

The Twickenham Tribune

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Twickenham Green
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE: PLANNING COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH, CLARENDON HALL, YORK HOUSE, TWICKENHAM

Planning Application: http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=17/4213/FUL

This application is for a very sensitive site which has had the power to change Councils for decades. Cllr Pamela Fleming believes that she will put an end to this controversy although many have thought this in the past.

The Conservative administration is in a hurry to get planning for their housing estate before purdah begins on 26 March for the 3 May 2018 local election. They want to seal the fate of Twickenham Riverside to ensure their plans are carried out whether or not they are elected; a little like an army burning the countryside as it flees. How little have we progressed? Why can't our elected representatives represent the majority of the residents in Twickenham who are publicly against a housing estate on the last vestige of the old lido/Richmond House site?

The LBRuT planning website still does not let over 400 people - who have made Comments - know that there is a meeting in Clarendon Hall on Wednesday. <https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=224&MId=4203>.

Letters to those who made comments were sent at the last minute and second class.

The report by the case officer can be seen at the above link - but it can only be found by looking for meeting notifications.

You will see from the report that the Environment Agency has objected to the planning application and Transport for London also has concerns. The entrance to the underground car park is in front of the river where flooding takes place regularly. The Council says that if flooding is expected the new owners of the luxury flats can park elsewhere in Twickenham - as there is plenty of parking! One wonders whether the architects and the Richmond councillors who are pushing this plan forward ever come to Twickenham Riverside or understand the present and future flooding issues.

However, the Secretary of State will review the Decision of the Planning Committee on 2 counts: 1 numerous requests from resident groups for a call in and 2 an Objection by the Environment Agency which automatically triggers a Call In.

A case officer appointed by the Secretary of State has been in touch with the Council's case officer, who has recommended Permission, and if the Council's Planning Committee grants itself Permission on Wednesday it cannot be binding unless approved by the Secretary of State.

It is interesting to note that although the Council had exhaustive consultations many residents complained that their views were ignored. So far, an enormous amount of money has been spent by LBRuT to get this far - many £millions.

LBRuT originally held a competition for designs for Twickenham Riverside. Quinlan and Francis Terry won but the father and son team separated, and Francis Terry went it alone. However, it seems that the final design was by another architect despite the huge sums of money spent on initial architects' fees.

Two Change.org petitions against the application totalling over 6,500 supporters have been totally ignored by the present Council administration; 4,000 have called for a lido to be reinstated on the site. A lido was on the site for many years but suddenly closed at the beginning of the 1980s. Previously there was an historic house on the site (Richmond House) for 400 years. It seems that Middletons, ancestors of the Duchess of Cambridge, were among the rich and famous who have lived on Twickenham Riverside over the centuries.

STOP PRESS

Cllr Grant Healy (Conservative) stepped down from the Twickenham Riverside Planning meeting as it was pointed out that he had already made his view clearly known at an earlier Scrutiny meeting

https://richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/325809
webcast Twickenham ReDiscovered Scrutiny 19 December

Planning committee for 7th March

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Gemma Curran | (Con) Richmond, Mortlake and Barnes Common |
| Councillor Robert Thompson | (Con) Richmond, East Sheen |
| Councillor John Coombs | (Lib Dem) Twickenham, Heathfield |
| Councillor Martin Elengorn | (Lib Dem) Twickenham, Teddington |
| Councillor Kate Howard | (Con) Twickenham, Hampton North |
| Councillor Liz Jaeger | (Lib Dem) Twickenham, Whitton |
| Councillor Thomas O'Malley | (Con) Richmond, South Richmond |
| Councillor Petra Sale | (Con) Twickenham, Hampton |
| Councillor Sarah Tippett | (Con) Richmond, Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside |



The planning officer has published her report for the council's application to develop Twickenham Riverside (although

you might not know it as the application website still says it is at 'Assessment Stage').

Interestingly the Environment Agency has submitted an objection to the proposal regarding the siting of the underground car park entrance on the Embankment, overlooking the river. Residents have repeatedly pointed out the folly of having an underground car park entrance on the river's flood plain, but apparently the council's architects know better.

It is not just a question of the car park flooding, but any riverside residents (like TwickerSeal) will tell you that the Embankment floods at the bottom of Water Lane, sufficient to block access to the Embankment and the proposed car park entrance. Unfortunately the moon's monthly cycle is beyond the council's control.



TwickerTape - News in Brief

RTS Opens

Richmond Upon Thames School has now opened in Twickenham

<http://www.richmonduponthamesschool.org.uk/>

Twickenham Market

Easter Treasure Hunt at the market, Saturday 10th March. Find the clues and win a box of eggs from the market (or a chocolate version!)

Orleans House Gallery Opens

The refurbished Orleans House Gallery is now open to the public! Come and visit! Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10.00am-5.00pm. Admission is free.

New website <https://www.orleanshousegallery.org/>

Crime Prevention Seminar At Twickenham

Saturday 10th March - Twickenham Stadium - Live Room

AGENDA

- 10 am Commissioner Cressida Dick - Head of the London Police
 - 10.30 am Zac Goldsmith MP for Richmond
 - 10.45 am Les Jackson - Security at cash points, card cloning and courier fraud
 - 11.15 Tea and coffee break
 - 11.30am Presenter Gloria Hunniford - How to protect yourself from the most common frauds and cyber scams
 - 12.30 Detective Sergeant Gavin Bolt - What you need to know about courier scams
 - 13.00 Questions and answers from local residents and businesses
- Everyone welcome to attend, no need to book just turn up.

After the event the Side Step Bar at the Marriott Hotel inside Twickenham Stadium will be showing the England v France rugby game



twickenham tweets
@twickerati

Richmond's planning dept recommend permission is granted for the Council's scheme for [#TwickenhamRiverside](#). But are you happy with it?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Yes - it's a good scheme | 5% |
| Meh - better than nothing | 17% |
| No - a wasted opportunity ☹ | 78% |

147 votes • 2 days 12 hours left

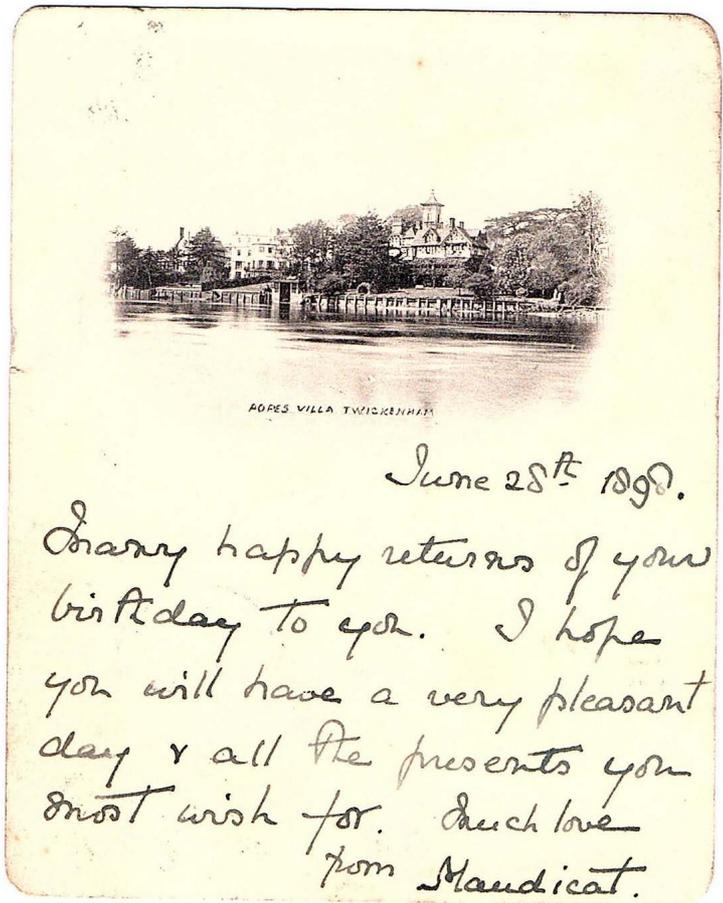
10:05 am · 02 Mar 18

PART 64 - EARLIEST EVER 1898 TWICKENHAM PICTURE POSTCARD DISCOVERED LOCALLY!

One of the most interesting aspects of my retirement hobby which finds me buying, selling and writing about picture postcards is that I never know what the next phone call, email, letter or rummage through a shoe box full of old postcards will turn up.

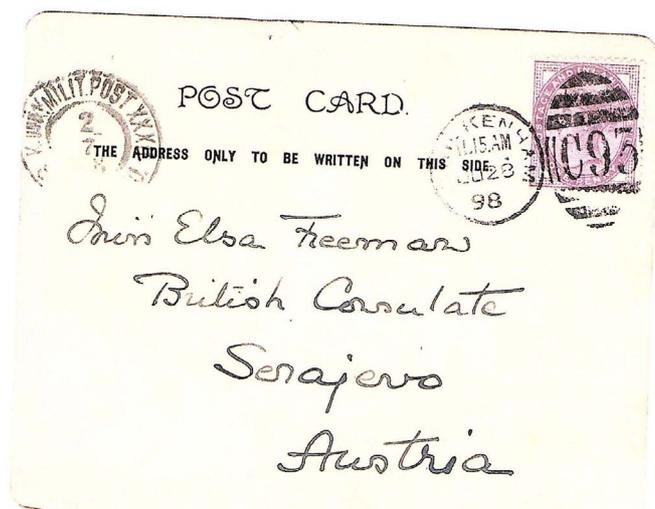
Unlike stamps, coins, antique books, porcelain and other items from the world of collecting, there is no definitive catalogue or book which tells us exactly what postcards exist. This is because so many millions of picture postcards were in use every day between 1894 when the first card is known to have been sent and throughout the 20th century when they were the prime method of communication prior to the global advent of telephones and computers. It is known that in the 1915 – 1916 period at the height of World War I, over 2 million postcards a day were handled by the British Army Post Office alone.

Many picture postcards were produced locally by village and town photographers, printers and stationers as well as the local newsagent armed with a camera! If a disaster happened such as a train derailment, a ship in trouble, road accident, aerial crash or bombing during the two world wars – there was the local man and camera on the scene to take a photographic record which was then printed locally and put on sale as a picture postcard within hours of the incident taking place. The national news on the wireless and in newspapers was often a day or two behind the postcard that appeared in the newsagents rack. These local photographic postcards were often only printed by the dozen or two and subsequently there are only incomplete records of what actually exists.



Since 1995, the Picture Postcard Annual which along with the Picture Postcard

Monthly magazine are the backbone of our hobby has been recording the earliest posting dates from towns and cities across Britain. These are discovered simply by the date stamp within the postmark on the back of the postcard. However it is a rule of the game that the picture postcard must show a scene from the location to qualify.



The earliest recorded date for a picture postcard of Twickenham had been stuck on 10th September 1899 for a number of years. Did that mean it was the earliest in existence or simply the earliest we have found so far? We didn't

know but the hunt went on.

A month or two ago, local collector, Professor Paul Leonard told me about a batch of letters and postcards from the 1890's that he had recently come across and following a closer look has discovered a postally used Twickenham postcard dated 28th June 1898. The picture side shows an early etching of Popes Villa facing the river. Even more exciting to a postal historian was the fact that it was posted to a Miss Elsa Freeman at the British Consulate in Sarajevo which was in Austria in those days. As a result the postcard was carried by military mail and carries a military handstamp to the left of the card.

Having submitted this postcard to the relevant committee I have been informed that the Popes Villa card has been accepted as the earliest known postally used picture postcard of Twickenham and beats the previous record by about 15 months! Well done Paul. You are the owner of a unique piece of local history! - Unless of course, we can find an even earlier postcard of Twickenham. Please keep looking folks! If you find one, let me know!

Next week we will take a look at Popes Villa in a bit more depth. Meanwhile here are the websites for the journals mentioned above.

www.postcardcollecting.co.uk - The Annual

www.picturepostcardmagazine.co.uk - Monthly Magazine

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!

POSTCARDS WANTED

Cash paid for Old Postcards

& postally franked envelopes.

Required by local collector / dealer.

Please ring Alan to discuss on

07875 578398

Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



Reminders:

Curtain goes up on Teddington Theatre Club's (TTC) production, **AFTER ELECTRA** by April de Angelis, at Hampton Hill Theatre, (HHT) on **Sunday, 4 March at 4.00pm-Saturday, 10 March at 7.45pm** in the Coward Studio (seating for only 50).

Info: ttc-boxoffice.org.uk.

TTC's main house production, **A MONTH OF SUNDAYS** by Bob Larbey, runs from **Saturday, 17 March-Friday, 23 March at 7.45pm except Sunday 18 March at 4.00pm** at HHT.

Info: ttc-box-office.org.uk

Richmond Shakespeare Society (RSS) present **MACBETH**, by William Shakespeare from **Saturday 17 March-Saturday 24 March at 7.45pm, Sunday 18 at 3.00pm (No perf on Wed)** at Mary Wallace Theatre, Embankment, Twickenham.

Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk

Cantanti Camerati present their **SPRING SERENADE: All at Sea** concert at Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Park TW119PS on **Saturday 10 March at 2.30pm & 7.30 pm**

Info: cantanticamerati.org.uk

Also on **Saturday 10 March at 7.30pm** Concordia Voices sing **SONGS FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN** at St Mary's Church, TW1 3NJ.

Info: concordiavoices.org

London Potters Local are at Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Park, **Saturday-Sunday, 3-4 March, 11am-5pm**. Free admission. Opportunity to buy from makers.

Contemporary Textiles Fair 2018 is at Landmark Arts Centre, **Friday 16 March, 6-8pm & Saturday & Sunday at 10am-5pm**. Over 70 makers.

Info: landmarkartscentre.org.uk

Hampton Choral Society give a **PARTY FOR PARRY** celebrating the centenary Hubert Parry and his contemporary, Edward Elgar on **Saturday, 17 March at 7.30pm** at St Mary's University Chapel, TW1 4SX

Info: bidwell.di@gmail.com

The Richmond Performing Arts Festival Showcase will take place on **Sunday, 4 March at 3.00pm** with a selection of short excerpts from a range of festival participants, culmination in a lively finale from Barnes & Richmond Operatic Society, at The Exchange.

Info: exchangetwickenham.co.uk

Twickfolk, Eel Pie Club and Twickenham Jazz Club meet with their guest artistes on their regular nights, **Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.00pm** in The Cabbage Patch Pub, TW1 3SZ.

Info: twickfolk.co.uk; eelpieclub.com; twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk

POPE'S GROTTTO Preservation Trust announce an evening of convivial company at Dr Johnson's House, Gough Square, EC4A 3DE **on Thursday 15 March from 6.30-9.00pm**. Meanwhile the Trust announces that its March opening of the Grotto is sold out, but will be open in April, May and June.

Info: popes grotto.org.uk

Two openings to celebrate:

Congratulations to EEL PIE ISLAND MUSEUM which has finally opened its doors to visitors at 1-3 Richmond Road TW1 3AB (app York House), open **Thursdays-Sundays, 12noon-6.00pm**

Info: eelpiemuseum.co.uk

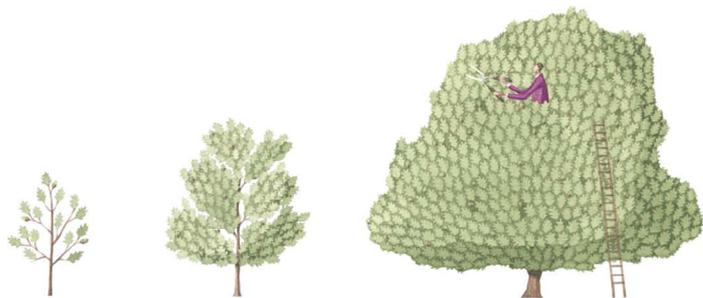
Congratulations also to curatorial staff, management past and present, fund-raisers, craftsmen, and volunteers of ORLEANS HOUSE GALLERY (OHG) which opens its magnificently rebuilt Link Wing and restored and refurbished Octagon Room this week. This is a superb addition to the cultural life of the borough where the entire borough art collection can be easily accessed and studied.

At the Stables Gallery behind OHG the exhibition WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE exhibition continues featuring artists from the Fountain Gallery at Hampton Court. A variety of different media is on show and demonstrations take place on **Sundays between 2-4.00pm. Also open during rest of week.**

Info: richondgov.uk/arts.

It's the first Tuesday of the month and that means only one thing - the return of the **Kelvin Christiane All-Stars Big Band at Twickenham Jazz Club.**

The club convenes every Tuesday at 8pm at The Cabbage Patch, 67 London Road, Twickenham.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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www.thetreeagency.co.uk

The Tree Agency



New Flight Paths + 270,000 *more* planes per year? Speak up or forever hold your ears!



Yes, that is your future unless you voice your views in the two consultations (organised by Heathrow) and let them know that you object to more planes flying longer hours day and night. And to accommodate the 270,000 more flights per year, the flight paths will be concentrated, which means everyone will be severely impacted.

The Heathrow Consultation ends on the 28th March 2018. There are two consultations. The first prematurely covers Heathrow expansion which has not yet been approved by Parliament. The second relates to planned airspace change of usage. It also relates to the third runway, but it is part of the CAA air space change application process. "Principles" are being consulted upon at this stage with a further and fuller consultation later, if expansion is permitted. The Heathrow Consultation Online Form and TAG's suggested responses can be found here: <http://www.teddingtonactiongroup.com/2018/02/25/tag-hosting-meeting-8pm-21st-march-2018-church-meeting-hall-christ-church-christchurch-avenue-teddington-tw11-9ab/> .

Expansion is not legally possible if air quality standards are to be brought within the legal limits – limits currently breached around Heathrow. Planes emit a large quantity of NOx and other gases as proven in a Kings College study. On emissions injurious to health, the area around Heathrow already breaches the rules with the government recently losing its 3rd air quality plan court case as it fails to fix the situation and any change worsening the situation would be unlawful.

Despite the current pollution, Heathrow expansion includes converting adjacent greenfield and brownfield land into new car and lorry parks. Heathrow claims that increased journeys to the airport would be via public transport or electric vehicles, if Heathrow were not anticipating increased vehicle travel then why plan for extra parking?

And when it comes to noise... Expansion means more flights with less time between planes overhead using new Performance Based Navigation systems. And forget a total ban on any night flights to protect people's health and give children especially sufficient time to sleep – as in other countries. Heathrow says they need night flights for the airport to be competitive. However, we all know that it only takes one flight to wake you up and disturb your rest. Heathrow also asks if you prefer flights to be concentrated over parks – Richmond, Bushy, Windsor, Kew Gardens – so no peaceful walks there and how will planes get there without overflying houses where people live?

The detrimental impact of expansion isn't just limited to communities near Heathrow. A third runway will impose unacceptable constraints on future development of regional airports due to legally binding climate change targets. Whether you are for or against Brexit, we are one country and it only seems fair that ALL of the UK gets an equal opportunity to be open for trade and travel.

The costs associated with the latest Heathrow proposal have been hopelessly underestimated. What they are proposing is very different from the proposal the Airports Commission recommended, especially construction costs of rail services and road alterations for M25, M4 and other local roads. Heathrow has only offered to contribute a fraction of the costs and does not have the money to even carry this out. Why should the infrastructure costs required to sustain an expanded Heathrow be borne by all UK taxpayers when largely only foreign owners of the airport will benefit? In fact, in 2017, Heathrow paid its owners a dividend of £1,100,000,000. Why wasn't this money earmarked to cover the costs of their expansion plans?

Teddington Action Group (TAG) will hold a public meeting the evening the 21st March at 8 pm at Christ Church, Christchurch Avenue, Teddington TW11 9AA. There will be several speakers providing an update, including Sir Vince Cable, and a Q&A session. If you can't attend, please check www.teddingtonactiongroup.com for facts about expansion that are often omitted from Heathrow's consultation literature.



STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

ADULT ACADEMY TASTER SESSIONS NOW BOOKING

Contact our 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



Places People Play



ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Innovative Distance Learning Football Coaching Degree Launched



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

St Mary's University, Twickenham is launching an innovative new distance learning Master's degree aimed at coaching professionals that develops and applies cutting-edge, evidence-based knowledge and skills in football coaching and performance.

The [Performance Football Coaching \(Distance Learning\) MSc, PGDip, PGCert](#) degree launches in September with a tailor-made online programme and St Mary's is the first institution worldwide to offer a distance learning football coaching course of its kind - allowing students to study when and where suits them.

The one-year course is delivered for full-time students, or 2-3 years for part-time students, and allows football coaching professionals worldwide to develop a critical understanding of issues relating to coaching and performance in football and advance their professional practice while working.

The programme content and design is informed by the University's partners in the football industry, including professional coaches and coach educators from the English FA and clubs across Europe such as Chelsea Football Club, who St Mary's has developed a strong relationship with.

Programme Director for the course Dr André Roca said, "We want to provide coaching professionals worldwide wanting to up their game a unique and flexible continuing professional development opportunity. It's a pleasure to be leading a team of expert coaches

and football academics in setting up this pioneering course."

An induction, which is also available online, is organised on-site to welcome and prepare students for the course while a week on-site in May gives them opportunity to visit Premier League club academies in London, go to a coaching conference and take part in practical sessions and workshops.



Students will also be provided with a GoPro camera to help them complete video-based tasks and a highly-regarded and professional personal tutor to support and guide them through their studies.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Global Engagement at St Mary's University and former Head of Human Performance at the Football Association, Prof John Brewer added, "We are delighted to be the first university to launch a distance learning football coaching Master's and to develop the next batch of aspiring football coaches, not just in the UK but worldwide."



Please ask for full
Itineraries 020 8744 0474



Holy Land Tour in Israel

21 October 6 nights departing Heathrow. From £1130 per person

Jewish Budapest wide range of dates available

24 August 3 nights departing from Heathrow. From £650 p.p

Jewish Prague wide range of dates available

30 March 3 nights departing from Heathrow. From £825 p.p

Doors open to refurbished Orleans House Gallery

Orleans House Gallery, which has stood on the Riverside in Twickenham in one form or another for over three hundred years, has reopened its doors to the public following a seventeen month restoration project.

The project, which has been part-funded by the National Lottery through a £1.8m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), included refurbishment and extension of the main Gallery, originally built in 1710, and its immediate surrounds.

Following the opening an ongoing programme of volunteer training, family activities and educational visits will continue through to 2019.

Improvements to the Gallery also included:

- The full restoration of the Grade 1 listed Octagon Room;
- New and improved facilities in the west wing of the Gallery;
- New accessible entrance with lift to upper floors;
- New reception and gift shop and;
- An upper floor extension which will provide additional spaces for a new study gallery, enlarged picture store, workshop and training room.



Cllr Paul Hodgins, Leader of Richmond Council and Chair of Orleans House Trust said:

“The story of Orleans House Gallery is deeply connected to the history of Twickenham. Built to curry favour with royalty, in its three hundred years, the House has served as a stately home to Secretaries of State and French Royals, an art gallery, and an education space.

“With so much living behind it, it was in need of a little bit of a spruce up. After seventeen months it’s now ready to once again be the epicentre of the borough’s cultural programme.

“The team at the Gallery has worked tirelessly since its closure to ensure the space befits its history. There is so much to explore in the refurbished space, from stunningly recreated masterpieces to royal portraits to interactive histories of the House and the borough.

“Whether you’re a resident of the borough or are just visiting, and regardless of whether you have a spare afternoon or hour we look forward to welcoming you the next time you make your way to the peaceful house on the riverside.”

Stuart Hoble, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said:

“Thanks to National Lottery players, the lost grandeur of Orleans House has been recaptured and its collections and stories can be enjoyed by many more people. Greater access to masterpieces, interactive histories of the borough and new visitor facilities mean Orleans House is true cultural and heritage hub on the Thames riverside. Congratulations to the project team, volunteers and supporters.”

The Gallery will be open each week from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm.

Believe me, a phone call can change your life!

By Bruce Lyons



There I was in the fall of 1963 managing a travel desk at Kempthornes (Now H & M) in Richmond. Happy as Larry, just back from a holiday in New York and New Orleans and the phone goes. It's my boss. He tells me that he's ill and is meant to go to Israel as a guest of the Israeli Government. Would I go instead? No I thought – got too much work to do having been away for two weeks and then I thought, you know what, he's got a problem and I'm doing him (the boss) a favour. Big Decision! I went.

I just loved everything, the people, the history, the Green Line, The Dead Sea, the Red Sea and the Desert, Just one amazing dynamic country!

I returned to the UK and immediately started to learn Hebrew and planned to go and live in Israel and work in Desert Tourism. But a month later I met Hedda (now my wife) at the reunion for the trip at the Israel Government Tourist office. She was the Hebrew Typist (that's useful I thought) BUT she said NO! It's not a good idea, you are not even Jewish! (She didn't even like my Hebrew teacher's Hebrew accent) Better she said, that if you want to work with Israel – go open your own Travel Agency and bring tourists to Israel – which is exactly what we did in 1966.



We did try through the years with all sorts of twists and turns but with little success until 1975 when I was introduced to a broker whose task was to find support for a charter flight to Eilat, that the Israeli Government were prepared to subsidise. Yes, that's right, here we come! DESERT TOURISM. And that's what we did for the next 20 years (and more). Dafna and Shona, our daughters used to go to the airport as teenagers and standby for empty seats to Eilat in the school holidays and these days Dafna and her family live there with our grandchildren running Aqua-Sport, a fantastic Dive Centre.

There were good years and bad years, sometimes it was politically unstable – I remember some especially funny times, when Cliff Michelmore did the Holiday programme from Eilat and interviewing a nice couple enjoying their Winter Sun break, he asked them what the Kosher Food was like and the husband replied “well it is sort of OK but they have funny ideas about not serving milk with meat in the meal” and then after his programme we received sacks of mail (whole sacks) from New York as a result of a travel writer Archie Gonzales writing in the New York Sunday Times about Eilat as the new Winter Sun place (too late unfortunately as the last flight of the season had gone!) But it was fun times. Yes, it was always fun and interesting.

And I was doing what I wanted to do most, Desert Tourism! And not just to Eilat and Israel. We spread all around Jordan and Petra – The Sinai, Sharm, Hurghada, Luxor, the Nile and even Cairo and a host of other things. I was even honoured to have been given the Freedom of the City of Eilat and till this day we work with the region despite the sad vagaries of politics.

So when the phone rings, just grab it – you never know what may be in store!

**Postponed
to March 17th
due to snow!!**

Sponsored by:
Sainsbury's
Richmond Friars Stile Local



Skating Returns

To Richmond!

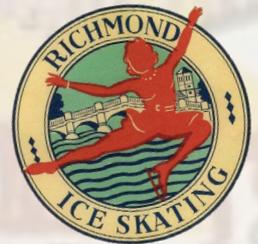
Come join us celebrate

Richmond's skating heritage!

Saturday 17th March

10am to 5pm

The Vineyard School



Friars Stile Road, Richmond, TW10 6NE

High-quality synthetic ice rink for children and adults

Exhibition on the historic Richmond Ice Rink

(The world's largest when it opened in 1928!)

Bouncy Castle, Mega Slide, Snow machine and much more!

Children's Book Party to celebrate our new library

FREE General Admission & Exhibition / Ice skating: £5 per half hour session / Bouncy castle, Mega slide: £3 per session

Tickets and information: www.vineyardpta.org

Exhibition supported by WWW.icerinx.COM:



The Vineyard School PTA - Charity no. 1150744



River Crane Sanctuary



We joined Keith Martin on a birdwalk organised by FORCE (Friends of the River Crane environment) last Sunday and highly recommend others to go on the next one.

Pleasant company, knowledgeable and interesting facts/ history of the birdlife and nature along this stretch of the River Crane corridor which we live near and love so much.

i.e from Kneller Gardens towards The Shot Tower.

Ian, who we saw laying hedges last week, pointed out beautiful Violets which are growing due to careful management of the pasture lands and hedgerows by nature enthusiasts.

Frances shared information on the trees and led another walk we enjoyed along the Duke of Northumberland River where we learnt a lot about the River's health and inhabitants.

FORCE do not charge for any of their walks and need more members so that they can professionally represent us all with any environmental concerns that threaten to damage this vital River Corridor and Habitat. Individual membership is £5 or £8 for a household and their website has a wealth of excellent information and joining instructions.

The River Crane Sanctuary website has links to their website and others relating to the environment on our Ecology page along with photos/videos and music so please visit us soon. Link:



Photos: Sweet smelling Violets Egyptian Geese - Tut and Carmen Redwing - Red Listed endangered species Pigeon who found an Ice Rink!

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat

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

Twickenham MP Sir Vince Cable backs NSPCC children's mental health campaign

Sir Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, showed his support for improving children's mental health services by attending the NSPCC's Are You There? parliamentary reception.

With the Government's public consultation on its green paper proposals for children's mental health support due to close on 2 March, the charity's event meant MPs were able to discuss the increasingly important role that Childline plays in the mental health landscape.

The event was hosted in the House of Commons on Monday 26 February, where founder of Childline Dame Esther Rantzen revealed the service had delivered 101,454 counselling sessions on mental and emotional health issues in the last year alone.

Dame Esther stressed the urgency for investment in Childline as she told politicians and other key stakeholders how two thirds of Childline counselling sessions take place outside school hours, and that children often use Childline as a means of early mental health support.

Some children have told counsellors they are being directed to contact Childline after normal working hours by statutory services, such as child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) or local authority children's services in England.

This shows the need for additional out-of-hours support, and is just one of the factors contributing to the huge demand for support from Childline. Currently counsellors can only respond to 3 out of 4 children who need their help.

Sir Vince Cable MP heard from several young people who had benefitted from Childline after suffering from mental health issues, ranging from depression to anxiety.

Barbara Keeley, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care also spoke at the event and stressed the importance of a mental health support system that is accessible for all children and young people, as well as adequate funding for voluntary services, like Childline, that can provide early support for children.

The public can get behind the NSPCC's children's mental health campaign, Are you there? by signing a petition to encourage Government to increase funding to Childline before 2 March. The funding will help to recruit more counsellors, deliver training to help manage the increased complexity of counselling sessions, and help provide more online resources for children and young people.

It costs £4 for a counsellor to answer a child's call for help to Childline.



A Twickenham Mother who lost four sons in World War 1

It is not surprising that anyone researching The Fallen from the first World War experiences sad moments at uncovering records of the loss of so many local young men. Indeed, Sue and I have, over the past few years, had many such melancholy feelings while looking at names from the Memorials at St Mary's, Holy Trinity and All Saints Churches in Twickenham; we now refer to them as "our lads".

A very recent finding has been especially poignant in this respect. Sarah Finnis was living in April 1911 at 19 Gravel Road; her husband Robert, a labourer, had died at the age of 53 a few months previously, and she was working as a laundrywoman. It seems she had had six children, a daughter Sarah and sons Charles, John, Richard, Robert and Arthur. All five sons joined the Army.

The first to be killed, in May 1915, was Arthur aged 20 serving with the Royal Berkshire Regiment; his body was not found and he is commemorated at le Touret Memorial.

In October 1916, towards the end of the Battle of the Somme, Charles died of wounds inflicted while serving in the East Surrey Regiment; he was 34 and had been decorated for bravery with the Military Medal. He is buried in Abbeville.

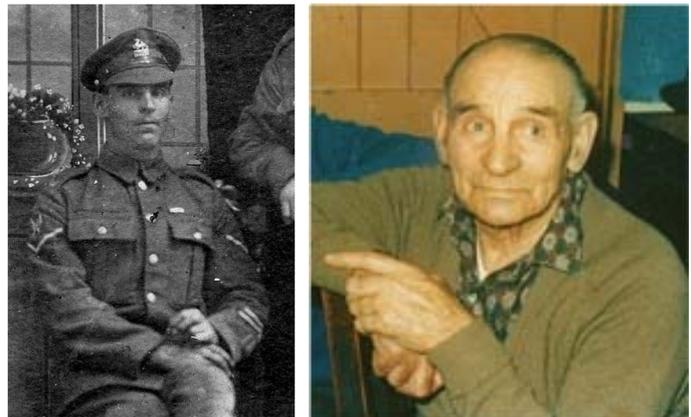
Almost one year later John, who was serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery, died of wounds received during the Passchendaele campaign, at the age of 26. He is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery near Ypres. He married Minnie in 1910.

In September 1918, Just a few weeks before the Armistice, Richard, aged 29, was killed in action with the Middlesex Regiment, leaving a widow Ellen. They had been married four years previously. He is buried in Villers-Guislain in France.

These four names appear on the memorial list from All Saints Twickenham (John's first name is mistakenly given as George).

The only surviving brother, Robert, had enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1910 at the age of 18; he joined the British Expeditionary Force ("The Old Contemptibles") in France at the start of the war, and was badly wounded in the right shoulder (being recorded as 70% disability) on the first day of the Somme offensive. He was later transferred to the Army Ordnance Corps, and discharged in June 1919, to his home address of 65 Campbell Road Twickenham. For his service, he was awarded a gratuity of £71.5.0, the 1914 Star with Clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, as well as the Silver War Badge. In 1939 he was still living in Twickenham, at 86 Warburton Road with his wife Edith and children.

Sarah Finnis had thus lost four sons. She died aged 64 in 1924. What a heart-breaking story.



Robert Finnis, as a Lance-Corporal in Royal Berkshire Regiment, and in later years. I am indebted to Mike Churcher for permission to reproduce these pictures, and for much information about Finnis family history

New scheme to tackle loneliness and housing shortage launched

A new home share scheme that aims to tackle loneliness as well as a shortage of housing is being launched by Richmond and Wandsworth councils.

The scheme, popular in a number of other boroughs, aims to encourage elderly householders to offer accommodation to individuals, in exchange for companionship and support. Both councils are to work with Home Share UK (the UK network for Home Share schemes) to deliver the initiative. They will act as a 'match maker' across a range of Home Share providers – identifying isolated or lonely people and matching them with someone who can provide a nominal number of hours of support a week, in exchange for affordable accommodation. The Home Sharer helps with daily living tasks such as; cleaning, shopping, gardening, overnight security and companionship.

Homesharing has a number of benefits. For the older resident, the arrangement offers support with everyday tasks, enabling them to stay independent in their own homes for longer. It also provides companionship, helping to combat loneliness and social isolation.

For the younger Homesharer it provides affordable housing at a time of housing shortages and rocketing rents. It also provides companionship and new relationships in a comfortable family home. Homeshare is also a great life experience and addition to a CV. The Councils will work in partnership with local employers and educational establishments. This includes working with HMP Wandsworth and St Mary's College, promoting opportunities for both staff and students.

The programme is a safe and supported arrangement. Home Share UK carefully assess all applications and link applicants to the most suitable provider of Home Share brokerage, who will then take references, conduct enhanced DBS checks and have a thorough assessment and matching process to ensure risk and safeguarding issues are well managed.

Cllr David Marlow, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health, said:

“Homeshare is an imaginative programme aimed at tackling the lack of affordable housing for younger adults as well as helping to overcome the huge loneliness problem experienced by many older people.

“We know how much people enjoy being able to stay in their own home – and the benefits that come with doing so. This scheme allows those participating to maintain their independence and dignity, while knowing help is always there should they need it.

“Homeshare brings new bed spaces into the housing market and provides a wonderful opportunity for creating friendships across the generations.



For more information or to apply, go to:
www.homeshareuk.org



Mothering Sunday/Mother's Day – call it what you will

By Alison Jee

This year Mothering Sunday falls quite early – next Sunday, 11 March in fact. Hopefully, we might have some signs of spring by then, but looking out of the window as I pen this, with the snow flurries outside, it is hard to imagine!

Restaurants and other eating establishments all push their lunch offerings for Mother's Day (as it seems to be called for commercial terms). And, of course, we are fortunate in being spoilt for great places to eat around this area. Last year I was thinking more of riverside open air type venues, but maybe this year we will all want something cosy, even with log fires? The Crown is always a very reliable option, with reasonable prices, great food to suit all appetites, and it is dog-friendly so canine family members can join you. Then there's the White Swan (also dog friendly), such a cosy local treasure and steeped in history, but it is tiny, so do make a reservation if it isn't already too late to do so. The Royal Oak does Sunday lunches - as do most of the pubs locally and many of them are dog friendly too. The Eel Pie and the Fox (another cosy bolthole) both also provide great food at reasonable prices. We are so lucky to have lots of pub options spanning the area from the Turk's Head, to the Anglers and many others further afield in Teddington, Hampton and Richmond. And as well as all the other options in Church Street and beyond, TW2 (reviewed by yours truly at the end of January), is reputed for its Sunday roasts.

But there are lots of options for treating your mother food-wise, including perhaps afternoon tea somewhere nice, like The Bingham, or The Petersham? According to the Bingham's website 'Afternoon tea dates back to 1840 and was introduced by the Duchess of Bedford to plug the gap between lunch and dinner and went on to become a fabulous, fashionable, social affair.' The Petersham has recently appointed a new chef and I'll be checking out its afternoon tea offering soon, so will report back. With the lovely setting, it is certainly a 'tea with a view'.

Or you could postpone the feasting on the day itself and indulge your mother with a voucher. Most good restaurants and hotels offer a wide selection of vouchers and many will even post

them to the recipient directly for you, together with a personal message. An ideal alternative for Twickersfolk whose mothers don't live locally.

And of course you could always cook something yourself! We're lucky to have some great food shops locally as well as the major supermarkets, which will, no doubt, be offering a 'Mother's Day' meal deal of some sort.



Offers and Competitions

Win a copy of Slow Dough: Real Bread

Nourish Books published this great book by Chris Young and the bakers of the Real Bread Campaign in 2016, (with commissioned photography by Victoria Harley). It is a lovely hardback volume, and two lucky Twickenham Tribune readers can win a copy in this week's competition.



To enter, email win@twickenhamtribune.com with your contact details and tell us in no more than 25 words why you would like to win a copy of the book.

Closing date is Friday 9 March 2018 at noon. (There is no cash alternative, prize is as specified and entry deems permission for the winners' names to be published.)

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)

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Email: secretary@shgc.net
To find out more visit: www.shgc.net



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Get a free ticket when you book yours



A Special Offer for All Visitors to the Mark Aspen Reviews Website.

Two-for-One Tickets for The Questor's production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Judy Dench Playhouse, Ealing.

The [Questors](#), Ealing's premier theatre is giving two tickets for the price of one for its next show, which runs 9th to 17th March.

To claim your free ticket, get the unique Mark Aspen discount code at www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Residents of Twickenham postcodes have been allocated 10,000 tickets for The Clash

Be there as the worlds of rugby and entertainment come together for an unmissable event at Twickenham Stadium, the home of English Rugby.

The Clash is back on Saturday 7th April 2018, when Bath Rugby will take on their fiercest rivals Leicester Tigers at Twickenham Stadium.

Last season, over 60,000 enjoyed an epic family day out, creating an atmosphere that carried the Blue, Black and White to victory.

The event combines sport and family entertainment into one unmissable event at the home of English Rugby, including an Aviva Premiership top-flight game between rivals, Bath Rugby and Leicester Tigers.

Residents can book tickets at <https://www.bathrugby.com/theclash>





Taking Sides

By Ronald Harwood

The Questors at The Studio, Ealing, until 3rd March

Review by Viola Selby

From a young age we are taught about the horrors of World War II. We are taught about the monstrous Nazis and the heroic British and Americans, clearly defining the good and the bad. Yet one thing that is rarely looked into is that of the courageous deeds of certain Germans who did what they could to save those under persecution. Wilhelm Furtwängler is an excellent example of one of these unsung heroes. Using his reputation

as one of the greatest conductors of his time, Furtwängler helped many of the Jews in Berlin escape to safer territories. However, once the war was over, those considered to have been part of the Nazi party were questioned, tried in court and, if found guilty, often executed. Due to his decision to stay in Berlin throughout the war, Furtwängler was one of those accused



and brought in for questioning. It is through Ronald Harwood play, excellently directed by Stephanie Pemberton, that the essence of humanity in such a time of manipulation and uncertainty is explored in a way that encapsulates the audience, taking them back in time to the events of mid-1946 in the office of Major Arnold of the US Army.

At the beginning, the audience are plunged into darkness with only the light from a projector above the stage, showing clips of Furtwängler conducting, whilst other images of events from the war are being shown. At the same time the room is filled with the melodic sounds of one of Furtwängler's pieces. This really does help to set the atmosphere, as well as help the audience to understand a little bit more about who this man was. This same simplistic yet effective approach is used throughout the play. With the use of only one set design, Major Arnold's office, and six characters, the feeling of intensity and claustrophobia are palpable as all of the audience's attention is focused on the events within the office and Arnold's growing frustration as he tries to gather evidence against this popular conductor

Read more of Viola Selby's review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/24/taking-sides

Photos by Jane Arnold-Forster

Council Tax rise to protect key local services

Faced with massive cuts in Government funding, Richmond Council will be raising Council Tax to protect the key services that residents want and need.

Historically, under successive Governments, Richmond upon Thames has been poorly funded. The four year Finance Settlement arranged in 2016 has resulted in Richmond losing its Government General Grant by 2018/19. This continues to leave Richmond as the lowest funded Council in London with the Council Tax paid by residents covering an ever higher share of service costs.

Current levels of Government funding do not adequately cover a number of key council services such as children's services and adult social care. Together these areas account for over half of the Council's budgeted expenditure.

This is the backdrop against which, on Tuesday (6th March), the Council will discuss proposals to accept a further 2% Government precept for social care as well as a 1.99% increase in Richmond's element of the Council Tax.

At the meeting, Members will hear how in responding to Government cuts, the Council has managed to make savings and efficiencies of £56m since 2011.

These savings have been achieved from internal restructuring, sharing of services with other organisations, procurement and contract savings and through more income generation. It also includes savings relating to the establishment of the Shared Staffing Arrangement with Wandsworth Council (SSA).

Cllr Stephen Speak, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

"We seek to keep Council Tax as low as we can. This increase is less than the 5.99% maximum permitted by Government while still allowing us to keep investing in our borough. Our schools, our high streets, our highways and pavements and support services for vulnerable adults and children must all be paid for, with the Council Tax covering a greater proportion of the costs. "Since 2011 we have successfully saved £56m from our budget, but by 2021 we have to find a further £20m. As the lowest funded borough in London this is a difficult challenge that will take innovative thinking and continued good management of the Council.

"To balance the books we have had to get slimmer and smarter in delivering our services. Successful implementation of our digital strategy will be a key next step in enabling services to be provided more efficiently at lower costs.

"Despite the intense pressure on our budgets we have still managed to deliver high quality services – and in the recent resident's survey – I am pleased that 87% of people are satisfied with how we are performing. 70% of people recognise that we are providing value for money.

"This increase will ensure we can continue investing in our services. Together, we will keep Richmond upon Thames as the best borough in London"



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

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; Said 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/>



GARDENING GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS

All schools in Richmond borough will be eligible to apply for a grant to help pupils become involved in gardening and conservation projects in their grounds. That's the aim of a new crowd-funding appeal just launched by Richmond Borough in Bloom, hoping to reach £5000.

The community group, which has run gardening competitions in the borough for over 25 years, has always sought ways of encouraging children's interest in their natural environment and previously made gardening grants to 52 borough schools with funding donated by eBay. The scheme proved highly successful but the funding has now run out and Richmond Borough in Bloom would like to re-start it.



Given public support, schools will be able to apply in any term for a grant up to £250 to help meet the cost of plants or equipment. For some it provides the encouragement to make a start on gardening while for others it will assist development of new projects planned.

Past grants were used for such works as creating raised borders for vegetables, providing a compost site and a wormery, digging out a pond to establish wildlife and planting a sensory area of plants and shrubs.

Creating gardens in schools will help build, in kids, a life-time appreciation of our natural environment and a will to care for it. With your help we will be able to start up this great scheme again.

To donate visit

<https://swlen.org.uk/campaigns/school-gardening-grants-appeal/>

GUINNESS IS A DARK DRINK - The Weir

by Conor McPherson

English Touring Theatre and Mercury Theatre co-production
at Richmond Theatre until 3rd March, then tour continues
until 10th March
Review by Celia Bard



I was delighted to be asked to review this play at Richmond as it is the first time that I've seen The Weir performed on a large proscenium stage. In smaller open stage theatres, it would not be unusual for an audience to feel that they are sitting in the same snug and eavesdropping on a group of locals enjoying the hospitality of their remote, rural pub on a bleak, blustery night, and amusing themselves by telling ghost stories. I wondered was there a risk that this level of intimacy would be lost at Richmond Theatre.

To a certain extent my fears were unfounded. The quality of the writing, the ghost stories, the rhythm of the dialogue, the acting strengths of some of the actors and the overall soundness of direction succeeded in drawing the audience into a world of casual bar joking and sometimes not so friendly local talk and gossip. The feeling of intimacy was also achieved by this production's imaginative stage construction. The shabby bar furniture, the wood burning stove, the atmospheric use of firelight, the subtle spotlighting of storytellers all helped focus the audience into believing that they were there.

Read Celia Bard's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/02/28/weir

Photo by Marc Brenner

DYING WITH LAUGHTER! - Curtains

by Stephen Bill

RTK at The Rose Theatre, Kingston until 17th March
Review by Mark Aspen



No doubt The Grim Reaper has a chill edge to his scythe, so it was with some poetic justice that reaching The Rose Theatre for the press night of Curtains was through a -3°C blizzard, with the scythe edge of the wind bringing a chill factor into the minus double digits. So, a good night to warm up by going to see a play billed as "a comedy about the end of life". I approached unconvinced that The Grim Reaper is a laugh-a-minute sort of chap.

However, well before the interval, it became clear that Curtains is not a really comedy, it is a thought-provoking and taut exploration of bereavement and guilt that sits inside a comedy. The humour is there, but it is uneasy, although nevertheless genuine, and comes from the edginess of the play and from the characters' non sequiturs that emerge from us all in times of stress.

Although the sanctity of human life is paramount, The Grim Reaper may in extremis be welcomed, although perhaps not when introduced by one of one's nearest and dearest. Yes, Curtains is a comedy about euthanasia! But under the pen of Stephen Bill, and the exacting direction of Lindsay Posner, it becomes in the current Rose Theatre's revival, a poignantly provocative work of art

Read Mark Aspen's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/02/curtains

Photo by Manuel Harlan

WANT THE FACTS BEHIND THE HEATHROW CONSULTATIONS BEFORE YOU REPLY?



Please come along to our public meeting
8pm Wednesday 21st March 2018

Church Meeting Hall, Christ Church,
Christchurch Avenue, Teddington, TW11 9AB

Teddington Action Group is hosting a meeting to discuss the two current Heathrow Consultations: the first is on Heathrow expansion and the second relates to airspace change.

Heathrow wants to start normal operating hours at 5.30am every day which means even less sleep and there is still no information on future flight paths. With the recorded breaches of air quality around the airport, expansion would mean illegal levels of air pollution, many more flights overhead, less time between planes and hundreds of thousands of people impacted by airport noise.

Guest speakers include **Vince Cable MP** and there will be a chance for questions at the end. All welcome. We aim to finish by 9.30pm.

The case for expansion is very weak so it's vitally important that local people keep up the campaign to make their voices heard before MPs vote this summer. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please go to our website for suggestions on how to answer:

www.teddingtonactiongroup.com

To respond, go to www.heathrowconsultation.com
or email expansion.feedback@heathrowconsultation.com

The consultations end Wed 28 March.

Dear Sir

Plans for Teddington Charity Community Hub

I have just been to the “Village Drop-in” at Elleray Hall in Teddington to see the council’s plans for their so-called Charity “Community Hub”.

It seems the plan is knock down Elleray Hall as it is not “fit for purpose”, and then build a Community Hub at another location for three local Charities: RAID (Richmond Advice and Information on Disability), RUILS (Richmond Independent Living Service} and Elleray Hall Social Centre. Sadly no one from the council could tell me exactly why Elleray, which is warm, dry, spacious and has a lovely garden and car parking, is not fit for purpose.

Councillor Fleming, whose idea this apparently is, recently stated that the council wishes to “put the community at the heart of everything we do”. Does she realise that while this process was taking place it would be dreadfully upsetting for the users of the three charities?

Furthermore the chances are that the new Community Hub would have less overall space than they do at present, less car parking and there would be no benefit to the three charities being under one roof.

So what is the point of this very expensive exercise anyway?

Yours sincerely

Jim Bletchley
Teddington

Dear Twickenham Tribune,

A reply to Deon Lombard

I'm sorry that on Twickerati Deon Lombard on behalf of TRPT has dismissed my concerns (Twickenham Tribune edition 68) about two way traffic on Wharf Lane as "trite piffle". I'll leave it to local people to stand at the corner of Wharf Lane and King Street and judge for themselves whether that narrow road could support HGVs, refuse lorries etc. both entering and exiting it without causing chaos to the traffic flow on King Street – all supposing it is even physically possible to fit them {plus pedestrians and two cycle lanes} into the lane in complete safety. I'm afraid that all those dozens of non local people from around the globe (David Hall from New Zealand, Robert Archer from California, Elena Davidova from Moscow etc. etc.) who signed the TRPT petition will have to rely on Google Earth for guidance on this.

I should like to reassure all those worried that there won't be room for markets, events etc on Twickenham Riverside when the new development is completed. There will be enough room. TRPT are ignoring the fact that adjacent to the new open space are the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. We already hold popular and extremely well attended events on the Gardens. The new development will enable us to extend and expand these events and there will be more than enough space for events or a farmers' market, should they wish to move from their Holly Road Car Park location.

Kind regards,
Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham TW2

Dear Twickenham Tribune

Another reply to Deon Lombard

Responding to Sue Hamilton-Miller's letter of the 23rd Feb.: 'you're having a laugh, right?' I'd rolling in the aisles but for the sneaking suspicion that there are people in the Borough with a genuine concern that they are being taken for fools.

No disrespect meant to Deon Lombard who runs, according to his website 'a small practice architecture company in Richmond'. He obviously excels at designing nice loft extensions, kitchens and bathrooms.

It must though have been noticed by both those who support and those who are bemused by the logic of his sketches that he has omitted to tell us the cost of this grassless town square with underground car park. I hate to be indelicate – but at a time of austerity when Councils all over the country are grasping for the funds to support social care and children's services – how much will both the construction and ongoing maintenance this of carless park cost the tax payer? One must assume the proponents care.

Moreover it might useful to persuade Gareth Roberts, leader of the local Lib Dems to look at the Council's accounts and discover if he, given a take-over at the May election, will commit to financing the Park scheme. Although he appears to be keen on raising the Council tax ever higher it would appear Mr Roberts has so far evaded any firm pledge to put money behind the scheme. Why is that I wonder....

Perhaps Park supporters could provide Borough residents with a cost estimate and a review of subsequent Council tax increases based of course on the Government's precept?

So, straight question for Deon, and a straight answer please – how much will it cost to a) build and b) maintain your 'vision' per annum, and c) what essential services may suffer in consequence? (I am assuming you are used to providing clients with estimates, so it shouldn't be too challenging).

Regards,
Susan Burningham (TW1)

Dear Twickenham Tribune,

A reply from Deon Lombard

We respond to the letter from Sue Hamilton-Miller in last week's Twickenham Tribune. What should be borne in mind when reading this letter, is that Mrs Hamilton-Miller is part of a minority group of Twickenham residents who support the retention of the car park on Twickenham Riverside. This is completely contrary to what a majority of Twickenham residents requested in the Barefoot Consultation in 2010, and as was subsequently reinforced in the TAAP in 2013, namely a fully pedestrianised riverside.

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team (TRPT) have demonstrated in detail that it is entirely possible to achieve this objective, opening the way for a car-free riverside park and a large town square (also an outcome of the Barefoot Consultation) with all parking provided below the square. We are not having a laugh.

It is a pity Mrs Hamilton-Miller has not taken the time to properly read (and understand) the TRPT Traffic Report before launching her misinformed attack on our proposals. At no point have we stated or implied that vehicles would "turn right into Wharf Lane when approaching from Heath Road or Cross Deep". Why would we? There would also be no 'ramps' to and from the proposed town square, as the square and access/egress points would be at the same level as King Street.

Currently, and as would also be the case with the new Council proposals, ALL HGVs including articulated trucks, would enter the site from King Street along Water Lane and re-enter King Street from Wharf Lane. The dramatic turning scenario Mrs Hamilton-Miller paints thus applies equally to the current situation and to future Council proposals, but much less so to the TRPT proposals. So why make the point?

The TRPT proposals would in fact offer a great improvement. The small number of servicing vehicles requiring access to Wharf Lane (now no longer a through route) would be limited to a maximum of 10 metres in length. With the proposed removal of all parking and loading bays from Wharf Lane, the creation of an unobstructed shared surface at least 9 metres wide, and improved turning radii into and out of King Street, the smaller vehicles would not create the obstructions Mrs Hamilton-Miller so vividly describes. Furthermore, as Wharf Lane would no longer provide the only through way exit route from the riverside, traffic volumes, in particular those of HGVs, would be considerably reduced. All in all these improved conditions would be far safer for pedestrians and cyclists, the primary objective of the exercise.

The Council proposals would actually exacerbate the existing situation: they plan to retain Wharf Lane as the only vehicular exit route from the site, to retain parking bays and to introduce large loading bays up to 18 metres in length (as also proposed for Water Lane). Furthermore, their proposal to close the existing service road connection between Water Lane and Wharf Lane means that service vehicles that previously used that route would also be required to drive along the riverside, thus increasing the number of HGVs currently driving along the Embankment road and up Wharf Lane.

What nonsense then to claim that under the TRPT proposals Wharf Lane would be more dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists than would be the case with the Council proposals: ALL vehicles, including an increased number of HGVs and articulated trucks, would have to exit the site along the only through route along Wharf Lane, with its clear travel width being restricted by parked cars and HGVs using the proposed loading bays to service the entirety of the King Street shops.

And then further myths ensue. The proposed playground in the riverside park would not be smaller, but considerably larger than the current offering hidden away in the hard-paved Jubilee Gardens. There would after all be so much more space available. It would form part of a whole children + family centre, including a tea room, soft play areas, children's library etc., combined with genuine boathouses and jetty to enable families to take part in water activities in this corner of the site.

This part of the proposal, by the way, is in response to comments made by a number of residents at the Council run 'consultation workshops' in 2016 regarding the lack of family and children's facilities in Twickenham. What better place to have these! Unlike the Council, we were listening. As shown on our proposals, a Lido could also be provided above the children + family centre - an ideal complement to one other.

As for overshadowing of the large central square, it would be large enough to have sunlight on the west side in the morning, and sunlight on the east side in the evening; well suited to a range of uses during the course of the day. On the other hand, the miniscule excuse for a 'square' proposed by the Council would be completely overshadowed in the afternoon by the monstrous three storey docklands warehouse-style building on its west side, which would not only block out the afternoon sun, but also prevents an opening out of the site to provide a properly sized public amenity space as proposed by the TRPT.

It would appear that the minority groups supporting the Council proposals can only do so by attacking the clearly set out alternative by the TRPT. After all, it must be a real challenge to find anything positive to say about the Council proposals - and even more difficult to justify a riverside road and car park when there is a clear, feasible and entirely better whole site alternative supported by so many local residents.

Deon Lombard

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team

Half Page

Quarter Page Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page Landscape

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