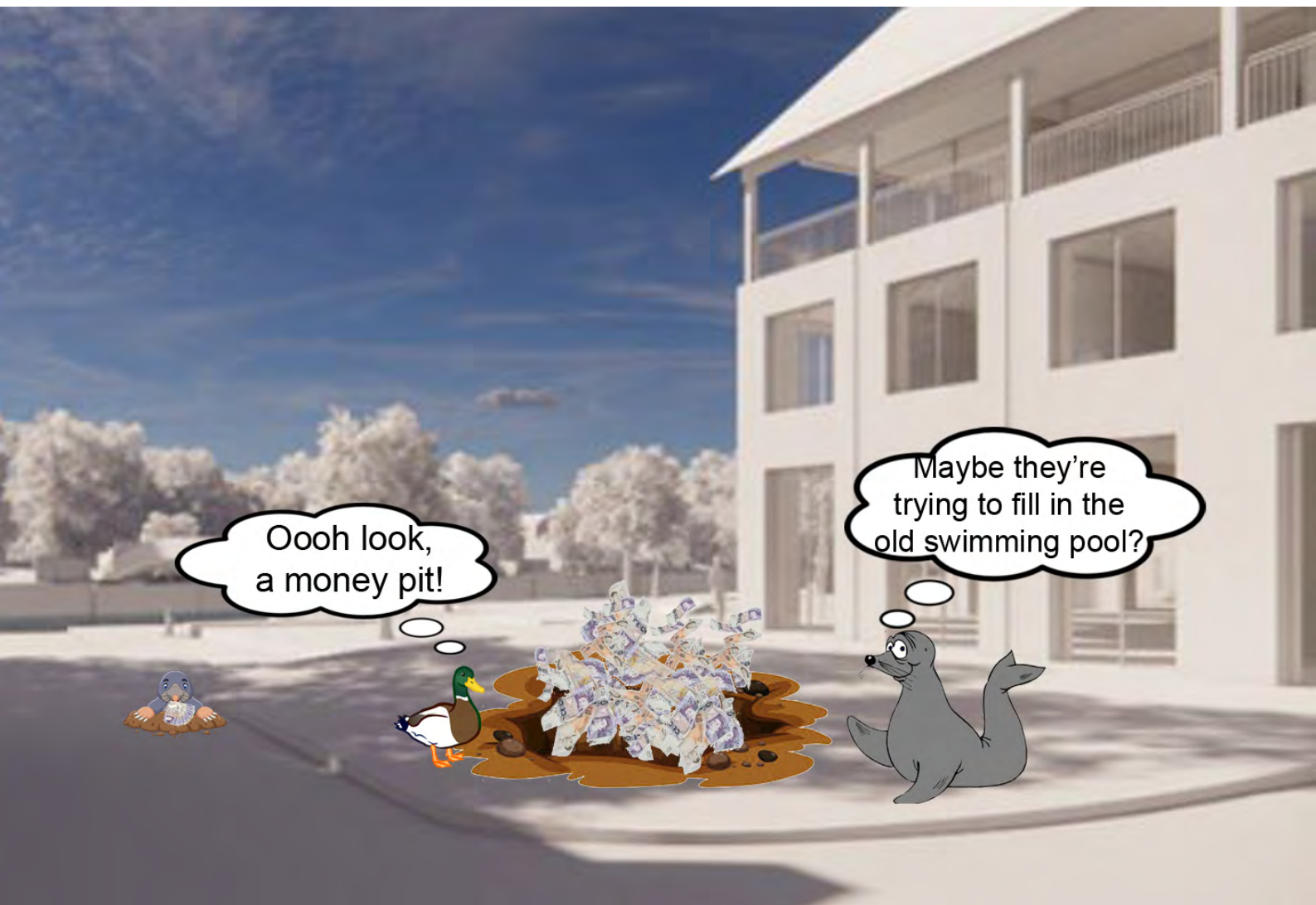
No one begrudges the council investing in the riverside and the future of Twickenham, especially if it delivers something that residents can be proud of, which unfortunately doesn't seem to be the case.

No, the worries people (and seals) have is the unnecessary waste of money thanks to the council's botched handling of this very important project.

How much extra did the council cost us in failing to note that the Environment Agency had rejected the Hopkins 'stilt' plans? How much extra is the council costing us by failing to engage with the EA (and ascertaining land ownership) before issuing the 'competition' brief?

The council's plans are so popular that it is considering a Compulsory Purchase Order for the land, including the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. The council's own estimate for this is £35,000 for preparation and £250,000 to complete the CPOs, but that is for a simple uncontested CPO (which would take 12-18 months to complete). The Twickenham Riverside Trust has made it clear it would rigorously fight a CPO, which could double the costs and timescale.

The council's mantra seems to be get it done, rather than get it right, but can they even manage to get it done?



'Petersham mist'

As the mornings begin to approach freezing temperatures, a thick mist gathers on the tree line and hangs before Petersham.

At the foot of the meadow the river holds still as it is gently unveiled.



The towpath along the Thames

By Simon Fowler

One of the joys of living in Richmond and Twickenham is the walk along the Thames. The path on the Twickenham or Middlesex side seems less interesting and the riverside stretch rather shorter, although there are fine views across to Richmond and towards the old Star and Garter Home on the top of Richmond Hill.

On the Surrey side it is possible to walk through the borough from Putney to Kingston alongside the River – for the most part through trees and away from noisy roads - and indeed it is possible to follow the Thames to its source in Gloucestershire if you so wished.

Nobody knows how old the towpath is. Horses, oxen and men pulling the heavily laden barges must once have been a familiar sight. At one time it was much lower than it is today, but over the past century much of it has been built up as flood protection.



Looking along the towpath towards Richmond Bridge about 1800.
Credit: Richmond Local Studies and Archives LCP 1808

During the pandemic the towpath has seemed ever more crowded with cyclists and joggers weaving between walkers and their dogs. This is nothing new. For 350 years at least people have enjoyed walking along the river. In May 1665, Samuel Pepys and a friend walked between Mortlake and Richmond, took a boat to Teddington and then completed their day out by walking to Hampton Court Palace where they joined their wives: 'and were showed the whole house by Mr Marriott; which is indeed nobly furnished...'

As part of a complicated deal to acquire the land which now forms Kew Gardens, in 1772 King George III agreed to rebuild the towpath between Old Place Lane north towards the bend in the river. Even today the path suddenly switches from being wide and well maintained to something wilder here.

The new riverside walk soon became a popular spot for locals and visitors alike. When the King stayed at Kew Palace, he and his family could often found on the riverbank. In April 1775, Thomas Campbell walked from Kew Bridge to Richmond, where he met the King 'with a single gentleman and two of the Princes. I did know him till I was cheek for jowl with him...and then I took off my hat.'

Perhaps the monarch was admiring the sheep which once grazed by local butchers in the common ground between Asgill House and the River.

COVID-19

Teresa Read

Cases of COVID-19

From the World Health Organization this week:

- “Globally in the past week, cases of COVID-19 have remained at approximately 4 million new cases, while new deaths have continued to increase to over 69 000. This brings the cumulative numbers to over 61.8 million reported cases and 1.4 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic.”
- “There are currently more than 100 COVID-19 vaccine candidates under development, with a number of these in the human trial phase. WHO is working in collaboration with scientists, business, and global health organizations through the ACT Accelerator to speed up the pandemic response.”

Total cases to 4 December 2020

2,965 Richmond-upon-Thames 3,393 Kingston-upon Thames 5,643 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 1,494,668

USA 271,233

Brazil 174,515

India 139,188

Mexico 107,565

The United Kingdom 59,699

Italy 57,045

France 53,455

Iran 49,348

Spain 45,784

Russian Federation 41,607

Argentina 39,156

Colombia 37,117

Peru 36,076

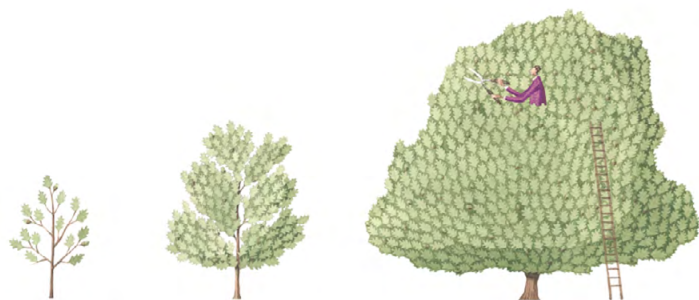
South Africa 21,709

Poland 18,208

Germany 17,602

Indonesia 17,355

Belgium 16,911



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

In the News

- The first batch of the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine was dispatched to the UK from Belgium this week.
- The University of Oxford, in collaboration with AstraZeneca plc, announced interim trial data from its 'Phase 3' trials - which involved University College London Hospitals - that show its candidate vaccine is effective at preventing COVID-19 and offers a high level of protection.
- On 23 November Professor Andrew Pollard, Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and Chief Investigator of the Oxford Vaccine Trial, said:
'These findings show that we have an effective vaccine that will save many lives. Excitingly, we've found that one of our dosing regimens may be around 90% effective and if this dosing regimen is used, more people could be vaccinated with planned vaccine supply.'
- Scores of Imperial College researchers are racing to create a vaccine to combat the coronavirus COVID-19. Professor Robin Shattock and his team in Imperial College London's Department of Infectious Disease developed a candidate vaccine within 14 days of getting the sequence from China.
- Also from Imperial College London this week:
"Steroid inhalers used for conditions such as asthma and COPD may help prevent COVID-19 from entering the lungs, suggests a new study.

Steroid inhalers are prescribed for patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) – an umbrella term for conditions such as bronchitis and emphysema."

- And this week the Tribune heard from Swansea University regarding a research study of NHS frontline workers investigating whether seaweed could be a powerful ally in preventing COVID-19. This is in early trials but the product (which contains Carragelose) is sold in a nationwide chemist chain. We are waiting for further information on this small clinical trial.

COVID-19

Avoid places where the three Cs come together

Crowds, Closed spaces, Close contact

Follow strict personal hygiene advice, wear a mask
and keep indoor areas well ventilated

DO IT ALL

www.twickenhamtribune.com

High praise given to our parks and open spaces

The borough has scored highly for customer satisfaction and management in two annual reports that rate parks and open spaces in London and beyond.

Richmond upon Thames ranked fourth in the [Good Parks for London annual report](#), an increase from eighth position last year. The borough scored highly for public satisfaction (scoring 97%) and collaboration for the delivery of its park services through its partnerships, for example with the voluntary sector.

The borough also received the second highest parks customer satisfaction score in the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) 'Parks, open spaces and horticultural services performance indicator standings 2019/20' report.



Residents are reminded of the many benefits to wellbeing of spending time outdoors in the borough's many open and green spaces. Why not take part in a local photography competition to showcase and celebrate the borough's local habitats and heritage? Find out more about the [photo competition](#).

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, said: *"Parks and open spaces have never been so visible and important as in this past year. The pandemic and its lockdowns have led many residents to turn to green spaces for refuge. As such, I am really happy that our parks have been recognised as some of the best in London and beyond!"*



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Free flu vaccinations rolled out to over 50s

People aged 50 to 64 can now receive a free flu vaccine as part of the expanded flu vaccination programme this winter.

This age group has been newly added to this year's national flu vaccination programme in response to the additional health risks associated with coronavirus. Catching flu and coronavirus at the same time could have serious consequences for your health and put our healthcare system under strain, so it is vital that as many people as possible eligible for the flu jab receive the flu vaccine.

Speak to your GP or pharmacist to book yours.

The other groups eligible for a free flu vaccine are:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- Those who have an underlying health condition (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease or a chronic neurological disease)
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2-3 years old
- All primary school children and those in year 7
- Household contacts of those on the NHS shielded patient list for COVID-19
- Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
- Frontline health and social care workers



Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Services, Health & Housing Committee and the Richmond Health & Wellbeing Board, said:

"In the context of the pandemic, it's more important than ever that we take action to protect the NHS and health care resources for those who need them most this winter. The flu jab takes no time at all and will help stop you and your loved ones from getting a nasty illness this winter. So, even if you have never had a flu vaccine before, please play your part and get your flu jab!"

Further information about [flu jabs](#).

Volunteer in Kenya



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Onions of Marble Hill Park

By Kas Rasenberg

The volunteers of Marble Hill Park have been planting a few neat rows of alliums in the Kitchen Garden. Allium is a genus of plants, to which we owe varieties such as the Japanese bunching onion and the Zebrune shallots. Most of these plants are flowering perennials, which occur in the temperate climates of the Northern Hemisphere. They are frequently visited by a variety of diurnal foragers, including the monarch butterfly and the large yellow underwing moth.

The *allium cepa* – or the common onion – might be one of our most cultivated specimens. Their little bulbs are of a perishable nature and their cultivation leaves little trace. It is said that only a few of their archaeobotanical remains are to be found in the stratum of our planet. Archaeologists have, however, uncovered the charred fragments of a wild onion in the Chihuahuan desert, which dated back nearly ten-thousand years.

Thus it is that remnants of the *allium cepa* have been more commonly preserved in the manuscripts of ancient philosophers and natural historians. The vegetable is mentioned in Biblical scriptures and has occurred in the sarcophagi of Egyptian pharaohs, who believed the onion to have a certain sanctity and who have depicted it on the frescoes of their tombs. The hieroglyphs on the Pyramid of Khufu, or so Herodotus wrote, recorded a ration of onions and radishes and garlic. It is said that these were all consumed by the labourers by whom the monument was built.

Not only the ancient Egyptians depicted the humble onion on their temples and sepulchres. Some of the most beautiful paintings of these botanical relics have been found in Herculaneum and Pompeii, where a whole civilisation lies buried under layers of Vesuvian ash and debris. It is said that these paintings were seen by the French painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir during his sojourn across the Mediterranean. In a letter to noted collector Madame Charpentier, he expressed his admiration for their simplicity. His own later depiction of the vegetables on a kitchen table might have been inspired by his Italian trip.

The onions of Renoir are simple. No allegorical undertones are present in the light that falls on their little bulbs. And perhaps it is, therefore, that Renoir's painting contains a particular beauty. The onion is simply what it is – one of the small wonders that will be found in the Kitchen Garden of Marble Hill Park some day soon.





THAMES LUMINARIES

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

Nine historic places, linked by the Thames, celebrate their landscape, history and luminaries via zoom at 7pm hosted by broadcaster and literary critic Prof. Judith Hawley.

- 27TH JAN** **Within the garden walls at Hogarth's House**
- 28TH JAN** **A painter's garden: J.M.W. Turner and the grounds of Sandycombe Lodge**
- 29TH JAN** **Alexander Pope: the poet and the poetic landscape**
- 3RD FEB** **Chiswick House, William Kent, and the birth of the English Landscape Movement**
- 4TH FEB** **Marble Hill: Howard and her garden of grottos and groves**
- 5TH FEB** **Strawberry Hill: The open grove in which Walpole explored 'the gaiety in nature'**
- 10TH FEB** **Fishponds, great cedars and Jayne Mansfield :renovating the historic landscapes of Boston Manor Park for the 21st century**
- 11TH FEB** **Pleasure Garden to Parkland: The Changing Landscape of Orleans**
- 12TH FEB** **17th to 21st century - is Ham House Garden still a garden of contemporary ideas?**

SUGGESTED DONATION £5 PER TALK, TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE ORGANISATIONS

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/POPESGROTTO



Petitions

Stop the introduction of parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park

The Royal Parks intend to introduce car parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park. This is an indefensible proposal, particularly at a time when the link between poverty, obesity and poor health has been so clearly highlighted by the impact of Covid 19.

Spending time in the park is one of the very few free and healthy options for families and individuals. It is essential for people's mental and physical well being that access to the parks is encouraged rather than restricted. If, as a society, we really want to fight obesity we must continue to provide spaces for free and healthy exercise.

During lockdown, a much more diverse and geographically widespread group of people discovered the joys of Bushy and Richmond Park; this is a cause for celebration and should be viewed as a positive and healthy development and encouraged as much as possible.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

Accept the proposal to reinstate a Lido on Twickenham Riverside

During consultations with local stakeholders it has become clear that there is a wish to bring back a Lido on Twickenham Riverside.

A Lido on Twickenham Riverside would provide a leisure and sport facility for the people of Twickenham and surrounding areas.

More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

Such a facility on Twickenham Riverside would act as a Magnet and contribute to the rejuvenation of the town. The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

Return the borough to 30mph

Petition the Council to restore the 30mph speed limit

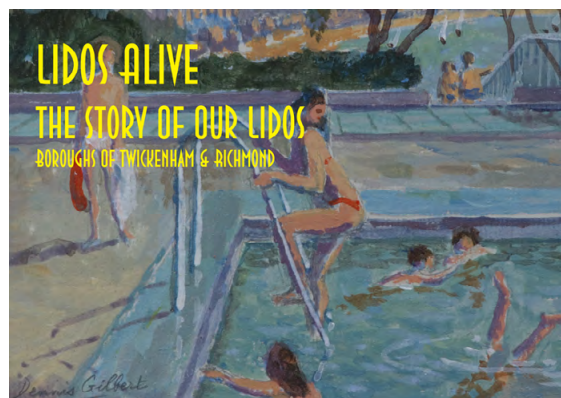
There has been an increase in dangerous and aggressive driving since the introduction of the 20mph speed limit.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

An Ideal Present for just £6

Lidos Alive – the Story of Our Lidos - is a 63-page A5 book with colour photos and illustrations full of interesting information about the history of outdoor swimming in the Borough and the rise of the lido. Contents include Mereway Bathing Place, pools in Bushy Park, Hampton Pool, Teddington Pool, Hampton Wick, Tagg's Island, Marble Hill, Twickenham Baths, Pools on the Park and other interesting stories.

To purchase a book contact info@TwickenhamTribune.com





Redwings visiting us and feeding along the Hedgerow and Trees bordering the Churchview Road Garages site by Trafalgar Infant School's Playing field.

This sports' area was built on part of the MOL. The habitat and remaining dark space is ever decreasing for our precious wildlife. A [new Appeal](#) has been launched by Developers to build two new houses of three storeys in height here.

We buried a redwing on Wednesday which fell victim to one of the many domesticated animals due to the impact of housing in this congested area. Nineteen back gardens have been lost in Churchview Road to add

to the 75 flats and new vicarage.

Campbell Road itself has lost the old Vicarage and its large garden to five new builds and a block of flats and opposite these is another block built on our previous corner shop. I think we have given to the housing market in West Ward and we need our precious Green Spaces protected for our own wellbeing. The footfall on the opposite bank of the River Crane (which is only 40 metres away from the proposed build site) was recorded as 1000 in 2019 and 2500 in 2020. Permitted development rights have exploded the loft/extensions along Lincoln Avenue also bordering this narrowest part of the river making it vulnerable to pollution.

The area immediately behind the Appeal site is designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation SMINC but this is not even mentioned in the newly submitted Ecology Impact statement which also fails to note other important details of relevance for the protection of this dark space and rare site. The timing of this Appeal is months after the deadline for submissions but which has been allowed and gives us only until [22nd December to launch contesting evidence](#) against their seven-document case.



Happy Christmas good neighbours!

If you think that building over the garages' narrow imprint is unacceptable please make a representation on the above link.

[Website](#) [Instagram](#)

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

BEST FESTIVE FOODIE GIFTS FOR FAR FLUNG FRIENDS & FAMILY

Well, the Christmas lights are being switched on, and with Christmas this year being so dependent on mail order, I thought it opportune to suggest a few foodie gifts that you might think about ordering now to go direct to the recipient. I've already covered chocolate gifts in an earlier column, so this week I'm looking at a few different angles to inspire you.

The Boozy gifts:

For the brandy lover, I would eschew France this year and head to Italy. **Vecchia Romagna Etichetta Nero brandy** not only comes in a beautiful bottle, but it's widely available and well priced! A fine, luxury, brandy distilled in the traditional method from Trebbiano grapes, it's smooth, well-rounded with hints of dried fruit, spices and a hint of honey. Widely available at under £30 a bottle, inc. delivery, from Master of Malt, Waitrose Cellar, Amazon.



If you want to send a very special whisky to someone, then look no further than the **The Dalmore 12 Year Old Sherry Cask Select**. This Highland Single Malt finished in oloroso and Pedro Ximénez sherry casks reveals floral, light and refined notes. It's a truly decadent whisky, full of sweet fruits and autumnal spice. From [The Whisky Shop](#), in store and online. at around £70,

Cocktail card anyone? If you just want to send a token present, or a gift to cheer someone up, try a **'Cocchi Negroni In A Box'**, a portable version of the world's most iconic cocktail. The winning trio of Cocchi Vermouth di Torino, London Dry Gin and Campari follows the traditional recipe. All they need is ice and orange peel to complete this classic cocktail. 100 ml 20.6% ABV- is available nationwide at [The Whisky Exchange](#), Drinks Supermarket and other selected retailers RRP £8.25 / single RRP £39.95 / pack of 5



The 'Cheesy' Ones:



A one-off 'hamper' - or perhaps a subscription? You can even 'cheese' (sic) the county! For example **Sharpham** will supply their Essential Devon Cheese Board, which has five cheeses, including the Devon classics: Sharpham Ticklemore Goat; Quicke's Mature Cheddar and Devon Blue, plus a 'Grader's Choice' from both Sharpham and Quicke's. All this for under £30 inc delivery. Or you can include some of their excellent wines – check out the website [sharpham.com](#)

If Yorkshire is more to your liking, try **Shepherd's Purse** – its wonderful 'Fettle' and blue cheeses are delicious. You can also send a ['Kiss & Squeeze'](#) of fruitcake and cheese or ['Love Ewe'](#) a selection of award winning sheep milk cheese.



But if you want your gift to 'go down a bomb', how about sending a bomb? Only joking, but a Truffle Cheese bomb from [The Cheese Merchant](#) would be lovely. It's exclusive to them and £9.95 + next day delivery when ordered before midday (Monday-Thursday). It sounds fabulous and is packed with real black truffles, not truffle oil.

The 'Hampery' Ones:

Where does one start? For a very upmarket gift I'd visit [Kings Fine Foods](#) for caviar, champagne, smoked salmon and all other sybaritic delights. The company supplies lots of our top restaurants and hotels, so the quality is assured. You can even send Christmas breakfast! A fabulously decadent hamper with champagne, caviar (and mother of pearl spoons to sup it with), smoked salmon, coffee and marmalade – all presented in a stylish hat box. £125, for a very special and indulgent start to the festivities.



Another excellent company is [Barbury Hill](#), a brand-new online shop, offering UK nationwide delivery; that brings together the very best of independent food and drink producers, not readily available from the high street. And of course, now, more than ever, we should be supporting small and British, and **Barbury Hill's** carefully chosen products are ideal for discerning foodies.



If preserves are more to your liking, then **The Cherry Tree** will be your answer. They offer free UK delivery on orders over £30 too. You name it, you'll find it, and there are fun stocking filler/Secret Santa 'Tube to Go' stacks of taster jars too in all manner of categories from Curry, to Sweet or Savoury. You could even send a 'Ploughman's' lunch! (the chutneys are excellent) cherrytreepreserves.co.uk



The 'Kitty' Ones (not feline):

For younger family members you could look at Little Cooks a monthly subscription based recipe kit that's posted through the letterbox, direct to kids, in a neat 100% recyclable box with compostable packaging. The box is packed with all the natural and healthy dry ingredients of that month's delicious recipe for kids to bake in the home. [Little Cooks Co](#) is a great for parents, grandparents etc. to give to children this Christmas. There is also a giving back element; Every box bought pays for a vulnerable schoolchild in the UK to receive a healthy breakfast through its partnership with the charity Magic Breakfast.



A brining kit from the UK's only World BBQ Champion makes a unique gift. Jackie Weight runs [BBQ Workshop](#) and also produces a fabulous range of rubs for meat and poultry. Her brining recipe's legendary and you can now buy it in kit form for just £6.99, but while you're at it you'll probably want to add her gift pack of four essential BBQ rubs too or perhaps go the whole hog and send a voucher for one of her BBQ workshops – something to look forward to after our winter of discontent!



And talking of something to look forward to, most good restaurants and hotels will be delighted to sell you a voucher to be redeemed in 2021. Our hospitality industry has had such a hard time of late; it's good to support them, even if you aren't 'allowed' to dine there at the moment with folk from outside your household!

Hopefully these suggestions have given you some food for thought. I would, though, urge you to check last order dates to ensure Christmas delivery.

REMEMBER! CONCORDE

By Doug Goodman

Do you remember that deafening sound as Concorde flew over Twickenham around 18.00 every evening?

Just 53 years ago on 11th December 1967 the first supersonic aircraft was unveiled to the world. Five years earlier a contract had been signed between British Aerospace and the French group Aerospatial for the design and construction of a supersonic passenger plane and this launch in Toulouse was the first step towards an amazing new form of air travel. Between 1966 and 1979 20 of the revolutionary planes were built and the very first flight took place in 1969. Passenger services were inaugurated in 1976 and continued for 27 years until the final flight from New York to Heathrow in 2003.

British Airways and Air France bought the aircraft but the anticipated world-wide sales never materialised. The highly uneconomic consumption of fuel and noise pollution were key factors in the lack of sales. The three hour flight from London to New York filled the aircraft with 100 business travellers and movie star who enjoyed fine food and wines in a comfortable but rather cramped cabin. It was a club for the elite who put time saved before the high cost of flying supersonic. In-flight catering was indeed superb with even a choice of vintage wines. I was once given not just one Jamaican cigar at the end of a flight but a whole box! But it wasn't an aircraft exclusively for the rich: charter flights to world-wide destinations and one hour forty minute 'trips round the bay', when anyone could enjoy a treat, were opened up.

I was so fortunate to have had the chance to fly on Concorde 13 times - to the Arctic Circle, Toulouse, Egypt and Istanbul. My daughter Emily had a Christmas flight age eight but seemed more impressed by the traditional lunch than travelling at twice the speed of sound. During Concorde's life span around 2.5 million passengers had flown on 50,000 flights. Of the 20 aircraft produced 14 were used to carry passengers and freight. If you missed the elegance and noise of this amazing aircraft you can see Concorde preserved in museums in the UK, France and North America. There's Concorde at the Brookland's Museum in Surrey and one at the Fleet Air Arm Museum.



Fleet Air Arm Museum



Commemorating the First Flight



Flight Deck



At the Arctic Circle



Mach Meter

Further funding for local businesses announced

A further £3.96m pot of cash is now available for local businesses who have been impacted by the pandemic – with grants of up to £10k to be paid out.

Eligible businesses can now apply for the Council's discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant to help them manage the impact of the pandemic.

The scheme is aimed at businesses who have not been eligible for or received a grant or relief under any of the other Council administered COVID-19 financial support schemes, including the Small Business Grant, Extended Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief or Local Restrictions Support Grant.



Grants will be awarded according to the level of fixed ongoing property costs:

- For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, a one-off grant of £2,000
- For properties with a rateable value of over £15k and below £51k, a one-off grant of £5,000
- For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over, a one-off grant of £10,000

The funding is aimed at supporting businesses with their ongoing fixed property-related costs for example, rental or lease commitments and this means it will not be available for those businesses run from domestic properties. Applicants must also be able to demonstrate that they have seen a significant drop of income due to coronavirus restriction measures.

The Council will undertake a series of checks on the information provided by businesses.

For more information, or to apply view [Additional Restrictions Grant](#).

Cllr Robin Brown, Lead Member for Finance and Resources at Richmond Council, said:

“Many borough businesses have faced very serious financial challenges due to the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions. We have already paid out in excess of £44 million in grants to nearly 3,000 businesses, in addition to over £49 million in COVID related business rate relief covering over 2,000 businesses to help support those most in need.

This is a new grant. And we will again go the extra mile to help as much as we can and process applications quickly.

If your business is eligible, for example those businesses in the events industry or suppliers in the hospitality sector, then please apply via the Council's website and we will process payments as quickly as possible. We encourage people in Richmond upon Thames to spread the word and share the details of the scheme with those businesses they are aware of that might be eligible for support. This funding will be a hugely important lifeline for many of our businesses, and we will be working tirelessly to ensure that every single penny reaches those eligible as quickly as possible.”

A spectacular sunset over Twickenham

Photo by Ruth Wadey (Twitter [@ruths_gallery](#))



Hampton Pool Survey

We would like to know your feedback around improvements we can make to make it easier to get to the pool other than by car.

How can Hampton Pool help you be greener in how you travel to the pool?

We know congestion and pollution is something we all worry about.

We are keen to understand how you travel to Hampton Pool currently and whether we can make changes that would encourage you to walk or cycle to the pool, helping reduce congestion and improve air quality.

Please complete the short survey [HERE](#)



Tick off your Christmas shopping list locally

With the second lockdown over and COVID-secure businesses reopening, residents across the borough are strongly encouraged to shop locally this Christmas to support the local and independent businesses that make our high streets unique.

Richmond upon Thames has been placed under Tier 2 restrictions meaning businesses and venues can reopen under certain conditions from Wednesday 2 December 2020)

To encourage everyone to support their local business community, Richmond Card has teamed up with Visit Richmond to continue the #RichmondShopsLocal campaign. Keep an eye on the Council's social media channels this month, as well as the [Visit Richmond](#) pages, for shopping highlights in all of the Town Centres. View the [Richmond Card](#) offers list to bag a Christmas deal!

The Council is working closely with many local businesses to ensure their shops are safe to reopen for staff and customers.

CLLr Richard Baker, Lead Member for Business, Economics and Employment for Richmond Council, said:

“The coronavirus pandemic has caused huge amounts of stress for our high-street businesses with many struggling to survive. Lots of residents will own or be employed by our local businesses and it's important that we support our local community as much as possible during this tough year.

“Gifts from local shops always have more meaning and sentiment behind them rather than something ordered from a huge faceless online retailer. So, play your part this Christmas to help your local community and shop local!”



Christmas in Church Street Post Lock Down

By Shona & Bruce Lyons

In the last month with just a few Church Street Traders able to stay open, many others were furiously painting and refurbishing their shops behind the scenes, getting in their Christmas Stock ready to re-open with a bang once Lock Down was over. The Christmas trees are up, the street has all its Christmas Lights on and windows are sparkling with Xmas decorations. Please come and support your local shops in what is known as the Jewel in the Crown of Twickenham and enjoy the heady atmosphere of Christmas in this lovely street perhaps at its best time of year, browsing the shops with a locally brought mulled drink & buying your Christmas trees, wreaths or finding that special present or gift voucher amidst our fantastic mixture of unique & enterprising traders.

Welcome to Xmas in Church Street, Twickenham, COVID-19 Style. In this last lockdown our little band of traders have been beavering away to create the warmest of welcomes to help banish your COVID Blues.

Difficult times!! But the Xmas lights and windows displays in the street this year are second to none. Perhaps this year the most exuberant ever. It really is a triumph over adversity with the traders during the months of lock down thinking ahead, trying to make the best out of the situation, the street is literally a beacon of light in the dark.



Dear Sir,

Compulsory Purchase of Diamond Jubilee gardens

Thank you so much for your wonderful newsletter which I discovered relatively recently. I am appalled to read of the council's plans for compulsory purchase of Diamond Jubilee gardens. I don't seem to have read or seen anything about this elsewhere & seeing as it surely now belongs to us given the 125 years decision made by the previous administration, what should we be doing to prevent this - no one I have mentioned it to locally knew anything about it.

Surely the council needs exposing in National media since they crow about their environmental credentials, and their very name contains the word Democrats! What can us ordinary residents do to help stop this travesty of justice? And to get more awareness of this plan? I am not sure where to start. It was only in the Tribune that I was made aware of it. I was in the Gardens yesterday after feeding the swans & it was full of happy kids in the playground & mums chatting. It's a lovely thing to have off the high street. Especially in these times when open space is so crucial to our health.

I do miss the postcard chappie by the way!

Kindest regards & thank you for the magazine, it wakes me up every Saturday morning.

Name and Address supplied (East Twickenham)

Dear Sir,

Avian Flu warning

Your readers may be interested in the new conditions to protect poultry and captive birds, which are being introduced.

The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland and Wales have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds, following a number of cases of avian influenza in both wild and captive birds in the UK.

The new housing measures, which will come into force on 14 December, mean that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.

Minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

Whether you keep just a few birds or thousands, from 14 December onwards you will be legally required to keep your birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds. We have not taken this decision lightly, but it is the best way to protect your birds from this highly infectious disease.

More information can be found [here](#)

Name and Address Supplied (Twickenham)

To The Twickenham Tribune

Hedge removed from alongside Twickenham Cemetery on Hospital Bridge Road

This action by the Council appears to have slid by unnoticed by the media, more updates on Facebook Whitton Village pages. Hospital Bridge Road is also the site of a new secondary school being built on Metropolitan Open land.

The cemetery is a wildlife haven, removing the habitat is not good husbandry in the light of Countryfile’s exhortation to Plant Britain.

One does get the impression the council doesn’t care about Whitton yet it is a real community.

Residents were told: “We can confirm that unfortunately due to recent thefts of machinery and equipment, through the boundary in question at Hospital Bridge Road the Parks Team has taken the decision to install new powder-coated galvanised metal palisade fencing to secure the site and prevent further incidents.”

The Parks Team told residents that all existing hedge species would recover from coppicing and the only vegetation being fully removed were self-seeded tree saplings so that they do not interfere or damage the new fencing.

From a concerned resident (With thanks to FB Whitton Village for comments from the Council)
Name and address supplied

Light Up At Night!!



Stay Safe
When cycling at night
always use a light

A Twickenham Tribune Campaign
www.TwickenhamTribune.com

Redevelopment of Twickenham Studios

At our Twickenham Studios campus in St Margarets we have been delivering world class Films and TV for over 100 years. In that time, we have achieved some extraordinary success from our cutting-edge facilities, including Oscar-winning sound work on Bohemian Rhapsody just last year amongst many others. We now want to build on that success while reimagining ourselves as more a part of the local community here in St Margarets.

As part of a consultancy site redevelopment phase we have submitted initial proposals which would see the introduction of new creative space on St Margarets Road providing studios, private offices and shared flexi workspaces for the creative industries and the community to collaborate and thrive in. The new building would provide the opportunity to complete the corner of St Margarets Road and The Barons with active frontage onto the already vibrant high street. Once again providing the studios with the High Street presence that it originally enjoyed from its inception in 1913.

With the introduction of a boutique screening cinema and cafe/bar as part of the redevelopment, TW1 would also support the local economy and add an exciting new facility to the community - complementing existing local restaurants, pubs, cafes and shops.



Overall our goal is to make the Twickenham Studios sustainable for the next 25 years and beyond, so we also want to improve our offering to lead the way with the latest innovation trends and technologies whilst also allowing us to play a wider role in our neighbourhood.

To do that our initial plans are for targeted improvements across our estate. We are sharing all our initial plans with local neighbours and key community members before any planning applications are made - so as to and provide those interested with an opportunity to understand our plans and provide us with any feedback.

Any questions as part of TW1 Consultation:

TW1Studiosconsultation@cratus.co.uk / 020 3929 0523

TWICKENHAM
STUDIOS

St Mary's University Update

St Mary's University Welcomes Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Great Britain

Archbishop Nikitas of Thyrateira and Great Britain, the leader of the Greek Orthodox faith in Great Britain, visited St Mary's University, Twickenham on 3rd December.

During his visit, Archbishop Nikitas met with Chair of Governors Bishop Moth, Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran and senior academics from the University's interfaith dialogue and modern slavery research teams.

Room, which welcomed faith leaders from across the United Kingdom. St Mary's recently hosted a day of events and conversations to celebrate the legacy of this visit on its tenth anniversary, which can be view on the University's website.

The University also welcomed the global leader of the Greek Orthodox faith, His All-Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople

in 2015. During his visit, the Ecumenical Patriarch spoke on Religion in Dialogue: The Importance and Imperative of Dialogue in our World, to mark the then fifth anniversary of the Papal visit to St Mary's.

Speaking of the visit of Archbishop Nikitas, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor said, "We were honoured to welcome Archbishop Nikitas to our beautiful



The visit facilitated discussion of areas of collaboration between the Greek Orthodox faith and the University, particularly in the area of combating the crime of Modern Slavery, which Archbishop Nikitas has also spoken on.

The dialogue forms part of St Mary's mission to facilitate interfaith conversation following the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the University as part of his State Visit in 2010. During his visit, the Holy Father hosted an interfaith forum in the Waldegrave Drawing

Strawberry Hill campus. I am proud to lead a University, which places interfaith dialogue at the core of its mission and that we have been able to continue to the conversation started by the visit of His All Holiness Bartholomew I in 2015. I am confident that following our latest discussions, we will see further collaboration in key shared areas of interest, including in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

RuTC Music students go live online for Winter Music Concert

On Wednesday 25 November, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) Music students hosted their annual Winter Music Concert, for the first time ever live online on Facebook. As safety guidelines are currently challenging the usual ways of performances, Music students and staff came up with an alternative that made the concert available to a wider audience, who could enjoy the amazing skills of the students from the comfort of their own home.

Every year, students choose a charity to which the proceedings of the concert go to. This year's choice was Dementia UK, who provide Admiral Nurses for families affected by dementia. Throughout the concert, streamed live on Facebook, informational clips of the charity were included to highlight the amazing work they are doing. As the concert was available to watch for free, an online donation page was set up. Not even halfway through the concert, the target of £100 was reached and by the end, the audience donated the incredible amount of £405.



Dementia UK commented, *“This will make such a difference. All the money you’ve raised will help our dementia specialist nurses be a lifeline to families who are struggling to cope with the relentless pressures of caring for a loved one with dementia. Thank you so much. The more money wonderful supporters like you raise, the more nurses we’re able to fund and the more families we can help in their time of need.”*

For the Music students, this was a completely new way of showing their skills. Although the feedback from an energetic in person audience was missing, viewers commented throughout the entire concert without pausing. Comments ranged from “an amazing performance” to “that was epic”, “some serious talent here”, “massive respect for the sound team, too” and much more.

During the concert, two of the Music students not only sang, but also took over the role of hosts, introducing each musician and act. Music ranged from self-composed spoken words and songs to covers in contemporary pop, rap, 90s and 2000s hits, classical piano pieces and James Bond theme songs.

Music students commented that the concert was a unique experience as it was the first online event they have done without an in person audience. Some were more nervous than they would have been at a normal concert because of the unknown of how many people were watching. However, hosting a concert in this way enabled them to re-watch their performance which students found a positive benefit.

Peter Garvey, Performing Arts Lecturer at RuTC, said, *“Students’ reactions to this online concert and what it did to their nerves was very different, but they all did brilliantly. Although the in person audience was missing, the concert opened up the possibility to be watched by so many people, I even heard from former Music students and staff that they watched and enjoyed it.”*

The concert is still available to watch on RuTC’s Facebook page, which can be accessed [HERE](#) and donations to Dementia UK can still be made [HERE](#).



TRAVELLER'S TALES 85

BULGARIAN JOURNEY

Doug Goodman Visits the Balkan Land



Sofia, Bulgaria's capital is one of Eastern Europe's most rewarding cities for a long weekend break. It's cheap to get there on a low-cost airline, hotels offer very attractive prices and the cost of eating and drinking, by our standards, is low. Bulgaria as a holiday destination offers clean, sandy beaches, ski resorts, mountains to explore, ancient monasteries, vineyards to visit and a traditional way of life to experience. The country has borders with Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece and Turkey. These are The Balkans. In the east the Black Sea resorts stretch for 200 kms.



Alexander Nevski
Cathedral



Tomb of Georgi Dimitrov



Ceremonial Guards



Route Map

I've visited Bulgaria twice: once in 1979 when Todor Zhivkov was communist leader of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and a second time in the early 90s after the fall of communism when things were more relaxed. My first visit was to Sofia, the mountains, to Plovdiv, Veliko Tarnovo and a few days on the Black Sea. On my second trip I arrived by train from London on the Orient Express, spent a few hours in the capital and departed for Istanbul on the train pulled by a gleaming steam locomotive straight from a railway museum.

POLITICS

At a briefing before my visit in 1979 I was advised that Bulgarian security was as interested in foreign visitors as the KGB in Russia. As a regular visitor to the Soviet Union throughout the 70s I was well aware of surveillance and the need to be careful. Two curious events occurred in Sofia: my address book was stolen from my locked suitcase and one of my press guests was taken to meet the country's leader. The journalist had been given by Robert Maxwell, the Mirror Group boss, an illustrated book on the life of Todor Zhivkov.



Banya Bashi Mosque



Shipka. Russian Church



Plovdiv. Roman Amphitheatre

Bulgaria had always been close to Russia politically and through trade. Elite Soviet workers enjoyed holidays on the Black Sea in concrete resorts financed by Russia and since the demise of communism relations have remained good. In 1877 the siege of Plevna took place when joint Russian and Romanian armies fought the Ottoman Empire for the liberation of Bulgaria. The result was the restoration of Bulgaria and independence for Romania. Plevna has over 200 memorials to the victory and commemorates 38,000 soldiers who perished. In gratitude a Russian church was constructed.

SOFIA AND BEYOND

A weekend in the capital will provide the chance to see key sites and enjoy fine dining and night life. The city still has a Soviet feel about it with communist-style architecture and signs in the Cyrillic alphabet. The young people are European in outlook and you'll find them in the bars and restaurants in Vitosha Boulevard. Inspect the Alexander Nevski Cathedral finished in 1912 and the mosque built in 1566. Collections of fine art and folklore can be seen in the Royal Palace and the National Gallery of Foreign Art should be on your programme. Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second city some 150 kms from Sofia is the cultural capital with museums and an amazing Roman amphitheatre. Veliko Tarnovo is known as the medieval capital with fortresses, castles, palaces and churches dating from the 12th to 14th centuries. With an amazing mixture of ancient buildings in the old town it was one of my favourite places. The drive east to the Black Sea coast took us through vast area of vineyards where the fruity red wines are produced. Bulgaria was once the world's fourth largest wine producer. Mavrud from Thrace was my favourite to accompany the traditional meat dishes cooked with herbs and spices in a clay pot. But you'll find a huge range of wines to suit all tastes.



Veliko Tarnova



Black Sea Resort Sunny Beach



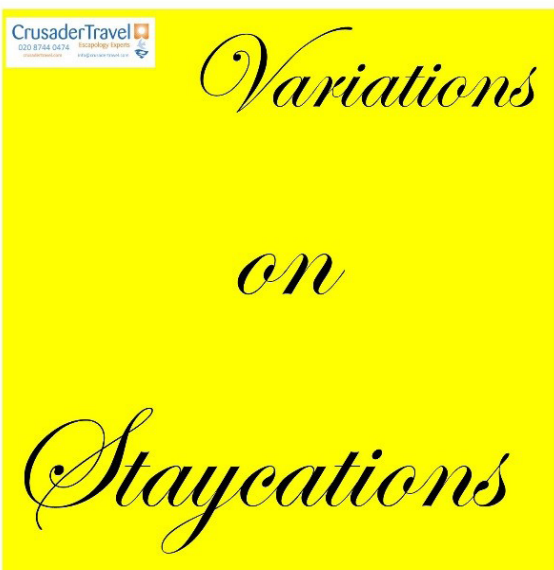
Leaving Sofia by Steam Train

SANDY BEACHES

Along the Black Sea coast there are quiet, tiny resorts and large noisy ones with plenty of entertainment. Sunny Beach, Golden Sands, Albena and Nessebar are found in the brochures of UK holiday companies where low prices have long been a key attraction. Sunny Beach, once dominated by skyscraper blocks 40 years ago, now has modern hotels with a wide range of sporting activities and shady restaurants away from the beach. The sand is fine and clean. The sea has no strong tides and hotels face east – ideal for watching sunrise. Nessebar, towards the south in between the cities of Varna and Burgas, is an ideal holiday location. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site with 40 churches, diving opportunities, sports, wine tours and museums. Bulgarians are friendly and helpful with a long tradition of offering hospitality to visitors. They are keen to try out their English as, even today in many parts of Bulgaria, foreign visitors are rare.

Staycation here we come!

By Bruce Lyons



As they say, there is always a Silver Lining and post-covid-19 there will be changes.

Even this summer the few that travelled, most stayed in the UK and as the summer wore on our partners turned their focus on creating new UK based programmes.

On the whole people are now less weary of our famous temperate climate and the rain, one benefit of global warming perhaps.

Despite all the good news of Vaccines and even though many of us will continue to travel overseas there does seem a new solid taste for UK experiences. Perhaps families will want to enjoy our history

and culture and there is a big selection to choose from, here are just a few choices.

Farms, Villas and Cottages. There was only a handful of suppliers and most focussed on modest Properties but now quite a few operators have added the UK to what was once just an overseas program, & stylish houses are far more obtainable from suppliers with a sound reputation for high standards.

There is still a massive supply of Holiday Parks and Mobile homes to rent, but for the more discerning there is now a wider choice of Coach Tours; here again there has been a lot of changes and with new programmes that include a lot of new Itineraries reaching into areas not previously visited.

There are Small Group Tours, Like Backroads staying at elegant small Inns and more. There are also themed tours for gardens with tour guides and others of special interests like fishing or golf.

Self-Drive tours & rail tours are also on the rise with 4/5/&6 night stays in 5* properties in areas of outstanding beauty. Some are focussed on the Scottish Castle Hotels, others use the Relais & Chateau chain, there are sure to be ones to Suit your taste.

Motorhome rentals can now be made in different part of the country and we have been requested not just to book these but also plan an itinerary of suitable stopping places to enjoy the area.

Activity Holidays. We now have a wide selection of cycling and walking vacations of levels to suit all and you can even join small groups of "self-Guided trips – your baggage gets transported each day to your next overnight!

What else. Well we have for long been running Rowing a la J K Jerome's Three men in a Boat We can organise Rowing down the Thames or Wey from May thru October for any length of duration, hire of boat, tow, B&B or camping which ever suits you.

So if you plan to reduce your carbon imprint just drop in and discuss your ideas, we here to help.
Happy Travelling!!!

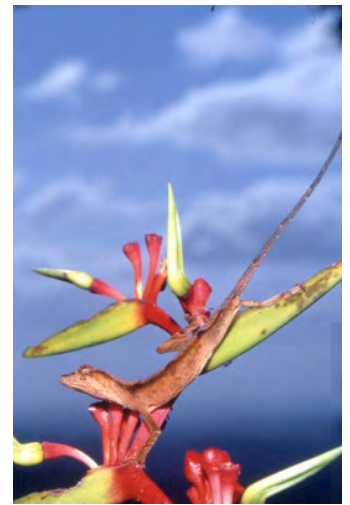
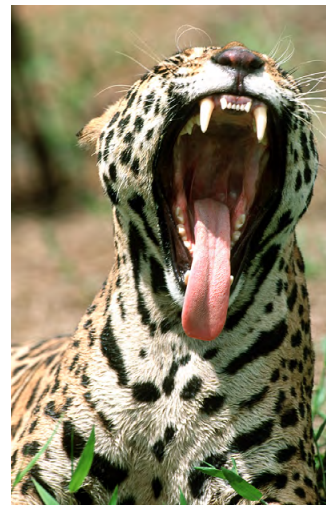


Guyana and Suriname are neighbouring countries in South America.

Guyana, a British colony in the 1830s, was called Guiana (land of many waters) by the early Amerindian inhabitants.

The country, known as British Guiana, gained Independent in 1966.

Amerindian Heritage Month in September celebrates the culture of the indigenous people of the region.



Photographs of [Guyana](#)

The photographs from Suriname are of Javanese dancers and indigenous people.

The arts in Suriname represent the diversity of ethnic groups in the country. Javanese dances in Suriname are based on the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Suriname was formerly known as Dutch Guiana; following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 Suriname became a Dutch possession.



Photographs of [Suriname](#)



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 37

4th December 2020

THE VISITOR

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: **THE VISITOR** was 676th film screened by RFS on 29th March 2011. **The Visitor** was the fourth ranked film of Season 48, it got an approval mark of 87% from those attending; from season 48 we have also already featured its top three ranked films **An Education**, and **The Counterfeiters** and **The Secret in Their Eyes**, as **Issues 24, 27 & 31** respectively). **The Visitor** does not appear to be available to be streamed but the disc is available from Amazon and others.

THE VISITOR

Country: USA, 2007
Director: Tom McCarthy
Screenplay: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Tom McArdle
Music: Jan A.P. Kaczmarek
Cinematography: Oliver Bokelberg
Running Time: 104 min., colour
Language: English/French/Arabic/Russian

Leading Players:

Richard Jenkins (Prof. Walter Vale)
Haaz Sleiman (Tarek Khalil)
Danai Gurira (Zainab)
Hiam Abbass (Mouna Khalil)
Marian Seldes (Barbara)
Maggie Moore (Karen)



Director Tom McCarthy's debut was the much-loved 2004 release **The Station Agent**, previously shown by RFS, in which Peter Dinklage starred as the title character coming to terms with his solitude. Solitude also plays a part in **The Visitor**, which boasts an impressive central performance from Richard Jenkins.

Jenkins - a character actor probably best known over here for his role as the deceased father in the TV series **Six Feet Under** - plays Walter, a widowed professor of globalisation based

in Connecticut whose job and indeed life offer him very few challenges. On a trip to his apartment in New York (where he is to give a paper) he discovers a young couple staying in his flat: he has been away for so long that it has been illegally sublet.

After some initial misunderstandings, Walter makes friends with the visitors - a Syrian man (Haaz Sleiman) and his Senegalese girlfriend (Danai Gurira). Soon Walter is learning to play the drums with his new flatmates and his lonely life is beginning to turn around. But when the authorities intervene to question the residential status of the two foreigners, Walter's new-found happiness is threatened.

Although this may sound bleak, it isn't. McCarthy, who also authored the script, injects plenty of charm and black humour and the talented cast make it easy to watch. In particular Jenkins, who grabs his leading man debut by the throat and delivers a fascinating performance. He is given able support, especially by Haaz Sleiman as his erstwhile drumming buddy.

It's as much a dig at the new society America has created since 9/11 as a study of one character, and audiences looking for something satisfyingly different and thought-provoking will be well rewarded.

after Tiscali.com





BRENTFORD FC



Bees claim bragging rights in derby

Brentford 2 – 1 QPR

Goals from Vitaly Janelt and Ivan Toney gave Brentford all three points from a Friday evening West London derby under the lights at the Brentford Community Stadium. Janelt had opened the scoring for the Bees inside the opening fifteen minutes but QPR hit back through Lydon Dykes shortly after.

Top scorer Toney scored a header just after the hour mark to put the Bees back ahead and they never looked back, with the points were confirmed when Todd Kane was dismissed for the visitors seven minutes from time.

The opening goal didn't take long to arrive and when it did, it came via a lovely sweeping finish from Janelt. The move started with Henrik Dalsgaard as the Dane drove out from defence and combined with Emiliano Marcondes on the right hand wing. Marcondes in turn fed the ball onto Bryan Mbeumo in space who cut infield and delivered a cross which Toney flicked on towards the back post. Rico Henry latched onto the flick on and set the ball back to the edge of the area where Janelt curled the ball low into the bottom corner past QPR keeper Seny Dieng.

The Bees could have gone two ahead minutes later after a Dieng failed to clear the ball from a back pass. His under hit clearance fell invitingly into the path of Marcondes but the Brentford player could only shoot at Dieng, who got down to his right hand side to save.

The visitors then levelled after a quick counterattack. Bright Osayi-Samuel picked up the ball inside his own half after a Tariqe Fosu cross had been cut out. The QPR midfielder then showed electric pace to escape challenges from both Henry and Janelt and then picked out an inch perfect cross for Dykes to smash the ball in from close range.

Things could have got worse for Brentford when Mads Bech Sørensen bundled into the back of Dykes right on the edge of the area with the QPR forward bearing in on goal. With Sørensen in the referee's notebook the game restarted with a free-kick that had David Raya diving as the ball brushed the side netting.

It took until after the restart for either side to break the deadlock once more and it came via a set piece. Receiving a pass from Janelt, Mbeumo dribbled towards the goal line and drew a foul from Chris Willock. From the subsequent delivery Marcondes picked out the head of Toney at the near post for his 12th Championship goal this season already.

Toney then nearly turned provider as he latched onto a ball over the top from Ethan Pinnock. The Championship's top scorer rolled the ball along the edge of the box to the opposite flank for Henry, who was arriving at pace. Henry took a touch to set himself and unleashed a powerful shot that deflected off Kane into the side netting.

Kane however would not complete the full 90 minutes at the Brentford Community Stadium as was

dismissed late on for a high challenge on substitute Marcus Forss. Having already been booked earlier in the second-half the yellow card from referee Matt Donohue ensured an early shower for the fullback.

Brentford had to defend one last free-kick into the box but it was headed away by Toney at the back and the referee's whistle immediately blew to confirm a win that made it seven without defeat for the Bees.

Bees make it eight unbeaten in a row

Barnsley 0 – 1 Brentford

Goals in the second-half from Marcus Forss and Ivan Toney, the latter from the penalty spot, ensured the Bees continued their fine run of recent form as they moved into the Championship play-off places.

The Bees were comfortable throughout and made their performance count in the second period with Toney setting up Forss for the first just before the hour mark. Toney then secured all three points inside the final 10 minutes as the Millers were reduced to 10 men which resulted in a penalty from which the Brentford striker converted.

Chances were at a premium in the first-half and the closest Brentford went was when a Josh Dasilva swung a cross into the back post. The ball came to Tariqe Fosu who is attempt to dribbled into the box but fell down and the chance came and went.

The home side went closest through a free-kick that dropped to Jamie Lindsay with some space in the box and the midfielder picked out a half volley that Toney was forced into heading it over the bar.

Soon after the interval a counterattack from Brentford nearly led to the opening goal. After a Rotherham attack had broken down the ball was quickly played up field to Toney who instantly played the ball short to Bryan Mbeumo. The Frenchman dribbled through the centre and forced Millers' defender Wes Harding to come across to cover. Forss was breaking into the vacated space and he drew a decent save from Jamal Blackman in goal for the home side.

Mbeumo was once again involved as the Bees fluency in attack begin to improve. Dasilva fired a ball down the line that found Mbeumo escaping the Rotherham backline and onside. Mbeumo tried to pick out his teammate Toney with a flat pass but the ball was cut out in the centre by Angus MacDonald.

However, Brentford recycled the ball and Toney knocked down a Fosu cross to the back post. Waiting for the pass was Forss who broke the deadlock with a good finish into the bottom corner.

All three points were secured late on when on the break Toney played the ball across to Sergi Canos who was fouled by Mickel Miller. Miller, who had only been on the pitch for little over 10 minutes, picked up his second booking and promptly left the pitch as quickly as he had entered it. Toney casually stepped up to lift the ball into the roof of the net as he scored for the three Brentford game in a row and make the game safe.

Bees drawn at home in FA Cup Third Round against Middlesbrough

Brentford will play at home the FA Cup Third Round against fellow Championship side Middlesbrough following the draw on Monday night.

The tie is scheduled to take place on the weekend on the 9-10th of January and will be another historic first at the Brentford Community Stadium as it is set to host its first ever game in England's

premier domestic cup competition.

Brentford enter the competition in this round due to them being in the Championship and will hope to exceed the run last reach in which they reached the Fourth Round before being knocked out by Leicester City.

This will be the second time Middlesbrough will have made the visit to the Bees this season having already met in the league where the teams played out a 0-0 draw in November.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Blackburn Rovers (H) Saturday 5th December 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: Rovers

Competition: Championship – Matchday 16

Manager: Tony Mowbray

Opponent record: P15 W7 D3 L5 GF29 GA17 (9th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Blackburn hold the FA record for the longest undefeated FA Cup run, going 24 games unbeaten between 1884 -86 (which included the three FA Cup wins)

Game 2

Opponent: Derby County (H) Wednesday 9th December 19:45 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Rams

Competition: Championship – Matchday 17

Manager: Wayne Rooney (interim)

Opponent record: P15 W1 D5 L9 GF7 GA22 (24th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Derby County were the first ever leaders in the Football League with a 6-3 away against Bolton Wanderers on 8th September 1888 in the opening round of fixtures.

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough



Back to back wins for the Beavers as they smash Billericay

Billericay Town 2 – 6 Hampton & Richmond

Hampton & Richmond made it two wins in a row in the league as they humbled Billericay town in an emphatic 6-2 victory. The Beavers had initially gone behind in the match to a goal from Ruben Soares Jr but a brace each from Ryan Gondoh and Niko Muir, couple with further strikes from Sam Deadfield.

It was the hosts that opened the scoring at New Lodge is a game packed full of goals. The game was just nine minutes old when Jake Robinson escape the Hampton backline and chipped the ball over his former teammate Alan Julian. Unfortunately for Hampton the ball rebounded invitingly off the post and into the path of Ruben Soares Jr, who tapped the ball in from inside the six yard box.

Their lead lasted just ten minutes however as Ryan Gondoh levelled things up with a brilliantly taken

individual strike. Dean Inman dribbled the ball out from central defence and fired the ball in at pace to Muir. Muir played it off to Gondoh just inside the Billericay half, who drove with goalwards with the ball and from 25 yards buried the ball into the bottom corner past Dion-Curtis Henry.

The turnaround was completed five minutes later as Wilson Carvalho released Muir down the left wing. Picking the ball up a fair distance from goal Muir still had a lot to do but he did fantastically to dribble past Ronnie Henry and finish from a tight angle.

Jai Reason then had a shot from distance for the home side that hit the base of the left post before rolling across the goal line, clipping the other post, but crucially not crossing the line and the Beavers maintained their advantage.

As half-time approached Hampton strengthened their lead as Gondoh turned provider as he cut in from the right wing and shot once again from outside the box. This time Henry was able to make a save from the winger but he could only palm the ball out and Deadfield reacted quickest inside the area to convert from close range.

It took just three minutes into the second-half for Hampton to score another and it was once again Gondoh who claimed the assist. Jake Gray initially found space of the left hand side of the pitch and delivered low along the ground to Gondoh. Gondoh then showed excellent presence of mind to slip the ball inside to Muir who finished into an unguarded net.

Billericay replied though Robinson after a good cross from the right back from Lawrie Wilson into the box, but Myles Anderson got his wires crossed in the box and his attempted clearance fell to Robinson who made no mistake with the finish.

On a very impressive afternoon's work Gondoh claimed his second of the game when a good tackle by Ruaridh Donaldson saw the ball break kindly for Gondoh who gleefully accepted and curled the ball into the bottom corner past former Hampton keeper Henry, who was not enjoying his reunion against his former employers.

The cherry of top came when substitute Minhas scored the best goal of the game seven minutes from the end. When Deadfield passed him the ball on the edge of the area there appeared to be little on but an excellent drop of the shoulder gave Minhas half a yard and it was all he needed as he emphatically curled the ball into the top corner to cap a remarkable performance for Hampton.

Beavers win again on their travels

Chippenham Town 0 – 3 Hampton & Richmond

Hampton & Richmond equalled their best ever run of away form in the National League South with a fifth consecutive away win that takes them up to 4th in the league.

After a slow first-half goals in the second from Ryan Gondoh, Ruaridh Donaldson and Niko Muir - all excellently taken finishes meant another happy away day for the Beavers together with a clean sheet.

In the first-half neither side could really get a strong foothold in the game and both sides were restricted to efforts on goal from distance.

Tom Harrison dribbled over the halfway line for the Bluebells and played the ball to Adam Mann on the turn. Mann's left footed shot from 25 yards had Alan Julian scrambling across in goal for Hampton but his effort drifted wide of the post.

A long free-kick from deep by Sam Cox presented the visitors with their first opportunity of note as they ball fell to Muir whose snapshot was blocked by Callum Gunner. The ball broke to Gondoh from the deflection and Will Puddy had to be alert in the Chippenham goal as Gondoh's shot swerved in the air.

Muir himself had another shot, this time from distance, but Puddy was once again equal to it as both sides struggled to create clear cut goalscoring opportunities.

The closet Hampton went was when Sam Deadfield received the ball inside the D after a throw in from Kyron Farrell had been worked infield. Deadfield shifted the ball onto his stronger left foot and unleashed and shot that deflected into the path of David Fisher but the young forward could not keep his balance and he shot over.

After the half-time break Hampton stepped up their attacking intensity and were rewarded almost immediately when Gondoh scored three minutes into the second-half. From the centre of the pitch Tyrell Miller-Rodney picked out the advancing Donaldson and the Scot broke away and crossed to the back post. Waiting there was Gondoh who still had a lot to do be it did it with aplomb and tucked the ball through the defenders' legs and into the bottom corner.

Chippenham then had a very strong appealed for a penalty turned away when Dean Inman was caught the wrong side of Brad Ash and brought down the striker inside the area.

The Beavers would capitalise on this and scored their crucial second with 13 minutes remaining with a remarkable goal from Donaldson. Farrell delivered a free-kick from just over the half-way line and the ball appeared to be sailing into the box harmlessly but Donaldson showed incredible athleticism to wrap his foot around the ball and volley the into the bottom corner.

The perfect away day was sealed soon after with a long ball over the top from Cox to Muir. Up against Harrison and from a tight angle Muir did remarkably well to hold the ball up and then spin away from the defender to get his shot off, that went straight past Paddy for a fantastic finish.

Hampton then defended resolutely for the remainder to see the game out and record a valuable away clean sheet.

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Game 1

Opponent: St Albans City (H) Saturday 5th December 15:00 Beveree

Nickname: The Saints

Competition: National League South – Matchday 11

Manager: Jamie O'Hara

Opponent record: P8 W6 D2 L0 GF12 GA4 (3rd in National League South)

Interesting fact: St Albans City hold the record for the most goals scored by a losing player in an FA Cup tie when Wilfred Minter scored seven for the Saints in an 8-7 defeat to Dulwich Hamlet back in 1922.

Come on you Beavers!

Twickenham Stadium prepares to welcome 2,000 fans

England Rugby is delighted to be able to welcome 2,000 fans to Twickenham Stadium for the final Quilter International of the Autumn Nations Cup on Sunday 6 December when England play France (KO 14.00 GMT).

RFU CEO Bill Sweeney said: *“We’re looking forward to seeing fans back in the stadium this weekend. While the numbers are limited, it is an opportunity to operate a socially distanced event as a small step forward in our plans for the return of fans to stadia.”*

“Our staff at the stadium have worked hard to put numerous measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those attending the game, including 400 NHS workers who have been invited as a thank you from the rugby family for all their sacrifice and hard work this year.”

“The team will be really pleased to have fans supporting them in person along with the thousands that will be watching on Amazon Prime Video.”

The information below outlines arrangements in place for fans this Sunday and match day presentation elements in the stadium bowl.

Tickets and seating

Twenty percent of the seats for the game have been gifted to local NHS workers, the remaining are for players families, local rugby clubs, sponsors and around 1,000 are on sale to local residents.

Of the 400 NHS workers offered tickets, 50 people selected by West Middlesex University Hospital and the Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust will be seated in the Royal Box.

Spectators will be seated in the lower tiers of the East and South stands and must be from a single household, which includes their support bubble.

To comply with NHS Test and Trace and to ensure safety throughout, every person attending the match will be required to have their own mobile ticket on their own device, via the Twickenham Stadium app. The only exceptions are for accompanied minors (those under 18 - where proof of age may be required) or for those people with a disability attending the match with a companion.

Entering the stadium

Tickets will direct spectators to enter the stadium via assigned entry gates either – A, E or F - depending on which is closest to a spectator’s allocated seat. There will be staggered entry times to prevent the build-up of queues outside the ground and queue lanes outside the stadium by Gates A, E and F and in the area around the statue (in front of Marriott hotel) to safely manage fans’ arrival.

Safety measures

The RFU has worked with Government and Richmond Council on the safety plans and procedures to allow fans to safely return, including the measures detailed below.

- Spectators living in tier 3, very high alert areas, will not be allowed to attend the fixture. Additionally, our ticketing strategy means the vast majority of the crowd will be from the local area, London and the South East. This is to minimise travel.
- 135 sanitiser stations to encourage good hand hygiene.
- Face coverings will be mandatory within the stadium, except when eating and drinking in their allocated seat.
- Staffing levels will be above normal for a crowd of this size to enforce social distancing and COVID measures.
- There will be no off-pitch entertainment or sponsor activations.
- Cleaning and waste collection regime will be increased.
- Spectators will be advised, as per government guidelines, to avoid busy times and routes on public transport, encouraging fans to cycle, walk or use private vehicles; Up to 1,000 parking spaces will be available for spectators in RFU controlled car parks for this match.
- Stadium will be segregated at the North East Corner and West Stand to prevent circulation.
- One way systems implemented throughout the venue.
- All spectators are required to read and sign up to a code of conduct and watch a mandatory 'what to expect' video before attending the game.
- Temperature checks will be in place on arrival.

Food and Beverage

- Restaurant style service will be available in both the Gate and Lock restaurants in the East stand for sponsors, hospitality guests, box holders and debenture holders. These will be pre-booked tables, following the same government guidance as restaurants – with only household and support bubbles being able to sit together.
- Food, alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available on the concourse at the Union 15 and West Cornwall Pasty Co. concessions. The Drop Kick bar will be open to serve drinks. These are open 90 minutes prior to kick off and will close 20 minutes before the final whistle. Alcoholic drinks must be consumed in a seat in the stadium bowl, in line with government guidance.
- On a typical match day there would be 41 food/drink units however this Sunday there will be three.

Anthem Singer

The National Anthem and Jerusalem will be sung by Elias Hendricks who has performed on many occasions at Twickenham Stadium. Elias and his group, Vox Fortura, sang at Twickenham in the last match before lockdown. The track played during the anthem will contain audio of the Twickenham crowd singing the National Anthem.



England team announcement - Quilter International (England v France)



Eddie Jones has named his England team to face France in a Quilter International this weekend.

England will host France at Twickenham Stadium in the final of the Autumn Nations Cup on Sunday [6 December, 2pm KO].

In the only change to the team that beat Wales at Parc y Scarlets last weekend, Anthony Watson comes in at right wing. Jonny May continues at left wing and Elliot Daly is at full back. Captain Owen Farrell stays at inside centre and Henry Slade at outside centre, while George Ford is at fly half and Ben Youngs at scrum half.

England's unchanged forward pack sees Mako Vunipola (loose-head prop), Kyle Sinckler (tight-head prop) and Jamie George (hooker) in the front row. The tight five is completed with Maro Itoje and Joe Launchbury. Tom Curry (blindsides) and Sam Underhill (openside) continue as flankers and Billy Vunipola, making his 50th start for England, is at No. 8. Joe Marchant returns from injury and is named as a finisher alongside Luke Cowan-Dickie, Ben Earl, Ellis Genge, Jonny Hill, Max Malins, Dan Robson and Will Stuart.

England reached the final after topping Pool A with wins over Wales, Ireland and Georgia.

Jones said: *"We're really looking forward to this final, playing France and having another chance to win a trophy this autumn. "We'd like to congratulate the tournament organisers on putting this on in difficult circumstances. "Over the past two months the players have put in real effort, worked very hard on and off the pitch and have met the protocols and new ways of working.*

"This has been another positive learning week with tough, hard training and we're looking forward to getting on the pitch in front of our fans and playing a good game of rugby."

England v France is live on Amazon Prime and BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra.

England XV Starters

- | | |
|---|---|
| 15. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 46 caps) | 1. Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 63 caps) |
| 14. Anthony Watson (Bath Rugby, 45 caps) | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 53 caps) |
| 13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 33 caps) | 3. Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 39 caps) |
| 12. Owen Farrell (C) (Saracens, 87 caps) | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 42 caps) |
| 11. Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 60 caps) | 5. Joe Launchbury (Wasps, 68 caps) |
| 10. George Ford (Leicester Tigers, 71 caps) | 6. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 27 caps) |
| 9. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 103 caps) | 7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 21 caps) |
| | 8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 55 caps) |

Finishers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 25 caps) | 20. Ben Earl (Bristol Bears, 7 caps) |
| 17. Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 22 caps) | 21. Dan Robson (Wasps, 6 caps) |
| 18. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 7 caps) | 22. Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 2 caps) |
| 19. Jonny Hill (Exeter Chiefs, 3 caps) | 23. Joe Marchant (Harlequins, 4 caps) |

Investigation into the free school meals voucher scheme

Today the National Audit Office (NAO) reports that after some schools and families experienced problems with the free school meals voucher scheme, steps taken by the Department for Education (DfE) and its contractor Edenred led to improvements over the life of the scheme.

At January 2020, 1.44 million children in England were eligible¹ for free school meals. Following the closure of schools to most pupils in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DfE announced a national free school meals voucher scheme as a temporary substitute for children receiving meals in school. The vouchers were worth £15 per week for each eligible child.

The government approved the scheme on 13 March and DfE launched it 18 days later on 31 March. In order to get the scheme running quickly, DfE looked first to existing government suppliers to help deliver the scheme and appointed Edenred. Edenred was the sole supplier to government departments and public bodies under a Crown Commercial Service framework² covering employee benefit and recognition schemes, including vouchers, via an online platform.



In the first few weeks after the launch, schools reported that it was difficult and time-consuming to register for the scheme and they faced problems logging onto Edenred's website, with staff having to do this late at night to avoid long waiting times. The number of calls to Edenred's helpline grew rapidly, peaking at 3,940 on 14 April. The number of emails Edenred received from school and parents also grew sharply, peaking at 8,878 on 29 April. Schools and parents said they could not get prompt support from Edenred, either by telephone or email.

DfE and Edenred took action to improve the scheme's capacity and performance. At the height of the problems, DfE officials held daily calls with Edenred to monitor progress and ministers also intervened directly. In April, Edenred took steps to upgrade its IT systems, improve communications with schools and families, and help supermarkets manage demand for vouchers.

The scheme's performance improved. The time it took Edenred to process orders dropped from an average of nearly five days in April 2020 to within hours in July 2020. Average waiting times for schools and parents to access Edenred's website fell from over 42 minutes for schools and over 12 minutes for parents in late April, to virtually no wait at all by July 2020.

DfE aimed for as much of the country as possible to be covered by stores accepting the vouchers, but recognised there would be limitations, especially in rural areas. Analysis by the NAO shows that at the start of the scheme, 11.2% of schools were more than five kilometres from the nearest participating store and choice was limited for a further 6.0% of schools where there was only one participating supermarket within five kilometres. It is possible that coverage may have improved as more supermarket chains joined the scheme. The number of supermarket chains participating in the scheme rose from six at the start, to 10 by 29 June 2020. Where eligible families could not access any of the supermarkets involved in the scheme, DfE encouraged schools to consider other options.

DfE does not know precisely how many children have been supported by the voucher scheme. It did not require schools to provide pupil details in order to avoid Edenred having to handle a large volume of sensitive personal information. Edenred issued 10.1 million vouchers in total, which varied in value because they could cover more than one child in the same family or more than one week. At 5 October, DfE forecast that the final cost of scheme would be no more than £384 million - 81% of the potential maximum cost of £473 million that DfE estimated at the start of the scheme.

DfE does not know whether Edenred has made a profit from running the scheme. Edenred's contract includes provision for DfE to access information about Edenred's income and costs relating to the scheme but, at the time of the NAO's work, DfE had not made use of this arrangement. DfE paid Edenred the face value of vouchers issued to families. It did not pay Edenred a management fee or any costs for administering the scheme, and there were no financial incentives or penalties linked to performance. Edenred generated revenue from the scheme by buying vouchers from supermarket chains at a discount on their face value.

Gareth Davies, head of the NAO, said:

"DfE got the voucher scheme up and running quickly to support vulnerable children who would no longer be receiving free meals at school."

"Problems at the start of the scheme led to a frustrating experience for many schools and families, but DfE and Edenred worked hard to get on top of these issues. Performance steadily improved as the scheme progressed."

Read the full report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

www.RichmondTribune.com

Achieving net zero

Achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions¹ in the UK is a colossal challenge and government will need to spearhead a concerted national effort if it is to reach its goal by 2050, according to today's report from the National Audit Office (NAO).

In June 2019, government passed legislation committing it to achieving 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is significantly more challenging than government's previous target to reduce emissions by 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050. Between 2008 and 2018, the UK's emissions reduced by 28%, faster than any other G20 economy. But without further action, the UK's emissions are projected to exceed government's targets for the years 2023 to 2027 and 2028 to 2032, though government plans to announce policies aimed at closing these gaps. Even faster progress is going to be needed to get to net zero by 2050, including changes to the way electricity is generated, how people travel, how land is used and how buildings are heated.

The all-encompassing nature of achieving net zero means that all government bodies, including departments, arm's-length bodies and executive agencies have a role to play. Drawing on past experience, the NAO shows there are risks to cross-government arrangements that need to be considered carefully, such as ensuring individual departments give net zero sufficient priority and that there are



the necessary skills across government. Government has not clearly set out the roles of public bodies outside central departments, despite many, including local authorities, playing critical roles in the achievement of net zero.

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) plans to launch a net zero strategy prior to the 26th United Nations' Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021,² a critical step if the UK is to achieve net zero by 2050. Based on its expertise in major projects and programmes, the NAO recommends that BEIS identifies and evaluates which parts of the net zero strategy are uncertain, develops a plan that reduces this uncertainty, and sets out a timetable for key decisions to be made.

There is more work to be done to ensure that all public sector organisations take the actions necessary to reduce their own emissions. In 2018, public sector buildings emitted 8 million

tonnes of greenhouse gases, representing 9% of all emissions in the buildings sector. To date, central government departments have reduced emissions from their buildings and operations by an estimated 46% since 2009-10. But targets have not covered significant areas of impact outside of central government, like schools and the NHS.

BEIS recognises it needs to do more to establish monitoring arrangements to track progress towards net zero. Though it reports actual and forecast greenhouse gas emissions annually, there is currently no process for monitoring the progress of policies on a more regular basis, or for escalating problems identified by monitoring information. Additionally, neither BEIS nor HM Treasury collates information on the overall costs and benefits of government policies in this area. The NAO recommends that government develop and monitor clear, relevant and consistent data on progress on net zero policies across government and gathers information on how much it has committed and spent.

BEIS has recently begun considering how to engage the public in achieving net zero in a coordinated way. It estimates that costs will be reduced if the public understands and accepts the changes that are required. BEIS established a central behaviour change and public engagement team in April 2020 to design a public engagement strategy and share good practice across government. BEIS's plans for engaging the private sector are more advanced but risks remain to securing the investment required.

The costs of achieving net zero are highly uncertain. The Climate Change Committee estimated in 2019 that the annual costs of achieving net zero could increase over time, to around 1-2% of GDP in 2050. BEIS is developing its own estimates of what net zero will cost between now and 2050, with this likely to be hundreds of billions of pounds. HM Treasury will investigate how these costs could fall between government, businesses and individuals, as part of a review which will conclude in 2021.

However, the costs of inaction would be far greater because of the need to adapt to substantial climate change, such as building flood defences and dealing with the health impacts of higher temperatures. The Climate Change Committee has suggested there are also wider benefits of achieving net zero, such as improvements to human health and enhanced biodiversity.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO said:

“Government wants the UK to be a global leader in tackling climate change and achieving net zero is key to its ambitions. While emissions have reduced steadily in recent years, achieving net zero is an enormously challenging long-term project, which will require well thought-out cross-government coordination to drive unprecedented changes across society and the economy.”

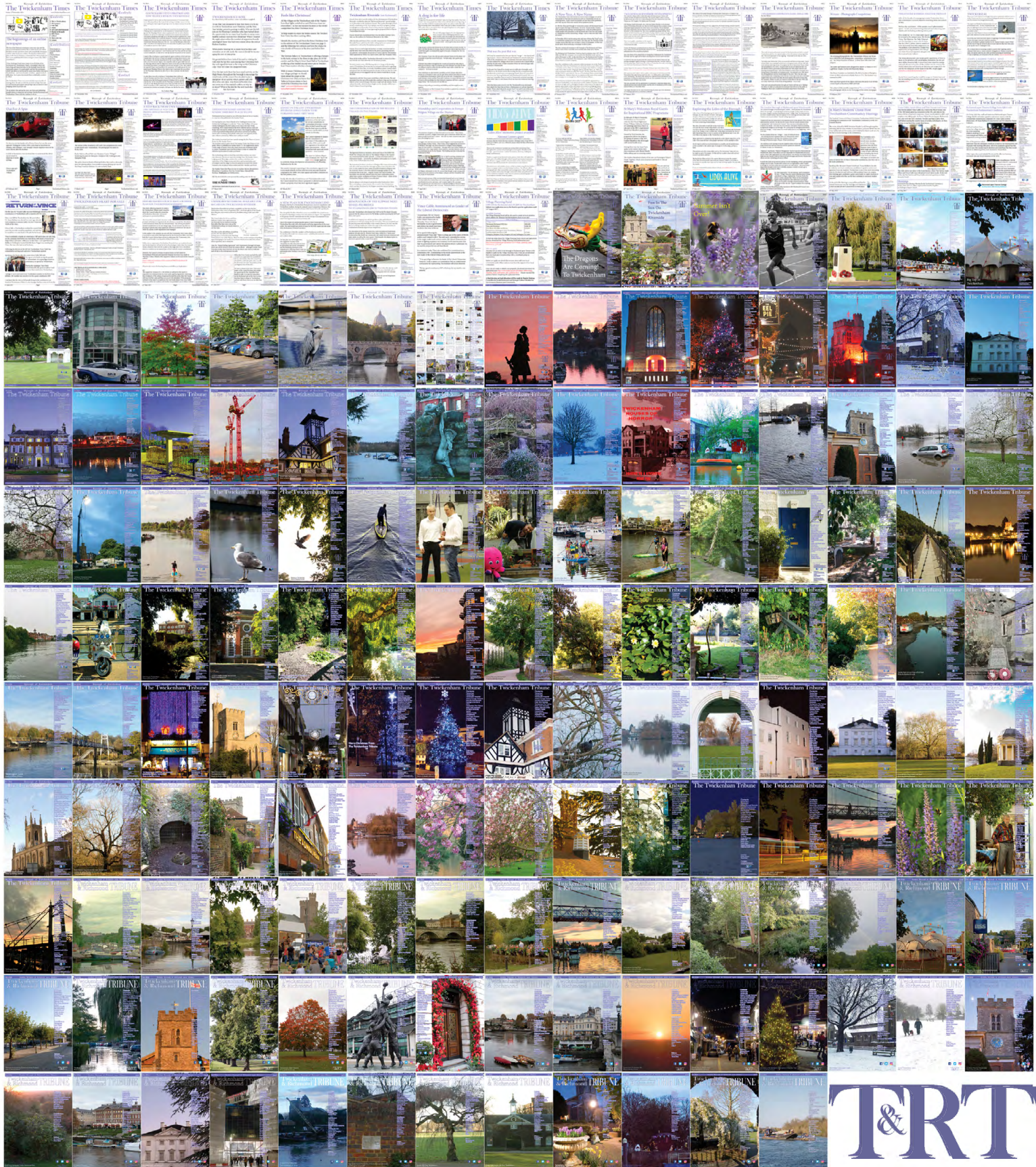
“Government needs to step up to the challenge, ensuring it has a clear strategy to achieve its goal and accurately monitoring progress. It will have to reach outside of Whitehall and bring together the public sector, industry and all of us as citizens in a coordinated national effort spanning decades.”

Read the full report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

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