

TickerTape - News in Brief

The White Swan Raft Race 2022

Yes, the White Swan Raft Race is back!! This popular event has been raising money for the RNLI since the 1970s.

To take part, team applications must be received before the **21st July**. Details here.

Otherwise, watch the spectacle on **Saturday 6th August**, 12pm – 6pm.

And if you do go, please raise a glass to regular competitor, my friend, the wonderful Chris Davies, who is sorely missed.

Road and Bus disruption - A205 Mortlake Road Friday 22 July until Tuesday 2 August

There will be a series of full road closures on sections of the A205 **Mortlake Road** between **Kew Road and Clifford Avenue**. Works will take place between 09:30 to 15:30 on Mondays to Fridays and from 07:30 to 19:30 on the weekend. These are for essential maintenance of our trees and must take place during the day for safety reasons. You are advised to plan ahead, leave more time for your journey and follow the signed diversions.

Thames Water works to take place on Richmond Road junction with St Margarets Road, Twickenham Thames Water will be carrying out major works to repair a severe leak on a large water main on Richmond Road junction with St Margarets Road, Twickenham, from 23 July until 30 July 2022. Due to the location and severity of the leak, Thames Water will have to put significant traffic management in place – including temporary traffic signals - to safely manage traffic flows during the repair works. Unfortunately, this will inevitably result in traffic congestion at peak times and a general increase in localised travel times.

To minimise the anticipated disruption, these major works have been scheduled to take place during the first week of the school holidays, with extended working hours agreed with Richmond Council to help Thames Water to complete these works as soon as possible.

Thames Water is planning to work from Saturday 23 July 2022 for approximately one week. Working hours will be Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday 9am to 4pm.

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Covid-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization - Weekly Epidemiological Update (13 July 2022)

Global overview: Data as of 10 July 2022

Globally, the number of weekly cases has increased for the fifth consecutive week, after a declining trend since the last peak in March 2022. During the week of 4 to 10 July 2022, over 5.7 million new cases were reported, a 6% increase as compared to the previous week (Figure 1). The number of new weekly deaths was similar to the figure reported during the previous week, with over 9800 fatalities reported to WHO.

At the regional level, the number of new weekly cases increased in the Western Pacific Region (+28%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+25%), the South-East Asia Region (+5%), while it decreased in the African Region (-33%) and remained similar to last week's numbers in the European Region (+4%) and the Region of the Americas (-1%).

The number of weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+78%) and the South-East Asia Region (+23%), while it decreased in the African Region (-17%) and the Western Pacific Region (-10%). The Region of the Americas and the European Region both reported similar figures as compared to the previous week.

As of 10 July 2022, just under 553 million confirmed cases and over 6.3 million deaths have been reported globally.

These trends should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected.

IN THE NEWS

Reuters, 15 July 2022: UK weekly COVID-19 infections rise, booster jab programme announced "An estimated 3.5 million people in Britain had COVID-19 in the latest week of available data, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said on Friday, up nearly 30% on the 2.7 million recorded in the previous week."

EuroNews, 15 July 2022: Is COVID ever ending? Meet 'Centaurus', the latest Omicron subvariant that could become dominant

CTV News, 14 July 2022: Fresh COVID-19 wave sweeps Asia, N.Z. warns of pressure on hospitals "WELLINGTON/TOKYO - A new wave of coronavirus infections is rapidly spreading through Asia, prompting warnings for residents from New Zealand to Japan to take precautions to slow the outbreak and help prevent healthcare systems from being overwhelmed."

CNN, 14 July 2022: The Worst Variant is Here: "The newest offshoot of Omicron, along with a closely related variant, BA.4, are fuelling a global surge in cases — 30% over the past fortnight, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)."

Medical News Today, 12 July 2022: COVID-19's impact on the brain: Immune response may cause damage



Death of a Spy

By Simon Fowler

An almost unremarked death in August 1940 was that of the journalist and erstwhile British spy Hector Charles Bywater. He died in mysterious circumstances in his flat in Selwyn Court on Richmond Hill.

Born in 1884, Bywater became one of the first spies in the Secret Service reporting back on Naval developments in Germany to London. Bywater was given the designation 'H2O' by MI6 in an obvious play on his name. The charming, courageous Bywater probably came as close to the popular image of lan Fleming's most famous character as any British secret agent ever did.

After the First World War he became a journalist specialising in naval matters. He also wrote several books about Japanese naval strategy in the Pacific. And if he is remembered at all today,



The attack on Pearl Harbor – was it predicted by a Richmond resident?

Credit Wikipedia/US Navy

he is best known for his 1925 book *The Great Pacific War* describing a fictional naval conflict between the United States and Japan anticipating many of the actions undertaken by the two sides during World War Two, including an attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese naturally took great interest in his books and it is believed that they influenced their planning for a naval war with America.

The 1930s were hard on Bywater as few people were interested in reading stories about the Far East. A few weeks before his death he was dismissed from the *Daily Telegraph*, for whom he had been writing since 1931.

Bywater increasingly turned to drink and retreated to his flat, which he shared with his brother. He noted that it was just two hundred paces to the Hole in the Wall Pub. Locals there remembered that he was a commanding presence and was a great talker.

On 16 August 1940, Bywater's charlady Margaret Perrin came in as she did every day to tidy up and make his breakfast. She discovered his body and called his doctor who pronounced that he had died of alcoholic poisoning. The press reported that he had died in his sleep, but the circumstances were such that an autopsy was conducted, which concluded 'Sudden death. No suspicion of Foul Play.' Bywater's body was cremated at Mortlake Crematoria.

It is likely that this is the case, but stories soon emerged that he had been murdered by a Japanese agent. Bywater certainly felt that his life was under threat and taken to carrying a gun. He once showed his son-in-law the leather webbing he had paid a tailor to sew into his jackets to support the weight of the gun without distorting the appearance of his clothes.

Was this alcoholic paranoia, or did the Japanese try to kill him? We will never know.

Thanks to David Upton for suggesting this story.



Dear Tribune,

Heathrow Noise, Pilots' Letters, Tribune 1 & 8 July 2022

In the Tribune on 8 July, a letter from a Mr. Neil Spurrier responded to previous letters from me and another British Airways pilot about aircraft noise. (Tribune 1 July 2022).

Mr. Spurrier has obviously not read what we wrote because he included the following statements (shown here in italics):

NS: 'It is encouraging that BA are finally showing some interest in this and mobilising responses'.

British Airways did NOT mobilise our responses in any way whatsoever. Our letters were not even coordinated – they were completely independent and prompted solely by indignation at the Teddington Tidbits article stating that: 'airlines save money by flying lower and slower on take-off', a blanket statement which did not cover all the facts and which I found personally offensive as I and my colleagues have always operated to the highest safety levels. We do NOT represent BA (as is falsely claimed on the Teddington Action Group website about the other writer) nor do I have any contact whatsoever with British Airways other than flying with them as a passenger because I know that their pilot training and safety is beyond reproach.

NS: 'We can only presume that the two correspondents have not examined the evidence.'

Mr. Spurrier et al. should not presume anything of the kind. Pilots don't – and that's how we keep our passengers alive.

NS: 'Contrary to what your correspondents say, Heathrow do not operate an ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) recommended noise abatement procedure'

Neither of our letters even mentioned ICAO, let alone saying that Heathrow operates ICAO recommended noise abatement procedures'.

NS: 'BA do not operate the recommended one at Heathrow.'

It is patently obvious that no airline would ever be allowed to operate into and out of Heathrow without complying with strict noise abatement procedures. Quite how anyone could conclude or imply otherwise remains a mystery. And the word 'recommended' means exactly that, namely, recommended and therefore not compulsory. Implementation of noise procedures are a matter for discussion between the government, the airlines and the public.

I do not need Mr. Spurrier to recommend that I re-read the Teddington Action Group website in order to, as he impertinently and condescendingly says: 'better understand the problem'.

In fact, immediately after the Teddington Tidbits article I looked at the TAG website which promulgated an email sent on 24 July 2021 to them by a Mr. Neil Hope which included the defamatory statement: 'Breaking the law doesn't seen (sic) to matter to these guys'.

Clearly, he means pilots and airlines.

As a British Airways pilot with an immaculate record of 31 years flying safely around the world I find his comment even more offensive than Mr. Spurrier's.

So, to paraphrase Mr. Spurrier, I can only 'presume' that these correspondents with so much to say, and state as 'fact', have not examined the evidence!

Michael Jay

Hampton (Under a Heathrow flight path).



River Crane Sanctuary





More of us are realising the truth held in this poem and the next three days may convince others still sceptical about Climate Change that we need to share with all to solve the challenges we have to face together to survive and live sustainably.

The UN has marked Nelson Mandela Day since 2009. We are encouraged to celebrate his birthday on Monday 18th July by making a difference in our community. This year's tagline is: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." What shall I do?

Here are some ideas but your own are always better and more impactful:

- 1 Litter pick ups even outside your door are simple and appreciated. Plastic: click the link for knowledge and tips: 5 things we learnt from the biggest ever household plastic count
- 2 <u>Big Butterfly count</u> is on now so why not take part and even donate to this charity.
- 3 Please put out some water for the wildlife and keep the **Bowls Clean/RSPB**
- 4 Be aware of Trees/ Building Applications near you and comment. Good news is that the

Beech Tree in Churchview Road is Saved...for now. Thank you to all who took the time to comment or asked us to include them in our group objection.

5 Take a look at Jane Goodall's work and see if you can help. Followed her for years and adopted a chimp for our daughter to learn about conservation! Now you can buy





a doll and Jane explains in the video why she wanted her own Barbie!. Jane Video

"The Barbie comes with a miniature replica of David Greybeard, the first male chimp Dr Goodall named while doing research at Gombe National Park. Goodall's doll is made from ocean-bound plastic and is part of Mattel's Inspiring Women Series, which pays tribute to courageous and risk-taking women."

Photos: 1. Marble White and Skipper Butterflies in Bushy Park 2. Great Tit 3. Jay

Website River Crane Sanctuary

<u>Instagram</u>

Teddington Tidbits By Teddington Resident

Perfect Performance of People Power

With so many activities moving online, reliable mobile connections are essential. Telecom companies are under pressure to deliver ever faster services, with increasing demand for 5G connectivity. However, upgraded services often require new equipment – such as substantial 15 meter/49-foot-tall metal poles with multiple metal boxes around the base.

The problem is location. Several applications site these ugly poles in very inappropriate locations – next to historic buildings, children's schools and low height houses, resulting in the monopole and cabinets being exposed and in prominent views. The applications often reveal that the plan designer never visited the site and a more suitable location was right nearby.

You can view the proposal here and leave your comments. Planning detail - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Be aware of similar applications for your street. Residents of Hampton Road successfully rejected erection of this pole and cabinets and Queens Road residents are currently fighting a similar plan. We do need the equipment, but finding the right location takes more time than just picking a spot on a map – and time is money. It is your neighbourhood, so protect it!

The Grand Tour: The Two Horaces and the Court of Florence

Last chance to visit 'The Grand Tour: The Two Horaces and the Court of Florence' which ends next Wednesday 20 July.

Don't miss this latest display which brings back some of magnificent treasures from Horace Walpole's Grand Tour during his time in Florence.

Walpole was fascinated by Florence and the Medici family. Strawberry Hill contained a conspicuous number of Florentine works of art received as gifts or acquired thanks to the intervention of his friend Horace Mann. Our latest display, curated by Dr

Silvia Davoli, brings back some of these magnificent treasures.

Included in general admission: strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/the-grand-tour





DOG RUNS IN FRONT OF BUS

By Deep Patel

Recently a dog was seen darting across the Hampton Road by our shop (Meet and Deep) ...it had unfortunately escaped it's lead and was scared of the busy main road traffic...a kind lady waiting at the bus stop alerted us and my mum (Pallu Patel) ran out of the shop and up the road to try and catch the dog

The dog ran in front of a bus on the main road as we all shut out eyes in absolute fear...I began praying to God for help...Krishna. Jesus, Buddha and Allah...the whole lot...but felt it was too late...a member of the pubic said they saw the dog was now UNDER the bus and we could hear frantic barking

I didn't know what to do so I called Twickenham Vets (a few doors down from our shop) and was and still am absolutely OVERWHELMED at their kindness, support and fast response.... no joke.....I looked out and within one minute 2 lovely vets as well as two lovely nurses were sprinting down the road to help the poor dog....they were AMAZING and so caring, we are so proud to live in a community where there are such people... But maybe it was the prayers I had said or maybe destiny, but this dog was exceptionally lucky....it was not under the bus as we had first been told, but it was actually INSIDE the bus!! YES INSIDE!! Somehow, although it darted across the main road traffic, a bus managed to stop promptly (awesome driver!) and she opened the bus door and the dog actually GOT ON the bus and stayed there until the vets safely helped it off.

People may know I'm always trying to spread compassion towards the smaller creatures to

help Twickenham gain more good karma like sprinkling talcum powder where ants come (not directly on them) or using copper mesh around plants to stop slugs, or humane mouse deterrents/ live capture traps to promote good karma.... But today I want to say how proud we are at Meet and Deep Newsagents (Hampton Road) to live in such a lovely hub area and have such wonderful and caring neighbours such as the kind hearted people at Twickenham Vets.

Every town needs people like them.

Photo at right of the bus and 2 of the vet team walking away still smiling.



The Barnes Pond Summer Festival is back!

The Barnes Pond Summer Festival is back from 22 to 24 July, and this time it's bigger and better than before!

Join the BCA and OSO Arts Centre for a weekend of music, comedy, and dance.

This outdoor festival offers the opportunity to meet the real Basil Brush (24 July, 2pm), join Mary in discovering The Secret Garden ballet (22 July, 6pm), or step back in time with Bob Dylan's greatest hits (23 July, 7pm).

Pop the champagne and roll out the posh picnics as we take you on a journey through opera's greatest hits at Opera on the Green (23 July, 2pm), and get ready to belly-laugh as stand-up legends Zoe Lyons (Mock the Week) and Paul Sinha (The Chase) perform at



and Paul Sinha (The Chase) perform at The Comedy Store (24 July, 7pm).

There really is something for everyone. Book your tickets now.

Members receive 10% off tickets or with a festival pass, you'll be able to see all events with a saving of £28.

Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) Twickenham Green

Twickenham Cricket Club
The Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Twickenham, TW2 5TU
020 8894 3110

Opening hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 10am to 5pm

Saturday 11am to 10pm

Sunday when cricket is being played

(Also open when there is a cricket match and the pavilion is in use)

The Cricket Pavilion does not seem to display the obligatory CTS LBRUT sign. A permanent, visible TOILET notice is needed in the central area of Twickenham Green.

Help protect local bat populations with the 'Batting for Bats' campaign

Local conservation charity Habitats & Heritage has just launched a crowdfunding appeal 'Batting for Bats 2022', to raise funds for a state-of-the-art Anabat Swift Bat Detector.

Why bats? They can tell us a lot about the state of the environment, as they are top predators of common nocturnal insects and are sensitive to changes in land use practices.

The pressures they face - such as landscape change, agricultural intensification, development, and habitat fragmentation - are also relevant to many other wildlife species, making them excellent indicators for the wider health of the UK's wildlife.

At least eleven bat species are found in South and West London of which at least six are thought to breed in the area. Maternity roost sites in buildings and trees are being lost and are now more scarce, roost sites are being disturbed by light and noise, feeding habitats are slowly disappearing, and dark corridors aka 'bat superhighways' that allow bats to commute between feeding areas and their roosts are being disturbed.

With this crowdfunding campaign Habitats & Heritage are aiming to raise £1940.92 to fund a state-of-the-art Anabat Swift Bat Detector and train volunteers to use it effectively.

The detector, the charities' second, will be deployed at various sites under threat of development and will collect and provide vital evidence of bat activity that can be presented during the planning process.

Find out more about the campaign and donate.



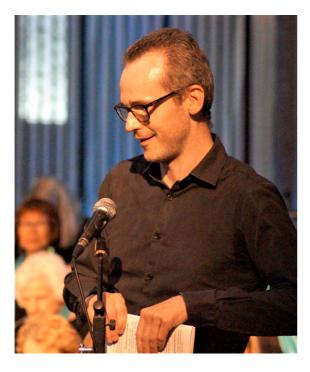
MODERN AMERICAN MUSIC

By Doug Goodman

The Teddington Choral Society returned to The Landmark Centre last Saturday with a programme of modern American music. Conducted by Julian Collings with accompanist Phil Culling and a choir of over 60 the programme included music by Barber, Lauridsen, Philip Glass, Eric Whitacre, Bernstein, Gershwin, Cole Porter and other popular composers. The audience was provided with an evening to remember. Special guest mezzosoprano Judy Louie Brown delighted everyone with her brilliant solos within well known Spirituals.



On Saturday 3rd September The Teddington Choral Society invites you to a 'Come and Sing Day' featuring Mozart's Solemn Vespers and Haydn's Nelson Mass. The venue: St. Mary's Church TW1 3NJ. from 10.00 to 5.00. Details from www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk









The Royal Parks issues statement on weather warning for Monday and Tuesday

Tom Jarvis, Director of Parks at The Royal Parks said:



'The Met Office has issued a red extreme heat warning for London and other parts of the UK on Monday and Tuesday, so we are urging visitors to take extra care and follow safety advice issued by the **UK Health Security Agency**.

"Over the next few days, The Royal Parks will be on fire watch, and we are asking that visitors help us reduce this risk by not bringing BBQs to the parks, not putting out cigarettes

leaving glass bottles or glasses out in the sun, so as to avoid magnifying the sun's rays and starting a fire. Please also leave no trace by taking all rubbish home with you when you leave the parks."



Heatwave: LGA responds to Met Office Red Heat Alert

In light of the Met Office issuing a Red Heat Alert covering Monday and Tuesday, Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, said:

"With a red heat alert having been issued for the first time by the Met Office, people should avoid unnecessary travel and take action now to keep yourself and others safe.

"Extreme heat is a serious thing.

"Research published this week shows that nearly 800 extra deaths in the UK are caused by excessive heat. With a period of record breaking heat due, people should remember to take care. It is not just those who may be more vulnerable who are at risk from these extreme temperatures. Anyone could potentially fall ill if they have not taken adequate precautions.

"No-one is immune to the power of the sun. Drinking plenty of water, keeping our homes cool, avoiding direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day and using sunscreen are sensible precautions we all need to remember."





COMMUNITY MIDSUMMER HEALTH EVENT

Thursday 21 July 2022, 3 – 5pm Elleray Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington TW11 0HG

Join us for a midsummer afternoon to find out more about how you can take care of your health and the health of those around you.



Community Engagement Richmond, in partnership with Public Health Richmond, are inviting residents, local businesses and health wellbeing providers to come together for an amazing <u>afternoon filled</u> with discussion, networking and fun.

All information and entertainment will be free, including:

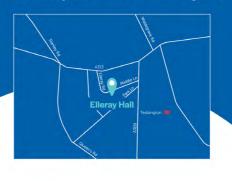
- · Mental health advice
- · Local wellbeing activities
- · Food from local restaurant (first come, first served)
- Lots of stalls to help you access local health services

There will also be the opportunity to sign-up to be a Community Health Champion and help us tackle local health issues, spread information and be a voice for those in your communities.

Registration is not required. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information please contact

communityconversations@richmond.gov.uk







Cherished belongings are bringing veterans' experiences to life at The Poppy Factory this summer

Treasured personal objects including a karate black belt, a nurse's fob watch, and a vintage eight-track music cartridge are among the surprising items on show in a new exhibition at The Poppy Factory in Richmond.

The belongings, which all hold particular meaning to veterans connected to the 100-year-old charity, are part of four new displays that have been unveiled. Visitors are encouraged to consider how the objects reflect the experiences of the ex-forces community. An extra date has now been added to the discovery sessions running throughout July, August and September, giving visitors and small groups the chance to explore the whole of the visitor centre and meet the factory team.

Each discovery session is led by an expert host. Guests

can explore veterans' stories and the history of The Poppy Factory, meet the production team and try making their own poppy. Visitors can also enjoy tea, coffee and artisan cakes in the shaded comfort of The Poppy Factory's café, or outside on the sunny terrace.

Tickets are available online now for the discovery sessions across a number of dates. Find out more and book your place.





Explore the world of the poet Alexander Pope

Drop in and join us to learn more about Alexander Pope, have fun with our grotto craft activity, and handle objects & archaeological finds from early 18th century London, recovered from recent excavations by MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

When: 23 July 2022, 10:30 - 3:30

Where: Radnor Gardens, Cross Deep, Twickenham TW1 4RB

A free event, part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology



The world of early 18th century London reflected the journeys of people to and from the city and places all over the globe. With coffee from Africa, porcelain from China, silks from India, gems and precious metals from the Americas. Pope reflected all of London's life and society in his poetry.

He built a grotto beneath his house in Twickenham, where he would write, surrounded by ores and minerals collected by friends and admirers as they travelled around the world.

Although the villa was demolished in the 19th century, the grotto has survived and is now being restored by Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust, with help from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the generous support of private donors.



www.popesgrotto.org.uk





Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

A TASTE OF SPAIN (WE HAVE THE TEMPERATURES!)

Who'd have thought that we would be 'enjoying' temperatures as hot as Spain? If, like so many of us, you aren't able, or willing, to risk flight delays and travel chaos this summer, it's actually pretty easy to recreate that Spanish vibe here in the UK. With companies like Lidl holding regular 'Spanish' weeks, plus the existing range of Spanish influenced food and drink products available in our supermarkets most of the year nowadays, all it takes is the addition of a glass or two of a good Spanish wine to create your very own tapas evening or even a fiesta! There are lots of great Spanish wines at really good prices in our supermarkets at the moment - for example, **Tesco Finest** has this delicious Vinas Del Rey Albarino for just £9.50

Spanish winemaker **Barón de Ley** has worked with long-term partner celebrity chef **Omar Allibhoy** to curate a bespoke edit of Barón de Ley blends that pair perfectly with these flavours. And below there's a recipe from this top Spanish chef for a really unusual, delicious, umami packed, cheesecake to end the meal.

The wines are widely available and, for the quality, excellent value for money:

Barón de Ley Blanco 2020 (abv 13%), Waitrose at £8.99 A blend of Viura and Tempranillo Blanco with a splash of Garnacha Blanca. The nose surprises you with an attractive explosion of exotic aromas, wild herbs and dill. On the palate, a perfect balance of acidity and alcohol, with a fresh, long finish. PAIR WITH: Cod with Artichokes



Baron de Ley Club Privado Reserva Rioja 2016 (abv 13.5%), Waitrose at £12.99 Round and fruity; a versatile wine for any occasion. Made from Tempranillo grapes this wine is aged for 20 months in American-oak casks and a further 2 years in bottle. Intense ruby-red colour, the Club Privado is full of ripe fruit on the nose, with spicy nuances. On the palate it has good presence and mouthfeel, with smooth, rounded tannins and a long, ripe fruity finish.

PAIR WITH: Paella de Pollo

Barón De Ley Varietales Graciano 2018 (abv 14%), available in Co-op at £12 A single varietal wine. Graciano is a native and minority grape in Rioja. The complexity of the grape means it can pair with some interesting, less obvious dishes, like this basque burnt cheesecake, **PAIR WITH: Basque Burnt Cheesecake** (see recipe below)

Additional Barón de Ley wines available in UK supermarkets this spring/summer: Baron de Ley Rioja Reserva 2017 (abv 13.5%), Co-op, £11; Baron de Ley Club Privado Rioja (abv 14%), Waitrose at £7.99

BURNT BASQUE CHEESECAKE | MI TARTA DE QUESO VASCA

"This recipe is very simple but the result is stunning; just keep an eye on the length of time in the oven and take it out when you think it's undercooked, otherwise your instinct will tell you to leave it in the oven a bit longer. I would like to add that if you change a quarter of the total weight of the Manchego cheese by blue cheese or a smoked cheese it makes it very distinctive and special."

INGREDIENTS FOR THE BASE

135g digestive biscuit 70g butter

INGREDIENTS CHEESECAKE

- 600q Philadelphia cheese
- 200g caster sugar
- 400ml whipping cream
- 100g Parmesan cheese
- 5 eggs (300g)
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tbsp plain flour

METHOD

- For the base: Melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat until slightly toasted and pour over the crumbled digestive biscuits. Mix with a spoon until combined.
- 2. Place the 26cm springform mould over a baking tray, lined with wet and scrunched baking paper. Fill the base with the biscuit mix, applying some pressure with a spoon (specially in the corners) and making sure it's flat throughout. Place in the fridge for at least 20 minutes while preparing the cheesecake mixture.
- 3. For the cheesecake: Finely grate the Parmesan cheese and place all the ingredients in a jug blender. Blitz for about 2 minutes or until smooth. You can mix it with a whisk as well or use a hand blender.
- 4. Pour the cheesecake mixture into the mould carefully and bake in a preheated oven at 190 degrees for about

40 minutes. The centre of the cake should feel runny and undercooked. Carefully remove from the oven and let it rest at room temperature for 3 hours and it's best enjoyed at room temperature without keeping it in the fridge so you can appreciate the creamy heart of the cake and flavours.



The Yeomen of the Guard by Arthur Sullivan, libretto by W.S. Gilbert

The Grange Festival, The Grange, Northington

The Yeomen of the Guard is all very civilised, all very English. Yet, hovering under the surface is the dark shadow of reality. The Grange Festival production enhances this subtlety without losing the joy of the genre, avoiding caricature without losing its sense of self-parody.



The Elizabethan setting is relocated to soon after the First World War. The impending beheading becomes a hanging that is pending (so to speak). Why WW1 is not clear, but it does reinforce the concept of hero worship. The set of half-timbered houses fronting Tower Green is a gift for the Chorus. The ladies' chorus nip out of their front doors as one, while the brave veterans "suckled on gunpowder" march in, resplendent in their Yeomen's uniforms. This cohesion of set, chorus and music enriches the confident style of Sullivan's score, which John Andrews conducts with inspired vitality in a scintillating performance with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Ellie Laugharne's crystalline soprano an absolute delight to listen to as Elsie. The prolific bass, Graeme Broadbent as a morose

Sergeant Meryll Sergeant Meryll, and the commanding presence of baritone John Savournin, as Sir Richard Cholmondeley, complete a Rolls Royce trio of G&S stars. Mezzo Angela Simkin is a captivatingly coquettish Pheobe. Nick Pritchard sings with easy articulate appeal as the condemned hero Fairfax around whom the plot revolves.

The Yeomen of the Guard is Gilbert's most Shakespearean libretto, but Christopher Luscombe's production highlights the fool. Jack Point, via Nick Haverson's acrobatic portrayal, takes the persona of a Shakespearean fool, a lightning-rod for the emotions of the principals. The Merryman and his Maid mirrors the story if it were to have a happy ending for Jack. In his reprise of the song in the final scene, he tellingly does not sing the last two stanzas ... and Jack, the

Shakespearean fool, emerges as a Rigoletto, a tragic and flawed human being.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/07/08/yeo-quard/

Mt, bt Hrr Doomed;

A Plague on All Your Houses

by Marcia Kelson

Angels Wings, Bitesize Festival at Riverside Studios, Hammersmith until 16th July

I came away from this play feeling quite ill. (Better now, thanks for asking!) So, the play worked! *A Plague on All Your Houses* runs through causes of pestilence, disease and death from the Black Death to Covid. In five scenes throughout history, we learnt some interesting facts, which were cleverly woven together to show that, no matter how people reacted in the past, we react in the same way today. A cruise ship could not land in Sicily in 2020 at the start of Covid outbreak, neither could the crews of the plague ships who tried to land there in 1347.



So what have we learnt? We always knew about social distancing, but by other names. Governments, businesses and individuals react in remarkably similar ways for good or ill. Maybe the important lesson is that outbreaks of plague are nearly always accompanied by war; they create the ingredients to exacerbate them.

Each scene was performed by a cast of four actors, who brought the histories to vivid life, all of them playing significant roles. There was Shakespeare (who never used the plague as a plot device), a spoiled passenger on board the doomed cruise ship, and a put-upon press officer in Boris Johnson's scene (which raised quite a laugh, not having caught up with the events of the last few days).

So are we all going to

hell in a handbasket? The war-torn final scene, set in 2025, suggests bubonic plague, gas masks and Molotov cocktails are our future. Maybe so, but the optimist in me says that we'll probably work it out in some way. We may not be able to go outside again without masks, but we'll get on with our lives like we always do, and memories of being able to do that will be consigned to tearful but irrelevant nostalgia.

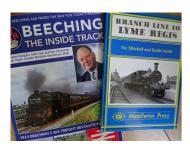


Read Nick Swyft's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/07/15/plague-houses Photography by Martin Jessop

TRAVELLER'S TALES 127 BRING BACK THE BRANCH LINES

Doug Goodman describes his fascination with steam trains

It's much too late to bring back most of the branch lines closed in the 1960s as a result of the Beeching report on the financial state of our rail network. Brought in by the Government 59 years ago, Dr.Richard Beeching was tasked with finding a way to make the railways pay. Under-funded and unmodernised our railways were in a sad state in the 1950s and early 1960s. Ancient steam engines hauled much of the passenger and freight services: signalling was outdated and stations needed upgrading. So began the work by Dr. Beeching, which would result in the closure of over 2,300 stations and 7,000 miles of track. In 1961 the railways made a loss of £87million. This combined with the Government's belief that with car ownership and road building booming, no one would want to travel by rail in the years to come. With the closure of pretty country stations and much-loved branch lines the people who suffered most were those who lived in the countryside, didn't have a good bus service and didn't own a car. Beeching has been much reviled for 'destroying' our railway heritage but he was only doing the job he was paid to do. It was the Government under transport Secretary Ernest Marples who put the recommendations into practice.



Beeching and the Lyme Regis Line



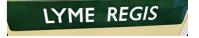
Southern Railway Poster



Lost Lines



August 1903



Station Name board

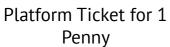
AXMINSTER TO LYME REGIS

During a visit to the Philpot Museum in Lyme Regis I was fascinated by the story of the building, running and closure of the branch line from Axminster to Lyme. A poster extolls the delights of visiting The Jurassic Coast by train and a route map shows just how many branch lines to Dorset and Devon resorts, served on the route by express trains from London, were in existence until the 1960s. From Axminster to Lyme is about five miles by road but by rail it is longer because the line was built over difficult terrain. The branch line arrived only in August 1903: it closed in November 1965. With just one stop on the route the journey must have been really pretty and brought many holiday makers to Dorset's coast. In Beeching's report it was stated that many seaside stations had very little traffic based on ticket sales. But what was overlooked was that most visitors bought a return ticket from their home station so did not need to purchase a ticket at the destination. At its peak there were about 12 trains daily and a through carriage from Waterloo was available.

The local geography made it difficult for the small, under-powered locomotives to tackle steep gradients and tight curves. The construction of the magnificent Cannington Viaduct near Uplyme remains a testament to the skills of the engineers. Subsidence threatened the viaduct

and an additional arch was built inside one of them to stop the slippage. Axminster station built in the Gothic style remains unchanged but Lyme Regis has vanished under industrial development. Part of the station was removed in 1979 by The Mid-Hants Railway and rebuilt at Alresford. The single track line was faithfully served for many years by locos 30582, 30583 and 30584. Later more 'modern' steam engines and electric trains were brought in. I wish I could have seen them struggling over the hills. Like many school boys I was a train spotter and had a great experience visiting the Nine Elms loco depot and climbing onto the footplate of an ancient engine. Southern loco number 30583 was preserved by the Bluebell Railway in Sussex.







Cannington Viaduct



Nine Elms Loco Depot 1956

PRESERVED LINES

Many enthusiast and far-sighted organisations have bought derelict locomotives and unwanted branch lines during the past 50 years. Through their dedicated efforts and engineering knowledge we can still enjoy the thrill of a ride on a steam train. The huge number of TV programmes on the subject testify to the growing popularity of what might have become history. One branch line closed by Beeching was the Axminster to Seaton in East Devon. In 1970 it opened as a narrow gauge tram line and now runs for three miles between Colyford and Seaton on the coast. The trip along the Axe valley on one of the many open-top trams is a very enjoyable experience.



Bluebell Line



Seaton Tramway



York Railway Museum

The Heritage Railway Association tells us that over 400 steam trains run on 150 preserved lines in the UK. There are 460 stations on the 500 miles of track. There are also many railway museums scattered throughout the country with the biggest at York. While the 'Line to Lyme' is lost forever there's a good chance that more of the closed lines will be brought back to life in the years to come.

Two interesting publications: 'Beeching The Inside Track' by Robin Jones. 'Branch Line to Lyme Regis' by Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith. There's also a film of the line.

WIZ TALES: Brazil - environment

Teresa Read

The Federative Republic of Brazil is continental South America's largest country having borders with a number of other South American nations: Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Brazil's land area of over 8.5 million square kilometres (3.3 million square miles) makes it the fifth largest nation in the world.

The flora and fauna of Brazil are as diverse as its geography (low lying Amazon basin, Pantanal wetlands, rolling central plateau and rugged hills and mountains in the south and along the Atlantic coast).

Brazil has the highest number of species of primates, amphibians and plants in the world, and is in the top five for numbers of birds and reptile species. Much of this biodiversity is due to the Amazon basin with its dense tropical rainforests and the Pantanal wetlands.

The rainforest canopy supports many mammals, including monkeys and bats, invertebrates, most notably butterflies and beetles, amphibians - especially the brightly coloured tree frogs and reptiles like anacondas and boa constrictors.

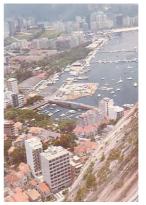
The Amazon rainforest is a vital carbon store and in 2012 the government of Brazil passed a law to force farmers to replant trees on illegally cleared land.

Unfortunately, the worst fires in Brazil's Amazon rainforests since 2010 were suffered in 2019. In April 2022 world news pointed out the worry of a sixty-four percent increase in deforestation in Brazil in the first three months of the year compared with 2021.

At the COP26 summit Brazil was among countries that promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030.















St Mary's University

Joe Wicks MBE To Be Awarded Honorary Doctorate by St Mary's University

The Nation's PE Teacher Joe Wicks MBE is to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate by St Mary's University, Twickenham in recognition of his contributions to the wellbeing of people across the country and charity.

Joe first graduated from St Mary's in 2005 with a degree in Sport Science. He will be presented with his Honorary Doctorate in a ceremony in Westminster Cathedral at 10am on Thursday 21st July.

families to do together at home and raised over £580k for NHS charities. Later in 2020, Joe went on to raise a over £2m for BBC Children in Need as he completed a 24-hour televised workout. Joe was awarded an MBE later in 2020 for his services to fitness and charity.

The award is the first its kind made by St Mary's following its receipt of Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2021, which allows the University to confer its own

doctoral degrees. The University has a strong and diverse research culture, and in the recent 2021 Research Excellence Framework, the majority of the research submitted for review was found to be world-leading or internationally excellent in its quality. St Mary's was also found to be the highest riser on the Times Higher Education Research Quality ranking, rising up by 32 places.



He is best known for his energetic High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) workouts, quick and healthy social media recipes, and his campaigning to get school pupils active. Through his brand The Body Coach, Joe has written thirteen books, regularly appears in the media, and hosts his own podcast and tv shows, exploring health and wellbeing.

During the first lockdown in 2020, he launched PE With Joe. This provided accessible and fun workouts, every day for

Speaking of the award, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, 'We are delighted to be making this award to Joe. He is the perfect recipient of our inaugural honorary doctorate award. Joe is a brilliant role model to our current students, his work on wellbeing, charity and education closely aligns with our core values of Excellence, Inclusiveness, Generosity of Spirit,

and Respect, and we are proud of all he has achieved in his career so far."



St Mary's University

St Mary's Recognised in triple-win at Aimhigher Practitioner Awards

The Widening Participation and Student Services teams' at St Mary's University, Twickenham have received three awards at the 2022 Aimhigher Practitioner Awards including Institution of the Year. The annual Aimhigher Practitioner Awards celebrate the achievement and endeavour of school and college staff, Higher Education providers and Local Authorities who go that extra mile in the spirit of widening participation. Aimhigher London leads a network of over 50 partners in the education sector,

with the aim of raising awareness of opportunity, supporting aspirations and enabling young people to make informed choices about their futures.

The St Mary's Widening Participation team are key partners in the delivery of Aimhigher's collaborative outreach programmes for schools and young people. By supporting both the

wide-reaching Learner Progression Programme and the targeted Office for Students Uni Connect project, the team meet hundreds of young people each year.

By hosting large events on campus in Twickenham, and visiting other university partners to provide a contrasting outreach taster, St Mary's Widening Participation team contributes efficiently and impartially to Aimhigher London's careers education and aspiration-raising programmes.

At this year's event, St Mary's was nominated in four categories and won awards in three categories:
Nancy Bentley, Widening Participation Manager at
St Mary's collected the Institution of the Year award
on St Mary's behalf. Accepting the award, Nancy
thanked Aimhigher London for bringing all the
partners together, saying, "The logistics of running big
events and collaborative projects can be very hard,
but I think that all of us as practitioners in schools,
Local Authorities and universities – we do this work
because it's hard work, and we know the benefits for
the young students involved can be so huge."

Current student Marie Nyvang won Ambassador of the Year for her outstanding contributions as a positive role model for young people. Speaking of her achievement, she said "I feel like all of us are giving it 100% when we work, and how they decided who

should win is a mystery to me, but I'm very flattered to have won. I always put in all I can when I work, and winning the award makes it all worth it. It's the first award I've won on my own as well, which makes me even more proud to have won it. It's feelings I can't describe."

Disability and Dyslexia Manager at St Mary's, Helen Duncan received the Aimhigher Champion Award for her continued commitment to the Aimhigher

Disability Working Group. She has supported Aimhigher's collaborative work even since before she joined St Mary's Student Services. St Mary's participates in several Aimhigher working groups, and as a core member of the Disability Working Group, Helen helps to share good practice with fellow HEI, college and school practitioners via the popular CPD programme for staff and advisors across the sectors.

and advisors across the sectors.

Helen said "It was a pleasure to receive this award.

I have been working with aim higher for about 10 years initially on the Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) learner conference - aimed at those with SpLD to aspire and transition to university, which I helped change to all prospective students with disabilities for subsequent years.

"Each year I have been involved in the planning and running of this conference and have also been involved in the planning and running of CPD conferences over the years. The CPD work is so important for sharing good practice and working effectively with schools and colleges on the processes and support mechanisms in the separate stages of education. This is so we are aware of how to successfully transition students and we have a good understanding of their educational route so far and challenges."

Mandip Birk, Senior Widening Participation Officer at St Mary's also attended the awards and was runner-up in the Outstanding Contribution to the Network category for her contribution to work with parents.

Find out more about Widening Participation and Outreach at St Mary's on the University website.



Butterfly scientists call on public for help Butterfly Conservation launches this year's Big Butterfly Count with a warning that time is running out

to help save species.

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation are today urging the whole nation to help Britain's butterflies by

taking part in the Big Butterfly Count.

Butterfly Conservation revealed in May that half of Britain's remaining butterfly species are now on the Red List and threatened or near threatened with extinction. Last year's Big Butterfly Count saw the lowest ever number of butterflies recorded. As butterflies and moths are an important indicator of the health of our environment, a reduction in their numbers is a cause for serious concern.

However, taking part in the Big Butterfly Count is one really positive way that everyone can help.



The information gathered is vital in helping scientists understand more about what is happening to the nation's butterflies and therefore put in place the conservation measures needed to protect them. In recent years Butterfly Conservation has helped save two species from extinction in the UK and halted the decline of many others. The charity has proved that with the right information and targeted action, species can be brought back from the brink,

Dr Zoe Randle, Senior Surveys Officer at Butterfly Conservation says: "Thanks to the wonderful British public who take part in their thousands, the Big Butterfly Count is the largest natural history citizen science project involving insects in the world and provides us with a valuable snapshot of what is happening for butterflies across the whole of the UK. It can act as an early-warning system, letting us know how various environmental changes are impacting insects, and allows us to gather vital data from places that would otherwise be totally unrecorded."

With the numbers of butterflies in decline, learning as much as possible about them is more important than ever. Zoe adds: "We really need people's help this year to help us figure out where our butterflies are and what we need to do to save them. It's not just the rare species of butterfly – the ones with restricted habitat or foodplants – that we are concerned about. Some of our previously commonly seen butterflies, like the Small Tortoiseshell, are also declining rapidly."

The Small Tortoiseshell, which can be found all over the UK and was once a familiar species in gardens throughout the country, has declined by 79% since 1976. It's one of the species included in the Big Butterfly Count, and Butterfly Conservation hope that data from citizen scientists will mean more can be understood about its fate.

Taking part in the Big Butterfly Count is not only good for butterflies – it's good for humans too! Dr Amir Khan, Butterfly Conservation Ambassador, is one of a number of famous faces supporting the Big Butterfly Count. He says: "Spending time in nature is hugely beneficial to our mental health. Just a short amount of time spent in the natural world can alleviate stress, and connecting with nature can help us feel happier and more energised.

"Watching butterflies for just fifteen minutes can be a wonderful and calming experience. It is good for you as well as benefitting butterflies by helping Butterfly Conservation gather the important data they

need to understand how to better protect these special insects. It is truly a win-win situation for all of us."



Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey open to everyone, of any age, living in towns, cities or the countryside. Taking part requires you to spend just 15 minutes in an outdoor space counting the amount and type of butterflies, and some day-flying moths, you see. It is easy to do and the more people who do it, the greater the benefits to our understanding of nature and how to help it.

There were over 150,000 counts submitted to the Big Butterfly Count last year, more than ever before. Though worryingly, 2021 also saw the lowest average number of butterflies logged since

the event began thirteen years ago. More counts are undertaken and submitted year on year, but it seems there are fewer butterflies and moths to be seen.

Butterfly Conservation scientists are keen to see if this is a trend that continues in 2022, and how the picture differs for butterflies across the whole of the UK. This means it's more important than ever that the public take part and help to gather the data needed.

This year the Big Butterfly Count is sponsored by garden wildlife specialist Vivara and the DFN Foundation, a commissioning charity focused on influencing sustainable change in special needs education, supported employment, healthcare and conservation.

Sarah Hancocks, Marketing Manager for Vivara, commented: "We are so excited to be extending our partnership with Butterfly Conservation and our sponsorship of the Big Butterfly Count. We're incredibly passionate about nature and know that all types of wildlife play a vital part in our ecosystem. That's why we're on a mission to help give parts of Britain back to nature and help restore the balance of biodiversity in back gardens across the country. The Big Butterfly Count is a fantastic way of doing this and furthering research into, and support of, butterflies."

David Forbes Nixon OBE, Chairman of the DFN Foundation, said: "The DFN Foundation is delighted to once more be the official co-sponsor of this great event and support Butterfly Conservation in their vital work helping us protect butterflies from extinction.

"Last year was the biggest count to date, with over 150,000 counts submitted from people across the UK and I hope we can make it even better this year. As we enjoy summer, I encourage everyone around the country to take part and use this as an opportunity to connect with nature in an easy and fun way. Not only will it benefit the health and wellbeing of all who take part, no matter their age, but also help save species of butterfly that are crucial to our environment and ecosystem."

This year's Big Butterfly Count runs from the 15^{th} July to the 7^{th} August.

For more information and to take part simply visit www.bigbutterflycount.org or download the free Big Butterfly Count app.



Conservation's



SQUIRE'S TO HOST HOLIDAY FUN CRAFT & PLANTING ACTIVITIES!

'Create & Grow' Summer Holiday Fun

Date/Timings: 25th July – 24th August 2022 (Monday-Weds ONLY); 9am-1pm

Participating Centres: Badshot Lea, Long Ditton, Milford, Shepperton, Stanmore, West Horsley,

Twickenham, Washington, Wokingham and Woking

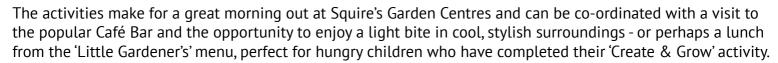
Squire's Garden Centres is to once again host its 'Create & Grow' programme of much-loved of fun, holiday activities this summer from 25th July to 25th August across ten of its centres.

Focusing on craft and planting activities, this summer holiday there will be an amazing selection of activities on offer over a 5 week period, with something for everyone to enjoy, including planting a delicious herb pot, painting a money box masterpiece, exploring a butterfly trail, painting a pair of pebble animals and having a go at painting a beautiful bird house. To book activities, visitors should simply visit Squire's website to see the full range of 'Create & Grow' activities, choose a local centre and select the preferred date. Places are limited so booking early is advised

https://www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk/whats-on/.

There will be a range of free and paid for activities each week, with lots of stickers for children to collect, themed word

searches and crosswords which have been beautifully designed with child-friendly images that evoke garden nature for children. Activities will take about 20 minutes and paid-for activities must be booked in advance.



Sarah Squire, Chairman of Squire's Garden Centres, comments: "We are delighted to welcome young visitors and once again offer a wonderful range of craft and planting activities over the summer break - and this time we have come up with a bumper crop so there will be something for everyone to enjoy! The activities will take just the right amount of time to occupy enquiring young minds and there are some lovely items to create and take home that will give children a real sense of achievement and hopefully inspire them to think about growing and nature in the garden."

Activities



9am -1pm	(All paid activities must be booked in advance)
25-27 July	Plant a delicious herb pot - £6 Spot the difference - Free
1-3 August	Create and decorate a pair of pebble animals - £3 Bug word search – Free
8-10 August	Paint a money box masterpiece £6 Sunflower maze - Free
15-17 August	Paint a beautiful bird house - £6 Spot the difference - Free
22-24 August	Explore with a butterfly trail – receive a sweet treat - £2.50 Butterfly maze - Free

Monday - Wednesday ONLY

SQUIRE'S GARDEN CENTRES CELEBRATE 'BEST OF BRITISH' DISPLAYS









(Above: left Sarah Squire with Milford Centre Manager, Ricky Bowness and the team's Mini display, and second from right, Sarah Squire with Shepperton Centre Manager, Ryan Bailey with the team's 'Rose and Crown' planting display)

Teams from all 16 Squire's Garden Centres have been busy over the last few months, creating colourful and striking displays as part of the company's 'Best of British' challenge, which was saw centres invited to create eye-catching displays that would pay homage to Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne, while delighting customers throughout the summer.

From a quintessential cottage garden display to a vintage mini, a classic garden shed to an allotment-theme, each centre came up with a creative planting scheme that, in the team's eyes, encapsulated elements of Britishness.

Sarah Squire, Chairman of Squire's Garden Centres, comments: "We've seen some amazing creativity from our centre teams! So much thought and care has gone into these creations. The teams really got behind the challenge and I am so delighted that they've enjoyed putting some really special displays together to commemorate this Platinum Jubilee year. Our customers have been able to see them coming into bloom over the weeks and enjoying them at their peak with some stunning floral displays. I would like to personally congratulate all our centres for their amazing creativity in this year's 'Best of British' challenge, they have all created wonderful displays to be proud of."

Squire's Milford was awarded the Squire's Cup for 'Best Display' with a unique exhibit consisting of a vintage Mini car, planted up with red, white and blue flowering bedding plants. Runner up was Squire's Shepperton with their 'Rose & Crown' centrepiece, featuring a UK-grown scented bush rose 'Trumpeter', placed in a striking crown-structure and surrounded by cottage-style garden plants including allium, lavender, lupin and peony, among others.



GARDEN CENTRES

Match preview: VfB Stuttgart v Brentford

Our first game on tour in Germany

By Brentford FC



After four tough days of work at our training base in Germany, we play our second pre-season game of the campaign tomorrow afternoon against VfB Stuttgart.

Last weekend's workout saw a 2-0 victory over Boreham Wood, but a sterner test lies in wait tomorrow as we build up towards our Premier League opener against Leicester City. Find out more about tomorrow's opponents, and who could line up for The Bees, below.

THE OPPOSITION

VfB Stuttgart, or to give them their full name, Verein für Bewegungsspiele Stuttgart 1893, are one of Germany's most successful sides with five national Championships, most recently in 2006/07, three German Cups, and a record three UEFA Intertoto Cups.

It's been a turbulent period since that 2007 Bundesliga title. After a number of narrow escapes, VfB dropped into the 2. Bundesliga in 2016 and, then again, in 2019, their only two seasons outside the top flight since 1977. The appointment of Pellegrino Matarazzo as Head Coach in December 2019 proved to be a turning point.

Under the American, Stuttgart finished second and returned to the Bundesliga at the first attempt. In his first full season, Matarazzo led Stuttgart to ninth in the top-flight before a dramatic final day win over 1. FC Köln guaranteed their survival last time round.

The Stuttgart squad might not be too well known to fans with former Chelsea youngster



Clinton Mola and Konstantinos Mavropanos, once of Arsenal, the only players with experience of English football.

This will be VfB's third preseason outing of the campaign following a 7-1 win over amateur side SV Böblingen and a 3-2 victory over FC Zürich.

TEAM NEWS

Aaron Hickey, Keane Lewis-Potter, and Thomas Strakosha have all joined up with the

Training Camp in Germany this week to supplement the squad which beat Boreham Wood last weekend.

THE MANAGER

Pellegrino Matarazzo was raised in New Jersey to Italian immigrants. He was a four-year varsity starter at High School and went on to play at Columbia University, where he earned a degree in applied mathematics in 1999. After graduating from Columbia, Matarazzo embarked on a professional career, eventually signing for Eintracht Bad Kreuznach in the German fourth tier. Matarazzo spent a decade in the German lower leagues before ending his career with Nürnberg II, where he combined an assistant coach role with his playing career.

After five years at Nürnberg's academy, Matarazzo started the German FA coaching programme at the Hennes Weisweiler Akademie, where he shared a room with Julian Nagelsmann. Matarazzo joined Nagelsmann's coaching staff at Hoffenheim in 2017 and was promoted to assistant a year later. In December 2019, Sven Mislintat signed Matarazzo as First Team Head Coach of VfB Stuttgart.

TICKET AND TRAVEL INFO

Tickets for the game cost between €13 and €24 for adults depending on the location in the stadium. There are reduced prices for concessions. They can be bought from the match hosts now.

Buy your tickets here

Stadium Address: Teuringer Str. 2, 88045 Friedrichshafen

Tomorrow's match will be played at the Zeppelinstadion Friedrichshafen des VfB Friedrichshafen, at the very southern tip of Germany, close to the Austrian border.

The stadium is in the northern part of the city, around a 30-minute walk from the train station, through the Riedlepark and across the E54.



England team announcement: Australia v England (Test 3)

Eddie Jones has named his England side for this weekend's series decider against Australia.

England will take on the Wallabies at Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday 16 July [11am BST KO], with the series at 1-1 following a 25-17 win last weekend.

Ollie Chessum (lock) comes in in the second row, for his first start for England. Lewis Ludlam (open-side flanker) is the second change to the forward pack. In an unchanged front row hooker Jamie George is joined by props Ellis Genge and Will Stuart. Captain Courtney Lawes is blind-side flanker, Jonny Hill stays at lock and Billy Vunipola is No. 8.

Danny Care comes in at scrum half in the only backs change. Marcus Smith is at fly half, Owen Farrell is inside centre and Guy Porter is outside centre. Tommy Freeman stays on the left wing, Jack Nowell is on the right wing and Freddie Steward is full back.

Nick Isiekwe could make his first appearance in the series after being named as finisher. He is joined by Luke Cowan-Dickie, Mako Vunipola, Joe Heyes, Jack Willis, Jack van Poortvliet, Will Joseph and Henry Arundell.

Jones said: "We've had a squad of 36 this tour who have competed hard and we're really proud of their efforts.

"We go into this Test with a strong squad of 23. It's a young, inexperienced but together group who have developed well throughout this series.

"We want to play with purpose and energy to win the series and an historic Test match at the Sydney Cricket Ground."

Australia v England is live on Sky Sports Main Event and BBC Radio 5 Live.

ENGLAND XV

- 15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 12 caps)
- 14. Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 41 caps)
- 13. Guy Porter (Leicester Tigers, 1 cap)
- 12. Owen Farrell (Saracens, 96 caps)
- 11. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)
- 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 12 caps)
- 9. Danny Care (Harlequins, 86 caps)

FINISHERS

- 16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 36 caps)
- 17. Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 69 caps)
- 18. Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 4 caps)
- 19. Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 7 caps)

- 1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 38 caps)
- 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 68 caps)
- 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 22 caps)
- 4. Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 4 caps)
- 5. Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 14 caps)
- 6. Courtney Lawes (C) (Northampton Saints, 95 caps)
- 7. Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 13 caps)
- 8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 63 caps)
- 20. Jack Willis (Wasps, 3 caps)
- 21. Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)
- 22. Will Joseph (London Irish, 1 cap) *apprentice player
- 23. Henry Arundell (London Irish, 2 caps) *apprentice player



England Women Sevens squad named for Rugby World Cup qualifier

Head coach James Rodwell has named his England Women Sevens squad for their Rugby Europe World Cup qualifying tournament at National Rugby Stadium Arcul de Triumf, in Bucharest (16-17 July).

Drawn in Pool B, England take on hosts Romania, Italy and Belgium with all matches streamed on RugbyEurope.tv.

The tournament is made up of three pools of four teams. The top eight teams will progress from the pools and be reseeded for the quarter-finals where the winners of each will qualify for the Rugby World Cup Sevens which takes place in South Africa in September.

Abbie Brown captains the side which is made up of players who have represented England Sevens on the 2022 World Series and Rugby Europe tournaments.

Rodwell said: "As a group we are really looking forward to getting back on the pitch with the aim to qualify for this year's World Cup in Cape Town.

"We've had an intensive training block since we returned from the Rugby Europe tournaments and want to continue the progress made there.

"This is separate from the Commonwealth Games and a big opportunity to be involved in another major tournament in what is a really exciting year for sevens."

England Women Sevens squad

Ellie Boatman Abbie Brown (C) Heather Cowell Grace Crompton Merryn Doidge Amy Wilson Hardy Alicia Maude
Isla Norman-Bell
Jodie Ounsley
Celia Quansah
Jade Shekells
Lauren Torley
Emma Uren

Pool B schedule

Saturday 16 July

England Women 7s v Romania Women 7s – KO 11.06 local time/9.06 UK time England Women 7s v Italy Women 7s – KO 18.06 local time/16.06 UK time

Sunday 17 July

England Women 7s v Belgium Women 7s - KO 11.06 local time/9.06 UK time



'The urgency of this crisis demands a political will to tackle it', RCEM says

Responding to the latest Emergency Department performance figures published by NHS England for June 2022, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Dr Katherine Henderson said:

"Today's data is once again another reminder of the depth of the crisis and pressures facing Urgent and Emergency care. It is staggering that in this summer month, we are still seeing huge numbers of 12-hour waits (from decision to admit to admission) and nearly the worst four-hour performance on record.

"This week all ambulance services across the country declared REAP 4, the highest critical incident level indicating extreme pressures. Currently, patients face dangerously long waits waiting for an ambulance, waiting outside an A&E in the back of an ambulance, and waiting in crowded waiting rooms in A&Es. Among staff there is huge discomfort in the quality of care being provided, it is distressing and incredibly difficult for them to deliver optimal care in these conditions and under this pressure. For patients, there is fear and frustration at the length of time they may need to wait to receive emergency care. It is an appalling situation.

"We welcome the incoming Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Steve Barclay, to his new post. We urge him to recognise the severity of this crisis and the crumbling urgent and emergency care system and make tackling this crisis his top priority. At this time, NHS staff need to see leadership and see that there is political will to act.

"In the short-term, the Health Secretary must recognise how important it is for 12-hour data measured from time of arrival (and already collected by all NHS Trusts in England) to be published by NHS England (as promised), this will allow for transparency of data and help us see the true scale of the crisis and begin to tackle it. Secondly, good social care underpins an effective health service and a well-functioning emergency care system. It is vital that social care has adequate resources and staff, who are valued and respected. Good social care will help patients be discharged from hospital in a timely way rather than stay longer than medically necessary. The government must deliver a meaningful plan for social care, that includes a fair pay agreement that values social care workers' vital role.

"Lastly, the Health Secretary must finally commit to publishing the fully-funded workforce plan that this government promised to deliver – this would address the huge shortfall in staff across the health service, and in turn allow the system to open more staffed beds."



Developing workforce skills for a strong economy

The country faces a major challenge in ensuring it has a sufficiently skilled workforce. Government has strengthened its approach in recent years, but it is unclear whether its interventions will deliver the step-change in skills development that is required, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

Having a skilled workforce is critical to the country's economic success and to achieving other government aims, such as levelling up. The skills system involves a range of players, including government departments - led by the Department for Education (DfE) - employers, training providers, local bodies and individuals. DfE estimates that it spent £3.9 billion on adult education, apprenticeships and other skills programmes in 2021-22

Economic and societal changes are making the skills challenge more acute. For example, the UK's exit from the EU has reduced the supply of workers from member states and potentially increased the need for the country to train its own workers. The requirement to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions will create new skilled jobs and around one in five existing jobs is likely to be affected by the transition.

Employers' spending on workforce training per employee has fallen. DfE surveys indicate that the amount employers in England spent on training per employee dropped in real terms by 11% from £1,710 in 2011 to £1,530 in 2019. The 2019 survey found that 39% of employers had provided no training in the previous 12 months.

Participation in government-funded further education and skills training has declined significantly, particularly in disadvantaged areas. The number of adult learners fell from 3.2 million in 2010/11 to 1.6 million in 2020/21, a decrease of 48%. From 2015/16 to 2020/21, the number of participants aged 19 and over in England's 20% most disadvantaged areas dropped by 39%, compared with a 29% drop overall. Largely because of the drop in learners, there was a 46% fall in the Skills Index - government's measure of the impact of the further education system on productivity - from 2012/13 to 2020/21.

DfE's regular surveys of employers means it has a reasonably good understanding of current skills needs. In 2019, employers across England, Northern Ireland and Wales reported that 24% of vacancies were due to a lack of the required skills, qualifications or experience among applicants. The sectors most affected by skill-shortage vacancies were construction and manufacturing. Government has introduced new arrangements to strengthen its understanding of future skills needs. These include establishing a new Unit for Future Skills within DfE, and employers leading the development of new local skills improvement plans.

DfE considers that the skills system will be most effective if it is led by employers, but it is unclear that the conditions are in place for this approach to be implemented successfully. It will rely on employers having the capacity and willingness to be much more involved in identifying skills needs, designing training content and engaging their employees in that

training.

Employers and training providers told the NAO it was hard to navigate government's growing, and sometimes disjointed, set of skills programmes. DfE's programmes include well-established initiatives such as apprenticeships, along with newer interventions such as Skills Bootcamps. Other government departments also run or fund programmes with a skills element, such as the Department for Work and Pensions' employment support schemes. DfE considers that the range of programmes reflects the diverse needs of employers and learners but recognises that there is some duplication between programmes and scope for simplification.

DfE is taking steps to encourage and incentivise people to develop their skills. DfE's National Skills Fund will provide £2.5 billion to support adults to develop skills, including through the Lifetime Skills Guarantee. It is also working to improve how it communicates with people about the skills programmes on offer. In January 2022, it launched two campaigns, one aimed at supporting adults to gain new skills, and another providing information on the education and training options available for 16- to 18-year-olds.

The 2022 white paper, Levelling Up the United Kingdom, set out the government's plans to address regional and local inequalities, but its aims go only some way towards addressing the decline in participation in skills training. By 2030, the government wants 200,000 more people in England to successfully complete high-quality skills training annually, including 80,000 more people in the lowest skilled areas. Achieving this would only partly reverse the fall of around 280,000 learners in the 20% most disadvantaged areas since 2015/16.

The NAO has found that DfE is managing its skills activities more effectively, having introduced a clear purpose, stronger governance and more rigorous risk management. DfE has a range of metrics for monitoring the performance of its individual activities and, at the time of the NAO's examination, was still working to define what success would look like for the skills system as a whole. Different parts of government are working together more effectively to coordinate work on skills and monitor progress.

The NAO recommends that government, led by DfE, should develop a strategy and supporting implementation plan for achieving its objectives on workforce skills, building on the approach set out in the Skills for Jobs white paper. Among other things, the plan should set out how employers and individuals will be incentivised to develop skills and engage with the skills system, and the metrics that government will use to monitor progress.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

"To help people achieve their potential in the workplace and drive economic growth, it is essential that government and employers support opportunities for learning and development. The government has taken sensible steps to address skills shortages in recent years, but the challenges it faces have increased. There is a risk that, despite government's greater activity and good intent, its approach may be no more successful than

previous attempts to provide the country with the skills it needs."

Click here for the **full report** and click here for the PAC Chair's statement

Managing central government property

Managing central government property effectively helps to support government priorities such as net zero and levelling up. Government has a strategy to use its property to best effect and unlock savings, but longstanding problems such as poor data pose major risks to its successful delivery, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

Central government property, valued at £158 billion, is one of government's largest assets. It includes offices, hospitals, academy schools, jobcentres, courts, prisons and museums. The Office of Government Property (OGP) sets the strategic direction for the management of government property. The Cabinet Office has categorised properties into 12 portfolios (such as health, defence and school portfolios), 10 of which are led by a single department or arm's-length body. The Government Property Agency (GPA) sets and implements a property strategy for the government's office and warehouse portfolios.

In the last five years, government has launched 11 programmes to make central government property more efficient and cost-effective. For example, it has reduced the size of the general-purpose property held by central government (such as offices) by 6% between 2017 and 2020. The Cabinet Office is overseeing Places for Growth, which aims to move 22,000 civil servants from London to the regions by 2030. As of March 2022, 5,950 relocations (27% of the total) were completed. The GPA is responsible for Phase 2 of the Government Hubs programme, which involves relocating civil servants to 17 large, state-of-the-art buildings strategically located across the country.

A lack of good data is a major barrier to effective decision making about government property. The OGP does not have comprehensive, real-time information on how central government property is distributed around the country or office occupancy following the COVID-19 pandemic. The GPA is piloting ways of measuring occupancy of the offices it manages, but it has limited information about the offices held by departments. Delays in implementing InSite, a new database of central government property, have hindered the Cabinet Office's attempts to collect more and better-quality data.

Departments do not have accurate workforce planning data on the number of employees and their location, which makes it difficult for the GPA to plan and implement departmental relocations. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ways of working has made it more challenging for departments to anticipate what their future space requirements will be.

Government is taking steps to recruit property staff and develop the skills of existing staff, but many initiatives are at an early stage. Since 2020, a Property Fast Stream for graduate recruitment and the Government School of Property have been launched. Departments told us there had been improvements but that there was more work to be done.

The spending review cycle makes it more complex to make the case for longer-term investment programmes. Funding for programmes, like Places for Growth, is certain only until 2025.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and government's aim to relocate civil servants to the regions and to reduce their number, will alter government's use of and demand for office property. Government has signalled its intention to encourage more office working, but planned headcount reductions may result in a lower demand for office accommodation.

The NAO recommends that the OGP should take prompt and decisive action to implement InSite. The OGP and GPA should discuss onboarding plans with the departments that have not yet agreed to transfer the management of their offices to the GPA, and agree on whether these plans remain achievable and represent value for money. The OGP should work with HM Treasury to consider what long-term financial settlements are available to best incentivise initiatives with the potential for long-term savings. The Cabinet Office should also work with departments to prepare workforce plans for the next five years.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

"Government will need to overcome many challenges if it is to get the best out of its property. This includes urgently addressing data problems so it can make evidence-based decisions about its property that deliver efficiencies and save taxpayers money."

Click here for the <u>full report</u> and here for the <u>PAC Chair's statement</u>.

COVID-19 pandemic fuels largest continued backslide in vaccinations in three decades

WHO and UNICEF sound the alarm as new data shows global vaccination coverage continued to decline in 2021, with 25 million infants missing out on lifesaving vaccines

The largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years has been recorded in official data published today by WHO and UNICEF.

The percentage of children who received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) – a marker for immunization coverage within and across countries – fell 5 percentage points between 2019 and 2021 to 81 per cent.

As a result, 25 million children missed out on one or more doses of DTP through routine immunization services in 2021 alone. This is 2 million more than those who missed out in 2020 and 6 million more than in 2019, highlighting the growing number of children at risk from devastating but preventable diseases. The decline was due to many factors including an increased number of children living in conflict and fragile settings where immunization access is often challenging, increased misinformation and COVID-19 related issues such as service and supply chain disruptions, resource diversion to response efforts, and containment measures that limited immunization service access and availability.

"This is a red alert for child health. We are witnessing the largest sustained drop in childhood immunization in a generation. The consequences will be measured in lives," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director. "While a pandemic hangover was expected last year as a result of COVID-19 disruptions and lockdowns, what we are seeing now is a continued decline. COVID-19 is not an excuse. We need immunization catch-ups for the missing millions or we will inevitably witness more outbreaks, more sick children and greater pressure on already strained health systems."

18 million of the 25 million children did not receive a single dose of DTP during the year, the vast majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries, with India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia and the Philippines recording the highest numbers. Among countries with the largest relative increases in the number of children who did not receive a single vaccine between 2019 and 2021 are Myanmar and Mozambique.

Globally, over a quarter of the coverage of HPV vaccines that was achieved in 2019 has been lost. This has grave consequences for the health of women and girls, as global coverage of the first dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is only 15%, despite the first vaccines being licensed over 15 years ago.

It was hoped that 2021 would be a year of recovery during which strained immunization programmes would rebuild and the cohort of children missed in 2020 would be caught-up. Instead, DTP3 coverage was set back to its lowest level since 2008 which, along with declines in coverage for other basic vaccines, pushed the world off-track to meet global goals, including the immunization indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals.

This historic backsliding in rates of immunization is happening against a backdrop of rapidly rising rates of severe acute malnutrition. A malnourished child already has weakened immunity and missed vaccinations can mean common childhood illnesses quickly become lethal to them. The convergence of a hunger crisis with a growing immunization gap threatens to create the conditions for a child survival crisis.

Vaccine coverage dropped in every region, with the East Asia and Pacific region recording the steepest reversal in DTP3 coverage, falling nine percentage points in just two years.

"Planning and tackling COVID-19 should also go hand-in-hand with vaccinating for killer diseases like measles, pneumonia and diarrhea," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "It's not a question of

either/or, it's possible to do both".

Some countries notably held off declines. Uganda maintained high levels of coverage in routine immunization programmes, whilst rolling out a targeted COVID-19 vaccination programme to protect priority populations, including health workers. Similarly, Pakistan returned to pre-pandemic levels of coverage thanks to high-level government commitment and significant catch-up immunization efforts. To achieve this in the midst of a pandemic, when healthcare systems and health workers were under significant strain, should be applauded.

Monumental efforts will be required to reach universal levels of coverage and to prevent outbreaks. Inadequate coverage levels have already resulted in avoidable outbreaks of <u>measles</u> and polio in the past 12 months, underscoring the vital role of immunization in keeping children, adolescents, adults, and societies healthy.

First dose measles coverage dropped to 81 per cent in 2021, also the lowest level since 2008. This meant_24.7 million children missed their first measles dose in 2021, 5.3 million more than in 2019. A further 14.7 million did not receive their needed second dose. Similarly, compared to 2019, 6.7 million more children missed the third dose of polio vaccine and 3.5 million missed the first dose of the HPV vaccine- which protects girls against cervical cancer later in life.

The sharp two-year decline follows almost a decade of stalled progress, underscoring the need to not only address pandemic-related disruptions but also systemic immunization challenges to ensure every child and adolescent is reached.

WHO and UNICEF are working with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and other partners to deliver the global Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), a strategy for all countries and relevant global partners to achieve set goals on preventing diseases through immunization and delivering vaccines to everyone, everywhere, at every age.

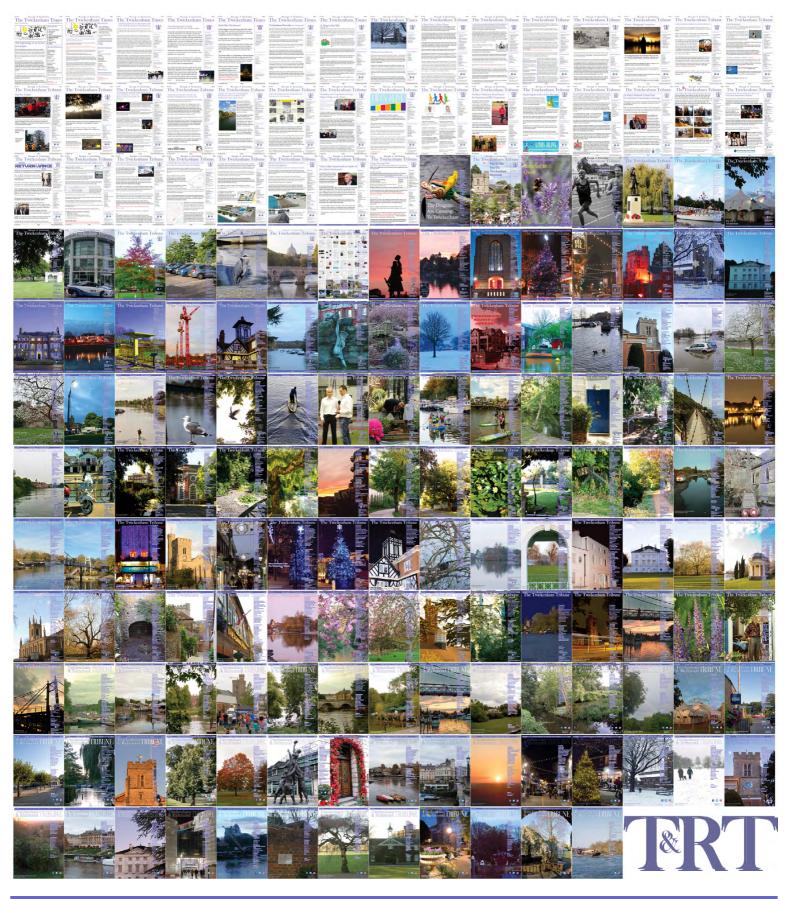
"It's heart-breaking to see more children losing out on protection from preventable diseases for a second year in a row. The priority of the Alliance must be to help countries to maintain, restore and strengthen routine immunization alongside executing ambitious COVID-19 vaccination plans, not just through vaccines but also tailored structural support for the health systems that will administer them," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

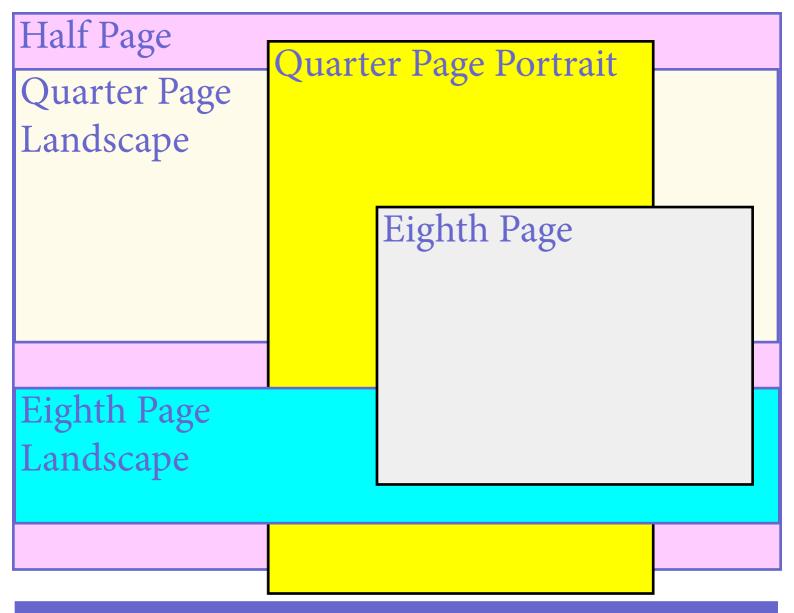
The IA2030 partners call on governments and relevant actors to:

- Intensify efforts for catch-up vaccination to address backsliding on routine immunization, and expand outreach services in underserved areas to reach missed children and implement campaigns to prevent outbreaks;
- Implement evidence-based, people-centred, and tailored strategies to build trust in vaccines and immunization, counter misinformation and increase vaccine uptake particularly among vulnerable communities:
- Ensure current pandemic preparedness and response and the global health architecture strengthening
 efforts lead to investment in primary health care (PHC) services, with explicit support to strengthen and
 sustain essential immunization;
- Ensure political commitment from national governments and increase domestic resource allocation to strengthen and sustain immunization within PHC;
- Prioritize health information and disease surveillance systems strengthening to provide the data and monitoring needed for programmes to have maximum impact; and
- Leverage and increase investment in research to develop and improve new and existing vaccines and immunization services that can achieve community needs and deliver on IA2030 goals.



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