

The Twickenham Tribune

TWICKERSEAL

There was a time when it was thought that marine mammals could not survive in the Thames and the river was declared biologically dead but sixty years on and the situation has changed dramatically.

The report on Monday by @twickerman of a seal at Richmond Lock – on the Twickenham side – is just one sighting of many which have been logged by the monitoring team of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Today, the Tidal Thames is home to harbour seals, grey seals, harbour porpoises and pilot whales.



Grey Seal

So far this year there have been reports of sightings of seventeen harbour seals, twenty-three grey seals and a harbour porpoise.

Seals can be found in greater numbers in the Thames Estuary. Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs are favourite places to spot seals but they have been seen as far up the river as Teddington Lock.

ZSL is always keen to encourage people to send in their sightings and/or volunteer their time as 'citizen scientists' alongside their Thames conservation team, not just for seals but also other activities including eel monitoring. A map of sightings can be found on the ZSL website: sites.zsl.org/inthethames

ADOPT A MARINE TURTLE - WWF

Lamu seascape, located in the northern coast of Kenya, is home to five of the seven known marine turtle species: green, hawksbill, loggerhead, olive ridley and leatherback. All of the marine turtle species found here are threatened with extinction, including the critically endangered hawksbill. March through to August is the peak turtle nesting season in Lamu seascape.



Olive Ridley

Watch the hatchlings scarp for survival here - vimeo.com/180168784 password: **wwf**

One of the biggest threats to the hatchlings is habitat loss through poorly planned coastal developments as these can destroy turtle nesting beaches.

To find out about adopting a turtle, visit [HERE](#)



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Erica White
Cliff Tapstand
Eleanor Marsh
Richmond Film Society
Julie Hill
Shona Lyons
St Mary's University
Network Rail
Teddington Action Group
Teresa Read
Berkley Driscoll

Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



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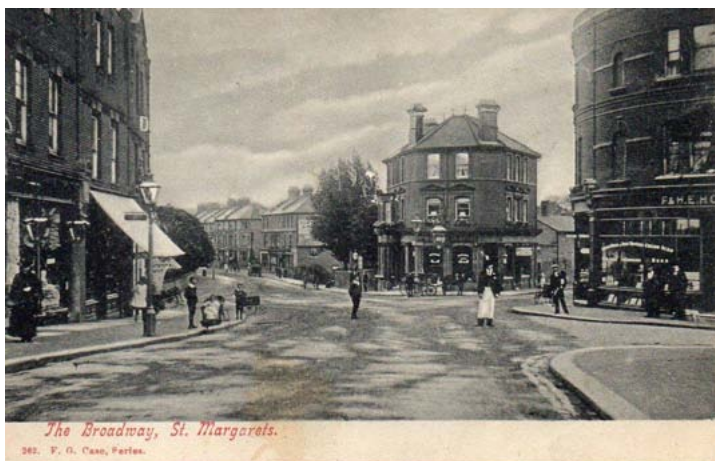
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THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE

PART 10 – TWICKENHAM'S PUBS

Plenty of choice of pubs, taverns, beer houses, coaching inns and ale houses over the centuries here in Twickenham. There are countless stories to be told about what our predecessors got up to in them. For now though we will concentrate on a couple of “proper pubs” that are still with us having evolved over recent years to meet the needs of today’s clientele

This postcard shows The St Margarets Hotel in 1905. Situated on the junction of Crown Road and St Margarets Road, The railway station is opposite and Twickenham Studios only 100 yards away in the Barons. I had my first stag night here in 1969! Many memories of this pub from the period including Eamon Andrews jumping out from behind a pillar to catch Norman Wisdom for an episode of This is Your Life. Also one night, Richard Harris, Ringo Starr and David Hemmings wandered into the public bar after a day’s filming and played darts with us. Today the pub has been re-invented as the St Margarets Tavern. A gastro pub aiming at the rugby trade on match days. You won’t find a dart board in there today I’m afraid.



The next postcard shows the Prince Albert in Hampton Road around the same period. A great social history card showing the laying of the tram lines along the centre of the road. Today the pub still has a bus stop outside linking it with Hammersmith, Chiswick, Brentford, Richmond, Kingston Staines and Hounslow. Another pub that has moved with the times and boasts an excellent Thai restaurant I am told. For many years the Prince Albert has hosted live music on Saturday nights and this still continues today. This postcard gives rise to the quiz question of the time. How many navvies does it take to lay a mile of tram line? An awful lot by the look of the postcard.



For those with a thirst for more knowledge of the pubs of Twickenham I can recommend a recent book by Kenneth M. Lea titled “Twickenham’s Pubs” and published by the Borough of Twickenham local History Society. You can order the book from their website at botlhs.co.uk

If you have any postcards to dispose of, any questions on this subject, or ideas for future articles, please drop me a line at alanwinter192@hotmail.com

POSTCARDS WANTED

Cash paid for Old Postcards

& postally franked envelopes.

Required by local collector / dealer.

Please ring Alan to discuss on

07875 578398

TWICKERS FOODIE

Pancake recipe:

110 g plain flour
2 eggs
280 ml milk
20 g butter
Pinch of salt
Pinch of sugar

Strawberry mix to garnish.

Strawberries, 1 punnet
Juice of 1 lemon
Sugar, 4 teaspoons
Basil, 10 leaves
Double cream 100 ml
Icing sugar, 1 tbsp



Mix all together and pass through a sieve.

Cut the strawberries in 6 add the lemon juice, sugar and the basil cutter in julienne. Leave it for around 15 minutes. Whip the cream adding the icing sugar.

Make the pancakes in a hot non-stick pan , lay it on a plate add double cream and pour the strawberry mix on top.

by Gianluca Di Monaco, Head chef at Le Salon Prive

The Occasional Imbiber

By Mike Matthews

Where do we stand with Malbec? What would immediately spring to mind if someone suggested this humble grape variety? The likelihood is that Argentina is where your mind would drift to, and why not! After all, Argentina can be credited with making Malbec ‘en vogue’ at the moment.

What would you say though if I told you that Malbec doesn't even come from Argentina? The origins of this variety can be found hidden in the depths of South West France, primarily in and around the Cahor region, a couple of hours drive south east of Bordeaux, where you might find it labelled as Cot, the local name for Malbec.

Malbec is a real winter warmer too. Whilst the late season is battling with time in maintaining a grip on the chilly climate, the depth and richness of this wine can evoke memories of sitting in front of a roaring fire. It heats you up in all the right places, or is that just me?

Classic Cahor styles can be big, I mean really big. If left to mature for a number of years they have the potential to be very heavy, beefy, savoury wines. Meanwhile, Argentinian Malbec's tend to have a fresher feel with more recognised young black fruit flavours, some might even say plummy, like a Merlot! That would be understandable as Malbec and Merlot are related.

Try a classic old world, new world Malbec combination side by side -
Château Paillas 2011, Cahor – France: £11.99
Nieto Senetiner Malbec 2014, Mendoza – Argentina: £9.49

Available from Warren Wines, 56 Church St, Twickenham
Prices correct at publishing. Subject to change and availability.





Offers and Competitions

FOOD SANCTUARY ANNIVERSARY WINNER

The lucky winner is from TW1 and will be announced in the next edition



Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club

Enter our monthly photographic competition.

Email your photo to win@TwickenhamTribune.com


(include your name and postcode) All 4 players must play the same round.

Photos of pets or wildlife, or any scenes taken within the local villages, ie Twickenham, St Margaret's, East Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Whitton/Heathfield

This competition is run in conjunction with [Strawberry Hill Golf Club www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)



STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB



ADULT GOLF ACADEMY

for returning/new/novice golfers



The Academy leads to full membership and includes:

- Instruction based package
- Individual and group lessons
- Rules and etiquette
- Social membership
- Access to golf course

For further information:

- Club Manager: Jon Wright 020 8894 0165
- Professional: Peter Buchan 07795 973926

Strawberry Hill Golf Club
Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD
Tel: Club Manager 020 8894 0165
Email: secretary@shgc.net
To find out more visit: www.shgc.net



WINNER – A BOTTLE OF THIS FABULOUS ALBARINO, COURTESY OF TIM SYRAD WINES



The lucky winner, from TW2, of the delicious bottle of Albarino was presented with their prize by Tim Syrad.



Arts and Entertainment

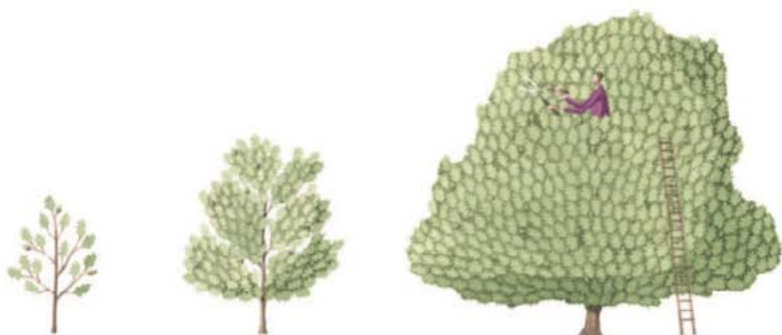
by Erica White

Reminder: Richmond Shakespeare **SENIOR YOUTH THEATRE** present **THE SNOW DRAGONS** at the Mary Wallace Theatre, The Embankment, Twickenham TW1 3DU, Thursday 16-Sunday 19 February at 7.45pm (Sunday 3.00pm). Tickets, £8 members, £10 non-members. Tel: 020 8744 0547, or online at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk This is a new play, specially written for young people and is part of the National Theatre Connections Festival 2017. (See review below)

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB present **FROM HERE TO THE LIBRARY** and **TOO LONG AN AUTUMN** by Jimmie Chinn. These two plays, dubbed Double Chinn, are presented in affectionate memory of the Club's home-grown playwright whose plays were presented on radio, in the West End and abroad. This Studio production is from Sunday 26 February (at 4pm) to Saturday 4 March at 7.45pm. Tickets, £10 members, £12 non-members. Tel: 0845 838 7529 or online at www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk/buy-tickets Please note the Studio holds only 50 seats, so book early. (More information in edition 14)

Special Event: **LYDIA CORBETT - PICASSO'S MUSE, IN CONVERSATION WITH ANNE SEBBA**

Saturday 25 February, The Coach House, at Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, TW1 3DJ. Lydia, nee Sylvette David, spotted by Picasso at Valauris in Southern France, was the subject of over 60 of his famous portraits. Anne Sebba, well-known local writer, is equally renowned for her insightful conversations with her subjects. Tickets: £15 (inc. glass of prosecco). Tel: 0208 831 6000 or online at www.richmond.gov.uk/orleans_house_gallery This event is in support of the Transforming Orleans House project.



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The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk



His Old Man's Old Man Was a Dustman

Peter Donegan and the Lonnie Donegan Band

The Eel Pie Club at The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham

9th February

A review by Cliff Tapstand

Anthony James (Lonnie) Donegan MBE, forever remembered as “The King of Skiffle” died in 2002, but his legacy lives on through his son, Peter, who like his father before him is a multi-talented musician and songwriter. Not only does he sing like Lonnie, but also plays guitar, mandolin, banjo, harmonica and keyboards.



As a teenager he often played keyboards as a warm up act for his dad's band, and officially joined them when he was 18 years old. They now perform regularly together, and on their visit to The Eel Pie, Peter was joined by four highly talented musicians, including three who had played with Lonnie.

The performance kicked off with a fast and furious version of The Battle of New Orleans, which Lonnie released in 1959 and reached number two in the hit parade, in spite of being banned by the BBC for un-patriotic language (the British army lost the battle).

There followed a string of old favourites, but thankfully, as far as this reviewer is concerned, we were spared Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour (On the Bed-post Over Night). I bracket this song along with Chuck Berry's My Ding-a-Ling, under the heading: why am I singing this rubbish towards the end of such an illustrious and ground-breaking career?? ...

To read the full review visit:

markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/02/12/his-old-mans-old-man-was-a-dustman-peter-donegan



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Haunting Humanity

The Snow Dragons, by Lizzie Nunnery

RSS Senior Youth Group, Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham, until 19th February
Review by Eleanor Marsh

The Snow Dragons has been commissioned for and is being presented as part of the National Theatre's Connections programme, which is an excellent outreach to young people, giving them the opportunity to perform brand new work under the auspices of a major theatrical institution.

Director Katie Abbott and her Senior Youth Group at RSS have done an excellent job of bringing to life realistic characters in a somewhat mythical and whimsical "between world", redolent of Norse mythology but with a storyline horribly relevant today. The audience were asked to constantly question whether we were watching real events, a children's game, or fantasy and mythology. As the play progresses it becomes clear that the events are all too real and the elements of fantasy fade into the background in favour of the harsh reality of modern warfare



Eleanor Marsh
February 2017

For full review visit:

markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/02/17/haunting-humanity-the-snow-dragons

The Snow Dragons tours to The Albany Theatre, Deptford on Saturday 13th May.

ART WORKSHOPS AT ORLEANS HOUSE GALLERY

Great Masters of Landscape Painting: Tuesdays from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. £60 for the full series online or £15 drop-in. These sessions are delivered in partnership with Mariska Beekenkamp-Waldimiroff, Art Historical London, and will look at the art of landscape painting from its first appearance during the Golden Age of Dutch Art to Modern interpretations.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

WhatDoTheyKnow works to defend the right to FOI for everyone and helps protect your right to hold public authorities to account. WhatDoTheyKnow helps you make a Freedom of Information request. It also publishes all requests online. www.whatdotheyknow.com

Development of Civic Centre

This Freedom of Information request was made to Richmond upon Thames Borough Council via WhatDoTheyKnow and we are currently waiting for a response: they must respond promptly and no later than 13 March 2017.

13 February 2017

Dear Richmond upon Thames Borough Council,

It has been rumoured that the Civic Centre at 44 York Street will be developed and council officers moved to Wandsworth. Can the council confirm if the Civic Centre will continue as council offices with front of house services or is any form of new use being considered.

www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/development_of_civic_centre#outgoing-624120

ON YOUR MARKS

Behind the scenes the political parties are getting ready for the council elections on 3 May 2018.

Residents should also be assessing local councillors and council policy in order to make an informed decision at the ballot box.



Are you happy with the present council or do you think change would be for the better? There is over a year to make up your mind.

In the past the Twickenham Riverside issue has been an important deciding factor in the local election results. What will we be looking at this time?

Keep an eye on What Do You Know.....



ANNUAL PARLIAMENTARY PANCAKE RACE

Will Tania Mathias race in the MPs' Team and what about the Lords' Team Cllr True?

It's that annual toss-up where MPs, Lords, and Media break eggs in a spirit of peace and harmony to support the Rehab charity and its work with disabled people. That is, of course, until the whistle is blown and a mighty scramble gets underway!

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race, which gets underway in Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster, on Shrove Tuesday, February 28, from 10am.

The Official Starter in 2017 is BBC Breakfast's Naga Munchetty who has promised to ensure the rules are observed "without fear or favour". That said, she will have her work cut out to sort the good eggs from the bad. Previous years have seen all sorts of underhand tricks played on opposing teams, with pans greased, shoelaces loosened, and chefs' hats pulled over opponents' eyes.



Twicker Royals

The royal family have been popping into, or through, Twickenham this week.

On Monday Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, passed through in a convoy of black Range Rovers. Police motorcycles dashed ahead to stop traffic at junctions to allow speedy passage. The Prince was observed passing Radnor Gardens, but rumours that he was looking for the location of the temporary ice rink have not been substantiated.

On Friday Prince Harry joined residents and various dignitaries at the England Rugby Open Training session at the stadium for an insight into how the England team prepares for an RBS 6 Nations match.



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TWICKENHAM ALIVE FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Thanks to Try Twickenham for their sponsorship



The Twickenham Alive Film Festival is a community-based film festival inviting submissions of short films, up to 10 minutes.

The theme for submissions is 'Where You Live' and the films can be on any aspect of the area, way of life, attractions, culture, sport or environment of the entrants' home area. Entrants in the student category may choose their own theme, which should be explained in the synopsis. Please contact us if you need further clarification.

Films can be of any genre, such as documentary, drama or animation. The central theme is 'Where you live', but there are other categories including travel, sport, animation, music and junior.

To make an entry contact film@twickenhamalive.com or visit www.TwickenhamFilmFestival.com

ONE OF THE FILMS SHOWN IN 2015

Our film example this week is about becoming anyone you want to be.

www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com/films15.html

CATEGORY: SPORT (ADVENTURE)

Jordan McKellar

ANYONE

Running Time: 3' 36"



Click image to view film



RICHMOND FILM SOCIETY COMPETITION

WIN a pair of tickets to any of the films in the remaining part of the season

COMPETITION QUESTION:

Which country has won the most Best Foreign Language Film Oscars?

A) France, B) Italy, C) Spain

Send your answers to win@twickenhamtribune.com Please put your answer in the email subject.



WORLD CINEMA

February 28 *The Club* (Chile)

Four defrocked priests live a clandestine existence in a Chilean beach town, out of sight (and mind) of both the public and the Catholic Church. The arrival of a new 'inmate' disrupts their existence.

March 14 *Still Walking* (Japan)

Grown-up son and daughter visit elderly parents to commemorate the death of eldest son who drowned while saving the life of a stranger 12 years ago. Younger son Ryota still feels his parents resent that he wasn't the one who died.

March 28 *The Lesson* (Bulgaria)

The powerful portrayal of a teacher's life as she goes to desperate lengths to in order to preserve a roof over her family's head - thwarted at every turn. You end up rooting for her all the way.

April 11 *Marguerite* (France)

In 1920s Paris, Marguerite Dumont, a wealthy woman, and lover of music and opera, loves to sing for her friends although she's not a good singer. The problem begins when she decides to perform in front of a real audience. The original remade by Hollywood as Florence Foster Jenkins.

April 25 *Sing Street* (UK-Ireland)

A schoolboy forms a band to try and impress a girl. Set in 1985 Dublin, this uplifting musical comedy from the director of 'Once' is an homage to the music and fashion of the '80s.

Films are in the original version and will be subtitled. Location St Mary's University, Room G5 with the screening starting at 8:00.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Community Arts Centre

by julie Hill

The Community Arts Centre is empty yet the new community orientated Twickenham Cinema have to limit numbers to squeeze into the Cabbage Patch and will no doubt make a loss if this situation prevails – a bit like the ice rink - trying to put on events for the community but getting no help or concession from this council.



So, the White Elephant is finished but empty because the council is still sorting out a deal with St Marys. No doubt there will have to be a caretaker of sorts too. Barmy situation.

Twickenham Lido

by Julie Hill

It is well recorded that in the holiday/summer both Hampton and Pools on the Park had to close their doors by late morning due to high demand so it is no excuse to say we already have two open pools in the Borough.

There IS high demand for the return of a LIDO in Twickenham. It would also give a HUGE boost to the Towns struggling shops. A few luxury exclusive flats will not. Yet there has been a conspiracy to quash it.

Please let the Lido option be given a fair hearing

VILLAGE PLAN DROP IN: TWICKENHAM and STRAWBERRY HILL

VILLAGE PLAN DROP IN: STRAWBERRY HILL and TWICKENHAM

Saturday 25 February 10am – 4pm

Emmanuel Centre, Church of St James Radnor Road, TW1 4JZ

VILLAGE PLAN WALKABOUT: STRAWBERRY HILL

Sunday 26 February

10.30 – 12.30 Meet outside the Emmanuel Centre

You can view the Strawberry Village Plan here: www.richmond.gov.uk/home/my_richmond/village_plans/strawberry_hill_area_village_plan_xx/key_issues_strawberry_hill.htm

You can view the Twickenham Village Plan here: www.richmond.gov.uk/home/my_richmond/village_plans/twickenham_area_village_plan_xx/key_issues_twickenham.htm

To fill out an online consultation:

Strawberry Hill: consultation.richmond.gov.uk/village-planning/strawberry-hill

Twickenham: consultation.richmond.gov.uk/village-planning/twickenham

St Mary's University, Twickenham Update

St Mary's University Names Athletics Track in Honour of Britain's Greatest Track Athlete Sir Mo Farah

St Mary's University, Twickenham, officially named its athletics track in honour of its most famous alumnus, Sir Mo Farah at a ceremony on 16th February

At a ceremony attended by Mo, leading figures from British athletics came together at St Mary's Strawberry Hill Campus to celebrate his astounding career and long relationship with the University.

Having completed a quadruple-double - winning four double titles at successive Olympic and World Championships - Mo has remained unbeaten on the track at major international Championships since 2011.

Mo trained at St Mary's from 2001-2011, where he was awarded a scholarship to the Endurance Performance and Coaching Centre (EPACC) and continued to train regularly at the facility until he moved to Oregon, USA.

Today, Mo returned to meet with young athletes from the local community. He was also able to meet with the current generation of athletes from the Endurance Performance and Coaching Centre.



Sir Mo Farah said, "It is such an honour to be here today and to have this track named after me – thank-you so much, St Mary's! I have very fond memories of my time here as I developed from being a talented junior to a world-class athlete. St. Mary's and all the people associated with the EPACC have been a big part of my journey. I really hope that these facilities continue to inspire the next generation of young British athletes."

St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Francis Campbell said, "To have something named after you is a tremendous recognition of one's achievements. It serves to inspire future generations to expand on the accomplishments of the honoured person.

"Whilst Mo has set the bar very high, I am sure that the naming of our athletics track will inspire our current and future generations of student athletes to go out and achieve all they can on the world stage."

The Sir Mo Farah Athletics track welcomed ten nations during London 2012, in addition to countless other leading international athletes. As the home to St Mary's EPACC, it has helped train numerous distance runners that have been selected to compete at Olympic level producing 35 selections across the last four Games.

St Mary's Director of Sport Andrew Reid-Smith said, "Mo was the first runner on the St Mary's endurance programme. He trained at the University for ten years on his way to becoming one of the greatest distance runners ever.

We are very proud of Mo's achievements and it is a fitting tribute that the track, one that he's spent so much time on and that supports beginners, talented athletes and GB runners alike, is being named after him."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Hasta La Vista Baby!!

By Shona Lyons

Today we are finally taking the Valentine flags down from above Church Street. These flags are much admired and were the result of many weekends trudging in the snow many winters ago, with Bruce, who had this incredible idea for Valentines 2012 to get heart flags made. He had an inkling that we might find a tailor in Southall who might do this for us. So for many weekends we walked the length and breadth of Southall looking for this elusive tailor. I complained bitterly of the cold as it was an incredibly cold winter and snowed almost every time, and it was taking up every weekend for months!! But one lucky day, just before I reported Bruce for child cruelty, he suddenly must have caught the scent of said illusive tailor, as we were walking along the street and he suddenly grabbed me and dragged me up a rickety escalator of a mall crammed with bright saris, jewelled shoes and all sorts of wedding paraphernalia, and on the top floor we found a tailors workshop. And that was that!! We told the man what we wanted, he directed us to a stall selling beautiful silks a few roads away, and a week later we had 40 beautiful silk heart shaped flags and have been flying them in Church street for Valentine's day ever since.



This year for the first time ever we decided to have a Valentines Fair, as we seem to be able to organise these fairs quite well and they are popular with the community, stall holders and Church Street traders alike. We thought it would be a fun idea, to have stall selling hearts and cards and everything to do with romance and love!! But of course it happened to be an exceptionally cold day, it snowed in the morning and there was quite a blizzard to greet the stall holders when they arrived. I thought it quite romantic really but not everyone agreed with me. But the amazing thing was that only one person in 23 people dropped out and only one left early!!! I think that just says something about the human spirit! That they endured these freezing temperatures all day standing by their stalls, and kept smiling! One lady's husband had to rush off to buy a gazebo, but she still stayed all day, after trying to shield her things and her boy with an umbrella for more than an hour!! I thought they were all amazing and if there was a war, I would be delighted to have every one of them in my army!

In Church Street we produced I love Church Street bags for everyone. We have given these to the shops and also the stall holders and they have turned out to be very popular, with many of the shop owners coming back again and again to replenish their stocks!! We were generously sponsored for this by Tech 21 who now have their offices in Church Street, and also many smaller traders put their logos on for a small fee which made the Church Street Valentine Tote Bag project viable. We have even had a call from another local business asking me for details of the company I made the bags with, as they thought they were very nice. It just shows how when we all work together, we can make good things happen, where everyone benefits!

Now we may have an Italian Market in the street for the 8th of April and we are also working hard on the Summer Twick Fest. All best wishes from the Church Street Association and Twickenham Town Business Association. Hasta La Vista Baby!!



Passengers set to benefit from Fulwell's £6 million flood alleviation scheme

Hundreds of thousands of London commuters are set to benefit from a £6m flood alleviation scheme just completed by Network Rail.

The company has installed a new drainage system at Fulwell station in Richmond-upon-Thames to tackle the recurring problem of flooding on the railway in the area.

The railway through Fulwell has been subject to flooding since its construction in 1864, when it was built below ground water level because it needed to pass under the Longford River. Flooding on the line causes damage to the electric and signalling equipment, which results in delays to services through Fulwell and on the wider route.



The new pumping system installed by Network Rail, which was officially commissioned on Friday, 3 February, will now take excess rain water into a newly built storage lagoon, before being released gradually into existing drains. The lagoon, which is split into two parts, can hold a total of up to 2 million litres of rain water.



Becky Lumlock, route managing director at Network Rail, said: "Passengers using the railway at Fulwell know all too well the problems that flooding can cause, so I'm really pleased that as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan for a better railway, we're delivering the biggest improvement to flooding at the station in 150 years.

"When working at full capacity, the new pumping system can move 225 litres of water a second. At this speed, they could empty an Olympic sized swimming pool (2.5 million litres) in just three hours, which will make an enormous difference at the station.

"A number of attempts have been made over the years to tackle the flooding problem, but as a result of the improvements we have made over the last year passengers will now experience fewer incidences of delays."

Adam Piddington, customer service director for South West Trains, added: "We appreciate how frustrating it has been for passengers in recent years when flooding has affected services. It is good news this brand new system is now up and running and ready to help improve passenger journeys."

The line between Shepperton and Fulwell was closed for two weeks in July 2016 while Network Rail installed large sections of the new drainage equipment. Engineers continued implementing the new system to get it up and running and this work is now complete.



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UK Government & Parliament Petition to Stop the Concentration of Heathrow's Flight Paths

Hearing more noise from more flights? The Department of Transport have allowed flight paths to become more concentrated, in effect consolidating numerous flight paths. This 'divide and rule' approach means that some people will be getting all the noise from aircraft coming in and out of Heathrow, whereas previously outgoing flights were much more dispersed. As a result, the noise conditions people have experienced have deteriorated sharply.

With potentially 265,000 more flights if Heathrow is allowed to expand and proposals to concentrate flight paths even further using satellite technology, the impact of continuing with this policy is potentially very serious.

A fundamental issue with the consultation recently launched by the DfT relating to Heathrow expansion is that the public is not being told where these new flight paths will be. So... even if you have escaped most noise and night flights or you have been able to tolerate what you currently experience, the new, concentrated flight paths could drastically change the situation. In essence, the public is being consulted on an issue of huge consequence to their lives without being given the necessary information to provide a considered response.

Additionally, Heathrow planes are being allowed to fly at lower altitudes, which increases the impact of the noise and pollution. Why the changes? Because maintenance and fuel costs are lower if planes fly longer at lower heights and many believe that a reduction in these costs to the airlines offsets the higher fees that Heathrow charges for landing and take-off. This ignores completely the human cost to those unfortunate enough to be overflown.

Concentrated flight paths are very bad for people's physical and mental health. Some people will have rented or brought their homes in peaceful locations but are now finding there is a much narrowed flight path over their heads (which as the people of Teddington know from the 2014 trials experience could get much worse if the present policy of concentration is continued). Unwanted noise increases stress levels in the body that can cause sleep disturbance and even cause issues like heart disease. Known mental health issues through unwanted loud continued noise are more common due to these concentrated flight paths.

TAG urges you to sign a recently launched petition to require MPs to discuss concentrated flight paths in Parliament. If you remain quiet, you cannot complain later.

To sign the petition online, please go to: petition.parliament.uk/petitions/183275

To participate in night flights consultations, please go to:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-gatwick-heathrow-and-stansted



**TEDDINGTON
ACTION GROUP**

CONSULTATION: HEATHROW EXPANSION

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/heathrow-expansion-draft-airports-national-policy-statement

The DfT are holding a number of consultation events for people to find out more. Please see below for the date and venue for Twickenham:

TWICKENHAM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Thursday 23 February 2017

11.00am to 8.00pm

York House, Richmond Road Twickenham TW1 3AA

www.richmond.gov.uk/heathrow_consultation_is_a_farce_says_lord_true

AIRSPACE POLICY

The Department of Transport has also launched a consultation on airspace policy. Details can be found on the HACAN home page: hacan.org.uk

CONSULTATION ON LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Residents are invited to a local Health and Care Forum to have their say on the future of local health services.

All parts of the local NHS – hospital consultants, doctors, nurses, GPs, therapists, hospitals, mental health trusts, pharmacists and commissioners - have worked together and with the local Council on a plan that aims to improve local health services. The draft Five Year Forward Plan aims to make services sustainable for the long term.

Residents are invited to attend an open Health and Care Forum in Twickenham on Thursday, 2 March between 6:00pm and 9:00pm (registration from 5.30pm at Clarendon Hall, York House, TW1 3AA.

To attend a forum, please register at

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-care-forum-for-richmond-tickets-31879660924

or email SWLCCGs@swlondon.nhs.uk

Draft plan: www.swlccgs.nhs.uk/our-plan/our-plan-for-south-west-london/