Twickenham TRIBUNE

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22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Strawberry Hill Christmas Tree Photo by Berkley Driscoll

RG.I.PR.....SF.I.H.PR.....SS.I....ST....SF.I.H.PR....

# TickerTape - News in Brief

# Road closures in Twickenham ahead of rugby matches

The <u>Big Game</u> returns to Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 30 December 2023. There are two matches being played.

The matches are:

- Harlequins Women v Gloucester Hartpury (kick off at 2.30pm)
- Harlequins v Gloucester (kick off at 5.30pm)

Given attendance numbers, London, Whitton and Rugby Roads are expected to close from around 3.30 to 5.30pm and again from 7 to 9.30pm.

For this fixture, there will be a new crowd safety barrier on the roads where there previously was police vans. This is in line with updated guidance for all stadiums across the UK to ensure that there are no unauthorised vehicle movements impacting on crowd safety. Staff will try to facilitate entry and exit by residents where the police agree that it is safe. It is not anticipated that it will make a material difference to the road closure times.

Controlled Parking Zones will be in operation around Twickenham on the match day from 11am to 11pm. The roads will be kept open for as long as it is safe to do so, and to likewise reopen as promptly as possible.

Live traffic updates will be posted on X/Twitter <u>@rfuhometurf</u> on the day.





## Wishing all our wonderful readers a very

# Merry Christmas



## The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 228 By Alan Winter

### **Postcards On Christmas Day**

Imagine waking up on Christmas Day in Edwardian England. The year could be anywhere between 1901 and the beginning of World War I which began in 1914. The postal service was far superior to its current day counterpart and households in the UK could look forward to several postal deliveries a day including weekends, bank holidays and even Christmas Day!

With no telephones or computers in those days the only method of communication was by post. The letterbox would rattle, and quantities of Christmas postcards (Christmas cards came later) would land on the mat. If the postman got





up early enough, he would get home in time for his own Christmas lunch.

That's how the days started and the first two postcards this week show how many of these early postcards were illustrated. Father Christmas was a key part of many cards that went through letterboxes throughout Europe on Christmas morning.

A smaller percentage of Christmas Postcards were those of local views where the sender often lived and these tended to be existing local view postcards that were overprinted with a Christmas Message.

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The third postcard therefore is a Multiview Christmas and New Year postcard from Richmond while the fourth card is the nearest I can get to where I live in Hampton Road, Twickenham. It was posted 120 years ago in 1903 and shows a tram leaving Hampton Road and entering the beginning

of Stanley Road on its way to Teddington. If it helps you locate the view, the Nelson Pub used to be on the corner of the junction and after that the Loch Fyne Fish Restaurant was there

for some years before it closed a few years ago. The entry and exit into Stanley Road was blocked off many years ago and now an empty building sits on that corner waiting for a planning permissions change of use appeal I am told.

So, let me wish you all an enjoyable and



peaceful Christmas. Next week I'll try to find some New Year postcards as we will almost be into 2024 when the next edition of the Tribune is published.

If you have any old postcards sitting in a box or album at home that you are considering parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at <u>alanwinter192@hotmail.com</u>

I am happy to pay cash for any postcards or local photographs that I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!



Hello Alan,

#### The Railway Pub - Teddington

Just read your item about Teddington Railway Station in the Twickenham Tribune - The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 227

Most interesting!

I thought you may be interested in the attached picture I took of the retired pub sign from The Railway Pub next to the station.

I hope it was saved somewhere.

Kind Regards George Gimber

(Ed's note: George Gimber has since found that this pub sign was taken down in 2007)

## Alan Benson MBE



Alan Benson MBE, an honorary freeman of the Borough of Richmond upon Thames passed away on Sunday 17 December.

In recognition of his disability rights campaigning work, he was made a freeman of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in October 2022. At the meeting to confer the honour the Leader Councillor Gareth Roberts paid tribute to Alan Benson's tireless commitment to championing the rights of disabled and older people.

Councillor Rob O'Carroll, Richmond Council's Disability Champion, explained that whilst he may be the Council's first disability champion, Alan Benson had always been a champion for those with disabilities and that he was delighted that he had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours earlier this year. Councillor O'Carroll concluded that he was in awe of Alan Benson's tireless campaigning and stated that he was a truly inspirational man.

Alan had started his campaigning with Ruils, a charity run by and for disabled people that helps them lead independent lives and went on to become a long-serving trustee. He was also co-chair of trustees of Transport for All which works to achieve transport justice for the disabled and was deputy chair of London TraveleWatch which is London's independent transport watchdog that is sponsored by the London Assembly.

Before becoming a campaigner, he was an IT manager for twenty years at various colleges across the UK and took two degrees in economics.

## Statement by the Twickenham Riverside Trust

The Twickenham Riverside Trust has accepted the outcome of the Public Inquiry into Richmond Council's proposal for developing the Twickenham Riverside.

While Trustees are naturally disappointed by the Inspector's decisions and his failure to address many of the core issues raised by the Trust in his report, the Trust now wishes to focus on the future and a positive agenda for the Riverside.

Trust Chair, Mark Brownrigg, has said: "The Trust wishes the Council well in carrying forward its project. We intend now to press on with other practical actions under our charitable objectives, including bringing the community together to continue to 'preserve, protect and improve' the Riverside and its environs into the future and to 'advance the education of the public in the history and environment of the area'.

"We will be continuing in 2024 to provide and encourage events on the riverside, beginning with the celebration of the Lunar New Year in February.

"Another exciting new project will be the creation of a 'Friends of Twickenham Riverside' group to join with Trustees and other supporters to share in the task of safeguarding and caring for the public space on the Riverside and optimising activities for the benefit of local residents and visitors."

Over the last three years, Trustees have been obliged to dedicate a huge amount of time and effort to respond to the Council's redevelopment proposals, liaising with the Council and raising objections in its defence against the Compulsory Purchase Order placed on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

Under the Trust's articles and its lease on the Gardens, Trustees objected to the Order, and particularly to the Wharf Lane building and the impact that its height and massing will mean for the public open space on the Riverside. In this context, the Trust welcomed the intention to redevelop the derelict old pool buildings and the three retail units on King Street (known as the Santander block), thus opening up easier and better access to the Gardens and the Riverside. It had also agreed to the removal of the car parking on the river embankment.

Now that Trustees have decided not to appeal the Inspector's decision via a judicial review, the way is open for a new era of co-operation and for more energies to be devoted to encouraging the public's enjoyment of Twickenham's historic and unique Riverside.





## Wishing you a Wonderful Christmas

From the Crusader Travel family to yours, we extend

our thanks for your continued support as a valued

customer. We are looking forward to helping you with

all your holiday needs for 2024 & beyond.

We hope you enjoy the festivities and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## With kindest regards, From all of the team

<u>Christmas Opening Hours:</u> 24th December - Closed 27th December - closed 28th, 29th, 30th December - open 11:00 - 19:00 2nd January - open 11:00 - 19:00

Please call in emergency

Shona 07776202047 or Bruce 07824999213



## Goldsmith on the Covid Inquiry

The Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park wrote on X / Twitter, on Sunday that the Covid Inquiry was feeling like a "*missed opportunity*." Throughout the pandemic, he was Minister of State for the Pacific and the International Environment and a prominent ally of then Prime Minister, Boris Johnston.

The issue of **whether Lockdowns were worth it** was the subject of the thread. He stated, *"Fundamentally what we need to learn from an Inquiry is how to prepare for & deal with the next (inevitable) pandemic. The questions we should be asking is whether or not closing the economy & locking the world down was worth it. Did it save lives? How many lives did it also cost? How many people did our policy response push into deep poverty? In short, did the policy do more good than harm? From the UK perspective- did we fare better or worse than comparable countries? Why? Etc."* 

Lord Goldsmith then criticizes the inquiry for not looking into the role of the media and if they have lessons to learn too.

"It's also important to understand the role of the media; "There was really only one line of questioning at the time-'why aren't you locking down faster and harder'. How do we encourage a more questioning and inquisitive approach? Social media too. Govts, including ours, worked with the tech giants to control the narrative & close down dissent. But some of the 'conspiracy theories' turned out not to be theories. Is there, therefore, a need to guard against narrative control by govts & big tech? I understand the impulse to point the finger at individuals (& reasonable scrutiny of decision makers is obviously healthy), but that won't do much to prepare us for the future. And so far at least that seems to be the main focus of the Inquiry."

"Many - probably most - of the people who made decisions to lock people in their homes (& many of the media people who demanded it) enjoy nice homes of their own with access to the outdoors. But what of the millions of people in tiny flats, with no outdoor access, no garden? Single parents with behaviourally challenging children? People in abusive marriages? It's easy to make grandiose decisions when you're insulated from the worst effects." And it was much worse in many other countries. Peruvian children lost years of education. Pacific islands dependent on tourism lost half their income - including even countries that covid missed. Hundreds of millions around the world were plunged into poverty. Recent development gains were simply lost at the stroke of a pen."

In conclusion, he wrote, "Was it worth it? That probably depends on who is answering the question. *For the least well off, I suspect the answer would be 'no'*."

In reply to one of the comments he added, "*The only difference between the main parties concerned how ferociously the same policy should be applied. What if the policy was wrong? Surely that is what matters.*"

## The Royal Parks seeks Volunteer Rangers for Richmond and Bushy Parks

The Royal Parks is on the lookout for up to 70 Volunteer Rangers to join Bushy and Richmond Parks.

Recruitment for Volunteer Rangers opens on 21 November 2023 and the charity is keen to hear from friendly and chatty people who are passionate about the parks and want to inspire and educate visitors. Volunteers will need to commit to a minimum of four hours per month.

#### Volunteer Officer for The Royal Parks, Jo Meays, said:

"The Volunteer Rangers provide a welcoming service to the millions of visitors who enjoy Richmond and Bushy Parks each year. These unique spaces have been designated by Natural England as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and part of the remit of the Volunteer Rangers is to inform visitors on how we can all help nature thrive in these spaces. This includes sharing safety information with visitors on maintaining a minimum distance of 50m from the resident deer that roam both parks.

"Becoming a Volunteer Ranger is a great way to be out in nature, to make friends and to learn more about the heritage and wildlife of these two parks."

Rangers have a choice of twohour volunteering sessions across weekdays and weekends that suit their schedule.



Since the service started in 2019, Volunteer Rangers at Richmond and Bushy Parks have spoken to over 110,000 people on a number of topics including ancient trees, , walking routes and The Royal Parks' efforts to protect skylarks.

Denise Parker, Volunteer Ranger at Richmond Park said:

"I love being a Volunteer Ranger. I've learned so much more about nature and wildlife, met lovely people and made new friends too. It's really rewarding sharing this with visitors and supporting conservation in this very special place."

#### Jo Meays adds:

"The blueprint for The Royal Parks' Volunteer Ranger service was developed in Bushy and Richmond Parks in 2019, and its success has meant we have been able to roll out this service to two other Royal Parks - Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park. We currently have over 260 Volunteer Rangers across these four parks, and we look forward to welcoming more."

Applications close on 31 December 2023. Full training will be given.



To apply, visit <u>www.royalparks.org.uk/rangers</u>.

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A newspaper for Richmond upon Thames

# Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection 2023/2024

Your waste and recycling collections will change over the festive period. There will also be changes to garden waste collections, and we will be offering Christmas tree collections.

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Tuesday 26 December	Thursday 28 December
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December
Thursday 28 December	Saturday 30 December
Friday 29 December	Sunday 31 December
Monday 1 January	Tuesday 2 January
Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 4 January
Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January
Friday 5 January	Saturday 6 January

#### Garden waste

Garden waste collections, including bookable sack collections, will be suspended from Monday 8 to Friday 19 January 2024. Collections will be back to normal the week commencing Monday 22 January.

#### **Missed collections**

Our collection crews may be later than normal after Christmas due to a heavy workload. In the event of a missed collection, <u>you can report it online</u>.

#### Christmas tree recycling

Christmas tree collections will be between **Monday 8 January and Friday 19 January 2024**. Collections will take place on your normal garden waste collection day, but you do not need a paid garden waste contract for this.

You can also take Christmas trees to these designated sites for recycling from 27 December.

Find out more about Christmas tree recycling.

www.TwickenhamTribune.com

# People Power Helps Nature Richmond Community Assembly

Last week Richmond residents countered the Dubai COP 28 with a Community Assembly on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, held at York House. Seventy locals discussed 'What more could be done in the borough to improve biodiversity by the Council, by organisations and by individuals?' It was funded by the Climate Emergency Fund to show how ordinary citizens can bring about real change. Local experts were invited to speak about how their organisations are responding locally to national biodiversity decline, before participants brainstormed



ideas for conserving and improving the Borough's biodiversity, green spaces and endangered species.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, (Chair of the Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport



Committee gave a broad outline of the situation in the borough, the Biodiversity Action Plan, and what has been done so far. Mike Hildesley, (Chair of the independent charity Barnes Common Ltd) spoke about their organisation's local actions and what other measures could be taken. Residents learned about innovative projects to improve flood resilience and grow food for Foodbanks and the community, together with inspiring examples of what can be achieved by the collaboration of volunteers, community organisations and local councils.

Among the suggestions that emerged from residents'

discussions were finding a way for the Council to fast-track permission for local residents to look after small patches of neglected greenery in their neighbourhoods, increasing tree and hedgerow planting, providing practical information for carbon sequestering, and setting up a competition for wild gardens" which act as havens for wildlife. Details of the afternoon's response to the motion will be reported to Richmond Council and to local MPs, to be considered when drawing up future policy direction.

A participant said: "It was beautifully run, everyone who came had a chance to speak. There was a lovely feeling of collaboration and people brought nuggets of gold that hopefully local councils take on board...They are in a position of great power, providing a link between royal parks, local and central government and our streets". Members of the organisation coalition spent 5 weeks inviting residents to attend the Assembly and respond to the motion. The overwhelming majority said they were "terrified" or "seriously concerned" about the nature crisis unfolding in our time.

The Assembly also exhibited art by local primary school children. Entitled 'We Are Listening (Are You,

Heads of State?)', local children sent questions about the climate crisis directly to children in Indian schools at the frontline of unseasonal flooding and drought. Paintings, models and poems in the exhibition were our children's response to the moving stories they received. The Assembly was organised by a coalition of environmental groups (local branches of Extinction Rebellion, Friends of the Earth, and the Green Party) to highlight concerns about the loss or fragmented habitats for other species, and timed to coincide, and contrast, with COP 28, the UN climate summit in Dubai.



A newspaper for Richmond upon Thames

## **By-Election Nominations**

By James Knight

The Returning Officer for Richmond upon Thames has announced that the following people have been validly nominated for the two by-elections on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### Hampton North Ward

Party	Candidate
Conservative	Nupur Majumdar
Green	Danielle Ćoleman
Labour	Sam Cullen
Liberal Democrats	Carey Bishop

#### **Teddington Ward**

Party	Candidate
Conservative	Elizabeth Foster
Green	Chantal Kerr-Sheppard
Independent	Dominic Stockford
Labour	James Thomson
Liberal Democrats	Richard Baker

## Teddington Lock

Nighttime access restrictions will be lifted at Teddington Lock from today (Friday 22nd) through until the evening of 2nd January 2024.

Both bridges will be open during this time.



## Holy Trinity Twickenham

Happy Christmas! Whatever the next few days have in store for you, however busy or quiet, take some time to reflect on the mystery and profundity of the incarnation. St Augustine put it like this:

"What greater gift could God have made to dawn on us, than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a child of man might in their turn, become a child of God."

May the Lord bless you and keep you, this Christmas.

This Christmas we welcome you for the following services:

- Sunday 24th December 9am Holy Communion
- Sunday 24th December 3.30pm Children's Nativity
- Sunday 24th December 11pm Midnight Communion
- Monday 25th December 9am Holy Communion
- Monday 25th December 10.30am Christmas Family Communion

#### **Christmas Day Lunch**

Every year on Christmas Day, Churches Together in Teddington organise a lunch at Elleray Hall for those who would otherwise be alone that day. The lunch is free and takes place in a Christmas party atmosphere.

We are now looking for those who would like to come whether as guests or volunteers.

Nominations for guests can be made by organisations or individuals including selfnominations.



Volunteers are needed to help in many different ways – e.g. to set up on Christmas Eve, prepare and serve food, act as table hosts, entertain the guests, drive people to and from the event, and to clear up on Boxing Day.

Names and contact details of guests and volunteers can be sent in by email or by phone to:

Colin and Elizabeth Hicks 2023 Organisers for the Christmas Day Lunch Email: <u>CTTchristmas23@gmail.com</u> / Tel: 0208 977 8000

## Jonathan Hulley, Conservative PPC for Twickenham reports back

Statement from Jonathan Hulley:

I held my first **shadow MP surgery** in early December where I assisted residents from across the constituency who had asked for my help. The issues included concerns about antisocial behaviour; crime; theft of bikes; the state of some local roads; and unkept verges due to the council's decision to cut many of them only once a year.

However, the issue that dominated was housing; there were problems with housing associations not delivering and with elected representatives just sign-posting rather than taking up issues themselves. I am now helping residents to find new homes in the borough where the council wanted to relocate them outside of London, with some success I'm pleased to report.

Professionally, I'm a **senior housing lawyer** who acts for social housing landlords, local authorities and funders dealing with the full spectrum of issues facing the sector. I have also acted for members of the public on a pro-bono basis, so I know the issues that face the sector inside out and from both sides.

Richmond Council needs to improve on multiple fronts when it comes to housing. The council lacks strong leadership; there is no cabinet committee giving the council a strategic direction and there isn't even a scrutiny committee! Poor performance



is being allowed to continue from quarter-to-quarter to year-after-year; this needs to change.

**I passionately believe that the role of an MP is to be the advocate of last resort.** We step in and help when all other options have failed as my late father (who was a member of the South African parliament) taught me. I'm determined to make a positive difference in my role as a parliamentary candidate.

My next Shadow MP Surgery will be on 20 January between 10 am to 12 noon. The venue will be 90 York Road, Teddington, TW11 8SN. All are welcome. Alternatively, you can get in touch with me at Jonathan.hulley@outlook.com

In the meantime, I would like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## Festive travel information

Christmas and New Year services

#### **Transport for London**

From Saturday 23 December 2023 until Tuesday 2 January 2024, planned work, closures and service changes may affect your journey.

> On Christmas Eve, services will finish earlier than normal. For full details on



how services may be affected, visit our Christmas Eve travel page

- On Christmas Day, there will be no Tube, rail, bus, tram, river or IFS Cloud Cable Car services. Taxi and private hire, Santander Cycles, e-scooters, Dial-a-Ride and some coach services will be available
- On Boxing Day, there will be no Elizabeth line services and no service on most London Overground routes and part of the Bakerloo line. For full details on how services may be affected, visit our <u>Boxing Day travel page</u>
- On New Year's Eve there will be road closures in central London from early afternoon, with buses on diversion to support the London New Year's Eve fireworks event. Stations near to the fireworks event or in other busy areas of London may become exit or interchange only at short notice
- On New Year's Eve some TfL services will run all night. Visit our <u>New Year's Eve travel</u> <u>page</u> for information on services running
- TfL is not able to provide free travel on New Year's Eve

For more information, visit our <u>Christmas and New Year travel page</u>.

### South Western Railway

#### Sunday 24 December 2023

South Western Railway will run the Sunday timetable on this day. (Subject to engineering work). Services will finish around 2200.

#### Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December 2023

No South Western Railway services will run on these days.

#### Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 December 2023

South Western Railway will run the Saturday timetable on this day. (Subject to engineering work.)

# Twickers Foodie - By Rlison Jee SOME FESTIVE FOOD SUGGESTIONS

With Christmas just days away now, I thought it helpful to give you some suggestions for easy food and wines when entertaining friends or family - or just enjoying a quiet festive break.

Make sure you have a good supply of crackers and pots of pestos etc to enable you to whip up a few speedy canapés if unexpected quests drop by. These jars of **Cypressa's** tapenades will add extra flavour and offer beautiful sunshine flavours that can enhance bruschetta or dips. Try adding a swirl to your hummus to give it an extra dimension, or brush some on ready rolled pastry, cut into squares and bake p- for a quick and easy canapé. Cypressa products are readily available at Tesco, Asda, Waitrose, Ocado,



Morrisons, Amazon and Co-op.

Christmas isn't Christmas in our house without pickled walnuts with Boxing Day lunch! Opies is THE name for these, but the company also does a host of other fabulous products. Excellent store cupboard standbys include the fruits in alcohol, such as the new Forest Fruits in Spiced Mulled Gin. Try them poured over ice cream or popped into a meringue nest for a speedy, but spectacular dessert. I discovered that Opies also produces the most divine Silverskin Onions with Turmeric & Mustard Seeds (£2 a jar from Morrisons).

The company has loads of great recipes on the website <u>here</u> with interesting and unusual ideas for using up



Christmas leftovers.

There's still time to stock up with some special wines for the festive period and I was very impressed with the quality and prices of the Asda Special Selection wines when I went to a tasting recently. Treat yourself to the Extra Special Rosso Montalcino (£18 a bottle) which has great length and beautiful tannins - it will be perfect for Christmas lunch. The wines are great value, and the **Extra Special Cote de Beaune** (£17) was another perfect Christmas Day wine. There are other brilliant value Extra Special wines too: The Chilean Pinot Noir at £8 or the Douro at just £7.50. And the Extra Special Amarone is fabulous, and on offer at the moment for £17 (Full-bodied with complex aromas and layers of intense dried fruit, dark chocolate and sweet spice flavours) Asda's Extra Special range also has a great selection of ready prepared canapés and other festive goodies, so worth a visit to your nearest store!

BOUVET

Still on festive wines, Grands Chais de France, has an impressive portfolio of over 300 award-winning wines. With numerous awards from international competitions including Decanter World Wine Awards and the International Wine Challenge, you can be confident that you're serving top notch wines. Some examples of these are: Calvet Côtes du Rhône Villages (£8 / £7 Clubcard at Tesco); Calvet Prestige **Bordeaux White** (£9.99 at Waitrose); **Fleurs de Prairie** sparkling rosé (£8.75 at Morrisons); Arthur Metz crémant de Bordeaux (£12 at Ocado) and Villiera Cap **Classique Brut** (£16.99 at Majestic)

If you're heading up to Knightsbridge either pre-Christmas or for the sales, pop into Harvey Nichols and buy a bottle of **Bouvet Excellence Crémant de Loire** (£18). This cuvée is made using the Chenin and Chardonnay grape varieties, with a minimum of 15 months on the lees and a Brut dosage (10g/l) perfect for enjoying as an aperitif or pairing with a meal. It has delightful flower, pear & apple aromas and on the palate it's fresh, well balanced with a pleasing mousse. It's good value for the quality of wine and it'll be a great one for toasting 2024 too!







## Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

# Some suggestions for delicious festive fare:

### Christmas Parma Ham Salad Jewelled with Pomegranate, Mint, Toasted almonds and White Stilton

#### Serves 4 as a starter or 2 as a main

- 2 large handfuls mixed green leaves
- 120g White Stilton
- 20g toasted almond flakes
- 1 handful mint leaves, torn
- Seeds from 1 pomegranate
- 4 slices Prosciutto di Parma

#### **Dressing:**

- Zest and juice of 1 lime
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp runny honey
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and cracked black pepper
- 1. Whisk together dressing ingredients and season to taste
- 2.Arrange the salad leaves on serving plates with chunks of White Stilton, toasted almonds, mint leaves and pomegranate seeds
- 3.Drizzle with a little dressing and then serve with slices of Parma Ham

### Smashed Brussels Sprouts with Prosciutto di Parma Crumbs

Serves 6-8, as a side Preparation time: 10 mins Cooking time: 45 mins

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 6 slices Prosciutto di Parma
- 800g Brussels sprouts, trimmed
- 2 small red onions, peeled
- 150g ready cooked and peeled chestnuts, broken in half
- 3 sprigs rosemary, leaves roughly chopped (optional)
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp Balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp maple syrup

#### **METHOD**

- 1.Heat oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas 7. Lay the slices of Prosciutto di Parma on a large non-stick roasting tray so that they are in a single layer.
- 2.Bake for 8-10 mins, until crisp (it will crisp more as it cools), then remove from the tray and set aside on a plate. Once it has cooled, use your hands to crumble.
- 3.Bring a large pan of water to the boil and cook the sprouts for 8-10 mins. Depending on size, this will be until just soft enough to crush a little. Drain and tip the sprouts into the roasting





tray, gently squashing using a potato masher.

- 4.Quarter the onions and pull apart into petals, then add them to the roasting dish along with the chestnuts and rosemary. Drizzle with the oil and season, but don't over salt as the Prosciutto di Parma will add saltiness. Toss well and roast for 25 mins, stirring halfway, until starting to caramelise a little.
- 5.Drizzle over the balsamic and maple syrup, stir well, and roast for 5 mins more. Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle over the Prosciutto di Parma crumbs.

### Cheese & Walnut Palmiers with Pickled Walnut Sauce

Makes: 18 – 20 palmiers Prep time: 60 minutes (plus chilling) Cooking time: 20 minutes Allergens: Gluten, dairy, walnuts, egg, (check chutney for allergens)

#### Ingredients:

#### For the palmiers:

320g sheet ready-rolled Puff Pastry 200g mixed Hard Cheese, grated (we used Red Leicester and Cheddar)
2 Opies Pickled Walnuts, finely chopped 50g Red Onion Chutney
1 Eqq, beaten

#### For the pickled walnut sauce

- A jar of **Opies Pickled Walnuts**, pickling liquor reserved
- 50g light Brown Sugar
- 50g Muscovado Sugar
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- Picked fresh Thyme Leaves, to garnish

#### Method

- 1.Preheat oven to 200°C /180°C Fan/Gas 6.
- 2.Add the grated cheese and pickled walnuts to a bowl and mix together well.
- 3.Unravel the puff pastry sheet onto a lightly floured surface, then spread with an even layer of the red onion chutney. Top with the walnut and cheese mixture, spreading over the pastry in an even layer.
- 4.Tightly roll the pastry up from the longest side, stopping in the middle. Repeat on the opposite side so it meets the first roll. Moisten the two rolls with the egg then lightly press together so they stick. Place in the freezer to chill for 30 minutes.
- 5.Remove from the freezer, slice into 0.5cm slices and place onto a lined baking tray, swirl side up. Brush with the beaten egg and bake in the oven for 20 minutes until golden and puffed up. Leave to cool completely on the baking tray.
- 6.Meanwhile to make the pickled walnut sauce put all the pickled walnuts, 2 tsp of the pickling liquor and sugars into a saucepan and gently simmer until all sugar has dissolved, breaking the pickled walnuts up with a spoon as you go. Set aside and leave to cool.
- 7.Once cooled, add to a food blender and blitz until smooth. Push through a sieve for an extra smooth sauce and serve in a dipping pot alongside the palmiers. Sprinkle with some fresh thyme before serving.



**Hints and Tip:** This is a wonderful recipe, especially for parties and can be made a day in advance of eating.

#### Where to Buy:

Opies Pickled Walnuts 390g available from Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose, Booths, Ocado and Sainsbury's from £3.60.

# Parmigiano Reggiano cheese sable biscuits with mortadella and pistachio mousse

Serves 8 Difficulty: easy Preparation time: 25 minutes Cooking time: 12-15 minutes Rest time: 1 hour in the fridge

Ingredients:

- 200g type "00" flour
  120g cold butter
  70g Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, grated
  2 egg yolks
  1 tablespoon cold water
  black pepper as needed
  a pinch of salt
- for the mortadella mousse:
- 300g mortadella
- 100g ricotta cheese
- 1 tablespoon of Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon fresh cream
- in addition:
- 50g chopped pistachios
- 1.Cut the cold butter from the fridge into small dice and beat it in the mixer on low speed, together

with the flour, grated Parmigiano cheese, pepper and salt. Add the egg yolks and continue to mix until you obtain a smooth and homogeneous dough. Wrap it in cling film and put in the fridge for at least 1 hour.

- 2.On a floured surface, roll out the dough with a rolling pin to a thickness of about 5mm and cut out the biscuits with a 5cm round cutter.
- 3.Place the biscuits on a tray lined with baking paper. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C for 10-12 minutes, until the biscuits are lightly golden. Let them cool.
- 4.In the meantime prepare the mortadella mousse: in the mixer blend the cubed mortadella, the ricotta cheese and the grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese until you obtain a homogeneous mixture free of lumps. Add the cream and continue mixing until you obtain a mousse.
- 5.Transfer it to a pastry bag with a 15mm plain piping tip and use it to sandwich the biscuits together. Press them into the chopped pistachios and put them in the fridge until ready to serve.

# SUPERYACHT GLAMOUR PACKAGE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

PACKAGE INCLUDES: WELCOME AMENITIES | DAILY BREAKFAST BUFFET 1X INFINITY SPA VOUCHER (£50) NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY PACKAGE FOR 2 (LOCATION NEEDS TO BE PRE BOOKED) BUBBLY BREAKFAST BUFFET 1<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY

> Book 30<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 3 nights £820 For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room Book 31<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1 night £480 For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

> > Terms & Conditions: Offer subject to availability

Package is subject to availability. Cannot be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made direct via phone or email and cannot be made via third parties. Pre-payment is required and bookings cannot be cancelled or modified

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## Ensuring no resident feels isolated this Christmas

Throughout the festive period local organisations and community groups are working together to prevent anyone from feeling lonely or isolated on Christmas Day. Learn when and where you can find them. Traditionally a time of celebration and family get-togethers, Christmas Day can be challenging for people who live alone or who cannot see their friends and family. However, local groups are taking action to ensure everyone can enjoy community and look out for those who feel lonely on 25 December.

Find a local Christmas Day event below.

#### **Churches Together, Teddington**

There will be entertainment, mince pies and other refreshments plus a chance to join in carols and other activities. Transport can be provided for those who need it. Booking required.

- Location: Elleray Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington, TW11 0HG
- **Booking**: Email <u>CTTChristmas23@gmail.com</u> or call Colin and Elizabeth Hicks on 020 8977 8000

#### **Never Alone at Christmas**

This free event is hosted for families who will struggle financially/socially over Christmas. Attendees will leave with plenty of goodies having had a hot meal and some fun. Father Christmas will be there and there will be live music too. There are limited spaces so booking required to avoid disappointment.

- **Time**: 10.30am 3.30pm
- Location: Hampton Inspired Hub, 3 Ashley Rd, Hampton TW12 2JA
- **Booking**: Email <u>theinspiredhub@gmail.com</u> or call Susan Green on 07713 405049.



#### **Christmas Day Lunch at Sidra**

Sidra Restaurants (https://sidrauk.com/) in Teddington and Twickenham are offering a free Christmas Day lunch to individuals who would otherwise be isolated or alone at Christmas. There are limited spaces and you must book in advance to attend.

• **Booking**: Call the Teddington branch on 020 8977 2725 or the Twickenham branch on 020 8241 0062.

#### **Churches Together, Whitton**

Churches Together in Whitton cordially invite the elderly and those on their own to join them for a traditional Christmas Day lunch. Transport can be provided for those who need it. Booking required, limited spaces.

- **Time**: 11.30am to 3.30pm
- Booking: Email CTiWChristmas@gmail.com or call Roubina on 07932 526946

#### **United Response Christmas Day Quiz**

United Response, who support disabled people across Richmond and Kingston, are hosting their annual Christmas Day quiz online via Microsoft Teams.

- Time: 10.30am to 12 noon
- **Booking**: To access the link, email <u>Matthew.Campbell@unitedresponse.org.uk</u> or call 07917 492436

#### **Christmas Day Bingo, Whitton**

Whitton Community Centre are putting on Christmas Day Bingo for local people with free hot drinks and mince pies provided. If you need a lift, this can be arranged. Get in touch with the team to

- **Time**: 11am to 1pm
- Location: Whitton Community Centre, Percy Rd, Twickenham TW2 6JL
- Booking: Email Loo\_Sheehan@hotmail.co.uk

## Traveller's Tales 151 Traveller's Tales Returns After A Long Summer Break With A Look At The History Of London Transport Doug Goodman Goes Underground

The London Transport Museum in Covent Garden is my favourite London Museum. I've always been interested in the Capital's history and the development of its transport systems. The Museum and the discovery tours it runs offer a fascinating insight into the history of London's rail and road links. The imposing building in Covent Garden is a treasure trove of memorabilia with its collection of motor vehicles, tube carriages, posters, uniforms, station items and enough objects to keep you occupied for many hours. I try to visit the museum several times a year to see the superbly displayed buses and trains and the special exhibitions.



Empty Tunnels at Baker Street Station

Experience The Moving Stairway. Aka An Escalator

Welcome to Acton Depot Museum

#### SECRETS OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

If you've been watching the series Secrets of the London Underground on TV's Yesterday channel, you will have seen many of the abandoned tube stations being explored by Siddy Holloway and Tim Dunn. The films have gained a cult following but for anyone interested in the disused and modern stations and their history it's a must-see series. The enthusiasm and great knowledge of the two presenters when discovering a 'new' site and the excitement shown by Siddy on finding rare wall tiles in dusty old stations is infectious. London's hidden stations offer ten tours to places the public never gets to see: Charing Cross, Clapham South, Moorgate, Euston, Piccadilly Circus, Shepherds Bush, Baker Street, Kingsway, Aldwych and Down Street. You won't find the last three on any transport maps as they closed many years ago. Kingsway is the former tram tunnel from Waterloo Bridge to Holborn; Down Street between Hyde Park Corner and Green Park was used by the Government in WW2 and provided accommodation for Churchill; Aldwych closed in 1994, was the branch line from Holborn to Strand and has featured in many films.

I've taken two tours this year: the first to Charing Cross and the second to Baker Street. At Charing Cross, where the Jubilee Line, which opened in 1979, was supposed to continue east and called the Fleet Line, you can see the escalators, platforms and signs looking brand new. All that's missing are passengers. The station was closed in 1999 when the Jubilee Line continued to Docklands on the south of the river. Trafalgar Square was incorporated into

the Charing Cross complex and in our walking tour beneath Trafalgar Square we noticed a sharp bend in the tunnel built to avoid the foundations of Nelson's Column. The station is occasionally used for filming; Paddington Bear comes down the escalator: Bond chased after a train and was nearly killed in a spectacular crash in Skyfall: The Bourne Ultimatum and many more. The few minutes of the dramatic scenes in Skyfall, shot in Charing Cross, cost the film makers £2 million. Touring the empty platforms I noticed many posters and particularly holiday ads. They were all fake and made for filming backgrounds. Exploring the tunnels, examining old machinery, observing packed trains below your feet, all in the presence of very knowledgeable guides, provided two very stimulating hours. Baker Street station, where the history of the underground really begins, will be described later.



#### Vintage Buses

Station Signs

Around in Circles

**Restored Tube Carriage** 

#### BACKGROUND TO UNDERGROUND

London Transport Museum has arranged curator- led tours to non-operational stations since 1991. More recently the visits to disused stations, of which over 40 are completely empty or have unused platforms or other spaces, have become very popular. The TV series was a logical continuation with books, talks, educational events and special exhibitions on-going. The most recent exhibition is on the history of poster art and design. The museum has a vast collection of graphic art with over 30,000 posters at its Acton Depot Museum. Together, the two collections reflect London transport's creativity and reputation for producing outstanding works of commercial art and design. The Edwardian posters encouraging us to take the tube are particularly amusing.



**Tickets** Please

Iconic Design

Preserved Piccadilly Line Train

Over half a million visitors each year head for Covent Garden to tour the converted flower market hall, which rightly claims to be the world's leading museum of urban transport. The gift shop, as you might expect, has a huge collection of books, maps, souvenirs, posters. clothing and fabrics from many tube train seat designs.

Next time we visit Baker Street Station and the huge Acton Depot Museum.

For details of The London Transport Museum, its station tours and to view episodes of Secrets of the London Underground go to <u>www.ltmuseum.co.uk</u>

### WIZ Tales: ICELAND – volcanic eruption Teresa Read



In edition 367 of the Tribune on 17 November attention was drawn to weeks of volcanic activity in Iceland, the Fagradalsfjall volcano was expected to erupt at any time; about

four thousand residents had been evacuated from the nearby fishing town of Grindavik and the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa was closed.

Iceland is on the Mid Atlantic Ridge in the North Atlantic Ocean where the Eurasian and North American plates move apart a few centimetres a year. The landscape consists of high plateau, volcanic mountains and coastal plain.

The Fagradalsfjall eruption this December was visible from the capital, Revkjavik, about thirty miles from Grindavik.



Skyline of Grindavíkurbær



The last big volcanic eruption in Iceland was on 14th April 2010; the glacier covered volcano Eyjafjallajokul erupted in its first major eruption since 1821. A cloud of volcanic ash spread across Europe grounding

Volcanic eruption at Fagradalsfjall, March 2021 (© Icelandic Met Office)

airline flights throughout the continent and causing chaos for travellers and airlines for several months.

Note: As a country Iceland ranks at 137<sup>th</sup> place for CO2 emissions; geothermal water was first introduced to heat buildings in 1930. Population 376,450.

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www.TwickenhamTribune.com

## 1pm Christmas Day...

By Deep Patel ~ Through The Eyes of a Twickenham Shop Keeper ~



Last week I wrote about our community party held at our shop on Christmas day...we had a lot of customers that no longer live locally who expressed their sadness at the fact that they could not join us to celebrate on the day, but it is our firm held belief at Meet & Deep Newsagents that NO ONE should feel alone on Christmas (unless they want to be which is also totally fine as sometimes it's quite nice to just chill out and be with yourself)

But for anyone who would like company of a sort, but cannot manage due to all sorts of circumstances, we are focusing this Christmas for the FIRST TIME EVER on a LIVE-INTERACTIVE game-show style extravaganza broadcast from our shop to your mobile phone, laptop, TV, PC or tablet...

...and the best part of it is that you don't even have to be in Twickenham to be a part of our community party now, you can be absolutely ANYWHERE in the world (provided you have internet!) and join us as we celebrate Christmas Meet and Deep style LIVE at 1pm on Christmas day from our Newsagents in Twickenham!

So what can you expect if you tune in to our Facebook-Live 1pm Christmas day extravaganza?

Well, we will have some game-show style fun where customers will be the contestants (think "family fortunes", the "yes-no game and riddles). We will also have some interactive games (where you at home will have the chance to win your favourite chocolates!).

There will be a dance contest, interviews with customers as well as Meet and Deep's "Thought for the Year"...a positive mantra to start 2024 with! What more could you want?!

If you don't have Facebook, don't worry...we will be posting the FULL video-clip of our Mega-Christmas Day Extravaganza onto our YOUTUBE channel too (search for MeetandDeepNews on YouTube or click the link below!

YouTube link: <u>https://youtube.com/@MeetandDeepNews?si=f\_sYD\_1cx06n5vl</u>

Facebook link: <u>https://www.facebook.com/meetanddeep</u>

So when you have had enough of watching the repeats of Home and Alone, Home Alone 2, The Grinch, Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang and The Vicar of Dibley (I personally can never get sick of watching that) then tune in to our Meet and Deep Christmas extravaganza and join us for our community Christmas party LIVE at 1pm...we will be waiting for you!

Meet & Deep Newsagents, 34 Hampton Road, TW2-5QB.

## Remember...

# *"Christmas is about joining with those who care and will always be there..."*

#### **MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...**

STOP MOTHS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Mix 2 spoons of pure essential lavender oil with a glass of water and place into a spray bottle. Spray inside wardrobes and drawers once a week... the moths will stop! You can use essential peppermint or citronella oil instead too. Also use electronic plug in deterrents with good reviews to stop them coming as well and pack all woollen clothing into tightly sealed carrier bags. Don't use cruel sticky traps.

For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: <u>thedeepatel@gmail.com</u> or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE".

# Pole Positions



Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# Ellie & Starlight's Christmas Adventure Buddy & Cocoa's Christmas Adventure

Stephen Leslie Productions at Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Walton and at Hampton Hill Theatre, until 24<sup>th</sup> December

Adventures galore this Christmas, as the series of children's mini-musicals by talented local writer, Ken Mason are on the road once more. In these two stories, the adventurers must reach the North Pole before Christmas Eve or else the children will not get a Christmas present.

Cecil Hepworth Playhouse receive their turn to host the unlikely companions Ellie and her best friend Starlight the polar bear, as they set off on another adventure.





Jake Alun helps set the mood with his delightful narration, as Ellie and Starlight, played by

Jessica O'Toole and Paul Thirkell, mesmerise young audiences with their comedy and fabulous songs. This heart-warming story tells of a little girl's determination to find Father Christmas and tell him that all the boys and girls in her village have had to move. They embark on a difficult journey across snowy mountains where they meet lots of different animals on their way, and there's even a chance to see Santa himself ... in Walton.

Meanwhile, the other side of the River, Hampton Hill Theatre buzzes with more festive fun as the two elves Buddy and Cocoa, played by Joanna McGarva and Charlotte Ellen, dazzle young audiences with their singing

and dancing. Throw in an array of colourful characters expertly played by Peter F.

Gardiner (previously in *Coronation Street*), and *Buddy & Cocoa's Christmas Adventure* is a Christmas cracker.

Buddy and Cocoa set off on a magical mission to find magic gold dust for Santa's sleigh, which they must deliver to The North Pole. They embark on a difficult journey down to the earth's core, meeting all sorts of exciting underground creatures, before boarding The Middle Earth Shuttle to the Pole. But the shuttle fails to stop and continues up through the stratosphere all the way to the moon!

These festive adventures will bring pleasure to the whole family, helping to set the mood for Christmas and making it even more magical.



Read Sadie Williams' reviews at <u>www.markaspen.com/2023/12/17/ellie-starl-slp</u> and <u>www.markaspen.com/2023/12/15/buddy-cocoa</u>

Photography by Bomi Cooper

www.TwickenhamTribune.com

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# ENERGA-LICK

**Dick Whittington** by Alan McHugh, additional material by Paul Merton Crossroads Pantomimes at Richmond Theatre until 7<sup>th</sup> January

Whammy and razzmatazz opens *Dick Whittington*, with monumental music, lighting and sound. At its press night, the day that COP 28 came to an end in Dubai, all that electrical energy was a full-on moment. (What a gesture towards participants dispersing home in their private jets!)

A constant foil to the show, the hyper-dynamic dance ensemble appear in guises from nautical ratings to noisome rats. Rats feature highly in this panto, set mediaeval London. The rattiest of them all is Queen Rat, a role relished by Vivien Parry, who manages to be somehow surreptitiously sensual, whilst simultaneously having that big boo factor.

> But we should side with the goodies, including of course the Dame. Paul Merton blossoms in this role, in a dame-led show. His dry wit and laid-back approach work wonders as Sarah, the Cook. His sidekick is Suki, and Merton's wife Suki Webster confects the role with quicksilver movements and quick-fire repartee. Merton is a traditional dame, although no slipped bust, only a slipped slip, turned skilfully to advantage. The double-entendres are there, pitched just above the head of the children, yet having the right penny-dropping tick before their dads catch their drift; even though the panto's title is ripe for titillation ... a Dick and a pussy, well now!

Jack Danson is a personable Dick Whittington, full of youthful hope, and Charlie Smart makes the most of the creature's feline fleetness of foot as Eileen, the Cat. Erin Sophie Halliday, making her debut role, charms as Alice Fitzwarren, and is totally convincing in the love-at-first-sight scenario.

Pierce Tee, with his fresh-brewed musical numbers, takes his lively orchestra on a joyful jaunt though Olde London and above and below the briny waves. Costumes are magnificent, with multifarious changes, particularly for the dance ensemble and of course for the dame. The sartorial sequence of Sarah, the Cook's costumes grows outrageously.

Director Jonathan O'Boyle pulls out all the stops in his *Dick Whittington* and even includes the technical team in his visual gags in a moment that literally brings the house down. Lighting, sound, dancing, music and acting have an energy rivalling that of Dubai's oil wells under the COP 28, and certainly make a more entertaining show.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/15/dick-whitt-xroads

Photography by Craig Sugden

www.TwickenhamTribune.com









Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

## A Sad Tale's Best For WINTER The White Carnation by R.C Sherriff

The Questors at the Studio, Ealing until 31<sup>st</sup> December

In these wintry dark December days there's nothing like a good ghost story to while away the lo nights. These stories have taken many forms over the years, but perhaps none of them are quite as urbane as Sherriff's 1953 play, The White Carnation.

Following a Christmas Eve party, stockbroker John Greenwood waves off his quests before his front door slams shut, locking him out. Breaking into his own house by smashing a window, Greenwood is spotted by a policeman who confronts him with the awkward revelation that the house was destroyed by a flying bomb, five years earlier. As a police sergeant, a local official and a doctor arrive,

it quickly becomes clear that John Greenwood is an unusually solid, talkative, and recalcitrant ghost, determined to live on in his old house as though nothing much has changed.

The White Carnation presents a gentle comedy that is as much a satire of the establishment as it is an exploration of the philosophical questions raised by Greenwood's apparently limitless afterlife. A man who always got his own way in life, he doesn't see why he shouldn't have his own way in death too. The character is on stage throughout the play, and Richard Graylin's commanding central performance gives a very human portrayal of an arrogant, but fundamentally likeable man, prone to intense irritation at officialdom of all kinds.

The policeman who discovered Greenwood becomes a valet to the ghost, who eventually gives the PC stock market tips. Similarly, Greenwood forms an unlikely friendship with an aspiring spiritualist, who explains that he is condemned to spend eternity in his dinner jacket with its white carnation buttonhole. Even the local vicar, (who provides the play's best jokes) prefers to discuss theology with him, rather than attempt an exorcism.

The audience may spend much of *The White Carnation* wondering precisely what sort of ghost story the play will turn out to be. Gratifyingly, it turns out to be rather in the vein of A Christmas Carol, as Francis Lloyd's pacy direction keeps the sentimentality under control, while John Greenwood finally performs his much-heralded card trick.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at <u>www.markaspen.com/2023/12/16/white-carnation</u>

Image by Evelina Plonyte







# Ouver the state of the second state of the sec

Odyssey: A Heroic Pantomime by John Savournin, music by David Eaton

Charles Court Opera at the Jermyn St Theatre until 31st December

The Charles Court Opera Panto has been a seasonal treat for those in the know for many years, with finer singing, funnier jokes, and more fantastic scenarios than your bog-standard *Cinderella*. Recent subjects have ranged from *Pinocchio* to *Beowulf*, from *Tutankhamen* to *Rumpelstiltskin*.

The innate cheesiness of panto is joyfully embraced – with some gloriously groan-inspiring puns, splendid double entendre, and plenty of fart jokes – but also a deft wittiness and subversive delight in twisting the source material out of all recognition. This *Odyssey* is all about Penelope.

In this version of the Homeric Epic, Odysseus has been delivered to the wrong island (Circe's rather than his homeland Ithaca) by Hermes (an adorable Tamoy Phipps who also plays a magnificent threeheaded Cerberus).

Penelope sets out on a mission to rescue her husband from Circe's clutches before she can turn Odysseus into a pig. In her quest, she is aided by Odysseus' Trojan Horse and Poly the Cyclops, as they encounter Scylla (without Charybdis) who bears an alarming resemblance to Cilla Black and

fight to obtain the head of the Gorgon Medusa so that they can turn Circe to stone.

Musical influences range from The Bee Gees to Britney Spears from Don McLean's *American Pie* to Boney M, all beautifully sung by this all-female wonderfully adaptable cast that also included Amy J Payne, Emily Cairns, and Meriel Cunningham in at least three different roles each. As usual John Savournin provided a wonderfully entertaining script and excellent direction, with David Eaton doing the lyrics as well as a marvellous job on keyboard aided by Dave Jennings on percussion. Kudos goes to Stewart J. Charlesworth and Eleni Beaumont Hulme for the fabulously colourful and adaptable set and costumes.

Grab any remaining tickets while you can!

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/10/odyssey-panto

#### Photography by Alex Brenner

www.TwickenhamTribune.com







Mark Aspen

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

## Kew The Music 2024

An Evening in Conversation with Monty Don announced for Kew The Music 2024 at Kew Gardens

A special spoken word show has been added as part of *Kew The Music 2024*, which will see BBC Gardeners' World presenter and writer Monty Don share his passion for gardens and the unique role they play in human inspiration and wellbeing, at Kew Gardens.

Taking place on Monday 8th July, An Evening in Conversation with Monty Don will see Monty interviewed about all things gardening. Tickets for the event will go on pre-sale from Tuesday 19th December at 10am, and general sale on Wednesday 20th December, 10am from www.kewthemusic.org

He joins the previously announced headliners for the summer concert series: MIKA on Tuesday 9th July 2024,



Passenger on Thursday 11th July 2024, and JLS on Friday 12th July 2024, as well as Richard Ashcroft who was announced yesterday for Sunday 14th July.

Monty Don has been making television programmes for over 30 years and has been lead presenter of the *BBC's Gardener's World* since 2003. Since 2011 the programme has come from his own garden, Longmeadow, in Herefordshire.

After a thrilling sellout tour in 2022 Monty is heading back out on tour where he will share tales from his career in gardening, detail his favourite gardens – both ancient and modern, and reveal how he fell in love with the natural world. Discover how he created his beautiful garden at Longmeadow, the practices he considers to be the most useful and important, and the magical impact of the changing of the seasons.

With something for seasoned gardeners and green-fingered novices alike, don't miss the opportunity to join Monty for a thought-provoking celebration of nature, in one of the most famed gardens in the world.

An Evening in Conversation with Monty Don is a special interview show which joins the line-up of Kew The Music 2024.

The annual week-long festival of picnic concerts, Kew The Music, is set in the stunning UNESCO World Heritage site, Kew Gardens in south west London, and has become one of *the* fixtures in the London summer music calendar.

Established as one of the most spectacular summer concert venues in the UK, the shows are a hit amongst all generations of music lovers. Unusually for outdoor events, guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink or can enjoy the open-air bars and street food stalls.



## Festive Activities at RuTC

During December we have had some wonderful festive activities happening at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC). Our staff and students have thrown themselves into the Christmas spirit and have been running fundraisers, performing for busy audiences and helping those in need this winter.

In celebration of *Save the Children's* Christmas Jumper Day at the beginning of the month, some members of staff surprised students with a pop-up carol concert in



our college Atrium. Staff from different departments across the college spread festive cheer, singing Christmas carols and pop favourites to entertain students over lunchtime. Over £50 was raised for *Save The Children* charity, through kind donations from students and staff.

Our 1st year, Level 3 Health & Social Care students along with their tutor, Natasha Rego, organised a Christmas Shoebox Appeal throughout December. Food and gift donations were collected from students and staff across the college, which were then packaged together, wrapped up and taken to a local food bank for distribution to families in need, within our community. We are very proud of this successful appeal, our students worked hard to make and fill over 30 surprise charity boxes in total, which were very gratefully received.

The Supported Learning department also held their annual Christmas Market Sale, just before the Christmas break. They have been busy creating an array of handcrafted festive items, such as Christmas crackers, biscuits, cards, and decorations, that they enjoyed selling to other students and staff around

the college. They are now planning what resources they will be able to buy and make for the department with their profits!

Read more about the courses we offer and how to apply for 2024 here.

### Richmond upon Thames College

# Science Students Visit Wellcome Collection



In early December, our Level 2 Applied Science and Level 3 Biomedical Science students took a trip to the Wellcome Collection Museum at Euston Square. This trip was primarily organised for them to get involved in World AIDs Day 2023, an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s, and to remember those who have lost their lives to the disease.

Our students were welcomed warmly by staff at the Wellcome Collection and were presented with

information about HIV and AIDs to begin their visit. After this they were able to explore the Museum's permanent displays and current exhibitions, all exploring health and human experience.

As part of the creative activity portion of the session, the students were asked to produce a campaign poster to spread a key message that they had learnt about HIV & AIDs during the day. Staff at the Wellcome Collection commented that our students produced some fantastic, very creative work!

This trip was insightful and inspiring for all involved. It was a brilliant day out for our science students to learn in an interactive way about such an important historical period that impacted so many people.

Learn more about our Science courses and how to apply for 2024 here.

## St Mary's University St Mary's Goes Online with new Suite of MBAs

St Mary's University has launched SMUOnline, to deliver a suite of fully flexible, <u>online</u> <u>Master of Business Administration (MBA)</u> <u>programmes</u>.

Students can apply now to enrol into an MBA in one of 10 industry-focused specialisations, starting in March 2024, with more study options to follow later in the year.



The programmes offer greater flexibility with completely online and part-time study, opening doors to learners who need to maintain work, family and other commitments while progressing their careers in leadership, management, and other business-related disciplines.

Hosted within a purpose-built digital learning environment, students can study anywhere in the world, at any time, interacting with academic staff as well as their peers via discussion groups and forums, and accessing course materials on-demand, at times that work for them.

Speaking of the launch, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, *I am delighted to see SMUOnline open for admission*. At St Mary's, we want to make it as easy as possible for students to access the right higher education, as such developing our online learning provision was a key ambition of Vision 2030.

These new online degrees are a brilliant step forward and will enable our students to complete their studies flexibly from anywhere in the world."

Project sponsor Kevin Braim, Chief Information Officer at St Mary's University, said,

*"We're excited to be able to provide another pathway for students to transform their skillsets and their prospects.* 

With the same teaching and learning excellence on-campus students at St Mary's benefit from, combined with the versatility of fully online study, these programmes are ideally suited to ambitious working professionals all over the world".

The programmes feature highly competitive tuition fees and are paid for per module, so students can avoid large upfront costs and manage their payments in line with their monthly budgets.

Students can also begin their studies at one of six annual start dates, meaning that the next opportunity to get going is never more than a matter of weeks away.

Find out more and apply today at <a href="https://online.stmarys.ac.uk/">https://online.stmarys.ac.uk/</a>



St Mary's University Twickenham London

A newspaper for Richmond upon Thames

### Brentford v Wolves match programme: Look back on a fantastic year with our 2023 review Written by Brentford Football Club

As we prepare for our final home game of the calendar year against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday, look back an incredible 12 months with our 2023 review, which will feature exclusively in the match programme.

This year has been nothing short of sensational for Brentford, as the Bees beat Liverpool, Manchester City, Tottenham and Chelsea. From the electrifying performances on the pitch to the unwavering support from the stands, it has been one to remember.

In this exclusive look back, we will take you on a journey through the key moments, standout performances, and the imagery that defined 2023 for the Bees.



The 2023 review can be read in Wednesday's match programme; <u>available online</u> and around Gtech Community Stadium for £3.

#### Also inside your Brentford v Wolves programme

- "Gary O'Neil and his staff have made Wolves a difficult side to play against. They are very adaptable, well organised and aggressive in the duels. They have pace and quality in forward areas and break at speed. We must be wary of Wolves' qualities, but we know that we are a good team and we always back ourselves - head coach Thomas Frank shares his thoughts before Wolves' visit to TW8
- Big Ben Burgess' Big Match Preview
- Liam Keen, Wolves correspondent for the *Express and Star*, takes us inside the club's camp in *Hot off the Press*
- The Nathan Caton Column
- After multiple injuries and setbacks, Kyreece Lisbie is finally back on the pitch for the B team, and the forward explains how he is keen to come back better than ever
- Brentford Under-18s assistant coach Jon-Paul Pittman reviews the young Bees' first six months, and looks ahead to continued progression in 2024



#### Order online now

### Connect with Bees worldwide using new supporters map

Find overseas fan groups and follow the Bees together from across the globe Written by Brentford Football Club

#### Brentford is launching an international supporters group branch map to connect Bees fans all over the world!

Our new <u>interactive map</u> highlights overseas supporters' clubs and how you can follow the Bees in all corners of the world. Whether you are living abroad or just on holiday, fans can use our map to find a supporters' club near them.

Our map includes all the information vou need to get involved, including where clubs meet and how to contact them. All fans can use the social media icons on each branch to follow clubs online, or use the form on our website to get in touch with any club on the map.



Fans are also encouraged to start a club in their local area. We are always looking to support and help develop new supporters' clubs. Know other local fans? Get together, start a club and tell us all about it!

#### Find your local Bees overseas using this map!

also have many official fan groups based closer to home that UK fans can get involved with, such as Bees United, BIAS, LGBeeTs, the Brentford Lifeline Society and West Country Bees, and you can find information on how to get involved with them <u>on our website</u>.

We also encourage our fans in the UK and our UK supporters' clubs to use the map to connect with Bees overseas. Share our spirit of togetherness with fans across the world!

#### Celebrating our international fans

They might be thousands of miles away, waking up early or staying up late to watch their team, but our international fans' support is very much appreciated.

The work that clubs do to organise events for other fans is invaluable to extend Brentford's reach worldwide matching the energy our fans here at home give us at the Gtech and on the road.

John Kenkel, one of the founders of the Brentford US supporters' club, said: "In 2014 there were a handful of us across the States with little interaction. Over the last couple of years, we've grown to hundreds of members, and to see that reflected on the branch map is absolutely incredible. It's such a great way to find and interact with fan groups, whether you are a local, or are traveling and want to catch a game with other Bees supporters."

**Steve Watts, Brentford's marketing director, added:** "It's a credit to how far we've come that we now have a map of international supporters' clubs. All our fans know that togetherness is one of Brentford's key values. The branch map is how we help everyone in the Bees family come together and celebrate our special club, no matter how far from Gtech Community Stadium they are."

Celebrate the club's global community by following international supporters' clubs on social media and meet fellow Bees at home or abroad wherever you are.



## World Health Organization

## COVID-19 epidemiological update – 22 December 2023

<u>Globally</u>, the number of new cases increased by 52% during the 28-day period of 20 November to 17 December 2023 as compared to the previous 28-day period, with over 850,000 new cases reported. The number of new deaths decreased by 8% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with over 3000 new fatalities reported. As of 17 December 2023, over 772 million confirmed cases and nearly seven million deaths have been reported globally

<u>At the regional level</u>, the number of newly reported 28-day cases increased across four of the six WHO regions: the **European Region** (+54%), the **Western Pacific Region** (+67%), the **African Region** (+77%), and the **South-East Asia Region** (+388%); while cases decreased in two WHO regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-51%), and the Region of the Americas (-23%).

The number of newly reported 28-day deaths decreased across four regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-65%), the African Region (-50%), the Region of the Americas (-48%), and the Western Pacific Region (-32%); while **deaths increased in two WHO regions: the European Region (+14%), and the South-East Asia Region (+317%).** 

<u>Among the countries reporting</u>, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases **at the country level** were reported from the Russian Federation (279,359 new cases; +130%), Singapore (120,898 new cases; +86%), Italy (114,795 new cases; +10%), Poland (39,828 new cases; +82%), and Australia (39,505 new cases; +12%).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Italy (510 new deaths; -15%), Sweden (396 new deaths; +6%), the Russian Federation (376 new deaths; +50%), Australia (211 new deaths; -35%), and Poland (141 new deaths; +76%).

**The European Region** reported over 584,000 new cases, **a 54% increase** as compared to the previous 28-day period. Seventeen (27%) of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Estonia (2,041 vs 273; +648%), Luxembourg (1,437 vs 284; +406%), and Slovakia (2,561 vs 715; +258%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (279,359 new cases; 191.4 new cases per 100 000; +130%), Italy (114,795 new cases; 192.5 new cases per 100 000; +10%), and Poland (39,828 new cases; 104.9 new cases per 100,000; +82%).

**The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region increased by 14%** as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 2,217 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (510 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -15%), Sweden (396 new deaths; 3.8 new deaths per 100,000; +6%), and the

deaths; 3.8 new deaths per 100,000; +6%), and the Russian Federation (376 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +50%).



## Heathrow Workers Hammered By 200 Per Cent Hike In Staff Car Parking Charges

#### Workers in tears over fears it will cost them to go to work, warns GMB Union

Hard-up Heathrow workers are set to be hammered by a 200 per cent hike in car parkingcharges.

GMB members working for third-party contractors at the airport have been told their monthly parking tariffs will rocket from  $\pounds 27.19$  to  $\pounds 81.05$  per month on Jan 1 – an increase of 198 per cent.

At least 1,000 low-paid will be affected by the move.

#### One worker, who asked not to be named, phoned GMB in tears and said:

"Going to work by car at Heathrow will become to expensive.

"I do unsociable shifts so alternative transport is not an option, plus I have to drop my children off at my parents' house before I start my shifts.

"This is just so unfair to raise the staff car parking charges this high."

#### Perry Phillips, GMB Regional Organiser, said:

"GMB has been inundated with calls from worried members who have been told that their staff car parking tariffs will treble.

"They're going to end up in financial trouble just for going to work – it's outrageous.

"We've written to Heathrow senior management asking for their rationale."

"Why have excessively raised the staff parking tariffs for these low paid workers?

"This will create great hardship for many workers and their families especially being told just before Christmas – Heathrow must urgently reconsider."



## UK signs first of its kind financial services agreement with Switzerland

## Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has today signed the Berne Financial Services Agreement, a first of its kind pact on financial services cooperation, with his Swiss counterpart Karin Keller-Sutter.

The agreement sets out that the UK and Switzerland will mutually recognise each other's domestic laws and regulations on financial services, making it easier for corporate and high net worth clients in the two markets to do business with each other.

The Berne Financial Services Agreement enables the frictionless, cross-border provision of financial services between the UK and Switzerland across areas such as asset management, banking, and investment services. For certain sectors it means that a firm based in the UK will be able to serve clients in Switzerland while largely following UK rules, and vice versa.

The agreement also secures unique access for British insurance brokers to the Swiss market. From the start of 2024, Switzerland will require any non-Swiss firms to establish a base in the country before serving Swiss clients. The UK will be the only country in the world not required to do this, putting British brokerage firms at a significant advantage to international competitors as they can continue to do business as they always have done.

#### Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said:

"The Berne Financial Services Agreement is a global first and builds on the UK and Switzerland's strengths as two of the world's largest financial centres.

"It cements open access for financial services between our two nations for decades to come, helping us grow the economy and serving as a blueprint for future agreements with other key trading partners."

The Berne Financial Services Agreement will make open access in financial services legally binding between the UK and Switzerland for decades to come, all while maintaining high standards of regulation, market fairness and investor protection. Both countries will also have the freedom to revise or introduce new domestic regulation as they see fit.

The agreement provides an opportunity for the UK and Switzerland to work together to strengthen international financial standards. It will also help level the playing field for smaller firms, who will no longer have to invest time and money in navigating unfamiliar Swiss rules.

Financial advisors will also benefit. British financial advisers to high-net-worth individuals will no longer need to be registered by Swiss registration bodies to serve Swiss clients. This will remove requirements to sit Swiss examinations or provide documentation evidencing suitability, cutting red tape for the UK's financial advisory industry.

The Berne Financial Services Agreement is only possible due to new freedoms granted to the UK following its exit from the European Union. The agreement will enhance the UK and Switzerland's already thriving financial services relationship. Between 2016 and 2022, UK trade in financial and insurance services with Switzerland grew by 53% – reaching £3.28 billion in 2022.

The UK financial services sector is a significant contributor to the domestic economy and was valued at approximately £254 billion in the four quarters to Q2 2023. In 2020, around 40% of financial

services to Switzerland were exported from UK regions outside of London and the South East, and two out of three jobs in financial services are based outside of London. This means that the benefits of the Berne Financial Services Agreement will be felt across the UK, bolstering jobs and growing the UK economy.

Separate to the Berne Financial Services Agreement, the UK is also currently negotiating an enhanced Free Trade Agreement with Switzerland that will boost ties and cover the full range of trade between the two countries.

#### Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch said:

"This is just the latest deal we have struck with Switzerland to help our world-leading UK financial services companies access this lucrative market and grow UK-Swiss trade in services.

"This deal complements the work we're doing with Switzerland to agree a new, modernised free trade agreement and will help the UK reach our goal to export a trillion pounds of goods and services a year by 2030."

#### Miles Celic, Chief Executive Officer, TheCityUK:

"The Berne Financial Services Agreement marks a significant milestone for two of the world's leading international financial centres. This innovative framework not only simplifies engagement in financial services, reduces barriers, and enhances efficiency, but it also strengthens market confidence and fosters innovation.

"It establishes a new and ambitious benchmark for how major financial centres can collaborate to establish gold-standard agreements, contributing to a more resilient, competitive, and interconnected global financial landscape.

"We look forward to continued collaboration with businesses and governments in both countries to ensure this agreement is effectively implemented across our industry."

#### Joe Cassidy, Partner, Financial Services, KPMG; Chair, TheCityUK Switzerland Market Advisory Group:

"The Berne Financial Services Agreement is a historic deal shaped by collaboration between governments, regulators, and industry leaders in both countries. It also paves the way for enhanced cooperation between other major global markets.

"As an industry, our immediate focus is on its full and effective implementation, alongside negotiating an innovative and complementary UK-Swiss Free Trade Agreement. An FTA with provisions for mobility, mutual recognition of professional qualifications and digital services will significantly enhance the MRA and set the standard for the second-country model in financial services regulatory cooperation."

#### David Postings, Chief Executive, UK Finance:

"The UK-Switzerland Mutual Recognition Agreement is a landmark agreement. Given it's been drafted specifically for the financial services sector, the market access provisions and measures aimed at removing regulatory barriers go much further than those normally included in trade deals. The innovative agreement sets an ambitious precedent and we hope it will serve as the new standard for future deals with other financial centres around the world."

#### Denis Vangelatos, Regulatory Risk and International Trade Sanctions Director – EMEA, Aon:

"The Berne Financial Services Agreement represents a fantastic opportunity for the UK and Swiss insurance sectors to continue to cooperate and flourish using a dynamic and forward-looking outcomes based approach to regulation.

"This new approach not seen in other trade agreements will foster innovation, increase market access, reduce cross border friction and, through mutual recognition, create a deep and trusted partnership for two of the world's leading financial centres."



## COVID19 variant of interest JN.1

Due to its rapidly increasing spread, WHO is classifying the variant JN.1 as a separate variant of interest (VOI) from the parent lineage BA.2.86. It was previously classified as VOI as part of BA.2.86 sublineages.

Based on the available evidence, the additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is currently evaluated as low. Despite this, with the onset of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries.

LINK: Read the risk evaluation: <u>https://www.who.int/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants</u>

WHO is continuously monitoring the evidence and will update the JN.1 risk evaluation as needed.

Current vaccines continue to protect against severe disease and death from JN.1 and other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 is not the only respiratory disease circulating. Influenza, RSV and common childhood pneumonia are on the rise.

WHO advises people to take measures to prevent infections and severe disease using all available tools. These include:

- Wear a mask when in crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated areas, and keep a safe distance from others, as feasible
- Practice respiratory etiquette covering coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands regularly
- Stay up to date with vaccinations against COVID-19 and influenza, especially if you are at high risk for severe disease
- Stay home if you are sick
- Get tested if you have symptoms, or if you might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or influenza



## Multi-country outbreak of mpox External situation report#31 – 22 December 2023

#### **Overview**

This is the 31st situation report for the multi-country outbreak of mpox, which provides details on the latest epidemiology and a special focus on a report received of a case of mpox on a thematic cruise, highlighting the continued risk of gatherings events and their potential for amplifying the global outbreak.

This report also includes a summary of a WHO mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted in collaboration with national counterparts and partners to assess the mpox situation in the country.

Based on the data reported through global surveillance, the mpox outbreak continues in most WHO regions, at a low level of transmission in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia, while more extensive transmission is observed in the European Region and in the Region of the Americas.



Figure 3. Geographic distribution of confirmed cases of mpox reported to or identified by WHO from official public sources, from 1 January 2022 to 30 November 2023

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Data Source: World Health Organization Map Production: WHO Health Emergencies Programme Map Date: 20 December 2023





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