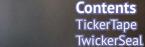
# Twickenham TRUBINER Richmond TRUBINER



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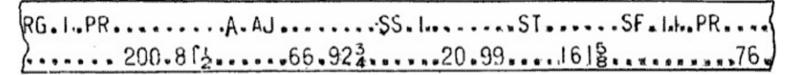






18th February 2022

Est 2016



# TickerTape - News in Brief

#### **Richmond Business Improvement District returns**

The Richmond Business Improvement District, Be Richmond, has been given a further fiveyear mandate after a vote by local businesses. You can find out more about Be Richmond HERE

## Report of knife attack near Twickenham Bridge

Two women have reported being threatened by a man wielding a large curved knife. The incident happened on Ducks Walk on Saturday evening, 12th February. There were no injuries and the police are investigating the matter.

### Richmond Council shortlisted for Small Business Friendly Borough Award

Richmond Council's Phoenix Enterprise Programme was shortlisted by London Council's Small Business Friendly Borough Awards as a Best Programme of Support for Small Businesses.

The 2022 awards ceremony took place on Wednesday 16 February 2021 at the London Guildhall. Richmond Council was represented on the day by Cllr J-F Burford, Cllr Richard Baker, Susan Shaw and Euphrasie Mundele-Kilolo.

## Richmond Carers Centre is looking for a new treasurer

Richmond Carers Centre is seeking to recruit a treasurer to join a board of eight trustees. As treasurer, you will be part of a group leading and governing Richmond Carers Centre, ensuring we comply with our legal obligations as a charity, meet our aims and objectives, and deliver a high quality services to local unpaid carers.

Anyone can become a carer and often carers do not realise for some time that this is what they are. Many feel they are just doing their duty as a spouse, friend, or family member and no more than anyone else in their situation would do. Becoming a carer is not a choice that people make, it is the outcome of a change in circumstance, and many do not realise there is support available. Read the full job description to find out more about the role <u>HERE</u>

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TwickerSeal and chums met up on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens for a regular get together.

It was the calm before Storm Eunice hit and they hoped that our borough would not be damaged too badly. With such a green borough, TwickerMole was especially concerned for our trees.

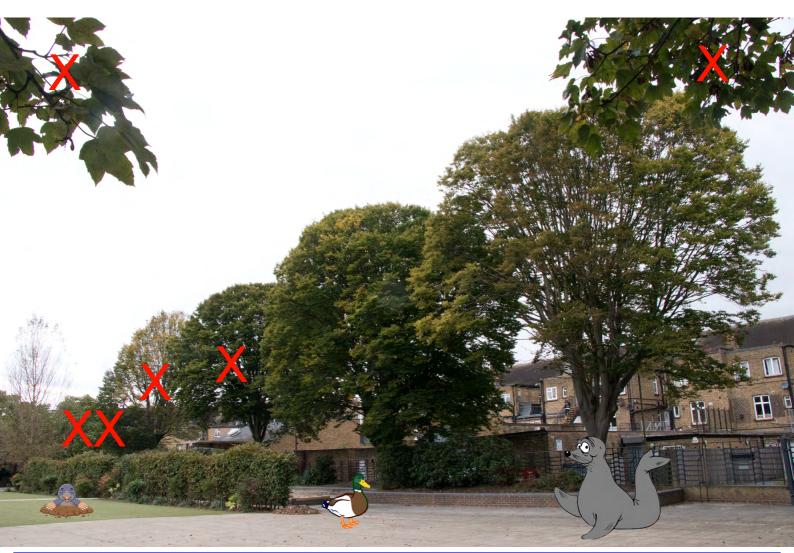
Actually, pointed out TwickerDuck, our council has just written to the Government demanding more powers to protect trees.

Hang on said TwickerSeal, is this the same council that wants to cut down 37 trees on Twickenham Riverside, i.e. all but two trees on the site, including the seven healthy Pin Oaks on the Embankment?

Well yes, said TwickerMole, doesn't quite sound right, does it?

At least they're being cut down for a good cause said TwickerDuck.

Yes ... er ... for private luxury housing, said TwickerSeal. That's a good cause ... isn't it?



# COVID 19

Teresa Read

#### **World Health Organization**

Weekly Epidemiological 15 February

During the week of 7 to 13 February 2022, the global number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by 19% as compared to the number reported during the previous week, while the number of new deaths remained similar to that of the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, just over 16 million new cases and just under 75 000 new deaths were reported. As of 13 February 2022, over 409 million confirmed cases and over 5.8 million deaths have been reported globally

At the regional level, the Western Pacific Region reported an increase of 19% in the number of new weekly cases while all other regions reported decreases: the South-East Asia Region (37% decrease), the Region of the Americas (32% decrease), the African Region (30% decrease), the European Region (16% decrease) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (12% decrease).

The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (38%), the Western Pacific Region (27%), the African Region (14%) and the Region of the Americas (5%), while it remained similar to that of the previous week in the European Region and decreased in the South-East Asia Region (9%)

# WHO ANNOUNCES FIRST TECHNOLOGY RECIPIENTS OF MRNA VACCINE HUB WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN PARTNERS

At the European Union - African Union summit in Brussels – 18 February - WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced the first six countries that will receive the technology needed to produce mRNA vaccines on the African continent. **Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia** all applied and have been selected as recipients.

The global mRNA technology transfer hub was established in 2021 to support manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries to produce their own vaccines, ensuring that they have all the necessary operating procedures and know-how to manufacture mRNA vaccines at scale and according to international standards.

The WHO mRNA technology transfer hub is part of a larger effort aimed at empowering lowand middle-income countries to produce their own vaccines, medicines and diagnostics to address health emergencies and reach universal health coverage.



#### Total cases Locally to 13 February 2022

Richmond upon Thames	55,560 (54,360 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	50,081 (49,132 previous week)
Hounslow	84,232 (83,047 previous week)
Wandsworth	99,669 (97,727 previous week)

#### **COVID IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK**

Economic Times. India Times 18 February 2022: Small Covid-19 particles may remain moist, airborne and travel farther than previously thought, research suggests

Aljazeera, 18 February 2022: South Korea extends business curfew as COVID-19 cases top 100,000

News18 Sky, 17 February 2022: Cases of 'Deltacron' Covid Variant Found in UK Samples, Says Health Agency; Nation Monitoring Strain

TRT World, 17 February 2022: Brazil registers nearly 1,100 Covid deaths in a day

Ukrinform, 16 February 2022: COVID-19 in Ukraine: 33,330 daily cases confirmed

Economic Times of India, 15 February 2022: Omicron threat remains high in east Europe - WHO

Sky, 15 February 2022: COVID-19: Hong Kong overwhelmed by 'onslaught' of fifth wave of infections

# Are you pregnant and have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine?

South West London NHS are organising a virtual Q&A for people who are pregnant and have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Q&A will be held as a Microsoft Teams webinar on Wednesday 23 February at 6pm.

Get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine, and hear from:



Becky Board – Midwife and Associate Director at Croydon Hospital Rosie Goode – Hypnobirthing Teacher and Birth Doula

Sheena Byrom OBE – Midwife

Register for the webinar **HERE** 

# Blue Plaques

By Simon Fowler

London's famous blue plaques link the people of the past with the buildings of the present. Now run by English Heritage, the London blue plaques scheme was started in 1866 and is the oldest of its kind in the world.

Across the capital over 950 plaques, on buildings humble and grand, honour the notable men and women who have lived or worked in them. There are 26 such plaques in Richmond-upon-Thames together with a number of unofficial plaques.

#### The English Heritage plaques are for:

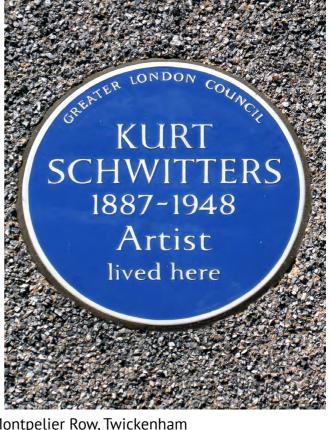
- Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783) landscape gardener. To be found on Wilderness House, Moat Lane, Hampton Court
- Sir Edwin Chadwick (1801-1890) Public health reformer.
   5 Montague Road, Richmond
- Noel Coward (1899-1973) Playwright, songwriter, actor.
   131 Waldegrave Road, Teddington
- Walter De La Mare (1873-1956) Poet. South End House, Montpelier Row, Twickenham
- Dame Ninette De Valois (1898-2001) Ballet dancer, choreographer. 14 The Terrace, Barnes
- Richard Dimbleby (1913-1965) Journalist, broadcaster. Cedar Court, Sheen Lane, East Sheen
- William Ewart (1798-1869) Promoter of public libraries and John Beard (1717-1791) singer. Hampton Branch Library, Rose Hill, Hampton
- Henry Fielding (1707-1754) Novelist. Milbourne House, Barnes Green
- David Garrick, (1717-1779) Actor, playwright. Garrick's Villa, Hampton Court Road, Hampton
- Kathleen Godfree (1896-1992) Tennis champion. 55 York Avenue, East Sheen
- James Henry Greathead (1844-1896) Railway and tunnelling engineer. 3 St Mary's Grove, Barnes
- Sir William Hooker (1785-1865) and Sir Joseph Hooker (1817-1911) Botanists. 49 Kew Green, Kew
- Herbert Howells (1892-1983) Composer. 3 Beverley Close, Barnes
- Arthur Hughes (1832-1915) Painter. 22 Kew Green, Kew
- Dame Celia Johnson (1908-1982) Actress. 46 Richmond Hill, Richmond
- Henry Labouchere (1831-1912) Radical MP and journalist. Pope's Villa, Cross, Deep, Twickenham
- Cardinal Henry Newman (1801-1890) Theologian. Grey Court, Ham Street, Ham
- Barnado O'Higgins (1778-1842) Army officer and statesman. Clarence House, Vineyard, Richmond
- Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948) Artist. 39 Westmoreland Road, Barnes
- James Thompson (1700-1748) Poet. The Royal Hospital, Kew Foot Road, Richmond
- J M W Turner (1775-1851) Artist. 40 Sandycoombe Road, Twickenham
- Edward Whymper (1840-1911) Mountaineer and wood engraver. 82 Waldegrave Road, Teddington
- Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) and Leonard Woolf (1880-1969) Author and publisher. Hogarth House, 34 Paradise Road, Richmond
- Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1732) Architect. The Old Court House, Hampton Court Green
- Robert Watson-Watt (1892-1973) Scientist. 287 Sheen Lane, East Sheen
- Aradaseer Cursetjee Wadja (1808-1877) Civil engineer, 55 Sheen Road, East Sheen

#### Unofficial memorials exist for among others:

Frank Matcham, Theatre Designer, on Richmond Theatre. The film actress Barbara Everest has a plaque in Lichfield Road, Kew. Plaques to a number of comics who worked at Teddington Studies can be found on the site. English Heritage are always looking for nominations. But they will only erect one plaque per person and the building must survive in a form that the nominated person would have recognised.

Details at <a href="https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/propose-a-plaque/">www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/propose-a-plaque/</a>

Who would you nominate?



# Michael Lee

Michael Lee aged 89 died on 2 February 2022

Michael and his wife Joy came to live in Twickenham in 1998. He was an author, historian, and social scientist.

He retired from Bristol University where he had been Professor of Politics, Head of Department and Dean of the faculty of Social Science.

On coming to Twickenham he continued to teach, giving Workers Educational Association courses, for a number of years. He was also much involved in the early setting up of the Twickenham Museum.

His academic interests lay mainly in modern history and politics which led him to write his book the *Making of Modern Twickenham*, covering the twentieth century, when Twickenham became a Borough, the changes that took place as the town enlarged, the trams came, and the population grew.

It included analysis of the various plans for the Twickenham riverside, still to be resolved.

His passion for well researched and accurate facts in relation to local history and politics led him to write valuable contributions to the Richmond Local History Journal, which he edited for a number of years.

He enjoyed learning as well as teaching, was a member of Cercle Francais Richmond being a fluent French speaker. He took up Italian in his 70s.

He attended the Scientific Society as well as various discussion groups.

He liked to go rowing and to the gym where he was able to mix with people of all ages and thoroughly immerse himself in the local community.

He will be fondly remembered by his family and all who knew him.

# International Tribune Readers

By Teresa Read

Five years ago there was concern about the lack of choice of newspapers in our borough. The Informer had closed and there were fears that another newspaper might close too. Thus, the

Tribune came into existence.

However, as with most things there are sometimes unexpected outcomes.

Initially the Tribune concentrated on the Twickenham side of the borough but it soon became clear that people from the Richmond side were also signing up for notification of the publication time. So, the name of the Tribune changed to include readers in the Richmond constituency.



What we did not expect was that the Tribune would attract readers from Europe, Australia and the USA.

Each week the Tribune is read by hundreds of Americans – in fact around a thousand. We like to think that there are articles of interest to people everywhere. Perhaps many of our international readers have contacts in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Of course, there is the twinning with Richmond Virginia and our friends in the US who came to the ceremony in Warren Gardens to see the unveiling of our history plaques of the Ice Rink and the Belgians in East Twickenham in WW1. We also know that there are readers who have friends and family in the USA who sometimes read the Tribune. And there is a link on World InfoZone.

So, Hi to our international readers and please continue to share the interesting articles from our excellent contributors. We would also like to hear from you.

# **CLOSURE OF ROYAL PARKS**

A Royal Parks spokesperson, said: "Due to the current red weather warnings for Storm Eunice, we have closed all eight Royal Parks on Friday 18 February as a precautionary measure. "The Royal Parks host more than 170,000 trees across 5,000 acres, including ancient and veteran trees that are vulnerable to high winds.

"We will monitor the forecast closely over the next 24 hours and will communicate updates via our website www.royalparks.org.uk, twitter account @theroyalparks and Facebook pages. We will reopen all parks as soon as it's safe to do so.

"The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. In addition, we've closed Victoria Tower Gardens and Brompton Cemetery."



Dear Editors,

#### **Preservation of trees**

Following the recent felling of trees in a site off Hampton Road (the "backlands" behind the Prince Albert pub), the Council has shown considerable interest in the preservation of trees. This is evidenced by a motion in full Council in January 2022, and a Press Release on 14 February headed "Richmond Council demands more powers to protect local trees".

I deplore the destruction of trees on the Hampton Road site, and heartily commend the Council's action in this respect (those who agree might consider adding to the Objections lodged to planning application 22/T0063).

However, the Council's recent activity in this respect seems at odds with their attitude towards trees on and bordering the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. Here, a process of wholesale felling is planned to occur, 44 trees in all (according the Arboricultural Impact Assessment). As I have mentioned in a previous letter, amongst these trees the greatest loss will be the two Catalpa by the Wharf Lane entrance, and the two of the hornbeams adjacent to the Service Road.

In July 2019, I enquired from the Trees & Parks Department about obtaining a Tree Preservation Order for these four trees. The definitive reply I eventually received from the Arboricultural Manager was ".... [the trees] are not under any threat of removal; as this is the case it would not be expedient to serve a Tree Preservation Order. I am aware there is a design competition for the site ad my advice... is that the trees should be surveyed in order to properly understand their condition and contribution in the local and wider landscape".

I enquired further in September 2021, when the planning application had been published making it quite clear that those four trees would be removed, despite a very positive independent report of their condition and contribution to the local and wider landscape. I received the following from the Council's Arboricultural Manager "...The creation of a Tree Preservation Order is a lengthy process and should only be used where it is expedient, as there is no immediate threat of removal and there are provisions in place to assess any scheme in line with established policy I will not be recommending that an order be made at this time".

On the Hampton Road site, the Council complains they do not have sufficient powers; on the Riverside site they have the powers, but do not allow their use. A touch hypocritical? What more can an individual do to get trees preserved when there is a clear and present danger of them being felled?

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller Twickenham TW2



Dear Editor,

#### **Code of Conduct**

When the Leader of our Council puts his pen to paper or opens his mouth in the Council Chamber he would do well to remember the Code of Conduct expected of people in Public Office. He is there to represent all the electorate, whatever their political persuasion, and should treat all with respect.

Snide, sarcastic, smart Alec comments, that aren't as clever or as funny as he believes them to be, have no place in public life and are an embarrassment to right-minded people in his own party.

Yours sincerely,

A Richmond Borough Council tax payer. (Name and address supplied, Twickenham)

Dear Sir,

#### Gareth Roberts' column

Lib Dem Council Leader Gareth Roberts - in last week's soapbox rant - in a rival rag - must have borrowed Don Quixote's very high horse.

From that vantage point - he opined - in a highly moralistic tone about "honesty and decency in politics" - only focussing on a rival political party.

However, he must have also borrowed Nelson's telescope - putting it to his metaphorical blind eye - because we would like to hear his explanation and defence of his own party leader - Sir Ed Davey.

In 2013, Davey said publicly: "The potential for shale gas is fantastic for our energy security".

But only last week he did a volte face and it was reported: "Ed Davey was caught boasting that, as energy minister in the 2010-2015 coalition government, he had halted fracking for shale gas."

Davey is about to be investigated by Parliament's Standards Commissioner for

"Registration and declaration of an interest under the Guide to the Rules" - relating to two second jobs including "solar energy plants". And two questions he asked in Parliament - in May and June last year - in relation to a company called "Next Energy Capital".

As Roberts fancies himself as a farceur - perhaps the two figures that spring to mind - rather than Don Quixote and Sancho Panza - are Dick Dastardly and Muttley from the crazy cartoon series "The Wacky Races"?

Yours sincerely

(Name and address supplied, Hampton Wick)

#### **Editor's Note**

All Members of Parliament must declare all their financial interests. Here are some examples below:

Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/211115/wilson munira.htm

Sarah Olney, MP for Richmond Park

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/210118/olney\_sarah.htm

Sir Ed Davey (Leader of the Liberal Democrats), MP for Kingston and Surbiton <a href="https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/211101/davey\_ed.htm">https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/211101/davey\_ed.htm</a>

# Explore 100 years of The Poppy Factory at new visitor centre

Discover the story of the people behind the poppies at the home of Remembrance as the charity marks its centenary in 2022.

Explore the home of Remembrance at the charity's new visitor centre, where experts host a private and personalised visit for groups of 25 or more.

Established in the aftermath of the First World War, The Poppy Factory quickly developed into a community of wounded and injured veterans and their families. These workers made Remembrance poppies and wreaths by hand for generations – a tradition continued by the factory's production team today.

Much has changed since those first workers came together in 1922. In modern times, The Poppy Factory has transformed into a national charity that supports

veterans with health conditions on their journey into all kinds of employment, helping hundreds of ex-Forces job seekers in England and Wales each year.

Groups can see first-hand how veterans still make Royal and regimental wreaths by hand and have a go at making their own poppy. Online booking is open now for group visits throughout 2022.

In May and June, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will see The Poppy Factory highlighting its special relationship with the Royal Family with the visitor centre set to be formally opened by the charity's Patron, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall in November.

By booking a visit and joining the centenary celebrations, groups will support veterans to rebuild their lives and help write the next chapter of The Poppy Factory's story.



THE POPPY FACTORY

Book your visit to The Poppy Factory **HERE** 

Local policing update - February 2022

Jon Mcloughlin, Richmond Neighbourhoods Inspector

As a team we have continued to undertake meetings and be as visible as we can within the community. We continue to undertake daily patrols in and around the busy Twickenham and Richmond town centres in uniform and plain clothes.

There will be bike marking on Saturday 19 February at midday at Murray Park in Whitton run by the local neighbourhood teams. It's free, come and meet your local ward officers, get all your bikes security marked it will be great to see everyone.

The recent meetings with residents in both Castelnau Centre in Barnes and also at our ward panels for the Teddington, Hamptons and Hampton Wick wards were really well received. It's an excellent way for the local community to share their concerns with the local teams, so if you are interested in joining one in future I would encourage you to view <u>Safer neighbourhood</u> groups.

To experience policing first hand either by going for a walk along with your local ward officers or being out with the response teams dealing with the **METROPOLITAN** emergency calls please email <a href="mailto:SWMailbox-RIDEALONG@">SWMailbox-RIDEALONG@</a> **POLICE** met.police.uk for more details.

# BARNES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Since the news of Chris Hine stepping down as PLG Chair we are now looking for any volunteers to take over the role, the next chair shall be elected at our upcoming PLG meeting.

We continue to look for any volunteers who would like to be a co-ordinator for their area or who would like to be a part of the neighbourhood watch list. If you know anyone that may be interested please don't hesitate to contact us.

Officers covering Barnes

APS Kate Whitaker

PC Darren Meakins

PC Charlie Adkins

**PCSO Matthew Morbey** 

APS Kate Whitaker has now taken over as our new Acting Police Sergeant, since our previous PLG took place over Zoom the next PLG is scheduled for March 28th in the Castlenau Centre on Stillingfleet road at 19:00 hours. More details to follow. METROPOLITAN

Or you can send us an email to;

Barnes@met.police.uk

POLICE

# Storm warning – advice and changes to waste collections

The Met Office has issued a red warning for strong winds today. Storm Eunice may cause significant disruption across London.

#### Live updates:

- We are aware that some recycling collections did take place this morning. As many boxes were put out for collection, our contractor decided to complete as many collections as they could this morning, to avoid debris and serious litter when the winds pick up.
- Crews will be out tomorrow morning (Saturday) as expected if your normal collection day is today (Friday) and you did not present your recycling, please do so tomorrow.
- Strong winds are anticipated to continue, we still ask that residents keep hold of their recycling, if they can, until next week's collection.
- All COVID-19 mobile testing and vaccinate sites across London will be closed today. If you have a booking you will receive a message with details for rebooking.
- Townmead Road is closed today. If you had a booking you will have received an email with further information.
- Report fallen trees immediately by calling 020 8891 1411 or by reporting a problem with a tree

You should expect travel disruptions to roads, bridges, and railway lines, as well as possible delays and cancellations to bus, train, ferry services, and flights. Flying debris can also cause a danger to life, please take care and follow the below advice.

#### Stay safe:

- Secure loose objects such as bins, garden furniture, and anything else that could be moved by wind
- Close and fasten doors and windows
- Park vehicles in a garage, if available; otherwise keep them clear of buildings, trees, walls, and fences
- Adjust your plans to avoid travel if possible
- Many local attractions and parks have closed please check with them for details
- Stay indoors as much as possible
- Avoid walking close to buildings and trees. Do not walk along tow paths and in woodland areas
- If damage is caused, do not go outside to repair it whilst the storm is in progress
- Do not drive unless your journey is really necessary

#### After the storm:

- Be careful not to touch any electrical/telephone cables that have been blown down or are still hanging
- Do not walk too close to walls, buildings and trees as they could have been weakened
- Make sure that any vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe and help them make arrangements for any repairs
- Please contact 24 hour Emergency Control on 020 8891 7999 if you need to report fallen trees / any debris outside of office hours

For more information go to the Met Office UK weather warnings.

# Council to host Green Homes Grant drop-in event

Richmond Council will host a virtual drop-in webinar event on Tuesday, 1 March to provide residents with more information on the Green Homes Grant and how eligible households across the borough can apply for up to £10,000 worth of funding to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The Green Homes Grant is a scheme for homeowners and landlords to support the installation of energy efficient and low-carbon heating improvements to their homes.

The Green Homes Grant provides funding to support with energy efficiency and low-carbon heating solutions for low-income households in the most energy-inefficient homes across the borough.

Eligibility for the Green Homes Grant has recently been expanded meaning more homes in the borough are now eligible for funding to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.



To be eligible for the grant households must have a household income of £30,000 or less and live in a property with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G (the four lowest EPC ratings). Residents can check the <u>EPC rating</u> of their homes. Both homeowners and landlords are eligible to apply for the scheme.

The event will be hosted by Richmond Council's Climate Emergency lead officer, Andrew Hagger. At the event residents will be able to learn more about the scheme and attendees will also have an opportunity to ask any questions they might have about the grant.

The event will cover who is eligible for a Green Homes Grant, the process of applying and what the home improvements will look like. The event will be recorded and made available on the Council's website for those unable to attend on the night.

The virtual drop-in event will take place on Tuesday, 1 March at 5pm.

Register your place at the **Green Homes Grant virtual drop-in event**.

Find out more about the Green Homes Grant.

# Richmond Council demands more powers to protect local trees

The Chair of Richmond Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee has written to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities to request a review of guidance given to local planning authorities around protecting local trees from felling on the grounds of their benefits to the climate and biodiversity.

At January's full Council meeting, a motion was passed unanimously to request the government review the legislation and guidance on Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and trees in conservation areas. The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 gives "amenity" as the grounds for protection and online government guidance specifically states that while nature conservation and climate change are factors that can be taken into account, they are not sufficient grounds in themselves for making a Tree Preservation Order.

The motion was tabled following serious concerns raised by the community and local environmental groups over the potential loss of trees near to Twickenham Green. In November 2021 notice was served on the Council, outlining the intention to fell trees on land to the rear of properties in Hampton Road, which is in a conservation area. A Eucalyptus tree was already protected by a TPO and works to it were refused permission by the Council. However, under national planning laws, there was not sufficient reason for the Council to be able to make preservation orders for the other trees. The developer has now felled all but one of the trees not protected by a TPO.

#### Councillor Julia Neden-Watts said:

"The loss of tree canopy is something we should seek to avoid wherever possible. With our nation's minds so keenly focused on the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss, the Government should be doing everything they can to help us achieve this. At the moment, quidance does not place enough importance on the climate impact.

"Richmond Council, like many others around the country, has declared a climate emergency and has in place an ambitious and wide-ranging Climate Emergency Strategy. It is critical that local planning authorities are able to give weighting to climate and environmental considerations in their decision making, notwithstanding the separate legislative requirements in relation to protected species.

"I have written to Mr Gove to ask he reviews the Government's guidance and, if necessary, the Regulations and Act to ensure local authorities have a clear mandate that allows them to protect their local tree canopy."

Read the <u>letter</u> from Councillor Julia Neden-Watts to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities.

# Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

## THE LENSBURY: A RESORT ON OUR DOORSTEP

If you've lived in the area for any length of time, you'll have heard of **The Lensbury**. It's that massive building beside the Thames, just along from The Anglers in Teddington. It's a sports club; one that's rather exclusive, but offers an amazing range of facilities to members. Established in 1920, as the sports and social club for employees of Shell, the current clubhouse was completed in 1938.



Shell added a conference centre later, and this facility exists still - now open to all. The march of time led Shell to divest itself of this overhead, and it became a private sports club for the local community. In the early 2000s it had significant investment in the facilities, bedrooms and grounds, to form The Lensbury as we know it today. London & Regional Hotels acquired it a couple of years ago and made a further £1 million investment improving the gym and studio facilities.

But did you know that anyone can book to stay at **The Lensbury Resort** (as it is now called)? I certainly didn't, but recently went to check it out: I was delighted to discover that we have, right on our doorstep, a fabulous hotel, complete with sports and leisure facilities, glorious grounds alongside the River Thames, and a luxury spa!



The Lensbury has over 150 guest bedrooms, offering everything one would expect from a luxury hotel. Our room was large and luxurious, overlooking the gardens, and while perhaps a tad corporate in design, was certainly top notch.

There's a lovely atmosphere at The Lensbury - one that reminded us of an American country club. It was obvious that there's also a big social element to Lensbury membership.

We enjoyed our dinner - the service is exemplary and the staff are not only very professional, but charming. The menu in the Club Lounge is pretty extensive, and offers everything from sandwiches and light bites (from £4) to a 10oz sirloin steak at £25. There is also a curry of the week at £14, which, judging by the ones we saw being served at other tables, looked excellent.

There's a well constructed and sensibly priced wine list, also offering some fine wines for those wanting to splash out.

We started with a couple of 'small plates & nibbles' - chargrilled halloumi and crispy squid rings (£6 a portion). The portions were a tad on the mean side, but were tasty and didn't spoil our appetites for our main course. My husband enjoyed a steak, and I opted for the lamb rump, both of which were really delicious. I couldn't resist a 'dessert of the day' - a ginger cheesecake - which was amazing! My husband chose the sticky toffee pudding, which was declared excellent. Desserts are very reasonably priced - from £5. This menu is, of course, available to all hotel guests too.





Breakfast was equally good, with an extensive hot buffet and again, impeccable service. There were lots of members enjoying breakfast, and meeting friends for coffee after a sports session or one of the on-site fitness classes. Members also enjoy a dedicated co-working space, plus a range of children's facilities, holiday camps, and a creche.

There's a fabulous indoor pool (with saunas and steam room) and state-of-the-art gym, just a short stroll from the main building. The main building also has a relaxing spa, in conjunction with Elemis, offering a full range of beauty treatments. In the morning I enjoyed a wonderful facial, and made a note to return at a later date for some more treatments - as the beauty spa is open to non residents.



This is a point I'm keen to make: **we have a luxury resort on our doorstep.** One that many people aren't aware of, and one that's the perfect venue for a local 'staycation'. It's also a popular wedding and party venue (again this facility is available to non members). There are water sports facilities (including motor boat hire) and for anyone keen on racquet sports, there are 24 courts available!

The Lensbury has a number of special offers and seasonal packages for anyone wanting to book a stay - check out the website <a href="here">here</a>. Standard B&B is from £145 per room per night and dinner B&B from £195. Overnight guests enjoy full access to the hotel's leisure facilities, including complimentary use of the tennis and squash courts (subject to availability), gym and pool. In warmer weather, kayaks can be hired at an hourly rate, as well as a motor boat. And if you're interested in membership, the club is currently open to new members, so you should contact the club on 020 8614 6420 to arrange a tour and find out about joining fees and membership costs.

# BUTON OF AIDLENCE

## Mark Aspen www.markaspen.wordpress.com Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# Killology by Gary Owen

Putney Theatre Company at the Putney Arts Studio until 19th February

The award-winning play *Killology* has a tagline that suggests it's going to concern the effects of playing violent video games, but it quickly becomes apparent that the play is far more interested in exploring the consequences of personal actions and how they are influenced by human relationships, especially on a paternal level.



Jerome Joseph Kennedy, Morgan Beale, and Theo Leonard each relish their roles and attack the parts

with gusto. The play is formed almost like a relay, with the spotlight constantly moving back and forth on stage, not at one point is the baton dropped when it's anyone turn to run with it.



For the most part the characters are kept separate from each other and it takes nearly an hour of their three stories before the crossover aspects really start to come into effect. When they do finally start to interact with each other the tension created between the characters is palpable and very well staged. The father-son interactions in the second half of the play are very well worked and the actors, who have essentially been telling three long monologues for the most part, play off each other very effectively.

It is testament to the way the characters and direction navigate a very sharply written piece that by the end there is no hero or villain but just plenty of questions and debatable perspectives lingering amongst the audience.

Whether the real villain is nature, nurture or roque outside influences and who is responsible for them is left for debate. The show is a true three-hander in terms of stage action and the whole cast and crew have come together to create a very strong and powerful two hours of theatre.

Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/02/16/killology

Photography by Steven Lippitt

# ZIX OT 141 FEST

# WriteFest22

Progress Theatre, Reading until 19th February

After a break of two years due to the pandemic, the welcome return of Progress Theatre's fifteenth *WriteFest* once again gives writers an opportunity to see their works fully staged in front of a paying audience. The Progress team do a great job of providing exactly the right atmosphere for all the plays. Submissions are open to anyone, but this year all the six successful one-act plays came from the Reading Playwrights' Group. The message for everyone else is get writing!





Death, natural or otherwise, seems to be a preoccupation, even in the title for half the plays.



Liz Carroll's *Death by Misadventure* has details of the grisly death of a bridegroom at the hands of his bride gradually revealed. There is some great imagery, red blood on the white wedding cake. Very Hitchcock!

A3, by Neil Jarvis, follows the dead man's daughters in the aftermath of his funeral. In spite of sibling rivalry, a mysterious note, saying simply "A3", has more import. In A Shot at Life also by Neil Jarvis, a man commissions a hit-

man to murder his wife. This seemingly simple premise develops into an intriguing backstory.

A Thousand Words by Adrian Tang is written in verse, which gives it a Shakespearian feel – with a few modern expletives thrown in. Everley is painting a royal portrait, attempting to capture the Kings character, but is that what the King wants?

Stephanie Gunner Lucas' *The Fisherman and his Wife* retells the Grimms' tale, in which a fisherman comes across a talking fish that can grant unlimited wishes. The wife demands more and more, but this play has a traditional Grimm message for us all.

In *Factory Children* by Matthew Beswick, a vlogger goes into a derelict biscuit factory (Reading's Huntley and Palmers?) where five children and their teacher have mysteriously disappeared. This provides the backdrop for a reflection on the priorities of today ...

... give people what they want to see.



Read Nick Swyft's review at <a href="https://www.markaspen.com/2022/02/16/writefest22">www.markaspen.com/2022/02/16/writefest22</a>

Photography by Richard Brown

# MUSICALLY STRIKING



# The Bells of St Mary's: Preview Thames Singers at Hampton Parish Church, Hampton 26th February

Music critic Thomas Forsythe discusses the bells of Hampton Church and the forthcoming Concert for the Bells with St Mary's Ringing Master, Jonathan Williams

TF: Campanology is a great word for a pub quiz, but it must be exciting to make these giants of the musical world sing out so joyously.

JW: St Mary's eight bells have been part of our local heritage for nearly two centuries, so yes, it is an exhilarating experience.

TF: We hear that you are planning a rehanging of the bells, an extensive piece of work, presumably after they ring out for the Queen's Jubilee?

Later in the year the bells will be lowered from the tower and taken to a foundry for tuning. The eight JW: bells weigh nearly three tonnes, so not an easy job. Additionally, the ringing mechanism will need to be renovated before the bells are reinstated in the tower.

TF: The peals of St Mary's bells are a familiar sound known far and wide.

JW: Our bells appear in unexpected places. It is the bells of St Mary's that <u>feature on Pink Floyd's High</u> <u>Hopes album.</u> Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour owns *The Astoria*, the historic houseboat that is moored at Hampton.

TF: May I ask which foundry will be doing the work on the bells?

JW: Our bells were made in the famous Whitechapel Bell Foundry that made Big Ben; and its successor will be one of the specialists tendering for the work.

TF: Could you tell us what you estimate the cost to be?

JW: We are budgeting for a total of £80,000. However, we have a very generous grant from a dedicated charity of £15,000, for which we are enormously grateful.

TF: Nevertheless, that still leaves a considerable sum of money yet to raise.

JW: Yes, and to this end the appeal for the bells of will be launched on Saturday 26th February with a free chamber concert at St Mary's church. Thames Singers will be performing solo and choral items. The programme comprises music from the 18th Century to today by well-known composers such as Handel, Schumann and Brahms and less famous names such as Rheinberger, Morten

TF: Thank you, Jonathan for telling us all about your exciting project, which brings together music, culture and tradition, with a fantastic music source that rarely features in arts reviews, church bell-ringing.

Lauridsen and Bob Chilcott.

More details at St Mary's Hampton - A Concert for the Bells (hampton-church.org.uk) Read the full discussion at www.markaspen.com/2022/02/17/bells-hampton-preview

Photography by Jonathan Williams



# KING LEAR

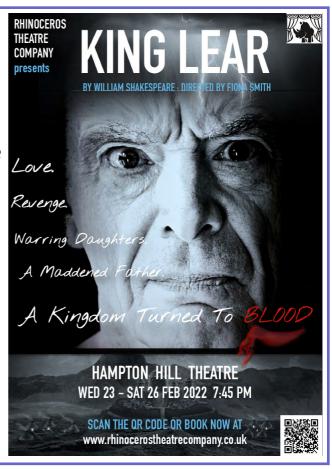
by William Shakespeare Directed by Fiona Smith

William Shakespeare's great tragedy of cruelty, retribution and harrowed redemption comes to life in a thrilling stage production.

A vivid, visionary spectacle, with violent swings between dark drama and apocalyptic comedy. Come witness the strength of Nature and Love in its enormity and indifference. Arguably Shakespeare's greatest play!

Rhinoceros Theatre Company (based in Teddington) is newly founded by Nigel Andrews, chief film critic emeritus of the Financial Times, who takes on Shakespeare's toughest role, supported by a stellar array of acting talent.

23rd Feb - 26th Feb @ 19:45 - 4 nights only! Don't miss it! To find out more visit: <a href="https://www.rhinocerostheatrecompany.co.uk">www.rhinocerostheatrecompany.co.uk</a>



# Landmark Arts Centre and Teddington Together to stage fundraising music festival

The Landmark Arts Centre and community business organisation Teddington Together are partnering to hold a fundraising music festival on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May 2022.

Rockin' the Lockin' Live is taking place at The Landmark and will feature a line-up of some of the area's best music talent.

The festival is a spin-off event from the virtual Rockin' the Lockin' music concerts, devised by Teddington Together during the first lockdown in 2020, which raised over £6000 for local charities.

Rockin' the Lockin' Live will feature a wide range of musical genres from country and blues, rock and pop, classical and rap. There will also be local traders with pop-up food and drink stalls alongside artisan crafts stalls.

All profits will be split equally between The Landmark Arts Centre (a Registered Charity) and Teddington Together (a non-profit organisation), providing vital funds to enable them to continue serving the local community.

Tickets are £30 for Saturday and £20 for Sunday, with half price tickets for children under the age of 12. There is a special early bird discount of £40 for a ticket offering full weekend access, but these are limited.

Buy your tickets **HERE** 



# **BLOWN AWAY!!!**

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



Well, I'm not referring to Eunice - though she certainly made her presence felt in Twickenham. No, in fact I'm talking about the helter-skelter speed at which the barriers are dropping away and this is prevalent Worldwide. Just tonight Singapore relaxed their protocols - Israel is easing up and the ever-popular triangle - Vietnam/ Cambodia & Laos looks like being back on the cards by Easter just in time to catch the tail end of the good weather- so if that's your preference plan now. - before the crowds return – being one of a few amongst all the incredible sites will blow your mind. Eh!

There is still a lot of mis- information about - like requirements for minors and 'in transit" protocols and all this minefield is not helped by the media putting out stories before due date and the FCO not catching up on their website for foreign nations changes So it is wise to check- recheck and check again a few days before the off - to see it is all tickety-boo- so to speak n- or book with us and we will do all that checking and re-checking for you.



The half term break has now proved very stressful for families with 12 yr olds and their requirements How-ever dear reader, it looks like Easter will be a lot easier - but there is a warning from Jet2, easyJet and TUI that there may be a shortage As it is a fine art matching supply and demand and getting extra capacity into the public domain so if you are planning NOW is the time to blow the cobwebs away. See you Bruce

This is a picture hot off the press from a very happy customer who took his family on a much-needed Feb half Term Break to the Melia Jardines Tenerife, organised by yours truly ©

# WIZ Tales - Hungary

Teresa Read

red by

The Republic of Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It is bordered by Ukraine, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Romania.

Hungary was one of the original members of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, formed in 1955; the treaty allowed the Red Army to have bases in member states.

On October 23 1989 Hungary was renamed the Republic of Hungary and in 1990 free elections were held. The Hungarian Democratic Forum formed the new government and Hungary began to develop close political and economic ties with the EU, becoming a member in 2004.

Many Hungarians have found fame abroad including the following:

- Joseph Pulitzer, born in 1847, who became a famous publisher and newspaper owner in the USA founding the Pulitzer Prizes with awards in journalism, literature, drama, education, and travelling scholarships.
- Adolph Zukor, the founder of Paramount Pictures, and Alexander Korda who left Hungary in 1919 to work in England and the United States; Korda was knighted in 1942 by George VI.
- Sir Georg Solti who worked as the music director of London's Royal Opera, Covent Garden between 1961 and 1971 and went on to become the director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.
- Jozsef Galamb, the designer of the model T, the world's first mass produced car, David Gestetner, inventor of the office copier, Ladislao Jose Biro, inventor of the ballpoint pen, Janos Neumann, a mathematician and inventor of an early computer, and Charles Simonyi, who worked at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center and Microsoft developing microcomputer applications.









More photographs of Hungary:

https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Hungary

Hungary is one of the seven countries bordering Ukraine along with Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, and Russia.

Country Index: <a href="https://worldinfozone.com/newslink.php?section=Europe">https://worldinfozone.com/newslink.php?section=Europe</a>

# DINO KINGDOM BRINGS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS PREDATORS TO LIFE IN GUNNERSBURY PARK!

Get ready for an Immersive, Educational and Entertaining Family Adventure with a Prehistoric Twist! April 1st – April 18th 2022 at Gunnersbury Park

It's official, the dinosaurs are coming to Gunnersbury Park! where visitors will be transported back to a time when they ruled the earth.

This Easter Half-Term, from Friday 1st April - Monday 18th April 2022, the creator of the award-winning light and lantern festival, Lightopia, presents **Dino Kingdom at Gunnersbury Park**.

The epic outdoor, prehistoric exploration, offers an incredible 100 collections including life size dinosaurs and other creatures, AR, Holographic and 3D mapping digital installations. Bringing the infamous creatures 'back to life'! Be prepared to be transported back in time for an unforgettable, interactive, thrilling family adventure.

Waiting to greet you will be the 'King of the Tyrant Lizards' and the most famous dinosaur of them all - Tyrannosaurus Rex, standing 16 metres from head to tail, and not to mention the biggest installation, the Apatosaurus, towering above the Kingdom at 18 metres long! There will also be smaller dinosaurs to seek, including hatching babies and other interactive beastly beings amongst the woodland, including crocodiles, frogs, bees, spiders and much more!







Let your imagination run wild in this ultimate family experience, as you trek through the prehistoric kingdom. An educational experience as much as an adventure, perfect for those budding palaeontologists out there, with an excavation sand pit, dinosaur eggs, fossils, volcanoes, a giant dinosaur skeleton head and a walk-through fossil tunnel!

Dino Kingdom offers visitors an incredible journey of discovery, education, and entertainment, from the dozens of animatronic dinosaurs and 3D dinosaur projection mapping, to fun dino

performances, hand puppets and costumed characters - there's something for everyone. Dino Kingdom trekkers can take a well-earned break and refuel with the wide offering of food and drink options and idyllic picnicking areas.

Ian Xiang, Director at Outreach Creative, said: "Dino Kingdom will be an incredible, awe-inspiring dinosaur experience like no other. We can't wait to open our doors to the public in 2022







"We've seen through our work on the Lightopia Festival that there's a huge demand for unique,



family-friendly events in the UK and we're certain that adults will enjoy Dino Kingdom just as much as their children."

Dino Kingdom will be open to the public every day from Friday 1st April - Monday 18th April 2022. The park will open from 11am till 7pm every day, with hourly entry slots. Sign up today to register for 20% off pre-sale ticket release. www. dinokingdom.com

Advance tickets are priced at £17 for adults, £13 for children (under 3s are free) and £49 for families of two adults and two children, concessions are priced at £14. Tickets are also available on the door.

Join the Jurassic journey on Instagram and Facebook @ dinokingdomuk

# "Performances don't lie, results can lie"

Thomas Frank looks ahead to Arsenal

Thomas Frank met the media this lunchtime to preview tomorrow's trip to Arsenal. Victory would see us complete only our second ever double over The Gunners in a league season following our incredible opening night win. Take a read of the key updates from Thomas ahead of the game below.



## Storm Eunice and preparations ...

We have a nice, open training ground and it's been quite windy. It was impossible to do offensive and defensive set pieces today so we will do a walk-through tomorrow when we meet. I had a tactical session with some free play yesterday, so we got some bits in. [Today] we did prep, some boxes, and some small-sided games to get it going. Suddenly, one of the goals was moving so after round six I cut it and we went in.

#### Team News ...

Ivan Toney has done some light sessions and we will assess him in the morning to see how close he is. He's a player we would really like in our team, or at least in our squad. We will see

tomorrow.

Christian Eriksen looked good in the 60 minutes he played [on Monday] and looked good in training. He feels well and is in a good place. He's been out for seven months and normally you need a proper pre-season to get it going. He came to us with a good foundation, so he doesn't need six weeks, but this Arsenal game is just one step too early. We have another good opponent for a friendly game on Monday. We are aiming for the Newcastle game.

Josh Dasilva is in a good place physically. Now it is for him to put in consistent performances. He is pretty close to showing the level and talent he has. I have no doubt that he is one of our most important players if he can hit his level going forward. He needs to show that week in, week out, in the Premier League but he has all the abilities to do that. I can't wait for me to decide to let him start. Hopefully, that will be soon.

### Mood in the camp ...

We have a very good group of players, a lot of whom have been here for a few years so know what we do and the environment we try to create. I am quite consistent in my messages, day in and day out. In general, being consistent in your behaviour is key. Performances don't lie, results can lie. I would have been much more worried if the performances had been bad because it is much more difficult to twist that narrative as the players feel it themselves.

### Facing up to Arsenal ...

After a little bit of a tough start to the season for various reasons, they have done unbelievably well. They are indeed fighting for a top four and are in good form. Arsenal want to do everything they can to prove it was a slip from them against us, we need to do everything we can to perform well and to try to get three points. We believe that we can do that in every game. If we continue to put the consistent performances out there, then hopefully the margins drop for us, and we could make a remarkable win.

We need to defend well in a low block, when we have to, and there will be spells where we will have to defend with our lives. I hope we are brave to play a bit more in spells. Arsenal have changed a few bits in the way they build up. In that way we need to change small bits.

Looking from the outside their performances look more consistent and their culture looks stronger and stronger. They are a team that works harder for each other and that is paying off.

They are playing their younger, top talents, who are growing because they are playing with the right players around them. Everything is building and growing in the right direction. They have consistency in their performances which means a lot when it comes to getting points and competing for the top four.

# Record breaking crowds Confirmation of West Ham attendance

Brentford FC has received confirmation of a record that has been broken this season, and could be again within weeks, potentially days. Earlier this season when The Bees won against West Ham United at the London Stadium, there was confusion over the attendance. It has now been confirmed that the official attendance was 59,889. This is the largest crowd ever for a Brentford league match.

It has been more than a century since Brentford entered the Football League. The Bees have played more than 4,200 league matches at well over 100 stadiums. But matches in front of crowds of more than 50,000 have been rare.

The highest crowd The Bees have ever played a recognised fixture in front



of came in 1942. The Bees beat Portsmouth in the London War Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. The official attendance for that fixture was 69,792.

The game against West Ham is now the largest crowd for a league game and we have played in front of more than 50,000 people on four more occasions this term – at Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur, Liverpool and Manchester City. Our visits to Arsenal, tomorrow, and then Manchester United in April could also be record-breaking.

## Highest Attendances for Brentford matches:

- 69,792 Brentford v Portsmouth 30 May 1942 (Wembley Stadium) (London War Cup)
- 59,889 West Ham United v Brentford 3 October 2021 (London Stadium)
- 56,810 Chelsea v Brentford 23 October 1937 (Stamford Bridge)
- 56,692 Newcastle United v Brentford 6 September 1947 (St James' Park)
- 56,624 Chelsea v Brentford 13 November 1935 (Stamford Bridge)
- 56,190 Manchester City v Brentford 23 January 1932 (Maine Road) (FA Cup)
- 55,338 Everton v Brentford 31 August 1946 (Goodison Park)
- 54,202 Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford 2 December 2021 (Tottenham Hotspur Stadium)
- 52,824 Liverpool v Brentford 16 January 2022 (Anfield)
- 52,131 Newcastle United v Brentford 20 November 2021 (St James' Park)
- 51,885 Newcastle United v Brentford 15 October 2016 (St James' Park)
- 51,658 Manchester City v Brentford 9 February 2022 (Etihad Stadium)



# England squad update

Eddie Jones has named a 25-player England squad for a five-day training camp in London.

After beating Italy 33-0 in Rome in the Guinness Six Nations on Sunday, the squad has met up in Chelsea. They will train at Latymer School as they begin preparations for next weekend's match against Wales at Twickenham Stadium [Saturday 26 February, 4.45pm GMT KO].

Manu Tuilagi returns to the squad after injury.

Sam Simmonds will not take part in training this week as part of the management of an ongoing hip issue and will be rehabbing in camp.

Courtney Lawes and Jonny Hill will also join up with the squad. Lawes will continue to work through return to play protocols and Jonny Hill is undergoing rehab on a fibula injury.

# ENGLAND SQUAD FORWARDS

Alfie Barbeary (Wasps, uncapped)

Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 1 cap)

Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 33 caps)

Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 38 caps)

Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 6 caps)

Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 28 caps)

Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 33 caps)

Jamie George (Saracens, 63 caps)

Maro Itoje (Saracens, 53 caps)

Joe Launchbury (Wasps, 69 caps)

Tom Pearson (London Irish, uncapped)

Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)

Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 49 caps)

Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 17 caps)

#### **BACKS**

Elliot Daly (Saracens, 54 caps)

George Ford (Leicester Tigers, 79 caps)

Max Malins (Saracens, 12 caps)

Joe Marchant (Harlequins, 9 caps)

Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 36 caps)

Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 3 caps)

Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 45 caps)

Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 7 caps)

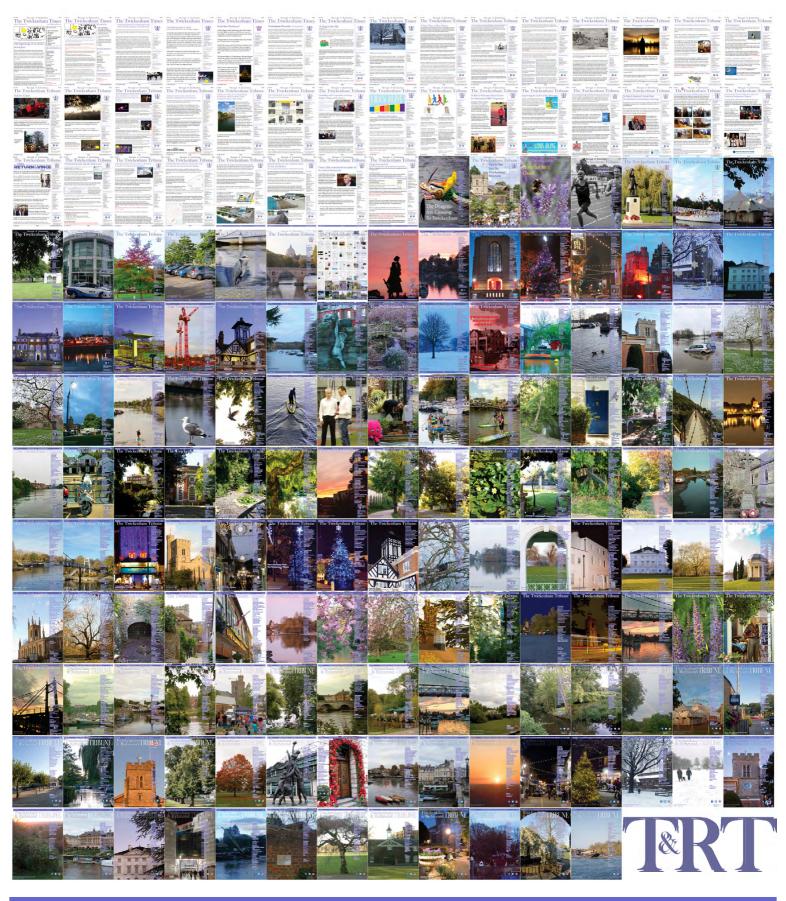
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 7 caps)

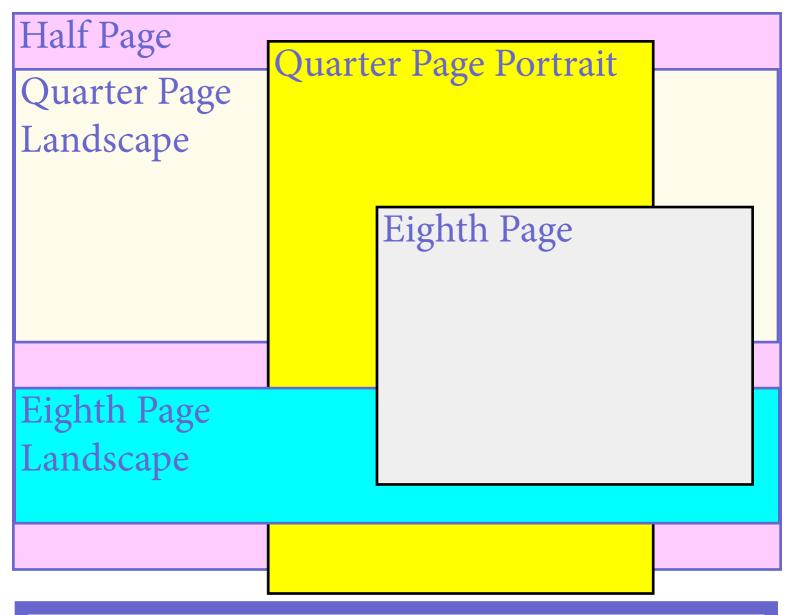
Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 46 caps)

Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 114 caps)



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