

The Twickenham Tribune

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Twickenham Riverside
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

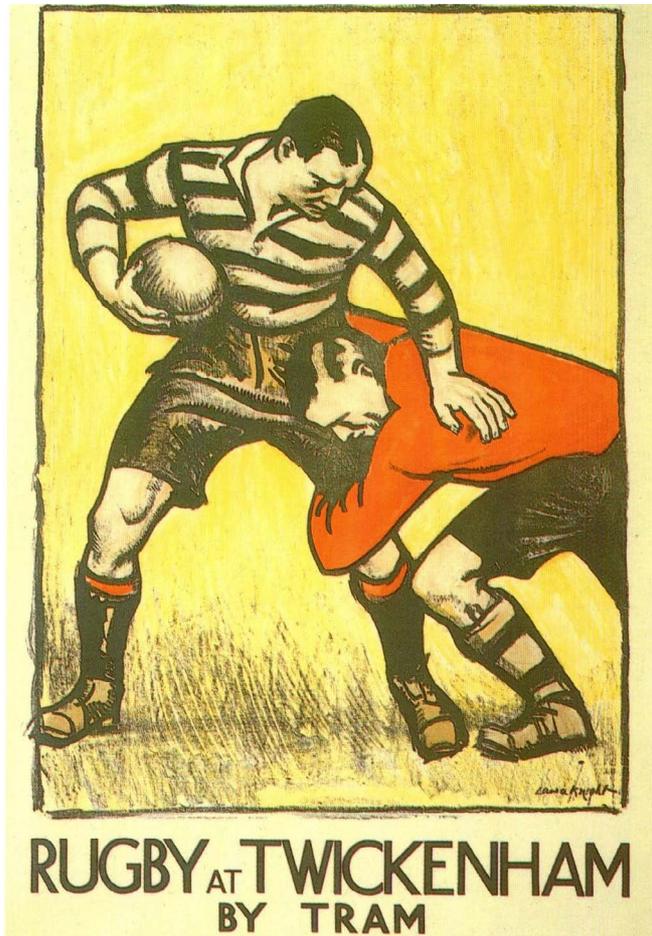
PART 61 – RUGBY BACK IN TOWN TODAY!

I doubt if anyone is unaware of today's (Saturday 10th) invasion of Twickenham by the Welsh hordes as they once again watch their national team try to turn England over at Twickenham Stadium.

Rugby Union as a sport has evolved and grown into a global game following the decision to move Rugby Union on to a full time professional basis back in the 1990s. Since then, the world's satellite and cable TV channels has delivered the Six Nations, autumn tours and Rugby World Cups to our homes and pubs so that anyone without a ticket can see all the games.



It wasn't always so of course and today's first postcard shows our world famous stadium as it was 108 years ago in 1910 when it was simply called Twickenham Rugby Ground. Attendance in those days was about 15,000 unlike the 82,000 capacity the stadium can seat today.



Travel to the ground was not too dissimilar to today other than there were very few cars back then as motoring was in its infancy. Trains and trams were the order of the day and our second postcard was published as a poster that appeared on every railway and tube station in London back in 1921 and was used for several years afterwards whenever the Rugby Ground hosted a game. The poster was designed by Laura Knight who was later made a Dame. She designed many iconic London transport posters that covered journeys to London Zoo and Kew Gardens etc. These were also sold as postcards and are quite collectable

today. Today's image is a reproduction postcard published by the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

Back to today's game and following England's 46 – 15 victory over Italy in Rome last weekend I confidently predict that Wales have got no chance and England will chalk up yet another comfortable home win!

If you fancy doing something different today, why not come along to the Postcard Fair at the Baptist Church in Church Road, Teddington. A dozen or more dealers, light refreshments and the opportunity to browse and buy thousands of local and worldwide postcards on every place and subject under the sun. It starts at 10.00 and finishes by 4.00 so plenty of time to get back to watch the Rugby.

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com . I would like to see them and I pay cash!

WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR inc STAMPS

at
TEDDINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10th 2018

With 26 stalls of postcards & paper collectables.
Buy from (& sell to) top dealers from London, Surrey, Yorks,
Devon, Essex, I.O.Wight, Sussex, Lincs, Northants, Kent.

*10.15am-4pm *Refreshments *Admission £1.00

EASY BY RAIL - Teddington (on Kingston loop from Waterloo).
EASY BY BUS - 33, 281, 285, 481, R68 and X26 (Teddington Broad Street)
From Fulwell, Hammersmith, Hampton Court, Heathrow, Hounslow,
Isleworth, Kew, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton, Tolworth, West Croydon.
EASY BY ROAD - From M3/A316.

Enquiries: 01372 725883

Twickers Foodie Valentine's - LOVE IS ALL AROUND US

By Alison Jee

We've got Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day in the same week this year. Church Street will be having its Valentine 'Fayre' again and the local restaurants will be promoting their special Valentine's Day menus. No doubt there will also be some special meal deals (usually offering a bottle of fizz, or chocolates, or both) from the larger supermarkets. These are great for those of us not wanting to go out and splash out on a 'Valentine's' menu in one of our many excellent local restaurants.

If you are planning to go out, it is definitely worth booking well in advance, and checking if they have a special menu for that evening as many restaurants will only serve that (and it can be more expensive than their usual menu). You can't blame them of course, when you have a venue with lots of tables usually seating four or more and customers want a 'lovey-dovey' twosome – they have to cover their costs.

If you want to surprise your beloved with a gift of an unusual wine for Valentine's, try a bottle of Romanian red. Yes, that's correct, Romanian. I enjoy Pinot Noir, one of my favourite grapes as it isn't too heavy. The Incanta label from Cramele Recas is a surprisingly good one to try, and at under £7 a bottle (Majestic) it's a bargain.

I thought you might like a recipe for a fabulous Valentine's cake. Even if you are planning to go out to eat, there's no excuse for not donning your apron to attempt your very own 'Great British Valentine's Bake Off'! The recipe includes two of my favourite ingredients: beetroot and chocolate. I kid you not; they are a magical combination in a cake!

Le Gâteau coeur au chocolat (Serves 6-8)

Ingredients: 100g (3 ½ oz) cooked beetroot, roughly chopped
5 tbsp Bonne Maman Raspberry Conserve
125g (4 ½ oz) milk chocolate, chopped
125g (4 ½ oz) unsalted butter, diced
125g (4 ½ oz) plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
6 tsp cocoa powder
3 medium eggs, separated
110g (4oz) golden caster sugar
15g (1/2 oz) finely chopped hazelnuts
Fresh raspberries and icing sugar to decorate



Method

1. Heat the oven to 180C, fan oven 160C, gas mark 4. Grease and line a 15cm wide, 8cm deep heart-shaped tin with baking parchment.
2. Put the beetroot and 2 tbsp of the conserve in a blender and blitz for a few seconds to puree.
3. Put 100g of the chocolate and 100g of the butter into a large heatproof bowl and set over a saucepan of gently simmering water for 10 minutes to melt.
4. Meanwhile, sift together 70g of the flour, the baking powder and 5 tsp of the cocoa.
5. Stir the melted chocolate and butter together until smooth. Now beat in the egg yolks until smooth. Fold in the beetroot puree.
6. Whisk the egg whites until stiff then gradually whisk in 85g of the sugar until the egg whites are stiff and shiny. Fold into the beetroot mixture. Now sift the dry ingredients again into the bowl and fold in quickly using a large metal spoon.
7. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin, turn the oven down to 160C, fan oven 140C, gas mark 3. and put in the oven for 45mins to 1hr. A skewer pushed into the centre should come out clean. Leave to cool in the tin before turning out.
8. Meanwhile, make the chocolate crumbs. Put the remaining 55g of plain flour, 1 tsp cocoa, 25g caster sugar and 25g of butter into a small bowl and rub together until crumbly. Spread on a foil-lined baking sheet and put into the oven for 15-20 minutes until lightly baked. Cool.
9. Finely grate the remaining 25g chocolate into the cold crumbs and add the hazelnuts.
10. Turn the cake bottom up and spread with the remaining conserve. Spoon over the chocolate crumbs and pat down well into the conserve.
11. Put a heart of fresh raspberries on top and dust with icing sugar before serving.

Cook's tip

- Any of red fruit conserve can be used in this cake. Try Black Cherry, Wild Blueberry or Strawberry and Wild Strawberry.

- The width of heart shaped tin is measured from the dip in the top of the heart to the point. If you don't have a heart - shaped tin use a 900g loaf tin instead.

- Vacuum-packed, cooked beetroot is available from all major supermarkets and greengrocers. Check it's not in vinegar!

- The cake (without the fresh raspberries) freezes well for up to 1 month.

Offers and Competitions

Win a gift selection from Bonne Maman

Those nice folk are offering one lucky TT reader the chance to win a gift pack of two jars of their conserve or caramel, plus a copy of Bonne Maman: The Seasonal Cookbook with 88 sweet and savoury recipes using their range. To enter, just check out bonnemaman.co.uk and have a look at the section on conserves. How many actual conserves are on the page?

Send your answer, together with your contact details to win@twickenhamtribune.com
Closing date: noon Friday 23 February 2018.



Win a private tasting of Doran Vineyards multi-award winning wines.

Simply answer the three questions below, and tie breaker; all answers are available on the Doran Vineyards' website at www.dorinvineyards.co.za

1. What are the three varietals in the Doran Vineyards Arya?
2. What foods go best with the Chenin grape?
3. What is the origin of the varietal Pinotage?

Tie breaker – Can you serve Pinotage cooled?

To enter, send your answers to win@TwickenhamTribune.com giving your name and postcode, with Doran Vineyards in the subject

DORAN
VINEYARDS



Monthly Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club
With a glass of wine or beer at the bar afterwards

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)





TEDDINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY invite you to a COME AND SING DAY at Teddington Baptist Church, TW11 8PF on Saturday, 10 February. Sam Evans will conduct a workshop based on Haydn's Sts Nicholas & Theresa Masses. Registration: 10.00. 10.30-5.00pm workshop.

Info: Info@teddchoral@gmail.com.

In case you hadn't noticed St Valentine's Day is due to be celebrated in the coming week. No greater tribute could be paid to the venerable saint than William Shakespeare's great tragedy of young love than ROMEO AND JULIET which is being given a unique treatment in a production at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE, TW1 3SU from Thursday 15 - Sunday 15 February, at 7.45 and 3.00pm on Sunday. Interpreted and abridged by the cast of Richmond Shakespeare Society's senior youth theatre under the directorship of Katie Abbott.

Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk.

VALENTINE'S FAYRE in Church Street, Twickenham, Sunday 11 February 12noon-6.00pm. Crafts, food, music, performance art, etc all with romance at heart.

Info: www.ttbb.org.uk.

Sunday 11 February at 3.00pm A RICHMOND ROMANCE will be performed by the Richmond Brass Band playing a charming programme of traditional and modern music, featuring solo as well as full band performances. The Exchange, TW1.

Info: exchangetwickenhm.co.uk.

Sunday, 11 February at 2.30 Joseph Spooner, cello, and Nicola Garty (piano) present a programme of fascinating musical works, including the great Sonata No.1 by Brahms at The Landmark Centre,(LAC) TW11.

Info: landmarkartscentre.org.uk.

Romance will be in the air on Tuesday, 13 February when PAUL RHODES sings a programme of Frank Sinatra numbers at Twickenham Jazz Club's regular evening at THE CABBAGE PATCH PUB, TW1 2SZ.

Info: twickenhamjazzclub.org.uk.

Friday 16 February-Saturday 17 February, at 7.45 and 2.30. The Star Pantomime Group present a production of SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS in aid of SSAFA. at HAMPTON HILL PLAYHOUSE.

Info: tel: 07436 809622.

Saturday 17 February, 10.00am to 4.00pm. You are invited to EMBRACE TANGO during a day of dance, music, art, and sculpture at LAC, TW11.

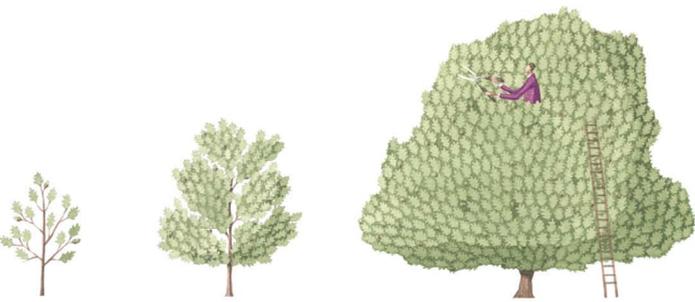
Info: landmarkartscentre.org.uk.

Also on Saturday 17 March from 8pm you can enjoy COMEDY AT THE BREWERY where four fresh comics are hoping to earn their keep. Craft beer brewed right on the premises will be available to put you in the mood for a laugh.

Info: www.brewerycomedy.co.uk.

More comedy on Sunday 18 February at 7.30pm at the Exchange, TW1 when MANSARD'S COMEDY CLUB features up and coming performers as well as more well-known names.

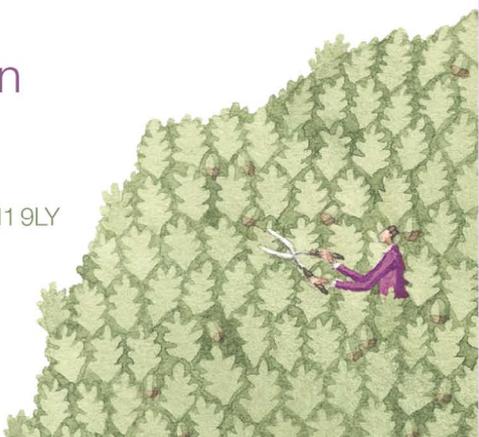
Info: exchangetwickenahm.co.uk.



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The Tree Agency

Twickenham Riverside

Statement from Cllr. Gareth Roberts

Leader of the Twickenham and Richmond Liberal Democrats

Another election, another battle over the future of Twickenham Riverside. It is a horribly familiar scenario for anybody who follows local politics. Whatever is proposed will never please everybody.

All parties have made mistakes in their handling of Twickenham Riverside. The Lib Dems made mistakes in the run up to 2010 and suffered as a result. However rather than learning from where we went wrong, the Conservatives seem hell bent on making exactly the same mistakes that we did and are throwing in a few new ones for good measure. Coming on top of their bizarre plans to dig up Orleans Gardens and create a million pound boathouse for Gloriana it should come as no surprise that many local residents think they'll suffer at this year's council elections.

The fundamental problem they have is that they're not listening. Yes there have been consultations; so many consultations. But what is the point of consulting if you not only ignore the consultation results but you actually do the reverse of what is being asked. This is what is happening now.

So what would a Liberal Democrat administration do differently? Well firstly we would look at the site as a whole. It is simply ludicrous that current proposals don't include the Embankment, the road and the parking. We would ensure that the Embankment is bought into the site brief so that the whole site can be looked at, including the tricky but not insolvable problems of where the displaced parking would go and how the Diamond Jubilee Gardens can be made to shine. I have already had useful meetings with key stakeholder groups and would continue to do so to ensure we arrive at the right solution.

Secondly we would not go back to a blank canvass. While everybody has

an opinion about what they'd prefer, the single unifying comment is that nobody wants to go back to square one. That is not to say that we would simply go forward with the Conservatives' scheme unamended, we won't. However nor does it mean that we wouldn't look carefully at all options currently in the public domain. This has been the problem since 2010. The Conservatives have consistently ensured that all other schemes have been sidelined and their proponents not given the chance to put their case. It has always been the council's scheme or nothing else even to the absurdity of commissioning a design competition and then excluding the public from choosing the winner. This isn't consultation, this isn't listening. We would give careful consideration to all existing proposals.

Thirdly we'd look at the finances. The Conservatives have squandered hundreds of thousands of pounds on drawing up their plans; even now, with an election looming which could see them lose control of the council, they are pressing ahead with spending another £700,000 to draw up detailed architectural plans to support their planning application. This is crazy. Millions have been spent on this scheme so far, it would be obscene to make promises which could essentially send that investment up in smoke simply to make a cheap, populist point.

Finally, we'd listen. The Conservatives aren't listening now. I'm not going to pretend that I have all the answers but the answers are out there. What people like me, who want to be entrusted with running this fine borough, need to do is to learn a little humility. It would be incredibly easy for me to finish this article by offering the moon on a stick, and there may be some readers hoping I'd do just that; however we've been there and done that many times over and it has always ended badly. This time we might finally have to channel our inner Bismarck and recognise that the politics of Twickenham Riverside is the art of the possible.





This week London National Park City announced that they had achieved (and exceeded) their target of recruiting the support of the Mayor Of London and 328 ward teams.

This is good news for London and our borough, after all we are lucky to live in an area so rich in open green spaces, along with the the river (we are the only borough to have both banks of the Thames).

Obviously our ward councillors would be supportive of this initiative, particularly those along the river.

Imagine TwickerSeal's surprise when he discovered that Twickenham Riverside and South Twickenham wards had not declared their support!

http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support?borough=Richmond%20upon%20Thames



TwickerTape - News in Brief

RG. I. PR. A. AJ. SS. I. ST. SF. I. PR.
200.81 $\frac{1}{2}$ 66.92 $\frac{3}{4}$ 20.99 161 $\frac{5}{8}$ 76

Village Group Forum

The Village Group Forum is on Tuesday, 13th March. The venue will be The Venue, next to Heatham House in Twickenham. The timing will be from 6pm to 8.45pm.

Note: The Venue, is the newer building next to Heatham House, belonging to Heatham House where Way2Work is based.

Pancake Day

Don't forget Tuesday 13th February is Shrove Tuesday, so get making pancakes. If you need some inspiration then you could try Jamie Oliver's Easy Pancake recipe

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/recipes/eggs-recipes/easy-pancakes/>

6 Nations Rugby

England v Wales, Twickenham Stadium

Saturday 10th February, KO 4.45pm

Make sure you're registered to vote in time for the local elections this May

On Thursday 3 May residents in Richmond upon Thames will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at a local level.

Local government elections select councillors, who are responsible for making decisions on running services in your local area. These include housing, education, transport, planning, parks, leisure, social care and waste management.

In order to vote in this important election, residents must be on the electoral register. The deadline to register to vote in local elections is fast approaching. Therefore, Richmond Council is urging residents who have not registered at their current address to make sure they are registered in time.

The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Tuesday 17 April. Anyone can apply online at gov.uk/register-to-vote. It takes just five minutes.

Mark Maidment, Electoral Registration Officer for Richmond Council, said:

"Time is running out to make sure you can take part in the local elections. These elections are an opportunity to make your voice heard and have a say on who represents you on issues that directly affect day-to-day life here in Richmond upon Thames But if you're not registered by 17 April, you won't be able to vote."

Heathrow Consultation

Heathrow is promoting two consultations simultaneously, one in relation to Airport Expansion (new runway and terminal infrastructure); the other in respect of Airspace Principles (changes to airspace and flight paths to accommodate the new runway).

The consultation documents can be found at www.heathrowconsultation.com
The deadline for responses is **28 March 2018**.

Status of consultations

Both consultations are premature. Parliament has yet to vote on the National Policy Statement (NPS) issued by the Department for Transport (DfT) that would be a precursor to Heathrow expansion. It will not consider the NPS until later this year – and crucially after the parliamentary Transport Select Committee (TSC) issues its report following detailed examination of the proposals.

The timing of the consultations is regarded by TAG to be part of a publicity initiative by Heathrow to give the impression that approval of a third runway is a formality. This approval is not a foregone conclusion. The TSC has found many holes in the DfT's evidence base for a third runway and Heathrow's proposals.

Consultation on Airport Expansion

The consultation on Airport Expansion deals with the physical aspects of the third runway proposals. It is non-statutory and voluntary on the part of the airport and communities and if you don't want more noise, pollution and night flights, then clearly oppose expansion.

The Airspace Principles consultation could have more serious implications for our community. Although Heathrow's documentation states it applies to a third runway, actually it applies to airspace modernisation, which is something the Government has signed up to introducing across the UK - whether or not Heathrow is expanded.

People living in Teddington and Twickenham will have experienced the full horrors of PBN (performance based navigation – satnav technology) that was trialled in 2014. This met with massive protest – over 7,000 people signed the Teddington Town petition – and forced Heathrow to abandon the trials early. PBN involves extreme concentration of flights – making normal life for those living under flight paths impossible.

The consultation alludes to this 'divide and rule' approach which until recently has been official government policy (minimising the number of people 'significantly affected' using discredited average sound level bases of measurement). TAG considers that PBN will lead to the creation of what has been described by the Civil Aviation Authority as 'noise sewers'. As our area lies under multiple flight paths, especially given new technology to concentrate to a great extent and the possibility of 54% more flights with a third runway, this represents a massive threat to our quality of life and community.

As the Airspace Principles consultation has legal status under the DfT's new airspace change processes, TAG considers it is very important that the public respond to this consultation.

In formulating responses to the consultation, your comments could include:

- No to extreme concentration
- Increase heights of departures to reduce noise on the ground for departure and arrivals
- There should be a 'fair and equitable distribution' of flights over our heads.
- Existing flight paths should not be intensified (the Government may see this as an easy option). The aviation industry should be placed under an obligation to devise an action plan to comply with World Health Organisation noise standards.
- Focussing flight paths over major open spaces is also unacceptable. Places like Richmond, Bushy, Windsor Great and Home Parks, as well as Kew Gardens are key recreational resources for local residents, as well as being assets of national importance. As well as destroying their amenity, the communities overflown before the parks are reached will be decimated by aviation noise.
- A reduction in the night period for those under departures to 11.00 pm to 5.30 am, as proposed with Heathrow expansion is totally unacceptable
- There should be much more stringent controls over late evening and early morning flights – both in terms of numbers and the loudness of the planes that are permissible.



You can email us or sign up to our mailing list via our website to ensure that you receive further updates. <http://www.teddingtonactiongroup.com/contact/>

The Friends of Udney Park Playing Fields (FUPPF)

Quantum's Udney Park Playing Fields planning application is not yet "live" on the Council's Website--it is still being "validated"

Quantum, the current owners of UPPF, together with TCSG CIG has now submitted its planning application to LBRUT to build on these unique playing fields-- **effectively consigning to history 3 cricket pitches (cricket has been played here for 99 years!), at least two full-size rugby and/or football pitches and a historic World War I Memorial Pavilion**

“Don't believe for one second that Quantum partnering with local organisations is anything other than camouflage for a grubby land deal” (Cllr Stephen Knight)

The time has now come for FUPPF to step up opposition to the Quantum proposal & engage professional Planning Consultants to oppose the application and take the objections to the highest levels whilst advocating and enhancing the “alternative” plan, to retain the entire 12+ acres for provision of sports. To this end, UPPF Trust has been formed as a charity--it needs your support.



Please support us on Facebook: Friends of Udney Park Playing Fields
<http://www.saveudneypark.org.uk> Twitter:@UPPFriends

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS !

By Bruce Lyons, Chairman of the Church Street Association.



It all started a long time ago, back in the 1960's. Hedda, my wife, used to attend the pre-natal clinic in the -Stables- of York House and I had to wait, parking the car in Church Street. We were looking out for a shop - we had a friend (H P) who wanted to open a "Bun Shop" and thought one of the empty (then there were many!) shops would be a good choice And then..... we suddenly thought it would be a great venue for the Travel Agency we wanted to open, so we did. We were "gazumped" on the original shop but settled for Nos 22 instead.

We gutted it and decorated it ourselves and opened in July 1966. We lived upstairs. It was a great location, people could park (remember those days !!). It was just off the high street, no juggernauts hurtling by - quiet for the clients so we thought.

As we lived upstairs we could work 24/7 !(which I did and almost do to this day!) We already had one daughter, Dafna, when we moved in but Shona was actually born in the street (well in the house of course), she was lucky she wasn't born in Brick Lane as we had taken friends from overseas there in the morning!!!!



The years passed and the business expanded and we - the family - moved out, making more space for the business. But we always lived close by and now we live on Eel Pie Island - idyllic as we can walk to work and at least the office closes at night - so it is only 12/7 (and not 24/7 anymore).

Church Street has always provided a home for our family throughout the vicissitudes of life and we love it! It has been the one place we have constantly

returned to. Shona now works with us in the Travel Agency as well as organising our Community Events in the Street. Please join us tomorrow for our Valentine Fayre, celebrating all that we love about our community and share with us the Romance of Church Street!



Walking along the River Crane from Mill Road to Kneller Gardens last week we watched as the TCV “The Conservation Volunteers” worked in the freezing cold building hedgerows. We owe so much to these nature loving volunteers as they create and maintain habitat for our wonderful fauna and flora along this beautiful river corridor.

The ‘wild’ hedgerow and open space by Churchview Garages has been an established habitat for over three decades and photos/videos of the variety of birds and other species who visit, roost, nest and forage here can be seen on the River Crane Sanctuary website. The Council investigated the recent extreme ‘pruning’ of part of the hedge and were assured that it was a ‘mistake’ by The Developers seeking to build here and we have been told that as it is mainly elder it will recover in time. Let’s see.

Monty Don in his Wildlife Gardening advice says: “ Let brambles romp and nettles flourish. Hedges should go uncut and should fight it out with elder, self sown ash and birch.”

There is maintenance and there is destruction of habitat and we need to monitor our remaining established wild spaces in our crowded urban environment so that the intention is for optimal wildlife protection and not to put up a building at any cost.



1. Blackbird Male - where did the hedge go?
2. Blackbird Female with young in garden adjacent to the ancient hedgerow before ‘pruning’ and clearing of blackberry bushes, self sown ash and brambles.
3. Female Sparrowhawk in Churchview Hedgerow

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat

<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

CYCLISTS

Be Seen At Night

Concern has been voiced by some readers about the safety of cyclists in the dark. The following email is a reply from the local police:

“With regards the young people and lights, this is a problem which we are addressing within the Youth Team. There is currently a pilot scheme being run by one of Officers and the local Cycling team from Richmond Borough Council. In a nut shell the Pupils are not allowed to bring their cycles to School unless they have attended one of the after-School lessons. The lessons target those pupils who ride in an ASB manner (one-wheel riders/Wheelies) and those who fail to use or turn on their lights after dusk. This is a work in progress and something I hope to roll out throughout Richmond in Spring 2018. It must be noted this is only targeted at 10 to 18-year olds in partnership with the Cycle team from Richmond LA.



If an adult is seen at night by local Officers, then it is hoped they are challenged and consideration given to issuing the offender with a ticket/fine.”

The links below are useful for cyclists:

<https://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/pedal-cyclists/>

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/cyclists-library/regulations/lighting-regulations>

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020 8744 0474

57-58 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NR

Chinese New Year - the Year of the Dog

Celebrations for the Chinese New Year begin next Friday.

Do you know the Twelve Animal Signs in China? Or we can call it the Chinese Zodiac. You might know that many Chinese people strongly believe that the time of a person's birth is the primary factor in determining that person's characteristics. It is essential in China that every person knows which animal sign he is born under and most of Chinese truly believe in the signs.

Legend says Buddha invited all the animals to his kingdom, but only 12 came: rat was the first, then ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Buddha named the year after the animals in the order of arrival.

The Spring Festival, also known as the Lunar New Year, is the greatest traditional festival. It is usually a time between late January or early February, which means rest and relaxation between winter and spring after a year's toil and means celebration as well. Before the Spring Festival, people clean their houses, put red couplets on their gates, and set off firecrackers (according to fairy tale, for driving a demon, named Nian, away). On the eve of the Spring Festival, a get-together banquet is a must, and the most popular food is Jiaozi, which is supposed to bring good fortune. On the first day of the New Year, everybody wears new clothes and greets relatives and friends with bows and congratulations wishing each other the best during the New Year:

Kung hay fat choi

新年快乐

WIZ Quiz

Fancy testing your knowledge with a quiz on China? Then have a look here:

www.worldinfozone.com/Quiz/China/quiz.php



St Mary's University Update

St Mary's Athletes Dominate at BUCS Cross Country Championships

Athletes from the Endurance Performance and Coaching Centre (EPACC) at St Mary's University, Twickenham finished as the most successful team at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Cross Country Championships.

St Mary's were the only university to medal in every race at this year's event, which was hosted by Brunel University, winning six in total with three individual medals and three team medals.

The Men's A team won Gold in their race with four of the six athletes finishing in the top 13. Emile Caires also won individual bronze in the race with Paulos Surafel coming 10th, Ellis Cross 12th, Liam Burthem 13th, Petros Surafel 24th and Abdi Sharif 31st.

In the Men's B race Luke Prior eased to victory to pick up individual Gold, winning by 16 seconds, and also collected team Silver with fellow St Mary's athletes Daniel Jarvis, Elliott Dorey and Thomas Butler also putting in strong performances. Daniel finished just outside the medal places in fourth with Elliott coming 13th and Thomas 14th.

First year Sport Science student Phoebe Law collected two Silver medals in the Women's race with her second place finish helping St Mary's to another

team Silver. Strong performances from



fellow athletes Emily Hosker-Thornhill, who finished 4th, and Lilly Coward, who came 24th, ensured St Mary's picked up a team medal in every race of the championships.

Director for Sport at St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "I'm delighted to see the hard work of the athletes and the Performance Coaches come together to produce such excellent performances. The BUCS Cross Country Championships is hotly contested and St Mary's athletes performed really well against the very best university opposition. Hopefully we'll see more success this season with 12 St Mary's endurance runners selected for the Commonwealth Games."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

New planning guidance now launched for Twickenham and Strawberry Hill

Official planning guidance for Twickenham and Strawberry Hill has now been launched, following consultation with residents and business.

Over the past four years the Council has refreshed the Village Plans across the borough alongside the development of locally specific planning guidance on character and design, called Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

Last year people in Twickenham and Strawberry Hill were asked what they liked about where they live and work, what could be improved and what they would like to see maintained and enhanced. The information gathered through community walkabouts around each village, drop-in sessions, Question Time events and online surveys has been used to refresh the Village Plans and develop the SPDs for Twickenham and Strawberry Hill. This was followed by a statutory consultation on the final drafts of the documents including updating the Vision for each area.

The SPDs provide locally specific planning guidance that residents and developers should take into account when preparing proposals or making planning applications in those areas. It will form part of the suite of planning policy documents that the Council will take into account when determining planning applications.

Cllr Pamela Fleming, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Environment, said:

“We know from residents in Twickenham and Strawberry Hill that they are very passionate about maintaining and enhancing their local area. Through the Village Planning process, we have worked closely with them to develop the plans, so they can be used by residents, business and developers to cement the style, mood and key features of a particular area.”

“Residents know their local area better than anyone. The Village Plans together with the Supplementary Planning Documents reflect the character, heritage assets and features that have been identified as important, along with priorities for improving their villages.”

“The process does not stop here. We now have to implement and make sure that they are placed at the heart of all decisions in these villages.”

To see the refreshed Village plans, go to: www.richmond.gov.uk/village_plans and to view the Supplementary Planning Documents, go to:

www.richmond.gov.uk/supplementary_planning_documents_and_guidance



Ukulele for Beginners

Would you like to learn a new musical instrument in a small friendly group? Join our 6 week course for £35 Starting on Wednesday 25th April, 11am—12pm

**The Patchworks Bar Recording Studio,
The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham**

“Music has many benefits—it helps us to connect with other people on a very fundamental level and can be an excellent way to relax. It is also a very effective way to stimulate important areas of the brain.” Dr Catherine Loveday

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Contact Sue Hollins on 020 8744 1965

communityservices@ageukrichmond.org.uk

THE VAULT FESTIVAL WEEK TWO

Our reviews of London's own fringe continues this week, Georgia Renwick writes of two somewhat different offerings.

The Vault Festival, currently taking place in the underbelly of Waterloo station, is the place to be for the new and experimental, and what better setting than the dark, damp arches of the underground for a crime noir drama ... with a twist. In the edgy graffiti decked tunnel that is Leake Street, The Vaults offers *Double Infeminity*, an hour of feminist infused fun.

Whereas, deeper in the warren that is Waterloo in Lower Road, there is a different twist. In a departure from the more off the wall, experimental Vaults Festival fare going on all around, *Say Something Happened* is a rather more sedate offering out on the fringe, tucked away in the independent Network Theatre.

Double Infeminity

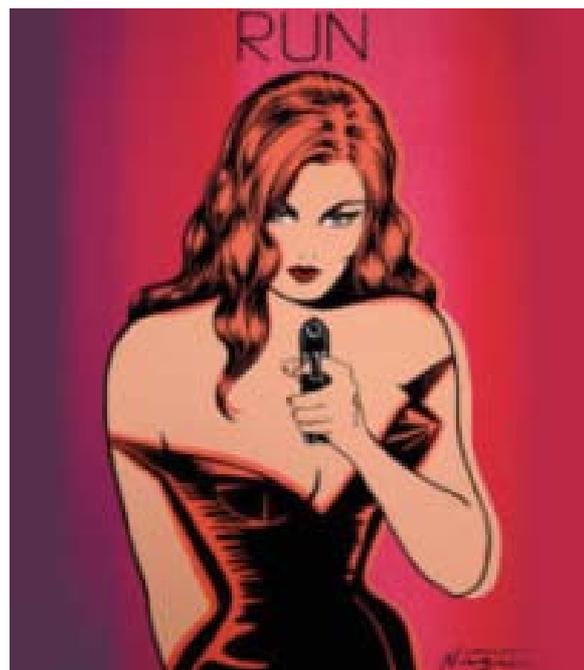
by Naomi Westerman, Catherine O'Shea, and Jennifer Cerys

Little but Fierce and Paperclip Theatre co-production at The Vaults, Waterloo.

A Crime Noir Drama – With a Twist.

Our trilby hat-donned, mac-wearing, whiskey-sozzled, ruthless super sleuth is a she. As Effie-Lou leads us on her solo search for her missing partner, Jo, she is not only fighting crime but the sexism of the 1960s. She solves crime and subverts gender stereotypes wherever she goes, and boy the co-writers have really gone to town on the stereotype busting!

Her new partner Brad, pretty but dumb, wanders in and out of the office half naked, reminiscent of the underwritten-oversexed female co-part in countless films both in and out of the crime genre. "Oh, go put a shirt on!" she sighs with exasperation, "don't play the goon, that role is usually reserved for me". Then there are the cups of coffee she must make, the meetings she is butted out of, the gropes and period jokes. This play may be set in the 1960s, but these are a list of office grievances with an unmissable contemporary relevance. It's no secret that office sexism still abounds.



Whilst the script is sparky however, opportunities have been missed to create much of anything suspenseful or sinister. With all the one-liners when the plot does take a serious turn towards sex trafficking, it is hard to take seriously. The 'baddies' are satirised with manic laughs and strange projections, it's funny but it never really feels like there is a great deal at stake

Image by Little but Fierce

Tea, Scones and Tension

Say Something Happened

by Alan Bennett



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Network Theatre Company at The Network Theatre, Waterloo

Tea, Scones and Tension

Say Something Happened reveals what youth and age may have in common. The one-act play is a stage adaptation of a 1982 Alan Bennett television drama. Bennett fans will know that his work has a lot to say on the relationship between youth and age, and in our current oppositional political climate, his throwing together of their perspectives feels ever more pertinent. Are their attitudes really as oppositional as they would have each other believe?



Mam and Dad are comfortable enough in their life together in their little grey living room. Mam twitches the curtains, watches the leaves pile up on the path and spies on the neighbours. Dad reads his atlas from his armchair and happily collects postcards of faraway places from his 'career-women' daughter. But then the doorbell rings. Confronted with a young and inexperienced social worker, June, from the council, brandishing a local authority care questionnaire, all three must face fears about their futures as they work begrudgingly down the list.

Facing the future, as we all must do it, is often not easy. The young June reads from her notes that it is quite normal to "refuse to recognise the approach of old age". They are older people, not old people, she is quick to clarify, but the sour expression of Mam is more than enough to clarify how she feels about this grammatical inflection.

It in these moments, as hospitality is forcibly laid on June in the very British form of scones and tea, that June becomes flustered and the tables turn. She has fears of her own, fears that any young person embarking on an uncertain career path can tap straight into. Has she made the right choices? Is she the 'people person' she wants to be?

Read Georgia's full reviews at

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/04/dbl-infeminity
and at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/06/something

Image by Phil Lunnon

Bus users and Richmond residents are still being kept in the dark about the future of Hammersmith Bridge – Vince Cable

After three years of secrecy Hammersmith and Fulham Council have finally provided an explanation for the long delays in carrying out much needed strengthening of Hammersmith Bridge, but only after the council was dragged into publishing answers through use of the Freedom of Information Act.

Much needed long term repair and strengthening work of the bridge was first agreed by Hammersmith and Fulham Council in December 2014, with work set to take place between the Summer of 2015 and 2016. Despite the extensive delays in any long term strengthening works actually starting a full explanation for the delays has never been provided by Hammersmith and Fulham Council up until now. In the meantime weight restrictions have been applied to the bridge, allowing only one single decker bus to cross the bridge at any time.

In response to a freedom of information request the council last week admitted that their “position has changed since the cabinet report in December 2014. At that time, it was envisaged that we would let a ‘design and build’ contract for the strengthening and refurbishment work of Hammersmith Bridge. However, working in partnership with Transport for London (who will be largely funding the project), this approach was deemed to be a high risk, exposing both the Council and TfL to potentially significantly unknown costs.”

The future of Hammersmith Bridge is a key concern for residents throughout the Richmond Borough, including Twickenham residents who use the 33 bus route.

Commenting on this concession provided by Hammersmith and Fulham Council and speaking a week ahead of another ‘temporary’ closure of the bridge is set to take place during half term week, (the fourth such closure in 12 months), Twickenham MP Vince Cable said:

“No one underestimates the challenge of carrying out long term repair and strengthening work to the historic Hammersmith Bridge. However these challenges are no grounds for secrecy by Hammersmith and Fulham Council, the Mayor of London, or TfL.

“Even now it seems vital information about the state of the bridge and the work programme to strengthen it are being held back from the public. Rather conveniently for Hammersmith and Fulham Council’s political leaders it seems important information about the bridge will only trickle out after the May local elections. Bus users and other users of the bridge are still being kept in the dark.

“There is also a big question as to why the Mayor of London thinks the strengthening work will not be completed until the end of 2021. Either we are set for repair and strengthening work of the bridge not starting for a very long time – perhaps not until next year, or even 2020, or it is expected that the strengthening work will take far longer than once expected. Whatever the situation answers need to be provided to the public on both sides of the bridge.”

SKETCHES FOR A FARCE

by Robin Jennifer Miller

Rare Fortune Productions at OSO Arts Centre, Barnes, until 10th February

LIBERTY HALL

Review by Matthew Grierson

Young Tom clearly has the imagination of a seasoned farceur. I mean, why else take his new American girlfriend to a posh hotel in the country and pretend it's his ancestral seat? Thank heavens the hotel's owners are willing to play along with their guest's fancy to ensure misunderstandings are maintained.

One such misunderstanding is that the framework of farce is itself sufficient to sustain proceedings in the absence of rigorous plotting: too often, *Liberty Hall* depends on farcical logic rather than offering any sense of why its protagonists are behaving as they are. Characters enter, exit and make proposals without suggesting that they have personalities or indeed agency of their own.



Credit where it's due, though: the cast keep things moving briskly along. The play's few highlights indeed depend on what energy and enjoyment the performers are able to bring.

Bradley Crees as Tom exemplifies the play's laissez-faire approach. Having gone to some lengths to impress his new girlfriend Zoe by arbitrarily aspiring to be a real-life Hugh Bonneville, he conveys throughout a self-satisfied indifference to events. Even when Zoe and his ex, Anna are both in the same room, he prefers to smirk rather than exhibit the anxiety you might expect. It is not long before it becomes evident that he and Anna will get together again and that Zoe will pair off with Tom's best pal Colin, but the respective chemistries do not convince that the play is doing anything more than arranging a curtain call with four neat couples.

Similarly unlikely are the play's Americans: Marvin Monroe – sharing the name of *The Simpsons'* resident psychologist – has less psychological complexity than the current POTUS, while daughter Zoe has to remain gullible enough to be swayed by Tom's wanton pretence at aristocracy.

Read Matthew Grierson's full review at:

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/liberty-hall

Image is courtesy of Rare Fortune Productions

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Places People Play



The Mozart Effect

At Ormond Road Richmond on Saturday 10th February

Richard Cartmale and Opera Foundry

Mark Aspen chats with ex-ENO singer and conductor, Richard Cartmale

Last year Opera Foundry presented The Language Series, which skilfully presented the essence of opera in the Italian, French and German languages in three separate productions. William Vine reviewed [French Opera](#) for Mark Aspen Reviews and Mark Aspen in turn gave a detailed critique of [German Opera](#). Opera Foundry now returns to Richmond in 2018 with a brand new series, The Great Composers Cycle. Mark Aspen interviewed Richard Cartmale, the Musical Director of Opera Foundry after the opening of its new production in Guildford.

Mark Aspen: Having had the great pleasure to review your *German Opera* concert last year in Richmond, I am delighted to hear that Opera Foundry is returning to Ormond Road this weekend with your new project. Could you tell me a bit more about your current project?



Richard Cartmale: It is very pleasing to hear how much you enjoyed Opera Foundry's Language Cycle, and this year the intention is to follow the pattern of having three foci for our concert, as we did in turn last year with Italian, French and German Opera. Our Great Composers Cycle uses three anchors of the repertoire, Mozart, Verdi and Puccini.

Mark Aspen: I believe you put your toe in the water at Richmond a few years ago with a similar series.

Richard Cartmale: Oh yes. It was the first time we did this, in 2015. We presented an all-Mozart programme followed by an all Puccini and an all

Verdi. Artistically this was surprisingly successful. In the case of Mozart, which we presented at St Mary's Parish Church in Richmond, we had a large and enthusiastic audience.

Mark Aspen: Why do you say “surprisingly” successful?

Richard Cartmale: Well, Opera Foundry's main raison d'être is the development of emerging opera singers. We are a highly regarded platform for advanced singer progression and our performances act as a showcase for our work.

Mark Aspen: So the concerts largely emerge from the development of singers already established in the field of opera?

Richard Cartmale: We try to retain a core of nineteenth century opera-house repertoire as something directly applicable to the development of our singers. In practice this means that our membership, which is selected from across the whole of Southern England, will be showcased in our Great Composers Cycle.

Mark Aspen: I once described your concerts as opera for the thinking audience. But does your audience have to be opera buffs?

Richard Cartmale: Far from it. We believe that Opera Concerts can be, and should be, a vital, engaging and richly satisfying experience for any music lover. If you are a seasoned opera-goer, our concerts are a wonderfully satisfying way to bridge the gap between trips to major productions. If you are new to the medium, then you can discover more music in one evening than you ever could seeing a single production. You will also hear more singers. A full Opera Foundry concert features at least twelve soloists. Sometimes it is more. You will hear duet trios, quartets, sextets as well as arias.

Read the full interview at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/08/cartmale

Details of The Mozart Effect at www.opera-foundry.com

Photograph by Robert Plwko



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

The Little Street with the Big Heart !

Here in Church Street we are all getting spruced up for our Valentine's Fayre!



It is taking place this Sunday the 11th of February from 12 midday until 6pm.

There will be lots of stalls selling everything red, pink & rose! With bejewelled heart shaped rings, cards, creams, even lovingly packed gifts sets of local beers & home ware to keep your loved one warm & cosy.

The Church Street traders are all infected with the love theme too and you will find Riccardo's cellar offering you Cupid Cocktails to help inspire you with your purchase(s), Warren Wines has a great gift set of sparkling rose & flutes and even Basil and Ruby is selling all things red with a 10% discount for your most loved pooche and a little baggie of heart-shaped doggie biscuits with every purchase! Even Fiesta Party Store in Heath Road is coming to the party with lots of their Valentine

balloons!

[See below for a selection of goodies at the Church Street shops and amongst the stalls!](#)

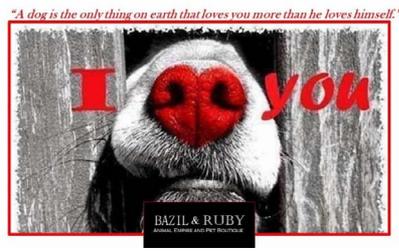


La Crepe Des Delices is a local catering company & always a popular stall at our Church Street events. This time they will be serving their traditional French style food with a special Valentine twist.

Made in Provence will be offering special Valentine Gift sets for just £15.00 each comprising of a soothing hand cream made with natural ingredients such as olive, shea and almond butters and a Marseille soap. Hand creams are available in 4 fragrances: Organic Honey and Almond, Organic Lavender, Cherry Blossom and Rose.

10% off All things Red at Basil and Ruby Pet Boutique - They will have a table with red jackets, jumpers, leads, collars..etc. and also they will be giving out a little baggie of heart-shaped doggie biscuits with every purchase!

The Richmond youth Jazz Band is comprised of students from schools in the Borough of Richmond. They are part of the Richmond Music Trust and rehearse on Saturday mornings at Waldegrave School in Twickenham. They play and sing a range of popular jazz standards and perform regularly at events around the borough which include the Richmond May Fair and Barnes Fair. They are always a very popular addition to our events and they are graced by many talented individuals who always get enthusiastically into the spirit of our events! The band is led by Roger Perrin with assistance from George Brown Griffiths.



“Sometimes the best things come in small packages” At Jefferson’s Craft Brewery they will be putting that into practise at the Valentine Fair with their gift packs. Jefferson’s brewery is situated in Barnes, SW London and is probably the smallest commercial brewery in London! Their brew system has a output of 200 Litres per brew and current production is 800 litres per week.

Claire Gibson started making jewellery as a hobby in 2013, but it quickly became a passion, then a small business. “I’m always very grateful to my customers, as any crafter knows, you put so much time and care into everything you make, when someone truly loves what you do it is very humbling. I’ve displayed at Church Street events before and especially love the atmosphere of the markets as Church Street is such a pretty location.

At the Valentine Fair I will be bringing a small selection of hand painted items, lots of handmade jewellery and around 200 handmade cards!”

Bolney My Valentine.

Terrible puns aside, Warren Wines have a fantastic deal for you this Valentines. Get a bottle of the Bolney Estate Eighteen Acre Sparkling Rose NV with 2 x Bolney branded flutes all wrapped up in a nice gift box for just £30. Made with a blend of Dornfelder and Rondo, Bolney Estate Sparkling Rose NV is vibrant and deep pink with an elegant mousse. On the nose this wine expresses aromas of red fruits, particularly that of ripe strawberries and red cherries. These ar omas are continued over to the palate with layers of complexity from the lees ageing, with a sweet spice character.

No further discounts.

The unique, one-of-a-kind pieces of Hot Halevi are ideal Valentines & ‘Galentines’ gifts for the discerning and socially-conscious shopper.

Hand block-printing, handloom weaving, Kantha hand-stitching, handmade jewellery-making are some of the traditional techniques used, whilst the finished products are stylish, contemporary and eclectic statement pieces.

From unique cushions and rugs to limited edition bags, scarves, semi-precious and fashion jewellery, Hot Haveli brings handcrafted gifts you can be sure she’ll love.

They are offering a 20% Discount on everything - as a special Valentines Gift to Twickenham Valentines Fayre Visit their web site!



Riccardo's Cellar will be serving a special Valentine cocktail at the Fair as well as lots of handmade chocolates, Rose Wine, Pink Champagne, and Red Beer! If that doesn't do the trick then you will also be able to buy discounted tickets to their Wine and Beer Festival at the Eel Pie Pub on the 22nd of March.

Come and buy tickets for your local theatre's production of Romeo and Juliet, the tragic story of Shakespeare's star-cross'd lovers that still resonates across the ages and strikes a chord in every heart.

Imaginatively staged and underpinned with music and movement, the Senior Youth Theatre look forward to welcoming you to a world of beauty and angst.

It runs from the 15th until the 18th of February at the Mary Wallace Theatre and they will have a stall at the Fair. Visit their web site!

Shona's Gallery will be having a stall at the fair with her hand made Valentine Cards. There will still be time to place an order for a custom made card and prices start at a very competitive £6 for a handmade card and £12 for a custom made card.

A Valentine Message from a Crusader Travel perspective would be that all last year the travel industry talked endlessly about the fact that 60% of us are single. If that's really true then there could be a lot of Valentines about in Church Street next Wednesday!

For us that means creating Romantic Weekends away in far flung places, Honeymoons then to be carefully tailor made and a little later would follow family beach holidays. All important work for your local travel agent!

The hottest destinations for lovers would perhaps be Cyprus home of Aphodite the Greek Goddess of Love or take a Nile Cruise, & visit the birthplace of Hathor the Pharaonic Deity of Love – Our Itineraries are lovingly constructed with passion. Just email bruce@crusadertravel.com

As we approach Valentine's Day, how many of us are feeling the love Twickenham? Jimmy Marum's and Kiss N Makeup are teaming up with a great offer. "Gents, be sure to keep yourselves out the dog house and start now by giving your lady the chance to win a FREE shellac manicure from the lovely ladies next door at Kiss N Makeup boutique and grab yourself a FREE haircut from yours truly"

All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is:

1. Follow both pages
2. Like the post
3. Tag your partner

They will announce the winner on Valentine's Day and get you in for the Valentines weekend



Feel the Love!
In Church Street Twickenham...

A photograph of Church Street in Twickenham, decorated with many red hearts hanging from the buildings. The street is lined with shops and houses.

TWICKENHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION TOWN

CHURCH STREET Twickenham

Valentine Fayre Sun 11 February
From 12 midday until 6pm www.ttba.org.uk

Don't miss the Church Street Valentine Fayre! There will be stalls with all kinds of gifts, flowers, cakes, chocolates, street food, and also live music.

There are a few theories about the origin of valentines. One of the most popular stories is the one based in the time of the Roman Empire, when there was a cruel emperor called Claudius. He made it illegal for couples to marry because he needed single soldiers to sign up to his army, and he thought that they would make better soldiers if the men were single as they wouldn't worry about the fate of their wives and children if they were to die in battle. But Christianity also existed at this time and there was a Christian Priest called Valentine who married couples in secret. He was caught and sentenced to death for his disobedience. In prison he befriended his jailer's blind daughter who the jailer asked the priest to teach. A miracle happened to the girl and whilst having lessons from Valentine, her sight was restored. His death sentence was the 14th of February and he left a message to the girl signed "from your Valentine" After his death Valentine was canonised and became a saint and the day was forever associated with love & friendship, the giving of gifts, cards, letters and flowers.

AN ENCAPSULATION OF MESMERISING IMAGINATION

THE JUNGLE BOOK

by Jessica Swale, adapted from Rudyard Kipling's story.



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Children's Touring Partnership and Royal & Derngate
at Richmond Theatre until 10th February

Review by Viola Selby

Deep within the urban Jungle of Richmond, there is a wild performance of a tale that is well known but which has never been told like this before. Through first class acting, mesmerising costumes and stage sets and a musical ensemble brilliantly created by Jessica Swale and Joe Stilgoe, the audience are transported into the heart of an Indian jungle and become a part of the adventures of Mowgli and his friends in *The Jungle Book*.



To begin with, the stage is set with just a bed and a small light, just this one prop. There is no noise apart from the atmospheric humming of one of the two actresses on stage. This is just one of the many clever set designs, created by the ingenious Peter Mckintosh, which allows the audience's imaginations to run as wild as the animals on stage.

As the story progresses, the actors continue to astound and amaze. Through the witty writings of Jessica Swale, childhood favourites such as Baloo and Bagheera are given a whole new lease of life and are made relatable both to adults and children alike. The very agile Kesiah Jones, as Mowgli, manages to master the subtlety of character development, through the way she shows Mowgli's realisation of becoming a man.

I was meant to be fully against Sheer Khan, his bad boy image and being clad in a black and orange leather biker outfit, with the exceptional rock-n-roll vocals of Lloyd Gorman, it was hard not to be a fan girl of the bad boy of the jungle.

Read Viola Selby's review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/08/jungle-book

Photograph by Manuel Harlan

The second half of Richmond Film Society's Season comprises the following eight films at The Exchange:

13th February – **Graduation (Romania)** - Directed by Cristian Mungiu
Cristian Mungiu examines the corrupt underbelly of Romanian society through the travails and moral conflicts facing a respected doctor. When his daughter suffers a debilitating assault the day before her critical final examinations, his moral world view is put to the test: just how many strings is he prepared to pull to ensure that she makes the grade ?



27th February – **Men and Chicken (Denmark)** - Directed by Anders Thomas Jensen

A Danish comedy of an unusual and dysfunctional family reunion and the revelation of more than just one skeleton in the closet. When two brothers return to their family home after their father's death they meet their estranged siblings, with funny and bizarre consequences.

13th March – **Outside the Law (France)** - Directed by Rachid Bouchareb

An Algerian family are scattered across the globe. Messaoud joins the French army; Abdelkader becomes a leader of the Algerian independence movement; Saïd moves to Paris to make his fortune in the shady clubs and boxing halls. Their interconnecting destinies reunite them in Paris.... Award winning Gangster-Drama movie.

27th March – **Marshland (Spain)** - Directed by Alberto Rodríguez

Set in the early years of a post-Franco Spain, two detectives with things to hide are assigned to a remote part of Andalusia to investigate the murder of two sisters. Clues are scarce, the locals are unwelcoming and the ghosts of the past are everywhere.

10th April – **Toni Erdmann (Germany)** - Directed by Maren Ade

A father, concerned about his career-obsessed and apparently joyless daughter, deploys his dishevelled prankster alter ego, Toni Erdmann, to make mischief, travelling to her workplace and posing as an executive 'life coach'. A startlingly original and uproarious comedy, suffused with pathos and tenderness. Oscar-shortlisted and winner of 73 awards worldwide.

24th April – **A Man Called Ove (Sweden)** - Directed by Hannes Holm

Short-listed for the 2017 Foreign Language Oscar, Ove is the archetypal angry old man who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave. After reaching a life changing decision, an unlikely friendship develops and life takes a new path. A funny, tragic and heart-warming transformation of an angry, solitary and regimented old man.

<https://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk/>

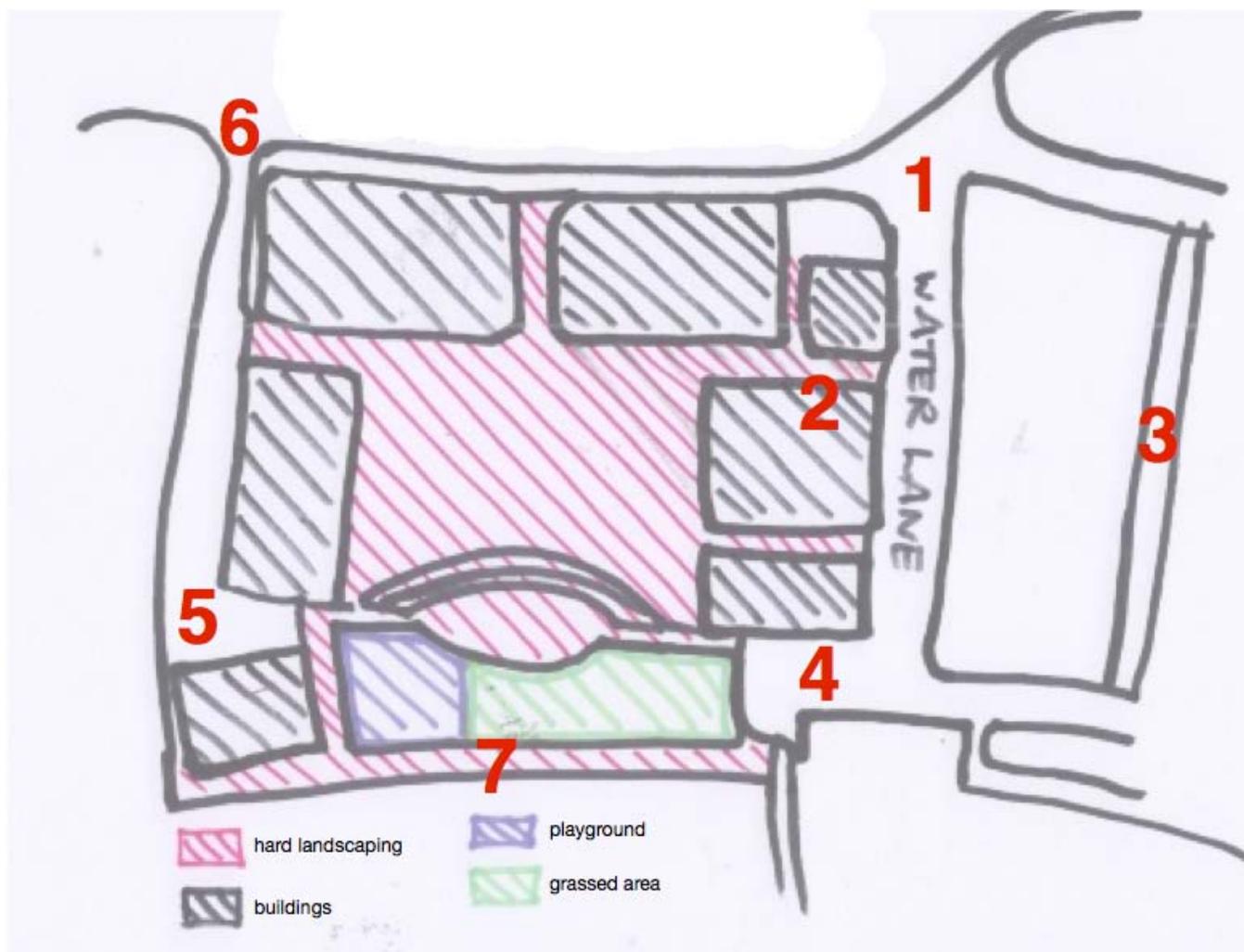


6th February 2018

Dear Twickenham Tribune,

A response to the Twickenham Riverside Park Team

A letter to the Tribune last week from the Twickenham Riverside Park Team (TRPT) described in great detail how the removal of the road from Twickenham Embankment between Water and Wharf Lanes would be “a positive one, both for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles” and would “improve the flow of vehicles along King St.”



The red numbers refer to my questions/observations below.

1. Entry to Church St from King St, and entry/exit to and from Water Lane

Traffic studies show that c.1000 vehicles a day enter Water Lane. (There is no data for how many vehicles enter Church St from King St.)

Of these 1000 vehicles, c. 80 are LGVs or HGVs.

Under the TRPT proposals, these LGVs/HGVs would then exit via Water Lane (two-way under its proposal) or via Church St (if they are able to make the turn up Bell Lane and on to Church St).

Pedestrians on King St would therefore encounter HGVs and LGVs both entering and exiting Water Lane.

I have stood on this corner, and imagined the three-way traffic - into Church St, and in and out of Water Lane. I am unable to see how this change is a “positive one” for pedestrians.

2. Entering the TRPT 100-150 vehicle capacity underground car park

Traffic studies show that at peak times (10.00am-4.00pm), currently 70-90 vehicles/hour enter Water Lane. Under the TRPT proposal, this number would increase due to the proposed parking capacity in the underground car park (100-150 spaces).

The majority of vehicles entering Water Lane would be looking to access the underground car park.

Any delay in vehicles being able to enter the car park would cause traffic to back up out on to King St. I am unable to see how this would “improve the flow of vehicles along King St.”

3. Exiting the Embankment via Bell Lane/Church St

Vehicles already use this point of exit. Traffic studies show that of the 1000 vehicles that currently enter Water Lane daily, c.900 exit via Wharf Lane, with c.100 therefore exiting via Church St.

Under the TRPT proposals, Church St will undoubtedly see an increase in number of vehicles, as cars parked alongside the Embankment between Water Lane and the Barmy Arms (in addition to any LGVs able to make the turn up Bell Lane) may choose to exit the Embankment via Church St, resulting in increased vehicular movement along Church St.

In the summer months, when Church St is closed to vehicles, all of this traffic will have no choice but to exit via Water Lane. Summer visitors will therefore have increased two-way traffic to contend with in order to enter the ‘car-free’ Church St. I am unable to see how this change is a “positive one” for pedestrians.

4. “Vehicle Service Area” at the bottom of Water Lane

The TRPT proposal shows the LGVs/HGVs making three-point turns in this area, in order to exit the Embankment.

As anyone who regularly uses the Embankment knows, many riverside visitors arrive

from the direction of the Barmy Arms/Church Lane/Champion's Wharf/Marble Hill. In order to enter the proposed riverside park, they would need to contend with sizeable vehicles performing three-point turns/reversing manoeuvres. I am unable to see how this change is a "positive one" for pedestrians.

5. "Vehicle Service Area" at the bottom of Wharf Lane

More vehicles performing three-point turns. I am unable to see how this change is a "positive one" for pedestrians.

6. Entry and exit Wharf Lane/King St

The annotated plan omits to show two-way traffic at the top of Wharf Lane. Wharf Lane is very narrow where it meets King St. I would contend that a left-hand turn into Wharf Lane from King St is an impossible manoeuvre, but let us imagine for a moment that it is achievable.

The TRPT letter of last week showed a photograph of a vehicle exiting Wharf Lane (**see image in edition 65**).

Under the TRPT proposals, two such vehicles could be attempting the same manoeuvre (one in, one out) at the same time, or indeed two cars. All of the vehicles using the proposed TRPT underground carpark (with spaces for some 100-150 vehicles) would also be exiting via Wharf Lane, in addition to those entering the Embankment area via Wharf Lane.

Wharf Lane has buildings either side of it where it meets King St. In order to allow for two-way traffic, pedestrian access would need to be via narrow pavements.

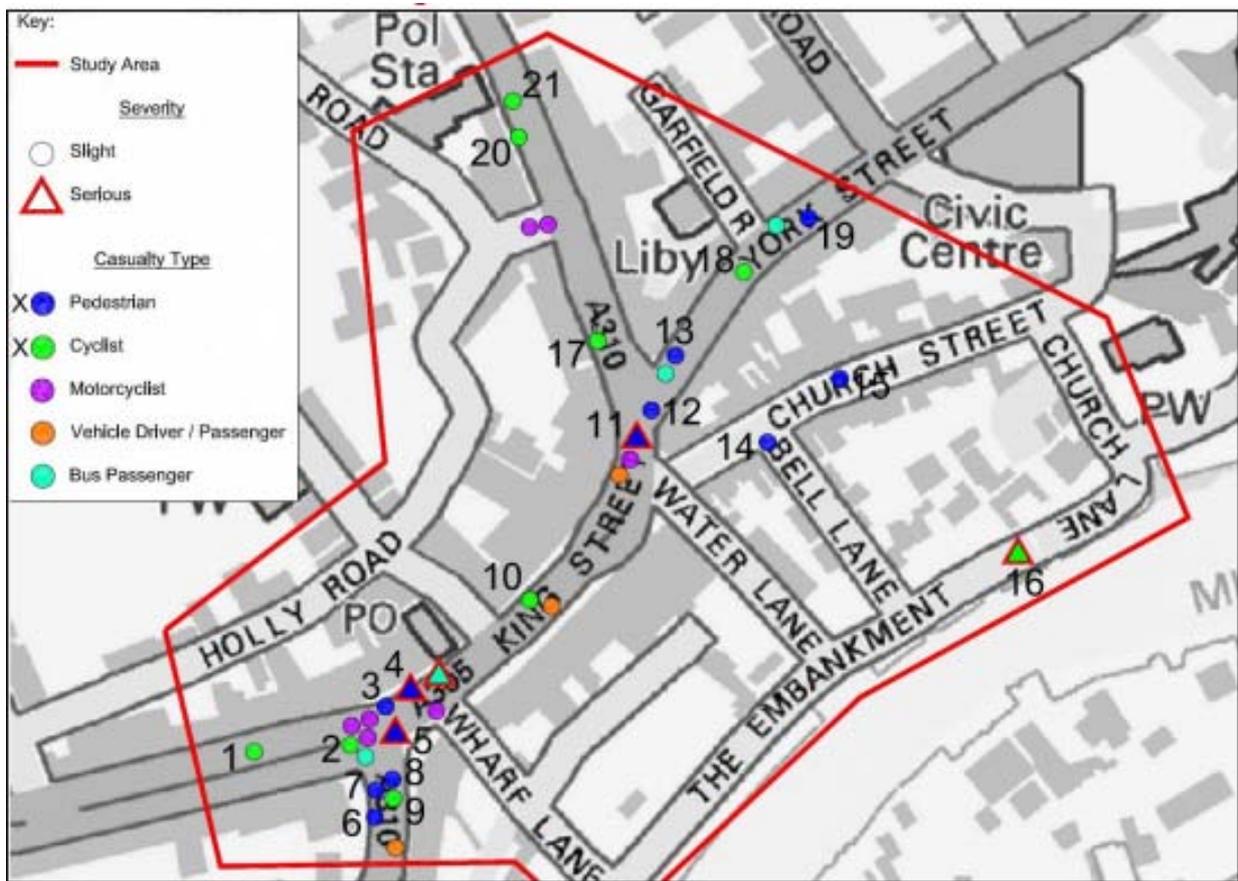
For both of the above reasons, I fail to see how this change (if indeed it is physically possible) is a "positive one" for pedestrians.

7. Cyclists

The TRPT annotated proposal omits to show any cycle routes, apart from the one that already exists on the Embankment. If the TRPT proposal is indeed a "positive one" for cyclists, perhaps it could be indicated how so on the traffic plan?

As it stands, I am unable to see how areas 1, 4, 5 and 6 (my annotations) of the TRPT proposal are any less problematic for cyclists than they are for pedestrians.

An area that is, however, already problematic for cyclists/motorcyclists is the King St / Heath Road / Cross Deep junctions. The chart below shows details of collision data from the TfL Road Safety Unit for the most recently available five-year period (2011-2016).



The TRPT proposal, with its 100-150 capacity car park, with all vehicles exiting via Wharf Lane towards this junction will only increase vehicular movement in this area. There are no reported collisions, however, on Water Lane, Wharf Lane and the Embankment road that joins them.

In conclusion: the aim of a car-free riverside is indeed a laudable one. And if it were truly feasible, I would be among the first to support it.

But the Embankment road is not just about parking: it is about access and traffic flow. And the changes to the Embankment configuration proposed by TRPT would have the knock-on effect of pushing vehicle movements to other parts of Twickenham's riverside village (I am thinking most specifically of Bell Lane and Church St). It also introduces the necessity to perform three-point turns on the Embankment.

Twickenham's riverside may never be entirely traffic free, but over the coming years I have no doubt it will, rightly, be increasingly claimed back from parked vehicles. It will, though, always need its road. In my opinion, TRPT fails to make a convincing argument otherwise.

With my best wishes
 Celia Holman
 Eel Pie Island

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team

An Objection to the Council's Dis-Integrated Approach to the Development of the Whole Twickenham Riverside Site

I object to this planning application as a comprehensive integrated approach to the development of the overall site in its urban context has been ignored in these proposals. Although the Council has ownership and control of the overall site between Water and Wharf Lanes, and between the Riverside and rear site boundary to the King Street parade, only a relatively small part of the site along Water Lane was taken into consideration as an isolated site. This flies in the face of the outcome of the Barefoot Consultation in 2010 where a new central town square worthy of Twickenham and pedestrianised riverside were primary findings to be addressed in any proposals, and neither of which could be delivered without a comprehensive full site approach.

A key objective in the TAAP is to “create new open space to provide for a wide range of open uses...” (item 7.5.5.2). Lord True who initiated this process, also said in a speech in Water Lane in 2013 that the purpose of the proposal was to ‘Open out a Town Square to link the river and centre of town’. “A comprehensive approach is proposed in order to ensure connections to the Riverside are enhanced and to make Twickenham a more attractive destination.” (TAAP item 7.5.2.2). These core requirements cannot be delivered without consideration of the overall site in a comprehensive manner.

Although the Council commissioned Land Use Consultants to provide a ‘landscaping masterplan’ for the overall site (TAAP item 7.5.5.5), crucially no actual masterplan showing an integrated approach to the overall site, nor how the proposals relate to their wider context, was submitted with this application. This is a crucial omission. Furthermore, there is no apparent urban design input into the proposals – again a primary requirement in a town centre development of this size and importance. This is evident in the poor resolution of spatial arrangements across the site, a series of small sub-optimal spaces incapable of accommodating community activities such as required for a town the size of Twickenham, and certainly no opening out of a ‘town square to link the river and centre of town’. And yet the overall site is of a size perfectly capable of accommodating these requirements.

Public amenity space and the quality of the public realm are clearly not at the heart of these proposals. Buildings predominate, densely packed on this restricted bit of land with fragmented left-over spaces designated for public use. There is no masterplan showing a comprehensive overall site approach as demanded in the TAAP: “The Council will upgrade existing open spaces and promote new public open space in the town centre on the Twickenham Riverside site..... and promote a comprehensive approach to their management as part of a new riverside park.” (item 6.5.3). Buildings are placed so that spaces that could be joined to form larger public amenity areas are actually broken up.

On the basis of the above omissions, this application should be rejected until a comprehensive application has been developed in accordance with the TAAP to include a

masterplan, urban design studies and completed traffic, parking and servicing studies for the overall site.

I object to this planning application as a comprehensive integrated approach to the development of the overall site in its urban context has been ignored in these proposals. Instead of a comprehensive approach, the consultation process was in fact moved in the opposite direction last year. The Riverside Embankment area, currently used as a car park, was removed from the final consultation, having been a part of the consultation process since 2010. The argument used was that further traffic and parking studies were required to be carried out – despite the fact that these studies were due to be completed some two years previously. Such studies are crucial to the development of comprehensive design proposals for the site, a key requirement of the TAAP. All traffic and parking studies pertaining to this site should have been concluded prior to the consultation process being initiated.

We now have the muddle of some of the parking currently along Water Lane being included in the application site, as well as new undercroft parking for the proposed flats. The service road currently connecting Water and Wharf Lanes would also be cut off by the proposed development, resulting in an increased traffic flow along the Embankment Road. It is simply not possible to make a proper assessment of traffic flow, parking and servicing requirements in this application on the basis of partial information, and the complete lack of a comprehensive traffic and parking study for the area.

The site should be seen within an integrated masterplan for the riverside site and town centre. “The vision for Twickenham needs to be viewed as a whole, not just parts of the town.” (Barefoot Consultation p.12) and “Create a reason for people to come into the centre of Twickenham - give it an identity.”

A comprehensive integrated approach to the overall site has not been taken that shows how the proposals would relate to the future development of the site. A masterplan and urban design proposals showing viable public amenity spaces and a quality public realm has not been produced. “The TAAP provides the planning policy framework for development and change within Twickenham Town centre and will be applied in the determination of all planning applications.... The following documents will be required in support of planning applications for all development proposals in the town centre:

- Master plan showing how the site relates to the wider town centre.” (TAAP item 8.0.29)

On the basis of the above omissions, this application should be rejected until a comprehensive application has been developed in accordance with the TAAP to include a masterplan, urban design studies and completed traffic, parking and servicing studies for the overall site.

Deon Lombard, RIBA

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