

The Twickenham Times

Friday 11th November 2016

www.TwickenhamTimes.com



Click to view video, Alphabetically Home, by Alban Low

The beginnings of an online newspaper

The loss of the Informer newspaper some years ago and the closure of Twickenham Online left a void in local news which has been of some concern to many who enjoyed the newspaper and the online local news website. Twickenham Online had a place in the hearts of many, a community hub where people put their views, published their letters and got to know their fellow contributors.

When thinking of local news, many of us will think of the Richmond and Twickenham Times, a newspaper which has had a long and important place in the borough from the late nineteenth century. It is particularly sad that this newspaper, which had offices in Richmond for many years before moving to Twickenham - and is now located in Sutton - appears to be in difficulties. So it seems that overall there is definitely a void to be filled.

The Twickenham Times was conceived after many months of musing about the idea so with this in mind we hope that readers will become participants and perhaps take an interest in this fledgling online local news site.

We do believe that getting the news out there and publishing people's letters is important and we hope that the Richmond and Twickenham Times will also continue to do so.

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This is Twickenham



Click to view video, Ferryman,
by Sophie Griffin / Tricia de Courcy Ling



In the Queen's Hall a false ceiling in the main hall hides a decorative painted plaster motif of a horse-drawn chariot.

Find out more at

www.memoriesoftwickenhamriverside.com



memories
of twickenham riverside

History of Twickenham town centre to be uncovered in new HLF project

by Daniella Hadley

Thanks to National Lottery players, the history of Twickenham's high streets in the last century will be explored in a new project entitled Discover Your High Street.

The project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will explore the heritage of seven outer London high streets and town centres; Ilford, Kingston, Leyton, Tooting, Twickenham, South Norwood and Woolwich. An under-explored topic, the history of these high streets will be shared in a heritage trail, exhibition and publication throughout November. The project is delivered by a consortium of seven outer London Boroughs who will work together to map the changing nature of London's high streets.

There are exciting opportunities for individuals and members of the community to get involved in conducting historical research and sharing their memories. This project will investigate and celebrate the shared heritage of London's high streets and the unique role they have played in shaping community life.

On Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November, visit the Discover Your High Street pop up exhibition in Cafe Nero in Twickenham and pick up our heritage trail!

Pub Talk

By Charles Owens

On Halloween night members of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) joined the Richmond and Hounslow Branch to present two awards to Rae Williams, the licensee of the Mason's Arms in Teddington. Charles Owens, the local CAMRA chairman presented Rae with her second consecutive Branch Pub of the Year Award (top right), with the Regional Director of CAMRA, Geoff Strawbridge presenting her with the runners up award for London Pub of the Year (bottom right). Both citations refer to the pub being an excellent example of a local community corner pub, which serves superb beer (and much else) and is a great asset to the community's social scene. The awards are a culmination of a great deal of work by Rae, with the backing of Terry Himpfen of the Roebuck, Hampton Hill to reawaken a community treasure that could so easily have gone the way of so many community pubs in our area, which, once gone, are lost forever. Well done Rae.



Photos by Dave Brimmer

Music gigs

ERICA WHITE

Arts correspondent

Mozart enthusiasts may wish to indulge themselves at the glorious Normansfield Theatre at the Langdon Down Centre on the Kingston Road in Teddington, which is the venue for 3 fully staged performances by Richmond Opera of **THE MAGIC FLUTE** from Friday 18 – Sunday 20 at 7.30. Tickets at £15 from 0333 1212 300 or online at www.langdowndowncentre.org.uk If you have never visited this jewel of a Victorian theatre put it on your 'to do' list.

The Eel Pie Club at the Cabbage Patch pub near Twickenham Station have a lively evening on Thursday 17 when **LEAF HOUND**, led by vocalist Pete French are in concert at 9.15ish. At the same venue you can catch **TWICKFOLK** on Sundays at 7.45pm. And for details of Twickenham Jazz Club's regular gigs go to www.twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk.

THE TWICKENHAM SUNDAY JAM has been going for decades, It's home is now at The Shack Pub in Twickenham and is the only place to come to on a Sunday to enjoy the best musicians around. It doesn't matter if you're a novice or seasoned performer you're welcome



Arts, entertainment and activities

ERICA WHITE

Arts correspondent

If you are suffering from November blues there are plenty of events and entertainments to help blow them away. If you hurry you might catch the last two performances of **TITANTIC, THE MUSICAL** which Youth Action Theatre (YAT) are presenting up in Hampton Hill Theatre at 90 High Street, on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 at 7.45. YAT are highly acclaimed as young performers and have earned numerous awards. Book online at www.yat.org.uk, or phone 0844 740 1971 or on door. Tickets are £ 14, cash or cheque.

Following closely on this from Sunday 13 –Saturday 19 the resident Teddington Theatre Club (TTC) will be presenting a studio production of **STEVIE** by Hugh Whitmore, who also wrote the remarkable *Breaking The Code* also performed by TTC earlier this year, winning multiple local Swan Awards. **STEVIE** will run at Hampton Hill Studio from Sunday 13 at 4.00 through to Saturday 19 at 7.45 each night. Tickets online on www.ttc-boxoffice.org.uk, or by phone on 0845 838 7529 credit or debit card at the ready, or on door. Booking advisable as this is a small 50 seat venue. Tickets at £12 non-members.

Or you may choose to see some Shakespeare in this year commemorating his death 400 years ago. Richmond Shakespeare Society (RSS) have been performing **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** all week but if you hurry you may be lucky to get a ticket for Friday 11 at 7.45 or Saturday at 3.00pm or 7.45pm. Box Office online or by phone 020 87440547 using cards or debit cards, or on door with cash or cheque. Tickets at £12 for non-members.

The borough-wide Literature Festival is in full swing with talks and readings by authors from recent publications on both sides of the river. Central booking can be made online on www.richmondliterature.com or by phone on 020 8831 6494 credit or debit cards ready, or on door at various venues.

The Hyde Room in York House is the venue for acclaimed biographer, Dr Linda Porter's talk on her recent book, **ROYAL RENEGADES**; the Children of Charles 1 and the English Civil Wars. This takes place on Friday 11 at 7pm. £10/£8.50.

On Saturday 12, at 3pm Marble Hill House is hosting a talk by George Goodwin, honorary author at Benjamin Franklin House in London. His talk about the founding father of the United States is, unsurprisingly, entitled **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN LONDON**. (There should be some interesting questions from the floor following the recent US election).

Meanwhile, for young readers and writers there is an active workshop being held at the Coach House, Orleans House Gallery (OHG) along the riverside. **THE PHOENIX WEEKLY COMIC** present **GARY NORTHFIELD'S HAIRY TALES**. Illustrator Gary Northfield will guide you through making you own comics about weird and wonderful things. This takes place on Saturday, 12 at 2-3pm and again at 4-5pm. £5 per child on the door.

AN EVENING WITH TWICKENHAM STANZA will present the poetry of 5 distinguished poets who make up this local group. This again takes place in the Coach House at Orleans House Gallery at 7.30pm. Tickets from the literature festival office as above at £8/£6.50

If you are an aspiring writer you may benefit from a **MASTERCLASS IN CREATIVE WRITING** at The Stables, OHG led by Agnieszka Studzinska. Materials provided. Tickets £40 on door.

Environmental concerns are addressed in a talk by John Lewis-Stempel entitled **THE RUNNING HARE; THE SECRET LIFE OF FARMLAND**, recently broadcast as BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. This is at Twickenham Library on Thursday 17 at 7.00pm. Tickets £7.50/£6.

A visit to one or all of the craft fairs that are being held between now and Christmas may reward you with finding that unique gift you are seeking for a special friend or family member.

Strawberry Hill House will be open for its **CHRISTMAS ART AND CRAFT FAIR** on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 from 11am-4.00pm when a wide range of gifts and tasty Christmas fare will be on sale.

On the following weekend the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington will hold **SPARKLE**; Contemporary Craft and Gourmet Food Fair, showcasing a dazzling range of offerings from more than 70 designers and gourmet cooks. Friday 18, 6.00-8.00pm, Saturday 19-Sunday 20, 10 am-5.00pm Admission £4.

Music

David McGeachie, Music correspondent



Hello and welcome to the Twickenham Times music column!

This time we will set the scene by covering some local music history, before we move onto the current scene.

Firstly, some Twickenham music history that some – but not all – will already know.

The town has been a hotbed of music since the 1950s when Ken Colyer and his Jazz Band were a big hit. By the early 60s the Eel Pie Island Hotel was hosting gigs by The Downliners Sect (one of best band names ever, surely!) and others, then the Rolling Stones came down from Ealing Blues Club and started playing Eel Pie and the Crawdaddy Club at the Station Hotel in Richmond - now the 'One Kew Road' bar where Paul Endacott of the Swinging Sixties Tour Bus puts on regular 60s revival gigs on the very spot the Stones played – including when the Beatles popped by to see them.

Eric Clapton, in his autobiography, mentions hanging at the Auberge café in Richmond (now Nando's) then crossing the River and turning left to walk along to Eel Pie Island to watch gigs.

Phil Collins grew up on Hanworth Road and spent a lot of time on Eel Pie Island next to the Hotel, with his Dad at the Yacht Club, which now sports a large photo of Phil in the main room. He then grew up and went on to play drums at the hotel next door.

Famously, Rod Stewart went to see Long John Baldry one night and was waiting at the station blowing his 'harp' and crooning when Baldry turned up there too and got talking and soon invited him to join his band. There is youtube footage of a young Rod nervously bounding forward to sing at Richmond's Crawdaddy Club in 1965 after it had moved to Richmond Athletic Ground. Mike Rivers now runs gigs under the Crawdaddy brand in the exact same low-ceiling (great sound!) room that the Stones and others played back in the early 60s. Original Stone Bill Wyman even came to Mike's opening night.

Many other groups played pub gigs in Twickenham – that lovely back room at the Crown that is always full of diners these days, hosted bands right up to the early 2000s – Paul Rogers and Free played there in 1969.

Brian May's first gig was at St Mary's Church Hall, at the end of Church Street.

The early Jam played the Warren in Whitton – their first drummer 'Bomber' now plays with the great rock-n roll era act 'Nark Drool and The Shudders.

A footnote of the scene is Albert's Music Shop which only closed 3 years ago. Phil Collins bought his first drums there – the ones on the front of his soul covers album. Ritchie Blackmore got his first guitar there and Ian Gillan from Whitton and Mick Underwood from Heston used to go down there a few years before they were in Episode Six and Mick recommended Ian to Ritchie for the singer's job in Deep Purple... who then played Eel Pie Island 1970! Along with rockers Genesis, King Crimson and Mott.

The legend of Eel Pie's music scene has been celebrated for many years at The Eel Pie Club at The Patch, run by Warren and Gina and featuring regular gigs starring many current blues and rock acts plus old legends such as Ronnie Wood who drove his Bentley into the garden one night to go upstairs and play with his late brother Art, from the Artwoods. There is a wonderful photo take at the Cabbage Patch in the early 2000s of Art onstage with Ronnie one side of him and Ray Majors from Mott The Hoople on the other.

The definitive book on the history of the Eel Pie Island music scene was written by local Islander and photographer Michele Whitby, who also curated a fantastic Pop Up Eel Pie museum. The Rolling Stones were on tour at the time but still graciously sent signed items for the museum, which should have a permanent home soon. The Eel Pie Island Hotel is long gone now – it was on the south side of the Island facing Surrey.

Well that's some of the stories of the past, but hey, right now we are creating future memories!

So this column will look at what's happening now on the local music scene. There is an amazing amount of live music locally –more, in my view, than in any town in West London. We will look at new bands playing new music, recommend the best covers bands, focus on where you can catch live music and on what nights and in which styles, promote the local outdoor gigs and also interview some of the local faces that you have probably seen for many years but know little about. You may be surprised at the stories of some of the people you can see having fun playing small gigs around here.

Thanks for reading. Until next time... KEEP MUSIC LIVE!

Dave

David McGeachie runs Tenant Finder Lettings and is a part time musician, he worked in record labels in the 80s & 90s and has been on the Twickenham music scene for over 15 years

Twickenham Riverside

Poems in the Park

By Euterpe

Three years ago, a collection of poems and other works, some serious, some humorous, was posted on the railings around the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham Riverside, as part of a Literature Festival. Here are three of them.

First, the Gardens overlook Eel Pie Island:

No man is an island
Entire of itself
Every man is a piece of the continent
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were:
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

John Donne 1572-1613

Second, there is grass:

What wondrous life is this I lead!
Ripe apples drop about my head;
The luscious clusters of the vine
Upon my mouth do crush their wine;
The nectarine and curious peach,
Into my hands themselves do reach;
Stumbling on melons, as I pass,
Insnared with flowers, I fall on grass.

From The Garden, by Andrew Marvell 1621-1678

Third, the Gardens overlook the river:

Down the stream the swans all glide;
It's quite the cheapest way to ride.
Their legs get wet,
Their tummies wetter:
I think after all
The bus is better.

Spike Milligan 1918-1678

RFU News

I am delighted to be able to write here and tell you about the work and upcoming events at Twickenham Stadium. I took up my post here on 19th September and my feet haven't touched the ground since!

Following the successful 2015 Rugby World Cup, many at Twickenham, both inside and outside the stadium, are looking forward to getting back to normal. However normal never equates to boring when it comes to Twickenham!



After a relatively quiet summer, the new international season started with our first match; Australia v Argentina. Even though the crowd only numbered 45,000, it was an excellent atmosphere and was a very enjoyable lead up to our first big fixture, the NFL match between New York Giants and Los Angeles Rams. This was a logistical challenge for everyone at the RFU, as the normal hosts, Wembley, have a very different setup in terms of space and transport. We had to take educated guesses as to how and when fans would arrive and what type of crowd we could expect, hence the longer road closures, which although inconvenient at least provided for some certainty to allow residents to plan their days.

Overall, the match went very well and the crowd were well behaved, with only a few isolated incidents of anti-social behaviour. We have reviewed all feedback which we have received and have identified where we could manage things better next time, in particular our communications which could and should have been clearer. We have even bought a calendar for the office so that there will be no more confusion between which day is 23rd!

In addition, following feedback from residents in Heatham, we have decided not to go ahead with the 2 hour pre match road closures for the Autumn Internationals and will maintain the existing arrangements. We may undertake consultation in the future as to what residents would like us to see and what we can realistically provide.

Our other big news is that we are relaunching our community sponsorship programme with an increased fund and an emphasis on Rugby's values; Discipline, Respect, Teamwork, Sportsmanship and Enjoyment. The awards will be made available to non-rugby organisations on this basis.

Residents are always welcome at Twickenham and please do feel free to contact me at chrisdonnelly@rfu.com.

Chris Donnelly
RFU Community Engagement Officer



London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

The Municipal Borough of Twickenham became part of the London Borough of Richmond in 1965 joining with towns on the Richmond side of the River Thames.

Today, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has 54 councillors from each side of the river, the Twickenham side and the Richmond side. <http://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>

In 2009 the Conservative party became the ruling party and maintained a majority in the council in the following local election.

The Twickenham side of the borough has many individual towns or "villages" www.richmond.gov.uk/village_plans, a university, buildings of historical and architectural merit, beautiful views along the Thames and plenty of open space.

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND'S PARTNERSHIPS

The council has collaborated with other Boroughs such as Merton.

www.richmond.gov.uk/search_results?qt=MERTON

However, an agreement to amalgamate services with Wandsworth is a more encompassing undertaking.

www.richmond.gov.uk/search_results?qt=AMALGAMATION+WITH+WANDSWORTH

As well as partnerships with other boroughs Richmond council outsources some services. For example the Event Umbrella www.whitstableoysterfestival.co.uk/event-umbrella.htm which is based in Whitsable oversees the council's event policy and puts on events for the council.

PAYMENT TO SUPPLIERS

www.richmond.gov.uk/council_payments_to_suppliers

WEBCASTS

View planning and council meetings www.richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/home

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Find dates of council meetings <https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1>

PRESS RELEASES

LBRuT issues press releases every Friday which can be viewed on the council website.

www.richmond.gov.uk/press_office

THE TWICKENHAM VILLAGES

TWICKENHAM	www.twicksoc.org.uk
STRAWBERRY HILL	www.shra.org.uk
TEDDINGTON	www.teddingtontown.co.uk
HAMPTON WICK	www.hamptonwick.org.uk
HAMPTON	www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk
HAMPTON HILL	www.lovehamptonhill.com
WHITTON	www.whittontowncentre.co.uk
ST MARGARETS	www.stmgrts.org.uk
EAST TWICKENHAM	www.easttwickenham.org



Click to view video on Bushy Park by Rhodri Williams

Have your say - Contribute an article that is topical or of local interest

Poppy Talk

by Amy Atkinson

So today is Armistice day. 11th of November. And hundreds of thousands of people will be wearing the poppy. And there are almost as many who won't be.

For the non-wearers the reasons are namely pacifism, the politicisation of the poppy, and dislike of the powers that were ie General Haig et al (not to mention the nauseating, 'right on' insistence that anyone appearing on TV must wear one).

I would like a world without war. I don't really think many actually like a 'good war', and violence has not turned out to be the deterrent once thought. But that doesn't mean we cannot honour those who have fought and died in war.

People high-jacking the poppy to promote patriotism, interference in overseas conflicts or the glorification of war do not represent me. They just serve as a reminder that no one can raise a Union Jack these days for fear of being called a racist.

First World War general Douglas Haig's over the top 'Over The Top' strategy saw thousands of soldiers die and many more wounded – for little military gain – earning him the nickname the butcher. He went on to help found the British Legion, which began the Poppy Appeal selling today's ubiquitous poppy. So I can see why many do not want to be associated with him.

But the poppy symbol is not his to own. The flower began to grow in the churned up, battle-scarred no man's land of France, which inspired Canadian soldier and former university professor John McRae to write the 1915 poem, In Flanders' Fields.

After the war, French woman Anna Guerin began selling silk or cardboard poppies to raise money for orphaned and sick French children (which later was extended to widows and veterans). Called the Poppy Lady, she toured the US and 'Poppy Days' were born.

In 1921, Anna Guerin persuaded General Haig to get involved in the creation the British Legion.

But given the 'lions led by donkeys' reputation, many see the poppy as hypocritical or not a worthy way to honour the dead. But, as you can probably tell, I am not a historian, despite this I wear a poppy to remember the men and women who gave their lives in war. Not just the first, or the second but the more recent conflicts. Why? Because how else do we publicly honour our war dead, acknowledge the horrific battles that have cost so much and allowed us the freedoms we enjoy today? We can go on marches and wave placards but one day a year (or three of four) you can quietly show your appreciation. Perhaps now we can reclaim the poppy as purely a symbol of thanks and remembrance.

Plus poppies intrigue young children. Kids need to learn our history. Let me remind you of 2014's X Factor (you're forgiven for not watching it) when young boy singing ensemble One Direction performed, each with a poppy pinned to his shirt. Teenagers instantly took to social media to 'diss' the boys' "red flower things". Kids who should know better were posting comments such as, "why are they wearing little red flowers?" and "they're all wearing little red paper flowers that are supposed to be corsages. Kill me now." Don't worry, they were soon roundly ridiculed.

So, whether you wear a poppy or not – or do not support the British Legion – at least the debate can continue, as everyone is entitled to their opinions. After all, we do live in a free country...



Letters

Please send your letters to letters@TwickenhamTimes.com

In the dark about bicycles

Dear Sir,

I am seriously concerned about the number of cyclists who do not have any lights on their bicycles. There should be a campaign in the high streets to make cyclists aware of the danger, not just to themselves but to other road users and pedestrians. It would also help to avert accidents if all cyclists wore clothing which made them visible in the dark

There is also a problem in Twickenham town centre where the cycle lanes are inadequate. Near WH Smiths there is a cycle lane which suddenly appears where two lanes of traffic need to squeeze in as well. This is a spot where an accident is waiting to happen.

D. Chapman, Twickenham

Pavement problems

Dear Sir,

My friend who shops in Kingston had a very bad fall when she tripped over a raised pavement brick near the Bentalls Centre. She reported this hazard to the council who asked her to complete an accident form.

Eventually she received a computer generated letter from Kingston's insurers stating that Kingston council had no liability for the accident as the brick was raised just under an inch – below the limit where they would accept liability. After five months she is still suffering pain from the fall.

Shopping in Kingston now seems less attractive even though the shops are better than those in Twickenham.

G Johnson, Twickenham

Nice first issue!

Dir Sir,

I just wanted to say - nice job!
Might be an idea for an email sign up so that people get an email when there's a new issue?

Thanks

Name and address supplied

Community involvement

Dear Sir,

At last, Twickenham has its own voice! Thank you - it is much needed and I wish it every success. Let's hope the community gets involved and supports it.

Alison Edwards, Twickenham