

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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Berkley Driscoll
 Teresa Read



22nd October 2021

T&RT

Hunter's Moon rises above Radnor Gardens

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickerati calls it a day

The popular 'hyperlocal website for Twickenham' announced on Thursday that "This will be the last post".

Russell has entertained and informed locals for the last 11 1/2 years, under the strapline *News, comment & ill-informed opinion for the Twickerati of Twickenham*, but has decided to call it a day.

The Tribune joins many residents in thanking Russell for his service and wishes him well with his next chapter.

Are you happy with your local park? Have your say in our Parks Satisfaction Survey

The Richmond Council Parks Satisfaction Survey takes place every two years and aims to assess overall satisfaction with local parks and highlight any areas for improvement.

The survey provides Richmond Council with an understanding of what residents would like to see. In turn, this informs spending on park improvements to reflect the views and lifestyle choices of local residents, current and potential park users.

We welcome your views and invite you to complete the online survey.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey or if you have any other queries please email parks@richmond.gov.uk or call 0208 891 1411.

The survey will close for submissions on Sunday, 7 November 2021.

Have your say [HERE](#)

Thames Water to carry out essential work in Twickenham

Thames Water will be undertaking essential engineering works in the carriageway on **Percy Road junction with Hospital Bridge Road**, Twickenham from Saturday 23 to Sunday 31 October 2021.

Traffic flow will be managed by multiway signals. These works have been scheduled to take place during the school half term holiday to minimise disruption, however delays to journey times are expected.

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TwickerSeal met up with some of his TwickerChums on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

TwickerDuck was bursting to tell everyone the latest news. The council has gone ahead and made a compulsory purchase order (CPO) for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, with the intention of breaking the 125 year lease the Twickenham Riverside Trust holds on behalf of the public.

The council wishes to build a private luxury block of flats on the DJG's current site and 'reprovision' it with a ragtag, loose collection of unimaginative landscaping, some of which is in the flood zone, and they're not even replacing the DJG's town square! Not surprisingly, the Trust has not welcomed the council's offer with open arms; just as well, as residents wouldn't stand for it. The council forgets that the DJG is public open space, held on behalf of the borough's residents. Yet the council wants to spend a fortune of our money to forcibly acquire our gardens to build their enormous private housing block.

The council disingenuously states "*the Council must make use of its CPO powers in order to ensure that it can get vacant possession of the site within the programme established, and secure GLA grant funding for the affordable housing elements.*" Well, TwickerMole pointed out that all the proposed 'affordable housing' is on the Water Lane/Santander/car park site and not on the DJG.

View details of the Compulsory purchase order [HERE](#)



Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update

19 October 2021

Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths has stabilized this week, with over 2.7 million cases and over 46 000 new deaths, a 4% and 2% decrease respectively, representing similar numbers as those reported last week. **With the exception of the European region, which for the third consecutive week reported an increase in new COVID-19 cases** (7% increase as compared with the previous week), all the other regions reported a decline. The largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the African Region (18%), followed by the Western Pacific Region (17%). The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 240 million and the cumulative number of deaths is over 4.8 million

The number of new weekly deaths reported globally also showed a stabilization (2% decrease as compared with the previous week), with similar numbers as those reported last week in the European region (4% increase), Western Pacific region (1% increase) and the American region (1% decrease). The largest decline in new weekly deaths was reported from the African region showing a 24% decrease as compared to the previous week

INCREASE IN UK INFECTIONS

New Scientist 19 October: Covid-19 news: No 10 warns of 'challenging' months ahead for UK

ITV, 19 October: UK Covid cases rise by nearly 50,000 - highest daily increase in three months

BBC News, 21 October: Doctors call for Covid Plan B to start in England

Shopworkers Call for Mandatory Face Coverings

Shopworkers' trade union Usdaw is calling on the Government to make important in-store safety measures mandatory to help reduce the spread of Covid-19, in light of rising Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

Paddy Lillis – Usdaw General Secretary says: “Since the Government ended mandatory safety measures within shops, the wearing of face coverings, social distancing and hand sanitising have been in decline. Protection for retail workers through customers following Covid safety rules should be backed up by the law and not left to individual choice, if we are going to avoid further lockdown measures.

“Without clear direction from the Government, we continue to ask employers to think about their duty of care to staff and promote safety measures to the shopping public. We also ask customers to show their support and respect for shopworkers by wearing face coverings, observe hand hygiene and maintain social distancing.

“Wearing a face covering is an important measure to help protect workers who have no option but to interact with the public. Retail workers are at a greater risk of catching the virus and bringing it home to their families. They have worked throughout the pandemic to keep the country fed and deserve to be valued, respected and protected.”

Total cases to 22nd October 2021

Richmond upon Thames	21,483 (20,661 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	21,345 (20,650 previous week)
Hounslow	39,643 (38,574 previous week)
Wandsworth	41,129 (40,302 previous week)

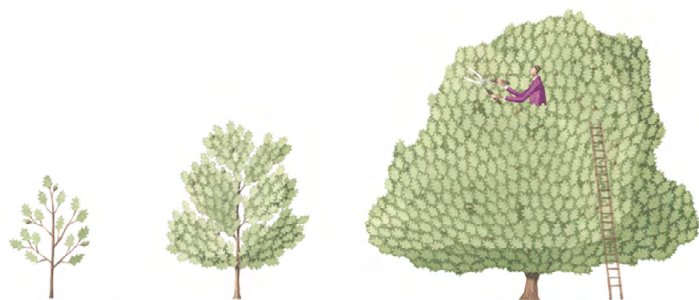
Note: flu vaccinations are particularly important this year as influenza and Covid-19 are circulating at the same time. Some pharmacies provide a flu vaccination service as well as GP surgeries. Covid booster vaccinations are available from various GP surgeries and via www.nhs.uk. Check websites for information.

World Health Organization: Countries with High Numbers of Deaths and the UK Red List.

(Deaths Worldwide 4,919,755).

USA	724,605	Colombia	126,910 (R)
Brazil	603,855	Iran	124,585
India	452,811	Argentina	115,737
Mexico	284,925	France	115,007
Russian Federation	227,389	Germany	94,875
Peru	199,928 (R)	South Africa	88,754
Indonesia	143,120	Spain	87,082
The United Kingdom	139,031	Poland	76,300
Italy	131,888	Turkey	68,274

(R) Red list country



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Profiting from the slave trade

By Simon Fowler

Taking slaves from West Africa to the West Indies and America was profitable, but the real money lay in the plantations which grew sugar for which there was seemingly inexhaustible demand in England.

It was inevitable that the prosperous villages of Twickenham and Richmond would attract slave traders and plantation owners. In the St Mary's Twickenham, there is plaque to:

'Lambert Blair Esq, of Berbice and of Courtland, Devon who after a lingering illness which he supported with exemplary Fortitude and Resignation departed this life on the 25th January 1815. Aged 48 years.'

Berbice is now part of modern day Guyana.

At his death Lambert Blair lived in Richmond House, which is more or less the site of the Twickenham Riverside Development, having moved to the area after his marriage in 1809. The house was lost when King Street was widened in the 1920s.

Originally from Newry in Ulster, Blair became one of the wealthiest plantation owners in British Guiana. We do not know how many slaves he owned, but it may have been thousands.

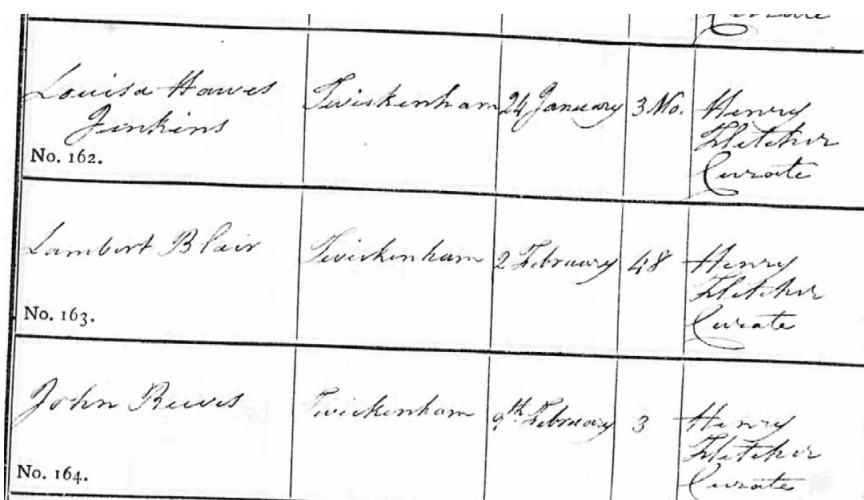
A visitor to Blair's estate, Dr George Pinckard wrote:

Mr. Blair is-one of the most opulent planters in these colonies, and, not disliking the good things of life himself, he has assembled them at his place of residence in sufficient supply to enable him to treat his friends with the most sumptuous liberality. He is, generous and social, and the riches of his table are dispensed with all the bounty of his nature. Instead of a plain cottage just rising from the wild woods of an infant settlement, we might have fancied ourselves feasting in one of the hospitable mansions of old England, nay, in some chartered hall, even, of voluptuous London itself.

In his will he left the estates to his brother John. Jane, his wife, received an annuity of £2000 per annum: worth perhaps £4m today and other money besides. He also left £250 each to 'a mulatto man named David Lancelot Blair' and also to a ships' carpenter James Blair. Presumably both were his bastard children from women on his estate.

He also freed the black servant -David Maxwell - he had with him in England, giving him a bequest of £100 together with an annuity of £20 per annum.

As Lambert Blair had no direct heirs, his estates eventually passed to his nephew James Lambert, who as an MP naturally supported the interests of West Indian slave owners. After emancipation in 1834: James Blair received £83,530 8s 11d, perhaps £170m today, as compensation from the British government for his 1598 slaves. It is said that he claimed for more slaves and received more money than any other slave-owner in the British Empire.



A handwritten entry from a death register. The entry is for Lambert Blair, No. 163, Twickenham, 2 February 1815, aged 48. The registrar is Henry Fletcher Curate. The entry is written in cursive and is the middle one of three entries on the page.

Louisa Hawes Jenkins No. 162.	Twickenham	24 January	3 Mo.	Henry Fletcher Curate
Lambert Blair No. 163.	Twickenham	2 February	48	Henry Fletcher Curate
John Bussell No. 164.	Twickenham	6th February	3	Henry Fletcher Curate

The entry in the death register for Lambert Blair's death on 2 February 1815

Stern reminder that COVID-19 continues to play havoc with people's lives

As COVID-19 cases continue to rocket across London – including in Richmond upon Thames - local people are reminded not to underestimate the damaging impact that coronavirus could still have over the next few months.

Locally, Richmond has some of the highest case numbers in London – with a current incident rate of 396 per 100,000 head of population for the last 7 days (up to 17 October 2021). This is now higher than the London average of 227 per 100,000, and lower than England average of 414 per 100,000.



Currently the highest proportion of positive COVID-19 cases in Richmond can be seen in the younger aged population (11-16 year olds), many are yet to be vaccinated. Most of the cases are linked to outbreaks in schools and in education settings.

The result of this increase is a disruption to learning for the rising number of young people who test positive and are not able to be physically in school.

The Coronavirus vaccinations could help reduce some of this disruption, with healthy children aged 12 to 15 now being offered a single dose of the vaccine to give them the best protection against COVID-19. Some children are being offered two vaccines if they either live with someone who is more likely to get infections, or they have a condition that means they are at high risk from COVID-19.

If your child is invited to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at school, we urge you to have a conversation encouraging them to take up the vaccine. If they have already missed the vaccination they will be offered it again at a later date with walk-in clinics being made available in the coming weeks ahead.

View further information about the [vaccine rollout for 12-15 year olds](#).

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“I do feel that the country has become a tad complacent over the past few months. And with nearly all restrictions now gone, schools have gone back and the vaccine programme continuing, some might say that we have confined COVID-19 to history.

“In short that is wrong. COVID-19 is still here. It is still deadly. And it can still play havoc with our economy, our children’s education, and our long-term health. We must not be complacent.

“It is important for everyone to play their part and help keep our communities safe. There are three steps to a safer way of living. They are simple:

- Remember hands, face, space and fresh air.
- [Take a rapid test](#) regularly and stop the spread of infection to others unknowingly.
- [Get vaccinated](#) as soon as you can, make sure you have your second dose (and your booster if eligible). If you have children aged 12 or over – please encourage them to have the jab.

“I know that some people on social media will say I am a broken record, and it is time to move on. Well – it isn’t time. I will stop when COVID-19 stops being a live threat to our lives.”

Currently, 73% of Richmond’s residents have received dose 1 of their vaccinations, while 68% received dose 2 and therefore are fully vaccinated. Richmond’s vaccination uptake for both doses is higher than London’s uptake.

Dear Editors,

Walking on water

It's half term, and tucked away in the Twickenham Riverside Planning application (Design and Access Statement, Part 5 of 13) the Council has given us a helpful map showing "existing play areas within **800m walking distance**" from Twickenham Embankment.

I just hope that my grandchildren don't ask me to walk with them to the Riverside Drive playground on Ham Lands. I know we all think our children/grandchildren are capable of walking on water but

Strategies

Play

The adjacent diagram shows existing play areas within walkable distance from our site.

Play Area for children aged under 5 years old (within 100m walking distance):

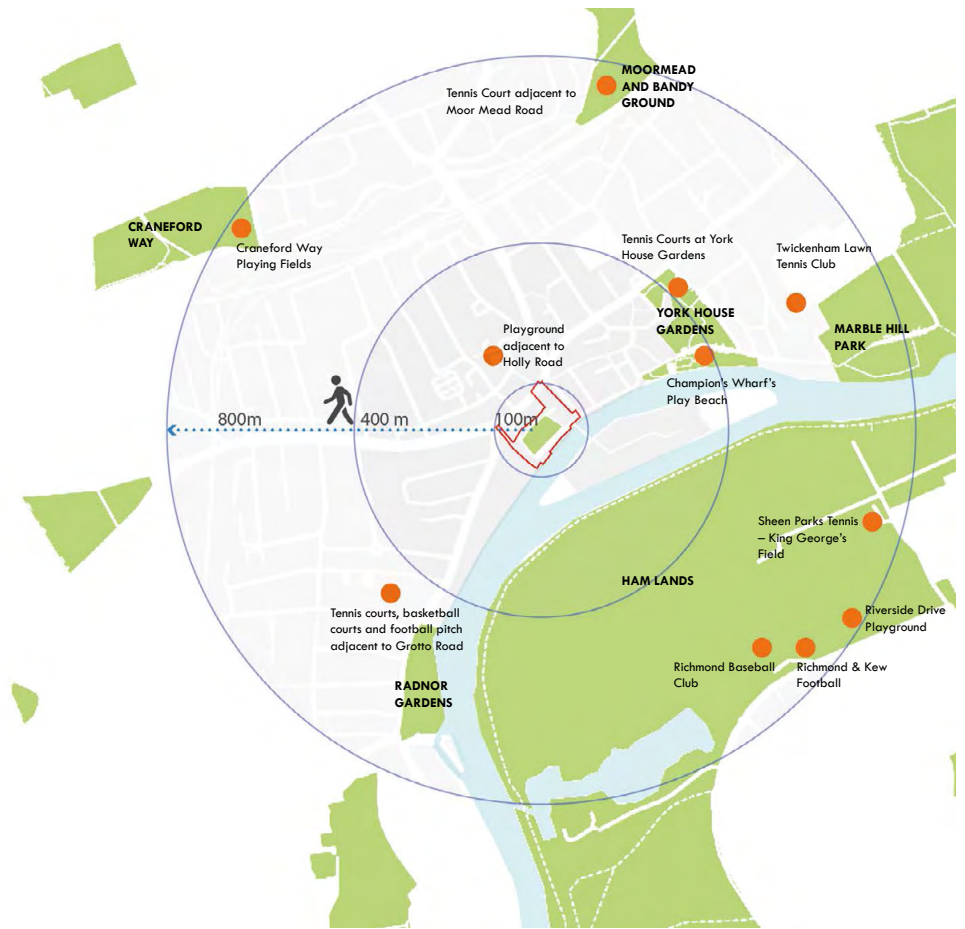
NIL

Play Area for children aged 5 - 11 years old (within 400m walking distance):

- Champion's Wharf's Play Beach
- Playground adjacent to Holly Road

Play Area for children aged 12+ years old (within 800m walking distance):

- Craneford Way Playing Fields
- Jeremy Hooton Tennis Coaching
- Richmond Baseball Club
- Riverside Drive Playground
- Richmond & Kew Football
- Sheen Parks Tennis – King George's Field
- Tennis Court adjacent to Moor Mead Road
- Tennis courts, basketball courts and football pitch adjacent to Grotto Road
- Twickenham Lawn Tennis Club



Best wishes,
Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Editor,

Removal of trees on the Twickenham Riverside Redevelopment site

Having been alerted by a letter in the Tribune last week I decided to look at the advice given to the Council about the trees on the Twickenham Riverside Redevelopment site. It is amongst the documents linked to the planning application 21/2758/FUL on the Richmond Council website, is entitled Arboricultural Survey and makes interesting reading.

Under Recommendations it states that *“all trees on site should be considered for retention where possible, with the greatest consideration given to Category A trees and then B trees where these specimens occur.”*

Two big hornbeams (category A) are being removed from the back of the site to make way for a disabled parking place in spite of the report saying that they *“should be retained if possible and incorporated into any future landscaping scheme as they offer high amenity value to the local landscape”*.

The Indian bean trees adjacent to them are also being removed even though they, along with the hornbeams, *“collectively form an imposing arboricultural feature at the top of the Gardens. Loss of these trees would affect the local landscape and they should be retained if possible”*.

The Pin Oaks on the Embankment are being removed even though they *“form an attractive linear feature along the Embankment. They should be retained where possible”*.

Presumably this professional report has cost the local tax payer quite a bit of money so why has it been airbrushed aside and ignored by the Council and its architects? And what of the Green Party Councillors who should be protecting these trees? They approve of the scheme saying only *“We recognise that some tree removal may be necessary”*.

Last, but by no means least, the CAVAT Report (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) says ***The cumulative valuation of the tree stock to be removed is £144,971.***

Kind regards,

A concerned Twickenham resident
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Twickenham Tribune,

CPZ proposal

I am writing in relation to the new proposed CPZ in the Teddington/ Strawberry Hill area. I became aware that the council were moving ahead with the implementation a new CPZ when a letter dropped through my letter box mid-September, letting me know about the second consultation in relation to the CPZ relating hours. I have since researched the issue and found out that the majority of residents consulted were indeed against the CPZ.

As part of its policy, the council will take forward the results of the consultation as long as it gets a least a 30% response rate (which was achieved overall across the whole area in this case). However the council have decided to press ahead with the CPZ despite not having overall support. They have explained that in this case, they are looking only at the results of certain roads which allegedly were in favour but have decided to add to the CPZ other streets which were against, as they feel that these streets will have a detrimental effect. At this stage, it is still not clear to me which specific street results were used as the basis for the council to decide to go ahead.

For example on my street, the majority voted against the CPZ but our street is being included nonetheless.

I would also like to raise the concern that according to the council policy for the second consultation, there is no commitment that the operating hours of the CPZ will be chosen in accordance to the wishes made by the residents. I quote: "Whilst the views of the community are an important part of the consultation process, they are not the sole factor in deciding a CPZ's operational hours (CPZ hours). These are determined through consideration of the parking problems in an area and any other relevant matters including, and not least, the outcome of a consultation with all properties and local amenities involved. Taking this into account, it is possible that a decision could be made to apply Official CPZ hours, which do not correspond to the preference of the majority of residents who respond."

I would encourage all Teddington residents to make their views clear by reaching out to their ward councillors and to engage with the second consultation, whilst expressing their concerns and issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards
Estelle, Teddington (Name and address supplied)

Ed's note: The consultation opened on Friday 24 September and closes on Sunday 24 October 2021. Find more information and complete the second consultation survey [HERE](#)

Dear Twickenham Tribune,

CPZ consultation in the Teddington/Strawberry Hill area

Brian Holder's letter (Twickenham Tribune, 8th October 2021) implied that Richmond Council is trying, in his words, to 'impose' Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) in the Teddington/Strawberry Hill area despite a 'comprehensive rejection' by residents. He quoted the figures responding to the consultation as 1119 voting 'yes' and 1539 voting 'no', which at first sight seems to imply that there is a majority of 320 against the proposed new zones.

However, what Mr Holder fails to mention is that of those 1539 people that voted 'no', 847 have therefore had their roads, 40 in total, excluded from the proposed zones. This leaves us with a lower number of 692 within the proposed new zones who are opposed. To get the figure for those voting 'yes' we must take the total of 1219 (not 1119 as Mr Holder stated in error) and subtract the 321 who voted 'yes' but were in a minority in their roads, and therefore had their roads excluded. This gives us a total of 1074 within the new zones who are in favour. Therefore a more accurate depiction of the support within the new CPZ zones area is as follows -

Those in favour: 1074
Those against: 692
Percentage in favour: 61%

This clearly demonstrates that there is majority support across the area of proposed zones. However, it is also incorrect to present the results as some sort of area-wide referendum on the concept of CPZs in general. It is not one super-large CPZ zone - that would not be effective - but rather a series of smaller zones, groups of roads, and what is most important is to ensure that there is a majority of support within each smaller zone, and this is also the case with these zones that council officers are now proposing.

I respect the fact that your readers will have different opinions on CPZs and their relative merits, but I feel it is important that any discussion is based on the facts. The proposed zones are democratically supported by a majority of respondents in those zones. Facts matter and we need to ensure that there is no misrepresentation.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Millard
Councillor for Hampton Wick Ward,
Vice Chair, Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee
LBRUT

Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.

Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will publish as a single page.

All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.

The Tribune prefers letters to include the writer's name, but will publish anonymously provided details are supplied.

Park Lane Teddington, sale agreed!

By Park Lane Stables

We have agreed a price for the Park Lane Stables site, and the funds are with our solicitor to proceed to exchange

This has proved a far more complex process than we could have anticipated and, while we hoped for a swift conclusion having agreed a price, several technical issues beyond our control need to be resolved before we can exchange. But we are being reassured that the finish line is in sight and hope soon to be in a position to confirm that we have completed and will be returning home to Teddington.

“Natalie and the Trustees of Park Lane Stables have the full support of RDA UK as they continue to strive for the very best outcome for their riders and carriage drivers. The complexities of this purchase – and the need to ensure a secure future for the group – have inevitably led to a more drawn-out process, but we want to thank all those involved who are working flat out to make this happen.”

– Ed Bracher, Chief Executive, RDA UK

“As trustees this is a cause close to all our hearts, and we remain committed to Natalie’s original goal to buy the Park Lane property and provide a secure future for all who depend on the services we provide. It’s never possible to predict the twists and turns of any legal process and this has had more than its fair share. I want to place on record our thanks for everyone’s continued support.”

– Neil Rodford, Chair of Park Lane Stables trustees



Earlier this year we reminded ourselves: ‘Don’t fear the storm for the rainbow is never far behind’.

Since then we have had our sights firmly set on the rainbow, and on coming home to Teddington as the owners of our home. That day should be with us soon.

We will issue a further press release the moment we have that completion date.

Check your car before ULEZ comes to Richmond upon Thames

Richmond Council is urging residents and businesses who haven't yet checked their vehicle, to make sure it is compliant ahead of Transport for London's (TfL) ultra-low emission zone expanding into the borough next Monday, 25 October 2021.

The new expanded zone will extend up to (but not including) the North and South Circular roads. Areas in Barnes, Mortlake, East Sheen, North Richmond and Kew will be included in the zone, including Townmead Road Household Re-use and Recycling Centre and Mortlake Crematorium.

This means that people visiting either of the two sites will be charged £12.50 per day by TfL, if their vehicle is not compliant.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"Ever since TfL proposed this expansion we have challenged the boundaries. We are supportive of the ULEZ as a whole - air quality is one of the biggest challenges facing this city and as a borough we are always focused on reducing pollution locally. However, we cannot support the dividing line that this boundary places through our borough and our communities.

"Councillors and officers have worked tirelessly to engage with TfL on this. In February we hosted a virtual meeting so TfL could hear directly from residents on their concerns. I have personally discussed with the Deputy Mayor of London for Transport, Heidi Alexander, on many occasions and reiterated the huge impact this boundary will have on our borough. We even put forward a modest request to exclude just Townmead Road, which would have allowed access to the recycling centre and to the Crematorium, but this was refused.

"As a result, many of our residents and businesses are now faced with having to pay to visit the recycling centre or the crematorium - something all local tax-payers should be entitled to access for free.

"I would encourage anyone who hasn't checked if their vehicle is compliant to do so as soon as possible."

The ULEZ operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year except Christmas Day (25 December).

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

[Check your vehicle](#) or [find out more information](#) including frequently asked questions.



Reporting “Obstructions” in our Streets

Do shrubs, hedges and trees from your garden conform to Highway Act 1980 s154 that ensures that the ‘public highway’ next to a property is not obstructed?

Local Authorities have a legal duty to ensure that pavements and street lights are unobstructed,

Residents, residents’ associations and local councillors should report to the Council any vegetation from a property which obstructs the use of the “public highway” remembering those who use mobility aids and people with sight impairment.

Use this form to report “Overgrown Vegetation” to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/roads_and_transport/roads_and_road_works/road_and_pathway_maintenance/streets_fault_reporting/report_overgrown_vegetation_on_the_highway

or email Street Scene at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

highwayoperationsandstreetscene@richmond.gov.uk

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Local job opportunities in leisure

Are you interested in a career in sport? We currently have a number of roles, both full time and part time, available for those interested in working in the borough’s sports centres and pools.

Richmond Sport & Fitness Services (part of Richmond Council) have a number of job opportunities to work at our borough sports centres and pools.

If you’ve ever wanted a career in sport, why not consider becoming a Lifeguard/Leisure Assistant, Duty Manager, Centre Manager or Swim Teacher.

If you can’t commit to permanent hours, no problem, we are also recruiting casual bank staff too.

For more information and to apply for a job, [visit our job page](#) and search “Leisure”.

St. Crispin

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

October 25 is St Crispin's Day. In fact, a slight misnomer, as this Saint is in fact two people, namely twins, Crispin and Crispian (so perhaps Crispins' Day would be more correct?)

Like most Early Christian Martyrs, there is little definite knowledge about them. Legend has it that they were sons of a noble Roman family, converted to Christianity, who fled to France (Gaul) where they preached the gospel by day and worked as cobblers by night. They were imprisoned by the local Governor, tortured and thrown into a river with a millstone round their necks, but managed to escape, only to be beheaded on the command of Emperor Diocletian on October 25 in the year 285.

They are now venerated as the Patron Saints of cobblers and leatherworkers. An impressive shrine to them can be found in Soissons Cathedral.

By the standards of the Early Christian Martyrs, there is nothing especially interesting about this story; however, the names Crispin and Crispian have since become immortalized in the English language by William Shakespeare's play *Henry V*.

The battle of Agincourt took place on October 25 1415, and Shakespeare has the King reminding his generals just before the battle that it is St Crispin's Day. It is one of Shakespeare's most famous speeches, ending thus:

“And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be rememberèd—
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England now a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day”.

My first exposure to this stirring piece of oratory was in the film starring Laurence Olivier (made in 1944). We had a rare school outing to the cinema in 1950 to view this masterpiece. At the time, it was a little above my head, but I have since come to appreciate greatly the words and sentiments expressed. My present research into St Crispin, discovering that the apparently singular Saint is in fact twins, has, for the first time, enabled me to understand why Shakespeare wrote “Crispin Crispian”.

As a footnote, I should add that in 285 and 1415 the Julian calendar was in use, whereas now we use the Gregorian version. The latter is about two weeks ahead of the former, so perhaps in fact we should not celebrate St Crispin's Day just yet!



Shrine to Crispin and Crispian in Soissons Cathedral (from Wikipedia)

LBRUT Compulsory Purchase Order on Public Open Space But the Council Has Not Consulted Residents

By Teresa Read

There has been concern this week, particularly from residents in Teddington, about Consultation; the Council not hearing what residents have to say.

However, one of the biggest Council spending plans – a Compulsory Purchase Order - which has been said to have unknown costs has not undergone consultation with the residents of the borough.

The Compulsory Purchase Order is on public open space on Twickenham Riverside (Title Absolute in the name of the Mayor and the residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, and more recently under the guardianship of a Charities Commission Trust with a 125-year lease).

On 21 October the Tribune discovered that: “We [LBRUT] have been negotiating with affected parties and whilst a number of interests within the Scheme have been acquired by agreement, a number of negotiations have not yet concluded. Given the outstanding negotiations (and in line with Government guidance), we have made the CPO to ensure the timely delivery of the Scheme.”

It seems, ironically, that the residents of the borough will eventually pay the cost of the Council compulsorily purchasing land which is registered in the name of the residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The Council has certainly been busy going ahead during the lockdown period with a planning application for the land which does not have overall support from residents. Additionally, there was concern that a political party supporting the Council plan sent out unsolicited emails to residents incorrectly stating that there had been 40 years of neglect of the land in question.

A boarded-up Council owned car park was used to illustrate the “neglect” and the authors obviously did not attend ceremonies on the land when the current Prime Minister, in his capacity as Mayor of London, planted a tree on the site, and HRH Princess Alexandra officially opened Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

A children’s playground and café have been on the site for over 25 years, with the later addition of public toilets, and many public events have taken place in the park which is Public Open Space. Additionally, affordable housing had been built in the borough in a Council strategy linked to plans for housing on the site.

Since then, The Embankment, along the Thames, has been refurbished and the whole area has 37 mature trees and established planting – all to be demolished (with affordable housing segregated on the aforementioned disused car park).

In addition to going ahead with a planning application the Council has spent unknown sums of money and Council officer time preparing for a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Cost of a Compulsory Purchase Order

At the LBRUT Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting in November 2020 the Council concluded that if the trust, the Twickenham Riverside Trust, did not agree with the Council by September 2021 that the powers of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) would be implemented.

It was also said at the meeting that it was not sure when the full cost of a CPO would be disclosed. It was noted that some members of the LBRUT Finance, Policy and Resources Committee had misgivings about committing to the scheme’s cost when residents were not aware of these in full.

Link to Compulsory Purchase Order:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/regeneration_projects/twickenham_redevelopment/compulsory_purchase_order

Where Do the Children Play?

Teresa Read

The song “Where Do the Children Play” - released by Cat Stevens in 1970 - was suggested to the Tribune as being evocative of the situation in areas of where there are imminent losses of community facilities. In the case of Twickenham, not only a children’s playground, public green space and a community cafe are under threat but 37 mature trees on Twickenham Riverside **at a time when the world is looking towards trees in the fight against climate change.**

“Well you’ve cracked the sky, scrapers fill the air
But will you keep on building higher
‘Til there’s no more room up there?”

What the government is doing about tree planting:

“... our commitment [is to] to create at least 30,000 hectares of woodland per year across the UK by the end of this parliament.”

What the London of Borough of Richmond is doing on Twickenham Riverside:

As we saw in last week’s edition of the Tribune (258) our Council is planning to cut down 37 mature trees and to concrete over the area to make way for a high-rise block of luxury flats and a pub.

We need trees in all areas not just in parks.....

Carbon dioxide needs to be absorbed in residential areas close to roads. Residents of all ages, and particularly our children need to be protected, and it is essential to protect our mature trees which are essential in the fight against climate change.

A plan of the trees to be axed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames can be seen in last week’s edition of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.





LONDON LUMINARIES

AUTUMN VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

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

- 20TH OCT **Kew Palace - George III: The Mind Behind the Myth**
- 21ST OCT **Garrick's Temple - David Garrick: An Actor and His Time**
- 27TH OCT **Ham House and Garden: Wilbraham, 6th Earl of Dysart: Patron and Collector of the Arts**
- 28TH OCT **The Private Life of Chiswick House**
- 3RD NOV **Painters, Princes and Personalities: Soane the entertainer at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery**
- 4TH NOV **Pope's Grotto - Poetry, Painting and Alexander Pope**

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Marble Hill



HOLA BRINDISA RICHMOND!

Well, I think this might, finally, be the place that succeeds on that mega site on Richmond riverside! Tootsies, Med Kitchen, Jackson & Rye all tried making a go of what, arguably, should be a prime spot, but failed. **Tapas Brindisa** has opened with a flourish and it's the group's first venture out of the city, as well as its largest one. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, the restaurant celebrates the cultures and exceptional foods of Spain.



Inside, there's bright tiling, pastel colours and the feel of an authentic Spanish tapas bar. An open kitchen lets customers watch the chefs in action, quieter corners, plus areas that can be sectioned off for private dining. It was buzzing.

The group belongs to the Sustainable Restaurant Association and it shows. Paper menus/placemats state the sourcing and environmental credentials, all impressive.

We started with a cocktail and a beer, and while choosing our tapas enjoyed some Perollo Gordal olives, marinated in orange and oregano. Those olives! I thought I had died and gone to olive heaven; they reminded me of the delicious olives we have enjoyed in Mallorca.

After some helpful suggestions from Alex, the charmingly efficient restaurant manager we settled on Romolacha Asada (£7.50), roasted beets with a blue cheese and yogurt dressing with PX sherry. It was really good. We also enjoyed a platter of Iberico Bellota ham (£22 but worth it!) Next was Monte Enebro (£8) fried goat's cheese with orange blossom honey and black figs: seriously good! Arroz Meloso was mushroom rice with truffle (£10) and it arrived piping hot. It was my husband's first choice from the menu, so I just had a tiny – delicious – taste and left him to polish off the rest. It was really well balanced and perfectly seasoned.

Our final savoury course was definitely worth waiting for: paprika marinated Iberian pork fillet with squash purée and fried kale (£14.50). For me, it was another highlight and probably the best pork I've tasted in a very long time – cooked to perfection, slightly caramelised, just pink and meltingly tender.

With these we enjoyed the Rioja Hacienda El Olmo 2018 at £10 a glass. The wines are well priced with plenty of choice by the glass and starting at £31 a bottle. There's also a good selection of sherries (to be expected of course) from £7.50 a glass.



The dessert menu – not that we really needed any - tempted us to try the Basque-style burnt cheesecake and a portion of Churros. They were as good as expected, based on the superb quality of the previous dishes. I would urge you to try Tapas Brindisa Richmond – it's "tapas with pizzazz!" It's also dog friendly, but a small negative is the noise level – to be expected though when the place is buzzing like it was.

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

START SPREADING THE NEWS!

A Twickenham-based business has this week carried off an amazing feat: its latest product is the London winner of the coveted 'Golden Fork' in the Guild of Fine Food Great Taste Awards 2021. The award – regarded as a food 'Oscar' – was for **Sublime Butter's Ridiculous No55 Lobster, Crab, Caviar & Fennel butter**. You may have read about it in the national press recently: it's a mere 'snip' at £95 a pot, but it does come complete with a bespoke butter dish and dome that's handmade in Italy. 'It's ridiculous by name and by nature, because we didn't spare any expense on the ingredients.' says founder Chris Mair, 'It's like our very own Willy Wonka range.' The rest of the range though, is far more affordable at under a fiver a pack, and stocked by quality independents and butchers (such as Armstrongs in St Margaret's and Browns Artisan Butcher in Twickenham).



Liked by moosemaplebutter and 181 others
sublimebutter Proud to announce our Ridiculous No55 Lobster, Crab, Caviar & Fennel butter has won the prestigious title of the Great Taste Awards GOLDEN FORK from London winner We can't thank you enough @guildoffinefood 🏆

Chris and his wife Tillie founded **Sublime Butter** as recently as 2019, and this latest accolade comes as no surprise to its growing band of loyal fans. Inspired by, and taking its name from The Sublime Society of the Beefsteak, an 18th century London club where gourmards enjoyed the finest steaks (and suitable vinous accompaniments), the concept was created by Chris, (whose background is in fact IT) and his fashion marketing specialist wife Tillie. Working with chef Tony Ho, the first butter they launched was *Chimichuri* (labelled No 17,

but don't ask me why!) and there are now six more 'conventional' butters in the range with Ridiculous No 55 making seven. Confused? You certainly won't be once you try some of the butters. Even though they're designed to top a fine beefsteak, they are incredibly versatile and have a plethora of other culinary uses. And they are also highly addictive - just try spreading on a good slice of piping hot toast! You can also add a knob to mashed potato, vegetables, pasta, and risottos to enhance them.

The butter is churned in the heart of Somerset, at a farm near to Glastonbury. The original range is packed in cylindrical pats, which are ideal for slicing and placing atop a freshly cooked steak. Tillie also tells me they freeze well, and recommends cutting into slices for easy portion control before freezing. The range comprises: *Bearnaise; Garlic & Herb; Pink Himalayan Salt; Chimichuri; Truffle, Parmesan & Black Pepper* and last but by no means least, *Garlic, Rosemary & Mint* with its obvious pairing.

Sublime Butter is available at selected independent delis and butchers or online from [Farmison & Co](https://www.farmison.co)



Giveaway: Win a pair of tickets to the Spirit of Christmas Fair at Olympia

Yes! Following a year of having to do most of our Christmas shopping online, the Spirit of Christmas Fair returns to Olympia from 1-7 November. And you could win a pair of tickets in our giveaway.

For 20 years now, this wonderful fair helps us 'wrap up' our Christmas, with over 650 independent boutiques and an extraordinary breadth of product ranges – under one roof. From gifts and treats to entertaining ideas, fashion, decorations, jewellery, homeware, baby and children, toys and games and of course a range of food and drink brands that have been specially chosen for their quality and originality. What's more most of the are British, eco-friendly and sustainable brands.

And after a touch of retail therapy, you can relax and indulge at the Louis Roederer Champagne Bars or enjoy lunch at Mosimann's.

We have a pair of tickets, worth £25 each to offer in our prize draw.

To enter please email your contact details and telephone number to contact@twickenhamtribune.com with the subject header Spirit of Christmas by **Tuesday 26 October at noon.**

The winner will be notified later than day



Costa Rica - The Earthshot Prize

Teresa Read



This week saw the announcement of the winners of the Earthshot Prize. This initiative was of particular interest to me as it reminded me of World InfoZone's work with the Stockholm Challenge and the Junior Global Challenge which encouraged people around the world to put forward innovative information technology projects at the turn of the century.

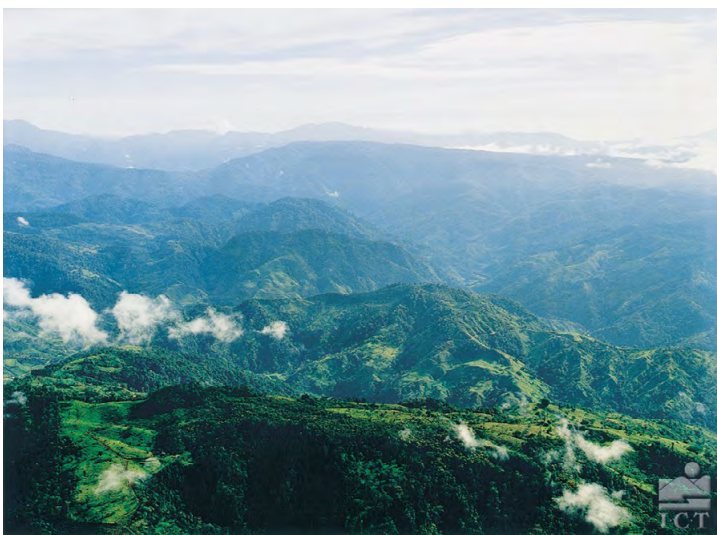
Like the abovementioned Challenges the Earthshot Prize is divided into categories with an overall winner for each group. There were fifteen finalists and each of these will receive support to further their work. The five winners, one for each category, receive £1 million in prize money.

Costa Rica, in Central America, won the overall prize in the category Protect and Restore Nature.

In the 1990s there was concern in Costa Rica about the loss of trees and the need to restore ecosystems. The Ministry for Environment in Costa Rica paid citizens to plant and protect trees; joint cooperation between the government and the people of the country.

The Earthshot Prize, a Royal Foundation, was founded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and will continue to take place annually until 2030.

“The Earth is at a tipping point and we face a stark choice: either we continue as we are and irreparably damage our planet, or we remember our unique power as human beings and our continual ability to lead, innovate and problem-solve. People can achieve great things. The next ten years present us with one of our greatest tests – a decade of action to repair the Earth.” (Prince William).



WW2 Home Front Hero

By: TwickWatch

Whilst we rightly remember the forces who fought and died in both World Wars, we often forget about the horrors faced by those families left at home, subject to frequent bombing raids and the terror they often endured as a result. There were many unsung heroes at home. One such hero was Albert Edward Hack aged 57 years, a Police Sergeant serving at Barnes Police Station. His story is taken from Civil Defence reports of the time.

At about 1.20am on the 19th February 1944, bombs fell in White Hart Lane, Barnes and PS Hack, who was on duty at Barnes Police Station, received instructions to go to the scene. On his arrival there he found that considerable damage had been caused to a building comprising two flats and that most of the first floor flat had collapsed on top of the lower flat in which some people were trapped. At the rear of the building a serious fire was raging in a factory containing much highly inflammable material and explosions were occurring every few minutes.

When Hack started his rescue work, the raid was still in progress, and the flames from the burning factory close by were so fierce that it seemed probably that the house would be set alight. The heat was intense and the atmosphere in the bombed house was foul and oppressive. There was also the risk of suffocation from escaping gas. Practically the whole of the work was done with his bare hands and although strong and fit, the strenuous efforts he made over a period of nearly 2 hours so exhausted him that at the finish he partially collapsed. He was on the sick list for ten days after the rescue.

While the raid lasted, there was the serious additional risk of working along-side a fire which was lighting up the whole neighbourhood and making it a likely target for more bombs. The help given by the civilian referred to (Mr. Lyles) was invaluable, but there is no doubt that it was Hack's courage and pertinacity which resulted in the saving of five lives. Police Sergeant Hack related the events in his report.

"On the 18th February, 1944, I was posted Section Duty on Barnes Section and was at Barnes Police Station when the 'alert' was sounded at 12.37am on the 19th February 1944. About 1.20 am in consequence of reports having been received at Barnes Police Station that high explosive bombs had been dropped in White Hart Lane, Barnes, I was detailed by Inspector Drew to accompany PC 686'V' Lintott and himself to the scene of the incident.

..... I was then in White Hart Lane, somewhere about No,124, when I heard a man remark - 'There are children trapped in there, pointing to Nos, 126 and 128. These were adjoining what appeared to be the point of impact of a bomb. As I made my way towards these flats he shouted - "You can't get in there. It's blocked up."

However, I proceeded and found that the rear part of the upper flat (126) and part of the front had collapsed on to the lower flat (128). I found that access could be gained to the front passage of No,128. This was about 12 feet in length with a short bend to the right and then a shorter passage. I went inside and was followed by Inspector Drew and I believe that two other persons came into the first.

..... The shorter passage was blocked with debris up to about four feet from the floor level with the above floor hanging only about four feet higher. I remained and crawled up as far as I could and shining my torch through a small break in the mass of wood saw what appeared to be a mop of grey hair. I broke off a long slat from the upper floor and stretching over some chairs, through the hole, pushed this hair aside with the slat and found that it was a woman's head, who was trapped, she immediately looked in my direction and screamed, I shone my torch on myself so that she could see me and she became quiet.

I then realised that it was very warm down there and that there was a very strong smell of gas, It was not until then that I realised that I was there alone with the persons who may be trapped, Going back up this short passage I found the gas main which had a piece of paper stuffed into the broken pipe. This appeared ineffective and as I could not find anything better, I pushed the paper right in and pushed another piece in the pipe. All this time I had to hold a torch in one hand and work with the other, I (could see through the debris that the fire was still burning very fiercely a short distance away. This appeared to make it very dark underneath the wreckage where I was.

I then crawled back to as far as I could get and found that I could remove a considerable number of loose bricks and in turn broke off several pieces of wood which were sticking out in all directions, I was then up against some oak chairs which were embedded in my path. I tried to shift the chairs but they would not move an inch so I got a brick and smashed the backs off, throwing the wood back which the civilian removed. I then removed my overcoat as it was getting too warm and did not allow enough freedom of movement in this small space.

After this the way was still barred by a door, this had been blown in half and was wedged upright. I could not move this alone so I tied a rope, which I found in the debris, round the door and fastened it to the door handle and requested the Civilian to take the rope up the passage and pull when I told him, This he did, and pulling upwards as he pulled away found that the door slowly moved out of the debris, He continued pulling and pulled the door out of the passage saying -"I will take it right out of the way".

..... I saw the woman whom I had already seen, she again screamed as I shone my torch, I told her to be quiet and then saw a woman who I now know to be Mrs Colley about a yard further in from the first woman and pinned to the wall by the back of a table.

She was able to speak to me and I asked her who was with her, she replied, there are five of us, Three women and two babies. I can hear one baby but I have not heard the other one.! I said something to her to pacify her and then I think she saw me. She could not move at all. I could then then hear persons on the floor and wreckage above, I then saw a small light about two feet away above in the floor above apparently where some person had made a hole through, I heard a voice above say, 'Well who's down there?' and then a reply 'A policeman', The first voice then said, "How the devil did he get down' there.

The gas again was becoming unbearable so I shouted to someone above that I wanted some rags soaked in water. I pushed a stick up through the hole and told them the situation of the two casualties who I had seen up to this time. Some rags were then handed down and I bound up the gas pipe and stopped the gas.

I then started removing bricks from where I had crawled and started throwing them back out of the way, It was then that I found just in front of me a coat, which when partly uncovered I found to be a woman with her head tucked under her. I got her sufficiently clear and was able to pull her head up. She was badly cut on the head and face and was unconscious, A child was underneath, The child had a protected by the woman's body. I removed a quantity of bricks from about the child's body. I then realised that very soon I should be able to extricate this child so I shouted to the men working on top that I wanted assistance at once. Soon after, the civilian who had assisted me before came back. I noticed that he carried a better lamp than mine so we exchanged lamps, I placed his lamp on a piece of iron where the woman's head had been resting about a foot below me, this place was smothered with blood. I managed to draw the child out of the debris, I handed the child to the civilian who carried it away.

I then pulled this first woman aside and worked my way further in. The civilian had returned and I felt him grab hold of my right foot as I went further in. I was able to pull away some wood, a large bulbous table leg and supports from the second woman's back and eventually she was able to lean back a few inches. I released her right hand and in doing 'this noticed a fair-haired child which from its position I presumed had been on her lap. This child had been pinned against a kitchen range which I then saw for the first time, It had been protected by the woman's body. She was badly cut about the back but did not appear to be seriously injured, I crawled further in and lying flat on my stomach found that I was then about three feet above the floor level. I still had only about 18 inches clearance to squeeze through. The civilian still held my foot as I began to get the child out. This woman was a bit hysterical and was the first woman that I had observed, and, after speaking to her, she became calm when she realised where I was. I persuaded her to keep her arm clear as she kept clutching my hand and preventing me working. I then reached in slightly further and in doing so I had to lay partly on the first woman, I managed to grasp the baby under the armpits, it did not appear to be injured in any way and I lifted it gently out. I wriggled back with the child and handed it to the civilian who again disappeared up the passage. I do not know whether there were any other persons there helping him but heard somebody remark "What! another baby."

At this stage I mentioned to Mrs. Colley that it was hot and stuffy and she said that the fire had been alight that evening but had been put out before the raid, I then shouted to the men on top and asked them to cut

open the floor boards to admit some air as it was becoming rather stifling owing to the warmth of the kitchen range, gas and the dust which they were continually knocking down upon us.

I then crawled down and commenced removing bricks and parts of a chair which were holding down the first woman, I was able to free one leg at a time and pulled her up towards me. As I did so the bricks and other debris filled the position she had occupied, I lifted her as best I could and pushed her forward about a foot. The civilian was then able to catch hold of the woman's body and help pull her up. I lifted her legs and pushed her forward. For about six feet she had to be dragged owing to the debris in the passage as it was impossible for either of us to get out of a stooping position. We got her to the passage and left her for others to take away. She was unconscious all the time and appeared to be badly hurt,

I then crawled along to the second woman and although I had just got one woman out I had no more room to work as the debris had fallen and filled up the first woman's position. I worked myself in again on my stomach and hanging downwards was able to remove some more woodwork, mostly broken furniture, This allowed the woman more freedom and she then had both hands free and fell towards me, It was then that I found that her feet were pinned down by a chair which had been smashed whilst she was sitting on it, this in turn had the smashed table on it and this was taking the full weight of the debris above, I endeavoured to remove a chair and found that it released a considerable amount of rubble which was on the move at the slightest touch. I managed to hold this and wedged some bricks to prevent further movement. I was now able for convenience to place some bricks and pieces of furniture in the oven of the kitchen range and on the top as I could not throw them back as I myself was filling up what gap there had been. The civilian was again holding my right foot and preventing me slipping.

I now felt the effects of hanging down and working in such a position and began to sweat freely about the face and back. I felt uncomfortable as it is quite unusual for me to sweat in this manner and wriggled out to get a breath of fresh air. After a few moments I went down again and managed to work out one of the women's legs from under the smashed chair but found that the other leg was fast and badly twisted, However, I was able to get her to an upright position and get her head to the small opening through which I had been working. She then felt the fresh air as it blew down, through the upper floor, this seemed to revive her so I rested a while. At this time the casualty doctor called out and asked if he could get in to the injured, I replied that he could but that he would have to stoop very low.

He came in and I was able to hold up the woman whilst he reached in and inserted a needle in her arm. To do this he was stooping and cramping me and I had to ask him to move. I told him that he could not reach the other casualty and he left.

I was now in a bit of a fix as she was up and blocking my way in and was pinned 'by one of her legs. To overcome this, I laid her down and wriggled over her and tried to shift her leg, myself hanging down inside the hole, this was impossible so I pulled myself up and asked for a crowbar. A crowbar was not available So I picked up a two-foot length of iron piping and hanging down tried to get a leverage under the broken furniture to release 'her leg. I was unable to do this as the iron bent with the weight I was trying to shift. I pulled myself up for air and asked for a saw intending to cut through the broken furniture. A saw was readily handed down from above.

..... I crawled back and leaning partly on the women and hanging downwards, with the civilian again holding one of my legs, I endeavoured to saw through the rungs of a chair. Owing to my cramped position and the atmosphere, I was compelled to pull myself up again and abandon the sawing attempt. After a few moments, I crawled down again and tried wrenching at the chair, it would not give so I told the civilian to let go of my foot and slid down to almost the floor level. I felt about under the chair and found that the woman still wore a shoe. She was shouting about touching her foot whilst I did this. This I expected as her foot was in any case twisted so I carried on. The heel of the shoe was firmly held by the broken 'furniture so I pulled at her foot and gradually worked her foot out of the shoe. I was then able to pull her leg out and found that I had her entirely free. I pulled her up as I pulled myself out. and managed to get her to where the civilian was crouching. I tried to lift her but now I found that either I was losing my strength or she was heavier than I had expected and I could not move her any more. I crouched aside and allowed the civilian and some other person to stretch forward and drag her out of the passages.

After this casualty had been removed, I was able to get down to the last woman, Mrs, Colley. This was now just a sort of pit with just enough room for two persons. It did not seem possible that she could be got out at all as she was pinned against a supporting pillar of the kitchen range with the draw leaf of a smashed table pressed in her back. This was taking best part of the weight of the upper floor. Her legs were pinned beneath a smashed chair on which she had been sitting. I called out to War Reserve Guntripp who I heard on top and informed him of this casualty's plight and asked if anything could be done up there. I heard him tell the others and they commenced working again. I cleared the space below of loose debris and threw this up out of the way. Mrs. Colley although pinned as she was, was. able to 'tell me what was holding her. At this point I heard some person at the end. of the passage a soldier, I believe, shout some encouraging remarks to Mrs, Colley whom he addressed by name.

The oven door had been wrenched off and this was in front of her pushing one leg round the pillar. I managed to get my arms round her body and gradually removed the oven door and bricks. This allowed her freedom of movement for her right leg. She cried out but I took this to be the returning circulation so rested a while. I then pulled away part of the chair holding her other leg and noticed that the whole of the above debris was likely to move now. I was forced to keep my left leg against this to prevent further movement. She occasionally cried out; but I was able take her mind off what was going on. She asked about the others and seemed satisfied when I told her that I had taken them all out.

I felt around her and satisfied myself that she was entirely clear and told the civilian who was looking down that I thought she was clear and was going to take a chance and pull her out, He nodded. I then pulled her towards me and she came away bricks falling down and filling up the position she had occupied as she came away. I moved her about a foot and allowed her time to rest. I needed a rest here as I still had my foot against some wood preventing the further movement of debris,

This woman I was able to talk to and I told her that she was going out of the hole but would have to go over me as I did not want to withdraw my foot until last as the debris would be bound to move as soon as-I did. I had my back to the opening and assisted her over me, this necessitated me moving backwards and taking hold of her with one hand I had to lay on my back and when I felt that she was sufficiently over, I pushed away with both feet, steadying myself. with the other arm, I heard the bricks and debris fall as we left our original position. I gradually worked my way back by pushing with my feet, holding her with one arm and steadying myself with the other. I carried on like this until I reached the passage. I turned over and was then joined by the civilian who assisted to drag and carry her out to the clear passage-way.

This was the first time in about two hours that I had stood upright and I felt particularly weak in the legs. I leaned against the wall of the passage whilst she was being placed on the stretcher, I followed the stretcher through to the street and felt that I could not walk any further, 'so I leaned against the front wall for a time.

..... Inspector Drew was present and he asked how I felt, I told him that I did feel a bit sick and that I had had no refreshment, He thereupon told me to proceed to Barnes Police Station and detailed two War Reserves who were present to accompany me. I proceeded to Barnes Police Station and went to the canteen; I did not feel like a meal so ordered a cup of tea which I drank..... in consequence of my filthy condition and the condition of my clothes which were saturated with blood and dirt, I was given instructions that I was to be given a hot shower bath, clean clothes and taken home.

..... After arriving home, I felt sick and had a nasty headache. As this continued, I visited the Divisional Surgeon, Dr, Yonge, (Twickenham Sub-Division) and informed him that I had headache and sickness and of what had occurred. After examination he placed me on the sick list suffering from the effects of coal gas fumes and told me to go to bed but that I was to inform him if I felt any other ill effects. I remained in bed Saturday and until midday Sunday, I then had pains in the legs and again saw the Divisional Surgeon who told me that it was usual in such cases and. that I need not worry but to partake of some exercise to free the limbs. I remained on the sick list until 29th February 1944."

Circle Mirror Transformation

by Annie Baker

OHADS at the Jane Ross Theatre, LEH, Hampton until 23rd October

Whether or not you are familiar with creative drama classes and their improvisation exercises, “silly” games and acting techniques, this is a play that will delight all who value subtle performances in which frozen smiles and long pauses will keep you spell-bound.

The play’s setting is a small town in New England and the location is a community centre for a drama class for adults. Marty, the drama teacher leads the class, taking the students through a series of acting and drama exercises in which they reveal much about their lives.

An enormous mirror dominates the back wall of the set, which in many ways acts as a metaphor for the distinction between reality and fiction. Through the mirror the audience sees a reflection of themselves observing the actors, whilst it reflects what is happening in the characters’ lives. The mirror reflects both real life and the imaginings of a group of actors.

Whoever sits on a large, bouncy rubber ball, much of the time Marty, holds control of the class and attention is fixed on that person. Imaginative use of lighting helps to differentiate time sequences by dimming the lights between sub-scenes and using black out to indicate the end of a main scene. The shape of a circle enables director Harry Medawar to move his actors around like chess pieces, thus indicating a shift in relationships. Everything appears naturalistic, but the audience know that a change in seating positions reflect a dynamic shift in interactive relationships between the characters. He is not afraid of long pauses, these help maintain moments of tension.

This is a superbly crafted play, directed by a talented director and performed by a group of gifted and sensitive actors. I left the theatre wanting to know more about the characters and how their lives would move on, surely an indication of high quality drama?



Read Celia Bard’s review at www.markaspen.com/2021/10/20/circle-mirror

Photography by Raddison Photography



Tonight Belongs to Us

TOPS Musical Theatre Company at Hampton Hill Theatre

TOPS hit the ground running with its musical extravaganza *Tonight Belongs to Us* at the Hampton Hill Theatre. It burst out of the gloom and doom of Covid with a production pulsating with vitality and energy saying, 'look at us, we are back and we're great'. And they were.

The setting was minimal, but effective. The excellent five-piece ensemble with Musical Director, John Davies, was upstage, but as if in an orchestra pit. Imagine you are at a performance and come to the showstopper number for that particular show. This is then

followed by a showstopper from another production, followed by yet another showstopper, and yet another. This was TOPS recipe for a splendid musical evening.

The opening *Medley* set the look for what was to follow. A strong blue background enabled the characters, dressed in black and white, to stand out vibrantly. The women wore white skirts of music manuscript and the men in similar waistcoats. (I tried to read the musical annotation but without success.) The costuming throughout was imaginative, colourful and right for the periods portrayed.

I enjoyed the "fun" numbers, like the all-in-green *This is our Story* from *Shrek*, the colourful *Barnum Mash Up* and the happiness of with *Shine Like the Sun*. Another welcome musical moment was provided by *When You Believe* from Sondheim's *The Prince of Egypt*. A welcome calm moment was provided by Sondheim's *Children Will Listen* and *Anyone Can Whistle*, sensitively and movingly sung.

Choosing which "showstopper" to comment on is difficult because of the equal excellence of the presentation. I enjoyed them all. Perhaps a star throughout the production was the choreography of Lacey Creed and TJ Lloyd. There were six or eight dancers in particular that delighted us with their grace, flexibility and athleticism.

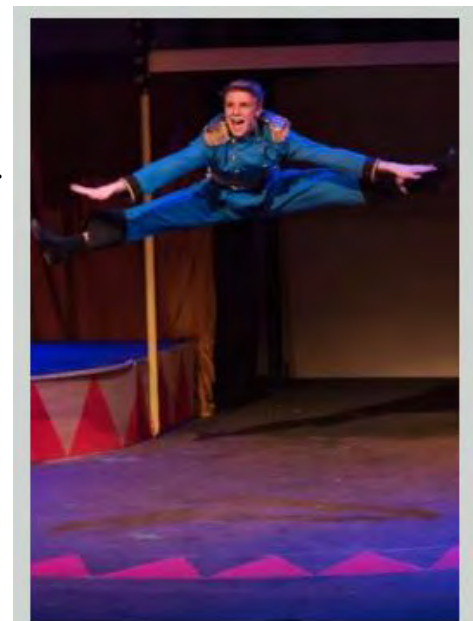
Read Patrick Adams' review at

www.markaspen.com/2021/10/15/tonight-belongs

Photography by Ace



Nine to Five, 2018



Barnum, 2017



The Shark is Broken

by Ian Shaw and Joseph Nixon

Sonia Friedman Productions, Ambassadors Theatre, West End until 15th January 2022

Being desperate to see *The Shark is Broken* for nearly two years, due to a sell-out in Edinburgh, followed by the lockdown, I couldn't get to the Ambassadors Theatre quick enough.

A clever set, extraordinary lighting and amazing tableaux; I knew it was worth the wait. What followed was ninety minutes of impressive pacing, revelations, and acrimonious yet warm exchanges. The script, acutely written by Ian Shaw, has text taken from his father Robert Shaw's diaries about the making of the iconic film, *Jaws*. Consistent and thoughtfully studied, it captured a significant piece of film history.



The play features three stage actors playing three film actors, the principal characters in *Jaws* during the fraught making of the film. The three film icons worked on location against constant restless water and a cold and rundown boat. Their predicament, and the constantly malfunctioning "shark", was depicted on a clever stage set that was very favourably effective. (A young Steven Spielberg was referred to, and not always in a flattering way.) Guy Masterson's direction is full of awareness, razor sharp and insightful.

Intelligently played by Ian Shaw, I enjoyed Robert Shaw's vibrancy and solid-gold wit. It very clearly and impartially emphasised one man's dependency on alcohol. Richard Dreyfus was put over as spoilt and shallow, while Roy Scheider came off even worse as being dogmatic and dull. These roles were slickly played by Liam Murray Scott and Demetri Goritsas. However, this did not make the film actors lose their charm and star factor, and certainly did not overshadow insights into the players, who kept it tight and absorbing.

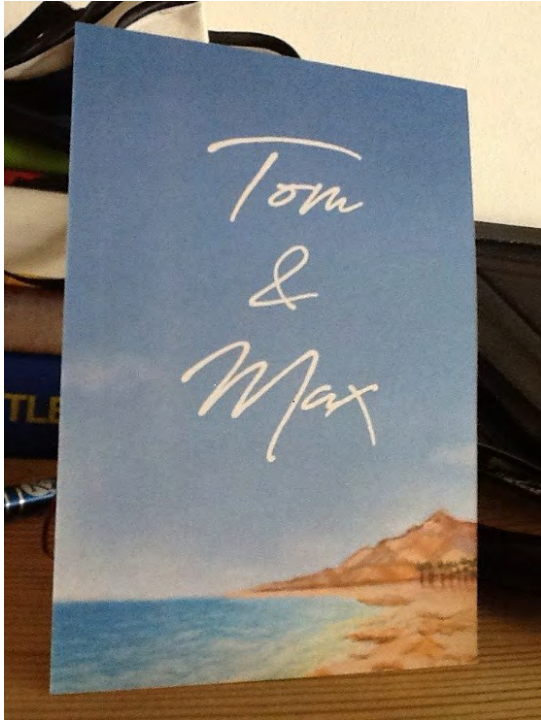


Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/10/18/shark-broke

Photography courtesy of AKA UK

POSTCARD FROM ISRAEL

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



Here I am sitting with my toes in the warm lapping waters of the Red Sea on a Palm Fringed beach with a wonderful vista of the Mountains of Mourne (Red Mountains) across the Gulf. It is lovely to be here, yes, with all the Red Tape - tests, protocols, disciplines, on-line Declarations and more..... Having made it through the maze I can fully understand why it can be daunting, even to the point of giving up. DON'T. For us it is the prospect of being at our oldest Grandson's wedding here on the beach with the sunset going down the Gulf of Aqaba. Dear reader let me say this- it's worth all the hassle and there must be so many thousands of you who have missed weddings, new grand- children, seeing aged parents. There is simply no replacement for family Not all the medication in the world can compare with family TLC - go for it.

For now, travel is becoming possible to so many countries and families can finally be reunited - so you should take the plunge, oh a bit of Sun- Sea and Sand would do you a ton of good too!!

It's true that most countries vary with the rules and disciplines regarding entry - but as long as you read the "small print" you should not go wrong- some of it is tedious but with a long winter ahead there could be no better tonic than a quick trip away to build up those reserves to keep you healthy through the coming months.

Next month (8th of November) the USA is re- opening their doors for tourism and we already have quite a number of deferred bookings packing their bags in anticipation.

All over Europe and The Middle East travel is fully operational (Oddly Israel is still limited) but as I say the restrictions vary and can change if the host country imposes a ban at short notice (Like Morocco yesterday) which is why you should check everything - book with confidence, nearly all airlines offer a refund or deferment if conditions change and now it is possible too to top up your travel insurance to protect you against expenses if you get infected before travel or whilst away & have to change your return travel- how does the saying go "a stitch in time"

If you follow the daily news you will see changes. Yesterday it was Morocco today it is Cuba - which now doesn't require a PCR for double vacc'd travellers - yes a bit of a minefield, but a travel agent should be up to speed on all that One thing for certain as normality returns, costs will increase- best to book now - even better book now with free cancellation - rules get in the way sometimes but you can protect yourself.

But the most important thing is to just do it - visit family, go see friends or just grab a Sun Sea and Sand break - we'll keep you posted if there are changes.

Back next week - stop by and check my suntan! Bruce from Sunny Eilat!!!

TRAVELLER'S TALES 108

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD



Doug Goodman recalls some memorable culinary experiences

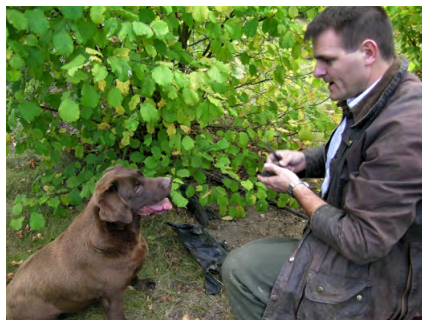
'If you don't try it you won't know if you like it', was the response from my mother whenever I refused to eat a new dish at dinner time. So, from an early age I remember making up my mind to eat whatever was placed in front of me. I can recall many memorable meals abroad – some in open-air food markets, some in local restaurants, some as chief guest at a banquet and some that are best forgotten. With over 500 business and holiday trips abroad in the past 50 years I had plenty of opportunities to try local specialities.



The Perfect Paella
Served at Hotel Bon
Sol in Mallorca



Dinner in Reims



Truffle Hunting



Restaurant in Bologna

EATING IN EUROPE

Let's start the gastronomic tour in Spain. Paella is my favourite dish and the best I've sampled was prepared at the Hotel BonSol in Mallorca. The food market in the island's capital Palma has the most enticing displays of vegetables, fruit, meat and fish. The hotel's chef buys fish soon after it's landed and occasionally guests are invited along to choose their fish for supper that same evening. In Reims, in the heart of the champagne region, I often dined at Le Café du Palais where every dish has different champagne to accompany it. The décor is art-nouveau and it's a great place to visit when you're touring the region's wine producers. It's not often that you are invited to dig for your dinner but this is what happened when I met Benoit, owner of a restaurant at Matougues near Chalons en Champagne. His Labrador Angy was trained to sniff out truffles in a nearby wood and found several of the very valuable tubers which were served in a very fine meal consisting of truffle sandwich with mousse, a parmentier of potato cake with chicken and truffles and a truffle salad with cream cheese. What should you eat in Bologna is easily answered: it's spaghetti Bolognese. But this was no ordinary 'spag-bol': the sauce was divine; the pasta melted in my mouth and the atmosphere in the restaurant just off the main square was lively.

In Funchal, where Madeira's colourful market is located, I was introduced to a rather fierce looking fish: the black espada. It tastes delicious despite its piranha looks and goes well with vinho verde. I flew to Marrakech to enjoy a few days in the souks and bargained furiously for things I didn't really need. But there's pleasure in drinking mint tea with the carpet weaver or skilled pot maker while you discuss many things before agreeing on a price. The huge public square of Jemaa el Fna turns into a noisy food market at night where you can sit under the stars to eat whatever has just been cooked for you. Musicians, dancers and snake charmers

provide non-stop entertainment. Sitting by the sea in a taverna in Kefalonia eating ‘horiatiki’ with a glass of ouzo to clean the palate and a bottle of retsina to dilute the olive oil on your Greek salad is my idea of heaven. On Mount Athos, The Holy Mountain in the North of Greece, meals were taken in the presence of the monks. No one dared to start before the Abbot was seated and you had to finish your meal the moment he put down his fork. Food was not considered a pleasure - simply a necessity. No meat or dairy products were available as no female animals were allowed on the monastic republic but locally-grown produce and home-made wine made every meal a treat. A very memorable meal was in Halkidiki driving away from Athos. A procession of animals was being led to a village square for a blessing. The mayor insisted that we join the villagers for their thanksgiving feast and sent us on our way with parcels of cheese and ham.

I was served the worst meal of my life by nuns in The Dragomirna Monastery in Northern Romania. A very tired salad was followed by a stew of indescribably tough meat washed down with wine that had never seen a grape. The bed was amazingly uncomfortable but the spiritual and medieval surrounding in the fortified monastery made up for any discomforts.



Funchal Fish Market



Marrakech Jemaa el Fna



Greek Taverna



Russian Caviar

RUSSIAN CUISINE

Borsch is a popular dish in Russia although the best beetroot soup I’ve had was at a road-side café near Krakow. I’ve eaten chicken Kiev in Kiev, enjoyed caviar on a Volga cruise and sampled Georgian cooking in the infamous Aragvi restaurant in Moscow. You had to bribe the doorman to get a table and could be sitting near top party members back in Soviet days. The spy Kim Philby was a frequent visitor and Stalin was known to drop in. A very alcohol-fuelled banquet in Tbilisi, Georgia provoked huge hangovers for my press guests as the host insisted that every drop of wine and vodka was consumed before leaving. The toast master or Tamada sets out the evening and a toast is proposed by each guest with the half-litre of vodka placed in front of you. As a student in Leningrad, when food was rationed, I recall one meal-time in a student hostel when a pineapple was carried through the dining room. Many young Russians had never seen one. I used to eat in basic cafes in the city and was once ‘told off’ by an elderly lady for leaving a crust of bread on my plate. Memories of the Siege of Leningrad 25 years earlier when a million inhabitants died were clearly on her mind. My Russian friends showed me traditional hospitality by sharing a scraggy chicken and pouring endless glasses of home distilled vodka. In Mongolia, controlled by The Soviet Union in the 70s, I took the first group of UK travel writers to explore a land not easily reached from the west. The local drink was fermented mare’s milk and the national dish was buuz, a traditional dumpling filled with ground meat. It was a welcoming meal after exposure to minus 30 degrees centigrade in the world’s coldest capital city Ulan Bator.

FAR EASTERN DELIGHTS

India, China and Laos provided many wonderful meals. In Tamil Nadu at an Ashram near Pondicherry breakfast was delivered by a goat. How it knew which thatched hut to visit with its saddle bags I never found out. Perhaps goats in Southern India are brighter than their European cousins. On a converted rice-boat – a Kettuvallam – in Kerala on the Backwater cruise, our cook prepared the most delicious meals from a desk-top size galley. We would halt at local markets to buy fresh produce and spent four relaxing days observing the waterside daily life. A dinner was served in The Western Ghats on Christmas day in a temperature of over 30 degrees centigrade and near 100 percent humidity. The carols and the decorations in the trees seemed a little incongruous but the roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and trimmings were delicious. The Christmas pudding was fine but the custard was runny. I found the food on long-distance Indian trains, brought to your compartment was always tasty and hot. The vegetable curry seldom varied in choice but it was accompanied by a smiling waiter. In a small town near Perriyar in Kerala we stopped for lunch at a restaurant recommended by our driver. We had the choice of eating in an air conditioned or non-air conditioned room. Cutlery had to be requested as most people were using their hands. The six of us had soft drinks, starters of naan bread with vegetable dips, various vegetable or lamb curries and sticky gulab jamon. It was a culinary experience to remember and the total cost was just £4. During eight trips to India I never once suffered from illness.



Dinner on a Rice Boat



Chinese Take-Away



Laos Kebab Stall

In China if it walks, swims or flies then it's edible I was advised. Wandering through what I thought was a pet market in Hong Kong I realised that it was a food market. I always carried a bundle of chop sticks in my backpack as open-air markets were the most convenient and cheapest places to eat. Even if you couldn't understand the language it was a great way of interacting with the locals. I once sampled tortoise jam and bat pate. Both were delicious but if I had known in advance what was being served I might well have declined. In Guilin I spotted a snake in a bucket at the entrance to a wild animal restaurant. I was glad I didn't have a reservation. As a leader of press groups to The People's Republic of China I was chief guest at formal banquets hosted by Chinese officials. Even if I could have understood the menus the food was always ordered by the host. Sitting next to the official I always received the choice morsels: claws, tongue and some unmentionable parts. Abalone – sea cucumber or sea slug was not my favourite.

RAT BURGER AND CHIPS

The night food market in Luang Prabang in The People's Republic of Laos was the place to eat – at least for the locals and backpackers. The colours and smells of the food and sounds of sizzling kebabs were amazing. The variety of fish and meat from which to choose was overwhelming but I didn't try the water rat burgers, the snake hot dogs or the crunchy fried locusts. Maybe I should have tasted these local specialities because if you don't you won't know if you like them or not.

Hampton School student wins nationwide climate change competition

Hampton School student will tell world leaders at COP26 “the science and technology exists to answer this climate crisis. This is the work of your generation. Thank you. I ask you from my generation... apply it!”

Guillaume, 11 at Hampton School has been announced as one of four winners of National Grid’s ‘Voices for a Green Future’ that asked children to write a speech on how they would look after the planet if they were in charge of the country. Each winner will have their ideas premiered to world leaders at COP26 this November.

An 11 year-old student at London’s Hampton School will have his ideas on climate change broadcast at the COP26 climate summit next month after winning National Grid’s **Voices for a Green Future** competition. Out of hundreds of entries submitted by children from over 300 schools across the UK, Guillaume, aged 11 from Hampton, London was one of four schoolchildren to be selected by a judging panel that included TV presenter Helen Skelton, Chief Engineer of National Grid David Wright and MPs Ruth Jones and Philip Dunne.

His speech on climate change will be premiered in a film played to world leaders at COP26 next month, and livestreamed on social media.

Winning ideas for a greener future

In the winning speech, Guillaume wishes that world leaders would act, and that the ideas presented would help the UK to reach its target of cutting emissions by 78% by 2035. He would make every other building a green building and encouraged developing more energy efficient homes across the country. He encourages UK supermarkets to ‘become super at no plastic creation’ citing that they create half of the plastic waste in UK households. Guillaume ends with a compelling plea - “the science and technology exists to answer this climate crisis. This is the work of your generation. Thank you. I ask you from my generation... apply it!”



David Wright, Chief Engineer of National Grid and judge of the competition said:

“Climate change impacts us all, but it is our children’s futures that will be most affected by the decisions we make today so it’s vital that their voices are heard. National Grid is at the centre of efforts to get Great Britain to net zero, so we were excited and inspired to hear such informed and passionate ideas from young people across the country. The ideas presented by the winners shows this generation are the energy problem-solvers of tomorrow.”

Tim Smith, Headmaster at Hampton Pre Prep & Prep commented:

“All of us at Hampton Pre Prep & Prep and Hampton senior school are thrilled to hear of Gui’s success in such an important competition. Many young people feel passionately about climate change and the threats to our global environment and their voices need to be heard because they are going to be impacted by the changes that today’s leaders do, or do not, introduce. It is wonderful to know that Gui’s message will be heard by the world leaders at COP26 and we are proud that he is representing his generation on such a critical subject.”

National Grid, a Principal Partner for COP26, launched the ‘Voices for a Green Future’ competition to give young people a voice on climate change, calling on kids aged 7 to 15 to answer how they would solve the climate crisis if they were in charge of the country.

Celebrities join forces to support Princess Alice Hospice

For the past six years Annette and Paul Jones have organised a charity Golf Day at Burhill Golf Club in aid of Princess Alice Hospice. They've been organising events for 18 years, but started fundraising for the Hospice after meeting stuntman Rocky Taylor who lives close to the Hospice in Esher.

Retired professional footballer, Paul, who played for Southampton, Wolves and Liverpool, has many celebrity friends willing to join in to help raise the profile of the event. Famous guests included former professional footballer Razor Ruddock, former boxer John Conteh and Moody Blues bass player and vocalist, John Lodge, who has recently released a new album, *The Royal Affair and After*.

The day started with golfing teams, each with their own celebrity, teeing off against each other for the winner's spot. The day was followed by an evening of dinner, fun and games, all hosted by famous comedian and local resident, Bobby Davro. This year's event proved so popular that the evening celebrations were moved to a larger venue, Brooklands Hotel, to accommodate the number of supporters.



L-R Bobby Davro, Rocky Taylor, Claire Woodward, John Lodge



The fundraiser raised £8,500 for the Hospice, which is double the amount raised in previous years. Annette suggested this was because events have been so limited during the pandemic which made everyone keener than ever to get involved.

Annette said, "We really enjoy organising the events, we've met some lovely people over the years and it's always a good day. Having the celebrities attend creates lots of excitement with everybody wanting to be in their teams."

Corporate Partnerships and Events Lead at the Hospice, Claire Woodward, said, "It was lovely to see so many people having fun after the year we've all had and we're so grateful to Annette, Paul and of course Rocky for all they do for the Hospice."

Rocky, who is now filming *Death in Paradise* in Guadalupe after finishing *Mission Impossible*, added, "The event is always good fun and this year it was great to be back after having to cancel last year. I'm really pleased the amount raised has increased this year too, it's a hard time for charities so this is really great news"

Rocky, John and Bobby visited the Hospice to present the cheque to Claire Woodward.

If you'd like to organise your own event to support the Hospice, you can find information and ideas on the website here –

<https://www.pah.org.uk/how-you-can-help/do-your-own-thing/>





BRENTFORD FC

Brentford go down with fight in London derby

Brentford 0 - 1 Chelsea

Brentford were defeated at home by 1-0 against Chelsea at the Brentford Community Stadium courtesy of a first-half goal from Ben Chilwell. The Bees however will feel unlucky and that they should have got something from the game following an inspired performance from away goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, who thwarted them on a number of occasions.



Against the current Champions League holders Brentford gave a very good account of themselves throughout the whole 90 minutes and could have taken a first half lead through forward Bryan Mbeumo.

A corner kick had initially been cleared by Chelsea, but the ball eventually came to Sergi Canós who checked inside Timo Werner to deliver a cross towards the back post. Ethan Pinnock rose highest in the box to flick the ball on and when the ball was subsequently knocked down by Christian Nørgaard to the onrushing Frenchman it looked for all the world like he was going to score. His left footed shot however rebounded back off the post and was then scrambled away by the Chelsea defence.

In a first half that didn't produce too many clear cut chances it was the side leading the Premier League table heading into the weekend that struck first.

Patient build up play in the final third from Chelsea saw the ball passed between Ruben Loftus-Cheek, César Azpilicueta and N'Golo Kanté. Kanté picked up the ball on the by line and then fed the ball back inside for Azpilicueta to cross towards Romelu Lukaku in the box. Although the Bees managed to clear the ball, they could only clear as far as Chilwell who was lurking on the edge of the box, and the fullback rifled a shot into the top corner and out of the reach of David Raya.

After the interval Brentford had a couple of very good chances to find an equaliser. Saman Ghoddos, on as a substitute, lifted the ball high towards the penalty area where it was once again Pinnock who rose highest to nod the ball down to Pontus Jansson up from the back, whose shot was saved at point blank range by Mendy.

Soon after Mbeumo hit the woodwork for the second time in the game. A well worked move from the Bees started with Nørgaard who played the ball inside to Marcus Forss. The Finn then flicked the ball first time on for Mbeumo to run onto, with the Frenchman's first time shot agonizingly coming back off the post.

Mendy was in inspired form all afternoon and made yet another excellent save to keep out Brentford with under twenty minutes to place. Ivan Toney had dropped deep to receive a pass and the striker then delivered a cross towards the box that Forss got a key flick on to find Ghoddos at the back post. However, once again Mendy was alert to the danger and the Chelsea keeper spread himself wide to make the block. In the subsequent scramble the ball then found its way to Nørgaard whose shot was then cleared off the line by Nathaniel Chalobah as Chelsea survived.

Mendy's best save of the match came right at the death in injury time. Yet another accurate cross from the Bees was launched into the box and in a moment of brilliance Nørgaard managed to get away a bicycle kick attempt that looked destined to go in, only for Mendy to make an incredible one handed save to tip the ball over the crossbar and deny Brentford a share of the points.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Leicester City (H) Sunday 24th October 14:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Foxes

Competition: Premier League – Matchday 9

Opponent record: P8 W3 D2 L3 GF13 GA14 (11th in Premier League)

Manager: Brendan Rodgers

Interesting fact: In their entire history, Leicester City have spent just one season outside of the top two tiers in England. They spent the 2008/09 season in League 1, winning the title in the process.

Games 2

Opponent: Stoke City (A) Wednesday 27th October 19:45 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Potters

Competition: League Cup – Last 16

Opponent record: (First Round) Stoke City 2-1 Fleetwood Town

(Second Round) Stoke City 2-0 Doncaster Rovers

(Third Round) Watford 1-3 Stoke City

Manager: Michael O'Neill

Interesting fact: Stoke City are the second oldest professional football club in the world, after Notts County, and were one of the founding members of the Football League.

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers knocked out of FA Cup

Ebbsfleet United 2 – 0 Hampton & Richmond Borough

Hampton & Richmond Borough's dreams of reaching the First Round Proper of the FA Cup for the third time in four seasons under Gary McCann were crushed as they were defeated 2-0 against Ebbsfleet United. Goals from Rakish Bingham and Chris Solly gave the home side a deserved victory on a disappointing afternoon for the Beavers.



Having beaten their fellow side from the National League South already this season the Beavers headed into the game full of confidence that they could get a result and progress through in the cup tie. Kyron Farrell has an early chance as his powerful strike narrowly cleared the crossbar.

However, it was the home side who settled better, and they took the lead through Bingham with just under 30 minutes of the first half played. The opening goal owed a lot to patient build-up play with Jack Paxman combining well with Lee Martin in an advanced position. Paxman then produced a delightful chip to send Bingham clear and the strike made no mistake with the finish, sending the ball

past Alan Julian and into the back of the net.

At the other end Hampton & Richmond carved out a big opportunity of their own from a set piece. A corner kick from Jake Gray found Charlie Wassmer ghosting in at the back post and the big central defender powerfully headed the ball on target only to see Ebbsfleet goalkeeper Chris Haigh show incredible reflexes to tip the ball over the bar.

However, the chance for Hampton & Richmond was very much against the run of play for the half and Bingham then had a good chance to get his second and double Ebbsfleet's advantage. The tall striker received a pass to his feet from Greg Cundle and on the target his shot went narrowly wide of the post.

Alan Julian was on fine form throughout the game and made two excellent saves in quick succession to keep Ebbsfleet at bay. The first came with the feet to deny Cundle right on the goal line and he then bounced back up to palm away a curling strike from Craig Tanner.

The second goal did eventually come, and it arrived right on the stroke of half time. A corner was delivered at pace to the near post and Chris Solly glanced the ball into the back of the net to double the home side's lead just before the break.

In the second half Hampton & Richmond fought back to try and keep their cup dreams alive but were unable to make a breakthrough. They could have scored when David Fisher received a through ball from Gray, but his goal bound shot was cleared off the line by Alex Finney.

Jorome Slew was then kept out by Haig after running into space on what proved to be a frustrating afternoon of football for the Beavers.

Late on Julian was once again on hand to make a good save as he tipped a Lee Martin shot around the post but in the end, it proved immaterial as the Beavers were knocked out of the FA Cup.

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Game 1

Opponent: Chippenham Town (H) Saturday 23rd October 15:00 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Bluebirds

Competition: National League South – Matchday 9

Opponent record: P9 W3 D3 L3 GF14 GA15 (10th in National League South)

Manager: Mike Cook

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

Game 2

Opponent: Welling United (A) Tuesday 26th October 19:45 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Bluebirds

Competition: National League South – Matchday 10

Opponent record: P9 W3 D1 L5 GF9 GA25 (14th in National League South)

Manager: Peter Taylor

Interesting fact: Manager Peter Taylor was England caretaker manager for one match against Italy in November 2000.

Lions Sports Academy Announces exciting Partnership with the RFU to increase rugby in state schools

Lions Sports Academy is delighted to announce a partnership with the RFU that sees the organisations joining forces with the aim of increasing participation in rugby in state schools.

The RFU, with the support of Lions Sports Academy, is launching a pilot scheme as schools return this academic year to increase participation in rugby by state school pupils. Together, the organisations will be training, supporting and mentoring teachers to raise the standards of rugby coaching in schools and elevate the sport in school curriculums. They will also facilitate opportunities to trial and play Rugby during the school day whilst building closer links between schools and their local community rugby club.

During the 2021/22 season the RFU is supporting the Lions Sports Academy team to act as School Rugby Coordinators across Middlesex with the aim of further embedding rugby into schools and linking with local clubs. Lions will work to understand the needs of the schools and work with teaching staff to put in place solutions to address these including staff training/CPD, providing competitive opportunities and facilitating links to local organisations and clubs.

Lions founder, Andy Jones, commented, “We are excited to be working with the RFU on this school’s pilot to support state school rugby. It is widely recognised that the sports played in a school is often dictated by the personal preference or confidence of the teaching staff. Our partnership will look to increase teaching knowledge so that they can confidently and competently include Rugby in their curriculums.’

He continues: ‘It is our mission to help children to reach their potential through sport, as I know first-hand how powerful rugby can be to achieve this. Rugby has the potential to develop vital life skills in young people such as resilience and team-work and I believe every schoolchild should have the opportunity to at least try the sport for themselves.’

Chris Sigsworth, Schools and Colleges Manager at the RFU said, “We understand that there isn’t a “one size fits all” approach to the challenge of increasing rugby within schools, and that there is value in having a local point of contact who understands the needs of the school and who can help devise and deliver solutions to address their needs. This is exactly why we have partnered with Lions Sports Academy. The Lions team have a proven track record of working with many schools across Middlesex and are passionate about inspiring the next generation of rugby players. We are hopeful that by working together on this pilot scheme, we can show that with the right support there is an appetite for rugby to be both taught and played in state schools, paving the way for us to support more schools later this year.’

The pilot scheme launches this term and sees the RFU partner organisations across Middlesex, Yorkshire and Shropshire to support schools in these regions.

For more information about how your school can get involved email Andy Jones at andy@lionssports.academy



Jones names 34-player England squad

Eddie Jones has named a 34-player England squad as they prepare for the Autumn Nations Series.

The squad will travel to Jersey on Monday 25 October for a five-day training camp before returning to England ahead of their trio of home fixtures against Tonga, Australia and South Africa.

Jones has included four uncapped players. Nic Dolly and Tommy Freeman receive their first call-ups, along with Mark Atkinson and Raffi Quirke who joined up with the squad last month for a short training camp.

Eight players who made their debuts in England's summer series have also been selected (Jamie Blamire, Callum Chick, Trevor Davison, Alex Dombrandt, Adam Radwan, Harry Randall, Marcus Smith and Freddie Steward).

Elsewhere, Owen Farrell will be England captain and Maro Itoje is in line to make his 50th cap during the Autumn Nations Series.

Jones said: "This is a young but very good, talented squad who have all earned their places. It is one of the most competitive squads I have ever picked. There are a number of disappointed players who haven't been selected, but they know what they need to do and no door is closed to any player. We're looking forward to three tough Test matches. Tonga always play a strong, physical game and Australia and South Africa have had extended periods together and will be a good challenge for us. Our aim each week will be to get better and better as we work towards the Rugby World Cup in 2023."

England will first face Tonga on Saturday 6 November (3.15pm KO). They will then host Australia on Saturday 13 November (5.30pm KO) and in their final game, take on world champions South Africa on Saturday 20 November (3.15pm KO).

All matches will be live on Amazon Prime Video Sport and TalkSPORT

Forwards

Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, 2 caps)

Callum Chick (Newcastle Falcons, 2 caps)

Jamie George (Saracens)

Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 33 caps)

Trevor Davison (Newcastle Falcons, 1 cap)

Nic Dolly (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)

Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 1 cap)

Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 23 caps)

Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 30 caps)

Jonny Hill (Exeter Chiefs, 9 caps)

Maro Itoje (Saracens, 48 caps)

Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 87 caps)

Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 10 caps)

Joe Marler (Harlequins, 72 caps)

George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 1 cap)

Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 7 caps)

Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 44 caps)

Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 12 caps)

Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 24 caps)

Backs

Mark Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)

Owen Farrell (Saracens, 93 caps)

Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, uncapped)

George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 4 caps)

Max Malins (Saracens, 8 caps)

Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 66 caps)

Raffi Quirke (Sale Sharks, uncapped)

Adam Radwan (Newcastle Falcons, 1 cap)

Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 2 caps)

Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 40 caps)

Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 2 caps)

Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)

Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 43 caps)

Joe Marchant (Harlequins)

Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 109 caps)



RFU Announces Bid to Host Rugby World Cup in 2025

With just one year to go until the next Women's Rugby World Cup, the RFU has confirmed it aims to submit a bid to host the Rugby World Cup in 2025 and has formally provided an expression of interest to World Rugby.

Since England last hosted the RWC in 2010 and won it in 2014, women's rugby has grown exponentially with World Rugby stating the women's game is the single biggest opportunity to grow the sport globally. England's 15-a-side team is now the No 1 ranked team in the world and the RFU has grown female participation in England from 13,000 to 40,000 registered players in clubs, with a growing pipeline of 80,000 girls playing in schools, colleges and universities.

For the 2025 bid the RFU plans to adopt a multi-city and multi-region approach to delivering the tournament. This hosting model will facilitate great opportunities for people living in different parts of the country to attend the tournament, promoting rugby and enhancing participation in the sport nationwide.

A central theme to the bid will be to deliver a legacy programme in parallel to the tournament from 2022 to 2025 for growing the women's game across the country. The legacy programme will focus on three key strands: Creating capacity through facility development and the recruitment of female coaches and referees, creating a multigenerational legacy through a call to arms for more young girls and university women to play, and for women who didn't have the opportunity to play to become fans, and to support international development within the home unions.

The legacy programme will see facilities standards improved to enhance the experiences women and girls have in hundreds of clubs. Through investment, the programme will modernise toilet facilities, upgrade changing rooms and develop social spaces in clubs across the country.

Grass roots education and mentor programmes will aim to attract 500 new female coaches and 1,000 match officials and 60,000 new registered players.

Through partnerships with universities, the legacy programme will recruit and retain players and plans to create 300 club leaders of the future with activities including the staging of a Festival of Rugby event engaging 2,500 students and 150 club transition events.

With the aim of attracting more fans of women's rugby in the build up to 2025, renewed effort will be put on marketing and encouraging fan attendance at Allianz Premier 15s matches and club houses will be opened up to hosting events to encourage women who have never played or watched rugby to see rugby clubs as a place they would like to visit.

The RFU is also committed to growing the English game leading into 2025 and has created two new roles to focus on implementing an ['Every Rose Action Plan'](#).

Alex Teasdale has been appointed Head of Women's and Girls' Game and will be responsible for leading the women's game in participation, performance, commerciality and visibility to deliver the action plan.

Matt Farnes becomes the RFU's first women's and girls' marketing manager, having previously worked across numerous game-wide campaigns including 'Pitch Up For Rugby' and 'Show Your Shirt' in his role as marketing manager. Matt has also worked across the women's and girls' game, supporting Allianz Premier 15s, Allianz Inner Warrior, and driving attendance at women's events.

New roles have also been introduced to support key areas, previously looked after by Nicky Ponsford, who joined World Rugby as Women's High-Performance Manager on a two-year secondment. Amy Kimber-Roberts moves to become Allianz Premier 15s Strategic Operations Manager and will be supported by an Allianz Premier 15s Operations Executive.

A Women's Performance Manager will be appointed in the coming weeks, to work across the organisation and game to deliver the key performance outcomes outlined in the action plan.

International development will see investment into women's elite rugby directed through the Home Unions to support the development of 120 female coaches and 30 female referees. The focus on female coaches and referees will improve the player experience across the Home Nations, with high level coaching fundamental to developing competitive players and top-level match officials necessary to facilitate a high-quality league and support the growth of an underrepresented cohort in elite rugby. The long-term ambition is to drive up standards in the domestic teams to enable England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland to all qualify for RWC in 2029 for the first time in over 20 years.

Speaking about the bid RFU Chief Executive, Bill Sweeney said; "Securing RWC 2025 would add to the impressive list of major sporting events that the UK has attracted since London 2012, reinforcing the UK's international reputation as a leading major events' destination and a global leader in promoting women's sport. As well as providing great economic returns, hosting the tournament would help to further promote rugby as an inclusive sport and provide a springboard to narrow the gap between male and female participation."

A study by Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) demonstrated hosting the RWC in 2025 would be of benefit to the local economies of host venues around the country through job creation as well as services provided and the RWC could boost the economy by £156.25m with projections of an economic return of £5 for every £1 invested.

The Legacy Programme could generate an estimated £86m. The values attributed to the legacy programme are based on increasing female participation in rugby and volunteering in the sport, combined with evidence on the contribution of community sport and physical activity in England to the five outcomes identified in the UK Government strategy for sport.

Sue Day, RFU Chief Operations and Finance Officer and former England Women's Captain who represented England at three Rugby World Cups and won three grand slams said; "Securing a bid to host the Women's RWC would be incredible. We want to leave a lasting legacy for women's rugby in England, the UK and across the world, both in terms of attracting more people to play and attracting new fans. As we have seen from other home World Cups in Cricket, Hockey and Netball a RWC would further advance all women's sport and nothing would beat watching the Red Roses compete in front of a full capacity crowd at Twickenham Stadium."

Subject to securing sufficient private and public sector funding, the final bid submission will go to World Rugby for consideration in January 2022.



Reducing the backlog in criminal courts

Click here for the [full report](#) and click here for the [PAC Chair's statement](#).

The backlog of cases in the criminal courts is likely to be a pervasive issue for several years, severely affecting victims, witnesses and defendants, according to a report by the National Audit Office (NAO). The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the work of the criminal justice system, requiring extensive changes in criminal courts to keep judges, court staff, and service users safe. By the end of June 2021, the backlog of cases waiting to be heard or completed was nearly 61,000 cases in the Crown Court and more than 364,000 cases in the magistrates' courts. The Crown Court is where more serious trials take place and where the backlog is acute.

The backlog in the Crown Court had already increased by 23% in the year leading up to the pandemic, partly because the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) allocated an insufficient number of court sitting days. The backlog increased significantly during the pandemic, from 41,045 on 31 March 2020 to 60,692 on 30 June 2021, albeit at a much slower rate since March 2021. The Ministry expects significant backlogs to continue in the Crown Court for several years, and the number of cases waiting could be between 17% and 27% higher than pre-pandemic levels by November 2024.

The backlog in criminal cases means victims, witnesses and defendants are waiting longer for their cases to be heard. Between 31 March 2020 and 30 June 2021, the number of cases older than a year in the Crown Court increased from 2,830 to 11,379 (302%) and from 246 to 1,316 (435%) for rape and sexual assault cases. Waiting times increased most in London, with the average age of a case increasing by 63% from 164 days on 31 March 2020 to 266 days on 30 June 2021. Delays could increase the risk of individuals withdrawing from the process and cases collapsing.

Today's report finds that Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) responded quickly in the early stages of the pandemic, prioritising peoples' safety and access to justice for urgent cases. It launched a courts recovery programme which increased Crown Court capacity by 30% between September 2020 and July 2021 through opening temporary courtrooms and modifying others.

The Ministry and HMCTS have a poor understanding of the impact the pandemic and recovery programme have had on court service users from ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups. The NAO found there has been slow progress in evaluating how vulnerable users have been affected by, for example, remote access to justice. There is also no evidence that the Ministry has any data on users' ethnicity to carry out meaningful analysis on whether ethnic minority groups have been disadvantaged.

The Ministry's progress with the ambitious long-term plan to support recovery in criminal courts hinges on securing funding and resources. The plan aims to take a whole-system approach to recovery, including monitoring the impact of initiatives in one part of the criminal justice system on other areas. The Ministry recognises that it still needs to assess the costs of various initiatives, collect more evidence to understand what supports better case quality and court effectiveness, and recruit more analysts.

The NAO has found that the Ministry and HMCTS are not yet working towards shared, strategic objectives for recovery in criminal courts. This makes it difficult for the Ministry and its agencies to align their plans or make strategic decisions about how to manage demand across the criminal justice system. These difficulties are exacerbated by long-standing issues with data which obscure the Ministry and HMCTS's understanding of future demand.

Other significant risks remain to the Ministry and HMCTS's efforts to reduce the backlog. These include long-term funding uncertainty as the Ministry estimates that it needs around an additional £500 million for criminal courts and £1.7 billion for legal aid, prisons and probation services to support recovery. The Ministry also recognises that recruiting enough judges to hear cases will be a challenge.

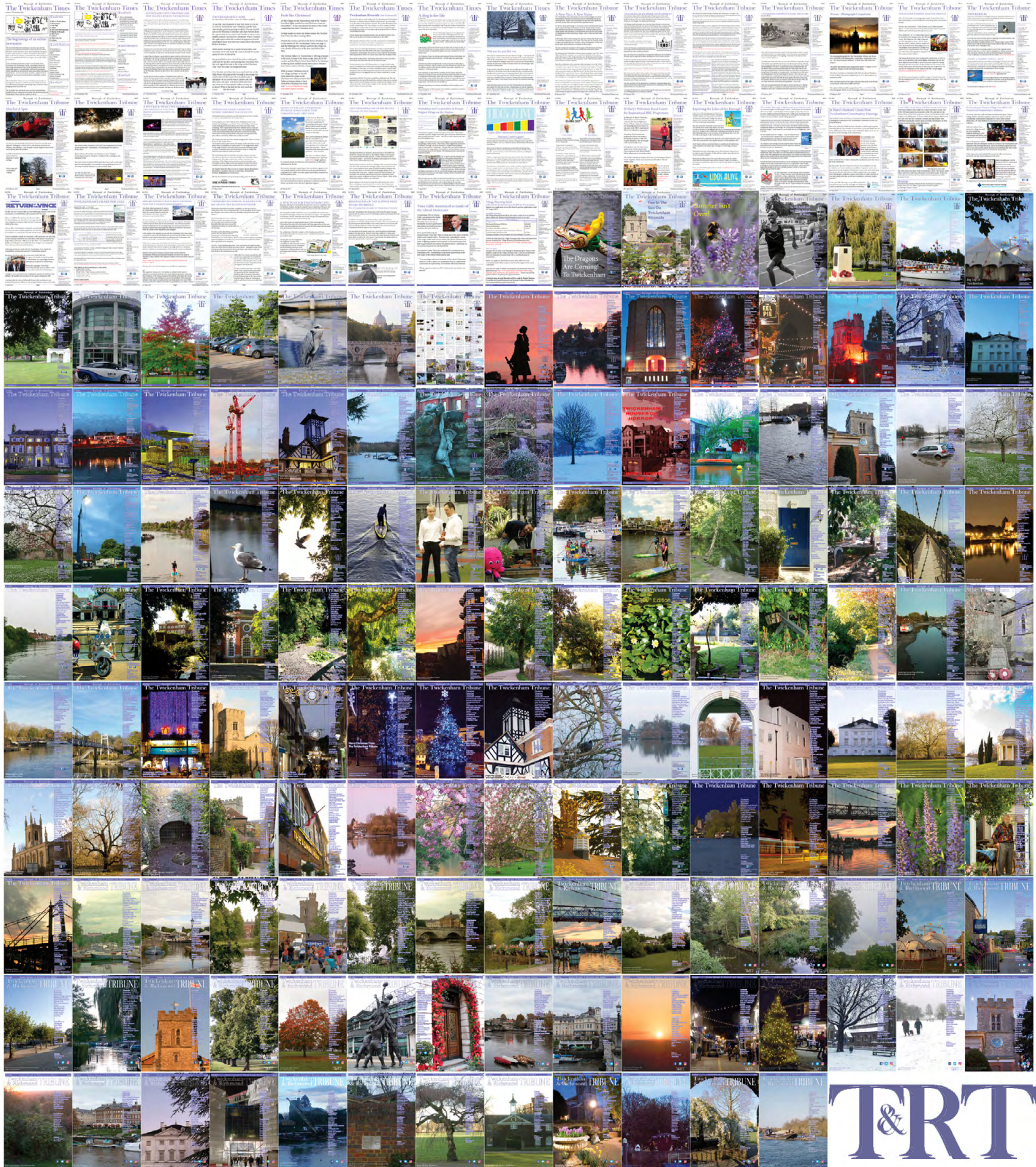
The NAO recommends that the Ministry should agree with other criminal justice agencies a set of shared, published objectives for recovery in criminal courts that consider the implications for the rest of the criminal justice system. It should also devise and implement a plan to tackle the systemic barriers to collecting, using and sharing data effectively across the criminal justice system.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said: "Despite efforts to increase capacity in criminal courts, it looks likely that the backlog will remain a problem for many years. The impact on victims, witnesses and defendants is severe and it is vital that the Ministry of Justice works effectively with its partners in the criminal justice system to minimise the delays to justice."



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