

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

- TickerTape
- TwickerSeal
- COVID-19
- Borough View
- A USP (Unique Selling Point)
- The Panorama Of The Thames
- Marble Hill Marvels
- New Year's Day In Twickenham
- Remember The Telephone
- River Crane Sanctuary
- Petitions
- Twickers Foodie
- Reviews
- WIZ Tales - Russia
- Farewell To Francis Spencer
- Film Screenings
- Football Focus
- Sequencing Of SARS-CoV-2

Contributors

- TwickerSeal
- Graeme Stoten
- Simon Fowler
- Marble Hill House
- The Royal Parks
- Sammi Macqueen
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- St Mary's University
- Doug Goodman
- World InfoZone - Libya
- Bruce Lyons
- Richmond Film Society
- James Dowden
- World Health Organization
- PLA
- LBRuT

Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



8th January 2021



Thrush enjoying Cotoneaster berries
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

COVID-19 testing for those with no symptoms rolled out

All residents in the borough who are either essential workers, volunteering, providing vital support for a vulnerable resident, or need regular reassurance that they don't have COVID-19, can now apply for a rapid COVID-19 test; this test is for people NOT experiencing symptoms (asymptomatic).

These tests can allow individuals with no symptoms to check if they have the virus, when they otherwise wouldn't know, and make sure they are not putting others at risk. The rapid turnaround, lateral flow tests – which can give results in under an hour, without the need for laboratory processing.

If you are NOT displaying any COVID-19 symptoms and need a test

If you have access to the internet, [book](#) a lateral flow test

If you do not have access to the internet, call 020 8891 1411

Register to attend Ultra Low Emission Zone expansion discussion

Richmond Council is hosting an event to give residents the chance to hear from Transport for London on the London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion.

The expansion of the zone on 25 October 2021 will extend the zone up to (but not including) the South Circular Road and will mean numerous homes and businesses in Kew, Barnes and Mortlake will be within the zone, as well as anyone driving through it. Mortlake Crematorium and the borough's Household Re-use and Recycling Centre, Townmead Road, will also be in the expanded zone.

The Community Conversation will take place on Zoom from 6.30pm – 8.00pm. Registration is essential. [Register now](#).

View a map showing the areas of Hounslow, Richmond and Wandsworth inside the ULEZ expansion zone from 25 October 2021 [HERE](#)

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

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The long awaited 'consultation' on Twickenham Riverside has arrived, although true to form it is more a show and tell. The latest designs are available to view online [HERE](#) and you have the

opportunity to complete a 'feedback questionnaire'.

If you missed Wednesday's online Zoom presentation, you can still register for the Saturday 23rd January Zoom presentation [HERE](#).

The proposal appears identical to the one presented to the Stakeholder Reference Group on 15th December 2019, so obviously all the SRG members' comments were ignored ... again.

There are some nice graphics to look at, although for some reason they don't show the large lorries that will trundle along the supposedly car-free Embankment. Water Lane looks nice and open, without explaining the physics behind making it a two-way road ... with cycle lane and service parking.

The Diamond Jubilee Gardens has lost its identity and become an incohesive collection of landscaping spread across the terracing and the Embankment; TwickerSeal wonders what the Twickenham Riverside Trust thinks of that (probably nothing an expensive CPO couldn't fix).

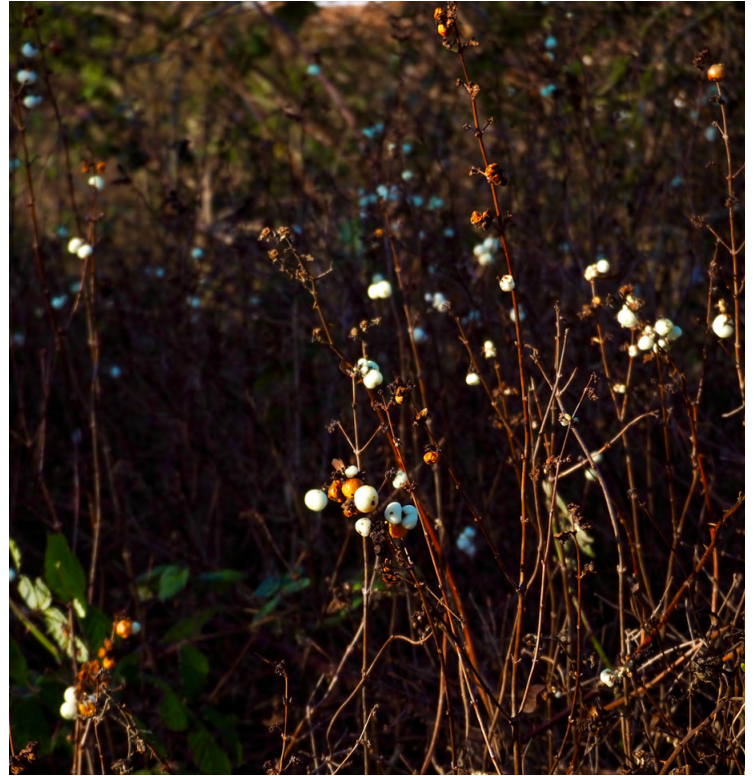
There is a cupboard masquerading as boathouses and ... a pub. TwickerSeal is still trying to work out what makes this new proposal a **destination** that will bring people to Twickenham. Any ideas?



Borough View By Graeme Stoten

‘Twickenham Rough’ - from London Road Gate

Linking Twickenham Station via Brewery Wharf and Marsh Lane, the Rough’s open habitats sit alongside the Main railway line heading West. A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, the grasses, tall herbs and scrub are a natural habitat for birds and bats. Check opening times on Richmond.gov.uk for accessing this delightful walk.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

The Mayor of London has declared a “major incident”; Sadiq Khan described the COVID-19 situation in the capital as “out-of-control”.

Public Health England statement on major incident declared in London

Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director of Public Health England, said: “This is the biggest threat our city has faced in this pandemic to date.

“The emergence of the new variant means we are setting record case rates at almost double the national average, with at least 1 in 30 people now thought to be carrying the virus.

“Our NHS services are under immense pressure and currently another 800 people are being admitted to our hospitals every day. We know this will sadly lead to large numbers of deaths so strong and immediate action is needed.

“In order to ease the burden on our hospitals, we must first stop the spread. That means we have to stay at home. Cut your contacts, reduce your movements, do as little as possible.

“A lot has been asked of Londoners over the past 12 months but your decisions and actions right now have never been more important.”

From The Director General of the World Health Organization this week:

“For the third week in a row over 4 million new cases were reported globally, and new deaths increased by 3% to 76 000. This brings the cumulative numbers to over 83 million reported cases and over 1.8 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic. Recent reports of different variants of SARS-CoV-2 have raised concern about and interest in the impact of viral changes. As of 5 January 2021, the VOC-202012/01 variant initially detected in the United Kingdom has been detected in a small number of cases in 40 other countries/territories/areas in five of the six WHO regions, and the 501Y.V2 variant initially detected in South African in six other countries/territories/areas.”

“We’re in a race to prevent infections, bring cases down, protect health systems and save lives while rolling out highly effective and safe vaccines to high-risk populations. This is not easy. But if we act together we can win both races and get ahead of the virus while also limiting the opportunity for the virus to mutate further and threaten the health tools we currently have.”

Imperial College London: Arthritis drugs may reduce mortality and time in ICU for sickest COVID patients

“The latest analysis shows that tocilizumab and a second drug called sarilumab – both types of immune modulators called IL-6 receptor antagonists – have a significant impact on patient survival, reducing mortality by 8.5%.

Professor Anthony Gordon said “This is a significant finding which could have immediate implications for the sickest patients with COVID-19.”

A Third Vaccine Approved: the American Moderna vaccine has been approved for use in the UK.

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

Cases of COVID-19

Total cases to 7 January 2021

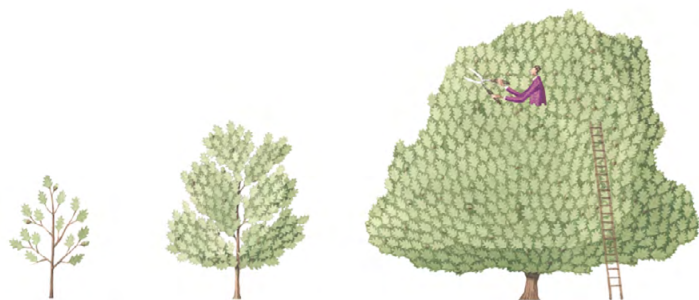
7,258 Richmond-upon-Thames 8,251 Kingston-upon Thames 14,244 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 1,884,341

USA 358,111
Brazil 198,974
India 150,570
Mexico 129,987
The United Kingdom 77,346
Italy 76,877
France 66,184
Russian Federation 60,457
Iran 55,933
Spain 51,430
Colombia 44,723

Argentina 43,976
Peru 37,991
Germany 37,607
Poland 30,241
South Africa 31,368
Indonesia 23,520
Turkey 22,070
Belgium 19,883
Ukraine 19,505
Chile 16,913
Canada 16,369



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
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The Tree Agency

A USP (Unique Selling Point) is what makes your product different from existing ones

For the past few years, the Council (aka The Leader) has been stating its aims for the new development on Twickenham Riverside. For example, “to create a heart for Twickenham”, “a flourishing centre for Twickenham”, “transform the town centre” “drawing visitors”

Even more specifically, the Brief given to the competing architects stated (section1) : “The design will allow the public to enjoy the full beauty and utility of the riverside, improving the physical link between the river and the town, to define Twickenham as a distinctive destination with a rich cultural history, and an exciting location to live, work and visit”. And (section 4.1) “to provide activities that draw people into the site from surrounding areas”; (section 4.2) “It is very important that the new proposals draw people from the town to the river, and from further afield into the area”; (section 4.4) “Create an exciting destination for residents and visitors”.

What, then, is the USP of the proposed development?

To evaluate this, below is a comparison with what is offered by the new development (according to the current plans) and *what is there already*:

Newly situated Diamond Jubilee Gardens – *the existing DJG is established and well-loved. The re-provisioned one, unlike the existing one, is not a coherent, enclosed whole, and the grassed area is terraced*

Petanque courts – *two already exist on DJG, and there is room for more.*

Children’s playground – *that in existing DJG is secure and away from the Service Road (which will become far more polluting under the planned scheme)*

Event Space (on The Embankment) – *this is not as large as is presently available on DJG; The Embankment is liable to flooding*

Café- *it has been acknowledged that this is a “risk”*

Five retail, three office/retail units – *these will be built, but there is no guarantee, in the existing and likely future climates, that the retail units will be filled. Empty units would be a depressing feature. Office space does not seem to fit the criteria listed above in the Brief. The Wharf Lane building will be five storeys high, and will tower over the site, casting it into shadow in the evenings.*

No parking or traffic on The Embankment (Council’s red-line) – *all existing parking places have presently been removed, but there are requirements (so far unfilled) for parked-up service spaces for Eel Pie Island and adequate servicing for boatyards (both are “still under discussion”). Through traffic is to be allowed for heavy vehicles.*

Pub at end of Wharf Lane – *bearing in mind that there are nine other pubs within a range of 250m from the site, will this really act as a sufficient “magnet” for visitors?*

Grassy areas and trees – *judging by the published plans, these will not be to a greater extent than in existing DJG*

Thus, the only obvious feature of the proposed scheme that is better than the existing situation (i.e. USP of the Hopkins plans) seems to be that it will smarten up the site. It is undoubtedly true that the present arrangement needs to be made more visually attractive, so this is a positive aspiration that can be fulfilled.

It is possible that the proposed pub (assuming tenants are available) may contribute to drawing people to the Riverside. The present scheme still has many matters “in progress” “under discussion” etc.

Note that it is planned that there will be 54 residential units on the site.

Is Hopkins’ USP attractive enough to justify spending more than £35 million (as stated in the Brief) of taxpayers money?

The Panorama of the Thames

By Simon Fowler

Nearly two hundred years ago – in 1829 - the bookseller Samuel Leigh published a unique guide, which he called 'The Panorama of the Thames.' It was a 60-foot long sheet which folded out concertina style, designed for the use of tourists using the new steamboats which travelled from Westminster Bridge to Richmond; then as now a popular destination for day-trippers from London. On this ribbon of paper was printed a hand-coloured aquatint of both banks of the Thames. Approximately 15 miles per bank, 30 miles in all. It provides a unique visual record of the Thames just before the immense changes that the railway and the huge growth in the metropolis's population.

In Chelsea and Lambeth the riverside is industrial, where sawmills jostle with tanneries, breweries and brickworks. But the further upstream towards Richmond and Twickenham the more rural the scene becomes. Here are market gardens and fine houses with grounds down to the water, interspersed by the occasional boatyard and smaller dwellings huddled around a parish church.

The Panorama was soon forgotten. Fortunately, a few years ago it was rediscovered and, after extensive

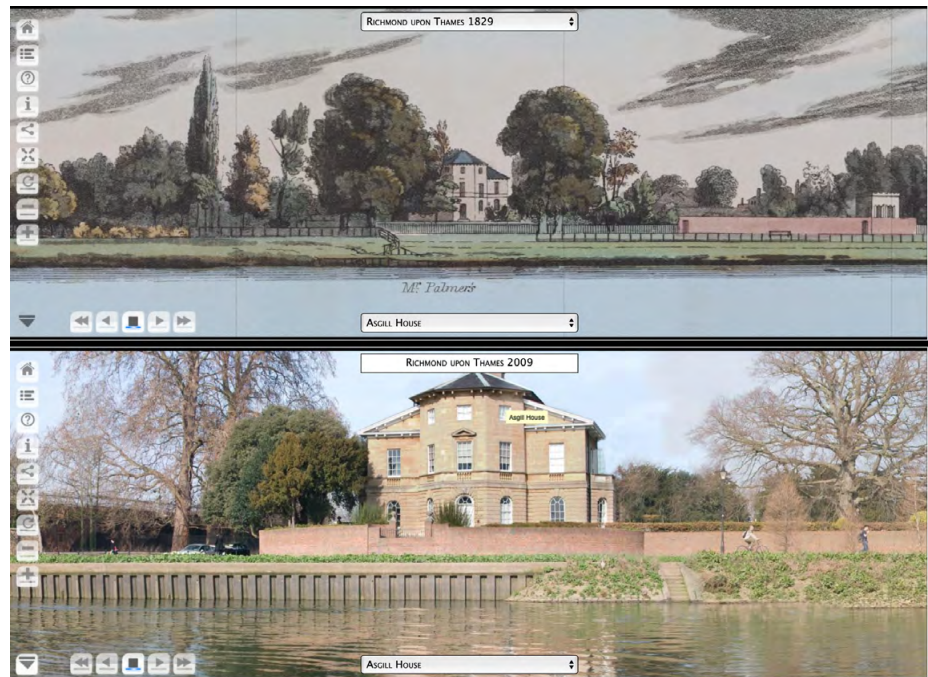
restoration work, republished as a marvellous coffee table book *The Panorama of the Thames A Riverside View of Georgian London* by Thames and Hudson in 2015.

There also a website www.panoramaofthethames.com, which combines both high quality scans of the 1829 Panorama and a modern photographic survey of the riverside by John Inglis and Jill Saunders (who also edited the book). The new survey covers slightly more ground than the original Panorama, beginning in the City and ending beyond Hampton, although much of the area upstream from Richmond remains unphotographed.

Both the book and the website include explanatory text describing the buildings featured and their functions or who owned them. Some entries were written by Samuel Leigh himself. For Barnes Terrace, Leigh wrote that it 'forms part of the village of Barnes. It is embellished with several pleasant villas, amongst which is that in which the Count and Countess D'Antraigues were murdered by their Italian footman, a few years back.' A nice touch is that the additional text for the Panorama is written as if it was current in 1829.

The text accompanying the modern photographic survey was prepared by teams of local historians. That for Richmond was written by John Govette and the late John Cloake. Of The Terrace on Richmond Hill they say that: 'This is a place that has always attracted the titled, the monied, and the visitor.'

This could have been written nearly two hundred years ago. Some things never change.



Marble Hill Revived 2020

As one year closes and another begins and we look forward to all that 2021 holds and reflect on all that has been achieved. In December 2019 work finally commenced on the 66 acres of Marble Hill Park within which one of the greatest examples of the Georgian Palladian villa stands.

The £6 million Marble Hill revived investment will transform the site and safe guard its history by ensuring that the historic house is restored and open for free for five days a week. The house suffered from severe damp issues and so the revived project really will safeguard the house for the future. The Marble Hill revived project will also revive the landscape, and - from the play area to the sports pitches - improve the facilities across the park. In 2021 we can't wait to open our new café which will ensure that all profits can go to the upkeep of Marble Hill too.



This year, despite the pandemic, it has been a busy year ensuring that our community is at the heart of the project. This year we have been delighted to work with the Dose of Nature to deliver support for amazing women from our community who have been victims of domestic abuse in the name of Henrietta Howard who had a first disastrous marriage and have worked with hearing charities and deaf individuals to explore Henrietta's hearing loss that she had from age 30 to create a soundscape for inside Henrietta's bedroom. In 2021 we hope to explore Marble Hill's links with transatlantic slavery, sustainability and craftsmanship with young people from our community. This year we have seen nine Arts in the Park free events with performances from talented musicians and artists from the borough from the Richmond Shakespeare Society to The Perrin Jazz Collective.

Since 2016, Marble Hill has been blessed with a dedicated Kitchen Garden team who with the Environment Trust created an allotment space. In 2020 the knowledgeable team joined English Heritage. Despite the pandemic, the team individually watered and cared for the site to yield an amazing crop of vegetables to produce enough produce to run a weekly Marble Hill Veg Shop. We hope the extended allotment space will help create produce for Marble Hill soup and homemade delicacies in the café.



Our first gardens volunteer Zoe on site in the new tools shed



The woodland area before



The woodland area now



Moving meadows day

In December our first two intrepid garden volunteers Joanne and Zoe came to site. It happened to be the day of the ranger Christmas BBQ (it was indeed cold and we did explain that this kind of reception was not the norm!) Since this day, Kate Slack (Marble Hill's Head Gardener) and Jack Morris, our brilliant horticultural apprentice have created a beautiful tool shed, we have cleared four woodland quarters of ivy, planted trees and shrubs, planted 4000 bulbs and begun the improvements that will ensure a rich bio diverse area at Marble Hill for years to come. The effort and friendships that have sprung up have been a joy to watch and many volunteers joined the community days in our planting and clearing days as we welcomed the public to get involved in the project. We now have over 75 volunteers

who are not just gardeners but research volunteers and admin team members too.

December 2019 also saw the introduction of the event volunteers who have helped with the four garden community participation days, Arts in the park, bat box building workshops, our moving meadows days where we gave 400 packets of wildflower meadow seeds to park users and most recently community carols. The team have adapted to governmental guidelines with arena creation and tracking and tracing of attendees to welcome sometimes 600 people to the park for a single free English Heritage event. We have been blessed with people who have turned their hand to volunteer with admin, creation of documents and even the physical delivery of hundreds of newsletters!



Nine research volunteers took up the challenge to explore more about wartime Marble Hill, our links with The Richmond Poppy Factory and the role that Marble Hill played in servicing the community as it does today. Having explored the local records we understood there was a book of 897 names from the community who had fallen in service that we aimed to remember across armistice with a poppy for each of the fallen. Intrepid, forensic volunteers, despite archive restricted opening times, created a fascinating exhibition exploring the fallen heroes from the area, local memories of those who still remembered the area and information about the 'mystery structure' which turned out to be an air raid shelter that sheltered over 300 people. The volunteers found out about the 5 bombs that fell and each area on site was detailed within the grounds to enable visitors to explore. In addition all 897 poppies, one for each of the fallen, was put up by 25 volunteers creating beautiful artistic sculptures and a very real reminder about the lives that were lost. One volunteer however wanted to explore more about these names detailed in the borough records and has since found that there were far more than those detailed in the memorial book which is the borough's authority. Roger has since found from records from the commonwealth war graves and further records that in fact there were over 3000 deaths from our area across the world wars and through this vital work we are helping acknowledge those who have never been remembered or commemorated locally before. Although we had to cancel or take the majority of the armistice weeks events online, we hope that next year we will have a definitive list to commemorate and will make sure that all names are given to the local records.



The volunteers planting the orchard



Volunteers planted 4000 bulbs!



Christmas Wreath making at Marble Hill for all volunteers to have a bit of Marble Hill with them at Christmas

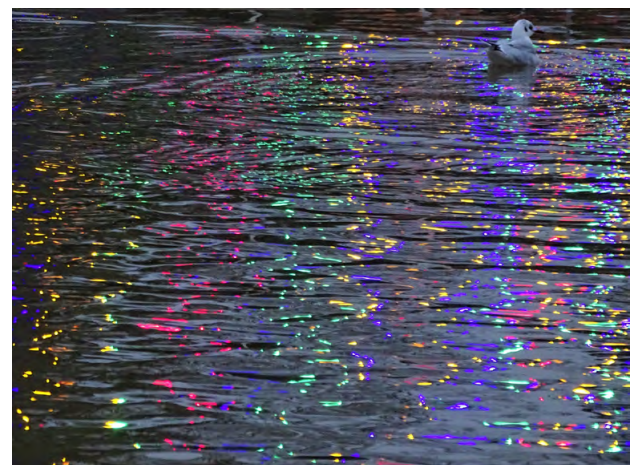
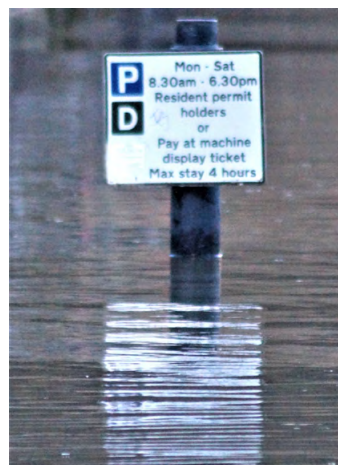
This November volunteers helped us plant the orchard to help restore Henrietta Howard's former garden. This was a real joy given that the trees along with thousands of shrubs and plants were bought just before lockdown 1.0 and kept alive by diligent rangers, management and of course Kate Slack. The orchard planting felt a very symbolic and momentous part of the first year of the project delivery and our first year of having English Heritage volunteers at Marble Hill.

As we say goodbye to a strange 2020 and welcome a more hopeful 2021 we look forward to more events starting with the Thames Luminaries virtual lecture series in January and more ways we can explore Henrietta's life as far more than a mistress but a strong empowered woman who despite a difficult start found love eventually at Marble Hill. Marble Hill revived will see the site and house safeguarded for the future, invested in and the house made free so that our local heritage can be shared to all our community.

New Year's Day in Twickenham

By Doug Goodman

Many of us took the opportunity to get some air and exercise on New Year's Day. Bushy and Richmond Parks were popular spots along with Twickenham's riverside. The high tide made it necessary to find a few detours but for the wildlife it was the chance to expand their territory and enjoy a special meal.



The Royal Parks: response to the new lockdown

A Royal Parks spokesperson, said: “During this new lockdown, the parks will continue to remain open as they have done throughout the pandemic, and the opening and closing times remain as advertised on our website. The parks provide vital green spaces where local visitors can get some fresh air, enjoy the natural environment and do their daily exercise - just a 20 minute walk in the park can boost mental and physical wellbeing.

“The latest Government guidance makes it clear that if you leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live. You may leave your local area for a legally permitted reason, such as for work. It is important that people stick to the rules and only visit parks local to them, where they must continue to observe social distancing by staying 2m apart from others; can exercise once a day with their household (or support bubble) or with one other person; and must not gather in groups.

“We are currently working through the impact of the latest Government guidance on all our park operations and on those of our contractors.”

For the most up-to-date information on all our parks, please visit www.royalparks.org.uk/coronavirus or follow us on Twitter [@theroyalparks](https://twitter.com/theroyalparks).



Calling young poets! Help us celebrate the wonder of winter

The Royal Parks are developing a new storytelling and learning area at Brompton Cemetery and we're inviting children aged 7-11 to enter our winter-themed poetry competition. Words from the winning entry will be carved into stone and placed in the storytelling area.

The Details

Theme: At Brompton Cemetery we #WelcomeWinter! We're looking for winter-themed poems inspired by the sounds, smells and sights of winter walks as you stay well outdoors and immerse yourself in nature.

Format: Any poetry form will be accepted up to a limit of 20 lines. Extracts may be selected if an entire poem is too long for a paving stone.

Submission: All entries to be submitted via the form below by midnight on Friday 12th February 2021.

Submit your poetry entry [HERE](#)





Dear Teresa and Berkley,

Happy New Year!

We are writing to thank you for this excellent community online news publication which allows so many of us to have a voice on local issues. The River Crane Sanctuary group was set up to alert and inform neighbours/public about Metropolitan Open Land in private ownership and its importance as a habitat along the River Crane corridor in West Twickenham. It achieved its initial aim to raise awareness and went further to gain a solid base of people passionate about wildlife and nature who supported us in successfully completing objectives which highlighted further actions needed to safeguard and enhance the environment here for the wellbeing of all life. We had amazing support from local groups and in particular Colin Cooper, Habitats and Heritage/previously SWLEN, who helped us from the beginning with expert advice and practical tools as we were only amateurs in this area compared to the wealth of knowledge already present in the community. Our main strength was decades of witness knowledge of where we lived and what was present and worth saving; plus, the passion to keep going against bureaucracy and mis-information.

The climate has changed with all that 2020 has highlighted to a greater audience of what is truly important and we have noticed better ecological management in some areas which were saved from residential buildings but neglect in other areas to promote a build which has been refused twice and is now awaiting an appeal decision. Councillors Elengorn, Fleming, Allen and the Labour and Green Party have all taken an interest in issues raised in this location and we thank them for their unbiased and objective actions when needed.

We have noticed more input from environmental groups and nature loving individuals which are fantastic and because we would like to hear and see voices/photos from other points of view we will continue to submit our piece only on the first Saturday of the month and trust others will fill the gap! With Love and Gratitude - Sammi and Iain. **Poem by O. Herford.**



*"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember."
"We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.*

Don't forget the Big Garden Bird Watch and listen for the different songs and sounds from visitors. This Starling even bathed in our water bowl on the grass whilst a Redwing waited. **Both Red Listed.**

[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

Don't get caught out by COVID scams

Richmond Council is warning residents about a text message scam pretending to be from the NHS asking people to 'sign up' to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

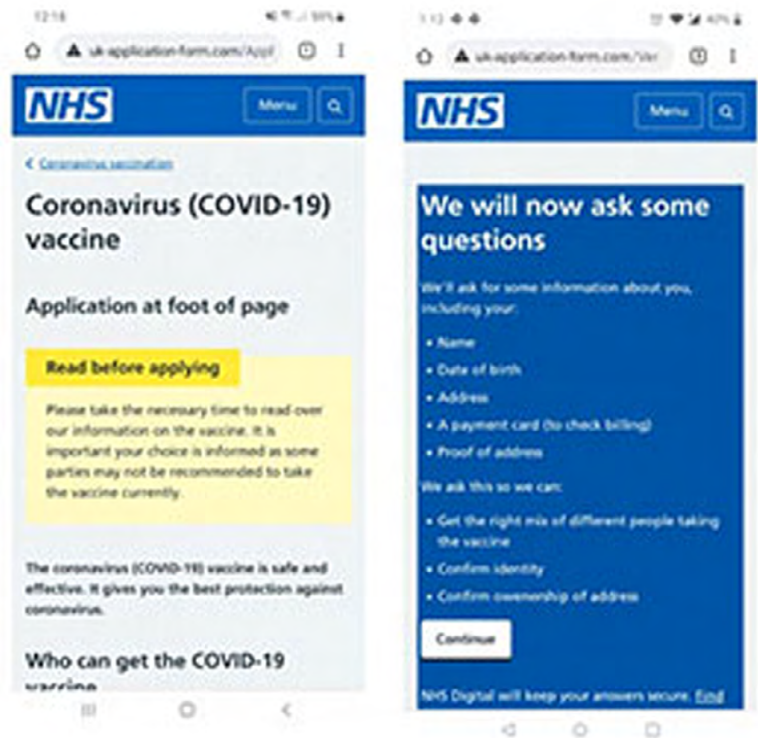
The dangerous false NHS-looking text has been circulating, telling people they're eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine. It's very authentic looking and convincing, using NHS lettering, colours and logo. As with all scams, it intends to trick people into disclosing personal information such as bank or credit card details, address and ID.

Do not press any buttons on the text or click any links.

Cold calls regarding the vaccine are also beginning to take place – there are already reports of scammers asking people to pay for it over the phone. If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately.

Other scams reported include lockdown fine messages, offers of health supplements that will prevent you becoming infected and offers of financial support.

[A guide to identifying scams](#) (pdf, 905 KB) has been produced. All residents are urged to read this.



Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

'This site is pretending to be an application form from the NHS for the COVID-19 vaccine. It looks official but it is not – it is a scam to steal your bank details.

If you get a message like this DON'T click on the links. Remember, the NHS, the Council or any official body will NEVER ask you to confirm your bank details.

And nobody will be asked to register for the COVID-19 vaccination programme – people who are eligible for the vaccine will be contacted by their GP surgery when it is their turn.

These scammers are scum. People are scared of catching the virus and the scammers are exploiting those fears to try to steal money from people who fall for their lies.

Please spread the word about this scam, in particular to those who may be more vulnerable to being taken in. There is no shame in falling for these scams; they look professional and look official and it is only by raising awareness of them that we can stop the scammers in their tracks.'

Report a scam message [HERE](#)

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.

▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

▶ TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Met announces stricter Covid enforcement approach

Londoners breaching Covid legislation are increasingly likely to face fines as the new national lockdown comes into force today.

Although officers will still apply the 4 E's approach of engaging, explaining, and encouraging – only then enforcing, the Met has issued refreshed instructions to officers to issue fines more quickly to anyone committing obvious, wilful and serious breaches.

In practice this will mean that all those attending parties, unlicensed music events or large illegal gatherings, can expect to be fined – not just the organisers of such events. Similarly, those not wearing masks where they should be and without good reason can expect to be fined - not reasoned with.

Additionally, with fewer “reasonable excuses” for people to be away from their home in the regulations, Londoners can expect officers to be more inquisitive as to why they see them out and about. Where officers identify people without a lawful reason to be away from home they can expect officers to move more quickly to enforcement.

Local officers will also be working with Council colleagues across the Capital in a partnership approach to help ensure businesses and



people using public spaces such as parks or the retail spaces still open are following the rules.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist, who leads the Met's response to the Covid pandemic, said: *“After ten months of this pandemic the number of people who are genuinely not aware of the restrictions and the reasons they are in place is vanishingly small.*

We know the overwhelming majority of Londoners will do the right thing by staying at home, wearing masks and not gathering, but a small minority continue to ignore rules put in place to protect the NHS and save lives.

Our first duty as police officers is to preserve life. The critical situation our NHS colleagues are facing and the way the new virus variant moves through communities, means we can no longer spend our time explaining or encouraging people to follow rules where they are wilfully and dangerously breaching.

Less than a month ago we launched a new digital fines system which makes it quicker and easier for officers to issue fines on the spot. Since its launch more people have been reported for fines than in the rest of the year combined; this is also an indicator of a worsening position in the epidemic, and officers stepping in more quickly to try to keep communities safe.

I hope it is not necessary for this particular trend to carry on but if people continue to break the rules, putting themselves, their families and their communities at greater risk, our officers are ready to act robustly.

This is why Londoners must take action now to stop this virus spreading further across our city. Action now by everyone will help reduce the time our Capital must live with these restrictions and crucially, will prevent more people from dying needlessly because of this virus. It's up to us all to do the right thing.”

Thames foreshore permits

On Wednesday 6th January 2021, England entered a third period of national lockdown. The Government has instructed that you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. These purposes include exercise outdoors or visits to an outdoor public place. The PLA does not currently intend to 'close' the foreshore or to stop issuing foreshore permits, but it is for the individual to determine whether being on the foreshore is essential or justifiable under the current government guidelines. The Thames and its foreshore remains a challenging environment for recreational activity and whilst the Emergency Services remain available to assist in the case of an incident, the significant reduction in other river traffic means that should someone come into difficulty, it is unlikely they will be seen by a passing vessel and the alarm raised.

Anyone searching the tidal Thames foreshore from Teddington to the Thames Barrier - in any way for any reason - must hold a current foreshore permit from the Port of London Authority. This includes all searching, metal detecting, 'beachcombing', scraping and digging.

Foreshore permits are issued via an automated application process, which can be accessed from the link below. Applications will not be

processed without all the relevant paperwork provided and that your permit will be issued by e-mail as a pdf document, which should be taken onto the foreshore. (Enter your email address carefully as permits will be sent to the email address provided. If you do not receive your permit within 24 hours, please check your spam/junk folder.)

Please note: Existing holders of foreshore permits were not migrated across to the new online system. To renew your permit, apply using the link below as a new member.

The PLA only issues a standard permit, which allows digging to a depth of 7.5 cm. The PLA is not currently issuing any new 'mudlark permits'.

Find more information and details of fees [HERE](#)

To apply for a Permit, please complete an application through the following link [HERE](#)



Completed community lockdown quilt is proudly on display

As we begin a new lockdown, a unique community patchwork quilt created by residents reminds us of the community spirit and resilience shown during the first lockdown.

The quilt, consisting of 42 separate patchwork pieces, is on display in the Museum of Richmond and is a lasting memorial of what life was like in Richmond upon Thames during the early part of the pandemic. Each patchwork piece represents the emotions and experiences of the resident who created it.

Whilst the Museum of Richmond is currently closed to the public to comply with the national lockdown, the quilt creators are keen to share video and photos of the finished piece to remind residents of the strong sense of community and hope that exists within the borough during these difficult times.

Special mention goes to Sue Brown, Jenny Mitchell and the Landmark Arts Centre. Sue and Jenny kindly spent many hours stitching the different pieces together and were given space at the Landmark Arts Centre to complete the project before the current lockdown.

Sue Brown said:

‘I think it’s an amazing project and is a unique piece made by our local community commemorating a strange time in our history.’

Cllr Nancy Baldwin, who was the Mayor of Richmond when she created the project, said:

‘It’s wonderful to see this lasting memorial proudly on display in the Museum of Richmond. I know from speaking to everyone who created a patchwork piece that it was a wonderful, creative and highly personal way to reflect on everything that happened last year.

I hope it helps future generations understand some of the things that were felt and experienced by the people of Richmond during the first lockdown.

I encourage everyone to visit the Museum as soon as it re-opens to contemplate and enjoy this unique historical artefact.’

Watch Cllr Nancy Baldwin talking about the quilt project [HERE](#)



DRY JANUARY? NOT TOO SURE NOW, TO BE HONEST!

No doubt, like many, you started 2021 with good intentions: eat healthily, drink less, take more exercise and so on...Well, I don't know about you, but the announcement of another lockdown has certainly set my planned 'Dry January' back a few paces! My 'Dry' is now more likely to include dry white wine, dry gin or a dry Martini. But in anticipation of being good, I had already done a fair amount of research anyway, so I am happy to share it with you!

In the past I've rarely been impressed with any of the de-alcoholised spirits. I'm quite happy with slimline tonic with a few drops of Angostura bitters or a can of low cal fizz. Or even just a sparkling water with a slice of lemon or lime,

But there are now some quite acceptable alternatives. One of these is **Sea Arch Coastal Juniper**: crisp and refreshing, with good depth of flavour. Inspired by the sights and sounds of Devon countryside, it's made using traditional distillation techniques. A 'Sea & T' is refreshing and pleasant. From Ocado, at around £25 a bottle. The company has now launched cans of ready-to-drink Sea Arch, the original, as well as 'Rose Sea & T' (blended with a delicate rose and raspberry infused tonic). £2.35 each from Ocado.

Another very acceptable gin alternative is **Cotswold Green No:1**. A classic blend of botanicals is used with juniper and citrus, delivering a smooth and clean taste like gin, but with a healthier and vegan friendly twist. With no calorific or sugar content either, it's great for the health-conscious." Cotswold Green No:1 retails at £25.00 (rrp) for a standard 70cl glass bottle at cotswold-green.com

Like traditional spirits, **Amplify** is distilled and made with a host of invigorating ingredients such as juniper berries, coriander seeds, Angelica root, lemon peel, lemongrass, and ginseng root. These fragrant botanicals combine with orange and citrus notes to provide a pleasant drink, without the need for alcohol. Amplify's perfect serve is on the rocks with tonic and a twist of fresh pink grapefruit, but it also tastes good in classic cocktails, summery Spritzes, and spiced seasonal serves. Available from Morrisons, Tesco, Amazon, Harrods, Drink Supermarket and Master of Malt. RRP £15 (50cl bottle).

Another range of highly acclaimed 'spirits' is Australian brand **Lyres**, which makes a wide range of exceedingly tolerable spirits substitutes, including rum, whisky, gin and much, much more – even absinthe! It's named after the Australian Lyrebird – the world's greatest mimic! From £23.50 at Lyres.co.uk and other good online retailers, Cocktail sets are available too, which make a great present.



When it comes to wine alternatives, in your local Tesco there are some very good own-label sparkling wines at around £3 a bottle. I offered some of these last year at a drinks party (remember them?) and those who tasted them were very impressed by the quality and value. Other supermarkets too have launched good ranges of no or low alcohol drinks too, including Aldi.



But for some of the best ones it is worth going online and stocking up. A particularly good one I find is **Stippl**, available in white and rosé from stippl.co.uk at £20 for six 20cl bottles. While not cheap, these small bottles, served chilled, and in the right glass, really do give a sense of indulgence, and the contents are a delicious and refreshing wine substitute.

But what if you fancy a cocktail? I'd definitely look at trying **Crave**. With no sugar or artificial sweeteners, the 250ml cans only contain 10 calories! They claim to offer natural energy and immunity support (each contains 80mg of caffeine from organic green coffee beans and essential B & C vitamins, in case you wondered). Three flavours are available, based on popular cocktails: Mint & Lime (Mojito); Passion Fruit & Vanilla (Porn Star Martini) and Pineapple & Coconut (Pina Colada). From £5 for an assorted pack of three at cravedrinks.com



If beer's your tippie, then widely available **St Peter's Without** is perfect. Three varieties: Without® Original, Without® Gold and Without® Elderberry & Raspberry, offer zero alcohol and lower calorie options for ale and lager drinkers. The Without® range is made using all-natural ingredients, is vegan and completely free from alcohol. Around £2 a bottle and available from Asda, Tesco, Co-Op and from www.stpetersbrewery.co.uk

Still on beers, but adding a rather nice cider too, is **Smashed** from brewer Drynks Unlimited. Available in cans or bottles, Citrus beer, berry cider, apple cider, lager and pale ale comprise the range. They are refreshing, alcohol free and also low calorie (around 100 calories per can). Sadly not yet in mainstream supermarket distribution, but you'll find them available widely online at around £2 a can/bottle.



That's about as far as I managed to get before giving up the desire to be good! The research has been interesting and will no doubt come in handy for me later in the year, when – hopefully – things will have improved!

Cheers!



The Shell Pilgrim

By Susan Conte

Short Plays for Short Journeys, Wild Duck Productions, from 16th December

During the Covid-free summer of 2019, your *poco-loco* critic was in a vintage car, open to all the elements, travelling the length of the Pyrenees in northern Spain. The mountains are slashed with ravines and *cañons*, so to drive along their length you must often come down to lower ground. Here you often find that you are on *the Camino*. The Camino de Santiago is the well-known walking route for pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. You soon discover that it is not a single route. It is 500 miles even after crossing the French border, so in my tired weather-battered state, I felt genuine empathy for the pilgrims.



The Camino pilgrimage dates from the ninth century, but how many of today's walkers are pilgrims on a spiritual quest or doing religious penance? This is the question posed in Wild Duck Productions' podcast [The Shell Pilgrim](#). It is a bijou piece, in two senses. It is part of a series of playlets entitled *Short Plays for Short Journeys*. At ten minutes, it does what it says on the tin. Designed to be listened to on the move, it is an intensely concentrated piece. In the second sense, it is a brilliant gem. Susan Conte's writing is incisive and gripping.

Two walkers, Amanda and Brendan arrive at an *albergue*, one of the string of refuges that serve pilgrims on the Camino. These two strangers soon discover that each other's motives are somewhat different. Brendan, an Irish Catholic, has an introspective approach to his faith and is on the pilgrimage in memory of his late mother. Amanda, a free spirit, has a forthright reply when asked why she is walking the Camino: "I'm here to get laid"! When Brendan's flustered reply is blurted out, you could almost feel him blush: "Are you having any success?"

Shortly another walker arrives, Francesco, an exuberant young Italian. He has a devil-may-care attitude and describes himself as a poet. Francesco's motivation is to discover poetry.

The next few days they walk together, but in four short scenes we discover the motivation of each of them is not what they thought. Or does facing the reality of the walk change their motives? For this spiritual peregrination is in truth a trial of their personalities



Read Mark Aspen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2021/01/05/shell-pilgrim

Photography by Antonio Maria Manrique

St Mary's University News

St Mary's University Shortlisted for the 2021 National Undergraduate Employability Awards

St Mary's University, Twickenham's Be SMART initiative has been shortlisted for the 2021 National Undergraduate Employability (NUE) Awards.

St Mary's University is delighted to have been chosen as one of the five finalists for the Best Widening Participation category for the Be SMART initiative.

This award recognises the 'incredible efforts universities go to in creating a widening participation initiative to support and develop students' employability opportunities'.

Be SMART was launched by our Employability Services team in August 2019, with the aim of facilitating access for undergraduate students from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds to opportunities and resources to enhance their personal and professional development, including internships and mentoring.

Data consistently shows that BAME

graduates experience greater inequalities in relation to securing graduate level roles and employment – recent HESA UK data shows BAME graduates are 8% more likely to be

unemployed compared to white graduates. (HESA UK).

Yasmina Mallam-Hassam, Head of



Employability Services said "This is an amazing achievement for St Mary's and is testament to the talent of the students we have here and the commitment, creativity and resilience of the staff and external contributors who delivered Be SMART during a very challenging time".

The winner will be chosen by a judging panel and announced during the online awards ceremony on 25th February.



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

WIZ Tales - Libya, North Africa

By Teresa Read

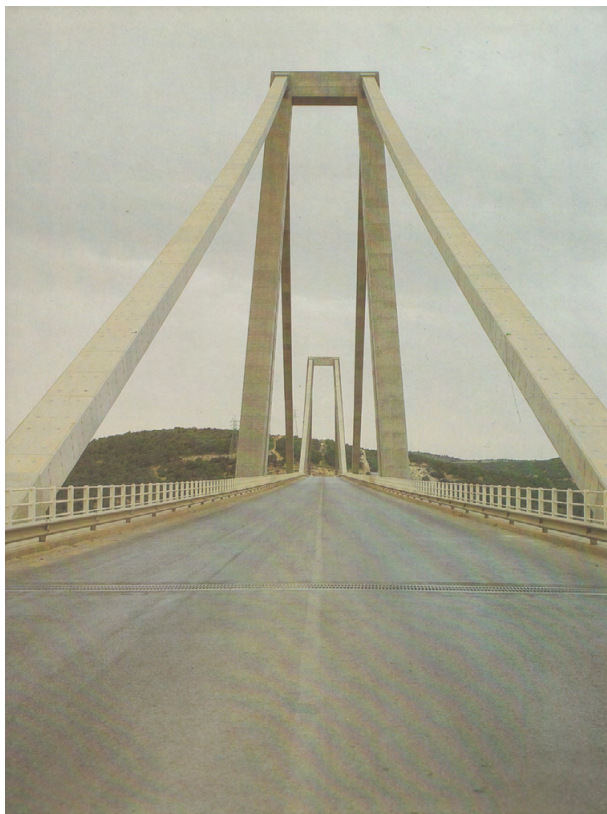


The World InfoZone project had the benefit of working with many countries around the world in the early days of the internet when individuals and organizations were very pleased to participate.

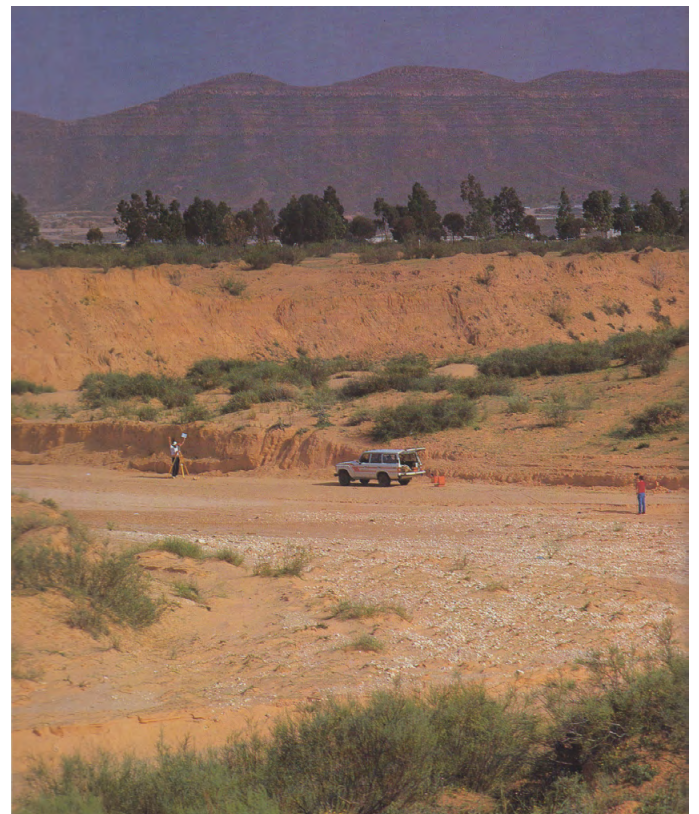
This week I am looking at photographs from Libya, kindly donated by the Libyan Embassy in London and The General Board of Tourism in Libya. The photographs are from three books listed below.



Welcome to the Desert



Libya A Personal View of a Jamahiriya



The Great Man-Made River Project

More photographs from the Man-Made River Project
<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Libya>

RIP OFF BRITAIN -REALLY!!!

By Bruce Lyons



Yesterday and all this week I have been watching BBC Rip Off Britain featuring Angela Rippon, Jannie Bond, Gloria Hunniford and supported by Simon Calder, and others. I guess I am drawn to the programme but to tell you the truth whilst they champion themselves in getting refunds from all and sundry I am really surprised that there is practically no mention of the cohort of independent travel agents who since March have been working 24/7 solving problems for their clients!

One thing's for sure, your local independent agent is always there for you - by email, social media, telephone and text - a very different story if you booked with an OTA (online travel agency) if you can even find the phone/ email that is, they rarely get an answer and pretty well If you did get thru they can't find the booking and it is always someone else who has a different interpretation of the hundreds of our bookings.

Only a couple of our past and affected bookings remain "work in progress" and hopefully in time they will also be resolved. As our staff have been furloughed we only have a skeleton of the crew working and absolutely no income. Moreover the Insurance Companies refuse to recognise Legitimate claims despite announcing at the outset that the British Association of Insurers stated it would cost them more than the ASH cloud Saga (and that was more than £275 million)

I don't know how we coped with the workload as Hedda (my wife) and I caught COVID and had to isolate, which only left one pair of hands working remote and on site when things improved and I could return. Being an Independent means most of our clients know us personally and

have been absolutely amazing with lots deferring their holiday to 2021/2. The suppliers are often being very tricky - but it simply isn't like the media says - often they don't have the money back, and in many cases never will. The ATOL rules are very clear but they don't help you solve the problems right now! By the way we have refunded over £240,000 since March and amended another approx. £200,000 worth of bookings!



With all the new protocols and disciplines the appetite to travel is, on the whole, still only on the horizon, so, in short I wish the BBC's One Show (Watchdog) and Rip Off Britain would be a title more transparent about the difficulties we, the industry, are grappling with.

There! That is a load off my chest & I will now sleep tonight. And hopefully you will be careful to next time you travel you book with a dedicated local travel agent - they may not be the very very cheapest but they will be looking after you and your (well earnt) money.

Follow in Sara Pascoe's footsteps

(BBC 2 Last Woman on Earth)

By Bruce Lyons

I'm enjoying Sara's exploits on BBC 2 she really evokes the real experience of travel, enjoying local customs and traditions and all communicated to us in such a charming way.

Her trip to Cuba gave such an insight to this enchanting country and its history and cultures- even the cuisine and the authenticity of the programme really come across, unfortunately we can't all go with a full camera crew & fixers.

But surprisingly enough much of what Sara showed us can be enjoyed by regular travellers. As most of Sara's experiences can be enjoyed on trips I can organise. Budget Havana in Casa Particulars (Cuba's B & B network) All privately owned even the Ballet Dancer Carlos Acosta owns one) travel in old style Chevrolets and Music clubs everywhere - And you can include a short coach tour (Cuban



style) to Vinales with visits to Cigar Plantations and a local factory, maybe even hear a lecture read to the workers! I must say I was intrigued to hear How the Romeo & Julieta Cigars – got their name – apparently Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" was one of the most popular readings requested by the workers – hence the Cigars name.

There are two such small traditional coach tours one in the East and West both well run with local style overnights, or you may prefer to combine Havana and a coach tour and even a stay in Trinidad (a world heritage city) on the coast.

Cuba enjoys an FCO Corridor so as soon as this current lockdown is eased and travel is again permitted (perhaps by Easter?) we can travel here on direct flights and book with confidence.

Cuba has a lot to offer and there are many small group tours with different focuses, Walking, cycling, culture, history, wildlife, scuba diving, and beach. Can't be sure to include a Coconut tree climb though, but most of the rest is readily available.

Sara's Finland is on BBC2 on Sunday- Ice Carving Tree Felling , Santas Elf and more! Take a look.

Enjoy!

Remember the telephone

By Doug Goodman

Back in the 70s the TV series 'Star Trek' unveiled the 'communicator' – a device which allowed the intrepid space travellers to talk to each other. Who would have thought that 50 years on the 'communicator' or mobile phone would be in such widespread use. A few years ago, during a visit to India, I was interested to learn that the arrival of the mobile phone had enabled many of the less-developed regions to go from no telephones to mobile ones; thus avoiding the need for extensive telephone exchanges and land lines. In a tiny, remote village in Crete, where I stayed in 1973, I remember the taverna owner calling out to the community that there was a call for someone. There was just the single phone available which provided some fascinating overheard conversations.

The name 'telephone' is derived from Greek roots: tele- 'far' and phone- 'sound'. On 14th January 1878, 143 years ago, Queen Victoria was given the first demonstration of the newly invented telephone. Alexander Graham Bell, born in Edinburgh in 1847, developed the telephone from his work on the telegraph. He moved to Canada and then Boston and was the first person to be granted a US patent for an instrument that gave an intelligible reproduction of the human voice on a distant, second device. The Bell Telephone was formed in 1877.

My father was a telephone engineer and collected some old handsets so if you have any ancient phones they may be quite valuable.



Kingston and Richmond youth offending service inspection



Her Majesty's
Inspectorate of
Probation

An inspection of youth offending services in
Kingston and Richmond

HM Inspectorate of Probation, January 2021

HM Inspectorate of Probation published its inspection of youth offending services in Kingston and Richmond on Thursday 07 January.

The Inspectorate has given the service an overall rating of 'Good' (we use a four-point scale: 'Outstanding', 'Good', 'Requires improvement' and 'Inadequate').

The full report (PDF) can be viewed [HERE](#)



Her Majesty's
Inspectorate of
Probation

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.

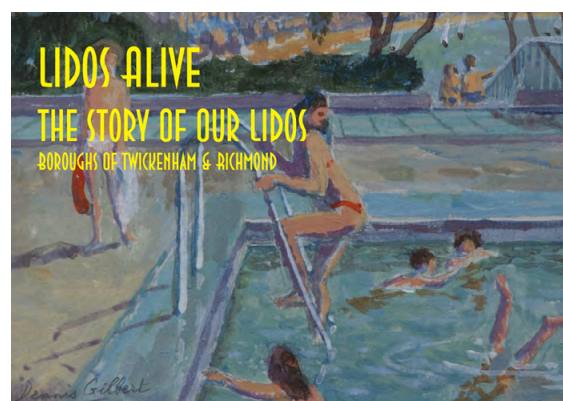
More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

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](#)

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



A MAN CALLED OVE

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: A MAN CALLED OVE was 784th film screened by RFS on 24th April 2018. **A Man Called Ove** was the top ranked film of Season 55, it got an approval mark of 96% from those attending. It was also the top ranked 2017-2018 film from a poll of all the film societies in Britain. **A Man Called Ove** can be streamed from Amazon Prime and is on BFI Player plus the discs are available from Amazon and others.

A MAN CALLED OVE (En man som heter Ove)

Country: Sweden, 2015
 Director: Hannes Holm
 Language: Swedish
 Music: assorted
 Editor: Fredrik Morheden
 Cinematography: Göran Hallberg
 Running Time: 106 min., colour
 Screenplay: Hannes Holm & Fredrik Backman

Leading Players:

Rolf Lassgård (Ove)
 Bahar Pars (Parvaneh)
 Filip Berg (young Ove)
 Ida Engvoll (Sonja)
 Tobias Almborg (Patrick)
 Klas Wiljergård (Jimmy)
 Chatarina Larsson (Anita)
 Börje Lundberg (Rune)



A Man Called Ove is a Swedish comedy-drama film which was released in Sweden in 2015. The film was written and directed by Hannes Holm, and is based on Fredrik Backman's 2012 international best-selling novel of the same name.

Ove is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, who spends his days enforcing the housing block association rules that only he cares about and visiting his wife's grave. Ove has given up on life. Ove's world is shaken when pregnant Parvaneh (Bahar Pars) and her family move in next door. An unlikely friendship forms,

and we come to understand Ove's past happiness and heartbreaks. What emerges is a heart-warming tale of unreliable first impressions, and the gentle reminder that life is sweeter when it's shared.

In the leading role as Ove is Rolf Lassgård, known to fans of television Sandi-noir as Kurt Wallander from 1994 to 2007, and as policeman Gunvald Larsson in a series of films made in 1993-1994 based on the Martin Beck novels. He won the Best Actor award at the 51st Guldbagge Film Festival. Rumour has it that Tom Hanks is attached to star as Ove in the Hollywood remark.

The film was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film and Best Makeup and Hairstyling categories at the 89th Academy Awards, and was the highest grossing foreign language film released in the U.S. in 2016.

Sara Steinke

Farewell to ferryman Francis Spencer

On the morning of Tuesday 5th January, the pavements and roads around St Mary's Church and Church Street in Twickenham were packed with people paying their last respects to Francis Spencer, the popular Captain of Hammertons Ferry.

Photo by Julie Hill





BRENTFORD FC

Bees cup dream ended up classy Spurs

Tottenham Hotspur 2 – 0 Brentford

Brentford were unable to overcome Premier League opposition for a fifth time this season as their League Cup run ended at the semi-final stage. Tottenham opened the scoring early through a strike from Moussa Sissoko and Son Heung-min scored a brilliant individual goal in the second-half. Ivan Toney did have the ball in the back of the net for the visitors but the goal was chalked off by VAR and the game was effectively sealed when Bees were reduced to ten men when Josh Dasilva was dismissed in the closing stages for a challenge on Pierre-Emile Højbjerg.



Both sides showed a great deal of respect in the opening period of the semi-final. Sergio Reguilón was outpaced by Bryan Mbeumo on the right flank for Brentford and Davinson Sánchez had to be alert to head the ball clear as Toney lurked on the edge of the six-yard area. Enterprising build-up play from Spurs between Tanguy Ndombele and Eric Dier nearly led to a chance for the home side but Dasilva intercepted to break up the move.

The Premier League side opened the scoring on 12 minutes and from a Brentford perspective it was a bitterly frustrating goal to concede. Dier received a pass in central midfield and spotted Reguilón in space of the left wing. A lack of pressure on the Spanish fullback then allowed him to lift his head up and pick out Sissoko. The cross was weighted perfectly and the Frenchman took advantage to head the ball into the top corner and past David Raya to give the home side the first goal.

Tottenham continued to enjoy the majority of possession in the first-half and looked the side more likely to find the game's second goal. Raya was forced into a decent save from Son who curled a strike from the edge of the area.

The closest the Bees went in the first-half came when Dasilva feed Mbeumo and the Brentford forward delivered a swerving cross into the box that Toney managed to get a head to, but under pressure from Sánchez he couldn't generate the power and his header was gathered easily by Hugo Lloris.

Son then showed his defensive work rate when he got back to block a promising shot from Dasilva after a Sergi Canós cross had initially been headed out by Dier and into the path of Dasilva.

However, it was Tottenham who nearly scored a second before half-time but for instinctive reflexes from Raya. With five minutes to go Son whipped in a cross to the near post and the ball deflected off the head of Toney. Raya had to claw the ball away as it looped towards the top corner and Vitaly Janelt completed the clearance.

Brentford came out the tunnel for the second-half much improved and nearly equalised after Mbeumo found his way past Sissoko. Mbeumo could have gone down under the challenge from his fellow countryman but instead stayed on his feet and pulled the ball back to Toney, who was denied by an excellent block from Serge Aurier on the edge of the six-yard box.

Just a minute later at the other end of the pitch Aurier was once again involved as the ball broke fortuitously to him but after skipping inside he fired over from seven yards out.

Brentford thought they had equalised when Toney turned the ball in from close range but were subsequently denied by a VAR review. A long throw in from Mads Bech Sørensen had initially caused problems for Spurs at the back and after Sissoko flicked the ball on, Reguilón was forced into a hurried clearance behind for a corner. From the resulting corner Ethan Pinnock headed the ball towards goal and after Lloris had parried, Toney reacted quickest to head home from close range, only to see his celebration in vain after being disallowed for a tight offside call.

Tottenham capitalised soon after as they got their crucial second goal of the game. The Premiership class showed as Kane combined with Ndombele, who slipped a through ball into Son, which the Korean burst onto and raced clear of the Brentford backline to finish decisively past Raya.

As Brentford went looking for a way back into the game they left themselves exposed and Spurs and a couple of opportunities to seal the cup-tie. After a quick free-kick Kane found himself in on goal but Raya did well to save one on one to keep Brentford in the game.

The woodwork then came to the Bees rescue as Kane and Son held the ball up in the final third before the latter passed the ball onto the overlapping Ndombele. Ndombele ingeniously then scooped the ball over Henrik Dalsgaard but from a tight angle his shot rebounded off the post and out for a goal-kick.

All hopes of a Brentford comeback were effectively extinguished as Josh Dasilva was sent off with six minutes to play. The midfielder went into a challenge on Højbjerg leading with his studs and after VAR instructed Mike Dean to take a look on the monitor, the referee was left with little option but to produce the red card as the Premier League side saw out the remainder of the game to book the place at Wembley for the final in April.

Brentford v Bristol City postponed due to Covid

Brentford's Championship encounter against Bristol City at the Brentford Community Stadium has been postponed after members of the visiting team were reported to be experiencing symptoms of the virus.

In line with regulations from the English Football League (EFL) and the national government members of the Robins' squad have been forced to isolate.

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday 2 January 2020 but in light of the isolation has been subsequently rescheduled for Wednesday 13 January 2020 with a 19:00 kick-off.

Brentford quartet make loan moves

Brentford have announced a couple of changes to their squad as Halil Dervişoğlu has been recalled from his loan spell in the Netherlands and Dominic Thompson has been loaned out to Swindon Town. Meanwhile Patrik Gunnarsson has moved to Silkeborg IF and Ellery Balcombe has completed a loan deal to Doncaster Rovers.

Dervişoğlu has returned from a loan spell with Dutch side FC Twente. The striker left Brentford in October and made ten appearances in total out on loan with nine appearances in the Eredivisie and one in the cup.

The Striker will be in contention for this weekend's FA Cup Third Round tie at the Brentford Community Stadium against fellow Championship side Middlesbrough. Since signing for the Bees in 2019 the U21 Turkish international has made eight appearances for the club.

Defender Thompson has been sent on a season long loan to League One side Swindon Town having made nine appearances for the Bees this season.

Speaking to club media after the move Head Coach Thomas Frank said, "Dom has done a very good job for us this season and is developing as a player. But he has Rico Henry ahead of him to play left back at Brentford and he needs to get regular games in order to take the next step. This is a great opportunity for him. Swindon are a good club, playing at a decent level in League One and Dom will be able to play for them for the rest of the season."

Gunnarsson will play for Danish side Silkeborg IF having already spent time on loan in the league with Viborg Fodsbolde.

Speaking to club media about Gunnarsson's move Head Coach Thomas Frank said, "We were very happy with Patrik's spell at Viborg, who he left top of the league. Now he gets to go back to the same division and play for a big club who are fighting for that same prize of promotion. At this stage of his career, Patrik will really benefit from more first team football and we're really pleased he gets that chance again with Silkeborg. We have a huge amount of belief in Patrik as a young goalkeeper and this will be another important step in his development."

Balcombe meanwhile will be joined up with League One side Doncaster Rovers after signing a long-term contract extension in the week that will see the goalkeeper stay with Brentford until at least 2025.

Thomas Frank was positive about the move in terms of Ellery's development when speaking to club media, "Ellery is one of our very good young goalkeepers, alongside Patrik Gunnarsson, who we have a huge amount of belief in. This new contract, and the chance to go and get important minutes with Doncaster Rovers in League One, shows the regard we hold Ellery in as a player for the future at Brentford. Many top players have made the step up from League One in recent years and this time at Doncaster will be a really good chance for Ellery to get vital minutes during this next stage of his development."

Thomas Frank wins manager of the month award

Brentford Head Coach Thomas Frank rounded off a successful month as he won the manager of the month award for the Championship following a string of impressive performances.

The Bees went unbeaten through eight games winning five of them as the side moved into the playoff places in the Championship.

This is the second occasion on which Frank has won the awards whilst with Brentford and the Dane was delighted to receive recognition for his side's performances. Speaking to club media he said that it "is a fantastic achievement. Across the whole of Europe, no team has played more games than Brentford this season. It takes a big effort from everyone to continue to perform to such a high level and everyone should be really proud."

Positive Covid tests at Brentford

Head Coach Thomas Frank has tested positive for the coronavirus during regular testing carried out by the EFL on Thursday 7 January. Frank, along with another individual who can't be named for patient confidentiality reasons, will now have to isolate for ten days in line with league and government regulation.

As a result, Frank will be absent from the dugout tomorrow for the visit of Middlesbrough in the FA

Cup Third Round and instead Brentford B Head Coach Neil MacFarlane will take over managerial duties, having taken charge of first team training on Friday.

Frank is current set to miss the FA Cup tie as well as the visit from Bristol City on Wednesday 13 January and the away games against Reading on Saturday 16 January.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Middlesbrough (H) Saturday 9th January 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Boro

Competition: FA Cup – Third Round

Manager: Neil Warnock

Interesting fact: Middlesbrough were the first football club in the world to launch its own TV channel – Boro TV with the first broadcasts part of the club's first ever major cup final appearance in 1997

Game 2

Opponent: Bristol City (H) Wednesday 13th January 19:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Robins

Competition: Championship - Matchday 23

Head Coach: Dean Holden

Opponent record: P22 W10 D3 L9 GF 23 GA24 (10th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Bristol City have one of the few international club derbies in the United Kingdom with their rivalry with Cardiff City, which is known as the Severnside derby.

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers kick off new year with a point

Hampton & Richmond 1 – 1 Dorking Wanderers

Hampton & Richmond Borough started off 2021 with a hard fought point in an entertaining game against fellow promotion chasers Dorking Wanderers in a reverse of the game from Boxing Day. Ryan Gondoh opened the scoring for the Beavers in stoppage time at the end of the first-half and then Dorking themselves had a penalty in the second-half, although Alan Julian denied Luke Moore from the spot. However, the visiting side were soon on level terms courtesy of Wes Fogden as both sides created chances but neither could find a winner.

The Beavers had edged past in Dorking a week previously but on this occasion at home they had the first chance of the game. Fullback Kyron Farrell advanced forward and passed the ball into Niko Muir who held the ball up and brought Gondoh into play on the right wing. Gondoh then cut infield and curled a shot that went narrowly over the crossbar.

The visitors hit back though and were unfortunate perhaps to not score when Kane Wills saw a shot rebound off the inside off the post. A corner from Dorking had initially been cleared well by returning Hampton captain Luke Ruddick, but Wills picked the ball up on the from at least 25 yards and struck a dipping shot that cannoned off the woodwork with Julian rooted to the spot.

In was then the turn of Hampton to try and build some momentum as Jake Gray combined with Farrell



on the left wing and the former released the latter on an overlapping run. Farrell then slid an enticing ball across the face of goal but neither Muir or David Fisher could get any contact of the delivery as the ball flashed past the back post.

Hampton did take a goal advantage into the break thanks to a composed penalty from Gondoh. It was Gondoh himself who initiated the counterattack for Hampton as he picked up a clearance from the edge of the area by Fisher following a Dorking corner. The forward then dribbled up field and played a through ball for Muir who got a shot away that was initially saved by former Hampton player Sam Howes. The ball however rebounded back into the path of Muir and after a challenge from Edward Harris on Fisher the referee pointed to the spot. Gondoh then stepped up to send Howes to wrong way for the opener just before half-time.

Dorking however started the second 45 minutes the better side and early on had a shot that narrowly flashed past the post. Striker Alfie Rutherford picked up the ball in the final third and switched play across to Matt Briggs who got a shot away but it drifted wide.

The referee pointed to the penalty spot for the second time in the game as Ruddick was penalised for a late tackle inside the box. Julian came to Hampton's rescue as he got down low to his right hand side to deny Moore and push the ball away to safety.

Hampton & Richmond however were unable to keep Dorking out and their defensive resistance was ended when Fogden headed home from inside the six-yard box. Nicky Wheeler had initially picked up the ball on the edge of the area and shot from distance, which came back off the post and Fogden reacted quickest to score from close range a diving header.

Hampton responded well though and their goal scorer Gondoh went close to adding to his personal tally for the afternoon. The Hampton number 14 dribbled inside and shot from 25 yards that Howes did well to tip over the crossbar.

Razzaq Coleman, on as a substitute, nearly had the desired effect when received a pass from Gondoh and turned Fogden right on the edge of the area, but his shot was off target.

Hampton went close to winning it at the death when Tyrell Miller-Rodney, who had scored for the first time in two years in the Boxing Day game, had a shot from distance that deflected off the back of Moore and looked to be heading into the top corner. Howes, however had other thoughts and magnificently to deny Hampton all three points late on.

Two Hampton fixtures called off due to Covid

Hampton & Richmond Borough have had two of their National League South matches postponed due to coronavirus outbreak at opposition clubs.

The first game to be called off was the visit of Havant & Waterlooville to the Beveree Stadium on Tuesday 12 January due to a positive test in the away side which meant that the Havant squad had to enter a period of self-isolation.

Hampton's game trip to Essex to face Concord Rangers was then postponed at late notice of Friday evening after a positive coronavirus test for a Concord player.

The fixture was originally due to take place on Saturday 9 January but in line with National League and Government regulation the game has also been postponed.

Hampton & Richmond Borough are currently in the playoff positions and sit 5th in the table having played 14 games so far this season. They scheduled to play against Ebbsfleet United on Saturday 16 January 2020 at the Beveree Stadium.

Come on you Beavers!

Interim guidance and handbook on genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2

SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing for public health goals: Interim guidance

The growing understanding of how sequence information can contribute to improved public health is driving global investments in sequencing facilities and programmes. The falling cost and complexity of generating GSD provides opportunities for expanding sequencing capacity; however, challenges to widespread implementation remain. This document provides policy-makers and stakeholders with guidance on how to maximize the public health benefit of SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing activities in the short and long term as the pandemic continues to unfold. Practical considerations for the implementation of a virus genomic sequencing programme and an overview of the public health objectives of genomic sequencing are covered. This guidance focuses on SARS-CoV-2 but is applicable to other pathogens of public health concern.

View the full report [HERE](#)

Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health


Sequencing enabled the world to rapidly identify SARS-CoV-2 and develop diagnostic tests and other tools for outbreak management. Continued genome sequencing supports the monitoring of the disease's spread and evolution of the virus. Accelerated integration of genome sequencing into the practices of the global health community is required if we want to be better prepared for the future threats. This document provides guidance for laboratories on maximizing the impact of SARS-CoV-2 sequencing now and other emerging pathogens in the future.

View the full report [HERE](#)



SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing for public health goals

Interim guidance
8 January 2021



Key messages:

- Global surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequences and related metadata contributes to the COVID-19 outbreak response. This contribution includes tracking the spread of SARS-CoV-2 geographically over time and ensuring that mutations that could potentially influence pathogenicity, transmission or countermeasures (such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics) are detected and assessed in a timely manner.
- While the cost and complexity of genetic sequencing have dropped significantly over time, effective sequencing programmes still require substantial investment in terms of staff, equipment, reagents and bioinformatic infrastructure. Additionally, effective collaboration is needed to ensure that generated data are of good quality and are used in a meaningful way.
- Countries are encouraged to rapidly deposit SARS-CoV-2 sequences in a public database in order to share them with the scientific community for public health purposes. Investments in a tiered global sequencing network for SARS-CoV-2 will contribute to the development of resilient, high-quality global sequencing programmes for the detection and management of other outbreak pathogens in the future.

Background

Over the last decade, genetic sequence data (GSD) of pathogens have come to play a pivotal role in the detection and management of infectious disease outbreaks, supporting the development of diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, and informing the outbreak response (1–11). With the emergence of the novel coronavirus, later named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the importance of GSD has been further underlined. More than 280 000 full genome sequences have been shared via publicly accessible databases within a year of the initial identification of SARS-CoV-2 (12). Near real-time analysis of data has directly impacted the public health response (12–16). The public health objectives of SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing are listed in Table 1.

The growing understanding of how sequence information can contribute to improved public health is driving global investments in sequencing facilities and programmes. The falling cost and complexity of generating GSD provides opportunities for expanding sequencing capacity; however, challenges to widespread implementation remain, and sequencing capacity and data are not evenly distributed around the world, with an overrepresentation of SARS-CoV-2 GSD from high-income countries.


Table 1. Public health objectives of SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing

Activities that require a limited effort and once achieved might need either no sequencing or occasional sequencing for follow-up	Activities that require sustained sequencing activities over a longer period of time
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify SARS-CoV-2 as the causative agent of disease.Develop diagnostics for SARS-CoV-2.Support the development of therapies and vaccines.Investigate date of introduction into humans and investigate SARS-CoV-2 origins (ongoing).Revelations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate and improve understanding of this phenomenon.On the individual level, differentiate between prolonged infection and reinfection.	<p>SARS-CoV-2 evolution and its impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Change in viral behaviour (phenotypic change) (e.g. transmissibility or pathogenicity).Immunity (from vaccines or natural infection).Diagnostics (i.e., molecular, serology, antigen assays).Therapeutic interventions (e.g., monoclonal antibodies). <p>Monitor viral movement and activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigate geographic spread and re-introductions between populations.Investigate outbreaks in specific settings and populations (e.g., in hospitals).Track zoonotic introduction in both directions over the species barrier.Monitor environmental and waste water.Support classical surveillance by quantifying the period of transmission and evaluating drivers, and by estimating the transmission level in the population.

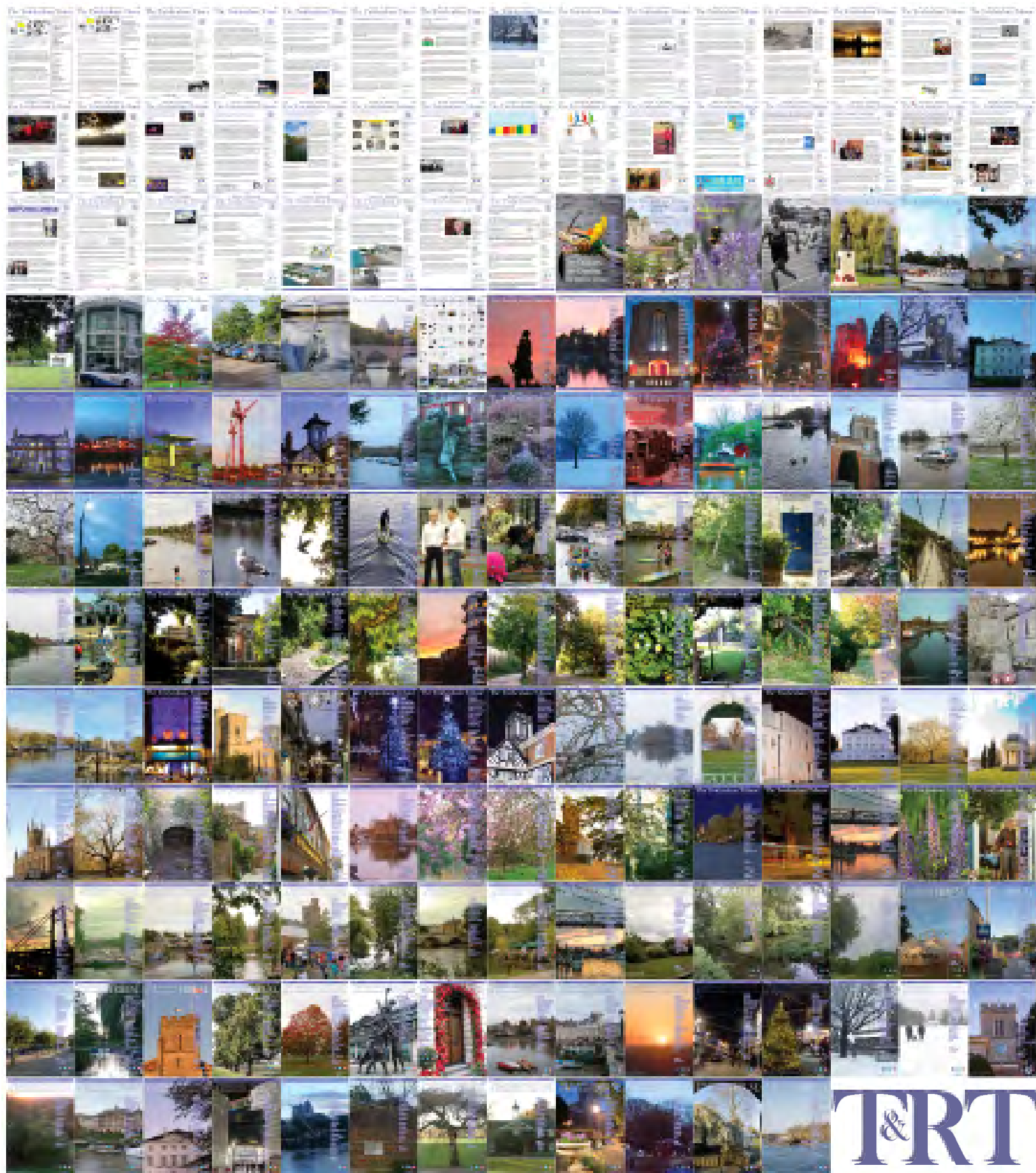
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Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data
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