

The Twickenham Tribune



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Nesting in Twickenham
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

Lidos Alive Exhibition

The Richmond Environmental Information Centre at Alexander Pope Hotel, Twickenham, 23rd April - A review by Mark Aspen

There is something special about bathing in the open air. Lusty types brave the icy Serpentine on Christmas Day or swim the Channel. Yes, it was ever so. According to Shakespeare's Cassius, Julius Caesar challenged him to swim the turbulent Tiber:

“For once, upon a raw and gusty day,
The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,
Caesar said to me ‘Darest thou, Cassius, now
Leap in with me into this angry flood,
And swim to yonder point?’”

Cassius took up the challenge, but had to rescue Caesar from drowning.



In contrast, for most of us, a nice summer's day, swimming in safely contained (and preferable clean and well heated) waters seems much more civilised. Hence the rise of the Lido. The heyday of the lido concept was in the 1920s and 30s and, like many things, was wiped out by the Second World War. However, there is a renewed interest in the Lido and in the whole “lifestyle” concept that went with it.



Between the wars, the pre-1965 Boroughs of Twickenham and Richmond had a rich heritage of lidos and outdoor bathing, and a charity, The Richmond Environmental Information Centre (REIC) has recently been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to carry out a “memories project” about the these lidos. This formed the basis of the exhibition at The Alexander Pope on St George's Day.

This weekend I was in Plymouth, and saw the splendidly restored Tinside Lido, which is reopening on 26th May, so it is not only in Richmond upon Thames that the interest is reviving. Built in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of King George V, the Tinside Lido is a grade II listed

building and a magnificent example of the Art Deco style.

Also built in 1935, the Silver Jubilee Year, Twickenham Lido was another such magnificent Art Deco example, and forms the prime example of the Lidos Alive project, running in conjunction with REIC. Twickenham Lido was closed for refurbishment in 1980 and has never reopened. It currently languishes in the centre of the controversial Twickenham Riverside planned development, where the creation of equally magnificent buildings is in abeyance. Twickenham Lido was enormous, and had two shallow ends, each with its own tall “wedding cake” three-storey fountain.



There were eleven major lido sites in Richmond upon Thames that were mapped out in the exhibition. Of these only Hampton Pool (1922, but refurbished in 1985 after a four year closure) and the modern Pools on the Park (1966) remain. Some of these had wonderful names, such as the Palm Beach Lido on Taggs Island or The Nook, one of two pools in Bushy Park itself. The second Bushy Park pool, near Upper Lodge, was the more rustic Bushy Bathing Pool, much beloved between the wars by local schoolboys. Schoolboys seem to have had a penchant for open-air swimming, sometimes unauthorised, as witnessed by an Edwardian photograph in the exhibition of a long-skirted policewoman brandishing a long cane who is chasing away from the Serpentine a gaggle of naked young boys!

Read Mark Aspen's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/05/18/lidos-alive

Photography by: Mark Aspen (Tinside Lido); Frederick Wilfred, (Twickenham Lido, 1960s) ©Russell Wilfred; Berkley Driscoll (Lidos Alive Exhibition)

Now that the new administration has confirmed that the previous plans for Twickenham Riverside will not go ahead, TwickerSeal wonders what the next step will be.

More consultation, a (genuine) competition?

TwickerSeal visited the site with his copy of a Lido plan and thought, with some imagination we can make it happen!



TwickerTape - News in Brief

Church Street Celebrates The Royal Wedding



Rileys Opening Delayed

Rileys Sports Bar closed in early March following a burst mains water pipe and have confirmed that following an announcement of a re-opening date for the Twickenham branch, an unexpected delay has since occurred. A new re-opening date will be announced.

England vs Barbarians

The Quilter Cup match against the Barbarians returns to Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 27 May (K.O 3pm).

Art House Open Studios Festival

The Art House Open Studios 2018 Brochure is now available to download
Details at www.richmond.gov.uk/services/arts/arts_festivals/arthouse_open_studios

Full Council Meeting

The first meeting of Council following the election will be held on Tuesday 22nd May. The official appointments of leader and cabinet will be made, as well as the new mayor appointed.

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=173&MId=4213>

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PART 75. WHITTON WITHOUT TRAFFIC!

No chance, I hear you say. Sometimes to look at the future we need to learn from the past. In our two postcards this week we go back to the early 1930s when the internal combustion engine hadn't yet taken over the world.

These postcards are windows to a life long ago when most people travelled on foot, by bicycle and on public transport. Residential roads such as these in Kneller Gardens and Colonial Avenue in Whitton (both pictured) were playgrounds for our children to kick a ball about or to chalk a hopscotch area on the pavement.



I have a few more like this in my collection and in future columns we can look at some of the other residential streets in the area that appeared on postcards in the first half of the twentieth century. Apart from the odd horse drawn cart or bicycle they are all traffic free.

Without cars, the world still worked didn't it? Everyone was still on the same level and health threatening pollution generated by traffic wasn't global news each day.



In an age where public transport has more or less grown up, is it really necessary to have a couple of cars outside most family homes? By the way, before you start shouting at me, I am as guilty as most people on this one as my wife and I both have our own cars.

Within the Tribune's circulation there seems to be a school or two opening every year. Anyone who is aged over 60 now was very unlikely to get a lift to school. We were rarely late and we got there by walking, on a bicycle

or by public transport. Why is it now necessary for mums and dads to drive the children to and from school each day?

I had better shut up now before the thought police knock on my door. I just considered that it was worth a moment to look at these two postcards of Whitton and ask ourselves if we have really progressed as much as we are told we have.

Looking ahead to Bank Holiday Monday on 28th May. You might enjoy a trip to the Postcard and Paper Fair in Tolworth. I shall be there with my stock of postcards which includes plenty from the local areas. It can be found at Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way, KT6 7LQ which is just off the A3 bypass. Come and say hello.

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com. I would like to see them and I pay cash!

Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



Thursday, 31 May- Saturday, 2 June, eves 7.30pm,
EDMUNDIAN PLAYERS present
OUT OF ORDER by master farce writer, Ray Cooney, at
St Edmunds Church Hall. Nelson Road, TW2 7BB.

Info: edmundianplayers.com.

Saturday, 2-Saturday, 9 June RSS presents JOKING APART by Alan Ayckbourn at
the Mary Wallace Theatre, TW1 3DU.

Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk.

Tuesday, 5-Saturday, 9 June at 7.45 (Sat matinee, 2.30) BROS Theatre Co
present UK amateur premiere of the musical, A CLASS ACT, the story of the life
of the lyricist behind A Chorus Line.

Info: brostheatrecompany.org.uk.

Next Open Morning at Hampton Hill Theatre, home of TTC, Saturday, 2 June,
10am-12am. All welcome to enjoy tours of the hidden corners of this amazing
theatre on your doorstep.

Info: teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk.

First of the SUMMER MUSIC series of concerts at Normansfield Theatre, TW11
9PS takes place on Saturday, 2 June at 7.30pm, when THE LONDON DVORAK
STRING ENSEMBLE presents a concert entitled The Leipzig Connection, when
music by Mozart, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Kuffner and Grieg will form the
programme.

Info: langdowndownecentre.org.uk.

HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY presents a concert of Mozart, Beethoven and
Haydn pieces on Saturday, 9 June at 7.30pm at St James Church, TW12 1DQ.

Info: hamptonchoral.org.uk.

Friday, 1 June at 8.00pm MCD CONCERTS present CREGAN & CO (featuring
Ben Mills) at The Hammond Theatre, Hampton School.

Info: thehammondtheatre.co.uk.

Friday, 8 June-Sunday, 20 June ALL HALLOWS MUSIC FESTIVAL takes place when a variety of musical events from chamber music, choral to promenade are on offer at All Hallows Church, Twickenham.

Info: try booking.co.uk/DZO.

Art lovers will enjoy the SPRING ART FAIR at LAC, TW11, Saturday, 19 June-Sunday, 20 June, when artists and craftsmen from all over the country show their work in a variety of media.

Info: landmarkartscentre.org.uk.

JAMES HENRY PULLEN: an extraordinary Victorian is the subject of a talk in aid of the Portcullis Trust, Richmond & Hillcroft Adult College, TW9 2RE. Pullen was institutionalised for much of his life at the Langdon Down hospital, Kingston Road where his amazing skill at model making is on display. The Trust helps students with disabilities continue in education.

Info: portcullistrust.org.uk.

TWICKFOLK are at The Cabbage Patch pub, TW1 3SZ on Sunday, 10 June at 8.00pm when JILL JACKSON from Glasgow and the Gillies will entertain.

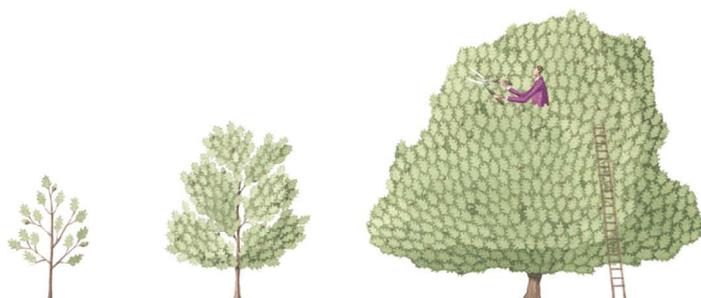
Info: twickfolk.co.uk.

TWICKENHAM JAZZ CLUB will convene at The Cabbage Patch in Patchworks Bar on Tuesday, 5 June when KELVIN CHRISTIANE "ALL STARS" BIG BAND will once again take to the stage.

Info: Twickenhamjazzclub.org.uk

EEL PIE CLUB next meet at The Cabbage Patch on Thursday, 14 June with SLIM CHANCE.

Info: eelpieclub.com.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Concert in St Mary's Parish Church
Sunday 27 May, 6pm

Bach by the River

Music to sooth the soul. The Wolverton Trio perform in the beautiful acoustic of St Mary's Parish Church, built at the time this glorious music was composed.

Works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi.

Henrietta Wayne	Baroque violin / viola d'Amore
Rachel Helliwell	Baroque flute and recorders
Karen Glen	Harpsichord

Regular performers with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, English Baroque Soloists, King's Consort, the Brandenburg Baroque Soloists and The Sixteen.

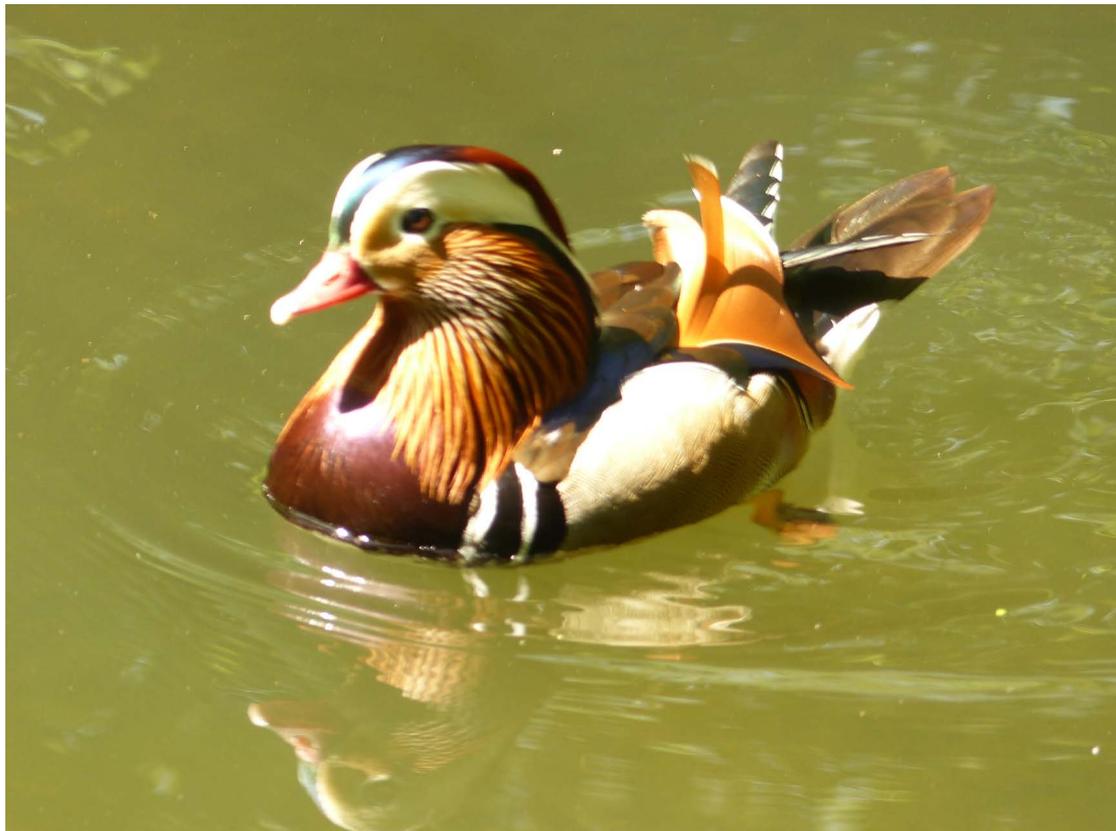
The concert will last about one hour. Entrance is free. There will be a retiring collection in aid of St Mary's reordering. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the chancel. Location: Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NJ

River Crane Sanctuary



The sun is shining and the gardens along the Sanctuary are blooming with an array of colours and chirping birds. Gardens and established wild spaces in urban areas are becoming more and more valuable for our wildlife as many habitats have disappeared in our countryside. Isabella Tree has written a book called *Wilding - Return of Nature to a British Farm* - which may be of interest to readers or take a look at George Monbiot's short video on You Tube 'How the Wolves changed Rivers'. Both give reasons to be hopeful that flora and fauna which have diminished due to bad practices can be revived.

Red (Poppy in Meadow Orchard) White (Elderflower) Blue (Ceonthus)



Mandarin Duck - dressed to impress!

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat
<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

St Mary's Business students meet Top Executives at Networking Events

Business Management BA students at St Mary's University, Twickenham were given the chance to meet a number of top international managers and directors during two interactive networking events earlier this month.

The events, entitled Build Your Future, saw students hear experiences and insights from professionals including Executive Directors, Managing Directors and Company Directors. In the form of speed dating the students received careers advice from the experts, gained vital employability skills and learned how to prepare for an interview.

Build Your Future is one of a number of events organised for Business Management students as part of their course to help career progression and build their professional skills. Senior Lecturer for Business Management at St Mary's Dr Eleni Aravopoulou, who organised the events, said, "It is great to see how much our students enjoyed these events that not only enabled them to expand their professional network and receive such valuable advice from well-established managers and directors, but also to get inspired by them."

Business Management student Anton Herburger, commented, "These events were a unique opportunity for us to engage with a diverse group of experts. It was extremely interesting to hear the executives' different background stories. Furthermore, getting concrete and practical advice from such great personalities will definitely help us in our future careers."

Technical Manager of Sierra Leone Maritime Administration Marinos Ioannou, added,

"I'd like to personally thank St Mary's for the invitation to participate in this event. I enjoyed sharing my personal experience on job-seeking, preparation for interviews and career planning with students and it was no surprise they still share the same concerns that I personally had when I started my professional career. I highly recommend this event to continue in the future for the benefit of all students who want to succeed in their professional life."



The managers and directors at the event included:

Martin Blomley, Executive Director, TP Group plc
Louis Harry, Company Director, Lonely Books
Marinos Ioannou, Technical Manager, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration
Kally Kadoglou, Senior HRBP, Tech21
Tony Mooney, Managing Director, Decisionbox/
Independent Advisor
Zarina Naqvi, Director, Maxima Associates
Paul Taylor, Consultant, Chair and NED,
Speaker, Author, Mentor
Sarah Theunissen, HR Regulatory Operations
Manager, JPMorgan Chase and Co

Steam, Steel and Shells – 9

By Helen Baker

March-April 1915. The Robey steam engine now treasured at the Hollycombe Museum, Liphook, was steadily powering the Pelabon Munitions Works in East Twickenham together with her sister.

Dynamic proprietor Charles Pelabon was now expanding his Twickenham premises rapidly. Within weeks he had a second building mirroring the converted skating rink, running parallel to it. Soon he'd built a third beyond the other two, taller, for larger machinery.

This photo is very early: the large semi-circular pediment hiding the workaday roof carries the date 1914-1915, and the builders' sign "Collinsons, Builders, Teddington" still hangs on display.



The Pelabon Works' first two workshops, early 1915, from the collection of Howard Webb.



The Pelabon Works, © Guy Pelabon: 1915, after the opening of the Twickenham Works and now officially the "Teddington Division".

Over in Teddington, Charles Pelabon was keeping his Teddington workshop open for business for a while. In fact the uncropped photo suggests that he was improving and expanding there too. Although Teddington produced the very first of Charles' shells, it looks as if Twickenham took over all the fine metal-working once the premises were ready. Other Teddington photos show it housing a small foundry for forge work and a carpentry workshop making, among other things, wooden stoppers for shrapnel.

© East Twickenham Centennial Group (Heritage Lottery Funded) and Hollycombe Steam Museum.

'OWZAT FOR A CRIC-KIT TEST? MIDDLESEX COUNTY CRICKET TEAM TEST OUT RNLI'S NEW LIFEBOAT GEAR AT LORDS FOR MAYDAY

Lord's, The Home of Cricket, saw a cricket practice with a different spin take place today. Sporting stars from Middlesex County Cricket team Tom Helm, Tom Barber and James Fuller traded their usual clean and crisp cricket whites for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) new all-weather kit.

The kit swap took place to help promote the RNLI's annual Mayday fundraising campaign which runs throughout May. This year, the charity aims to raise £750,000 to fund the vital new lifesaving kits for their 4,800 selfless volunteers across the UK & Ireland.



Tom Helm, from Middlesex County Cricket team says: "We were bowled over by the kits which certainly make a change to our usual outfits. The RNLI's new kit is surprisingly flexible and lightweight – just what their crew need for their lifesaving rescue work. The volunteer lifeboat crews, are on call 24 hours a day, every day, to save lives at sea. They are true heroes."



Chris Walker, RNLI Helm on the Tower lifeboat explains: "People can drown in the Thames in a matter of minutes, so we need to be able to get our kit on as quick as possible. This new kit has been designed with a new material which is more flexible, tailored and light weight. It's also warmer helping protect us against the cold temperatures of the Thames, and we can adjust the layering to the conditions we face. In a nutshell it's fantastic."

Andy Jupp, RNLI Community Fundraising Manager for London says: "We rely on donations from the public to help us stay on the water. This year we're asking the public to get creative and go yellow throughout the month of May to help us raise money for our new life-saving kits. Our RNLI yellow wellies cost £54 a pair, a lifejacket £458 and a safety helmet £263. Having the right kit can mean the difference between life and death – for them and the people they are rescuing."

RNLI volunteers are on standby day and night, to drop everything in an instant to save lives on waterways and at sea. In 2017 these crews launched 8,436 times, aiding 8,072 people. RNLI London lifeboat crews alone launched 697 times, aiding 273 people.

To find a Mayday event near you, or to download a fundraising pack, visit RNLI.org/Mayday



Lifeboats

ALL LOOKS BLOOMING GOOD

With the sun unfolding to provide good growing weather, entry is now invited for all the 10 gardening categories eligible for this year's Merit Awards from Richmond Borough in Bloom.

Those judged the best in each category, including front gardens, frontages and environmental gardens, estates and community buildings, hotels, pubs and shop frontages will each receive a special commemorative plaque. All entries will receive a certificate to record their level of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver or Bronze, according to marks judged on RHS standards.



Entry leaflets are available in the Civic Centre and libraries or can be downloaded from the website www.richmondboroughinbloom.co.uk. The closing date is June 22nd.

Further information from:

Pat Schooling on 020 8744 1171 or richmondinbloom@btconnect.com



It's That Fox Again!

Photo from
Doug Goodman
Twickenham

A Klub worth Joining!

Groucho Marx said: “I refuse to join any club that would have me for a member”. Well, this place isn’t really a club, per se, but it’s definitely worth ‘joining’! To be honest, we’ve been meaning to visit for ages now, and it was only when **The Sawarsdee Klub in York Street** posted something on social media about it being their first anniversary that I realised how fast time flies and we decided to go. And boy, am I glad we did.

The place is under totally new management and owned by the charming Kwan, who told us that her chef is quite a Thai superstar, having been voted one of the top ten Thai chefs in London a few years ago, at the age of just 26. Kwan has built up a very loyal customer base in the year they’ve been open, with many regulars also calling on the restaurant for home delivery, which Kwan likes to deliver personally.



We’re not Thai food aficionados (I still hope to go one day to Thailand!), so we went the safe route and started with the mixed platter of starters. This was a great introduction to the quality of the food here – with everything obviously home made including the sate sauce, which was divine and delicately aromatic. Enjoying this with a Singha beer and a glass of their very reasonably priced house white, we were very happy indeed.



I’m not much of a soup eater, as I find it fills me up too much, but enjoy a bowl on its own for lunch. To that end, as Kwan recommended we try one of their soups, we just had the one bowl of Tom Kha soup (a mild coconut soup with lemongrass, lime leaves, galangal and tomatoes). I sneaked a taste or two, or five actually! It was so delicate, refreshing and zesty – not like any soup I had ever tasted. I will definitely be back in for more of that soon! I had a Massaman beef curry as my main, and my husband chose Phad Khing



(again beef). Kwan suggested we try a Labb Gai too (warm chicken salad). This wasn't the prettiest dish I've ever been served by a long chalk, but it was one of the tastiest. Minced chicken with a gentle, warming spicy length in the mouth – it stopped just short of becoming hot but it quietly and beautifully crept up on your taste buds. Together with my Massaman, which was very smooth and subtle, and the Pad king, the flavours worked beautifully together. A small taste of their home made coconut and jackfruit ice-cream to share was all we had room for and the ideal finale to a great meal.

Kwan's family history is interesting – she has drawn on her heritage using many old family recipes from nearly 70 years ago, created for goodwill ambassadors and representatives from the world over when her grandparents were defence attaches at the Royal Thai Embassy. They were originally created in the kitchen of Earl Nontaprecha's house. The restaurant walls are adorned with paintings by Kwan's aunt; yes, it is very much a family business.

Kwan told us that she introduced a new menu for their first anniversary, one with more vegetarian and gluten free options as they are requested often. And the chef is happy to make any of the curries vegan too if required. The restaurant also offers a great value weekday set lunch for £8.50.

It's National Vegetarian Week from 14-20 May so this will be a great place to discover if you aren't already one of their many customers who dine in regularly, but also order take-away meals via Just Eat – some as often as three times a week apparently!



Offers and Competitions

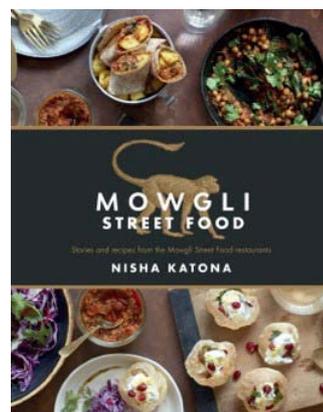
Win a pair of tickets for the House & Garden Festival

We've two pairs of tickets to be won for the House & Garden Festival next month. To enter, head for the website and find out which champagne house is running the champagne bars at the show. Send your answer in the header please to win@twickenhamtribune.com together with your contact details. Closing Date: noon on Friday 1 June.

Winner of a copy of Mowgli Street Food

IS

Rosemary Ellis



Monthly Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club
With a glass of wine or beer at the bar afterwards

Email your photo to win@TwickenhamTribune.com
(include your name and postcode) All 4 players must play the same round.

Photos of pets or wildlife, or any scenes taken within the local villages, ie Twickenham, St Margaret's, East Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Whitton/Heathfield

This competition is run in conjunction with [Strawberry Hill Golf Club www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)



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NPL launches 'Measure of All Things' campaign for World Metrology Day

Campaign from the National Physical Laboratory aims to raise awareness of upcoming redefinition of SI units

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is marking World Metrology Day (20 May), by launching its 'Measure of All Things' campaign to raise awareness of the expected redefinition of the International System of Units (SI).

It opened its doors to the general public on Thursday 17 May to give people access to the world-leading science that is conducted at NPL and understand more about the role of measurement in underpinning economic growth and quality of life.

On World Metrology Day, the international measurement community raises awareness of the impact and importance of having reliable measurements, like underpinning the accuracy of services like GPS, and ensuring effective administration of drugs. The theme for World Metrology Day 2018 is Constant Evolution of the International System of Units.

The SI is a globally agreed system of measurements that has been in place for more than two centuries. There are seven base units, which make up the SI, and guide the measurement of quantities like physical size, temperature and time.

This year's theme was chosen due to the proposed SI redefinition, expected to be agreed in November 2018, when the General Conference on Weights and Measures meets. This will be one of the largest changes to the SI since its inception and will mean that all of the units are expressed in terms of constants that can be observed in the natural world. The metre is already defined by the speed of light, for example, and the kilogram – the last unit to be redefined – will be defined by the Planck constant. Using these constants as the basis for measurement will mean that they will remain reliable into the future.



On the surface, it will appear not much has changed. In the same way that if you replaced the decaying foundations of a house with new shiny ones, it may not be possible to identify the difference from the surface, but some substantial changes have taken place to ensure the longevity of the property.

As part of the Measure of All Things campaign, NPL will be attending events at schools, universities, and businesses all over the country to tell the story of measurement and the SI units, and raise awareness of the importance of the expected redefinition.

Through this outreach, the campaign will foster measurement skills for the future, enabling UK industry to remain competitive by recognising and developing this expertise.

Fiona Auty, Head of Government Relations and Corporate Communications at NPL, said:

“Accurate, reliable measurement is something that often gets taken for granted, but we want the world to realise how important this is, from technology we use every day, like the internet, to monitoring the impact of climate change on the world around us.

“World Metrology Day is the perfect moment to begin discussing the impact of measurement with our ‘Measure of All Things’ campaign.”

For the first time, NPL will be travelling the country, hosting and attending events up and down the UK, to tell the story of measurement and its impact, and explain what the expected redefinition of the SI units will mean.

To see what NPL have planned, or how you can get involved, visit: www.npl.co.uk/reference/measurement-units

Turner's House conservation team win two accolades in RIBA awards



TURNER'S HOUSE
TWICKENHAM

The conservation architects for Turner's House in Twickenham have scooped two honours for the recently restored property in this year's prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects awards.

Butler Hegarty Architects (BHA), who carried out what was described by the judges as a "quietly radical project", won both a RIBA London Award 2018, and the RIBA London Conservation Award 2018.

The great British landscape artist JMW Turner designed the house as a rural retreat for himself and his father in 1813. It appears he was influenced by his friend Sir John Soane (who had his own house at nearby Pitzhanger Manor) in architectural details such as incised external decoration and a sequence of arches in the entrance hall.

After Turner's departure in 1826 upper storeys were added to its wings and further alterations followed.

The building had been on English Heritage's "at risk" register, but, thanks to extensive fundraising, including a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, BHA were able to embark on a £1.2 million conservation project which they completed last year.

RIBA judges commended the bold and "exemplary restoration of Turner's design" which involved demolishing the later additions, including removing external render of the upper wings, remodelling its interior and furnishing it as a museum using the inventory of Turner's London house and the artist's own sketchbooks.

Gary Butler says the house has been returned to a "solemn brick structure" rather than its "polite Regency" incarnation.

Catherine Parry-Wingfield, Turner's House Trust Chair and member of the Conservation Project Team said "These awards are a true reflection of the great skill and dedication of Gary Butler of BHA, Turner's House Trust's conservation architect. We are immensely proud of this achievement and the recognition it gives to our wonderful project."

These awards follow hot on the heels of other accolades awarded to Turner's House this month, as it won two Time Out Love London Awards for Favourite Cultural Spot and Favourite Landmark in Richmond.



To view video of the restoration, click image at left.

Turner's House, Sandycombe Lodge, 40 Sandycombe Road, St Margarets, Twickenham TW1 2LR is open from Wednesday-Sunday: 10-4pm turnershouse.org



The Ruling Class

by Peter Barnes

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Playhouse until 18th May

A review by Georgia Renwick

“Lord”, it’s a word and a title with undoubtedly strong associations. Of power, of reverence, of subservience, of devotion. But placed on the head of a paranoid schizophrenic, heir to an Earldom? It’s enough to strike terror, inspire delirious laughter, and shake up the lives of everyone who must bow to him...



Peter Barnes 1968 play *The Ruling Class*, famously featuring the arresting performance of Peter O’Toole, was a subversive cultural landmark of the late 1960s stage and later, screen. It’s “sledgehammer satire” (*Newsweek*, 1972) took aim at British peerage, politics, public-schooling and our faith in the ‘powers that be’. Fifty years on surely, it must be antiquated, because we’ve sorted all that inequality stuff out since then, haven’t we?



Barry Evans (a self-confessed Barnes fan) boldly brings the first revival of *The Ruling Class* to the stage since Brexit joined the political fray. Fifty years on it turns out, it’s still timely and distinctly uncomfortable to be watching Barnes’ production disrobe our Lordly peers.

Stepping into the shoes of Peter O’Toole, Dane Hardie plays Jack, the heir to the title of the 14th Earl of Gurney. When his father, daringly played by Charles Halford, dies in an autoerotic asphyxiation accident, Jack is called upon to take up his title and place in the House of Lords. There’s just one problem

Read Georgia Renwick’s full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/05/14/ruling

Photography by Sarah J Carter



Sherlock Holmes, the Final Curtain

by Simon Reade after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

World premiere production: Kenny Wax at The Rose Theatre, Kingston until 19th May, then tour continues until 28th July

A review by Mark Aspen

Sherlock Holmes has hung up his deerstalker and extinguished his meerschaum calabash. In Simon Reade's *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain*, now playing at The Rose on its second leg of a national premiere tour, we find him eking out his time at a cottage on the coast in Sussex, dabbling in beekeeping and fly fishing; retired, bored and paranoid.



It is 1921, and the BBC has started a new service, wireless broadcasting. Dr Watson, now a psychoanalyst, has been invited to present a talk on the fledgling service, and he tells about an incident that occurred a few years before, when a dead body of a young woman is discovered on Holmes' private beach. *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain*, takes its inspiration from *The Adventure of the Lion's Mane*, in which the mysterious means of death of a body found on a Sussex beach is solved by Holmes as being the result of a sting by *Cyanea capillata*, the lion's mane jellyfish. However, in this story, the venom is not from jellyfish, as first thought, but from bee stings. It seems that Holmes' current paranoia is justified: someone is trying to frame him, and he suspects that it is by way of revenge for the death of Prof Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls, some three decades previously.

This could have been a promising start for a sequel, but *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain* is full of inconsistencies and confusions, where there could have been intriguing twists, and has a thin plot, and where there could have been verdant opportunities the seeds of promise fail to germinate ...

Read Mark Aspen's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/05/15/holmes-curtain

Photography by Nobby Clark



Iolanthe

by W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

Sasha Regan's All Male Iolanthe

Regan De Wynter Williams at Richmond Theatre until 19th May, then on tour until 28th July.

A review by Eleanor Marsh

Let us get the preconception elephants out of the room first. They are:

1. *Iolanthe* is a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera, therefore it must be dated and boring.
2. This is an all-male version so must cheapen the material and be played for laughs.

Neither is accurate and if this review can make just one person who doesn't already know G&S, or knows them so well they think that any new interpretation is sacrilege, go to see this wonderful company then my work here is done!



W.S Gilbert's storylines are always complicated and a little silly. *Iolanthe* is no exception and requires more of the audience in their suspension of disbelief than most. Here, the initial premise of the discovery of a Narnian wardrobe and dressing up clothes is an excellent device to immediately transport the audience to a land of make-believe. The fairies are obviously fairies because they have wings (made of bunting and other assorted haberdashery) and the Peers are obviously peers because they wear dressing gowns and hats that denote some type of "authority". It is bizarre and wacky, and it works beautifully.

The music itself is a delight and credit must go to Musical Director Richard Baker and Vocal Consultant Alan Richardson for all they've achieved on this show. It is not often a vocal consultant is mentioned in a review but what a job Mr Richardson has done to get all of those (very obvious) men to sing female roles at pitch without the necessity of a rather nasty Mediaeval surgical operation!



Read Eleanor Marsh's fell review art

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/05/17/m-iolanthe

Photography by Buckingham Photography

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Places People Play



The second half of Richmond Film Society's Season comprises the following eight films at The Exchange:

22nd May - Le Havre (Finland)

Directed by Aki Kaurismäki

When a young African stowaway arrives by cargo ship in the port city of Le Havre, Marcel, an ageing shoe shiner takes pity on the child and, with the assistance of friendly neighbours, hides him from the police.

Like 'The Other Side of Hope' - which proved hugely popular when screened earlier this Season by RFS - 'Le Havre' is another instalment in Kaurismäki's proposed trilogy about life in port cities. Once again, it deals with immigration and attitudes to refugees but it does so with all of Kaurismäki's trademark lightness of touch, drollery and deadpan humour. The result is an offbeat, warmhearted and charming film, which garnered fifteen awards worldwide, including at the 2011 Cannes, Chicago and Munich Film Festivals.



<https://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk/>

Richmond Film Society Screening for 2018 Twickenham Festival: 'The Florida Project' (USA) - 12 June

Richmond Film Society's screening for the June 2018 Twickenham Festival is 'The Florida Project' (2017), the acclaimed US Indie drama, directed by Sean Baker.

Set over one summer, the film follows the lives and adventures of a group of young children living in a budget motel near Disney World, whose often transient residents live a hand-to-mouth existence. It focuses, in particular, on a fearless, hyper-active and ebullient little six-year old girl, Moonee, and her loving but dissolute young mother, who is little more than a child herself. Whilst it addresses serious issues facing those living on the margins, the film is, at its heart, a wondrous and humorous child's-eye view of the world, featuring outstanding naturalistic performances from first-time actors and, arguably, a career-best from the Oscar-nominated Willem Dafoe as the world-weary and warm-hearted motel manager.

The film garnered 58 awards worldwide and five-star ratings from The Guardian ("thrillingly vibrant"), the Telegraph ("hysterically rude, visually stunning") and the Independent ("one of the best films made about childhood in recent years").

This screening is free to both current RFS Season 55 members and/or 'early joiners' for Season 56, which commences in September. Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and they can be purchased on the night (cash only) or in advance.



From South Western Railway

Following the Secretary of State's letter dated 20 April explaining that he has commissioned an independent review into operational performance on the South Western Railway network, I thought it would be useful to update you on this review and the initiatives already being taken by ourselves and Network Rail to get performance back on track.

Punctuality on this network has been in decline for a number of years - well before the start of the new franchise last August - and there is no quick fix to getting this back where it should be. Having said that, we are doing everything we can to get performance back to the levels our passengers expect and we want to deliver. Together with Network Rail, we are working on a number of initiatives, to both reduce the occurrence of incidents but also to improve our response to incidents and subsequent service recovery when they do occur.

The nature of our network, with almost all routes converging on the approach to Waterloo, means that delays on one route can quickly spread to other routes. To reduce this cross-contamination we are reviewing our recovery plans to try and protect otherwise unaffected routes. Network Rail is also increasing its asset inspection regime and response capability in the vital corridors into and out of Waterloo and has appointed a lead to oversee this work.

Under the terms of our franchise South Western Railway has a commitment to carry out regular joint performance reviews with Network Rail to identify risks and drive improvements on the network. The first of these is now underway and the Secretary of State has now asked Sir Michael Holden to independently chair this review.

Our franchise agreement contains a performance regime which incentivises us to improve service delivery and, where our performance falls below expected levels, to invest additional money to address this. Under this regime we will be investing £5 million during 2018/19 on initiatives to improve performance.

While typically around 70% of delays on our network are the responsibility of Network Rail, the largest cause of delays under South Western Railway's own control relates to train defects, and a substantial amount of the £5 million we have committed to invest during 2018/19 will be spent on reliability modifications to a number of our fleets. We have also reviewed how we manage disruption and have appointed new staff at the joint Network Rail/South Western Railway control centre in Basingstoke to lead on incident response and help recover the service. We are also looking at how we can improve the management of our train crew during disruption to increase the resilience and recovery of our operations when disruptive events occur.

The ongoing £800m Waterloo upgrade, which will be completed by the end of this year with the reopening of the former Waterloo International Terminal, will provide additional platforms and so give us more flexibility during disruption, which should improve our ability to recover from delays.

We do appreciate how much continued poor punctuality can impact on people's busy lives and this is why, together with Network Rail, we are doing everything we reasonably can to improve punctuality and reduce the number of cancellations and skipped stops of our services. Whilst performance in recent weeks has shown signs of improvement, we know it will take a period of sustained good performance to win back our passengers' trust.

We will not stint in our efforts to get performance back where it should be and welcome Sir Michael Holden's review as an opportunity to analyse our own plans and identify any areas which may be missing. If you have any comments or observations you would like to contribute to the review please forward them to my colleague Jane Lee, Head of Stakeholder and Communications (jane.lee@swrailway.com), who will ensure they reach Sir Michael.

Andy Mellors
Managing Director
South Western Railway

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Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

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