

The Twickenham Times

TWICKENHAM ICE RINK

by a Strawberry Hill resident, name and address supplied

To say that I am dismayed to hear that there is to be no ice rink in Twickenham over Christmas and the New Year holiday period is putting it mildly. Who are the kill-joys on the Planning Committee who have turned down the opportunity for so many local families to enjoy some healthy outdoor exercise this Christmas? When I studied the application online the number of supporters heavily outweighed those who had reservations about the rink at Radnor Gardens.

When public funding for so many local facilities and amenities are at risk surely the council should be encouraging this sort of enterprise.

My grandchildren have looked forward to visiting the rink over the last few years during their Christmas holiday and regard the treat as the icing on the Christmas cake. They will share my disappointment.

Over the last week there has been much activity on the High Streets throughout the borough to encourage the retail trade, yet the council has decided to put a dampener on an activity which parents and children alike can enjoy. Any financial burden does not come out of the council's coffers, so why be so mean? What is the date for the next local elections? **SEE LETTERS**



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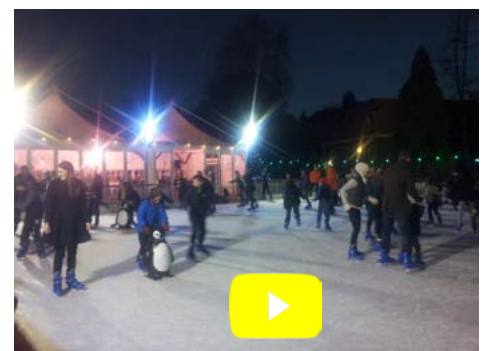
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This is Twickenham

JAMES BOND STYLE AT TWICKENHAM STADIUM THIS CHRISTMAS

The world of 007 was recreated earlier in the year in the St George's Suite at Twickenham Stadium in a preview of their James Bond themed Christmas event. A theming and prop hire company recreated the world of Bond with roulette, live music and lavish décor.



A great variety of Christmas fare was on offer with a festive carvery and delicious non meat dishes. Two or three course meals will be available in the December parties.



It was a very pleasant preview; the décor and food gave the feel of Casino Royale – certainly recommended by The Twickenham Times.

There are still places for Shared Parties taking place on 9th December.

To find out more about the different options for private and shared parties call 020 8744 9997 or email conferences&events@therfu.com or visit www.twickenhamexperience.com/conferences-events/type-of-event/christmas

This is Twickenham cont.

Skating History

by Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

On November 29 an audience in the Hall of Raleigh Road United Church in Richmond was entertained by talks on the history of skating from 2000BC to the present day, and memories of skating at Richmond Ice Rink (that, despite its name, was situated in Twickenham). These talks came out of the work of The Richmond Environmental Information Centre's project, funded by a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund, "The Most Famous Ice Rink in the World". This is the fourth time this work has been presented to various community groups in the Borough.

Topics included such diverse subjects as Litwinia the Patron Saint of Skating, Prince Albert falling through the ice at Buckingham Palace, the history of the site on which the Rink was built, young Prince Andrew being taught to skate, Torvill and Dean practising for their Olympic dance, parties and weddings on ice, and the sad demise of the Rink in 1992. Afterwards, members of the audience enthusiastically made contributions of memories and souvenirs; these will be added to the fund of information already gathered.

The Richmond Environmental Information Centre, a Registered Charity, has now completed two projects collecting local Oral History, and is presently collaborating with the East Twickenham Centennial Group on a World War 1 project.



Sleigh bells ring...in Hampton Square

Snow, reindeer, Santa and mince pies will be at Hampton Square this Christmas for a seasonal extravaganza

On 4th December, from 11am-4pm, the Christmas event will be an action packed day. Live music will entertain the crowds, including performances from Tuesday Blue, Blues Café, The Reckless Sleeper, Steve Ling and many more.

Children and families will be able to meet live reindeer, play in the snow (thanks to a snow machine) visit Santa and his elves in his grotto and enjoy burgers, mulled wine and mince pies. The event is organised by Richmond Council and Sarah Burley from Bash Ltd. The event is free to attend.

Sarah Burley, said:

"I believe that we are all 'The Community' and we should all have the chance to be part of it! This is a wonderful way to use music to bring people together and start the festive season with a celebration that is free to attend, open to all and great fun!"

RICHMOND'S FEEL-GOOD DREAM OF A PANTOMIME

**MAUREEN
LIPMAN**

AS CARABOSSE, THE WICKED FAIRY

**CHRIS
JARVIS**

AS CHESTER THE JESTER



Sleeping Beauty



'I challenge you to find a more festive London Theatre than Richmond's local offering'

Time Out on Cinderella

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Arts and Entertainment

by Erica White

Now that the streets and trees throughout Twickenham have officially been lit up, the Three Wise Men astride their majestic camels have left the Green, carol, choral and orchestral music concerts take to the stage to take us up to Christmas.

Teddington Choral Society will be All Saints, Kingston Parish Church on Saturday, 3 December at 7.30pm. info on www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk

On Sunday, 4 December at the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington, Thames Philharmonia's concert presents this year's Yehudi Menuhin international competition prize-winning violinist, SongHa Choi as soloist in a concert including Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. This starts at 7.30. Tickets: £12/£8 Book online at www.landmarkartscentre.org. or Tel: 8977 7558.


Meanwhile for Folk and Jazz lovers the Cabbage Patch pub, near Twickenham railway station is the venue to head to during the forthcoming week.

Twickfolk present Michael Mcdermott (USA): Echoes of Springsteen and Dylan from the Windy City. Sunday 4 December, at 7.45pm. Info on twickfolk.co.uk

And on Tuesday 6 December, in the Patchworks Bar, 8pm-11pm Twickenham Jazz Club have an evening of Kelvin Christiane 'Allstars' Big Band. Info on twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk

Arthur's Bistro on Twickenham Green will be hosting a series of popular Screen on the Green evenings, combining a meal with a film throughout December. On Sunday 4 December the film is 8 WOMEN, a classy French musical whodunit.

A reminder that there is panto at Hampton Hill Theatre. CINDERELLA opens this weekend, Saturday/Sunday 3/4 December with matinee performances at 2.30, evenings at 6.30 and continues throughout the week at 7.30. Tickets: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or phone 0845 838 7529.



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Twickers Foodie

The German Bakery

by Alison Jee

Did you know that Germany has the largest variety of bread with more than 300 basic kinds of bread, producing more than 1,000 types of small bread rolls and pastries? Well quite a few of them are now available here in Twickenham!

If you've wandered down Water Lane to the river recently, you will have noticed the new German Bakery. And if you haven't already been tempted to venture inside, then we would urge you to do so. There is a fabulous selection of organic sweet and savoury



produce, as well as drinks and snacks, plus a vast selection of gluten free products and ingredients for home baking. The delicious breads are made in the Franconian tradition – intense and powerful with a range of different grains and seeds, with a different specialist bread each day of the week. There are savoury snacks and pastries, strudels and cheesecakes – a range too diverse to describe in detail here but definitely worth trying.



All the products are carefully sourced from Germany by local husband and wife team Harpreet and Preeti Singh. Preeti runs the shop on a daily basis, while Harpreet, a German national, looks after the purchasing and financial side of the business, (as well as his day job in IT for a tax technology company in central London).



Win a selection of German Bakery products!

We've got together with The German Bakery to offer Twickenham Times readers a chance to win a lovely prize of a selection of seasonal bakery products – just in time for Christmas. To find out more, visit our website twickenhamtimes.com

The Music Column

by David McGeachie



Hello again to my column all about the local music scene. If there is anything you think I should write about, please email me at david@tenant-finder.co.uk

As I mentioned in my first spot, as we go along I want to interview local faces whom we maybe know and recognise but maybe don't know much about and also others who are maybe not behind the mic but behind what is going on and we will talk to them too.

My very first interviewee for this series... in fact let's face it, the very first interviewee in my whole life... is Roland Rock. I must have known Roland by sight for over 15 years - and to talk to and have my drumming slagged by him in the Barmy Arms; sadly even longer.

Anyway he is probably the best known solo guitar and vocal act in the area and I decided to ask him a few questions... I really enjoyed reading the answers and hope you do. Here we go...

LOCAL MUSIC PERSON OF THE WEEK: ROLAND ROCK

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU START PLAYING AND WHAT INSTRUMENTS DO YOU PLAY?

There was an old guitar hanging around in our house that no one played so I started messing around with it trying to get a tune or two. (*Nothing changes – Ed*) When I was 9 at school we used to have assembly and one of the teachers played this acoustic jumbo guitar, singing all the hymns- and I loved his rhythm to certain songs and I thought I'd like to play like that.

My dad bought me a Woolworth's guitar song book with songs like coming round the mountain, skip to my Lou etc. with the chords (I didn't even know what a chord was then) then I figured you needed to sing to make the guitar work and from that moment on that was it - I'm going to learn the guitar and travel the world! I was 12 by now.

I formed my first group at school in the summer of 1977 doing our versions of T.Rex, Stones, Beatles, Pistols, Jam, Showaddywaddy songs and by Christmas '77 I did my first ever gig - at the school Christmas party. It was like an out of body experience! I was so nervous! I was 15. In the summer of '78 me and my brother started up a band, me on guitar, and chief songwriter, he on bass and a mate on the kit. We did loads of gigs around London, Croydon, Shepherd's Bush - we were called The Fad. We had a bit of interest from small indie labels but nothing came of that. I wanted to be professional by now but my dad didn't think the same so he made me go and work in a sheet metal factory in Surbiton 😞. Thanks for the support Dad!

DID YOU GROW UP AROUND HERE? WHAT WAS THE MUSIC SCENE LIKE AND HOW DID YOU GET INTO IT?

I'm a musician Dave - I've never grown up! I was born and raised in Wimbledon. At the age of 21 I'd had enough of working in factories and shops so I put an ad in MELODY MAKER to form a group with like-minded musicians. I got a call from two older chaps (they were 30ish) and they asked me to audition me for an upcoming tour of Germany. We took an instant liking to each other and a week later I left my job at B&Q and went off to tour Germany with their band for six weeks! That changed my life. That was September/October '83.

On my return me and the bass player started busking in London and I found I was earning more money

than I ever did doing normal jobs. I moved from SW19 to Twickenham in December 1992 because me and another bloke- Nick O'Teen who I had met busking, had a Sunday residency at The White Swan, by the river. I loved it around there so much I moved there.

I was always since I can remember a massive Beatles fan, then punk fan but when I started busking a couple of fellows introduced me to '50s Rock n roll which I completely fell in love with- Elvis, Everlys, Buddy, Gene Vincent, Cochran etc so my repertoire doubled in size, incorporating the 50s Rock n roll to my set.

In 1994 I started to do gigs in Twick and Richmond as a solo player. That started in about summer 1994- I was walking through Richmond with a guitar on my back on a sunny afternoon when I saw a sign outside 1 Paradise Rd wine bar saying 'live music every Sunday, so I went in and asked the bloke if he'd give me a gig. He said the usual- drop a tape in blah blah so I said no I'll sing you a song now and I sang him Runaway Train by Soul Asylum and he said when you wanna start? Bingo! My first solo gig in Richmond was summer '94 and I took all the loot!!! 32 years later I'm still doing it! 😊. Why not? It's fun and I love playing AND it pays the bills 😊

(That's brilliant. I remember the Paradise Bar... seems 5 years ago but probably 20)



A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW YOU AS A SOLO BUT TELL US ABOUT THE ALLBEATS, WHICH IS OF COURSE A FULL BAND I'VE SEEN YOU IN A LOT; WHEN DID THAT START?

The name The Allbeats came to me one afternoon in South Kensington in 1995. I wanted to start a 60s type group so I need a name so I swapped the phonetics and syllables of Beatles and came up with Allbeats- silly isn't it?

I've had two incarnations of this band. First from '95- 2004 then the current line-up from 2004 up to now.

I THINK I AM RIGHT THAT YOU ALSO PLAY INTERNATIONALLY IN A BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND. PLEASE TELL ABOUT THAT

I've never been keen on this 'tribute' thingy because it ties you to that artist which I never wanted to do but I've depped for 'John' in various Beatle bands doing gigs in Europe but it wasn't for me so I carried on Allbeating.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST SADLY MISSED LOCAL VENUE

The Racing Page, Richmond. We had some brilliant gigs in there.

(Wow I remember that as well. Sunday nights? Great gigs there. Now a gastro pub. At least it's not 'luxury flats'.)

TELL US ABOUT ONE LOCAL GIG YOU DID THAT YOU REMEMBER MOST FONDLY AND WHY

My most recent memorable gig was last year at the Rugby World Cup fanzone in old deer park. We did four nights- the last one we played to about 10,000 people and we had a huge sound system behind us. Biggest gig I've done.

(Yeah I played there too! To about - roughly - 10,000 fewer people... England had gone out by then. There weren't 10,000 Fiji-ans in London that wanted to watch the game in a big tent in Richmond, sadly.)

WORST GIG YOU EVER DID?

Worst gig was a thing we did in Marble Hill Park about 5 years ago. I couldn't get my regular chaps so I got some depts and it was awful!! They couldn't even play!!

(How strange! I don't remember playing for you that day but I obviously did!)

EVER SHARE THE STAGE WITH SOMEONE (ELSE) FAMOUS OR NOTED?

Toured Germany and Denmark with the late GREAT Tony Sheridan!! Who the Beatles backed in Hamburg in 1960. He was my mentor- legend.

(That's amazing, didn't know that. Must have be some great stories he could tell.)

EVER SEE ANYONE AT A SMALL VENUE HERE THAT WENT ON TO MAKE IT BIG?

Possibly. Analisa.

(Oh yes, worked at the Crown pub. Was on X Factor. I think she will do something anyway whatever happened on that show. She's lovely and committed to it.)

WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE ARTIST, ER, APART FROM THE BEATLES

Nobody modern but Weller is up there. Rotten. Townshend.

ANY OTHER LOCAL ARTISTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLUG?

The Carnabys. Bad name... haha, but lovely guys. Frankie is amazing!

WHAT SORT OF GIGS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Well paid ones 😊 Don't care where.

Thanks v much for taking the time Mr Rock! Roland is regularly playing at ... 'Everywhere'

Check the gig list here: www.lemonrock.com/theallbeats?page=gigs

LOCAL MUSIC VENUE OF THE WEEK

[The Shack, 68 London Road TW1 3QS](#)

This place has existed under a few different names over the years. It even had a theatre upstairs for a while. However in my view it is now the best it has ever been, especially with its upstairs function room which is a lovely cozy space with lots of wood, its own bar and a raised seating area perfect for bands. I went upstairs for a private party in 2016 and was thrilled – it's a great room.



The Twickenham Jam recently moved to The Shack and so every Sunday evening from 7pm you can enjoy fab local musos playing some great FREE live music. Everyone is welcome at the jam, whether to watch or play. It is run fairly, in that people get to play in order of 'turning up' as best as is possible. That's maybe why it is still going strong ten years after Ray Clark and I started it – I left the running of it many years ago and Ray is in charge now.

The music at the jam is mostly blues / rock / funk covers... come and have a look – you will probably be amazed at the talent on offer.

If you want to pay just bring your instrument or drum sticks; backline is provided by the excellent and changing house band. Ask for Ray and put your name on his list: He then puts together band lineups and each lineup gets 2 songs only. It's like Top Of The Pops used to be – if you don't like this one, don't worry as something else will be along in a minute!

Another attraction is that the song Superstition has finally been banned. Or maybe I'm just dreaming !!

www.theshack.london The Shack, come out of Twickenham Station and Turn Left,

The Twickenham Sunday Jam at The Shack, all musos and music fans welcome from 7pm every Sunday.

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Church Street, Twickenham - Festival of Light

by Shona Lyons

It is the start of our festive season and Church Street is marking the festive season with the Festival of Lights, (called as such as most of the stall holders will have lanterns etc. as well as the lovely sparkling lights of the Christmas trees & lights in the street) We will have a wide range of art & craft stalls, local charities and other local businesses' as well as the core Church Street traders, a street where independent traders make shopping a pleasure and not a chore. There will be approximately 40 stalls and also the Church Street traders will be out in force with a range of very special offers for this day.



There is entertainment for everyone with live music, Punch and Judy, Children's carousel, Santa's Grotto, street food & more!

The event will be from 12 midday until 8pm with Punch and Judy 2pm, 4pm and 6pm, a Children's Carousel all day, Christmas Music & Carols from 1pm until 8pm from The Elastic Brass Band at 1pm The Kneller Hall Military Band at 3pm, St James School Choir at 4pm & The Richmond Music Trust at 6pm. There will also be Santa's Grotto at Mint from 4pm until 6pm.

At the church, there is a Christ the Light event with a collection of Festive stalls, selling food, and gifts & even a local dog groomer! The schedule of their events is:

12 midday until 8pm Stalls

3-5.20 Children's crafts and activities

5.20-5.30 short address by Jeff Hopkin Williams

5.30-6.00 Christmas singing by the school choir

6.00 -6.15 candlelit procession – around the church if wet and round the churchyard if dry

6.15-6.30 carols sung by all (not by a choir, just a general singsong)

6.30 closing prayer

We also have a French Market on the 10th and 11th and an Italian Market on the 17th and 18th.



“Get ready to be delighted by the array of sparkling markets that Church Street of Twickenham has for you this Xmas Season. Starting with The Festival of Lights that is linking in with St Mary's, Twicken-

ham, Christ the Light event on the 2nd of December. The independent traders of Church street have put together a feast of offers for the day and night, please see the flyer for details and there will be a myriad of approximately 40 stalls from unique and talented crafts people, artists, even a dog groomer from Twickenham Green! crepes, street food, Punch & Judy, a spectacular grotto, fantastic music from the Kneller Hall Military Band, St James' School Choir, The Elastic Brass band and The Richmond Music Trust. For exact details please see the www.ttba.org.uk events listing for the day! Come and buy your Christmas Gifts in a warm and inviting environment or just come and enjoy the music, visit Santa or laugh at Punch and Judy. What-ever floats your boat this Xmas, we will be ready to welcome you”

Have your say

The Teddington “Quiet Way”

by Roger Richardson, Teddington

I attended the meeting in the Baptist Church, Teddington, last Saturday afternoon called to discuss the proposal to “convert” Teddington High Street into a “Quiet Way” for cyclists.

The meeting was, judging by opinions expressed, wholly against the proposals for a variety of reasons. However many were points of detail. By putting forward these detailed points at this stage, those speakers were making the mistake of implicitly accepting the principle of the proposal.

The one essential point is that no one, except some cyclist (note the singular), wants Teddington High Street to be part of a “Quiet Route”. It’s a contradiction in terms. A High Street is essentially a shop lined retail destination and Teddington’s, like most unless specifically bypassed, is also a through route for mixed traffic including cyclists.

The Quiet Way concept in our area is to provide a relatively motor traffic free through route for cyclists from Wandsworth (prison!) via Richmond Park to Bushey Park. Why the route suggested is via a busy High Street is anybody’s guess and it’s conceptually wrong. The adage holds true: “It ain’t broke don’t fix it.”

There are many alternatives via Station Road or to the north of the High Street and, as was suggested by one speaker, all these options need to be put forward with detailed traffic statistics (all modes and with hour-by-hour figures) for a genuine properly publicised consultation at a later date.. After assessing opinion based on facts, the Council, (apparently just the Cabinet member for Transport (who was not present)), can make a decision based on fact, not one lobby’s unthought through idea, and in accordance with the wishes of all stakeholders.

A point of unanimous agreement was that the southern footbridge over the railway must be made at least as satisfactory as the one in Bushey Park Road for some of the cycle route options to be viable. The money to be spent in Teddington under this scheme would be much better spent in going part way towards the footbridge. I know it’s the property of National Rail and that there are difficulties with restricted width either side but it’s a decades old problem where heads need knocking together until it’s solved.

Cllrs Elengorn and Knight (Teddington Ward Councillors) were there and I spoke to both afterwards. They certainly took on board the strength of feeling against the proposal as it now stands. And the officials went away with their tails between their legs.

Have your say - Heathrow 3rd runway

by Teddington Action Group

If you are hearing the roar of planes that seems to be louder and more frequent, flying lower and during the late night and before dawn, then you aren't imagining things. And any expansion at Heathrow will only make your quality of life worse. Currently 30% of people in Europe affected by aircraft noise live under Heathrow flight paths. The aircraft noise and air pollution from the lower flight paths disrupts sleep, exacerbates breathing problems and is especially bad for children's mental and physical health. Imagine the negative impact of an additional 265,000 flights per year if Heathrow is allowed to expand!

Despite David Cameron's famous promise of "no ifs, no buts" that there would not be a third runway at Heathrow, the fight continues. The recent government decision has galvanized myriad volunteer and unfunded neighbourhood groups to collaborate in taking on the foreign owned "Goliath" of Heathrow owners who have very deep financial resources to fund advertisements, telephone surveys, PR and special research designed carefully designed to support their point of view.

Appointing Sir Howard Davies as chairman of the "independent" commission that selected Heathrow taints the whole process. When the Airports Commission was established in 2012, the government hailed it as an "independent" body to assess the issue of airports capacity expansion, with fresh, objective eyes. And although the new government continues to assert this line, the facts simply do support their assertion.

From 2009 Sir Howard Davies was a paid advisor to the investment strategy committee of GIC Private Limited, a principal Heathrow shareholder and advocate for Heathrow expansion. In 2011 he also joined the Investment Advisory Board of GIC Private Ltd. He only resigned these remunerated positions with GIC Private Ltd on his appointment to head the "independent" commission in September 2012. But these positions with one of Heathrow's principal owners should have ruled him out of contention for any role with the Airports Commission. Instead, a process to adjudicate upon Heathrow's future was chaired by someone who, at the time of his appointment, was in the gainful employ of one of Heathrow's principal owners and cheerleaders for the airport's expansion. Whether one puts it down to carelessness or impropriety – it is a truth that indubitably gives lie to the Government's claim that the Airports Commission was an "independent" body".

Teddington Action Group [TAG] is a non-political group of residents from Teddington, Twickenham, Hampton and other surrounding areas who have come together to fight Heathrow expansion. TAG was formed in August 2014 following concentrated flight path trials that resulted in a huge increase in noise and disruption to quality of life. 7000 local residents signed a petition that resulted in stopping the trials earlier than planned. This success inspired more people to volunteer their time to participate in Dept. of Transport and other government noise committees and aviation bodies, analyse reports for accuracy and represent community positions.

Recent TAG research uncovered deals from Heathrow to secure support from the Scottish National Party [SNP] for expansion by promising Scotland: £200M for construction projects; creating 16,000 new jobs; £10 per person reduction on landing fees from Scotland and £10M to support Scottish domestic routes.

TAG's actions does not mean job losses. The focus is to preserve the quality of life for local residents. If you want to help, email: info@teddintonactiongroup.com or just follow TAG on Twitter [@teddingtonTAG](https://twitter.com/teddingtonTAG) or [Facebook.com/TeddingtonActionGroup](https://www.facebook.com/TeddingtonActionGroup)



Letters

Sir

I was appalled as I watched the Ice Rink application discussed via the live online broadcast of last week's Planning Committee Meeting (23rd Nov).

The applicants had worked very hard with the Planning Officer to bring the application for the return of the popular Twickenham Ice Rink before the Committee, the recommendation being for approval.

However, it was quickly evident that the Conservative Councillors were ready to put every obstacle in the way of this application, with desperation kicking in at times when they voiced their fears that visitors would mash up the Bowling Green, rip out benches or scratch cars - oh and they would probably trash the War Memorial too. Councillors had clearly not bothered to do their research and wrongly assumed that most of the supporters were from outside the area. It didn't matter that the Council allows Zippo Circus to churn up Twickenham Green on an annual basis and plays host to hordes of people driving into the Town and parking around the Green, no the Ice Rink in Radnor Gardens had to be stopped at all costs.

Of those who objected, most live in Bonsor Road opposite, where I am told Twickenham Riverside Ward Councillor Benedict Dias, who spoke against the Ice Rink, resides. South Twickenham Ward Councillor David Marlow also spoke against the Ice Rink and after both had spoken, they spoke to their Councillor colleagues as if they had been co-opted onto the Planning Committee! This is extremely unprofessional and no member of the public would be allowed to behave in this way.

The Officer was doing a sterling job countering the Councillor negativity until Martin Elengorn announced that as the ice rink would be in place for a total of three months (including rigging and de-rigging) it could be considered a permanent building. Rejoice! Thus, the decision for the refusal of the application was recorded as it being building on Metropolitan Public Land.

I trust Cllr Pamela Fleming will remember the reason for refusal when the fate of Twickenham Riverside is decided as she cannot possibly continue to support housing to be built on the Riverside Metropolitan Public Land - land that was bequeathed to the people of Twickenham.

Julie Hill
Twickenham Riverside Ward

If you would like to contribute a letter, then please email to letters@TwickenhamTimes.com

Please send your letter before 12 noon Friday

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