

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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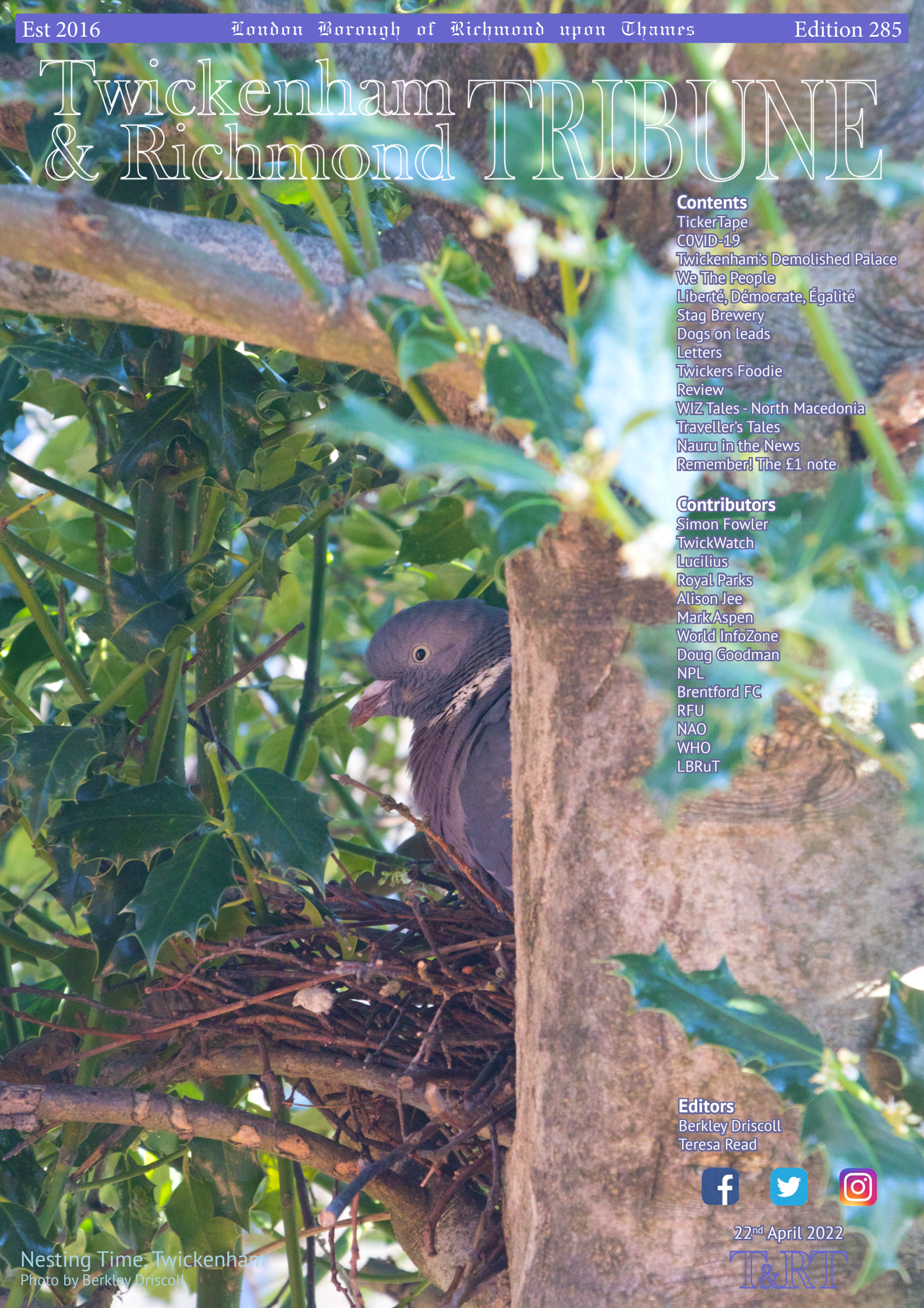
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- Teresa Read



22nd April 2022



Nesting Time, Twickenham
Photo by Berkley Driscoll



TickerTape - News in Brief

Missing Person

Clementine, born 2007, is missing from her home in Twickenham.

If you have any information, or if you see her, please call police on 101 with reference to 22MIS013222.



Richmond Upon Thames Police appeal for witnesses

Detectives are appealing for witnesses after a sexual assault which occurred in Fulwell.

Police are appealing for witnesses to a sexual assault which occurred at around 08.45 on the 20th April 2022 in the alley between Burton Road and Wellington Road, south of Fulwell Golf Club.

The victim, a girl aged under 16 years, is being supported by specialist officers.

The suspect is described as being a white male, aged 20-30, tanned skin with slight facial hair, 5ft 5ins tall, of skinny build and wearing a grey tracksuit.

At this time there have been no arrests.

If you have any information, if you saw someone matching the description or if you have phone, CCTV, dashcam or doorbell footage of someone matching the description please contact police.

You can call police on 101, on our website [HERE](#) , or to [@metcc](#) on Twitter with reference to CAD 1632/20APR22.

Final chance to apply to host a Jubilee Street Party over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend

Applications to host street parties over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend will close on next Saturday, 30 April.

There is now less than two weeks left to apply to host a Jubilee Street Party on residential streets.

Richmond Council previously announced the waiving of all administration fees for street party road closures this May and June to encourage residents to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee will be marked with a four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

Find out more information about [hosting a street party](#). and how to [apply](#) to host a Jubilee street party.

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TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal and his chums found themselves on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on another hot day. They were going to settle down with a nice picnic, just as they did last week on Twickenham Green.

TwickerDuck said she wanted to go to the loo. Well, you're in luck said TwickerSwan, as this is the DJG and there are public toilets just behind you next to the community café. Phew, said TwickerDuck, that's better than Twickenham Green where the council has failed to provide the much-needed public toilets.

Don't get used to it said TwickerMole, the council plans to turn these gardens into a housing estate; and if you want the loo you'll have to go to the pub they're going to build on the site of the community café!



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Report

Overview 20th April

Globally, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline since the end of March 2022. During the week of 11 through 17 April 2022, over 5 million cases and over 18 000 deaths were reported across the six WHO regions, a 24% and 12% decrease respectively, as compared to the previous week

As of 17 April 2022, over 500 million confirmed cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

Total cases Locally

Richmond upon Thames	65,836 (65,332 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	59,278 (58,978 previous week)
Hounslow	93,832 (93,358 previous week)
Wandsworth	115,708 (115,049 previous week)

COVID IN THE NEWS

The Guardian, 22 April 2022: First person to have Covid infection for more than a year identified in UK

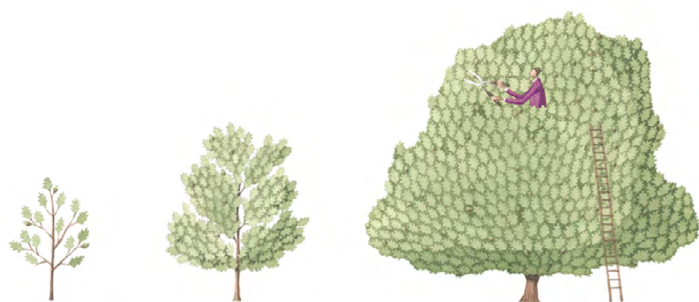
Nasdaq, 21 April 2022: Shanghai to keep COVID curbs as infections outside quarantine rise again

U.S.NEWS, 21 April 2022: Hong Kong confirms it will ease COVID restrictions from April 21

The Guardian 21 April 2022: Woman, 31 catches Covid twice within three weeks in Spain

Reuters, 16 April 2022: Lower testing rates likely reason for falling COVID-19 cases reports – WHO

Aljazeera, 14 April 2022: WHO warns coronavirus is far from settling into endemic situation: WHO official said COVID is still capable of causing huge epidemics.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Twickenham's Demolished Palace

By Simon Fowler

Twickenham residents a century ago would have certainly known about Fulwell Park. It was where Manoel, the former King of Portugal, lived after his marriage to Princess Augusta Victoria of Hohenzollern in December 1913. *The Times* reported how Twickenham's town hall was magnificently decorated with excited crowds waiting to receive the newly-weds.

Fulwell Park was an historic mansion, built mainly in the Georgian style. A part of it dated back to James II, but it had been considerably enlarged from time to time, and now contained a magnificent suite of six entertaining rooms.

The house was surrounded by extensive and idyllic grounds where there were shady lawns, extensive flower gardens, peach houses and vineries. There were also several tennis courts, especially agreeable for a man who excelled at the game.

In July 1932, Manoel visited lawn tennis championships at Wimbledon. But shortly afterwards he died suddenly of oedema of the throat.

Princess Augusta Victoria sold the house in 1934, with an undertaking that it should never again be used as a private residence. A four-ton safe that was used to hold the Royal jewellery is now in St Mary's Church, Hampton.



The last photograph of King Manoel taken in the grounds of Fulwell Park a few hours before his death

Fulwell Park was bought by Edward Wates, a building company, and soon demolished to make way for suburban housing. *Country Life* lamented that 'the sale marks another step in the transition from a district of famous seats to a suburban housing centre. [these seats] have either suffered demolition or been essentially changed by the propinquity of small villas in the district.'

Press stories talked about how the park would be become 'one of the most up-to-date and luxurious residential estates near the metropolis. Architecturally the new homes should approach perfection and will be the last word in the science and art of living.' Although to cynical eyes the new houses were almost identical to the other properties built by Wates on London's outskirts.

During 1934 the company advertised the new development in mid-market newspapers such as the Daily Herald and the Daily News. Each house would have five large rooms, 'full labour-saving equipment. Hot and cold water, gas and electric light' A big attraction at a time when many homes still lacked these facilities.

As the development was some way away from central Twickenham Wates promised that their cars were waiting at the station to pick prospective buyers to take them round the estate 'You will not be pressed to buy.'

The names of the streets which covered the estate - Manoel Road, Augusta Road, Portugal Road and Lisbon Avenue in Twickenham still commemorate the royal residents. The original housing has since been supplemented by a great deal of infilling, but the legacy of Fulwell Park is almost forgotten.

We The People – We The People – We The People

By: TwickWatch

The 2022 Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council election is due to take place on 5 May 2022 and will take place under new election boundaries but with the number of councillors remaining the same. They will represent “We The People” for the next four years.

A total of 167 candidates will be battling it out for 54 seats across 18 wards. All 54 members of Richmond upon Thames Council will be elected. The elections will take place alongside local elections in the other London boroughs and elections to local authorities across the United Kingdom.

Election	Overall control	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
1964	Conservative	41	–	12	–	1
1968	Conservative	54	–	–	–	–
1971	Conservative	36	3	15	–	–
1974	Conservative	36	10	8	–	–
1978	Conservative	34	18	–	–	–
1982	No overall control	26	26	–	–	–
1986	SDP–Liberal Alliance	3	49	–	–	–
1990	Liberal Democrats	4	48	–	–	–
1994	Liberal Democrats	7	43	2	–	–
1998	Liberal Democrats	14	34	4	–	–
2002	Conservative	39	15	–	–	–
2006	Liberal Democrats	18	35	–	–	1
2010	Conservative	30	24	–	–	–
2014	Conservative	39	15	–	–	–
2018	Liberal Democrats	11	39	–	4	–

(2002 boundary changes increased the number of seats by two)

The Voice of the People



It seems a lot of voters cast their vote on party lines like a lemming or sheep to the slaughter, without much thought as to the important duties and responsibilities they are delegating and entrusting to their local elected representatives. Shouldn't we all be looking at each candidate's previous record if any, their future potential, their integrity, the abilities and skills they have to offer? Have they previously let voters down, been condescending to residents, failed to live up to previous promises or have they stood as a candidate to truly help people to the best of their

ability or to attain personal status? Making a promise is a commitment that you will keep your word. It is a commitment that reinforces trust.

In the end there doesn't have to be, anyone, who understands you individually, as you can't please all of the people all of the time! There just has to be someone that wants to! Elections belong to the people. People have marched, fought, died and shed endless tears for you to be able to vote. Even if you dislike all of the candidates, maybe vote for the one that you dislike the least **BUT VOTE!!**

Weighing Up Your Options



Councils run the services we all use, from social care and education, housing, road maintenance and libraries, to bin collections, planning applications and parking. Local elections, which take place mid-way through parliamentary terms, supposedly give an indication of the public's mood and their feelings towards the government. Will you focus and cast a meaningful vote on local issues and policies only, that will ultimately affect all those daily aspects of your or your family's life?

The leader is the head of the political party in the election area with the most council seats. Should one party hold total control, able to exclude or not listen to other opinions? Every voice has a right to be heard, the electors and the elected, as it can bring a new perspective in ways that we may have not previously considered. Will it be a Liberal Democrat and Conservative contest yet again with the same old policies rolled out and with no other party being represented to add new perspectives?

TwickWatch feels the Liberal Democrats have let the voters down over transparency with regard to consultations. It seems their reticence to consult on a public consultation policy which when published, would hold them to account and give the voters and interested parties transparency to the decision making process.

TwickWatch feels the Conservatives have let the voters down over their poor performance as an opposition. They seem to have lost interest locally, almost becoming a non-party.

TwickWatch does have two favourite councillors however. Both are knowledgeable, dedicated, hard-working and exemplify ideal councillors.

Councillor Martin Elengorn Liberal Democrat Party Teddington

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel Conservative Party Hampton North

Will you be sticking your head in the sand and not voting or placing your cross at the ballot box without a thought? Will your vote be based on the effectiveness and integrity of your elected councillor?



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New Stag Brewery planning applications open to public consultation

Anyone interested in the redevelopment the Mortlake Brewery can now have their say on the new planning applications for the site.

The owner of the site, Reselton Properties Limited, has submitted two planning applications outlining their proposals to create a mixed development consisting of residential, community, education, recreational and commercial uses.

To give the community time to review the applications and have their say, the applications are now subject to public consultation for 30 days. To ensure your comments are taken into account, it is important to make your representations before 15 May 2022.

The applications can be viewed online using the [Planning Application search](#) using the Planning Application numbers 22/0900/OUT and 22/0902/FUL. Representations can be made:

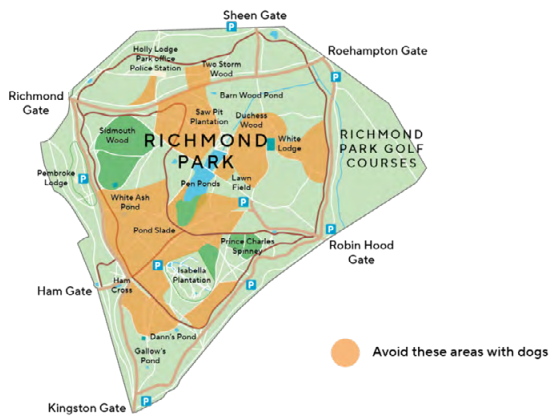
- Online by making comments on the planning pages [22/0900/OUT](#) and [22/0902/FUL](#)
- By email at stagbreweryredevelopment@richmond.gov.uk
- By post to the Strategic Applications Manager, 2nd floor, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BZ quoting the relevant application number(s)



'Dogs on leads' to be compulsory during the deer birthing season in Bushy and Richmond Parks

The Royal Parks charity has today confirmed that, from 1 May until 31 July 2022, dogs will be required to be on a lead in all areas of Richmond and Bushy Parks, to protect both deer and dogs during the deer birthing season.

Over the next few months, around 300 deer will be born in the parks. The season marks a vulnerable time for female deer, who hide their young in bracken and long grass to conceal them from dogs and other perceived predators.



Neighbouring Home Park (Hampton Court Park), which is cared for by the independent charity Historic Royal Palaces, will also be introducing the same requirement. They expect that 120 deer will be born during this time.

Simon Richards, Park Manager for Richmond Park, said: *"We are introducing this measure for deer welfare reasons in what is the most vulnerable time of year for these animals. This measure also protects dogs."*

"Deer are instinctively frightened of dogs, but when they enter birthing season, this fear takes on a new dimension. Female deer are afraid of dogs harming their young and, as a result, they will be on high alert and can display defensive behaviour. In previous years, female deer have been known to give chase and attack, even if the dog is at a distance and not acting provocatively. This can be extremely frightening to witness, particularly for the dog's owner."

Since the beginning of 2022, there have been over 50 incidents recorded of dogs chasing deer in Bushy and Richmond Parks. As many incidents go unreported, it's expected that this figure is much higher. Unfortunately, in the month of March alone, The Royal Parks has been alerted to over 26 separate incidents of dogs chasing deer, the highest number since they began keeping centralised records.

During last year's birthing season, when it was also compulsory to keep dogs on a lead, there was a 92% drop in incidents of dogs chasing deer in Richmond and Bushy Parks – two incidents recorded in those three months compared to 25 incidents in the preceding three months.

Dog walkers are warned, however, that having dogs on a lead does not completely eliminate

risk, and the safest option is to exercise dogs elsewhere during the birthing season.

Richards adds: *“Although deer are instinctively frightened of dogs, they will overcome this fear if they consider their young to be at risk. During last year’s deer birthing season, we were alerted to over 40 incidents of female deer shadowing dog walkers in Richmond and Bushy Parks. In addition to having their dogs on leads, it’s important that dog walkers remain vigilant, avoid areas of long grass and bracken, and stick to the perimeter of the park.”*

The Royal Parks also urges all visitors to give female deer respect, privacy and space, and not to go in search of young deer. Under no circumstance is a new-born deer to be picked up. If visitors see one on its own, they should rest assured that its mother will be grazing nearby. Female deer hide their young



whilst they forage for food to create the milk that they need to nourish their young. Throughout the course of the day, the mother will periodically return to suckle her new-born, but she may reject it if she picks up a human scent.

Advice to dog walkers:

- It is compulsory to keep your dog on a lead at all times, and in all areas of the parks, from 1 May until 31 July.
- Avoid the areas shaded in orange on the maps. These are typically areas of long grass and bracken where new-born deer could be concealed.
- If a deer approaches, let the dog off the lead so it can run away and doesn’t get hurt.
- Consider walking your dog elsewhere

Advice to all park visitors:

- Give deer plenty of space. Always keep at least 50 metres away.
- Avoid deer nursery areas. Give female deer privacy and respect.
- Never touch or handle a new-born deer under any circumstances, even if it’s on its own. It is not abandoned, and its mother will be grazing nearby.

To report an injury to a person, dog or deer, please contact:

Richmond Park: 0300 061 2200 or email richmond@royalparks.org.uk



Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside redevelopment

The LibDems state in their election literature that the Twickenham Riverside redevelopment scheme is “fully funded and popular”.

Both assertions are simply **not true!**

At the latest Finance Committee (24 Feb 2022) it was stated “at some point the full budget for Twickenham Riverside will need to go in [to the overall Capital Programme] at the point when this committee has approved it”, and the Minutes (#6.2) confirm that the full cost has not yet been agreed. So the scheme is not presently “fully funded”.

The responses to the published final scheme (Planning Application 21/2758) show a considerable majority are not in favour (332 Object, 231 Support). So the scheme is not “popular”.

Council tax payers have never been told the full cost of the scheme, though it was rumoured to be in the region of £40million; in the light of present inflation, costs estimated previously will need substantial upward revision.

Readers may recall that shortly after he was elected as Leader, Cllr Roberts promised that his new administration would be transparent (*Richmond & Twickenham Times*, 3 Aug 2018). This has turned out to be an empty promise.

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller, Twickenham

Dear Sir,

local election

There is a local election in two weeks and I hope that there will be changes for the better.

I have attended local meetings with the present council and it does not seem to me that these consultations improve our lives. Once they are elected some of these councillors do not seem to take notice of what residents want.

We need a council that looks after ordinary people, repairing broken pavements would be a start rather than wasting taxpayers’ money on coloured crossings which I can hardly distinguish from the road.

The current council plans to waste money already spent and destroy Twickenham Riverside to put up buildings that could be anywhere. They will take away from us the peace and quiet of one of the loveliest areas on the Thames, something that cannot be replaced.

I hope that people think before they vote, if we are not careful the result may bring in a new raft of crazy ideas for which we do not want to foot the bill.

Name and address supplied
Twickenham

Dear Editors,

Below is a letter I have sent to my ward councillors.

Dear Councillors

I am hoping you will take the time to give me a considered response to the very simple questions at the foot of this letter. How you respond will determine how I vote in the forthcoming Local Government Election.

You are aware that the Council closed most of its public toilets and decided that such facilities would be provided primarily by the Community Toilets Scheme. That is, existing toilets within commercial premises.

I have checked and there are no commercial premises in Broad Street and the High Street Teddington which display a community toilet scheme sticker. There are also none, as far as I can see, in the main shopping streets of Twickenham.

In short, the provision through the Community Toilet Scheme is a complete fiction.

Even if this were not the case, the Community Toilet Schemes does not provide appropriate or adequate facilities. This is because.:

- No one feels comfortable going into a restaurant, pub or shop and seeking out and/or asking to use their toilet. Those most in need, often urgent need, of public toilets - the elderly and parents with small children - are the very ones most likely to feel self conscious and intimidated. In practice therefore these 'community' facilities are unavailable to those members of the community most in need of them.

- At the outset I believe that some public buildings were making their toilets available, which would have been less intimidating for users. Apart from some libraries I believe this is no longer the case. In any event, the use of public buildings as public toilets (without dedicated supervision and an increased cleaning regime) is unpleasant for, and unfair to, the staff who work there and share the facilities.

- Despite the financial incentive received by the owners of participating shops, pubs and restaurants, those responsible for the day to day operation of the premises are not inclined to welcome and make life easy for strangers (sometimes dubious or needy) coming in seeking to use a toilet. Often they are too busy to deal with these 'intrusions' and they are concerned that they detract from the 'ambience' they seek for their normal clientele.

Most enlightened authorities in the UK recognise that the provision of adequate, modern and well maintained public toilets is a prerequisite of a civilised society. I find it inexplicable that Richmond does not share this view and is content to tolerate the level of street urination, defecation and anti social behaviour which are the inevitable results of their inaction.

A reply to the following questions would be most appreciated.

1. Do you disagree with any of the points above?
2. Do you agree that the current provision of public toilets in the borough is woefully inadequate?
3. If elected what will you do to remedy this situation?

Yours faithfully

William Stewart,
Teddington

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ROCKINTHELOCKIN

Liberté, Démocrate, Égalité

By Lucilius

The Katchwimen Palace is buzzing at present as the elections for the Governor and Council of the Democratic Republic of Transfluvia are imminent. The elections are now of course only ceremonial, a tradition held every four years. Cllr Rutt, Director of the Department of Heritage Destruction and Cllr Lickspital, Director of the Department of Information Obfuscation arrive at the Parabolic Office (named after Gurby, the Transfluvian national game). It is a sunny day, so the solar battery clock on the palace tower (a remnant from the days when this part of the palace was a showroom for decadent fossil-fuel appliances) is actually able to chime noon. This is the appointed hour for a Cabinet meeting with Governor Ralph Gobbets and Vice Governor Axel Hammer.

They knock, enter and genuflect. Vice Governor Hammer is already there with his alter ego, Herman the Rottweiler, feet crossed on the desk, reclining. Governor Gobbets stands in his usual place in the Audience Chamber at the far end, looking in the mirror



Photography by Tobias Gurney

Gobbets: You may sit. [*Hermann sits*] Rutt and Lickspital, welcome.

Rutt and Lickspital: Welcome? Oh, no ... we are honoured.

Gobbets: Yes, I know.

Hammer: Don't stand around, you two, like inept witless pillocks. We have work to do.

Gobbets: I've just been on the hot-line to President Mycronie. He has a Presidential Election coming up on Sunday, so he phoned up for my advice.

Lickspital: Must have felt honoured, Your Excellency.

Gobbets: Yes, he was.

Rutt: What did he say, Your Excellency?

Gobbets: Well wasn't sure, he started with something about "tres pressé". Ran it through Google Translate: it means "three draught beers".

Rutt: He was raising a confident glass to his victory.

Gobbets: Not before my advice, he wasn't. No, it was inviting me for a drink with him and Mdm Mycronie, over a game of underwater pétanque, when we **both** have victory.

Hammer: Illiterate frog! Good job his interpreter arrived. He doesn't speak a word of Transfluvian.

Gobbets: When we got going, I told him. Just tell the people what **you** want, don't give them what **they** want. He said he had given them lots of things they didn't want, even things they were opposed to. I told him straight, you haven't given them not enough of the thing they don't want to want; you must stop them having things they want. They can only have what you tell them they should have.

Rutt: Yes, that made it clear.

Hammer: And he's allowed an opposition. There's this bloody woman, Le Stylo. Who does she think she is? I'd have given it to her crisply and cleanly. I'd have turned off her microphones. Fancy allowing a vote! 23% wanted her. 72% didn't want him. How did he allow it?

Gobbets: President Mycronie, I told him. You are not thinking boldly enough. When it comes to opposition to your ideas, think big. Here's how we do things in Transfluvia. I gave him the example of our own Doubly Joyous Gardens. Take away their gardens, take away their children's playground, and take away what was gifted to them for 125 years in charity. Then, here's the clever part, buy it back ... with their own money!

Rutt: And build lots of things they don't want. Luxury flats for others, lorry turning circles, underwater playgrounds ...

Lickspital: Underwater pétanque ... pigeons.

Rutt: Pigeons? And of course a pub, add to the 2,000 other pubs in Transfluvia, all of them going bust!

Hammer: You two are getting the idea. And I thought you were asleep at the wheel.

Gobbets: President Mycronie, I said, then when 3% of the people approved the scheme, we put out an election leaflet saying they are popular plans, and fully funded. That's the way, Mannie I said, be bold and blame everyone else.

Lickspital: Yes, that was my Department of Information Obfuscation, also fully funded. What did he say?

Gobbets: "Form-mid-ahh-blur!" Oh, and get your teeth polished, I added.

Rutt: Sustainable

Gobbets: What? ... Then he said about all the bother he had had with the Yellow Bellies. I told him, use them to your advantage, like we did on Pea Green. Plenty of drunken hoards, and if they ask for the park to have its own water-loos (oops, bad choice of words!), then chop down a few more trees.

Lickspital: Governor Gobbets, did you mention about Information Obfuscation, the art of blaming things on Covid, or climate change, on the Federation, on partying. And pretend any funding from Federation grants or the peoples' own pockets is our largesse.

Hammer: "Largesse". Where did you learn that word? Good boy! *[Hermann jumps to his feet]* Not you! ... What a bore to have to have elections. It's only tradition. No one seriously believes that the people won't trust us.

Gobbets: That's what I told President Mycronie. Keep the opposition weak. Steal their good ideas, blame them for your bad ones. I asked him what he thought of Transfluvian democracy and our ideas of liberty and equality and all that stuff ... but by then his interpreter had gone. He said "Tous merde!" I turned to good ol' Google Translate. "tous" means "you", "mère" means "mother"; "de" means "of".

Lickspital: Oh, he means "yours is the mother of" ... all democracies.

Rutt: Governor Gobbets, you are clever.

Gobbets: True. I know.

Hermann growls.

South West Twickenham controlled parking zone to come into operation next month

A new controlled parking zone (CPZ) will come into operation in South West Twickenham from **Monday 16 May 2022**.

The new CPZ will come into operation following extensive consultation and requests from residents of several roads in the area who asked for a CPZ to be implemented to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents in finding a parking space near their homes.

Applications form packs are being posted to residents in the area with information about the new zone and the start date. Residents and businesses can now apply for permits. Only those vehicles displaying a valid permit (resident/business or visitor) will be entitled to park in the area.

The new CPZ will operate from 10am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The new line markings and signage currently being installed for this scheme will only be enforced from Monday 24 May 2022 onwards.

This CPZ will be monitored during the first six months of operation following which it will be reviewed with residents encouraged to share their experience of the new scheme with the Council.

View full details of the [South West Twickenham area parking zone](#) scheme and information about how to apply for permits.



Mayor's Reception at Turners House

Join the Mayor of Richmond for a lovely early evening reception at Turner House in St Margaret's, Twickenham.

Tickets for the Mayor's Reception are priced at just £20 and include drinks and canapes on the day as well as a tour of the house, and entry to the big raffle. The reception will run from from 4 to 6pm on Saturday 23 April 2022.

All proceeds go to the Mayor's charities A Dose of Nature and Habitats & Heritage. The charities have been chosen to help raise awareness of the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss within the borough, while helping to raise awareness of the practical and realistic steps residents and businesses can take to make a positive difference.

Book your place [HERE](#)



Alan Plumb voted as Volunteer of the Year by England Golf

Local resident Alan Plumb has won the award for Volunteer of the Year at the 2022 England Golf Awards.

At Strawberry Hill Golf Club in Middlesex, Alan is recognised as the 'go to' guy for members and staff alike whenever there is a question to be asked or an issue to be resolved.

Alan's involvement at the club ranges from the juniors to the seniors and every stop in between.

He plays an influential role in Strawberry Hill's 'Get into Golf' programme as well as the running of the academy. Alan's work on a

schools' programme has also seen him devote time and energy to a project at a local venue for children with special needs.

And at the other range of the age spectrum, Alan has played a key part in rolling out the welcome mat for golfers aligned to 'Age Concern'. As a past captain and member of the board, Alan is part of the furniture at Strawberry Hill and widely recognised by his peers as the ultimate volunteer.

Even the minor inconvenience of a replacement hip has not deterred Alan from serving his beloved Strawberry Hill. If there's a job needing done in the clubhouse or a member of the greens staff requiring assistance with divoting, then he will always be the first to raise a hand.



View further information on the award [HERE](#)



Gardening volunteers wanted

The Friends of Barnes Common are looking for gardening volunteers to join them for the next couple of Friday's to work on their polytunnel and community garden.

Are you available to help with some gardening?

The Friends of Barnes Common need volunteers to join them this Friday 22 April, from 1 to 3pm and next Friday 29 April, from 10am to 3pm.

The volunteer gardeners will help The Friends of Barnes Common to work on their polytunnel and community garden at Vine Road Park.



If you would like to help out email communitygrowing@barnescommon.org.uk

THE FLEXIBLE BAKER

The old adage “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” I think applies to cook books too, well, it certainly does in the case of Jo Pratt, and I’m jolly glad! Jo is the highly talented author of a number of great cook books, and the most recent in her successful **Flexible** series is **The Flexible Baker**. This was published last month and joins her *The Flexible Pescararian*, *The Flexible Vegetarian* and *The Flexible Family* cookbooks. They are all such a hit, as they include adaptations that help cater for all manner of allergies, intolerances and lifestyle choices with ingredient swaps and other options.



This latest volume from Jo includes sweet and savoury bakes, with each page including a clear dietary index covering everything from gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free cooking and veganism, allowing the reader to see at a glance which recipes best suit their requirements. And there’s no compromise on flavour or appeal. The recipes include delights such as smoky bacon scones with salted maple butter, sweet onion and blue cheese swirls, chicken & chorizo sausage rolls, ‘sourdough’ for the impatient, multi-millionaire’s shortbread, pecan pumpkin pie and salted honey & pistachio puddings. Just reading through the book makes the reader want to don an apron and start baking!

The *Flexible Baker* by Jo Pratt is published, hardback, by White Lion Publishing at £20. Here are a couple of recipes to whet your appetite and persuade you to buy the book.

STICKY LIME AND PASSION FRUIT CAKE

Super tangy lime and sharp passion fruit are such a perfect match. In this recipe they feature both in the cake mixture and to create an absolutely delicious sticky syrup that’s poured over the top once the cake is cooked. This dairy-free cake can easily be transformed into a vegan treat by following the Flexible section below.

Prep 30 minutes / Cooking 45 minutes / Serves 8–10

- 250g/9 oz/1¼ cups caster (superfine) sugar,
- finely grated zest and juice of 2 limes
- 3 ripe passion fruit
- 175ml/6 fl oz/¾ cup olive or rapeseed (canola) oil, plus extra for greasing
- 2 eggs
- 180g/6 oz/generous ¾ cup coconut yoghurt
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 180g/6 oz/1⅓ cups plain (all-purpose) flour

Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/350°F/gas 4. Brush a 20cm/8 inch round deep cake tin with some oil and line the base with baking parchment.

Put 100g/3½ oz/½ cup of the sugar in a small saucepan. Measure the lime juice and make up the quantity to 100ml/3½ fl oz/scant ½ cup with water. Put in the saucepan along with the pulp from one of the passion fruit, reserving the other two for the cake. Bring to the boil and cook for 2 minutes or so until you have a loose syrup. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Beat together the oil, the remaining 150g/5½ oz/¾ cup sugar, the eggs, coconut yoghurt, pulp from the remaining two passion fruit and reserved lime zest, to give you a thin batter consistency. Mix the baking



powder into the flour, then stir into the batter. Pour into the prepared tin and level the surface with the back of your spoon.

Bake for 40–45 minutes until golden and a skewer comes out clean when inserted in the middle.

Once baked, slowly pour the syrup over the top of the cake while it's still hot, allowing it to soak in. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack to cool further. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Flexible

Vegan: substitute the eggs for 2 tablespoons chia seeds mixed with 6 tablespoons cold water. Sit for 10 minutes until thickened before adding to the cake batter instead of the eggs in the above recipe.

Flavour swap: to make a sticky blood orange cake, swap the limes for 2 blood oranges when in season, and omit the passion fruit. Use Greek yoghurt (or almond yoghurt for dairy-free) instead of a coconut yoghurt.

QUICK SODA BREAD

Making your own bread certainly need not be time consuming or hard work and this is a perfect example of just that, as soda bread doesn't require kneading or time to rise. Traditionally, it uses buttermilk to react with bicarbonate of soda to rise, however, buttermilk isn't always easy to get hold of, so this recipe uses some everyday ingredients – milk and vinegar – that work just as well. The end result is a soft, dense bread with the most incredible crust. Tear or cut into pieces and enjoy over a few days.

Prep 15 minutes / Cooking 30 minutes / Makes 1 large loaf

- 1½ tbsp white wine vinegar, apple cider vinegar or lemon juice
- 350ml/12 fl oz/1½ cups milk
- 225g/8 oz/1¾ cups plain (all-purpose) flour, plus extra for dusting
- 225g/8 oz/1¾ cups wholemeal flour
- 2 tsp soft brown sugar or caster (superfine) sugar
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of (baking) soda
- ½ tsp flaked sea salt, plus extra for sprinkling

Stir the vinegar or lemon juice into the milk and set aside for a few minutes for the milk to thicken and curdle slightly. Heat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/425°F/gas 7. Sprinkle some flour on a baking tray.

Put the flours, sugar, bicarbonate of soda and salt in a large bowl and stir well to combine.

Make a well in the centre and pour in the milk mixture.

Stir to form a sticky dough, then using floured hands bring the dough together to form a big ball.

The dough should be soft but not too wet. Sit the dough on the floured baking tray and cut a deep cross in the top of the dough with a knife, almost but not quite all the way through. Sprinkle over a little flour and some salt. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes until it is golden and cooked through. To check, you can tap the base of the loaf and when cooked it will sound hollow.

Cool on a wire rack before slicing or tearing into chunks.



Flexible

Vegan: switch the milk for a plant-based alternative. I really like to use oat milk for its mild flavour, but any will work and react in the same way when mixed with the vinegar or lemon juice.

Flavour swap: to make this loaf into a cheese and onion soda bread, stir 125g/4½ oz/1¾ cups grated mature Cheddar cheese and 1 teaspoon onion granules into the flour before adding the milk. Scatter the top with an additional 50g/1¾ oz/½ cup grated Cheddar and 1 teaspoon poppy seeds. If the cheese is becoming too golden before the loaf is ready, reduce the heat and cook for a little longer.



Shrek, the Musical

by Jeanine Tesori, lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire

TOPS Musical Theatre Company at Hampton Hill Theatre

It was with a fair degree of scepticism that I approached the opening night of *Shrek the Musical*. After having watched DreamWorks quartet of films countless times, as any parents with a Netflix account and time to kill on a rainy weekend can relate to, I was doubting how such integral elements of the story such as the glammed-up dragon in her lava-encased keep would translate onto the stage at Hampton Hill.



I was taken aback at the sheer scale and size of TOPS' show stopping production. With 47 cast members under the skilful direction of TJ Loyd, we were swept away by a fast-moving musical and dance extravaganza. What an achievement to pull this off! Originally due to premiere just a month before a certain global pandemic struck, and now third time lucky, it's nothing short of a miracle that all cast members were all-singing-all-dancing without anyone succumbing to the most recent wave of Omnicom sweeping the capital.

The array of fairy tale creatures was brilliantly choreographed by Becky Silverstein and accompanied by the eleven piece band under the magnificent musical direction of John Davies. The costumes were magnificent, and other effects including an exploding bird and massive pink scaled dragon were to come, along with projected moving backdrops, a triumph by Designer Ian Stark, all adding to the spectacle.

From the moment anti-hero Shrek bursts out of his swamp's smelly outhouse khazi, toilet roll in hand, we are treated to Ben Robert's portrayal of the marginalised, emotionally wounded, world-hating ogre whose strong physical stage presence and incredible rock opera singing voice was transfixing.

The two hours of this West End rivalling performance flew by, and it was clear that the evening was hugely enjoyed by the audience and cast alike, evidenced by the atmosphere radiating from the auditorium ... Now, I can say, I'm a Believer!

Read Thea Diamond's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/04/13/shrek

Photography by Burgess Taylor and Chris Lemon



Catch Me If You Can

by Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert

Bill Kenwright Productions at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 2nd July

Billed as a psychological thriller, *Catch Me If You Can*, based on a French play by Robert Thomas, has a darkly comic streak that runs it. But rather than being any kind of parody, the humour arises from the tense and unusual situation, as well as from the dry wisecracks of Inspector Levine, the exasperated detective charged with recovering Mrs Corban.



Elizabeth Corban is missing. Following a squabble with her new husband, advertising executive Daniel Corban, she has left the remote house in New York's Catskill Mountains, in which they were honeymooning. After several days with no news, Daniel frets, and worries, and puts up hopeful signs welcoming her back, which he hangs from a giant moose head that hangs over the comfortable property's fireplace.



Preoccupied with a big insurance fraud case at a nearby hotel, Levine's patience is tested to breaking point when Elizabeth Corban returns to the house accompanied by a local Catholic priest, only for Daniel to claim that she is not, in fact, his wife.

The stakes continue to rise, and the tension continues to build - though humour is never far away - until the characters reach a conclusion that is surprising, but plausible and satisfying.

While never losing the light comic touch, the plot twists and turns in unexpected directions. Some of the twists are signposted, only to turn out to be a double bluff moments later. There are a few scenes which make a lot more sense when you think about them later, in the context of the ending, but which don't jar at the time.

We immediately wanted to come back to Richmond Theatre the next evening and see the play again, to enjoy certain scenes while knowing the truth behind the deadly conspiracy hatched against Daniel Corban. This is a gripping and highly enjoyable production of a highly-crafted play.



Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/04/12/catch-me-if-you-can

Photography by Jack Merriman

Deluxe

The BalletBoyz, at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 19th May

Are we back to normal after the easing of Covid restrictions? From the audience's perspective, it feels like we really are, as a large house enthusiastically applauds BalletBoyz's double bill, *Deluxe* and is clearly glad to see the Boyz back in business. However, it may not be quite as easy for the performers, for this is not so much a new show as the resuming of a tour that was abruptly cut short by lockdown in 2020.



These two very different pieces are both created in the potentially tense dynamic of a female choreographer working with an all-male dance group.



The first, *Ripple* - by Shanghai-based choreographer Xie Xin - seems to be about turning dancers into human water. At its best, their bodies appear to shimmer, absorbing or reflecting energy from one to another, to mesmerising effect, although there are also times when the piece treads water. It is beautifully fluid, and a remarkable demonstration of how the human body can take on the qualities of very different elements. It feels remorselessly abstract, not entirely helped by Jiang Shaofeng's meandering string music. Interestingly Xie Xin, when interviewed in an introductory film clip, doesn't seem entirely happy with it either, for all its occasional moments of transcendence.

Maxine Doyle's *Bradley 4:18* - inspired by a poem by Kae Tempest - is a complete contrast. *Bradley* - played by six identically costumed dancers - is up and sleepless at 4.18 am. The piece depicts the mental breakdown of an insomniac. Cassie Kinoshi's bluesey music well expresses the angst of a city unable to sleep. Depressed, angry, preening, frustrated, the several *Bradleys* fight with each other, jump in the air, sometimes freezing into the rictus of a tortured figure in a Francis Bacon painting. There is a whiff of sour testosterone. It gets more tense. And then suddenly it's over. Even if it didn't actually get anywhere, it was fascinating experience.

Read Patrick Shorrocks' review at www.markaspen.com/2022/04/19/deluxe

Photography by George Piper



Poetry Club

by Hannah Lowe

TS Eliot Foundation at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill

The Coronet, now a beautiful theatre, still has that oddly appealing claustrophobic aura that, as small former flea pit cinema, it once exuded. In the Coronet bar, there is gothic splendour and bohemian detail. The bar itself operates over a grand piano, which makes quite an occasion of buying a gin and tonic. This dimly lit ambience was fitting intimacy as it embraced an audience eager to see Hannah Lowe, the winner of the 2021 Costa Book Award for Poetry



The former teacher, incredibly modest about her prestigious award, greeted us radiantly and warmly began to read from the award winning *The Kids*, her collection of sonnets from her experience as a teacher in an inner-London school. This rang out clear with strong pieces like *Simile*, with the quote “Timothy Winters has ears like bombs and teeth like splinters”, but it really focused on a girl no-one liked, Bobbi Bonniwell, whom the poet couldn’t forget – and now, neither would we.

After the humorous and descriptive *Pepys* where classroom roles were reversed, Hannah Lowe gave us the joy of *The Sixth Form Theatre Trip* and the comparison of taking out dogs; troublesome ones, disruptive ones but ones a teacher truly loved.

My heart lifted when the *Art of Teaching* was read, my personal favourite of this collection, and the audience wallowed in such rich details of the pupils she knew so well, and looked into their souls. As a summary, the theme was how to deal with bored kids, plus lovely details of London slang.

I was moved by *In H&M*, and a teacher recognising a former pupil and the girl shutting down before her. It is a powerful book of sonnets and I would say parables too.

Heather Moulson, April 2022

Photography by JM

<https://markaspen.com/2022/04/06/poetry-club/>



WIZ TALES - North Macedonia

Teresa Read



North Macedonia, a member of NATO since 2020, is said to be a potentially high-risk area with regard to the Russian-Ukraine war.

The Republic of Macedonia - the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and North Macedonia from 2019 - is a small country in South-eastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula bordered by Greece, Albania, Kosova, Serbia and Bulgaria.



The town of Ohrid, known as the Jerusalem of the Balkans and a World Heritage site, has many religious buildings. The Church of St. Sophia is one of Ohrid's most well-known buildings. During the rule of the Ottoman Empire, St Sophia, like many churches, was converted to a mosque.

The most famous person born in Macedonia in the twentieth century was Mother Teresa of Calcutta (born 1910, Skopje). In 1950 she founded The Missionaries of Charity and went on to set up fifty relief projects in India. Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Her beatification (a step towards sainthood) took place on 23 October 2003, six years after her death.



Information about North Macedonia:

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

TRAVELLER'S TALES 121

BRING IT BACK

Doug Goodman lists his favourite foreign purchases

As well as missing foreign travel for the past two years I've also missed bringing back goodies from trips abroad. Whether it's food and drink, clothes, souvenirs or antique items or something that caught my eye, great pleasure can be gained from bringing it home. A day trip to France was once the perfect opportunity to fill your car with very good value wine, beer and spirits. But now, thanks to Brexit, we're back to the old duty-free allowance. I remember having exactly 20 bottles of wine in the car for two of us on return to Dover and being complimented by the customs officer for having the maximum allowance. However, our nearest neighbours Belgium and France offer plenty of desirable things to purchase. Belgian hand-made chocolates are the best I've ever tasted and there's no limit on what you can bring home. Trappist beer – some up to 10% in strength is superb. France, of course, has a vast selection of wines and I've found the best are available from the hyper-markets or from one of the wine outlets in the industrial zone, (Z.I.) as you leave Calais docks. From very drinkable wine priced at under £2.50 a bottle to excellent champagne bought direct from the producer in Reims, there's something for every taste. Kitchen ware and plants are another popular purchase.



Chocs from Belgium



Strong Beer from Belgium



Calais Wine Store



Goodies from Gib

Gibraltar is the place for cameras, binoculars and all sorts of electrical goods. Alcohol and tobacco products are very cheap by UK standards. There used to be a monthly competition at Thomson Holidays to see which employee could bring back the worst-taste souvenir. A winner was an illuminated snow globe from Lourdes with an image of The Pope. From Romania the Dracula mugs would probably qualify for a prize: I have to admit that I bought one.



Souvenir from Transylvania



Marrakech Magic Carpets



Bargains from Cairo



Grand Bazaar Istanbul

BARGAIN FURIOUSLY

If you enjoy visiting markets and bargaining then the bazaars in Marrakech, Cairo and Istanbul should be on your shopping list. As a foreigner you'll be hassled so why not hire a local to show you around. He, always a male, will naturally take you to the family shop in the hope you'll make a purchase.

Enjoy a glass of mint tea, discuss the climate/ Royal Family/football and spend a while chatting. In Marrakech the carpets are so colourful and, if you do buy one, it will be safely shipped home. But ensure you bargain hard and try never to pay more than half the asking price. Walk away and the vendor will usually agree your price. In Cairo the Khan el Khali bazaar is a warren of narrow alleys with donkey carts squeezing through. Leather, copper and ceramics are here for the choosing along with traditional Arab clothing. Istanbul's Grand Bazaar is noisy, jam-packed and full of attractive items. The traditional Iznik ceramics in bright colours and a tulip motif, are especially fine and a large dish adorns a wall at home. I spent a very enjoyable hour with a shoe maker in the bazaar watching the manufacturing process and finally buying a pair made from old carpets – Kilims.

From Greece come the delicious Kalamata olives, while Mallorca is the place for leather shoes, man-made pearls, glass and wrought iron items from the glass foundry Vidriola. I brought a rather large chandelier which I was allowed to carry as hand-luggage. Working with Britannia Airways I could obtain permission to bring home bulky items: a sledge, rocking chair and a tiny table from Moscow's 'Detski Mir', (children's World), found a place in my daughter's bedroom. The best vodka I've tasted comes from Poland and not Russia.



Masai Souvenirs from Kenya



New Clothes from Bangkok



Pandas are Popular in China

LOCALLY MADE

I try to purchase items made by local people whenever possible. Beads and necklaces made by the Masai people in Kenya are nice gifts and I didn't feel I needed to bargain as the objects were so pretty and prices so low. In India cotton shirts are well made and last a long time. I'm still wearing shirts from Kerala I bought 15 years ago. I took a favourite shirt to a tailor in Tamil Nadu and had two copied in colours of my choice in six hours at a cost of £8. Spices from The Malabar coast are worth bringing home along with cashew nuts. Hong Kong and Bangkok have tailors able to make suits and shirts overnight for very low prices. I was tempted at the price of \$US 189 for two complete outfits.

I enjoy smoking a big cigar. Cuba is the best place to buy direct from the factory but in Spain, especially in Tenerife you'll make big saving over any cigars you buy in the UK. In Twickenham's Church Street you can see a good selection of premium cigars in Ricardo's shop along with his own-label beer.

Chinese shops are like Aladdin's caves full of wonder porcelain, embroidery, books, lanterns and toy pandas. I saw a few real pandas in Beijing's zoo and was persuaded to buy a stuffed one as a present for my daughter. It was much loved for many years.

The world over shopping opportunities are endless so enjoy the experience. Take a very large, expanding suitcase or, better still, buy one in a local market.

Nauru in the News

Teresa Read

The Republic of Nauru in Micronesia, a member of the Commonwealth since 1968, is not somewhere which usually springs to mind, especially since it is one of the world's smallest independent republics covering approximately 21 sq km.

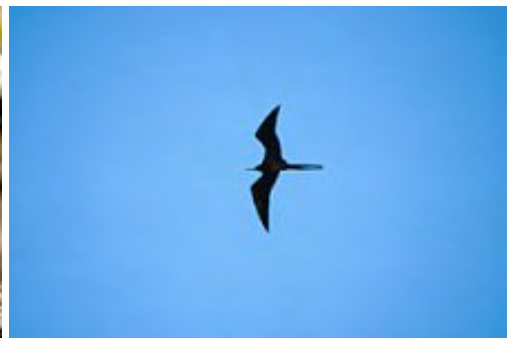


Nauru was rich in phosphate with mining by a consortium of German and British companies beginning in 1906; after a century of mining the phosphate supplies were almost exhausted.

Nauru has been mentioned in the news this week as the UK government has proposed flying asylum seekers entering the country illegally to Rwanda, mentioned in last week's Tribune. References to Nauru in the news have pointed out that Australia set up the Nauru Regional Processing Centre in Nauru in 2001 for the same reason.

Information on Nauru:

<https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Nauru>



A number of species of birds can be found on Nauru. Birds include the Nauruan Reed Warbler and the Great Frigatebird.

REMEMBER! THE £1 NOTE

By Doug Goodman

On April 23rd 1983 the £1 note, which had existed in various forms since 1797, was replaced by a small round coin. The new coins lasted 30 years until they were replaced by the 12 sided version five years ago, which we use today.

An estimated 130 million out of the 2.2 billion old coins were never handed in. Some versions of the round pound are collectors' items. For example of the Edinburgh coin, released in 2011 only 935,000 went into circulation. It sells for about £16. A large number of the round coins were forged so the new one, which is much harder to counterfeit, was introduced.



Experience skiffing on the River Thames at Teddington

The Skiff Club invites you to enjoy learning to row in traditional boats from their club in Trowlock Way, Teddington.

Skiffs are stable, making basic skills easy to learn, leading to good exercise and opportunities to race in local events on the Thames under the Skiff Racing Association.

Regular club activities include rowing on Saturday and Sunday mornings (the latter often including a pub stop) and on spring and summer evenings. The friendly bar is open on Thursdays for well-earned refreshment.

The Skiff Club also organises occasional expeditions to other inland waters and offers free taster sessions.



Beginners courses start on 23 April with six lessons priced at just £60.

Find out more about The Skiff Club on its website www.theskiffclub.org.uk, or contact captain@theskiffclub.org.uk to arrange a free taster session.

The annual Richmond Volunteer Fair returns

The Richmond Volunteer Service is delighted to invite all residents to meet a wide range of local organisations and join 'Team Richmond'.

The annual Volunteer Fair returns to an in-person event this year and will offer the opportunity to talk to some of the amazing groups that support and enrich our local communities.

Whether you have a few hours to fill and would like to help others, or are looking for a new challenge, the borough has hundreds of charities and groups where you could make a difference.

The stallholders will include groups working in the areas of sport, health, culture, children and young people, neighbourhood support and more – all with interesting and, sometimes, surprising roles you could get involved with. They will be ready and waiting to provide ideas, information and inspiration for new volunteering experiences.

It's free to visit and will take place on Thursday 26 May 2022, from 2 to 6pm, at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College. For more information and to book tickets, visit the [Richmond's Volunteer Fair 2022 Eventbrite page](#). Advance registration is essential.

If you're looking to volunteer with a local organisation, [register for your place now](#).

This event is organised by [Richmond CVS](#), who run the Richmond Volunteer Service. The service helps to promote local volunteer opportunities and volunteer recruitment in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.



“This group of players is a remarkable group”

The key lines from Thomas Frank ahead of Tottenham Hotspur

From [Brentford FC](#)



Thomas Frank says he feels privileged to be in charge of a remarkable group of players as we build-up to tomorrow's Tottenham Hotspur clash. With five wins from our last six, The Bees boss is looking forward to testing himself against a Spurs side well in the hunt for a top-four place. Have a read of the key lines from Thomas's press conference below.

Latest injury news ...

Zanka is out for the rest of the season with an adductor injury. Ethan Pinnock (hamstring) is hopefully only a couple of weeks. Sergi Canos is still out for a few weeks with a hamstring injury. Frank Onyeka has an ankle ligament injury. That could be the end of the season, but we'll see.

Our current run of form ...

I am very proud and feel very privileged to be part of this club's journey. Every staff member and every player work so hard to make us compete in the best league in the world and then we managed to win five out of six. The best thing is that we have fully deserved four of them. That makes me very, very pleased.

Last minute winners ...

I was thinking about the three-and-a-half years I have been here, and I don't think we

had that many last-minute winners. We then play in the Premier League and have three which is remarkable for any team. This group of players is a remarkable group. It is a culture that has been created within the group, together with the coaching staff. I always say to the players that I can push the culture and performance level up to 85 per cent but the last, magical, 15 per cent is within the group. That is about the right characters and this group is phenomenal.

Tottenham Hotspur ...

They have been on a very good run of form until Brighton disrupted. That result means they can go one of two ways, either they will drop, which I don't think they will do under Conte, or, most likely, they will come flying out. This task is probably the biggest we have faced so far because of what is at stake, their mindset, and the way they will approach the game. That just makes it more fun and more interesting. If we can go out there and top perform, then I know we have a chance. I know we are difficult to play against and I know that Conte knows that. That is not to say that we will win but we will do our very best.

Their team is full of very good players. Their front two/front three is one of the best in the league. If you can stop Kane and Son, then you are a good step down the line. There are nine other players in the team but if we can take out their main threats that will be a big thing for us. It is easier said than done.

Setting up for Spurs ...

For me, no matter who we play in the Premier League, we should be bang on it. It is natural in the first season, playing against some of the best players and best teams in the world, that you step up your game. I expect us, tomorrow, to do what we've done all season, especially at home, which is to come out flying and dominate in spells. Hopefully we will bring some aggressive high-pressure and dominate on the ball. We very much look forward to it.

The intensity of the game, in the way they press, has gone up since he took over. He is doing a classic Conte with a back three and wing-backs. If he has three midfielders and two good strikers, then he likes that 3-5-2 formation. Then if he has two good tens, like he does in Son and Kulusevski then he plays in that 3-4-3. It is very clear and structured, but it is easier said than done to close it down.

Antonio Conte ...

I don't know a single human being who doesn't like to get a little bit of praise. I think we've done well and we'd like to do even more. I think Antonio is a fantastic manager; over the last ten years he has been very successful and very clear in his philosophy. He has been winning a lot of games and titles. I am looking forward to facing him.



England name matchday squad for TikTok Women's Six Nations fixture against Ireland

Head coach Simon Middleton has named his matchday squad for Sunday's TikTok Women's Six Nations match against Ireland at Welford Road (kick-off 12 noon and live on BBC Two).



Emily Scarratt is set to earn her 100th cap at her hometown stadium while scrum half Leanne Infante reaches the 50 cap milestone. Helena Rowland plays at full-back for the first time in her England career with Lydia Thompson and Jess Breach making up the back three.

Zoe Aldcroft (lock) returns for her first appearance of the 2022 tournament after injury, Abbie Ward (lock) starts while Sarah Hunter captains the side at No.8. Alex Matthews (blindsided flanker) and Marlie Packer (openside flanker) are also selected.

Vickii Cornborough (loosehead prop), Lark Davies (hooker) and Sarah Bern (tighthead prop) retain their spots in the front row. Saracens duo Zoe Harrison and Holly Aitchison make up the 10-12 axis. Long-term absentees Amy Cokayne and Hannah Botterman are named among the finishers.

Over 15,000 tickets have already been sold for Sunday's game which looks set to be a new record attendance for a standalone Red Roses home game. Tickets are still available [here](#).

Middleton said: "We're really looking forward to our second home game of this Six Nations campaign and playing at Welford Road.

"It will be a very special day for two of our players. I'd like to say a huge congratulations to Emily Scarratt and Leanne Infante on their 100 cap and 50 cap milestones respectively.

"It will be an incredible occasion for 'Scaz' in her hometown, you couldn't write it and the stars have really aligned. Leanne fully deserves the recognition, 50 caps is a massive achievement. She's been competing with very tough opposition for the scrum half shirt for a number of years but has really established herself as a key part of the Red Roses. We're looking forward to marking the day with her.

"We're very mindful of Ireland's player availability situation and it's a real shame as they have gone well and shown some good passages of play. That said, we know the players who come in to their team will give everything. It's a huge opportunity for them to show what they can do and we must be ready for that challenge.

"We've had another good few days of training at Bisham Abbey and are looking forward to travelling to Leicester to finalise our preparations.

"We look set to break Red Roses home attendance records again which is remarkable and we thank the people of Leicester and beyond for their support. The atmosphere at Kingsholm was brilliant and even some of our most experienced players had never really played in anything like it.

"It was very special and we know it will be the same on Sunday."

England team to play Ireland

15. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 13 caps)
14. Lydia Thompson (Worcester Warriors, 51 caps)
13. Emily Scarratt (VC; Loughborough Lightning, 99 caps)
12. Holly Aitchison (Saracens, 6 caps)
11. Jess Breach (Harlequins, 20 caps)
10. Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 36 caps)
9. Leanne Infante (Bristol Bears, 49 caps)

1. Vickii Cornborough (Harlequins, 67 caps)
2. Lark Davies (Loughborough Lightning, 38 caps)
3. Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 43 caps)
4. Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 28 caps)
5. Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 53 caps)
6. Alex Matthews (Worcester Warriors, 48 caps)
7. Marlie Packer (Saracens, 81 caps)
8. Sarah Hunter (C; Loughborough Lightning, 133 caps)

Finishers

16. Amy Cokayne (Harlequins, 60 caps)
17. Hannah Botterman (Saracens, 26 caps)
18. Maud Muir (Wasps, 7 caps)
19. Rosie Galligan (Harlequins, 4 caps)

20. Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 53 caps)
21. Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 57 caps)
22. Amber Reed (Bristol Bears, 60 caps)
23. Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 21 caps)

Good to Grow Day 2022

Sign-ups for our 2022 Good to Grow weekend of action, Friday 22nd - Monday 25th April, are now open!



Volunteers at a community farm. Credit: Hands on London

We are pleased to announce that registration is open for our annual [Good to Grow Day](#). This year it will run from the 22nd to the 25th of April.

Good to Grow Day celebrates the new growing season, and is a chance for volunteers and community members to help out in their local garden, while supporting and enjoying all of the valuable community spaces around the UK. It's also a great way to get the garden ready for the growing season.

If you're linked to a garden or growing space, you can [register the space for free](#) on the Good to Grow website. You'll get access to helpful resources for promoting your garden and for hosting activities, and will even be able to track your garden's activity through our useful [Harvest-ometer!](#)

You'll also be able to mark your garden as open to volunteers on [Good to Grow's garden map](#). This makes it easy for volunteers in your local area to come and help out on Good to Grow Day and throughout the year.

Find out more and register [HERE](#)



Identifying measurement requirements and barriers to effective climate action

In the run up to COP26, NPL held a 'Measurement for Climate Action' workshop bringing together members of the international metrology community with the wider climate science community.

The workshop discussed how metrology, the science of measurement, can support climate action by providing improved confidence in data.

The importance of metrology in climate change mitigation is widely recognised and in order to identify measurement requirements to effective climate action, Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) are hosting a workshop on 26 – 30 September 2022.



The online event will examine progress and future requirements for metrologists to support climate change science and identify gaps in provision and barriers to effective mitigation of climate change and impacts.

The workshop is open to those individuals and organisations actively engaged in climate science, earth observation, modelling, greenhouse gas mitigation, measurement and measurement science, and willing to contribute to developing recommendations on important metrology technical challenges in these fields.

As the UK's National Metrology Institute, NPL recognises the importance of embedding metrology in the creation and delivery of climate information, and the workshop provides the opportunity to recommend the priority technical challenges for metrology for the coming decades.

[Registration and the call for abstract is open now](#)



WHO recommends highly successful COVID-19 therapy and calls for wide geographical distribution and transparency from originator

Today, WHO made a strong recommendation for nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, sold under the name Paxlovid, for mild and moderate COVID-19 patients at highest risk of hospital admission, calling it the best therapeutic choice for high-risk patients to date.

However, availability, lack of price transparency in bilateral deals made by the producer, and the need for prompt and accurate testing before administering it, are turning this life-saving medicine into a major challenge for low- and middle-income countries.

Pfizer's oral antiviral drug (a combination of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets) is strongly recommended for patients with non-severe COVID-19 who are at highest risk of developing severe disease and hospitalization, such as unvaccinated, older, or immunosuppressed patients.

This recommendation is based on new data from two randomized controlled trials involving 3078 patients.

The data show that the risk of hospitalization is reduced by 85% following this treatment. In a high-risk group (over 10% risk of hospitalization), that means 84 fewer hospitalizations per 1000 patients.

WHO suggests against its use in patients at lower risk, as the benefits were found to be negligible.

One obstacle for low- and middle-income countries is that the medicine can only be administered while the disease is at its early stages; prompt and accurate testing is therefore essential for a successful outcome with this therapy.

Data collected by [FIND](#) show that the average daily testing rate in low-income countries is as low as one-eightieth the rate in high-income countries. Improving access to early testing and diagnosis in primary health care settings will be key for the global rollout of this treatment.

WHO is extremely concerned that -- as occurred with COVID-19 vaccines -- low- and middle-income countries will again be pushed to the end of the queue when it comes to

accessing this treatment.

Lack of transparency on the part of the originator company is making it difficult for public health organizations to obtain an accurate picture of the availability of the medicine, which countries are involved in bilateral deals and what they are paying.

In addition, a [licensing agreement](#) made by Pfizer with the Medicines Patent Pool limits the number of countries that can benefit from generic production of the medicine.

The originator product, sold under the name Paxlovid, will be included in the WHO prequalification list today, but generic products are not yet available from quality-assured sources.

Several generic companies (many of which are covered by the licensing agreement between the Medicines Pool and Pfizer) are in discussion with WHO Prequalification but may take some time to comply with international standards so that they can supply the medicine internationally.

WHO therefore strongly recommends that Pfizer make its pricing and deals more transparent and that it enlarge the geographical scope of its licence with the Medicines Patent Pool so that more generic manufacturers may start to produce the medicine and make it available faster at affordable prices.

Along with the strong recommendation for the use of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, WHO has also updated its recommendation on remdesivir, another antiviral medicine.

Previously, WHO had suggested against its use in all COVID-19 patients regardless of disease severity, due to the totality of the evidence at that time showing little or no effect on mortality.

Following publication of new data from a clinical trial looking at the outcome of admission to hospital, WHO has updated its recommendation.

WHO now suggests the use of remdesivir in mild or moderate COVID-19 patients who are at high risk of hospitalization.

The recommendation for use of remdesivir in patients with severe or critical COVID-19 is currently under review.



**World Health
Organization**

Managing cross-border travel during the COVID-19 pandemic

Government has an opportunity to learn lessons from its experience of implementing cross-border travel measures during the COVID-19 pandemic should such measures be needed in the future, according to a report by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Putting cross-border travel measures in place, often at speed, and adapting and sustaining them, has required the considerable efforts of government and others to deliver the changes to time-pressured deadlines.

Between February 2021 and January 2022, the rules for the border were changed at least 10 times. Although individual departments have had their own governance structures for managing the programmes they are responsible for, government did not have an assessment bringing together all the risks across its border measures for the system as a whole. Good practice, such as system-level risk registers, has not been adopted, which would have helped the government to learn lessons and better adapt its approach.

The government has had to balance decision-making on public health with other competing objectives, such as reopening international travel safely, mitigating the risk of variants of concern, and minimising disruption at the border. The balance between these objectives fluctuated to adapt to the changing nature of the pandemic. However, the government has not stated how these competing objectives should be balanced and prioritised.

A digital Passenger Locator Form (PLF) for passengers arriving into the UK was introduced by the Home Office quickly and went live as planned in June 2020. Even with the checks imposed, some information submitted on PLFs may not have been accurate as checks by private sector carriers focused on the existence rather than the accuracy of data. From February 2021, until the PLF was withdrawn in March 2022, private sector carriers had to check that everyone travelling to the UK had submitted a PLF. The percentage of checks undertaken by Border Force has reduced over time and since September 2021 less than 1% of people arriving have had their PLF checked. The Home Office considered that Border Force checks were statistically robust and that those, combined with the automatic verification of key data fields built into the PLF, enabled it to have confidence in the high rate of compliance found by carriers, which it estimated at up to 99%.

From January 2021 to February 2022, most people had to pay for COVID-19 tests taken after arriving in the UK. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) set out to create a market for COVID-19 testing so as to protect domestic testing capacity. Government had limited oversight of the market it created, and service to the public has sometimes been poor. On 15 February 2022, at least 369 private firms offering PCR tests were listed on gov.uk, with their stated prices ranging from £15 to £525. Firms listed on gov.uk have often marketed themselves as being government approved, but DHSC's listing process gave minimal assurance that they can provide the services. In September 2021, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) recommended government take action to give consumers information on provider quality.

Despite complaints of providers failing to deliver tests or results, DHSC has yet to formally respond to the CMA recommendations.

When people were required to self-isolate after travel, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) attempted to contact people meant to be self-isolating by phone call and text message, supplemented by a £114 million contract for home visits. Between May 2021 and February 2022, UKHSA was unable to confirm whether on average one third (33%) of those required to isolate had been doing so, ranging between 26% and 42% of possible non-compliance during these months. This was above the 25% non-compliance it expected.

DHSC moved rapidly to set up the Managed Quarantine Service (MQS), which it launched on 15 February 2021. The MQS handled 214,000 arrivals between April and December 2021 from red list countries, who were required to isolate for 11 nights in a quarantine hotel provided by the service. An estimated further 14,000 arrivals were able to claim exemptions from hotel quarantine. Most people with exemptions were subject to alternative COVID-19 health measures.

DHSC had originally thought the cost of running the MQS service would be met by the price charged for the quarantine hotel rooms, but in the event the taxpayer has subsidised half of its total £786 million cost. DHSC has not been able to determine how many COVID-19 cases were prevented by the MQS, but between 15 February and mid-December 2021 some 2% of quarantined guests tested positive for COVID-19. From 9 to 15 December 2021, during the Omicron outbreak, 6% of all tests taken from guests were positive.

Although individual departments have been monitoring their own spending on implementing cross-border travel measures in response to COVID-19, government has not routinely tracked the total cost across government despite spending at least £486 million. Government told the NAO that cost had not been a factor in its implementation decisions. Without a set of performance measures to track effectiveness and with no evaluation of the additional costs incurred, government cannot demonstrate that its implementation measures have achieved value for money.

To inform government's future approach and strategy for what follows, departments should establish a clear system-level risk management framework to support government decision-making, setting out who is responsible for capturing and managing the risks. Should measures be needed again, government should have key metrics to judge the effectiveness of the overall system, to understand performance and inform future decisions.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

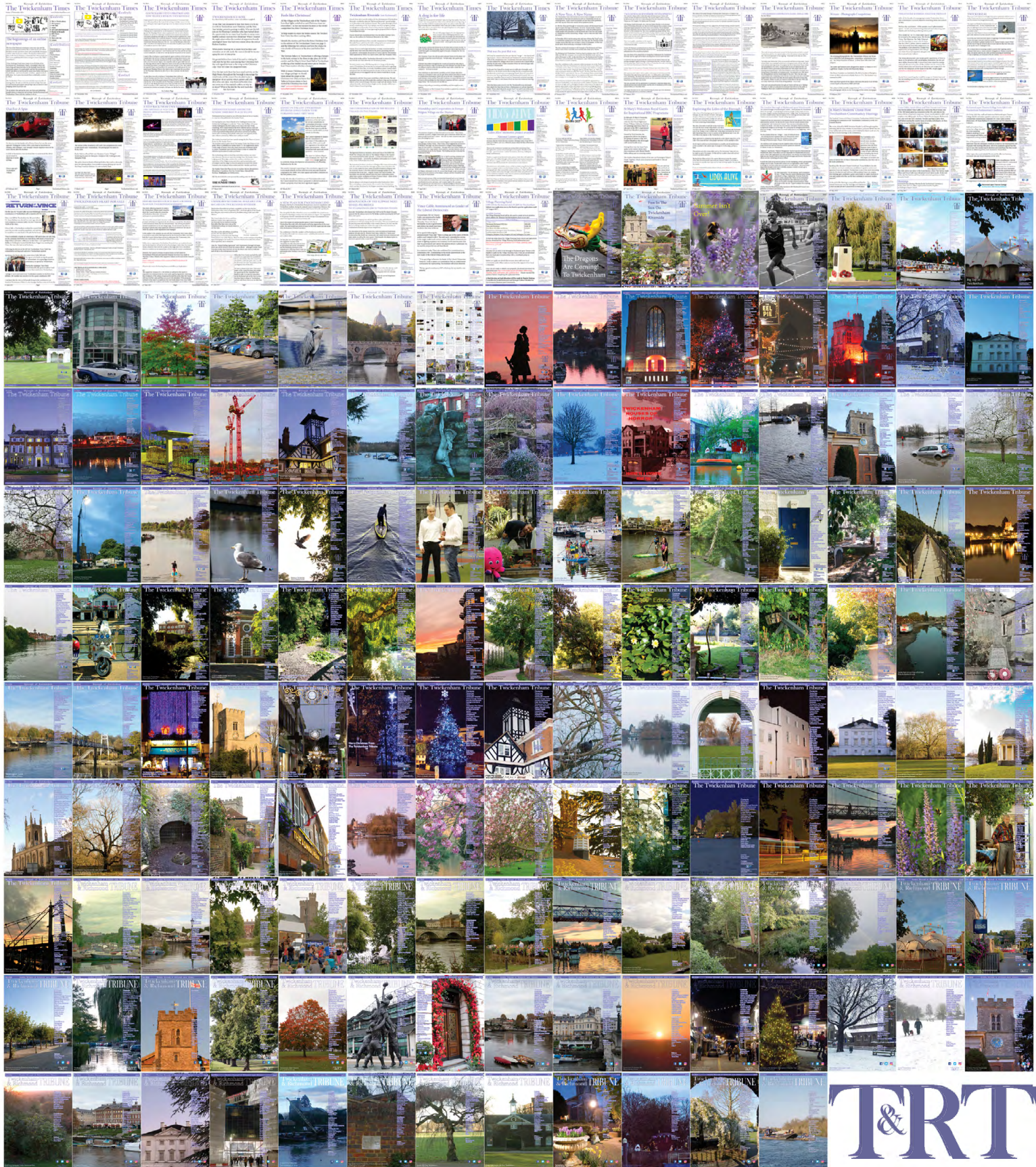
“The government has had to balance many competing objectives when managing the border through the pandemic, making changes at short notice to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19. After two years of the pandemic and following the recent removal of travel restrictions, the government has an opportunity to ensure that it develops a systematic approach to managing any future travel measures, applying the learning from COVID-19.”

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



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