

# The Twickenham Tribune

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# TwickerTape - News in Brief

## THE COMMUNITY FUND

Round 3 of the Community Fund officially launches on Monday 1st April and applications will be accepted until Friday 31st May. I have attached an electronic version of the poster and flyer for this round and would be most grateful if you could share with your organisation and users so that everyone has the opportunity to apply if they are interested.

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_fund](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_fund)

## Is Wellesley Court in Strawberry Hill to be Sold?

Residents in Wellesley Court are concerned that they might lose their homes if the property is sold by their commercial landlord. A number of the tenants are elderly and have lived in their homes for many years. Obviously, this is a very worrying time for residents.

## Architects competition for Twickenham Riverside now open

The hunt for an architect to help design the future Twickenham Riverside site has begun – with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Earlier this year, Richmond Council agreed to commission RIBA to deliver an OJEU compliant Design Competition.

The Royal Institute has extensive experience and is a widely recognised provider of architectural competitions, delivering high profile selection processes for both private and public-sector clients.

They have been supporting the Design Panel to develop a new Brief for the site and following this launch, they will also help guide the evaluation of the expressions of interest and designs submitted by the shortlisted architects.

Over the coming weeks RIBA will invite architects to come forward and express interest in working with the Council on the Twickenham Riverside site.

[https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/news/press\\_office/older\\_news/march\\_2019/architect\\_competition\\_twickenham\\_riverside](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/news/press_office/older_news/march_2019/architect_competition_twickenham_riverside)

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A timely reminder from TwickerSeal that the **clocks go forward on Sunday (31st March)** as we spring forward into British Summer Time (or is it EU Summer Time, it's difficult to keep up with Brexit?)

TwickerBee pointed out that this was fitting considering that this week the council launched the Design Brief and architects competition for Twickenham Riverside and that we can finally start the clock and look to the future, nearly 40 years after the much-loved Lido closed on the site.

TwickerDuck was very pleased to see that, as promised, the council were going for a full site solution along with removing the Embankment parking; disappointingly, boathouses were surprisingly noticeable by their absence from the Design Brief.

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# Twickenham Riverside

*“We lost our local ice rink – let’s bring back some community based fitness, health and family activity”*

- local resident’s comment on the petition site since the brief was published.

It has been three days since the Twickenham Riverside brief was released but so far it has not been published widely. Since the brief appeared on the RIBA website 146 people have signed the Twickenham Lido petition which totals 4,310+ [at the time of writing]. People are trying to make their voices heard – those councillors call the “Hard to Reach”.

The original outdoor pool on Twickenham Riverside was built as a result of a petition by residents – heeded by the Council of the day.

As we know, the pool was suddenly, and unceremoniously, closed in 1980 bringing an end to a healthy and social pursuit enjoyed by those of all ages.

Residents who remember Twickenham Baths lament its passing and wish that their children and grandchildren could enjoy swimming on Twickenham Riverside as they did in the past.

Today, there is great interest in reviving lidos around the the country, albeit, adapted to modern living, although some might miss the obligatory Wagon Wheel and cup of hot Oxo.

<http://lidosalive.com/memories.html>

The absence of the overt inclusion of boathouses in the brief is a huge shame; they were so well supported by residents during the last Council administration that officers were instructed to include them in the later plans.

Of course, once again housing rears its head on this unique spot on Twickenham Riverside. Fifty percent social housing is prescriptive, despite the Right to Buy legislation, which will mean that, in time, properties will become luxury homes with one of the most beautiful views of the Thames.

This administration has perhaps forgotten that during the last days in office in 2010 the Council leader signed a document implementing the Linked Sites Strategy which off-loaded social housing to other roads – and gardens – in the Twickenham constituency. Thus the social housing element has been fulfilled.

So back to the brief – how strange that the outdoor pool and boathouses promoted at the Stakeholders’ Group meetings seem to have lost their way en route to the Design Group.

We can only wonder how the views of minority groups take precedence of over 4,300+ people?

So this is the brief:

[http://twickenhamtribune.com/PDF/Other/Twickenham%20Riverside\\_Mol\\_Final.pdf](http://twickenhamtribune.com/PDF/Other/Twickenham%20Riverside_Mol_Final.pdf)

Let us hope that where some may have failed to listen to residents the architects will come up with a plan which will make the very best of the Twickenham Riverside site and something which can be enjoyed by residents all the time – a true resource for the people of Twickenham.

*A national journalist well versed in the saga of Twickenham Riverside commented:*

***The problem with Twickenham is that successive Council administrations let the residents down ignoring them year after year. “And then they lose an election, and four years later they win it back. The officers are always the same officers, so guess who’s in control?”***

## **A CALL TO RETURN SPORT AND LEISURE TO TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE**

The front of the site, on King Street, has a complex for retail/commercial and residential use. An indoor market reminiscent of modern markets in European cities, such as the Mercato in the Termini in Rome or Sant Antoni Market in Barcelona, flows from the King Street units

There are also options for a pontoon and the bridge linking Twickenham with the other side of the river. Underground parking will be included.



***Click image to view animated walkthrough***

*Drawings by Berkley Driscoll © Berkley Driscoll*

### **THE PETITION**

**[Read a selection of the 4,000+ petition comments HERE -](#)**  
**[See what Twickenham has to say](#)**

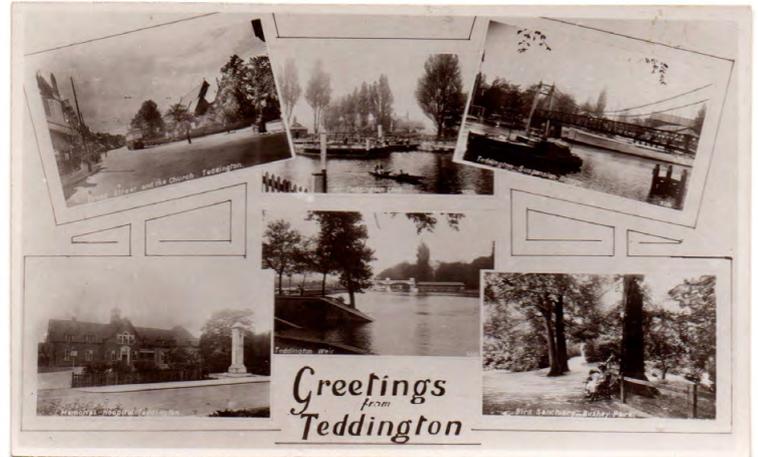
[History of Twickenham \[outdoor\] Baths closed 1980](#)

[History of the East Twickenham Ice Rink closed 1992](#)

# PART 120 - HOW TEDDINGTON GOT ITS NAME

With thanks for input from both the Teddington Society and the Twickenham Museum websites, I thought we might clear up a well-known misunderstanding of how Teddington got its name.

Teddington is an ancient word, although not in its present spelling, meaning “the town or farm of Tudda’s people”. It dates back to pre-conquest Saxon times when Teddington was a manor of Westminster Abbey. In Westminster Abbey’s Muniments Room are various scraps of parchment concerning aspects of manorial life and these include at least thirty-five different spellings for Teddington – from TUDINCGATUN in 968AD, TUDINTUN a year later in 969AD, to TOTTYNGTUN and TODYGTON in 1736.



Teddington is definitely not a corruption of “Tide End Town”, which was wrongly asserted by Rudyard Kipling in his poem *The River’s Tale*, written in 1911.

In 1800 the population of Teddington was under 700, in 100 houses. Although some were substantial they were not palatial. The number of houses had probably doubled by the 1860s, but the population was still only just over 1000. In 1861 the Manor of Teddington, which consisted of nearly half the parish, was sold for the development of desirable villas and to assist this development the railway arrived in 1863. By the end of the century many large and small older houses had been demolished. A number of large houses were built after 1870, and some remain today, but several have been replaced with blocks of flats.



The original centre of the village was the High Street from St Mary’s Church to the village pond just to the west of Elmfield House. The Manor House was opposite the church in Twickenham Road and had probably been built in about 1600. The house, possibly rebuilt or refurbished in 1800, was demolished in 1895.

This week’s postcards are multi-views from the 1950s. They comprise real photographs of places in Teddington at the time and were very popular in their day.

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects. If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I would like to see them and I pay cash!

# Team Mayor go sky high for charity

Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Ben Khosa and colleagues took their fundraising efforts to new heights last weekend raising over £5,000 for the Mayor's charity, Refuge.

The Mayor was joined by Cllr Avril Coelho, Cllr Andree Frieze, Shimon Frieze and Council officers Kathryn Hogarth, Michelle Beaumont, Don Rainbow and Peter Sass for a 12,000ft skydive over the weekend.



Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Ben Khosa said: "What a great day it was over the weekend to plunge 12,000 feet through the air in support of Refuge.

"I'd like to thank the whole team who took part in fundraising and joined me for this unique fundraising activity and all those who donated to the cause."



Refuge supports more than 6,000 people by helping them to rebuild their lives and overcome whatever type of domestic violence and abuse they may have faced.

You can still donate to the cause by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mayors-office2>

Find out more about the Mayor's events and Charity by visiting <https://richmond.gov.uk/mayor>

An advertisement for Shanawaz Express. It features a collage of fresh ingredients including a yellow bell pepper, a mortar and pestle, a bowl of black peppercorns, a red chili pepper, and walnuts. The text includes the restaurant's name, address, phone number, website, and an allergy warning.

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Society

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St Francis de Sales Church  
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Hampton Hill TW12 1JR

See our website for further details

Richmond Concert Society

[www.richmondconcerts.co.uk](http://www.richmondconcerts.co.uk)

# Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



\* denotes new listing

Saturday, 30 March, at 7.45 eves, at Mary Wallace Theatre, Embankment TW1 3DU. Richmond Shakespeare presents ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller.

Info: <http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk>

Thursday, 4 April, 11am & 2pm-6 April, 11am, 2pm & 4.30pm. At Hampton Hill Theatre Dramacube Productions presents ELLIE & STARLIGHT, The Musical, Book by Sarah Watson, play by Kenneth Mason, score by William Morris, designed for children from age 3 upwards

Info: <https://www.dramacubeproductions.co.uk>

\*Saturday, 6 April at 10.00-noon at Hampton Hill Theatre. TW11 1NZ TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB opens its doors once again to welcome all comers to backstage tours and all the nooks and hidden crannies of this local venue. Coffee on tap.

Info: <http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk>

\*Saturday, 30 March, 2.30 & 7.30 at the Normansfield Theatre, TW11 Cantanti Camerati presents SHAKESPEARE IN SONG.

Info: <https://langdondowncentre.org.uk>

Sunday, 31 March at 2.30 at the White House, Hampton, Middlesex Yeomanry Band presents a Concert of favourites from stage & screen, marches and much more.

Info: [judy.morrison1@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.morrison1@btinternet.com)

\*Thursday, 4 April at 8.pm at The Exchange, TW1. DAD'S ARMY: 2 actors bring 25 characters to life in this staging of 3 episodes of this enduring comedy favourite.

Info: <https://exchangetwickenham.co.uk>

\*Saturday, 6 April, 7.30 at the Landmark Arts Centre. AMERICAN TROUBADOURS: Alistair Sherwood performs the music of Bob Dylan, James Taylor, Simon & Garfunkel, Tom Paxton and others.

Info: <http://www.landmarkartscentre.org>

\*Saturday, 6 April, 1.30-6pm at St Mary's Church Hall, TW1 3NX TWICKENHAM CRAFT FAIR Handmade items from local crafter.

Info: [www.twickenhamcraftfairs.co.uk](http://www.twickenhamcraftfairs.co.uk)

\*Saturday, 6 April at 7.30 at All Saints Parish Church, Kingston Teddington Choral Society, under the baton of Julian Collings, sing Rossini's PETITE MESS SOLENNELLE with professional soloists.

Info: [www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk](http://www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk)

\*Sunday, 7 April, 6-8.30 at The Adelaide Pub, TW11 0AU. POETRY PERFORMANCE. Read your own poetry, or just go along and listen.

Info: [warringa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:warringa@blueyonder.co.uk)

Jazz and Rock enthusiasts who regularly attend various bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit the websites below to check what's on.

\* Sunday 7 April, March, at 7.45. TWICKFOLK: SINGAROUND (unplugged and informal)

Info: <http://www.twickfolk.co.uk>

\*Sunday, 31 March at 7.45 TWICKFOLK presents JOSH HARTY, the North Dakota songsmith and guitarist.

Info: <http://www.twickfolk.co.uk>

Tuesdays: at 8 pm TWICKENHAM JAZZ CLUB For future gigs see:

Info: <http://www.twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk>

\*Thursday, 4 April, EEL PIE, 8.30 at The Patch, TW1 3SZ EEL PIE CLUB play host to MARTIN TURNER (ex Wishbone Ash) in WISHBONE GOLD, Spring Tour celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the original band.

Info: <http://www.eelpieclub.com>

Sunday, 30 March at 9pm at the Royal Oak, West Molesey, KTL8 2QG MIDNIGHT RIVER BLUES BAND keeps the old river rolling along once more.

Info: [office@sandragriffin.com](mailto:office@sandragriffin.com)

\*Wednesday, 3 April, at Strawberry Hill Golf Club, TW2 55D. MARK'S JAZZ SESSIONS: JAZZ SPECTACULAR with Alan Barnes, Bruce Adams, Mark Aston, Alan Berry, Terry Davis and Matt Skeaping.

Info: [www.buytickets.at/marksmusic](http://www.buytickets.at/marksmusic)

Alternate Thursdays at 8.00pm at The Turk's Head, Winchester Road, St Margaret's, the Pub Choir invites you to join in and relax.



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*



**BREAKING NEWS**  
**SHOCK DEVELOPMENT**  
New leader chosen to resolve Brexit chaos  
**TTT NEWS**

TwickenhamTribune.com

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## Hats off to clothing recycling residents!

Over 18,000 garments have been recycled by residents of Richmond upon Thames as part of a clothing recycling service in the borough.

The service, provided by West London Waste Authority and clothing charity TR Aid, is simple and easy to use. Residents are able to book a collection by telephone or online for a time when they will be at home and can hand over the textiles directly to the driver.

Any textiles can be donated and can include anything from clothing to shoes to linen, as long as they are in a clean condition. Duvets or pillows will not be accepted. The collected textiles are sorted and then either sold through TR Aid's charity shops, donated overseas or turned into scraps for industrial use.

By recycling five tonnes of wearable clothes the borough's residents have helped save over eight million litres of water and 49 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Cllr Martin Elengorn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Sustainability said: "It is good to see our residents have been taking advantage of this service and recycling thousands of garments. This is helping to reduce the amount of domestic waste being collected and ensures unwanted textiles are instead re-used and recycled."

"If you have any unwanted clothing that you would like collected give TR Aid a call and they'll come to pick them up for you."

Find out more at <https://www.traid.org.uk/clothes-donations/book-a-collection/>

# WHITTON HIGH STREET ELLIS FINE FOODS CLOSED ON THURSDAY

After thirty years on Whitton High Street , Ellis Fine Foods, known for many miles around, had to close its doors due to massive increases in rent and rates.



However, Ellis will continue to sell online from their farm in Chobham.

Delivery will be free over £25 from [www.ellisfarmgate.co.uk](http://www.ellisfarmgate.co.uk)

Whitton High Street will certainly miss Ellis Fine Foods

*Photo by Berkley Driscoll*

# River Crane Sanctuary



## Mothering Sunday



Peacock Butterfly seen last Sunday by The River Crane

What is the definition of mothering now?

The Cambridge English Dictionary states that it is: "The process of caring for children as their mother or caring for people in the way that a mother does."

So much has changed with parenting, relationships, childcare and eldercare over the years but the word 'mothering' is still potent as it can evoke memories of good or bad experiences in our early years and later years with those who were there to care for us or those who we were caring for.

In nature there are examples of 'mothering' which show males as the main caretaker or even 'giving birth' to off-spring. e.g. Sea-Horse. The male Emperor Penguin guards his fragile egg between his feet to keep it warm in a community of other males until the females, hopefully, come back having fed to produce enough food for the young when they hatch. Some wildlife mate for life and some just mate and go!



We caught the above photo, on the left, of a Chiff-Chaff near Mill Road Weir after hearing the call it is named after. The RSPB highlighted recently, in one of their newsletters, the difference between songbirds and those that have a 'call' programmed from birth. The Thrushes, Warblers and Finches are in the group called song birds and they actually practice and perfect their songs over their life span. Goldfinches and Starlings also like to join together in a choir to sing which many humans find so rewarding too. We are all part of nature and we are not so different from each other or our wildlife companions.



*A very happy mothering Sunday to all who are sharing kindness with others and acting considerately towards their neighbours and neighbourhoods.*

*Some behaviours are worth perfecting and keeping whether we were born with them, value them or were lucky enough to have had good 'mothering'.*

All the photos we use here and on our website are copyright: c. Iain and Sammi Macqueen

# CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE TWICKENHAM FILM FESTIVAL 2019

# TWICKENHAM ALIVE FILM FESTIVAL

[www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com](http://www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com)

The Twickenham Alive Film Festival is a community-based film festival inviting submissions of short films, up to 10 minutes, based on four categories:

- Films from within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- Films from the United Kingdom
- Films from outside the United Kingdom
- Films by film students

The suggested theme for submissions is 'Where You Live' and the films can be on any aspect of the area, way of life, attractions, culture, sport or environment of the entrants' home area.

Please contact us if you need further clarification.

Films can be of any genre, such as documentary, drama or animation.

*Click image below to view a previous entry*

## **BEEP TOWN**

**Filmmaker: 8 young people aged 14-16 from the CSS Heybridge**

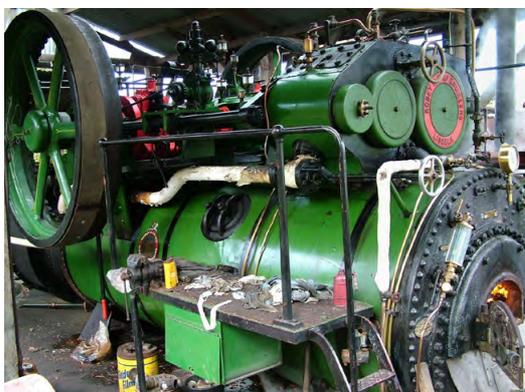
**WHERE I LIVE: MOCKUMENTARY Award 2015**



# Steam, Steel and Shells – 48

By Helen Baker

Back in the 1940s, a Commander John Baldock collected old steam vehicles, housing them at his large house near Liphook (Hants) and renovating them with a group of friends. The Hollycombe Steam Collection was born.



*The first public appearances of the Robey steam engine. © Hollycombe Steam Museum*

In 1969, he acquired a hefty semiportable Robey steam engine. He already knew one of these had worked nearby in the First World War, operated by the Canadian Forestry Corps urgently producing timber for the Front. He knew his own Robey had spent most her life in Chesham powering a brush factory, which sold it off in 1969. He assumed it had first powered a 1WW saw-mill (though not in Liphook); this is what it had been designed for.

The Robey kept on steaming until in 2007 it could steam no more. Then, for the 1WW Centenary, the Hollycombe (now) Trust vowed to re-create the Liphook saw-mill, using their Robey for its true purpose.

They were amazed to learn that it had never been in a 1WW saw-mill in 1WW at all; instead, it had been one of seven magnificent steam engines in the massive Pelabon Munitions Works, centre of the Twickenham-Richmond Belgian refugee community. A surreal but awesome connection between Hampshire and West London had been uncovered.

The ex-Pelabon Robey needed urgent attention to get her back to rights. The engineers tracked down parts, sought inspections and approvals, collected other vintage equipment, and re-landscaped the site. The saw-mill should be in full operation this summer, with the Robey in full steam.

Now we know more about her long-term home at Beechwood Brushes, we know she may well have been used there to cut whole tree trunks into small and smaller pieces needed for brush handles. The factory also had belt-driven operational machinery, though, so maybe she powered both.

And STOP PRESS: Richmond had a Canadian saw-mill of its own! - in East Sheen. Camped probably in Richmond Park, the Canadian foresters must have rubbed shoulders against factory boss Charles Pelabon with his grand house and grand park view. Echoes on echoes upon echoes.

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



*The best way to inspect a steam engine. Hollycombe's JC goes inside! © Hollycombe*



*Working on the Robey steam engine. © Hollycombe*

# ALL MY SONS

by **Arthur Miller**

Directed by Mair Graham

Richmond Shakespeare Society  
**RSS**  
at the Mary Wallace Theatre



**The Mary Wallace  
Theatre**

The Embankment  
Twickenham  
TW1 3DU

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> to  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>  
March 2019**

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Guild of Great Britain and  
affiliated to artsrichmond



***A father is a father.***

# Robyn and The Great River Race

By Bruce Lyons

Once a year ,late Summer, The Great River Race comes to town , not our Town but LONDON Town. The now Iconic GRR as it is called is raced

from the Isle of Dogs (that is down by Canary Wharf for those that don't know ) to Ham on a Saturday Flood Tide – we need that to come up with the tide those 21 miles and 17 bridges !!! Luckily for me this has turned out to be a non-International Rugby weekend, as I do the hotel beds for those softies that prefer to sleep in a bed rather than camp – and it would be really messy if it clashed with Rugby, nice as they are – the fans I mean !!! If it clashed the softy rowers would not get a bed – would they !! For these last 8 years we have been making packages for the GRR , and now have quite a following in the 3000 odd rowers rowing the over 300 boats , many from overseas . We row too in our 112 yr old Robyn , a leisure double skiff built in Staines awhile back, but we sleep on Eel Pie Island, at home !! Moreover we can row back at the end from Ham Car Park – some people have all the luck !!!!



This year the Race is on Saturday September the 14th and this is significant, especially to any locals who would like friends and relatives to enjoy a weekend in London as it is in the middle of the Thames Festival that runs throughout the month of September – with a myriad of Thames Themed events; walks; lectures; boating and Festivals as well as THE GRR . We offer (see our advert) packages for spectators and the GRR has a party on the Ham embankment at the finish (in front of Ham House) with a festive atmosphere, with many competitors relaxing after the 2/3/4hrs (or more in my case) row.



Tell your friends to come. There are so many world famous and unique attractions here to enjoy from Kew Gardens and the Royal Richmond Park to Hampton Court and Ham House, perhaps the Rugby Museum or the Eel Pie Museum. On Sunday you could watch Polo at Ham Polo Club, it's the Jimmy Edwards cup that day or walk to Petersham Nurseries for lunch there's posh and pleb there and take look at our famous Belted Galloways on Petersham Meadows So much fun for all , a great weekend to show off our area but don't tell too many !!!!

# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's Graduate Wins British Boxing Title

Graduate of the Sport Science and Business Management Programmes at St Mary's University, Twickenham Joshua Buatsi has won his first major professional boxing title as he became the British Light-Heavyweight Champion.

seven St Mary's medalists at Rio 2016, and a Bronze Medal at the 2015 European Championships.

Speaking on his triumph, Head of Sport at St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "Winning a prestigious Lonsdale title is

Joshua, who graduated from St Mary's in 2017, defeated Liam Conroy in the third-round by technical knockout allowing him to maintain his unbeaten record in his tenth professional win. This is Joshua's second professional title, having previously secured the WBA International Title in 2018.



Whilst he studied at St Mary's, Joshua was a Sports Scholar competing in amateur boxing. During his amateur career Joshua won a Bronze Medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, one of

something all British fighters value, and we are delighted to see Joshua perform so impressively at this relatively early stage of his professional career."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

02087440474

info@crusadertravel.com

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## THE GREAT RIVER RACE 14 September LONDON'S RIVER MARATHON



In preparation for the GRR which will be held on the 14th of September we are happy to arrange accommodation and additional services for spectators & competitors alike! Information about the rooms & rates available are on the web site

[www.crusadertravel.com/offers/  
the-great-river-race-2019/](http://www.crusadertravel.com/offers/the-great-river-race-2019/)

# Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

## The Twickers Foodie Goes Out And About

Having heard that Young's has taken over **The Park Hotel in Teddington**, and that an extensive refurbishment has ensued, we headed over there to check it out...wow! Talk about a refurb, this is more of a complete remake! It has now been given the distinctive Young's 'stamp' and feels welcoming, stylish, snug, and definitely somewhere one would want to linger over a drink or a meal.



They've sympathetically renovated this Grade II listed building, restoring original features and giving it a cosiness and classiness that, sadly, it's lacked for many a year.

The place is open all day from brunch to dinner but you can also pop in for lunch, a snack or just a drink ...or indulge in afternoon tea. The place is quite a substantial hotel in fact, with over 40 bedrooms all well furnished with top notch finishes.

I'll return soon to do a proper review of the food, once the initial 'brouhaha' has calmed down. Watch this space.

## A weekend in Dorset

We had a family christening last weekend and as there were so many attendees, a group of us checked into the [New Inn, Cerne Abbas](#). We've been going there for years and the current landlords, Annette and Julian, have really upped the game and the place now compares well to many top hotels – but with bags more character! I do recommend this 16th Century former coaching inn with rooms; it's a great base for spending a weekend in Thomas Hardy country.



We arrived on Friday evening and were shown to our lovely room in the stable yard. For old times sake, and as we had booked a family dinner at The New Inn for the Saturday evening, we strolled up the road to the Royal Oak, another ancient pub, also full of character and steeped in history. The pies there were incredibly good and there was beer from the local Cerne Abbas brewery available. This was 'pub nosh' and just what was needed after a drive down from Twickenham that Friday night.



In the morning, our breakfast at The New Inn was excellent, with top quality ingredients and cheerful service. Feeling very replete, we strolled around this 'picture postcard' village before heading off to explore. Cerne Abbas is well situated for visiting Dorchester, Abbotsbury, Sherborne, and Bridport (where we ended up, perusing the many wonderful bric-a-brac stalls that line the streets every Saturday morning). Our family dinner that evening was superb – lots of local ingredients and more of a fine dining slant – there is obviously a skilled brigade in the kitchen. And as the christening was quite early, the New Inn chef kindly came in earlier on the Sunday morning to prepare our breakfasts – now that's what I really call service!. See next page for special offer at The New Inn...

# Special offer for The New Inn, Cerne Abbas

If you are interested in a weekend in the gorgeous Dorset countryside, The New Inn is offering you a 15 per cent discount on their normal price of rooms up till 30 December this year (T&C's apply). Just call 01300 341274, speak to Annette and mention the **Twickenham Tribune offer**.



## Park Hotel, Teddington Opening party Following Refurbishment

This week Young's threw a party to showcase the newly refurbished Park Hotel in Teddington.



Photos by Berkley Driscoll

Dear Sir

## 20mph Speed Limit

It's official, reported in a local newspaper on 15 February 2019, that the Lib Dem council consultation - on 20 mph throughout the borough - was rejected.

Disturbingly, democracy will be ignored as Lib Dem ideology will be imposed - regardless.

But the Lib Dems have 'form' rejecting democracy.

They are campaigning against the EU Referendum result because they didn't get the outcome they wanted.

So much for their claim to be Democrats.

Using Lib Dem logic, we should demand a "People's Vote" on who runs Richmond Council.

Maybe we might overturn last year's poll?

Yours faithfully

Name and Address supplied

# Light Up At Night!!



**Stay Safe**  
When cycling at night  
always use a light

A Twickenham Tribune Campaign  
[www.TwickenhamTribune.com](http://www.TwickenhamTribune.com)

# Our Boat Robyn by Shona Lyons



We have lived on Eel Pie since the late 70s and I suppose because of that I have always loved the water. I suppose that Bruce's love of the river is what drew him to Richmond and Twickenham and one of the reasons he set up his business and brought up his family here in the 60s. When

he was a much younger man he had a flat on Richmond Hill and every morning at the crack of dawn walked through Terrace Gardens to Richmond Canoe Club and then commuted to his job in London. Not much has changed, but now he gets me up too at the crack of dawn and we row to the Richmond and back, stop for a coffee, sometimes we load up on essentials at Tesco's and then row back home and instead on commuting to London we have the joy of wandering to our office just 10 minutes' walk from Eel Pie Island. Rowing is a big part of our lives, Bruce & Hedda were competing in the Great River Race since it started. I joined him about 8 years ago when I came back to Twickenham after living abroad. Hedda my mum used to join us but now it is too much for her but the two of us still do it every year and we try every morning or every other morning to go rowing. It is the most incredible way to start the day. I love it in the winter when it is pitch black and we row often through fog to Richmond where the moon is still shining. Then in spring and summer it is also pretty special when the river is bathed in sunlight and we feel as if we are on holiday for that short couple of hours in the morning with the water glistening all around us. Often Bruce goes for a swim when we get back.



Sometimes we see the local seal which is a real delight. Sometimes we see Kingfishers which are really rare as rare as the seal. We always see geese, swans and all kind of ducks.

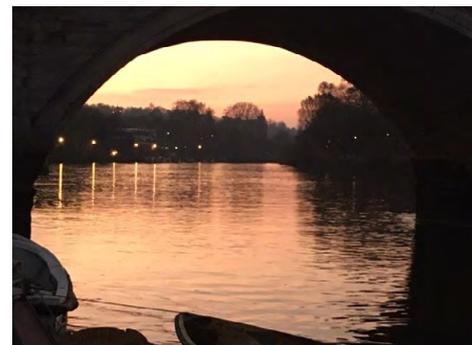
At Christmas we give the man on the raft a big box of chocolates and fruit and things as we always have to have

our morning row and Bruce digs out his Father Christmas hat and we have coffee at tide tables which is the only café open.

We have also gone on much bigger expeditions and have rowed the whole of the Thames now from its source all the way back to Twickenham.

I can't recommend it enough. We can't believe it that most of the time we are the only rowers on the river in the morning. There are a few canoers but very few rowers and definitely very few traditional fixed seat rowers.

If I told you of all our adventures on our boat I would never end but honestly all the details really merge into just one really fun experience with plenty of laughs and a great feeling of adventure.



## All My Sons

by Arthur Miller

Richmond Shakespeare Society, Marry Wallace Theatre, Twickenham, until 30th March

Review by Matthew Grierson

The Keller family may not be perfect, but the three performers who bring them to life in RSS's *All My Sons* are.

Miller's domestic drama is set in suburban Ohio in the aftermath of the Second World War.

As he is introduced to us, Joe Keller seems the godparent of the neighbourhood, play-acting police chief for local kids. However, through Simon Bickerstaffe's steady, nuanced performance, we gradually understand the troubles that beset Joe,

and even as he squanders the sympathy of his family he retains ours, making for compulsive viewing.



The play seems at first concerned with missing son Larry, who never returned from the hostilities, it then opens up the possibility that Joe is implicated in an industrial scandal for which business partner Steve Deever ended up in jail, before finally revealing the two events to be intimately connected.

Kate, Joe's wife, turns to astrology in her need to imagine her son's return, shown in the veiled desperation of Dorothy Duffy's faultless characterisation. While she and Frank are ultimately

proved wrong, fate is nonetheless closing in on the family as a grim consequence of Joe's past actions.

But the breakout star of the production is surely Jack Lumb as the affable, easy-going Chris Keller. Unlike the rest of the characters, Chris is upfront about his failings, but his is the character that undergoes the greatest transformation in the course of the play, and Lumb completely sells it. From boy next door to heartbroken son, no line reading or gesture is misjudged, and in technique and affect alike he proves himself equal to the impressive Bickerstaffe and Duffy as his parents.



Read Matthew Grierson's full review at

[www.markaspen.com/2019/03/24/all-sons](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/03/24/all-sons)

Photography by Rachael Burnham

## Iolanta

by Pytor Tchaikovsky

Rose Opera at the Normansfield Theatre, Teddington until 24<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Didie Bucknall

The scene is set in the paradise garden of an overprotective king who is desperately trying to shield his daughter from discovering that she is blind. She is cosseted by many maidens who tend to her everyday needs. She is oblivious to the fact that she cannot see and is content with much; the sound of the wind in the trees, the smell of flowers, the warming of the sun, but feels a certain melancholy as though something is missing from her life.



*Iolanta*, Tchaikovsky's short lyric opera in one act was performed in the original Russian by the fledgling Rose Opera in the unique Normansfield theatre, still unspoilt with its beautiful arts and crafts decoration and stage settings.

Ukrainian born Tamara Ravenhill took the lead part of *Iolanta* is a beautiful lirico spinto soprano and we look forward to hearing her in future Rose Opera productions. She held the audience, as the blind princess felt her way around the garden.

Intruders arrive. Ian Helm as *Iolanta*'s intended suitor Robert, in fine voice, bewails the fact that though he had been betrothed to *Iolanta* from childhood, as he had been smitten by love elsewhere. Luckily for him it was love at first sight for his friend Vaudémort, played by Andy Evans, and it was he who revealed to *Iolanta* the fact that she was blind, thereby incurring the king's wrath, for a mysterious oriental healer (Aleksi Koponen, another fine baritone) can only heal *Iolanta* if she really wishes to be healed. She makes her decision and, as she gains her sight, we the audience are blinded by the suddenness of the colourful set and the bright light. She shields her eyes and we feel her shock as the stage erupts in a blaze of colour .....



Read Didie Bucknall's full review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/03/25/iolanta](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/03/25/iolanta)

Photography by Tom Medwell

# Spring Serenade

## *Shakespeare in Song*

Saturday 30th March 2019, 2.30pm & 7.30pm



Choral settings from a variety of composers, including Chilcott, Finzi, Morley, Vaughan Williams, Parry, Haydn, Beach, Shearing and others, interspersed with selected readings



Informal seating at tables  
Refreshments/licensed  
bar available

Tickets £15 (under 12s free at matinée or £8 in the evening)  
from Normansfield 0333 1212 300  
or online at [www.langdowndowncentre.org.uk](http://www.langdowndowncentre.org.uk)  
or Cantanti Camerati 020 8898 8020  
or on the door if available.

**Normansfield Theatre**

2A Langdon Park

Teddington, TW11 9PS

[www.cantanticamerati.org.uk](http://www.cantanticamerati.org.uk)

Registered Charity no. 287337-R

## A Nice Dilemma

Hounslow Light Opera Company, short tour until 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Review by Eleanor Lewis

Hounslow Light Opera's spring musical revue, *A Nice Dilemma*, took the form of a selection of show songs and medleys loosely brought together by a script in which an amateur operatic society tries to decide on which show to do next. A small group of actors played the part of the society's committee members discussing past shows, possible shows and favourite shows. The rest of the company, on cue from these sections of conversation, performed a selection of songs from each show.

Dressed in black, the company and performed a range of show favourites including work by Stephen Sondheim, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Gilbert & Sullivan and others. HLOC is at its strongest in choral work and this was clear from their rendition of both Marc Shalman and Scott Wittman's *You Can't Stop the Beat* and a Rodgers & Hammerstein medley in the second act – they were evidently both comfortable and confident with the music and it made a significant difference to the level of performance.



The musical accompaniment of Lee Dewsnap, HLOC's Musical Director, who played keyboard with a genuine passion, also raised the level and buoyed the company along. When amateur singers are comfortable the possibilities are probably not endless, but definitely greater than when they're nervous. Credit must therefore be given to Chris Blackmore who maybe does not always perform solo but gave a very decent rendition of West Side Story's *Somewhere*, again, despite nerves. There were other brave soloists not specifically named in the programme, a sweet (uncredited) voice sang the opening of *The Sound of Music* ... ..

Read Eleanor Lewis' full review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/03/24/dilemma](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/03/24/dilemma)

Photography by St Erudite



## Wise Children

Adapted by Emma Rice, from the novel by Angela Carter

Old Vic and Wise Children, Richmond Theatre, until 30<sup>th</sup> March, then on tour until 6<sup>th</sup> April

Review by Matthew Grierson

There are at least three sets of twins in *Wise Children* – it's hard to count, given they're each portrayed by several different pairs of actors. One brace of brothers, Melchior and Peregrine Hazard, are distinguished by their respective interests in art and fun. Happily the play itself makes no such distinction: art and fun are identical. In fact this play has little truck with binaries of any kind, and makes a virtue of the cast's capacity to double, as well as their universal excellence in dance, song, gymnastics and lightning-quick costume changes. Gender is equally fluid, with twins Nora and Dora Chance portrayed by men for at least some of their lives, flaunting the show's debt to panto and music hall.



With a timespan of 75 years, this is a London as much mythic as historical. Time passes, and the Chance-Hazard family's antics remain centre stage. On their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dora and Nora (Gareth Snook and Rice herself) are looking back on their lives "sarf" of the river, and forward to a party on the opposite bank that evening. These Chelsea festivities are being held, however, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of their father, famous thesp and infamous philanderer Melchior Hazard.

This prompts the re-enactment of the family story. Nora and Dora narrate, and the family's lives are recreated by a troupe of performers who weave in and out of the characters around them. We are often watching plays within plays within plays, in a space that is part dressing room, part stage and entirely magical.

Paul Hunter is distinctly charismatic as both Melchior and end-of-the-pier entertainer Gorgeous George. He even ends up marrying himself when he elopes with his earlier incarnation! Meanwhile Omari Douglas drags up as Showgirl Nora to brilliant effect, and he's ably matched by Melissa James's Showgirl Dora. Although the teenage twins emerge as individual characters, neither can help falling for Patrycja Kujawska's taciturn Blue-Eyed Boy. Cue a series of acrobatic simulations of sex ... ..



Read Matthew Grierson's full review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/03/28/wise-child](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/03/28/wise-child)

Photography courtesy of Wise Children Company

100+4+300=39



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# The 39 Steps

By Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan

The Questors at The Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 30<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Viola Selby

Right at the beginning our protagonist, Richard Hannay, states that being bored with life, he needs a bit of excitement – and this is exactly what he and the audience get! For a story that has been told many times in many ways for many years, Rudkin manages to keep this adaptation fresh and the audience on the edge of their seats whilst wiping away tears of laughter. The four actors to use the props to create some superbly choreographed slapstick silliness. They made this performance appear to be effortless,



when actually it is anything but, with over 300 sound and lighting cues carefully designed by Tim Hayward and Christopher Smith. It is clear to see how both the cast and crew work wonders to make this play one not to be missed!

Richard Graylin as Richard Hannay makes for a superlative lead and his captivating performance as the rather handsome gentleman with the even more handsome pencil line moustache ensures audience members are constantly rooting for him, even during his many setbacks and consistent flirting with any pretty young lass he meets. Whilst

Claire Durrant manages perfectly to portray not just one female role, but three, all with such different personas and with accents ranging from German to Scottish! No matter which role she plays, Durrant's chemistry with Graylin is powerful and a great source for many of their most hilarious moments together, especially one involving handcuffs and a pair of stockings.

However, *The 39 Steps* would be nothing without its two clowns, brilliantly acted by Freddy Sledge and Nicholas Thomas who effortlessly slip into a multitude of different characters, often in the same scene.



Read Viola Selby's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2019/03/23/39-steps](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2019/03/23/39-steps)

Photography by Robert Vass

## Stadium success as first challenge of its kind in the country raises thousands for Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Supporters of local children's charity Shooting Star Children's Hospices quite literally rose to the ultimate challenge on Saturday 23rd March, taking on the iconic Twickenham Stadium and its thousands of steps to raise vital funds for the families the charity support. The Stadium Challenge, the first of its kind in England tasked participants to step up and climb thousands of steps raising nearly £40,000 and counting so far. The event was the charity's biggest climbing challenge to date, and marked the first time Twickenham Stadium has ever hosted such an event.

A total of 272 participants passed through the hallowed tunnel into the stadium to embark on their chosen route. The three different routes meant the challenge could be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and abilities. From the youngest participant, baby Jack, who at just a few months old, stayed cosy in his buggy as he and his family took on the accessible family route around the pitch; to the oldest participant, 82-year-old Tony, a stalwart supporter of the charity who took on the classic route of 3,200 steps with his nine-year-old neighbour Hugo.



There were even some international supporters as seasoned challengers flew the 5,556 miles from Mexico to take on the challenge. The pair completed the Ultra route, which covered all three tiers of the stadium and the 7,600 steps in under an hour! With no time limit, participants could take on the routes at their own pace, allowing them to take in the amazing atmosphere of one of the world's most iconic surroundings. From groups, individuals, friends and families, this year's Stadium Challengers (some donning brilliant outfits) smiled and cheered their way through the routes.

Mandy, who took on the classic route with her son's Dan and Joe, did it in memory of family friend Jess who received end-of-life care and support from Shooting Star Children's Hospices. Jess sadly died in September last year, just a month before her 11th birthday. Despite never taking on a challenge like it, Mandy channelled Jess' mantra; "If anyone was worrying about her or feeling anxious Jess would say to us 'Don't worry it's a waste of a day – so stop.' So that's what we did when we took the challenge on," said Mandy. "We loved it and can't wait for next year!"

Once participants crossed the pitch side finish line, they had to ascend just a few more steps to reach the Royal box to celebrate their achievements and be presented with their official Stadium Challenge Finishers medal. Afterwards, enjoying a well-deserved hot lunch and massage to relieve those aching legs.

If you'd like to step up to the challenge next year – you can register your interest here at [www.shootingstar.org.uk/stadium-challenge/](http://www.shootingstar.org.uk/stadium-challenge/)

**Shooting Star**  
**Children's Hospices**

# FOOTBALL FOCUS

By Alan Winter



## BRENTFORD FC

### MIXED FORTUNES FOR BEES ON INTERNATIONAL DUTY

An amazing finish to Denmark's opening Euro 2020 qualifier this week as they scored 3 goals in the last 6 minutes to draw 3-3 with Switzerland. Brentford's Henrik Dalsgaard rose high in the 3rd minute of injury time to head home an incredible equaliser. The goal was Henrik's first in 20 appearances for his nation and means he has still lost just once in 90 minutes in Danish colours.



Saïd Benrahma also had an evening to remember as he earned his first Algeria cap in three-and-a-half years. The attacker was included from the start as The Desert Foxes took on Tunisia. Saïd played 75 minutes for his nation, earning his second cap in total, as they won 1-0 thanks to a Baghdad Bounedjah penalty 20 minutes from time.

Ezri Konsa also featured this week as England's Under-21s suffered a late defeat to Germany at The Vitality Stadium. The two sides traded first-half goals through Mahmoud Dahoud and Dominic Solanke as the Young Lions sought to extend their 18-game unbeaten run. However, unmarked Felix Uduokhai popped up with a scrappy injury-time goal to win it for the visitors. Ezri played the final 20 minute in Bournemouth to earn his sixth Under-21 cap.

David Titov earned his second under-21 cap for Latvia in the 1-1 draw with Ukraine on Tuesday. Goalkeeper Ellery Balcombe and England's Under-20s suffered a narrow defeat to Portugal in their latest Elite League outing. Ellery came into the starting XI following last week's 3-1 defeat to Poland. The only goal came after the break as Ben Godfrey was dispossessed on the edge of the box, the ball squared for Pedro Correia to tap home. The appearance was Ellery's third at Under-20 level to go with a further 12 at younger age groups.

## COMING UP NEXT

It's Wigan Athletic away today (Saturday 30th March 3.00 Kick off). This is followed by a visit to Swansea City on Tuesday night. Next home game for Brentford is next Saturday April 6th at Griffin Park against promotion chasing Derby County.

Come on you Bees!

# HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH FC

## POINT AT DARTFORD EASES RELEGATION FEARS

### DARTFORD 2 - HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH 2

A deflected goal for Dartford in the closing moments of the game cruelly snatched away a crucial win for the Beavers at Princes Park last Saturday. Chris Dickson's superb strike, from a tight angle, looked to have won it for the Beavers with ten minutes to play. His effort, though, was cancelled out by McQueen's deflected effort.



Hampton took an early lead inside the first ten minutes through Oliver Sprague. His neat finish into the bottom right following a Ricky Wellard corner the difference in a closely contended first half. When Sprague brought down Noble inside the area early in the second half, Dartford got the luck they needed. Debutant Beavers keeper, Maynard-Brewer, despairingly unable to keep out Sheringham's penalty.

When Gary McCann brought on Harry Crawford he made an immediate impact, linking up well with Zak Joseph, Crawford created the room for Dickson to strike home. But, with five minutes added on, Hampton were under increasing pressure from the home side. McQueen's equaliser, wrong-footing Maynard-Brewer, taking a huge deflection off Sprague.

This now leaves the Beavers in 15th place with 39 points and six games left to play. Hampton are at home to Hungerford Town today (March 30th) in the National League (South). Kick Off is 3.00 pm.

## Part-Time Book Keeper Required

We are looking for a Book Keeper to work part time (3 days per week) at our office here in Twickenham. You should be Sage trained, have good organisational skills, be reliable, accurate and have a good telephone manner.

If you are interested in this position please call: **020 8894 1799**

Or alternatively email:  
[david@skyelectrical.co.uk](mailto:david@skyelectrical.co.uk)

**skyelectrical**

# Traveller's Tales 24

## SUR LE PONT

Doug Goodman visits Avignon and enjoys Rhone wine



Avignon in the Vaucluse Department of South East France is one of my favourite places. With a population of 100,000, a mild year-round climate, a wonderful choice of museums and historic buildings, it's the centre for Provencal gastronomy and, best of all, it's the place to drink the finest Rhone wines. Avignon has the UNESCO sites of the Cathedral, the Pont D'Avignon and Le Palais des Papes, the world's largest Gothic Palace. Seven Popes ruled from the city between 1309 and 1377 when the region was Italian. It was not until the 1791 French Revolution that Avignon broke away from Papal control to become part of France.

Take a city tour by bus or electric train to get your orientation but the nicest way is to just walk the city walls, explore the old winding streets and discover quiet squares and churches. Les Halles market is filled with colourful produce and a real attraction for visitors. The two fine arts museums I enjoyed most were the Calvet and Angladon, both housed in magnificent mansions. The Palais Du Roure is for local art and traditions and covers Provencal history. A city weekend will give you time to cover the main sites but with a week you'll have time to take a Rhone River cruise, visit some of the famous towns of Arles, Nimes, Orange, Aix-en-Provence and tour the vast wine region.



City View



Sur le Pont



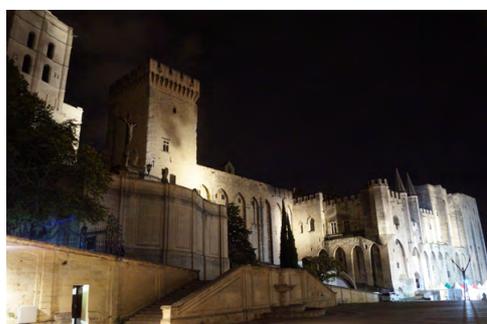
Rich and Fruity

Travel from London is easy as I found last year: just under 6 hours from St. Pancras to Avignon city centre station on Eurostar and the TGV with a simple change at Lille. The TGV bound for Marseilles was a very pleasant journey especially south of Lyon along the river. There is also a direct service from London to Avignon's TGV station outside the city. An early breakfast in Twickenham and a late lunch in sunny Avignon is perfectly feasible.

## RICH AND FRUITY.

On a school exchange I spent a month in Tain L'Hermitage, a riverside town, some way north of Avignon. Outside my bedroom window on a steep hillside covered in dark, ripe grapes were emblazoned growers' signs – Jaboulet et Freres was one I remember well. The family I stayed with introduced me to their relative who produced the famous Crozes Hermitage.

That first taste clearly had an effect as I always prefer a deep red, fruity wine and a Croze Hermitage if I can afford it. Meeting friends abroad is always an opportunity to celebrate and that's what we did on the occasion of friends' 50th wedding anniversary. A half day Rhone cruise followed by a family garden party was the perfect way to see some of the castles and vine-covered slopes and an excellent way of improving my French! In July the lavender fields are at their best and the perfume from the plants is intoxicating.



Palace at Night



Palais des Papes



Abbey in Villeneuve les Avignon

## CROSSING THE RHONE.

Within walking distance across The Rhone by the road bridge – sadly not across Le Pont D'Avignon - is Villeneuve Lez Avignon. This medieval town was the holiday retreat for the cardinals in the 14th century. The well preserved 6th century



Products from Provence

Benedictine Abbey is the perfect spot for contemplation and escape from the city across The Rhone. Take lunch in the courtyard of one of the pretty inns and then work off the calories by ascending the tower of Phillippe Le Bel, founder of the town and King of France from 1285 to 1314. The view across the Luberon region towards the Alps is spectacular.

# England men U18s defeat France in Cheshunt

England U18s followed up last weekend's win over Scotland with a 33-12 victory over France at Cheshunt RFC.

Having beaten Scotland 36-21 in Billingham, Jim Mallinder's side produced another impressive performance, scoring five tries in Sunday's win. England led 26-0 at the break with tries from Tom Roebuck, Max Ojomoh, Alfie Barbeary, Josh Gillespie and three George Barton conversions.

A second-half score from Raphael Quirke extended the lead before two Paul Mallez tries reduced the deficit.

England started well and Roebuck crossed for an early try, catching Barton's crossfield kick before jinking through. Ojomoh, scored on his U18s debut, as he finished off Louis Lynagh's break through midfield for a second try inside 10 minutes.

Barbeary bundled over from close range for a third while Gillespie flew over on the left wing for a fourth England try which Barton converted for 26-0.

Quirke sniped over shortly after the break which Curtis converted before France got their first score of the game through Mallez, who also crossed late on for a second.

In April an U19s side will play Wales in Bridgend before the U18 Six Nations festival which is being hosted by England Rugby at Hartpury College and University. England U18s will play Wales, Ireland and France at that tournament.

The U18s are led by pathway performance coaches Mallinder and Steve Bates, alongside consultant coaches Mark Luffman, Sean Marsden and Jonathan Fisher.

Luffman (Darlington Mowden Park), Marsden (Bristol Bears academy) and Fisher (London Irish) all join for the season as part of the coach development agreement.

Jim Mallinder said: "We are really pleased, especially in the first half when we were outstanding.

"We've only really had two days training so to put together a performance like that was a real credit to the players. Defensively we were very good, especially in that first half, and to score five tries is testament to the hard work of the players.

"We've got a good group, defensively you see the spirit of the team, our set piece worked well in the first half and we scored some good tries.

"We need to try and continue to move the team forward now. Some of these players will be involved in the U19 fixture and others at the Six Nations Festival in April. So we want to see them continue to improve and develop during those games."



# Bedroom smoke alarms are essential says London Fire Brigade

Smoke alarms should be fitted in bedrooms as new figures show that bedroom blazes are at the highest level for five years. The research, released in National Bed Month, shows that there were 12 bedroom fires a week in London. The Brigade is urging people to fit smoke alarms in all bedrooms to give a vital early warning if a fire starts.

The new figures also reveal that nearly half of all bedroom fires last year were caused by smoking or candles. A quarter (24.6 per cent) of all bedroom fires in 2018 were caused by matches or candles and a fifth (20.7 percent) by smoking. Electrical equipment was also a common cause.

Location	Fire Started	Parenting Source	2018		
			Fires	Fire Deaths	Fire Injuries
Bedroom		Matches and candles	154	5	49
		Smoking related (blank)	130	2	63
		Other domestic style appliance	73	3	24
		Electricity supply	47	1	15
		Heating equipment	63	-	7
		Electric lighting	58	-	11
		Naked flame	51	1	12
		Cooking appliance	36	4	13
		Office equipment	8	-	1
		Industrial equipment	4	-	1
		Fuel/Chemical	1	-	-
		1	-	-	
<b>Bedroom Total</b>			<b>626</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>196</b>

London Fire Brigade Assistant Commissioner Dan Daly said:

“Homes need multiple smoke alarms or you won’t be properly covered. Ideal spots for smoke alarms include rooms where you leave electrical equipment running like satellite boxes, computers or heaters; any room where you smoke, and anywhere you charge your mobile or laptop. As a minimum you should have smoke alarms on every floor - in the hallways and in the rooms you use the most, plus a heat alarm in the kitchen.

“There are a number of other things you can do to keep your home and bedroom as safe from fire as possible, including never leaving candles unattended and never smoke in bed.”

The figures also show in London last year:

- There were 626 fires which started in bedrooms.
- 16 people died as a result of fires that started in bedrooms and 196 people were injured.

Smoke and fire alarm must-knows

- Don’t just fit a smoke alarm in your hall and landing – also fit them in any room where a fire can start. For example, any room where you smoke or leave appliances plugged in.
- Keeping internal doors closed will help to prevent the spread of smoke and fire.
- Smoke alarms are not suitable for kitchens but heat alarms are. Fitting a heat alarm in your kitchen will give you warning of an increase in temperature caused by a fire but will not be set off by cooking fumes.
- Some battery or mains alarms can be interlinked, so that when one alarm detects a fire they all go off together, giving you warning wherever you are in your home. This is particularly important where a person has any issues that may prevent or delay their escape to ensure they are alerted to a fire as soon as possible.
- If you choose to have a mains-powered alarm, make sure it’s installed by a qualified electrician.
- The Brigade offers free home fire safety visits where firefighters visit people at home to provide fire safety advice, will fit free smoke alarms where needed and other fire safety interventions such as fire retardant bedding.



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# Saturday 20th April

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# Supporting disabled people to work

## Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Department for Work Pensions (the Department) has limited evidence of what works when it comes to supporting disabled people to work, according to the National Audit Office (NAO) in its report published today. The number of disabled people in work has risen by 930,000 (31%) in the last five years, but this has not been matched by a reduction in the number of disabled people who are out of work.

The NAO found that the government's headline goal of getting 1 million more disabled people into work from 2017 to 2027 cannot be used to measure the success of its efforts. The Department itself recognises that this measure cannot be linked directly to any specific government policy or programme. Broader factors, such as more people who are already in work reporting a disability, and rising employment rates, have a significant effect on the measure. It therefore lacks a target for which it is willing to be held to account.

The Department set its goal as part of a 10-year strategy on work, health and disability. The NAO found that two years into this strategy, it has not yet developed detailed proposals in key areas or an implementation plan covering the full 10 years. The Department has established a Work and Health Unit as a useful first step towards cross government collaboration on supporting disabled people to work.

The 1 million goal replaced the government's 2015 goal to halve the disability employment gap<sup>1</sup>. That gap has only narrowed by 4 percentage points since 2015 and is still high at 30 percentage points. The potential demand for the Department's support is substantial, with at least 600,000 disabled people classified by the Department as fit for work, or fit for work related activity.

The NAO has found that despite the Department's decades of experience supporting disabled people it does not yet know as much as it could about what works in helping disabled people to get and keep jobs. It has also missed opportunities over the years to assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of its programmes, leaving it with limited evidence to support its current efforts.

The Department has now renewed its commitment to improving its understanding of this issue and trialling new approaches. The NAO welcomes this focus on evidence but warns that turning the results of trials into a clear and funded strategy for more transformational change will not necessarily be straightforward. There may not be a silver bullet and the results of many of the Department's trials will also not be ready until after 2020 which is likely to be too late to feed into the next spending review or deliver "transformation" by the Department's promised date of 2022.

As part of rolling out Universal Credit, the Department has said it wants to create a more supportive environment and culture in which work coaches, who are the front-line staff in job centres, deliver personalised and tailored support to claimants. In practical terms, this means

engaging with claimants to: understand their circumstances to help assess their barriers to work; agree appropriate goals; refer claimants to specialist employment support and tailor the conditionality regime for their benefits.

But the NAO warns that work coaches can only be expected to do so much. Disabled claimants often have multiple and complex barriers to work. Under Universal Credit, disabled claimants normally see a generalist work coach. While work coaches have considerable discretion in how they interact with claimants, their training in disability issues or formal coaching techniques is limited. The Department has funded additional specialist staff to help work coaches understand claimants' needs and the range of support options available. Work coaches told the NAO that they valued this support highly.

The Department now believes its previous target-driven culture created perverse incentives, encouraging work coaches to focus on those who were easiest to help into work, even if their employment was only temporary. Since 2017 it has stopped local reporting of targets and performance measures at job centres to try to create a more supportive environment tailored to claimants' needs.

The Department's approach to monitoring job centre performance leaves it with gaps in its understanding of how its job centres are providing services to disabled people. For example, it cannot assess the claimant commitments, the goals that each claimant and their work coach agree under Universal Credit, without reviewing each case, so it cannot assess whether disabled people are treated consistently between jobcentres or over time.

There is also a risk that as work coaches' caseloads increase, service might worsen. The number of claimants each work coach is responsible for is expected to increase from around 130 currently to over 280 as more people move onto Universal Credit. Within this, the number of claimants per work coach in the intensive work search group (who require the most time with work coaches) is expected to increase from 96 to 133 (an increase of 39%). There is some evidence that indicates more time spent with disabled claimants leads to better employment outcomes. It is not clear that work coaches will be able to maintain the amount of time spent with claimants who have barriers to work, let alone meet the Department's aim of increasing time with disabled people who are furthest away from working.

**Amyas Morse, the head of the NAO, said today:**

"I welcome the Department for Work and Pensions' renewed commitment to focus on improving the culture of its job centres and its evidence base. But, with that said, given it has been supporting disabled people to work for a long time, it is not beyond reason to expect the Department to know 'what works' by now and it is disappointing that it does not. It has yet to make a significant dent in the number of disabled people who are out of work, some of whom say they would like to work given the right support."



National Audit Office

# Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

2nd April, 8:15PM (Note later start time)

## Faces, Places (France)

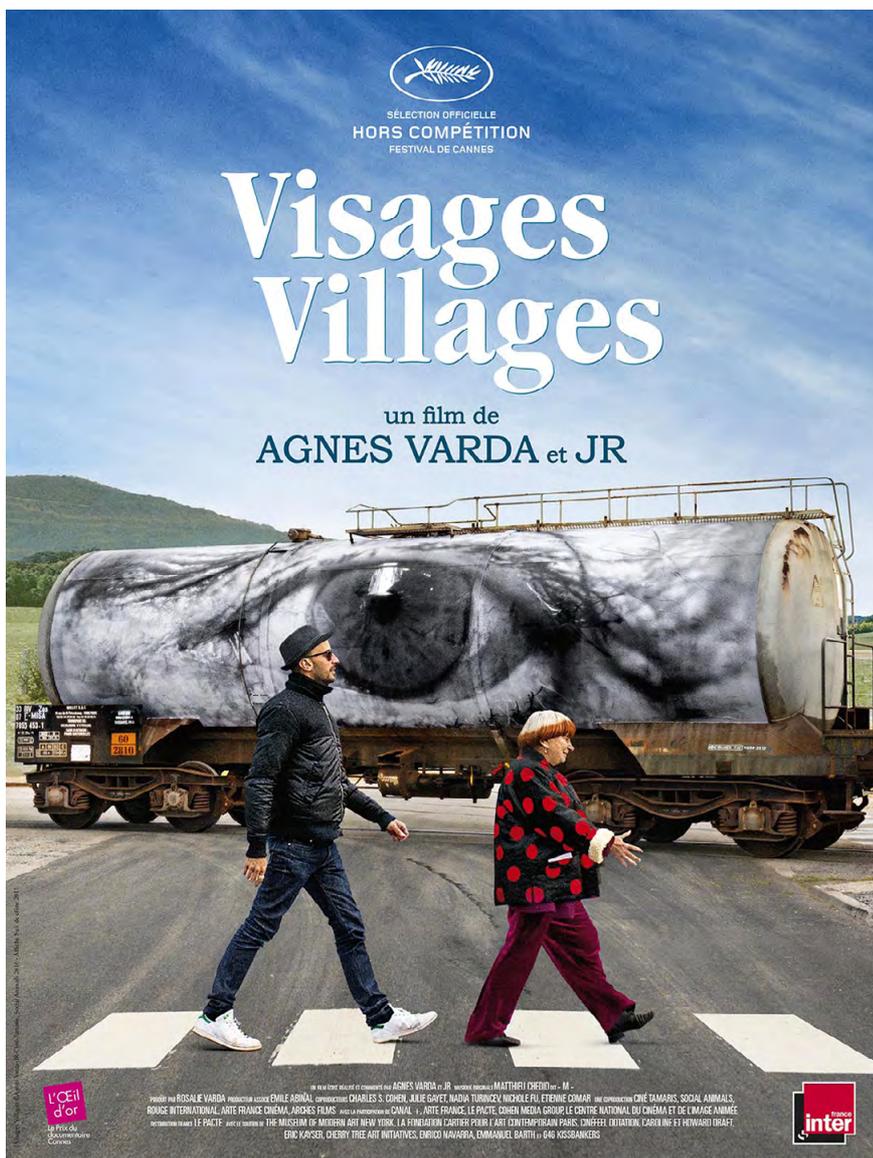
Directed by JR and Agnès Varda

Filmmaker Agnes Varda joins forces with JR, a street artist and photographer to roam the French countryside in his van. No ordinary van, it contains a camera capable of producing extraordinary photos to the delight and surprise of all who venture inside it !

[www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk)

Films are screened at 8:00pm at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. Members go free. Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3). Tickets can be purchased on the night (cash only) or in advance from The Exchange's Box Office – in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online

Facilities include a very comfortable, tiered 285-seat theatre, lifts, disabled access, a bar and a café. Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp, with no trailers and no ads. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and the auditorium opens at 7.30pm.



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Eighth Page

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