

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Berkley Driscoll
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5th February 2021

T&RT

Twickenham Green Sunset

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Teddington Library will temporarily close for much needed repairs

Teddington Library will close for 12 weeks on Monday 15 February for roof and ceiling repairs to protect the Grade II listed building. Teddington Library users are encouraged to use nearby Hampton Hill and Hampton Libraries, which will be open Monday to Saturday. Twickenham Library is also nearby and is open for six days a week. All items borrowed from Teddington Library will have their loan periods extended until the Library reopens.

Business Grants review extends eligibility for funding

A review of the COVID-19 Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme has been launched by Richmond Council - benefiting not only those operating from a business premises, but also those based at home. Richmond upon Thames has been allocated £5.72 million by the Government for the ARG scheme, designed to support businesses who are not eligible for other forms of financial support. So far, the Council has assisted nearly 5,000 businesses, awarding over £50 million.

Read more about the eligibility for the grants and apply. [HERE](#)

Children's mental health remains top priority for Richmond upon Thames Voluntary Fund

Children's and youth mental health charities will remain the focus for the Richmond upon Thames Voluntary Fund, as local organisations face increased demand with more and more young people and children needing support due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Richmond upon Thames Voluntary Fund (Registered Charity No. 1186870) is a charitable trust that has been set up to collect donations from residents for specific vulnerable groups, where there is a need for additional funding for help and support.

This year's appeal is launching during Children's Mental Health Week, to mark the selected charity beneficiaries for 2021: Off The Record, Richmond Borough Mind, Marble Hill Playcentres and Dose of Nature.

For more information, or to donate, visit [Richmond upon Thames Voluntary Fund](#).

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



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So, the council's Twickenham Riverside 'consultation' has come to an end. TwickerSeal submitted his online

questionnaire and hopes you did too.

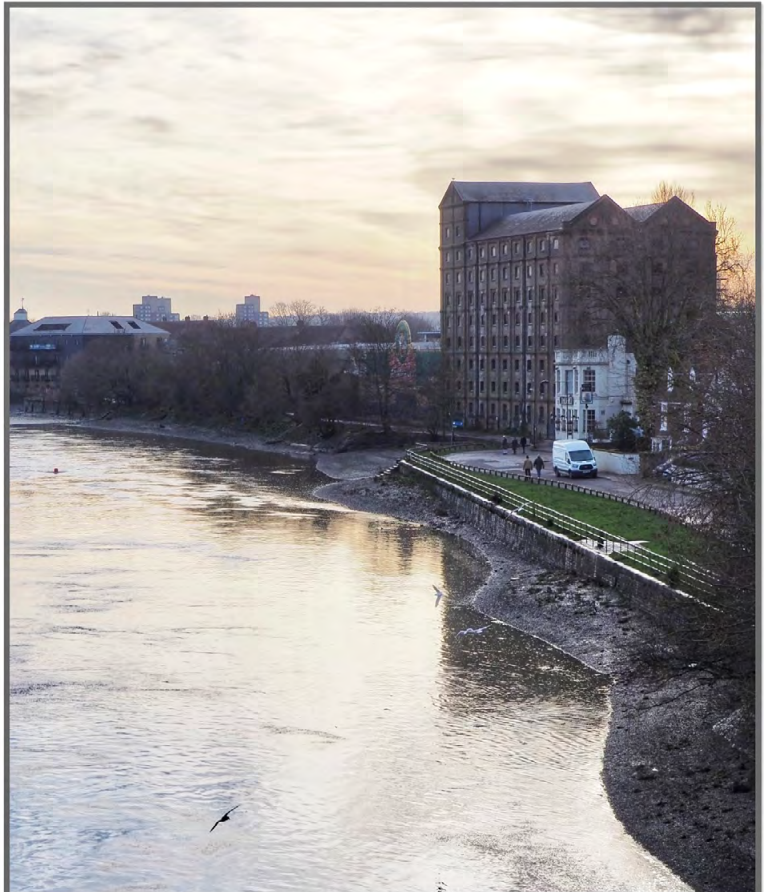
It seems that the feedback results are going to be collated and a report produced by the council rather than an outside body. Presumably as the only way the council can get a favourable outcome is by marking its own papers?

It will be interesting to see what steps, if any, the council takes towards public engagement before ploughing ahead with a planning application. Will the results of this 'consultation' be set out for public discussion first, or will they just tick that box and move on? TwickerSeal is disappointed by the council's indecent haste while so much to do with the proposal remains unanswered and incomplete. Obviously, the elections on 5th May 2022 couldn't be a factor. Could they?



Mortlake Riverside

Looking on to the Stag Brewery, currently under planning consultations with the local community for redevelopment and adjoining Thames Bank and Ship Lane. The atmospheric view from Chiswick Bridge on this crisp morning takes in a shimmering, gleaming river Thames, the quiet only broken by early morning cyclists, river-path runners and dog walkers.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

From the World Health Organization:

Globally, just under 3.7 million new cases were reported in the past week, a decline of 13% from last week, and the number of new deaths reported was over 96 000, comparable to the previous week. This brings the cumulative numbers to over 102.1 million reported cases and over 2.2 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic. (3rd February 2021).

The Director of the World Health Organization:

“The majority of those who have died from COVID-19 had an underlying non-communicable disease (NCD), such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease or cancer. NCDs account for nearly three-quarters of all deaths around the world, and the scale and urgency of the problem was thrown into sharp relief by COVID-19.”

Africa: “We know no one will be safe until everyone is safe.”

COVAX has notified countries in Africa of the estimated dose allocation for the first phase of COVID-19 vaccine delivery. The global initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) aims to start shipping nearly 90 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the continent in February, in what will be Africa’s largest ever mass vaccination campaign.

The initial phase of 90 million doses will support countries to immunize 3% of the African population most in need of protection, including health workers and other vulnerable groups in the first half of 2021. As production capacity increases and more vaccines become available the aim is to vaccinate at least 20% of Africans by providing up to 600 million doses by the end of 2021.

Tinnitus Week

Tinnitus can be made worse by Covid-19 according to a study by Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge and reported in Science Daily. Forty percent of people with tinnitus who developed coronavirus symptoms experienced a worsening of their tinnitus. Tinnitus has been identified as a common symptom in Covid-19 and long Covid-19.

Double Masking

There is growing concern that many masks are not giving adequate protection from COVID-19 as variants emerge.

It has recently been reported that people infected with the variant may shed larger quantities of the virus, which increases the risk to those around them.

White House advisor, Dr Fauci has supported double masking: “If you have a physical covering with one layer, you put another layer on, it just makes common sense that it likely would be more effective.” “That’s the reason why you see people either double masking or doing a version of an N95.”

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 5TH February 2021

9,816 Richmond upon Thames

11,136 Kingston upon Thames

22,198 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 2,265,354

USA 443,256

Brazil 227,563

Mexico 161,240

India 154,823

The United Kingdom 109,335

Italy 89,820

France 77,193

Russian Federation 75,205

Spain 60,370

Germany 59,742

Iran 58,256

Colombia 54,877

Argentina 48,539

South Africa 45,344

Peru 41,538

Poland 38,344

Indonesia 31,001

Turkey 26,354

Ukraine 23,229

Belgium 21,216

Canada 20,355

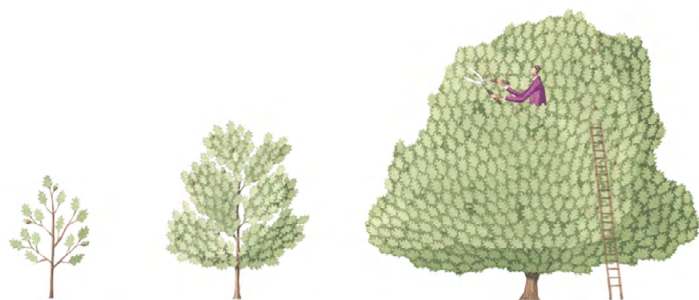
Chile 18,731

Romania 18,600

Czechia 16,826

Ecuador 14,968

Netherlands 14,169



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Gibraltar on Thames

By Simon Fowler

During the Second World War Richmond housed hundreds of Women and children who were evacuated from Gibraltar in June 1940 because of fears that the Germans and Italians would attempt to seize the colony.

Initially, 13,000 Gibraltarians were hurriedly sent to Casablanca and Rabat in Morocco, which was then controlled by France. Following the fall of France and increasing hostility of the Vichy government, they had to flee with just a few hours' notice. Some 12,000 people eventually arrived in Cardiff, Liverpool and other ports during the summer of 1940, with smaller numbers going to Madeira and Jamaica. They were sent to London where they were billeted in hotels. Many children attended school at the Victoria & Albert Museum throughout the Blitz.

In April 1941, a large party of Gibraltarians came to Richmond, which was regarded as being safer than London. They were billeted in Buckingham and Marlborough houses which were part of Courtlands, a complex of newly built flats on Sheen Road.

Courtlands already housed many refugees, some of whom had fled the Spanish Civil War. On 21 September 1940 a mine landed directly on one of the blocks - Runnymede House - killing eight people including five Germans and Czechs.

Among the new arrivals was Mary Bosano, then aged nine, who came with her mother and brothers and sisters. Her father – a dock policeman – remained on the Rock. Now aged nearly ninety, she remembers how she and her brothers and sister so enjoyed being in Richmond – the freedoms and in particular the space (compared to where they lived in Gibraltar's Old Town). Mary joined the local Brownie Pack and her older sister, Aida, was a Girl Guide. The pack met in a church hall on Richmond Green.

Mary went to school at the Marist Convent. The school was housed in temporary accommodation in Fife Road, East Sheen as the Convent itself had been destroyed during the Blitz. She also remembers the pond adjacent to Queens Road as she was bitten by an Alsatian Dog that lived at the Black Horse pub on the corner with Sheen Road.

The Bosanos left Richmond in October 1943, living for a few months in the Balmoral Hotel in Kensington, before making the return sailing to Gibraltar in April 1944. They were among the first to return as priority was given to families who had left menfolk behind in Gibraltar.

They were the lucky ones. Many families did not return home until 1951 having lived for some years after the war in old army camps in Northern Ireland.

Thanks to Paul D Lane who supplied the photograph and his mother's memories of her time in Richmond.



You can view more information and a video about the Gibraltar Evacuees [HERE](#)

London plane trees

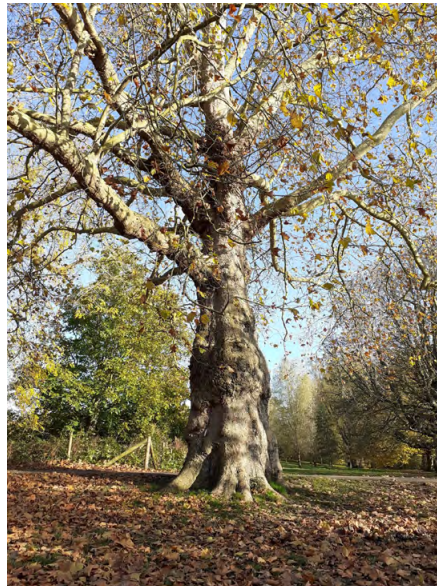
By Kas Rasenberg

On the grounds of Marble Hill Park stand several London plane trees. Their mottled bark and pendulous branches are particularly beautiful during this time of the year. Their leaves may have long decomposed, but bronze-coloured fruits still hang from the branches. It is said that they will remain there until the winter has passed. In a few weeks they will be broken and dispersed by the wind.

The streets of this metropolis are lined with London plane trees. Yet whilst they have become a common sight alongside the river Thames, it was not until the seventeenth century that their roots first appeared. It has been assumed that the tree has no wild variant and that the first of its kind must have originated from a chance seedling. This most likely occurred in a botanical garden, where an Oriental plane grew in the vicinity of an Occidental plane.



The distinctive mottled bark of the London plane tree



One of the many ancient London plane trees at Marble Hill Park

Many fossilised leaves or fruits of the *Platanus orientalis* have been preserved in the earth's stratum. This antediluvian tree is native to an area eastward of the Balkans and has become a part of the heritage of the gardens of the Kashmir. Napoleon Bonaparte once demanded the tree's cultivation in France, where their canopies could keep his soldiers in the shade and their bark could reduce the dust from the roads. The tree's other ancestor, the Occidental plane, is native to the Western Hemisphere. Its coarse-grained wood has been used for the fabrication of a variety of objects. Boxes and crates and violins have all been made from its wood.

The London plane trees are robust and many of those that are still standing have become an emblem of resistance. They have withstood the black ashes that arose from the Victorian cotton mills and factories. They have withstood the Great Storm and witnessed all of the catastrophes that unfolded during both of the wars. The trees are tolerant to a diverse range of soils and can endure both cold and mild temperatures. Their large leaves still protect us from the sun.

Yet even the most robust of trees are not unaffected by their environment. I have read that the old London plane trees, which grew in the vicinity of street lamps, might have been influenced by their light. This artificial radiance may have caused the tree to hold onto its leaves for longer. Our little lights have affected the rhythms of many other species. Even wildflowers have assumed the light of a candle to be the light of the sun.

Twickenham Riverside development: An Unfinished Symphony

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

The list of answers to questions put during the Council's Zoom meeting of 26 January (84 in number), published a few days ago, is very revealing. Just about half of these replies were of the nature of "we are working on it", "this is under consideration", and the like. This goes to strengthen my argument in last week's Tribune that it was premature for the Council to ask residents for their opinion at this present time (the consultation ended on February 3).

It would be tedious to make a list of all the points that could not be definitely answered, but I should like to address a few of the most important.

Among some very interesting replies were two linked to the cost of the development: the first questioner asked if a cost of £35 million could be justified in the present circumstances. The reply to this was that "this is not a figure the Council have said". This is in contradiction of both what the Director of the Environment said during the meeting (he stated this figure was "is a pretty good guess"), and the Council's document entitled "Invited Design Competition. Memorandum of Information" (March 2019), where "The Council has given a construction range of £25 – 35m".

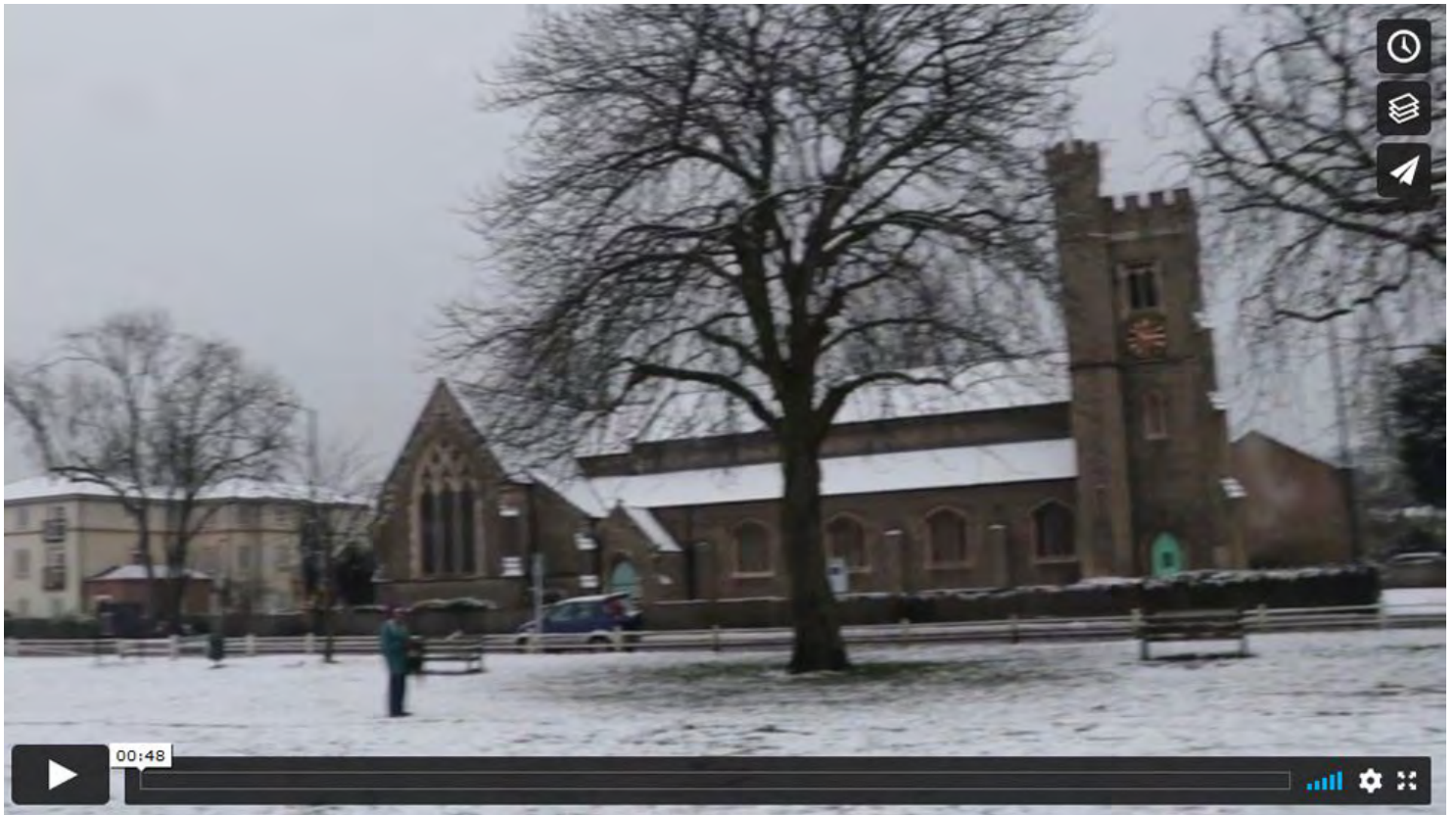
The second question "Will this affect council tax?" produced the reply "No, the scheme will not affect council tax". This makes it clear that the initial cost will have to be covered by borrowing. This will have to be paid back eventually, with interest; at present interest rates are low, but there is no guarantee this will continue in the future. Also, while there is expectation that some revenue will be generated by sale of leases, council tax receipts etc, it is acknowledged that the nett result will be a negative balance (the Director of the Environment went on to say "...the nett cost to the Council and therefore to us ratepayers is far less than that [£35 million] but still significant"). Thus, a burden on the local taxpayer is inevitable, and will be long-lasting. I consider this reply to be at best ingenuous, at worst egregious.

Another reply concerned the effect of the development on environmental and economic issues to the wider area. It told us that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for the site, but on any "ripple effect" the reply was that "it is hoped that this development will have a regenerative impact on Twickenham". This is thin gruel: surely a full Socio-Economic Impact Assessment should be promised, as this is a key factor in sustainability.

"The next planned consultation will be as part of the planning process". I have been told by the Council that results from the consultation just ended will be analysed and reported on by an in-house team. Surely this process should be made more transparent, e.g., by outsourcing this exercise, as was done by the previous administration (where Snap Surveys was used) and for a community vote in 2009 (Electoral Reform Services). Further, it should be noted that comments at the planning process are subject to certain conditions (e.g., objections must be on planning grounds only); can this process really be considered to be a formal consultation?

In summary, these two Zoom meetings, that were supposed to clarify the situation, have merely served to increase the feeling of undue haste about the whole process.

Twickenham Green Snow Video



Already missing the snow we had on Sunday 24th January? Here's a short video to remind you and hopefully there's more on its way on Sunday.

Richmond Mayor expresses condolences following the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Geoff Acton, has expressed his condolences following the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

He said:

"I am sure I speak on behalf of the whole borough when I express how saddened I am to hear of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

"He inspired and helped us all understand that we each have our own part to play in this pandemic.

"Captain Tom showed how much power one person has to do good in the world, even from their own back garden. He lifted our spirits.

"I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. We have lost a hero."

The Union Flag at the Civic Centre in Twickenham will fly at half-mast today in honour of his life.

Sadiq Khan's New London Wall

Nicholas Rogers, Conservative Assembly Candidate for South West London

The Barbican is a fascinating place. While its architecture is not something to be replicated across the city, it is a unique and unusual addition to London's rich stock of buildings. A few years ago, prior to a concert at the wonderful Barbican Arts Centre, I took a tour of its maze of walkways and terraces.

From the high walkway that connects Wallside to Mountjoy House, opposite St. Giles Cripplegate, you can see an extraordinary piece of London's history; a 'D' shaped bastion of the London Wall, a medieval structure that sits on the foundations of the original Roman city walls.

The London Wall was a vital defensive structure for many centuries, keeping the city safe from attack, until London grew beyond its boundaries and the need to defend the city diminished. Nowadays, the few remaining sections of the Wall are carefully preserved as relics of our city's ancient history.

City walls are things of the past, or at least they should be. A city like London – with all its economic heft and cultural lure – cannot exist in isolation; it has an indivisible, mutually-beneficial relationship with its surroundings. I live a short walk from London's boundary. You have to look quite closely to find the exact spot where London becomes Surrey; it simply isn't a factor in people's thinking.



Every day, many thousands of people cross this boundary. They come to London to work, to shop, to visit friends and family, to enjoy the city's culture. This is unquestionably to London's benefit. But Sadiq Khan doesn't agree.

The Mayor is proposing a £3.50 daily charge - £5.50 for older vehicles – for people driving into Greater London. To enforce this, he will create a digital border around the entire city; a New London Wall. For a Mayor who likes to say that 'London is Open', this closing up of the city would be a disastrous act of self-harm.

A grandparent who, for example, drives the five miles from Walton-on-Thames to Hampton every weekday to look after their grandchildren while the parents are at work would find themselves paying almost £1,000 per year – well over that if they have an older car. Local shops and restaurants struggling to recover from the pandemic would lose valuable customers as people decide to go elsewhere. People who need to drive to work – tradespeople, for example, or shift workers who work hours unserved by public transport – would be unfairly penalised.

No one benefits from Sadiq Khan's New London Wall. What would stop Surrey from throwing up its own digital border? If this plan goes ahead, it will do economic damage both inside and outside the city, just when we are trying to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

The Mayor has the power to stop this misguided scheme right now – I am calling on him to do so.

Add your voice to my petition on this issue – www.stopthehighwayrobbery.com.

Dear Editor,

The Twickenham Riverside Site

For those of us looking at the latest amended proposals for the development of the Twickenham Riverside site it is not unreasonable to ask a fundamental question – What has happened to the several laudable objectives set down in the original ‘brief’ issued to prospective architects in March, 2019 and in the more detailed ‘brief’ issued to the short-listed architects in June, 2019.

To quote the Leader’s ‘vision’ as referred to in the ‘briefs’ – ‘This is a great opportunity to deliver real change through an exciting, energising and inspiring design’.

Despite the many months spent in ‘consultation’ with representatives of the local community; late negotiations with the Environment Agency leading to substantial changes to the original proposals on which Hopkins Architects were first selected and subsequently appointed in February last year; and justified debate about the significant consequences of removing most of the existing car-parking from the riverside (and its being displaced into other parts of the Town) and how existing businesses and homes as well as the development itself are to be adequately serviced, we are left with proposals which fall far short of being ‘exciting, energising and inspiring’. Even one of the few potential benefits of the proposed development – encouraging and increasing riverside activity – seems uncertain, with the boat-storage at the south-west corner of the site being described as merely ‘possible’ and ‘movable’.

Instead, we have the prospect of the distinctly non-sustainable destruction of the existing attractive, landscaped riverside walk between the Wharf Lane and Water Lane, only completed in recent years (matching the much used landscaped walk extending from Water Lane to The Barmy Arms); the complete and non-sustainable loss of the existing Diamond Jubilee Gardens as a coherent and well protected, elevated, public open space (and the threat of its compulsory purchase) – rather than its enhancement - and the redistribution of the lost area into ‘terraced lawns’, ‘petanque pitches’ and a ‘children’s play area’ at high level, separated into parts by a non-pedestrian-friendly diagonally-aligned cycle route, and an incoherent series of small and unmanageable grassed areas at low level; the creation of a vast area of unrelieved hard-paving at riverside level – with no indication about how moving vehicles, cycles and pedestrians are to be kept safely apart – and the creation of a tiered events-area which will require extensive metal balustrading to make it safe for the public – not shown in the drawings; and, most significantly, the development of an excessively tall block of non-affordable housing, offices and pub-restaurant down the north-east side of Wharf Lane, wholly out of scale with its setting and contrary to the ‘brief’ and the Local Plan.

Perhaps the only positive aspects of the present proposals are the appointment of the deservedly and highly regarded Hopkins Architects – hopefully to be retained throughout the development process right until completion – and the development of a block of five shops and a café with three floors of affordable housing above down the south-west side of Water Lane – but compromised sadly, by the entirely unjustified widening of Water Lane to take two-way vehicular traffic, rather than being primarily dedicated for pedestrian movement down to the river.

Missing entirely from the present proposals amazingly, is any proposal for the creation of an attractive and distinctive focal point at the junction of Water Lane, King Street and Church Street that celebrates the critical interface between the commercial heart of the Town and the route down its revived riverside.

Before these proposals even begin moving towards being made the subject of an application for Planning Permission, there’s a clear need to secure the substantial redesign of key parts of the scheme in order to deliver an ‘exciting, energising and inspiring’ solution that really rises to the occasion. At the same time, fundamental consideration needs to be given to updating the estimated £25M to £35M construction costs of the present scheme (at June, 2019 prices); the commercial viability of the present scheme; the substantial financial risks to the Council as sole developer; and ensuring effective and accountable project management.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Velluet. - Chartered Architect, St Margaret’s, Twickenham

The Editor,

Cycle riding on pavements

Michael Jay's letter to the Tribune last week regarding the dangers of cyclists illegally riding on footways is very timely, especially in view of the madcap scheme to introduce licensed e-scooters to Richmond-upon-Thames, which will inevitably be ridden along footways, apparently with the nod of Council members.

Almost three years ago I wrote to the Tribune (Edition 89), appalled by the callous cyclist who fractured the skull of nine-year old Eloise on a Mortlake pavement before riding casually off. A few months previously, a toddler in the West Midlands had been killed by a reckless cyclist who also failed to stop. I had little faith then in the police or the Council doing anything, but did not dream the situation would be made even worse by motorised scooters riding on the footways, now it seems with the connivance of the Council.

Cycle riding on pavements and footpaths has been rampant in this Borough for many years now. I have seen cyclists riding around policemen on the pavement with total impunity. Even Mr Jay, an ex-Metropolitan Police Special Constable of long standing, is rightly outraged that the police refuse to uphold the law. Make no doubt about it, riding on footways is illegal as well as being dangerous, but if you should say anything to these reckless cyclists, you will be deluged with foul-mouthed abuse and usually physical threats. However the police will take no action. They are too busy enforcing the latest fads of "socially aware" politicians to take action against real and potential fatal threats.

May I make it clear that I am not anti-cyclist. Having ridden a bike most of my life, I know it to be a great form of exercise and a useful non-polluting way to get around. As Mr Jay says "The bad cyclists get the good cyclists a bad name". However, I'm afraid the bad cyclists are in the majority. (When did you last see a cyclist stop at a traffic light? – but let's not go there too.)

I live on the A311, a busy main road, but the road is probably safer than the pavement. The biggest danger is leaving my front-gate without being injured by a cyclist charging along the pavement. A frail and elderly member of my family was struck by such a cyclist, there have been several incidents with my young granddaughter, and I always make triple-sure that nothing is coming on fast and heavy wheels before emerging on the pavement outside.

Now, in the last year, the whole hazardous scene has been taken up to another hair-raising level but the rash of e-scooters, illegal to use even on roads, thundering along pavements, often overtaking moving cars (and they are all travelling at under the 20mph speed limit, aren't they?). These are motorised vehicle, unregulated, unlicensed, untaxed and uninsured. What do the police do? Nothing.

Local councils do have powers to legislate on road safety matters, and to enforce existing laws. The use of vehicles such as cycles and e-scooters on public footpaths is probably amongst the most dangerous road safety issues in the Borough, but Richmond upon Thames Council just pass the buck to the police. Mr Jay asks at the end of his letter, "Is Richmond Council waiting for someone to be killed before they will do anything?" One wonders whether even a fatality would lead them to take action, so ingrained is the Council's mind is the idea that all cyclists wear halos and all motorists devil's horns. For this cash-strapped Council, frivolously spending money seems the norm. So its answer to road safety is painting rainbows over the pedestrian crossings in the centre of Twickenham.

Undoubtedly the time has come for all adult cycles and all adult scooters to be registered and licenced, and their riders insured. Then we would at least have some idea of knowing who had run us over on the pavement. Maybe the Council (or even the police) might take some action to identify and prosecute reckless cyclists and scooter-riders with the same vigour that they do motorists who break the law or behave dangerously.

The present Richmond Council love espousing new ideas, so perhaps it could take a lead in local government by pioneering local registering of cycles. Complications and expense are excuses that the Council will use, but did that stop them littering the Borough with (ignored) 20 mph signs. "And what about people riding in from outside the Borough?" will be next question. Well, we share the same air that drifts in from neighbouring boroughs, but did that stop Richmond Council from declaring a "Climate Emergency"?

To answer the question posed at the end of last week's letter, I'm afraid the answer is no. Richmond Council would rather see a name plate on a toddler's coffin than a number plate on a bicycle or e-scooter.

Yours sincerely

Keith Wait
Twickenham

To the editor

Re the enclosure of Bushy Park cricket pitch

There has still been no response from The Royal Parks to the gathering opposition to the enclosure of the Teddington cricket club pitch.

People entering Bushy Park via Clapperstyle and Coleshill Gates are now funnelled down a narrow muddy channel, which makes it near-impossible to maintain social distancing.

We are told that the new fence was erected in response to alleged rampant vandalism of the cricket pitch and club facilities by partying teens and deer, but neither will be deterred by a metre high fence. The only victims in the new fence are people who are elderly or disabled, and mothers with pushchairs, who have been denied access to this part of the park. Surely this is not the intended effect.

Is it unreasonable to expect park users to accept the unannounced enclosure of their public space on behalf of a private school and a members-only cricket club? It seems that The Royal Parks management think so and are determined to defend the interests of both parties above all other considerations. What was the deal here? The fence alone cost a reported £22,000, what other payments were made?

I spoke to well-known local resident Gina Byrne, who suffers from spina-bifida and has been using the park daily for over 25 years. 'It's not right' said Gina, who rides her mobility scooter to exercise her dogs Marshall and Grace in the park up to five times a day. 'If they put some gaps in the fence people could have access and the path wouldn't be so crowded.'



The Royal Parks have stated that 'the public has full access to the area' but that is not the case. Only the able-bodied public has access; the elderly, disabled and families with pushchairs do not. This is discriminatory and TRP appears to be putting private interests before those of the public.

Yours sincerely,

Barney Allan
Teddington

Dear Tribune,

E-scooter trial

Richmond Council and TfL plan a year-long trial of electric scooters.

But will they be better policed than the illegal cyclists on our footways?

Or will they make it a year of even more hell?

The Metropolitan Police and at least one coroner have condemned these vehicles as generally dangerous for various reasons.

When I first moved to Richmond in 1973, it was a delightful place. Now, Richmond Council's fanatical obsession with two wheels means it's not even safe to walk on the pavement.

I and my neighbours have already been narrowly missed four times by e-scooters at speed illegally on the footways including one with no lights speeding through Moormead Park weaving in and out of mothers, babies, children, and dogs, with no consideration at all. That's quite apart from the illegal cyclists on footways who endanger, threaten, and abuse us. (see Richmond Tribune, 30 Jan 2021).

It is currently illegal for private e-scooters to be used on public land, roads and pavements under the 1835 Highway Act as they are classed as motor vehicles, a law both ignored and unenforced.

I have expressed my concerns to a number of councillors but only a few have replied.

Cllr. Alex Ehmman wrote:

'We know that some residents will have concerns about safety and the way these vehicles are used. I can reassure them that we will be vigilant throughout this e-scooter trial and we're committed to taking action if any issues arise.'

Vigilant? How?

Probably in the same way that they are vigilant about illegal cyclists on footways crashing into people and passing the buck to our almost non-existent police who, incredibly, have already said: *'the MPS has not chosen an enforcement approach for now'*.

Cllr. Katie Mansfield wrote:

"During the trial, we will introduce measures, whereby the tech is used to create no-go areas and areas where the scooters will need to be slowed down. They won't be allowed on pavements or by the river."

Just like the bicycles which are also not allowed on pavements, I suppose? And we can be sure that someone will hack into the geo-fencing so they can go anywhere they like at any speed.

Cllr. Lotte Campanale suggested:

"that they could be locked at 10PM or 11PM thus rendering them unusable."

What about the rest of the day? And what about the private ones?

Kathryn Thomas, Deputy Head of Governance,

Richmond and Wandsworth Councils, wrote:

"Some car parking spaces will be re-designated as parking spaces for e-scooters as they can't be left on pavements."

But we know that they WILL be left on pavements for pedestrians to trip over because they are so handy for shopping.

Another councillor told me:

"I have to agree with you that we've not been successful in deterring cyclists from using the pavements and if E-scooters go ahead, we will have to have much stricter enforcement than we have now".

By whom? They can't even enforce their own much-vaunted 'No-idling' rules for stationary vehicles!

Like many others, I have little doubt that the Council will authorise the scooters because licensing them will bring in money so I am sceptical about any adverse comments being taken into account. Perhaps such licensing

will be based on a survey, similar to the one for the 20mph speed limit, of a massive 5% of the residents which will 'prove' the Council is right.

YouTube star Emily Hartridge was the first Londoner killed riding an e-scooter, after being thrown under a lorry in Battersea in July 2019.

Scotland Yard has already issued an open letter reminding dealers to inform customers that private e-scooters are illegal on public land. That means roads and pavements.

Chief Supt Ovens, from the Met's Road and Transport Policing Command, said: "*Where we saw bicycles and moped used in snatches, that's what we're now finding with e-scooters. We don't want these things exploited for crime – it's another tool the criminal can use.*"

"*They're too dangerous,*" said Mr Ovens. "*They are not designed for roads, pavements or public places. They are too difficult to control.*"

E-scooters are an ideal form of transport for street criminals, being quick, silent and nimble.

Nearly 300 robberies, assaults, thefts and other crimes have been carried out by people on electric scooters in London alone in the past four months, police revealed on 21 November 2020

Operation Hornet has seized 268 e-scooters and led to 604 warnings being issued.

Police said that, due to their illegal use, collisions on e-scooters are underreported:

"*Whilst we have seized e-scooters which can operate up to 40 mph, there are some which can reach 70 mph.*"

"*There is no test required to be able to ride one which means people often do not have an understanding of the road awareness - they do not wear a helmet or have lights on them so riding one means they are putting themselves and others at risk, especially at this time of year with the early evenings.*"

In 2018, there were four reported collisions. That rose to 32 in 2019.

Richmond Park says about e-scooters:

'The Parks and other open spaces managed by The Royal Parks are principally places for quiet recreation and where pedestrians have priority. For that reason, we have concerns about any proposals to legalise the use of powered transporters. We believe that their speed and stealth present an unacceptable risk to pedestrians, particularly those with mobility challenges, or with a visual or hearing impairment. Allowing them to operate in the parks could therefore discourage those who wish to walk to and through the parks and undermine the peace and ambience of the green spaces.

The Royal Parks does not, and has no plans to, permit the use of powered transporters on the land it manages.'

Well said – because being crashed into even at 10mph could be fatal for an elderly person.

And what about the pollution caused by mining the battery metals?

Where they might actually be useful is for staff at airports, factories, campuses, etc, but these are all private property.

Councillors are naïve to think that controls on rental scooters will prevent their misuse. And there are even less controls on private scooters – practically none, in fact.

Our police and hospitals already have enough to do without adding to their workload by licensing these silly machines.

So, like them, we can now all look forward to even more crime and accidents in what the Council calls 'The best borough in London'.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Jay, Hampton

(Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and ex-Metropolitan Police Special Constable.)

WATCH THE BIRDIE

By Doug Goodman

In January 2020 nearly half a million of us took part in the annual Big Garden Bird Watch organised by the RSPB. Last weekend an increase of 85% was noted as we spent an hour counting the number of birds arriving in our gardens. The results help the RSPB to measure if certain species are in decline or growing and to track their movements. So far over a million sparrows and seven hundred and fifty thousand blue tits have been recorded. However certain species are declining: since 1979 sparrow numbers have dropped by 53% and starlings by 80%.



Black Bird



Blue Tit



Black Cap



Round Robin

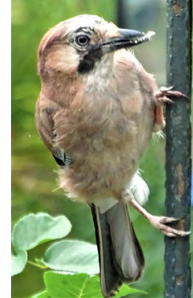
I spent an hour last Saturday watching the birds settle on the seven feeders in the garden and observed four sparrows, two blue tits, one coal tit, one magpie, two jays, one starling, one robin, one wood pigeon and three feral pigeons. The rain, the gang of feral pigeons and the squirrel, which kept stealing bread and burying pieces in the nearest flower pot, probably kept the numbers down as I didn't see any of the usual parakeets, black birds or gold finches.



Goldfinches



Parakeets



Jay



Magpie

The lock-down and long, hot summer last year gave us the opportunity to observe the birds in our gardens and parks and to realise how much colour and pleasure they bring. Here is a selection of the birds observed in my garden in Twickenham during the last few months. The final image of a green woodpecker was taken in Richmond Park last Tuesday.



Sparrows



Starling



Pigeons



Green Woodpecker
in Richmond Park

Top five things to do during half term with The Royal Parks

Calling all cooped-up kids (and adults!)

We're back with another **FREE Virtual Discovery Week: Emerging from Winter.**

As we say hello to another lockdown, we realise how we need our daily dose of outdoor time, nature, and fresh air more than ever.

Although the chill in the air can make spring still feel far away, if you look closely you will see it is right around the corner.

We've pulled together a week filled with spring-inspired activities to help you and your little ones stay busy and discover the nature at your doorstep during the half term.

For a full list of our half term activities, visit <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/whats-on/virtual-discovery-week-emerging-from-winter>

1. Brilliant Bird Feeder Craft-Along

As the days get longer the birdsong increases and preparation for the nesting season begins.

Join us as we help out our feathered friends by creating a beautiful homemade birdfeeder in our **free** live craft-along session. We will provide a step-by-step guide on what you will need and how your feeder will be built whilst taking a closer look at some intricate bird nests found in the Royal Parks.

Not only is this a great way to get to know which birds are native to your area but it will give your garden or balcony a pop of colour.

When: 15th February - **Free** to [sign up](#).

2. Prepare your spring'tastic' garden or balcony

Spring into the season by taking part in our live 'plant-along', a great activity for all the family.

We will explore seed sowing, growing, and nurturing your garden as it comes back to life.

Join us as we show you how to make eco-friendly plant pots, sow seeds that are in season and best of all learn about seeds that you can grow at home without needing a garden.

When: 16th February - **Free** to [sign up](#).



3. Life cycle tai chi

Clear a space for the little ones as we learn through movement by acting out the life cycle of a snowdrop in this fun and interactive live dance-along.

Snowdrops are one of the first flowers to bloom in the park. Together, we'll 'bloom' and 'grow,' as we incorporate some much needed movement into the day.

When: 17th February - **Free** to [sign up](#).

4. Tiny Animals, Big Adventures

Feed the little one's creativity and curiosity with our free interactive play session.

Join us for an epic adventure in the undergrowth from the comfort of your own homes. We will be wriggling, hopping and flying as well as puppeteering, imagining and making noise as we explore the trials and tribulations of being a tiny bug in a huge park.

When: 18th February - **Free** to [sign up](#).

5. Mission Invertebrate Storytelling

We're excited to welcome back storyteller extraordinaire Olivia Armstrong to our half term programme of live storytelling events.

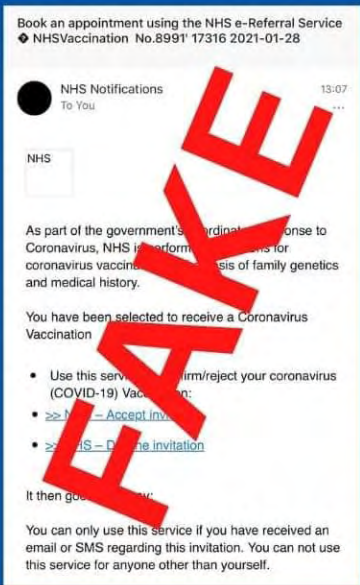
Buzz into Spring with folktales of the flies, flowers and bugs emerging into life in The Royal Parks.

When: 18th February - **Free** to [sign up](#).



Twickenham's Naked Ladies Makeover

Specialist work continues on renovating the Grade II listed statues and cascade pool in York House Gardens. Photo by Maurice Parry-Wingfield



Beware of criminals taking advantage of the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine to commit fraud.

Remember, the vaccine is free of charge. At no point will you be asked to pay.

The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.

The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.

The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.

The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.



Richmond | Kingston | Wandsworth | Merton

The Royal Parks seeks new horticultural talent with recruitment drive for prestigious scheme

The Royal Parks charity is throwing open its doors to this year's class of new apprentices, offering the chance to train with horticultural experts and help care for London's precious eight historic Royal Parks.

The Royal Parks have provided a lifeline for Londoners during the coronavirus pandemic, staying open throughout and providing a refuge for locals to take part in daily exercise in beautiful parkland environments.

The parks have never been so important and we're looking for the class of '21 to join a salaried three-year Apprenticeship programme and learn how to help care for these valuable green spaces, for a qualification that will pave the way for a career in horticulture.

The call for applications coincides with the start of National Apprenticeship Week (8-14 February, 2021) and the deadline to apply is 8 March, 2021.

The successful applicants will be based in one of London's eight Royal Parks for four days a week, and study at Capel Manor College at The Regent's Park on the remaining day.

On the three-year course, apprentices will work towards the Horticulture and Landscape Operative Trailblazer Standard, which includes modules such as plant identification and soil science.

In their third year they can study for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture.

Apprentices will play a key role in managing all horticultural aspects of the Royal Parks, from caring for areas of special scientific interest with nature conservation and habitat management, through to planting the formal flowerbed displays – including the famous bedding outside Buckingham Palace which features scarlet geraniums grown to match the guards' tunics.

Selina Tan made the move from an office-based career in photo editing to horticulture. She is in her second year of the apprenticeship, based at Richmond Park.

"I had fallen out of love with my office job. I wanted to spend more time outdoors which led me to volunteering in a community garden. I kept thinking about how much I wanted to do more of this and had a lightbulb moment – and applied to the scheme. The course involves theory and practical lessons - covering everything from pests to lawn-mowing to business management. Having three years to learn and explore is a great opportunity and gives you the time to try new things and embrace the unique environment you get to work in. Each park has so much to offer so always stay curious and inquisitive and you will get a lot out of it."



Selina Tan at Richmond Park
Copyright TRP/Monica R Goya

This scheme, which has run since the 1960s, has seen many former students go on to secure permanent employment with The Royal Parks in managerial positions, or at other prestigious locations such as Kew Gardens and Buckingham Palace.

Dennis Clarke, Head of Park Services at The Royal Parks, said: *"These past months have shown more than ever before how valuable spending time in nature and in open spaces is to our wellbeing – and the Royal Parks have played an important role in providing the green spaces that are helping Londoners during the Covid pandemic. Over the next weeks, we are excited to invite applications for another cohort of apprentices to join our skilled teams and learn valuable skills for a great outdoor career that will help keep our parks at their best for everyone to enjoy. We're looking for candidates who have a passion for horticulture, are committed to excellence, are great team players and take a mature and responsible approach to their work. If this sounds like you, then please get in touch about sending us your application. This is a unique opportunity to work in our world-class parks and gain recognised qualifications at the same time."*

Deadline for applications is 8 March, 2021. Apply via:

www.royalparks.org.uk/apprenticeship

To watch a video of Richmond Park apprentice, Selina Tan, click here: <https://youtu.be/7aaYTrliS4s>





New Life in the Woodland Gardens and Goslings keeping warm together. What did you record last weekend for the [RSPB Bird Watch](#)? We saw the usual suspects and some rare visitors who love the wild ivy berries and hedgerow cover nearby. Birds are gathering materials for nesting and hedgehogs still need their cover. 'Tidying up' leaves and twigs and any disturbance of hedgerows should be done with awareness of wildlife.

[Website](#)

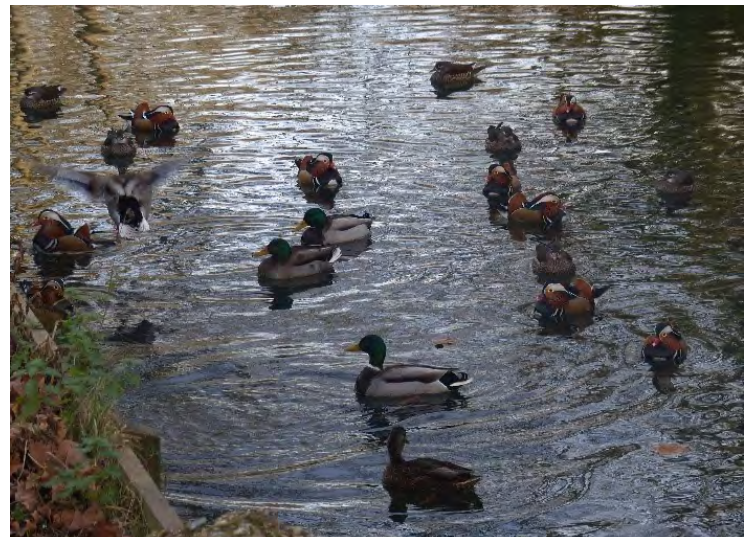
[Instagram](#)

"My heart is like a singing bird whose nest is in a water'd shoot; My heart is like an apple tree whose boughs are bent with thick set fruit; My heart is like a rainbow shell that paddles in a halcyon sea. My heart is gladder than all these, because my love has come to me." C. Rossetti

Nuthatch visits the water bowl and female Blackcap enjoys some ivy berries from Nature's larder.



[Grayson's Art Club](#) is running again on Sunday night Channel 4 and two of the themes are Family and Nature. Why not get creative and submit your 'works of art' this year? The whole first series is on catch up if you want a lift to your spirits in this continuing socially isolating climate. We felt uplifted at seeing others lives and views as they contributed to the club with their offerings. We are encouraged to submit with these words: "Your Art does not have to be GOOD." No excuses.....let's do it!



Council condemns Government proposal to allow shops to become homes without planning consent

Proposed changes to the national planning system could have a far-reaching and long-lasting impact on local areas, Richmond Council has said in a letter to Robert Jenrick MP.

Richmond Council has submitted a formal response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) consultation on [Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure](#), as well as a letter to Mr. Jenrick, the Secretary of State, from Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, the Chair of Richmond's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee.

The consultation sets out the proposal for a new permitted development right (PDR) to allow buildings currently in commercial, business or service use to be converted to residential use without a formal planning application. It also sets out measures to 'fast track' public service infrastructure through the planning system, including new schools, hospitals and prisons. If these PDR measures come into force, they could have a major impact on Richmond upon Thames' town centres, high streets and local centres. They could also impact the local economy, which is already struggling with on-going restrictions on retail, hospitality and service businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developers could be permitted to convert shops, bars and restaurants into homes, without consulting with the local council or the local community. Without oversight the Council will be unable to ensure that social infrastructure and support services are sufficient to support an increase in people living in an area, or to ensure that any new housing does not negatively impact the local area or existing communities.

Furthermore, planning-free change of use to residential could see the disappearance of available premises which will be critical to the recovery and growth of local high streets after the pandemic.



The Council believes that the proposed measures will undermine Richmond upon Thames' Local Plan and the plan-making process, and the fundamental premise that the planning system in this country is plan-led.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of essential local facilities that are key to supporting sustainable communities. These permitted development right proposals would occur at the worst possible time, clashing with the economic and social recovery process and undermining the adaptation of our centres to become diverse, vibrant and successful locations once again. The effect on our high streets if shops and services gave way to higher value residential use would be devastating. Delivery of housing must not be at the expense of social infrastructure, particularly facilities that provide for young children or help residents lead active and healthy lifestyles."

The Council has also stated that the proposed measures contradict Mr. Jenrick and the Government's commitment to giving more power to local councils to make their own decisions.

Cllr Neden-Watts added: "Following Mr. Jenrick's decision to give the Mayor of London planning authority for Richmond's Homebase redevelopment last month, I am severely disappointed that these permitted development right proposals are further indication that what the Government says and what it does are not aligned. The Government claims that it is committed to giving more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues at the local level wherever possible, yet these proposals do the opposite. They would both threaten and undermine the borough's ability to plan for its employment, commercial and social infrastructure needs and to plan for homes in the right places. Richmond's Full Council passed a motion last week condemning Mr Jenrick's decision on the Homebase application. Council officers have reviewed the decision-making process thus far and consider there to be no grounds for a judicial review, but we will keep working with residents and ward councillors to explore options. We will remain opposed to the Government's continued push to de-regulate planning in this way and we will stand up for local people's right to have a say in what happens in their area."

Read the full letter [HERE](#)

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SHOP LOCAL CLICK AND COLLECT SHARE THE LOVE SHOP LOCAL CLICK AND COLLECT SHARE THE LOVE SHOP LOCAL

Council welcomes high capacity COVID-19 vaccination centre

The NHS in SW London has opened a large NHS Vaccination Centre at the Twickenham Stoop Rugby ground to support the COVID-19 vaccination roll out.

The large-scale site at the Harlequins rugby ground will deliver its first protective jabs to patients from today (Thursday 4 February), and is capable of hosting social distanced vaccine delivery to thousands of people each week. The centre will offer a convenient addition to GP-led and hospital services that are already successfully delivering vaccinations across South West London.

Letters are being sent to people aged over 80 who have not yet had or been invited for the COVID vaccination, inviting them to book an appointment either by phone or online through the national booking system. If an appointment has already been offered by the GP, please keep that appointment.

Other groups of people should wait until they receive their invite letter and should not call their GP but rather use the booking line, when their invite arrives.

More [information on the COVID19 vaccine](#).

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Services Committee and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, attended a socially distanced visit to the new centre before it opened with the Leader of the Council, to view the facilities, and thank colleagues at the rugby ground.

'It is great to see this site in Twickenham is now open and able to offer even more vaccinations to the most vulnerable patients in the area. I would like to thank all the amazing NHS staff, colleagues at the Stoop and the

army of volunteers who have helped to set up the site and will keep it running over the coming months

'Like everyone else, I am eager to have the vaccine. But we all have to wait our turn. We continue to remind people waiting to hear when they will have their vaccine, please do NOT contact your GP but wait for the NHS to contact you.

'I know that COVID-19 continues to be hugely worrying for many people. However, this vaccination programme roll out is extremely complex. Our local GPs continue to work incredibly hard to ensure that our most vulnerable patients are protected as soon as possible. We need everyone to be patient and continue to follow all the safety guidance to protect yourself, your loved ones and your NHS services.'



More Vaccination Centres will be launched in SW London in the coming weeks to increase the numbers of people who can be conveniently vaccinated each day.

The NHS vaccination programme, the biggest in the health service's history, is being delivered as health service staff are treating record numbers of seriously ill patients with COVID, caused by the rapidly rising infection numbers in recent weeks

Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, the NHS will contact you. When you are contacted, please attend your booked appointments. And whether you have had a vaccine or not, please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives – that means staying at home as much as you can, and following the 'hands, face, space' guidance when you can't.

People who book into a vaccine centre should note marshals will be on hand to help people to the right place. Bookings are staggered to allow social distancing and please don't arrive until five minutes before your appointment time.

[Travel information from tfl.gov](#) will be available from Monday.

RECIPES AND REFLECTIONS

It's not surprising that many folk are having mental health problems at the moment. And as well, of course, as those on the NHS frontline, it is also particularly bad for those involved in the hospitality industry. Times are extremely tough... and this takes its toll. **From Beder's Kitchen**, by Meze Publishing, is a lovely collection of recipes and reflections for amazing foodies around the world. Not just a cookbook, it's also an initiative to



raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention, launched by the young charity Beder Razzak Mirjan and his family set up [Beder](http://Beder.org.uk) in honour of his younger brother, Beder Mirjan, who sadly took his own life at the age of 18 in 2017. The charity intends to increase understanding and reduce fear around the topics of mental health and suicide in order to overcome the stigma surrounding these incredibly important, yet underestimated, issues.

The book includes contributions from chefs at some of the UK's leading restaurants; MasterChef winners; TV chefs; food bloggers; nutritionists; best-selling authors; mental health advocates; and a Great British Bake Off winner. There are 90 contributors, each donating recipes and sharing reflections, personal experiences and words of advice about looking after their own mental health and how food has played a part in that. For many, cooking or baking is a form of therapy, and creating something delicious to eat at home is a great way to look after themselves and others.

The recipes are divided into five chapters, each with a different theme: Start Your Day The Right Way; Happy Gut Happy Life; Fast Food (But Not As You Know It); Soul Food; and Sweet Treats. **From Beder's Kitchen** is a 224 page hardback at £22. It's available online from bookshops beder.org.uk and mezepublishing.co.uk

The book's jam packed with really unusual - and delicious - recipes and makes a lovely Valentine's or Mother's Day gift. I've selected a few recipes to give you a taste of what's in store and hopefully inspire you to order the book and support this charity.

Sweet Potato Fritters (from Lydia Levy)

'These are great served with smashed avocado and fried eggs for a healthy but tasty brunch. It's one of the meals I make when I am on a bit of a health kick but craving salty fried goodness!'

Preparation time: 10 minutes | Cooking time: 10 minutes | Makes 6

- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and grated
- 1 dessertspoon of corn flour
- Pinch of paprika
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh chives
- 1 small egg
- Oil, for frying

Squeeze the water out of the grated sweet potato then add it to a bowl with the corn flour, all the seasoning and chopped fresh chives to taste (saving a few for decoration). Beat the egg then add it to the bowl and mix everything together.

Heat a non-stick pan with a good drizzle of oil and spoon in six even dollops of the mixture, shaping them into rounds.

Fry the fritters for around 5 minutes on each side, then serve them hot and stacked with smashed avocado and fried eggs, scattered with more fresh chives.



Harissa & Halloumi Quesadillas (from John Gregory-Smith)

'For the ultimate quick and easy lunch, these quesadillas are the answer. The harissa, a North African spice paste, adds a really punchy heat that's balanced out by the salty halloumi which cooks quickly and gives you the require ooze factor'

Preparation time: 5 minutes | Cooking time: 5 minutes | Makes 4

- 250g halloumi
- 4 tbsp rose harissa
- 8 soft tortillas
- Handful of finely chopped coriander leaves
- 4 spring onions, finely chopped
- Sea salt
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Using the coarse side of a box grater, shred the block of halloumi. Lay out four of the tortillas, then spread a tablespoon of the rose harissa over each of them. Top with the cheese, coriander and spring onions. Add a pinch of salt and put the remaining tortillas on top to make four quesadillas.

Put a non-stick frying pan on a medium-high heat.

Brush the pan with a little olive oil and pop in one of the quesadillas. Cook for about

1 to 2 minutes on each side until the tortilla is golden and the cheese has melted.

Serve immediately and repeat with the remaining quesadillas.



Dark Chocolate Fruit & Nut Bark (from Laura Tilt)

'This is a delicious sweet snack which offers some heart-healthy fats and fibre. It's also incredibly fun to make!'

Preparation time: 30 minutes | Cooking time: 5-10 minutes | Serves 6 or more

- 300g dark chocolate
- 1-2 tbsp peanut butter (optional)
- 75g mixed nuts and dried fruit (pistachios and cranberries are great for colour, almonds are great for crunch)

Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Using a sharp knife, chop up the chocolate, place it into a bowl and gently melt over a pan of simmering water.

Take the bowl off the heat when about 70% of the chocolate has melted, then stir continuously until completely melted.

Pour the chocolate onto the prepared baking tray and carefully spread it out towards the edges with a palette knife. If you're using peanut butter, soften it slightly or stir until it is runny. Add blobs of peanut butter to the chocolate and use a knife to swirl them together.

Roughly chop the nuts then scatter the nuts and dried fruits evenly over the top of the chocolate.

Refrigerate the bark for about 15 minutes, until hardened.

Finally, invert the bark onto a chopping board, remove the parchment paper, break into pieces and store or serve.



Brothers

by Matthew Huntington

Short Plays for Short Journeys, Wild Duck Productions, podcast on-line

In these trying times I feel an overwhelming need to offer a huge vote of thanks to Harry Doyle, Sound Designer for Wild Ducks' recent series of podcast plays. I refer specifically to [Brothers by Matthew Huntington](#) in which two men are sitting in a wine bar – yes, an actual wine bar! – and if you relax and close your eyes you could be right there, with a glass of something nice, chatting to *other people at the same table!* Frankly in the midst of a global pandemic, I view this as a public service.



When two brothers, Dan and Simon, meet together for a drink they take a journey of personal discovery. Dan, the overshadowed but game younger sibling (Luciano Dodero), has been trying to keep up with Simon (Daniel Wain), his brash, confident, slightly irritating older brother for most of his life. Both are bright and talented, but Simon has always been just ahead. Dan and his wife are now struggling to have a baby, while Simon and his wife are on pregnancy number three. Both characters are consumed by sibling rivalry. Dan sees himself as validated only by equalling or surpassing his brother's achievements. According to Simon, Dan's wife will almost certainly be grateful to spend a night with Simon if it might result in pregnancy. However, what seems initially to be just a cringeworthy character trait in both brothers in fact serves to illustrate how little these two understand about much at all, let alone each other, beyond the superficial.

Writer Matthew Huntington deploys a tightly constructed story arc which pushes Dan and Simon from uneasy rivalry through near hostility and forward into a fragile but good-humoured rapprochement.

As part of the continuing [Short Plays for Short Journeys](#) series of podcasts, a second episode of the *Brothers* is coming soon. I'm looking forward to it I hope it happens in the same wine bar.

Read Eleanor Lewis's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/01/29/bros-spsj

Photography by Joe Woodhouse and Daniel Ogulewicz





Cliff Zammit Stevens

Opera Live At Home, On-line from 26th January

Oscar Wild (the cat) is curled up in bed with me for our [Opera Live at Home](#) concert, the fourth such since Covid locked us in our homes, mine in Berlin. Tenor Cliff Zammit Stevens is singing for us with accompanying pianist Maria-Elena Farrugia, live from Malta. Local opera producer Helen Astrid presents the programme from her home in Barnes. It is centred around the theme of longing – something that is prevalent in all of our lives at the moment, be it for love or connection, like in so many emotional opera arias, or for pleasures that used to be quite common in simpler times - travel, seeing friends and family, leaving the house, breathing freely...



Another common thread for the programme could be “Best of ...” smash hits from the most popular operas around. It is comforting, after a long day of digital work meetings, to hear the classics, songs that are easy on the ear and wrap you in a hug of familiarity. We start off with Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, hands down the most popular opera in the world, swiftly followed by Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*. The romantic *una furtiva lagrima*, a proper crowd pleaser, is sung in a rich, velvety minor key, which hits that sweet spot of sounding sad but rather snugly.

A personal all-time favourite comes next, the Lenski aria from *Eugene Onegin*, sung just before the fatal duel. Russian is such a gorgeous guttural language for singing and Tchaikovsky is a composer who obviously knows a thing or two about longing – I don’t know anyone who expresses the entire range of sweet sorrow so simply and beautifully in those ever descending scales. “Where have you gone, oh golden days of my spring?” Lenski wonders, and truly, we might all wonder the same after nearly a year of being locked up.

Zarzuela is a Spanish theatrical genre of dance, dialogue and popular music, something never performed in the UK and my discovery of the evening. *La Tabernera del Puerto*, a *zarzuela* by Pablo Sorozábal, is full of Mediterranean passion, love and lust for life, which Cliff explains is exactly why he loves about singing its arias.

We end the evening with a bona fide smash hit: *Granada*, sung by anyone from Pavarotti to Frank Sinatra, definitely sounds like sunshine, sangria and summer holidays – a true antidote to a British January evening. Cliff as passionate as always, Maria wonderfully light and fleet-footed in her accompaniment. The cat stretches out comfortably. It already feels a little warmer in here.

Read Suzanne Frost’s review at www.markaspen.com/2021/01/30/c-zamm-stevens

Photography by Claire Mifsud

Shona's Gallery

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LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Valentine's Day Cards

HAND – MADE



CAN BE CUSTOM MADE

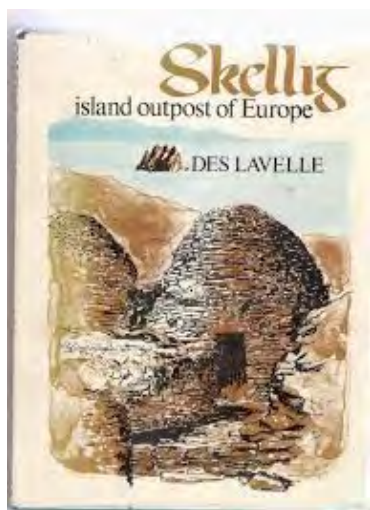
IT'S ILLEGAL! Matt Hancock and Grant Shapps and more said

By Bruce Lyons

Yes it's true to travel abroad or even in this country for that matter is illegal in the current lockdown, i.e. NOW, but it is not illegal to BOOK AHEAD for when lockdown eases and changes are announced, and with the vaccine rolling out it is expected that changes to the corridors, protocols and disciplines will be announced in the coming weeks. Simon Calder the BBC's travel adviser who has been scathing about the travel industry as a whole on the refund debacle from the early COVID-19 lockdown, surprised us all when he disagreed with our ministers and said No - you should and can Book now for dates in the future.

Indeed there are excellent prices out there with great reductions on overseas holidays especially to reward you for booking now and both UK Holidays and overseas are ring fenced for your financial protection from changes in the COVID -19 scenario. News emerging from the market place is that Greece is desperate to secure the British Market this summer and with the rapid unrolling of the Vaccine programme and the likelihood of the U.K. adopting the Swedish/Danish plan to create A Vaccine Passport possibly as early as May, everything will progress from there.

In the UK we only need changes to the current situation and we may have news on this early March and then even Easter maybe possible For UK breaks. At this time all Hotels, rental cottages & houses, small group tours as well as coach trips and self-guided walking and cycling are planning to operate from just before April 1st. High Summer UK staycation is already well booked as people have become accustomed to British Weather and there is actually already fully booked signs going up all around the UK and like overseas trips all UK holidays are ring-fenced again for changes in the COVID-19 restrictions - so you can book with confidence.



Whilst we are in lockdown we have been regaled, particularly since the New Year with TV travel programmes featuring our wonderful Island with a host of presenters like Robson Green, Joanna Lumley, Rick Stein, Julia Bradbury - next week it is Darcy Bussell In Scotland but last night we saw Adrian Dunbar's (of Line of Duty) Coastal Ireland, a wonderful journey from Mizen Head to Donegal. A wonderful journey which took me back to before my teens as around the end of WW2 my dad took me on a cycle trip crossing from Ulster to Donegal by fishing boat and a couple of years later we lived in Summer Cove near Mizen Head in County

Cork and then right in the middle of the programme were the Skelligs with Des Lavelle who stayed with us (1984) in Twickenham when I was sending him divers for one of the most memorable dive programmes anywhere! If you watched you will see that much of the time you cannot reach the landing stage - it is so rough, after the programme I looked for his book and showed Shona - Des is the renowned expert on the Skelligs.

You could of course go for Dingle Bay with its Dolphins and Killarney for the Lake and try out fly fishing, or a wonderful drive on the Ring of Kerry; I could go on and on..... But you can ask - with luck restrictions will lift and I can make an adventure for you!

But beware The British Isles and Eire will be popular, put Brexit and the Island of Ireland controversy behind you and discover the treasures in store. P.S I see that Doug is writing about Gibraltar in WW2 and I wanted to remind you that when this is (COVID-19) behind you, Gibraltar (which still has a corridor in place) will earn more "stripes" as a great British Break, ideal for a short trip and there will be more plans for new flights to GIB from more UK airports. www.crusadertravel.com

WIZ Tales - The Virgin Islands

Teresa Read

This week's photographs from the World InfoZone project are from the Virgin Islands.

Explorer Christopher Columbus is said to have named the Virgin Islands "Las Virgines" after the story of St Ursula and her virgin companions (possibly discovering the islands around the time of St Ursula's Feast Day).

The Virgin Islands archipelago in the Caribbean is divided into Territories; the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.



Probably the most famous person to have a home in the British Virgin Islands is the entrepreneur Richard Branson.

A world-famous Virgin islander of the United States Virgin Islands is the Impressionist artist Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), born on the island of St Thomas of European and Jewish ancestry.



We would like to thank the British Virgin Island Tourist Board for the use of the photographs in the World InfoZone project.

More photographs of the British Virgin Islands from the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board

<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=BVI>

Photographs of the US Virgin Islands

<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=USVI>



CHURCH STREET TIMES

By Shona Lyons



As RIP Sir Captain Tom Moore so often said - Tomorrow will be a good day. Today Warner Bros have been filming in our beautiful little street. They observed social distancing and had all the right permissions

and permits from LBRuT to film & even in Lockdown Britain they have brought some cheer and engaged with a number of local Traders - making Mojo a dolls shop for the day and using others as “green rooms” & working with others adjacent with Mojo and more, the takeaways were busy with coffees and snacks and they also provided an interesting distraction for the dog walkers and their families to linger awhile on their way to their daily constitution.



Next week, as far as we can in “Lockdown” we will celebrate Valentine’s Day and whilst many cannot open, many are offering click and collect and we will fly our special flags. Make the most of it & come down to Church Street for a valentine’s selfie (Just please keep safe, observe social distancing and wear masks! – Love in the time of Corona 😊)

As we can’t offer hospitality for the Six Nations Match this weekend, we thought we shouldn’t be flying many flags for England Vs Scotland Six Nations match this weekend but after all they are just flags & the pubs have had to close anyway so maybe we will muster up a few 😊



There are signs of Spring and the street is preparing its welcome as the seasons change. We have lots of bulbs planted and they are already starting to come up so take a look at the planters at the top of the street & in the squares & pots at the bottom and a few pots in between for lots of cheerful daffodils and exotic tulips that will be putting on a lovely display very soon! (RIP Pat Schooling from Borough in Bloom, we won’t let you down) We also have lots of lovely camellias in the square that will be blooming soon, so don’t let that Lock Down get you down, tomorrow will be a good day!



PERSEPOLIS

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: **PERSEPOLIS** was 637th film screened by RFS on 4th November 2008. **Persepolis** was the fifth ranked film of Season 46, it got an approval mark of 84% from those attending; from season 46 we have also already featured the top four placed films, in order: **Lantana**, **Not Here To Be Loved**, **My Best Friend** and **The Edge Of Heaven** as **Issues 13, 25, 30** and **36** respectively. Sadly, the editor of these reviews was unable to find, at present, **Persepolis** on any streaming service but the discs are available from Amazon and others.

PERSEPOLIS

Country: France/USA, 2007
 Director: Vincente Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi
 Screenplay: Vincente Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi
 Editor: Stéphane Roche
 Running Time: 96 min., black & white/colour
 Music: Olivier Bernet
 Language: French/Farsi/English/German

Leading Voices:

Chiara Mastroianni (Marjane 'Marji' Satrapi, as a teenager and a woman)
 Catherine Deneuve (Mrs. Satrapi - Marjane's mother)
 Danielle Darrieux (Marjane's grandmother)
 Simon Abkarian (Mr. Satrapi - Marjane's father)
 Gabrielle Lopes (Marjane as a child)
 François Jerosme (Anouche)



Graphic novelist Marjane Satrapi has led a fascinating life, which she tells in an original fashion in **Persepolis**. This animated feature shows the young Marjane growing up in a communist family in Tehran, becoming politicised and rebelling at college in Austria. The predominantly black-and-white animation is used to amusing effect as Satrapi gently pokes fun at her youthful exuberance and innocence, making serious political points easy to swallow.

Despite dealing with adult themes such as interrogation, imprisonment, drugs and sexual awakenings, there's a delightfully childlike element to **Persepolis**. Initially, much of the action is seen through the bright but naive eyes of the young Marjane, a playful, feisty child who's quick to judge - a trait that is frequently funny. Gradually, she learns the severity of the political climate in which she's living: it's the 70s and 80s, and civil liberties in Iran are being drastically

tightened. A few key scenes effectively demonstrate the personal cost to Marjane as family members and friends are increasingly affected.

Satrapi is also very observant when it comes to gender relations, humorously describing her early fumbles with male students with a cunning eye for detail. Such scenes should help young women, in particular, relate to a film that might sound off-puttingly serious in principle. It's a very personal film, and therefore far from definitive when it comes to its political message. But it's an engaging and accessible story of a very eventful life.

after BBCi

2020 Young Writers' Festival Competition

Arts Richmond are delighted to announce the finalists of our Young writers Competition. The winners will be announced at our Awards Ceremony, celebration Day on Sunday 28th March at The Exchange Twickenhan subject to government restrictions. View the finalists [HERE](#)

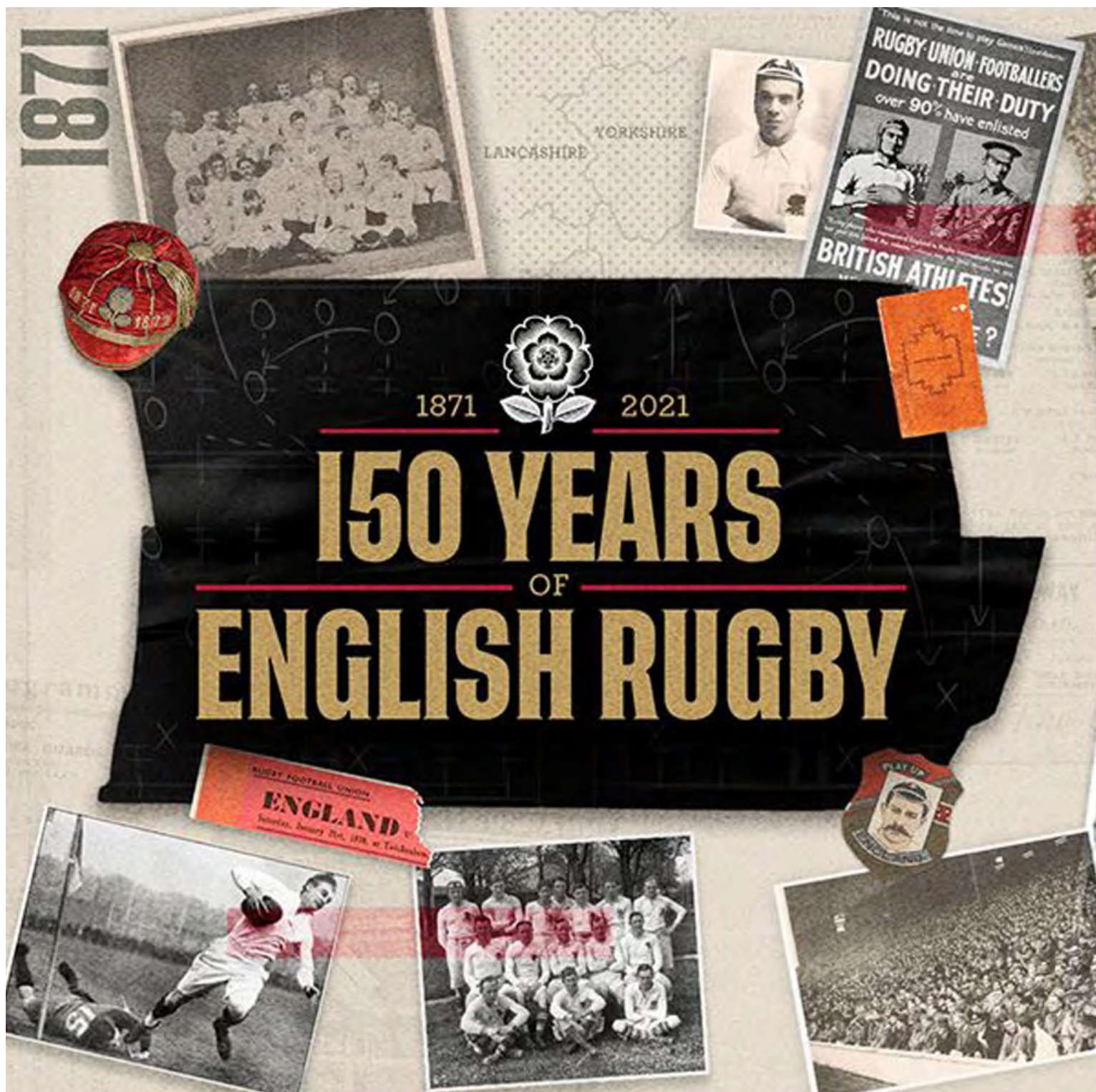


150 Years of the Rugby Football Union

As we continue to celebrate our 150th anniversary, we've put together a digital exhibition on the history of English rugby. From William Webb Ellis picking up the ball and running with it, to Martin Johnson lifting the Webb Ellis Cup in 2003, and the first professional contracts for women's international players in 2014. You can read all about the key moments that have shaped the last 150 years below.

The digital exhibition uses content from the World Rugby Museum's 'The Rugby Football Union at 150' special exhibition which, once able to open, will run until autumn 2021. You can discover more history about the last 150 years at their website.

See more [HERE](#)



Cycling surges on Kew Road

Richmond upon Thames' first protected cycle lane on Kew Road has seen a surge in use, with more than twice the amount of weekly users than previously recorded.

Data collected from cameras on the road recorded an average of 831 Kew Road cycle lane users per week, which is double the average from 2018 (397 cyclists recorded in a week).

This follows a series of measures introduced in September 2020 to make Kew Road safer and more accessible for cyclists as part of the borough's Post-COVID Transport Action Plan.

With funding secured from Transport for London (TfL), Richmond Council implemented a system of raised posts (known as wands and armadillos) to protect the cycle lanes from the traffic lanes between Lion Gate Gardens and Kew Gardens Road. The Council also introduced a mandatory 24-hour cycle lane in both directions, upgraded the yellow line waiting restrictions to double yellow lines and introduced peak hour loading restrictions (7am to 7pm).



Councillor Alexander Ehmann, Chairman of the Transport and Air Quality Committee, said: *'During lock-down conditions and variable weather, the fantastic doubling of the number of cyclists along the Kew Road should silence even the most strident critics of this scheme. Until Richmond Council provided these protected lanes, Kew Road was a free parking lot for coaches and cars. The Northbound cycle lane was dangerous and inaccessible for many cyclists at most times of day.*



'The changes we've made have seen an extraordinary surge in bicycle use on the Kew Road. These journeys by bicycle would almost certainly have been using more polluting forms of transport if the new protected lanes were not available. These higher number of cyclists mean we all benefit from the improved air quality, road safety and transit times that are direct impacts of this fantastic facility.'

Will Norman, the Mayor of London's Walking & Cycling Commissioner, said:

'It's great to see such a significant increase in the use of the Kew Road cycle lane following changes to make it safer and more accessible for cyclists. As the pandemic goes on and public transport remains for those who need it the most, more and more Londoners have turned to cycling for exercise and to complete essential journeys – and these successful changes to the Northbound cycle lane show how new and upgraded cycle routes across the capital are helping them do so safely. We hope to continue to see more people across the city making use of these improved cycle lanes.'

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.

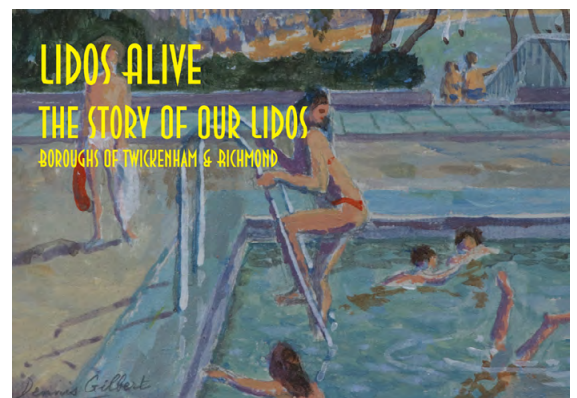
More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

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





BRENTFORD FC



Brentford in seventh heaven as they crush Wycombe

Brentford 7 – 2 Wycombe Wanderers

Championship top scorer Ivan Toney scored his first hattrick for Brentford as a devastating second-half performance saw Wycombe Wanderers put to the sword at the Brentford Community Stadium.

Ethan Pinnock had opened the scoring for the home side inside the opening ten minutes but Uche Ikpeazu equalised four minutes later. Toney claimed his first of the afternoon just before half-time but once again the visitors levelled up the scores through an Admiral Muskwe header.

After the interval Tariqe Fosu scored to restore Brentford's lead once again as a penalty from Toney then gave them a two-goal cushion. A devastating final ten minutes saw the Bee pile on the pressure and they were reward late on with three goals. Sergi Canós curled a strike from inside the box before Toney ensured he would be taking the match ball home with him, with Josh Dasilva scoring to round off the afternoon.

Toney was lively early on a in the opening stages as he drew a save from Ryan Allsop after latching onto a through ball from Dasilva. From the resulting corner from Mathias Jensen Ethan Pinnock found space in the box to stab the ball past Allsop on the half volley.

Wycombe then equalised four minutes later as they capitalised on Brentford trying to play out from the back. A pass from Henrik Dalsgaard was intercepted and the ball broke for Ikpeazu. Picking the ball up outside of the area the Wycombe forward dribbled past Jensen and Dalsgaard, before bending the ball into the bottom corner giving David Raya no chance.

Ikpeazu then nearly gave Wycombe the lead as he once again cut inside Dalsgaard but from inside the six-yard box he could only shot straight at Raya and the Brentford goalkeeper stuck out a leg to divert the ball onto the post and away to safety.

Raya made his second key save of the half after Allsop launched a long free-kick up field towards the Brentford box. The Bees failed to clear their lines as the ball went all the way through to David Wheeler whose header was kept out by a good one handed save from Raya.

Brentford looked to be taking the lead into the half-time interval when Sergi Canós crossed to the back post and Toney volley at Allsop, and with the Wycombe goalkeeper unable to deal with the power of the strike the ball trickled over the line as Fosu followed in, although the goal was later officially confirmed as Toney's.

Wycombe fought back though and scored to equalise for the second time in the game. It came via a set piece as a free-kick from Jason McCarthy on the right flank was headed back across goal by Darius Charles for Muskwe to nod in just before the interval.

Five minutes into the second-half Fosu did get on the scoresheet as Toney rolled the ball into his path

for him to bury the ball into the bottom corner and restore Brentford's lead.

This proved to be the prelude to a deluge of second-half goals for the Bees and they punished the side currently bottom of the Championship. Sergi Canós won a penalty after nipping in ahead of Fred Onyedinma as the Wycombe midfielder went to make a clearance. Toney coolly dispatched the penalty as he sent Allsop the wrong way to give clear daylight between the two sides.

With just under ten minutes to played Canós turned from provider to goal scorer as he added his name to the scoresheet. His goal owed much to the quality of Dasilva who dribbled past McCarthy and pulled that ball back for the Spaniard to curl first time into the far corner of the net.

Toney completed his hat-trick when a clearance from Jan Žamburek bisected the Wycombe central defensive pairing and allowed Toney to race clean through on goal. The striker eyed up Allsop before rounding him and finishing into the back of the net for the third time of the afternoon.

The rout was completed late on by Dasilva. Marcus Forss slipped the pass through for the England U21 international who broke down the right flank and curled past Allsop to round off the perfect attacking performance from Brentford.

Bees come from behind to beat Robins Brentford 3 – 2 Bristol City

Brentford made it 19 Championship games unbeaten and moved into second place in the table after they came back from a goal down to beat Bristol City. Zak Vyner had given the visiting side the lead within three minutes after he headed in from a Jack Hunt free-kick. Sergi Canós equalised just before the half hour mark and top scorer Ivan Toney completed the turn around five minutes into the second-half. Saman Ghoddos gave Brentford breathing space after he followed in on his own shot that had initially come back off the post. Late on Nahki Wells scored to halve the deficit but Brentford stood firm to continue their unbeaten run.

Brentford got off to the worst possible start when Henrik Dalsgaard was penalised for bundling over Opi Edwards. Jack Hunt crossed into the box from the resulting dead ball and Vyner turned the ball in from inside the six-yard box.

The home side looked to hit back instantly and they nearly did so when Sergi Canós pressed high up the pitch. The Spaniard dispossessed Hunt and after his initial shot was blocked he got a second attempt, but the attempt went wide with Daniel Bentley in goal for Bristol City diving across to make sure.

Bentley was called into action for the first time of note in the game to keep out a powerful volley from Ghoddos. A long ball from Mathias Jensen was knocked down invitingly by Toney for the Iranian but he shot straight at Bentley, who managed to get a hand to it to make the block.

Brentford did soon equalise with just under 30 minutes played. Tariqe Fosu received a ball from Dalsgaard and drove towards goal having got in behind Alfie Mawson. Fosu crossed towards goal and Bentley could only palm the ball out as far as Canós who tapped in to the unguarded net.

At the start of the second-half Raya was forced into making a useful save to keep out Vyner from distance. Antoine Semenyo initially broke down the right wing and dribbled past Rico Henry. He then picked out Vyner on the edge of the area who curled a strike towards the bottom corner that Raya saw late, but at full stretch to push the ball past the post.

Brentford took the lead for the first time in the match after a lovely flowing team move. Ethan Pinnock played the ball out of defence and into Jensen who in turn found Fosu on the wing. Fosu took a couple of touches to set himself and then delivered an inch-perfect cross that Toney met on the volley past Bentley.

All three points were then effectively secured when Ghoddos followed in on his own strike to score a third of the evening for Brentford. Fosu was once again the provider as he cut inside and flicked the ball around the corner for Ghoddos to run onto. Ghoddos' initial shot came back off the post but it sat up nicely on the rebound and he dispatched the volley

Late on Bristol City substitute Wells nearly set up a grandstand finish as when the ball came to him fortuitously after it deflect off Jensen on the edge of the area. Wells showed composure to take the ball round the advancing Raya but it proved only to be in vain as the Bees secured the victory.

Winston Reid signs for Brentford

Brentford have announced the signing of central defender Winston Reid on loan from Premier League side West Ham United on loan until the end of the season.

Reid originally started his career with FC Midtjylland with whom Brentford share close links with before moving to West Ham United in 2010. He won promotion from the Championship with the Hammers during the 2011/12 season and made over 200 appearances for the club since arriving in English football. He most recently spent the time at Major League Soccer side Sporting Kansas City during the 2020 season where he made 12 appearance.

Reid originally represented the Danish national team at youth level but switched his allegiance to the New Zealand national team at senior level and he has made 25 appearances for the All Whites whom he captains.

Speaking to club media about the transfer Brentford Head Coach Thomas Frank said, "We are very happy to welcome Winston to Brentford. We are very pleased that he wanted to come to help the team for the rest of the season. With his quality, personality and experience, we know he will do a great job for us over the next few months.

"We felt we needed to bring an extra centre back in to the Club. Pontus Jansson will be out for at least six weeks and Luke Racic came back from his loan at Northampton Town with a back injury, so they are not available. Our medical staff are also helping Charlie Goode with his ongoing medical issue, so he has not been able to be part of our squad. We were a little short at centre back and Winston will be able to challenge for those places."

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Middlesbrough (A) Saturday 6th February 15:00 Riverside Stadium

Nickname: Boro

Competition: Championship - Matchday 27

Manager: Neil Warnock

Opponent record: P27 W11 D9 L9 GF30 GA24 (7th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Middlesbrough Riverside Stadium was the first stadium to be built in line with the

Taylor Report's recommendations on all-seater stadiums for clubs in the top two divisions of the English football league system.

Game 2

Opponent: Reading (A) Wednesday 10th February 19:00 Madejski Stadium
Nickname: The Royals
Competition: Championship - Matchday 28
Manager: Veljko Paunović
Opponent record: P26 W14 D5 L7 GF40 GA29 (4th in Championship)

Interesting fact: The club holds the record for the number of successive league wins at the start of a season, with a total of 13 wins at the start of the 1985–86 Third Division campaign and also the record for the number of points gained in the professional league season with 106 points in the 2005–06 Football League Championship campaign.

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Game 1

Opponent: Tonbridge Angels (A) Saturday 6th February 15:00 Longmead Stadium
Nickname: The Angels
Competition: National League South - Matchday 16
Manager: Steve McKimm
Opponent record: P13 W5 D1 L7 GF16 GA20 (13th in National League South)

Interesting fact: Tonbridge Angels broke their highest attendance record against Hampton & Richmond Borough after an abandoned 3rd Qualifying Round replay in front of over 800 fans. They then broke this a second time when the game was rearranged and they drew an attendance of 1,274 during the 1991 season.

Game 2

Opponent: Chippenham Town (H) Tuesday 9th February 19:45 Beveree Stadium
Nickname: The Bluebirds
Competition: National League South - Matchday 17
Manager: Mike Cook
Opponent record: P14 W4 D4 L6 GF13 GA22 (14th in National League South)

Interesting fact: In 1999–2000 the club reached the final of the FA Vase, eventually losing 1–0 to Deal Town at Wembley Stadium.

Come on you Beavers!



England team announcement: England v Scotland - Guinness Six Nations

Eddie Jones has named his England side for their opening 2021 Guinness Six Nations match this weekend. England will take on Scotland at Twickenham Stadium, in the Calcutta Cup, on Saturday 6 February (4.45pm KO).

The game marks the 150-year anniversary of the fixture, after the first ever international rugby Test match was played between the two nations at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh in 1871. Owen Farrell, who will captain England throughout the championship, is at fly half and the team's most experienced player Ben Youngs is set to make his 105th cap, at scrum half.

Elliot Daly is at full back, Anthony Watson is at right wing and Jonny May on the left wing. Ollie Lawrence (inside) and Henry Slade (outside) will start as centres. In the forward pack, Ellis Genge will play loose-head prop and Will Stuart at tight-head prop, with hooker Jamie George in the front row. Locks Maro Itoje and Jonny Hill make up the tight five.

Mark Wilson returns at blind-side flanker, Tom Curry is positioned as open-side flanker with Billy Vunipola at No. 8.

Beno Obano could make his England debut after being named as a finisher and there is a return from injury for Courtney Lawes. Luke Cowan-Dickie, Ben Earl, George Ford, Max Malins, Dan Robson and Harry Williams are also named as finishers.

Jones said: *"We're really looking forward to this game and getting the Guinness Six Nations back underway. It's even more special to be taking part in a 150th anniversary game, it will be a good occasion. It was difficult to pick the 23 players. We've had a really good week of training, it's been very competitive but I've gone with what I feel is the strongest 23 for this week. The Six Nations is a short tournament, it's a real sprint so we'll need to be on the front foot straight away. We know Scotland will be raring to go – but so will we."*

England v Scotland is live on ITV 1 and BBC Radio 5 Live.



England XV Starters

- | | |
|---|---|
| 15. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 47 caps) | 1. Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 23 caps) |
| 14. Anthony Watson (Bath Rugby, 46 caps) | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 54 caps) |
| 13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 34 caps) | 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 8 caps) |
| 12. Ollie Lawrence (Worcester Warriors, 3 caps) | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 43 caps) |
| 11. Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 61 caps) | 5. Jonny Hill (Exeter Chiefs, 4 caps) |
| 10. Owen Farrell (C) (Saracens, 88 caps) | 6. Mark Wilson (Newcastle Falcons, 19 caps) |
| 9. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 104 caps) | 7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 28 caps) |
| | 8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 56 caps) |

Finishers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 26 caps) | 20. Ben Earl (Bristol Bears, 8 caps) |
| 17. Beno Obano (Bath Rugby, uncapped) | 21. Dan Robson (Wasps, 7 caps) |
| 18. Harry Williams (Exeter Chiefs, 18 caps) | 22. George Ford (Leicester Tigers, 72 caps) |
| 19. Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 85 caps) | 23. Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 3 caps) |

NAO data visualisation on childhood obesity

The NAO has published an [interactive data visualisation](#) that brings together data on childhood obesity in England.

The data shows changes in rates of obesity in children aged 4 to 5 years old and 10 to 11 years old across local authority areas in England, alongside analysis of factors such as deprivation, ethnicity and public health spend.

This interactive tool supports the National Audit Office [report on Childhood Obesity](#) which was published in September 2020. The data in the visualisation covers the same period as in the report.

Childhood obesity is a worsening problem which successive governments have attempted to address.

- In 2018/19, nearly one tenth of 4 to 5 year olds and more than one fifth of 10 to 11 year olds were obese.
- Children who are overweight or obese have a higher chance of being obese adults, increasing the risk that they develop chronic diseases such as some cancers, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.
- The government estimates that the annual cost of obesity to the NHS is £6.1 billion and £27 billion to wider society.

You can use this tool to explore:

- **Trends in childhood obesity** which show the prevalence of childhood obesity over time, rates of childhood obesity in 2018/19 by ethnic group and rates of childhood obesity in 2018/19 by level of deprivation. Each chart shows the England prevalence for the age 4 to 5 and age 10 to 11 age groups.
- **Local weight category data** which shows local variation in childhood obesity rates and indicates the scale of childhood obesity as a public health concern across different local areas.
- **Local public health finance data** which shows levels of public health spend on childhood obesity by local area. Local authorities have discretion in how they spend their public health grant in their area, including on reducing childhood obesity. They are able to record some activities that could help reduce childhood obesity in categories other than 'childhood obesity' (other than the mandated elements of the National Child Measurement Programme which they record separately). As a result, local authorities might be spending more on tackling childhood obesity than is clear from the reported financial information.



National Audit Office

NAO report: UKRI's management of the Challenge Fund

A National Audit Office report has found that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) have worked well to generate interest from industry and academia in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (the Fund). However, more needs to be done to reduce the time taken to consider requests for support, so applicants are not deterred from bidding for funding and projects are not delayed.

One of the ways BEIS aims to deliver the UK's Industrial Strategy is by promoting investment in science, research and innovation. The Fund - the responsibility of UKRI - supports the Industrial Strategy's objective to raise long-term productivity and living standards by supporting four 'grand challenges' (future mobility; clean growth; artificial intelligence and data; and the ageing society).

UKRI invites bids from business and academia to identify important 'challenges' faced by the UK that might merit financial support from the Fund. Once a challenge is approved by ministers, organisations are invited to bid for projects that will contribute to that challenge. Current challenges range from supporting the UK's development of low carbon technologies, to supporting the better detection of disease and the mass production of vaccines.

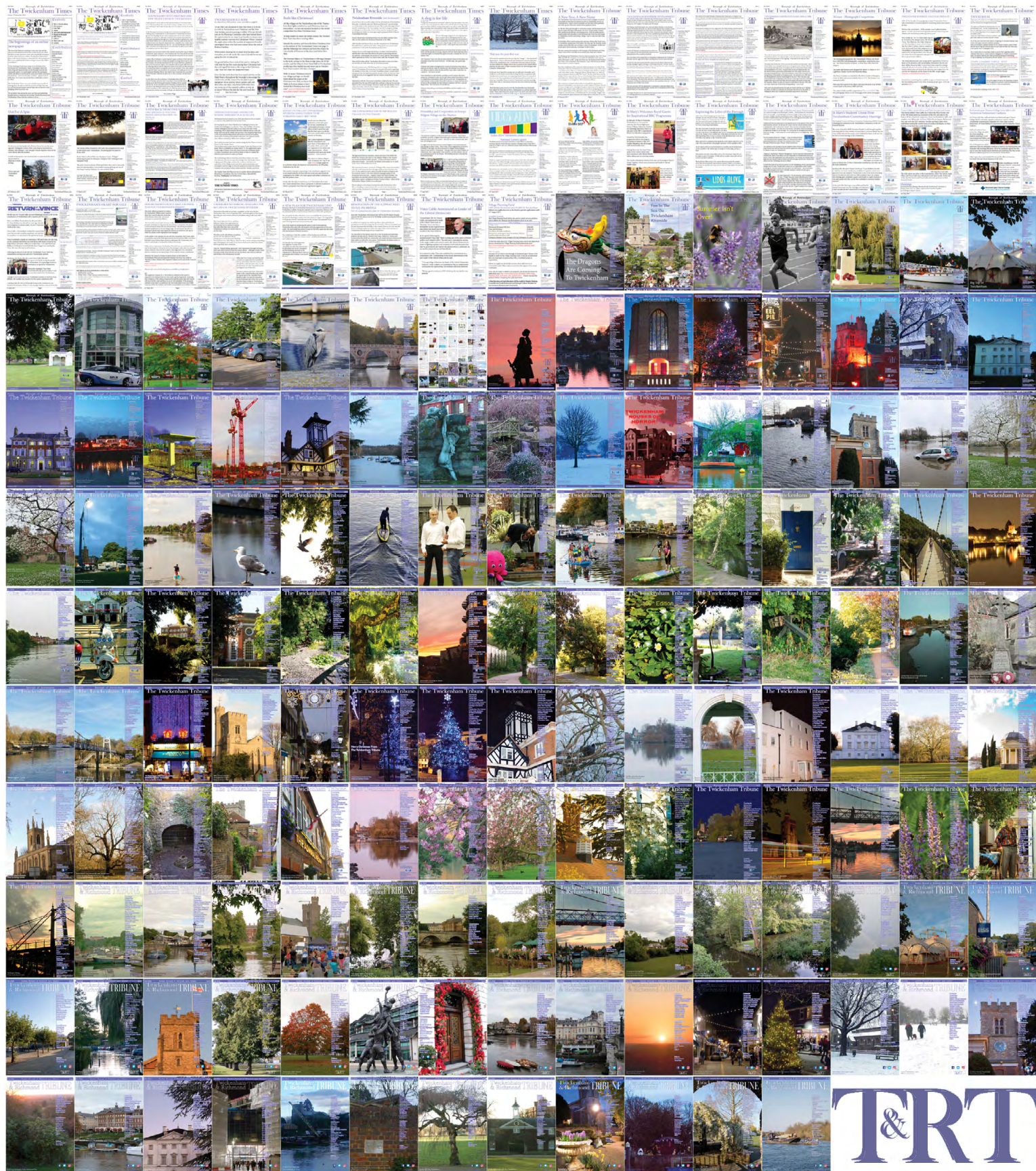
By January 2021 the Fund was supporting 1,613 projects, contributing to one of the 24 approved challenges. To date, UKRI has spent around £1.2 billion of the Fund's eight-year budget of £3 billion.

This report examines whether the Fund has been set up in a way likely to deliver value for taxpayers. It examines:

- the establishment of the fund, in particular whether it has attracted sufficient good quality bids, whether the selection processes have been efficient and whether the budget has been managed effectively; and
- the approach to monitoring and evaluating the Fund's performance, and its performance to date.

View the full report [HERE](#)

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