

# The Twickenham Tribune

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## Contributors

[Alan Winter](#)  
[TwickerSeal](#)  
[Alan Winter](#)  
[Erica White](#)  
[Sammi Macqueen](#)  
[St Mary's University](#)  
[Richmond upon Thames](#)  
[College](#)  
[Teddington School](#)  
[Vineyard School](#)  
[Vince Cable](#)  
[TAG](#)  
[Helen Baker](#)  
[Alison Jee](#)  
[Richmond Film Society](#)  
[Mark Aspen](#)

## EDITORS

[Teresa Read](#)  
[Berkley Driscoll](#)

## Contact

[contact@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:contact@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
[letters@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:letters@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
[advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com)



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# FLOODING ON TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

## The week's Spring Tides

The chaos caused by the closure of access to the service road from Water Lane was reported to the local police and the Leader of the Council by the Tribune.

Police Sergeant Jon McLoughlin of North Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood Team told the Tribune that following a meeting with the Council he has been informed that one of the new green gates will now be opened to facilitate traffic going through the car park into the service road at the rear of the shops on Kings Street. He went on to say that the Council spokesman said that this should alleviate the traffic issues seen when the Embankment is flooded. This measure will be left in place but is dependent on the development work being undertaken.

However, we have not been informed of how the Council will deal with the situation once access to the service road in Water Lane is no longer available due to plans for the site.



4x4s rule



Cars making 3 point turns on Water Lane



2-way traffic in Water Lane



The answer to the flooding?

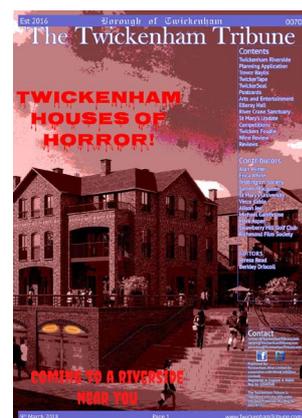


Block Bell Lane, that'll help!

Photos by Berkley Driscoll

To view video footage of the flooding fun, click on the image at right.

Video footage courtesy of @TwickerMan





This week Twickenham Riverside witnessed the expected high spring tides. Within two weeks of the planning decision in favour of the council's riverside development proposal, and their immediate closing of the service road access from Water Lane, many Twickenham locals were saying "I told you so!"

Despite the warnings of the Environment Agency, the council appeared blissfully unaware of the bimonthly flooding of the Thames (or "Thanes" according to the council notice).

To rectify the flooding problem the council engaged its full powers ... and suspended three parking bays. That'll fix it!

TwickerSeal was exasperated "Why close the access to the service road and why would you think this is a good location for the entrance to an underground car park?" Ah well, the council knows best.



# TwickerTape - News in Brief

**The Friends of Udney Park would like to remind readers that the Planning Application is imminent.** Comments can still be made on the planning website.

[http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/Planning\\_CASENO.aspx?strCASENO=18/0151/FUL&DocTypeID=41#docs](http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/Planning_CASENO.aspx?strCASENO=18/0151/FUL&DocTypeID=41#docs)

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

## British Summer Time

Don't forget that the clocks go forward an hour on 25 March.

## Council Elections

Make sure you are registered to vote in the Local Election on 3 May. If you are not registered you must register by 17 April [www.richmond.gov.uk/register\\_to\\_vote](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/register_to_vote)

## Boaty McBoat Race

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race takes place on Saturday afternoon.

## French Flowers

The Tribune has been told that the contract for Council flower baskets has gone to a French company. It is believed that an officer at Wandsworth Borough made this decision.

## It's Not A Bomb!

On Thursday Richmond Bridge was closed while authorities investigated reports of an unexploded WW2 bomb. The all clear was given once it was found to be a piece of fencing!

## Whitton Road

From next week, Whitton Road outside the stadium will have double yellow lines, as recent parking there has caused an obstruction for buses, cars and bikes. This has resulted from residents' complaints and action by the RFU.

## Would you like to learn watercolour painting or improve your skills?

Enjoy the pleasures of watercolour painting in small classes with leading tutor, Lee Campbell, in an outstanding location

We are taking  
Summer Term  
bookings now

07909 994594

[www.creativearttwickenham.uk](http://www.creativearttwickenham.uk)



**creative Art**  
Twickenham

The story begins on 10th July 1874 when a group of local residents met to discuss the establishment of a hospital for the treatment of the sick poor of Teddington. Two weeks later a second meeting was held to discuss finding premises for a cottage hospital. At this meeting Thomas Chappell who was head of the piano and music manufacturing and publishing firm, offered a pair of villas for the purpose – Elfin Villas in Elfin Grove Teddington. The buildings were adapted at a cost £149 & 7 shillings (£149.35) and the Teddington and Hampton Wick Cottage Hospital officially opened on 20th March 1875. Just under a year to conceive and establish a hospital is pretty good going I think! Our first postcard shows the hospital in about 1907.

The hospital had four beds to start with. Its income other than by subscriptions and donations was raised by such activities as fetes, bazaars, concerts and plays. In-patients were charged one shilling (5p) a day towards their keep but the wines and spirits served were of a superior quality we are told!



By 1881 the area had a population of around 7000 people and the Hospital Committee decided there was a need to provide out-patient treatment and a free dispensary. Again Thomas Chappell came forward and purchased a piece of land at the rear of the hospital upon which a dispensary was built.

In 1892 the population had increased to 10,000 and the hospital was extended to have 10 beds staffed by a matron and two trained nurses. Thomas Chappell died in 1902 and his family donated £580 to provide a new ward in his memory. In 1904 the Chappell ward was opened by his daughter and the hospital then had 22 beds. Our second postcard shows the staff in the garden and dates from this period.

By 1909 the Hospital was in financial difficulties and the Editor of the Surrey Comet launched a shilling fund on its behalf. In less than three weeks £448 had been collected and the number of beds increased to 24. The hospital had now run out of room for further expansion and a decision was made to seek a new site. A

fundraising campaign to build a new hospital on a new site was postponed due to the outbreak of World War 1.

After the war, the prospect of a new hospital was again discussed and the committee decided that it would also serve as a memorial to the war dead. Fund raising began in earnest and some 2.5 acres of land in Hampton Road was purchased from a nursery – R.D.Anderson. A war memorial was erected in front of the site of the future hospital and this was dedicated in 1921.



Still short of money for the new hospital, a magazine called “Our Town” was published in 1924. It was later renamed “Swan and Stag” and was published annually until 1934. The magazines are still available to see in Twickenham Library and the swan and stag became the emblems of the new hospital.

In March 1928, Lord Dawson of Penn, physician to the Royal family, laid the foundation stone for the new hospital.

The old cottage hospital closed on 4th November 1929. In the 55 years of its existence, over 14,000 patients had been treated there. The building was sold for £1,210.

The partly completed Teddington, Hampton Wick and District Memorial Hospital in Hampton Road opened in 1929. It had (and still has) a spacious oak lined hall with Reception and Enquiry desk and a porter’s duty office.

By 1931 the Hospital’s name had been shortened to the more manageable ‘Teddington Memorial Hospital’. I am sure many of us have benefited from its presence over the years and so I invite you to raise a glass and toast the staff and this wonderful local Hospital. Long may it continue!

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](mailto: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**



**Sunday, 25 March, at 6.30** Stainer's CRUCIFIXION is sung by St Mary's Parish Church Choir to celebrate Palm Sunday at the church in Thames Street, TW12 2EB.

Info: [www.hampton-church.org.uk](http://www.hampton-church.org.uk).

OLD HAMPTONIANS (OHADS) presents its Spring production at Hampton Hill Theatre (HHT) **Tuesday, 3 - Saturday, 7 April, at 7.45**, SEPTEMBER IN THE RAIN by John Godber.

Info: [www.positickets.co.uk](http://www.positickets.co.uk).

Teddington Theatre Club (TTC) holds its OPEN MORNING on Saturday, **7 April, 10.00-12.00 noon** at HHT, Hampton Hill High Street, when tours of all the facilities of the venue are included. Free coffee and biscuits. All welcome.

Info: [teddingtontheatreclub.co.uk](http://teddingtontheatreclub.co.uk)

**Tuesday, 3 April at 8.00pm at HHT**, Outside The Box comedy presents LEE HURST AND JOE WILKINSON in an evening of stand-up comedy. Info:

[www.outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk](http://www.outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk).

Live Screening of the Royal Opera House production of MACBETH is being shown at the Hammond Theatre, Hampton School, on **Sunday, 8 April at 2.00pm**.

Info: [thehammondtheatre.co.uk](http://thehammondtheatre.co.uk).

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR  
THIS SUNDAY  
25th MARCH**

**TWICKENHAM  
STOOP STADIUM  
Langhorn Drive, Twickenham,  
Middlesex, TW2 7SX**

**Up to 100 stalls - Free Parking - Café  
10am - 4pm Entry £3 (OAPs/Students £2)**

For information call: 07519276507

[info@haddonevents.co.uk](mailto:info@haddonevents.co.uk)

[www.haddonevents.co.uk](http://www.haddonevents.co.uk)

Hadden Events



Folk, Rock & Jazz enthusiasts are catered for at various bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub, TW1 3SZ

Twickfolk: **Sunday, 1 April.** SINGAROUND, bring song, tune or poem or just listen and enjoy.

Info: [www.twickfolk.co.uk](http://www.twickfolk.co.uk).

Twickenham Jazz Club usually inhabit the Patchworks Bar at the pub on **Tuesdays**, but NO JAZZ Easter Week. Then **Tuesday, 10 April 8.00-11pm** they play host to ZOE FRANCIS, JIM MULLEN and MICK HUTTON.

Info: [twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk](http://twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk).

The Eel Pie Club **on Thursday, 5 April, 8.30-11pm:** JIM McCARTY (Yarbirds) and JUDY DYBLE (Fairport Convention) & THE BAND OF PERFECT STRANGERS.

Info: [eelpieclub.com](http://eelpieclub.com).

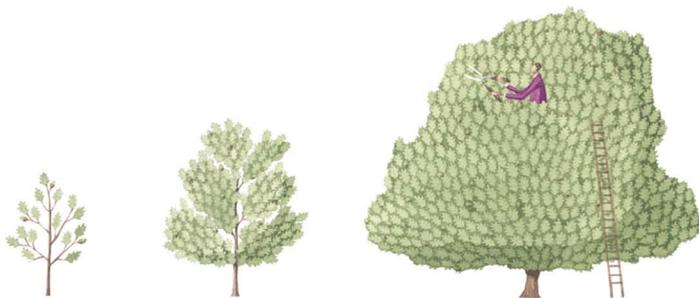
RICHMOND & TWICKENHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION is mounted at The Landmark Arts Centre (LAC). Free Admission.

Info: [landmarkartscentre.org.uk](http://landmarkartscentre.org.uk).

TURNER AND THE THAMES: Family Storytelling.

**Saturdays, 31 March & 7 April at 11am and 12 noon** Interactive storytelling with Olivia Armstrong, most suitable for 5+ (Parents will enjoy the newly planted Spring garden.

Info: [turnershouse.org.uk](http://turnershouse.org.uk).



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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



*The Tree Agency*

# Have your say

A Resident From Teddington

In many countries the national anthem is a call to action for citizens to fight oppressive rulers. While our monarchy acts with dignity and respect for its citizens, the local government council members and its functionaries in the Richmond/Wandsworth borough planning department seem to have forgotten that they live in a democracy. Their mandate is to serve the people and make decisions for the good of its taxpayers – rather than behave as lackies of the large, lucrative development firms.

There are at least three ugly disputes going on that impact Twickenham and Teddington directly but will impact the whole borough. Worse, the committee incompetence and disregard for protocol in making these important planning decisions seems to be following a pattern: side with the big spending corporate developers and ignore the input of and impact on the neighbourhood. Most interesting, the head of planning is not even part of Richmond borough!

Check out the disputes for yourself:

- Twickenham Riverside development ignored neighborhood requests for recreational areas in favour of executive housing where the few parking spaces are below the river flood levels.
- A council services house for teens whose behavior can't be coped with in foster care was secretly moved from a Twickenham location near schools and parks to a busy street in Teddington where there is little to do for teenagers.
- Quantum is pushing for Council approval to drastically reduce the playing fields from 9 to 2 and sell the remaining land for houses and offices – making an estimated profit £30 million.

The time has come for us to demand that the council make the interests of local residents their primary concern, follow the consulting process rules and put principles ahead of profit.

# A Blast from the Past

The Conservative Local Plan for Twickenham arrived last weekend. This newsletter informed residents that the revised plans for Twickenham Riverside were more in keeping with this historic riverside and created more community space.

The only plans I have seen are for very boring flats on Twickenham Riverside and the community space attached to the plans is little more than a token gesture for the original idea of a town square for Twickenham.

The writer goes on to say that we will have more public access to the Jubilee Gardens (Diamond Jubilee Garden - surely?) although these relatively small gardens already have three gates, all in view when standing within the gardens.

Finally we are told that our Conservative Council has binned the ghastly Libdem plans for a monster housing estate - this person has definitely been away from Twickenham for some time. The Liberal Democrats left office in 2010 and it is now 2018.

## **Flatpack Democracy - Reproduced from EDITION 10 of the Twickenham Tribune**

The party system of local government can be said to do no favours for residents, particularly if one political party has a strong majority. In this situation there is often little hope of individual elected ward councillors making a real contribution to important decisions - this can be seen in councils all over the country.

The current Twickenham Riverside saga is a prime example of this. There has been consultation with residents about council proposals (albeit late) but when a senior councillor was publically asked to take the wishes of thousands of people into account and emphatically said "No" residents can be forgiven for thinking that there may be something wrong with the system.

People in some parts of the country have already started to deal with this sort of thing by coming together in groups of Independents. Frome in Somerset made the news in 2015 by electing seventeen independent councillors and taking complete control of the council. The word spread to other areas in Somerset and further afield in towns in Wiltshire and Cheshire. It seems that major issues of local concern, like the Twickenham Riverside saga in the London Borough of Richmond, spark off such thoughts and maybe deeds.

Further reading: Flatpack Democracy by Peter Macfadyen

# River Crane Sanctuary



The Vernal Equinox last week marked the official beginning of Spring just as the snow melted in the Sanctuary. Four seasons in one week and yet we are assured by some that there are no climate change issues that need our immediate attention! Here are some photos to show the beauty of nature along the River Crane Sanctuary route which provides so much enjoyment and peace for us all and which so many think is worth valuing and preserving. More photos, videos and information is on our website. <https://www.e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>



*Sunset in the Sanctuary, Bee on Flower and Goldfinch eating snow*



Spring is a good time to create a pond and the RSPB have a video to show how easy it is to do even with just a washing up bowl in a small space. It creates a watering hole and wildlife habitat which is vital for our garden visitors. Take a look below and give it a go.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/createaminipond/>



*Redwing by Pond*

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat

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

# ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY UPDATE

## St Mary's Wins West London Varsity



St Mary's University, Twickenham won the 2018 West London Varsity in dramatic fashion over Brunel University on Wednesday.

The destination of the trophy came down to the final match of the day, women's futsal, which St Mary's won 9-5 to regain the title of West London Varsity Champions with an overall score of 19-18.

St Mary's, who hosted this year's annual tournament, made a strong start to the day and raced into a 10-4 lead with some strong performances in rugby league, football, cricket, weightlifting and fencing.



Brunel pulled it back to 10-10 with wins in basketball, netball, rowing and tennis before St Mary's regained and stretched their lead with a shock win in the men's tennis and victories in rugby union, hockey and football.

A hard-fought win in the men's futsal, which was unexpected with Brunel a division higher, put St Mary's within one win from victory before Brunel set up a grand finale with successes in volleyball and ultimate frisbee.

The women's futsal finished at 7.28pm, capping a near 12-hour marathon of sports, and St Mary's victory ensured a third straight home triumph in the West London Varsity.

Vice-President of Sports and Societies at St Mary's Students' Union Jess Carey said, "From the staff to spectators, to players, to volunteers, it's because of each of them that we were able to bring the cup home yesterday. I couldn't be more proud of every single person involved and the fact it went down to the very last game is a credit to Brunel and showcases what a fantastic sporting event the West London Varsity is."

Director of Sport at St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "A huge congratulations to every Simmie who competed to win such a hard-fought and creditable Varsity against Brunel. The standard of performance from both universities was excellent and all those who contributed to such a wonderful sporting event should be very proud."

# An International Perspective on the Lido

## Architecture Students from Richmond Upon Thames College

The Heritage Lottery Project <http://lidosalive.com/project.html> is looking at outdoor swimming - a variety of lidos, past and present - in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Local architecture students at Richmond upon Thames College have been researching styles of lido buildings and designing a lido for Twickenham. They have visited the site of Twickenham outdoor pool on Twickenham Riverside and the new Thames Lido in Reading. The students come from diverse backgrounds which has resulted in some very interesting and exciting styles of architecture.

Models and drawings of the final designs will be exhibited at the college on 28th June and will be available for the public to see from 5pm onwards. Check the college website for further information nearer the time.

### A selection of the students' work is shown below.

#### Noris Obijiaku

One of the themes in students' work is the importance of proximity of a new lido to the river. This lido plan has a glass window looking out on to the Thames; the other side of the lido has coloured glass doors. The traditional Scandinavian use of wood is incorporated in lamps and seating as well as the use of the original fretwork seen at a visit to the Thames Lido in Reading.

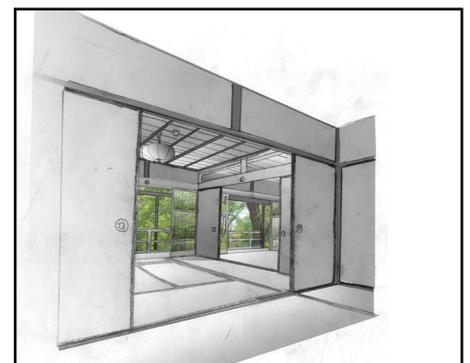
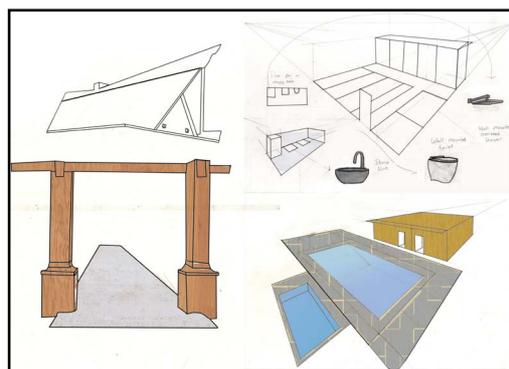
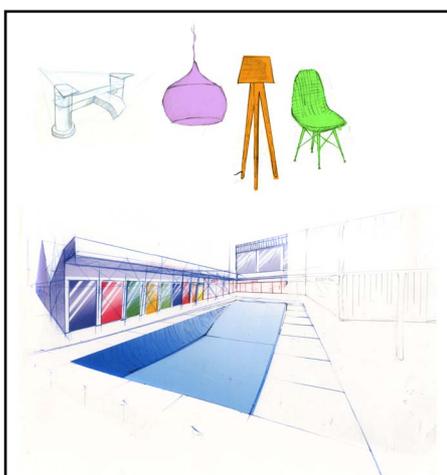
#### Will Pereira

This plan is influenced by the traditional Polynesian architectural style. Wood and stone are used and a mixture of straight and curved lines, as well as a fin. A replica of a Polynesian mask could be used as a door within the lido.

Islands of Polynesia <http://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=EasterIsland>

#### Junaid Sheikh

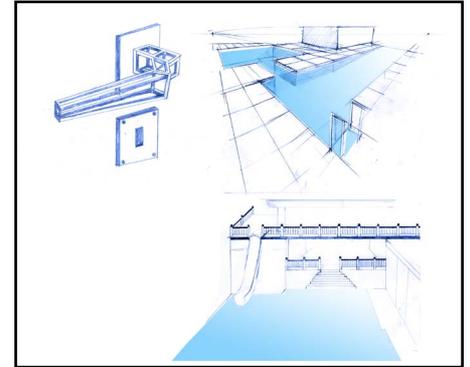
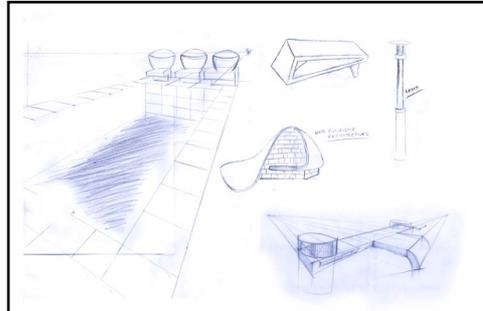
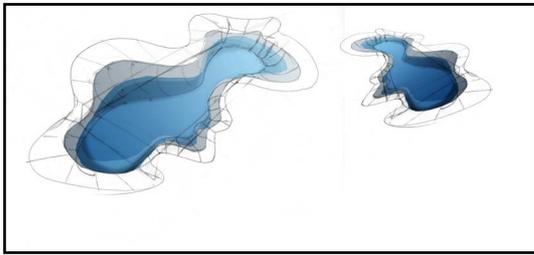
Traditional Japanese architecture and hot springs in mountain areas are the inspiration for this drawing - organic in style rather than rectangular. The river is on one side so there are views of the river and the pool on entering the lido. Materials are tiles, ceramics and wood; traditional Japanese sliding shoji doors are an important feature.



## René Ballesteros

This plan aims to make the most of the view of the Thames; a natural feature that was not a part of the design of Twickenham Baths. The idea behind this plan is modern with a natural look. Green tiling was proposed for the pool area to give a green effect to the colour of the water.

There is also a stepped terrace model; a more organic design of the pool allowing for enjoyment of the water and social interaction.



## Nadia Abdulkarim Ali

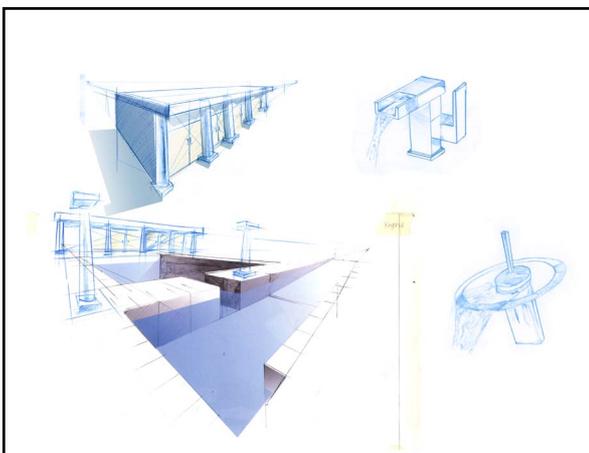
This design is based on a Roman Bath but is modern and minimalist. The pool is surrounded by wooden panels but marble is the main material used. There are waterfall taps at either end of the pool which contribute to the water supply. Stone is used for the changing rooms and sauna so everything blends.

## Leen Khalifa

This design is influenced by the W hotel in Dubai; an infinity pool on the sea to be translated to a pool on the river. The lido is very modern inside: glass and black marble - no wood is used. Geometric designs are used for fixtures and fittings.

## Krystel Marinas

This designer likes columns using Bath as an inspiration. It has a classical look outside but is more modern inside. The doors of the changing rooms could be made from a frosted plastic material. It was suggested that the designs for taps and other fittings could be part of the architectural style.



Cameron Liddy

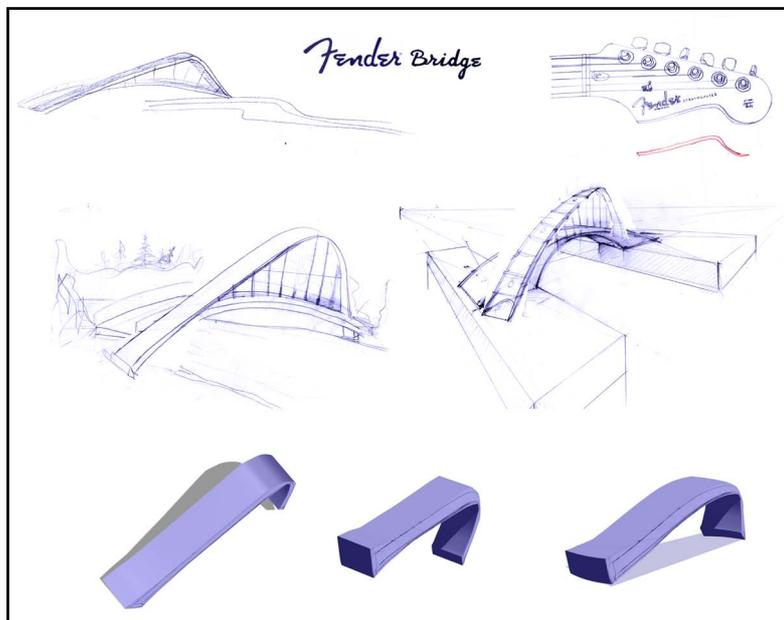
## A Replacement for the Eel Pie Bridge

As part of an architecture course at Richmond upon Thames College Cameron Liddy has set about designing a replacement bridge for the Eel Pie Bridge.

Harking back to the glory days of the music on Eel Pie Island the bridge is called the Fender Bridge based on a Fender guitar, used by many of the musicians back in the day. The shape of the head of the guitar - vintage 50s and 60s - provided inspiration.

Cables, forming structural support for the bridge, are representations of the strings of the guitar.

This design is for the Eel Pie Bridge but could also be adapted for a bridge between Radnor Gardens and Ham.



## TRIBUNE BOOKS

### Lidos Alive FREE download

<http://lidosalive.com/PDF/LA%20Booklet.pdf>

### Eating the WIZ Way

With a background of research on food around the world - World InfoZone.com - this book looks at foods which come under the heading of "Healthy Eating". Easy and economical recipes are provided which have resulted in weight loss and associated health benefits.

The book costs £7.95 plus £1.90 p+p

[Contact@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:Contact@TwickenhamTribune.com)

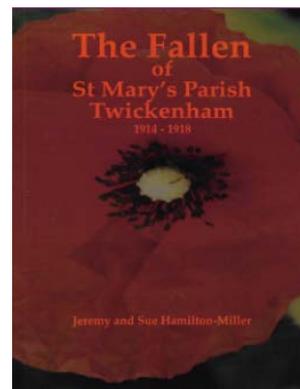
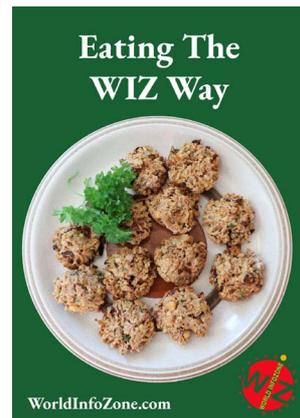
Review: <http://www.worldinfozone.com/>

## The Fallen of St Mary's Parish Twickenham 1914-1918

By Sue & Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

The book costs £8 plus £1 p+p and is available from the Local History Society's website at

[www.botlhs.co.uk](http://www.botlhs.co.uk)



# Royal Mail fails to answer key questions over the future of services following Hampton delivery office closure – Vince Cable

Vince Cable met senior management of Royal Mail at his office in Teddington yesterday (Monday) together with Councillor Gareth Roberts to protest at the proposed closure of the Hampton delivery office.

The main concern by residents – 1,800 of whom have signed an online petition – is that they may have a journey to Ashford to collect parcels.

Following the meeting Vince Cable commented:

“The Royal Mail answer is that they do not want people travelling to collect parcels but will deliver them at residents’ convenience through online booking, or to next door neighbours. This might be fine in theory, but is often difficult in practice. For residents who, say, want a parcel urgently or cannot make alternative arrangements, and do not have access to a car there is a tortuous bus journey. For those who live in Hampton Hill the journey is even more complicated.

“The Royal Mail justify the move in terms of both efficiency and giving staff more room to work. But the local staff in the Communications Workers Union dismiss these claims and are adamantly opposed to the switch.

“The Royal Mail is certainly changing thanks to email and online trade from being a letters service with a few parcels to a parcels service with a few letters. This obviously necessitates some changes. But this proposed move has antagonised customers and workers alike and needs rethinking.”

## Vince Cable’s South Twickenham Team

### Michael Butlin



Married, lived in the borough most of last 50 years, sons educated locally. Extensive career in IT and Reserve Forces provides a basis of skills and knowledge with which he has served the community - created the Annual Village of Twickenham Green Fete. Michael now wants to work hard, delivering community services that meet

our resident’s needs; development for people first, safe 20mph residential roads, easy walking for young, disabled and elderly, schools fit to meet the artificial intelligence challenge which our children will meet.

07821 150 253 | michael@butlin.com | @MichaelButlin

### Katie Mansfield



Katie lives in Twickenham with her husband, Justin, and three school age children. Katie is concerned about Brexit, the reduction of the tolerant, liberal voice and education cuts. As a resident and parent, she wants to ensure that Twickenham remains a great place to live, with developments such as Twickenham town centre, St Mary’s University and Greggs

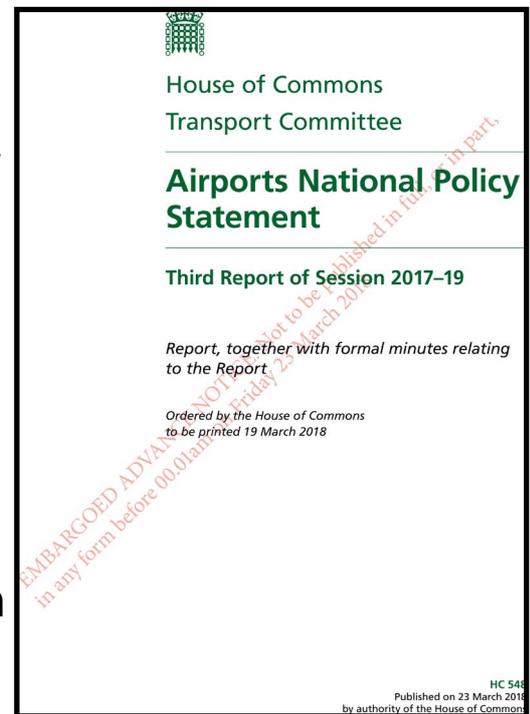
meeting the needs of the surrounding community. She travels into central London for work, understanding the frustrations of commuters, and wants to fight for improved, integrated transport options that reduce congestion and benefit the local air quality.

07526 070 068 | katie.mansfield@hotmail.com | @KatieMansfield

# Vince Cable welcomes House of Commons' Transport Committee report calling for Government to come clean over Heathrow expansion

Twickenham MP Vince Cable this week welcomed the influential House of Commons Transport Committee calling for the Government to provide answers to a number of questions he has long been asking. In a statement issued by the Transport Committee it was stated that 'serious questions about whether Heathrow expansion can ever actually happen' have now emerged.

The report highlights the absence of information and evidence being provided by the Government to justify Heathrow expansion.



*To view full report, click image above*

Commenting on the significant report published today

Vince Cable said:

“The House of Commons Transport Committee have done a useful job in examining the Government’s case for a third Heathrow runway.

“While it is clear that Conservative, Labour, DUP and SNP members of the Transport Committee are totally split over whether they ultimately back Heathrow expansion they have definitely sent out a united message that the Government are failing to provide some basic answers to a number of key issues relating to the cost to the taxpayer, passengers and airlines of expansion. The Transport Committee are also right to highlight that the Government appear to be underplaying the consequent increase in noise and air pollution that expansion will inevitably create.

“Their concerns on these key issues are my concerns.”

And in a further development Vince Cable has also uncovered this week the lack of preparation for dealing with household waste from local local residents if the third Heathrow runway goes ahead. At present Lakeside Energy from Waste processes non-recyclable waste from 12 local authorities, including six London Boroughs (Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames) which are part of the West London Waste Authority.

The location of Lakeside Energy from Waste is the site of the proposed third Heathrow runway, yet at present there are no agreed arrangements to ensure a new site is found for the incinerator.

Commenting on a recent response to a freedom of information request made to the West London Waste Authority asking what plans they have undertaken in preparation of finding alternative sites to incinerate waste than the Lakeside facility Vince said:

“I am bit staggered by the total lack of preparation Richmond and other London boroughs have given to this issue.

“Instead of properly planning ahead the whole approach of West London Waste Authority appears to be just to wait and see.”

“From the Secretary of State of Transport down to London Boroughs it seems no one has seriously given proper consideration so far to how to properly resolve this massive issue”

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LOTTERY FUNDED

# The People vs Heathrow Expansion: Decision Time Is Soon

Residents from Teddington and neighbouring towns packed the beautiful Christ Church in Teddington to get the latest update on progress. Teddington Action Group (TAG) is making to stop expansion of Heathrow airport and stop government approval for the third runway.



Stephen Clark reported on testifying before Parliament's Transport Select Committee (TSC), which is a committee established to scrutinize evidence related to building the third runway. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March the TSC committee delivered its report supporting expansion at Heathrow but with much tougher measures to protect local communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/news-parliament-2017/airports-national-policy-statement-report-published-2017-19/>

Sections of the Airports National Policy Statement will need to be revised before Parliament will review this report prior to voting on the runway before the summer recess.

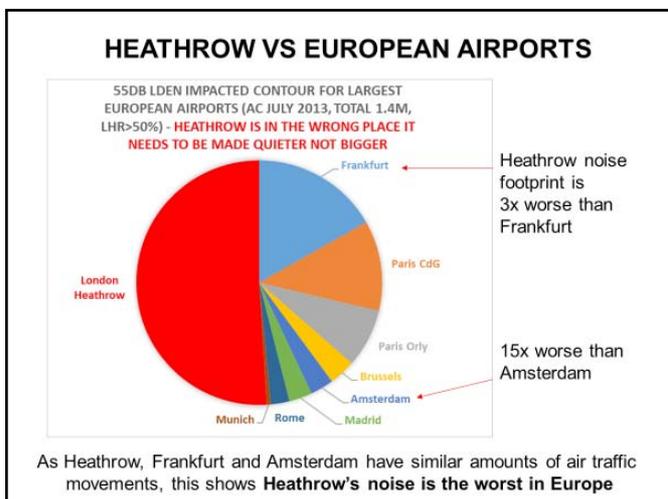
Despite Heathrow posturing as if they already have approval to expand, the TSC has grave concerns about

- the poor economic case whereby Heathrow's foreign owners have been accelerating the distribution of dividends such that their debt has wiped out the equity value. As a result, Heathrow only offers to contribute £1 billion to the cost of infrastructure modification to M25, M4, A316, etc. and public transport that Transport for London (TfL) estimates will cost £20 billion (which means the taxpayer would be forced to pick up the £19 billion difference even through Heathrow ownership and profit is in private hands).
- pollution and air quality already break legal limits three times over and are so high that if Heathrow expands and adds the projected 270,000 more flights per year, all other regional airports will be forced to reduce their flight numbers significantly.
- Noise not being properly assessed to the extent that the CAA has been forced to admit their methods are inaccurate and significantly more people are currently impacted and to a greater degree than originally reported. Additionally, Heathrow wants to reduce any respite from 8 to 4 hours, continue to fly some planes at night and start full scale airport operations at 5.30am. Potential new flight paths will be more concentrated to accommodate the 270,000 additional flights per year that would add 2.5 million more people under the "noise sewers", as the CAA has described the flight paths.

Neil Spurrier summarized the two Heathrow consultations currently being conducted on flight paths and a third runway. He pointed out that TAG offered suggested replies to the lengthy consultations (which close on 28th March) but that the consultations were really just a media ploy because no expansion has yet been approved nor flight paths defined, so how could people make intelligent choices when they didn't know the options. Try to respond to both even if just to say No to Heathrow expansion. The airspace consultation will be considered as part of the legal process and help is available on TAG website: <http://www.teddingtonactiongroup.com/>

Sir Vince Cable summarized some of his discussions with the cross-party MPs who now question the benefit of Heathrow's expansion. They also question who will pay for the expansion given Heathrow's huge debt and the fact that it is now acknowledged that expansion at Gatwick and regional airports would deliver more economic benefit than Heathrow and enable the politicians to say that ALL of Britain is open for business.

Paul McGuinness, chairman of the No 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway Coalition, revealed some of Heathrow's deceptive PR. One instance was John Holland-Kaye, Heathrow CEO, telling MPs that expansion was essential because Heathrow only had 80 long distance destinations compared to Paris's 86. What he failed to point out was that Heathrow was only one of London's airports and that the total long distance destinations from London (not just Heathrow) was 136. Additionally, Heathrow is the most disruptive airport in the world and any suggestion that expansion could be done without serious negative impact "is pants".



There were many good points made by attendees ranging from Heathrow's inability to fund this expansion; as well as the effect on house prices and the fact that there should be no further expansion because of climate change.

## Parking Mayhem At St Catherine's & Radnor House Continues

As the Easter holiday starts we can breathe a sigh of relief as some calm returns to the junction of Cross Deep and Pope's Grove in Strawberry Hill; a respite from the daily carnage of parents' inconsiderate parking as they make u-turns and hover on double yellow lines.



A coach does a 5 point turn then parks on double yellow lines



# Steam, Steel and Shells - 1

East Twickenham Centennial Group

In September last year, the Hollycombe Steam Museum in West Sussex were amazed to learn that their “very impressive and nationally important” 100-year old Robey 115 hp steam engine had not started her life powering a 1WW sawmill as they had thought.

They’d had good reason to believe this because engines of this sort were designed for the purpose of forestry work: when they had cut down one section of a forest, they could be moved on to tackle the next.

Now though, Hollycombe’s enquiries to the Robey Trust in Tavistock had tracked down the original Robey Order Book. This showed that in January 1915 the company had delivered Hollycombe’s engine to a factory in Twickenham called The Pelabon Works, to power its machinery.



In the same month a little over 100 years before this discovery, a young(ish) Franco-Belgian engineer had just taken charge of a factory in the small town of Merksem, then on the outskirts of Antwerp (nowadays, it is decidedly a suburb).

Want to know why? And what happened next? Come back next week .....

The Pelabon Works’ Robey engine will be back in steam later this summer at the Hollycombe Steam Museum. Together with other attractions for families, steam buffs, amateur historians and nature-lovers alike, a great day out in the country !

[www.facebook.com/treestothetrenches/](http://www.facebook.com/treestothetrenches/)

© ETCG and Hollycombe Steam Museum.  
Engine photo: Hollycombe. Merksem photo: ETCG.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

# Top Prize for the Twinned Towns

Richmond in Europe Association

Felicity Challinor from East Twickenham and seventeen other local young people had the experience of a lifetime at the Europe Youth Council last November in Germany, representing Richmond upon Thames at the Europe Youth Council.

Felicity and her companions made friends with delegates from Richmond's Twin Towns Konstanz and Fontainebleau (France) and from the twins' twins in the Czech Republic and Italy. Delegates swapped ideas on how to keep the people of Europe together in times of division and separation.

A stop press announcement was made this week that the Europe Youth Council has now won a prestigious Baden-Württemberg Nationwide Youth Education Award.

The Council was convened by Richmond's twin town Konstanz, and the British delegation was organised by the Richmond in Europe Association.

The Council's 2nd prize gives them €1000 to support the work of bringing the young people of Europe together. This is on top of the €250 the Council won for the earlier nomination.

Felicity said "I had an incredible week at the Europe Council in Konstanz and want to thank REA for including me in the project". Raquel Gracia Lowe who was with her on the trip added "I find the idea of towns' European associations very inspiring and productive. I would also like to express my interest in helping with future events with our twin cities." With the Youth Education Award the young peoples' work can continue.



Felicity Challinor at the Konstanz Youth Council



Youth Council delegates accept their Youth Education Award in Stuttgart

# Big Bang competition 2018: Teddington School

Last week a group of young Teddington scientists showcased their project, on artificial intelligence (AI), in the finals of the Big Bang competition 2018 at the Birmingham NEC. The Big Bang young scientists and engineers fair is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people aged 7-19 in the UK.



The group of Year 8 pupils, whose interest in STEM originated when they all attended the same primary school in Teddington, reunited to research their project on how AI can benefit the elderly. The team



included Charlotte Lewis, Teddington School, Tom Del Rio, Teddington School, Jude Goodsell, Teddington School, Lakshmi Aggarwal, Lady Eleanor Hollis School and Toby Gwynne, Hampton School.

The project was researched through surveys, which were circulated on social media channels, and the results collated and interpreted to provide the data for the entry. The team were interviewed by BBC TV science presenter Maddie Moate, who congratulated them on their innovative entry and commented, "This is clearly a well-meaning project, it comes from the heart."

# The Vineyard School Ice Skating Day

The Vineyard School PTA put the fun in fundraising on Saturday 17th March with an ice skating day complete with synthetic ice rink, bouncy castle, snow machine and much more.

The Richmond Environmental Information Centre was pleased to attend and exhibit photographs from the IceRinx project celebrating the former Richmond Ice Rink.



<https://site.vineyardpta.org/>

<http://icerinx.com/index.html>



THE VINEYARD SCHOOL

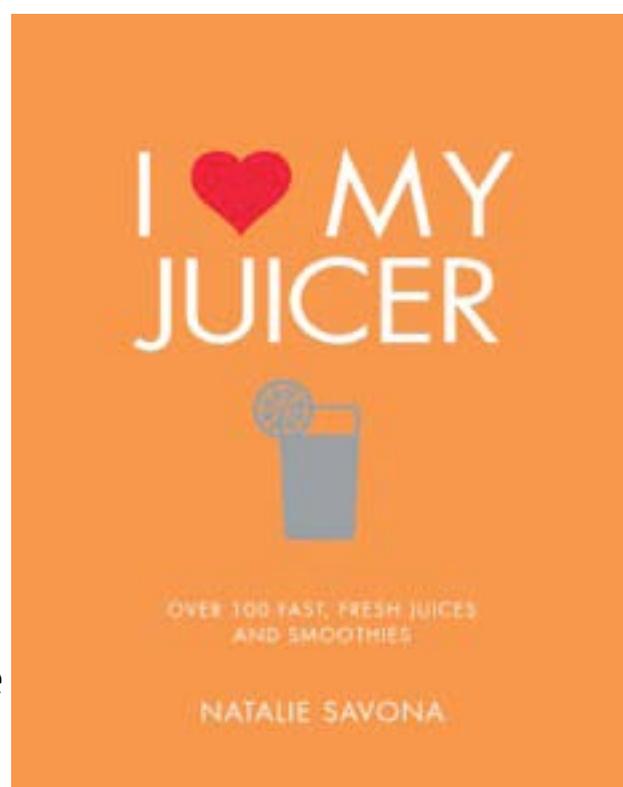
## LIQUID REFRESHMENT: THE HEALTHY AND THE NOT-SO-HEALTHY... BUT GREAT FUN!

Spring is slowly coming into sight (we hope), meaning many of us will be turning to light, fresh food and drinks to match the weather. Juices have been the rage for some time now, but it is far more fun and economical to make your own at home... to say nothing of the health benefits of maximising your nutrient intake.

Lots of people own juicers that they bought in a fit of 'new year/new you' enthusiasm, and it can be easy to get into a rut, and bored by the same recipes over and over. But a great new book *I Love My Juicer: Over 100 fast, fresh juices and smoothies* (available in April) will inspire you to take your juice making to new heights. It has lots of varied recipes and innovative ingredient combinations that will reignite your love of your juicer. Many of the recipes cleverly combine fruit and vegetables and herbs in combinations I would never have experimented with prior to reading the book. And I should think they would make stonkingly good cocktails with a shot of gin, vodka or another spirit!

Written by nutritionist Natalie Savona, the book is in chapters such as **Delicious Detoxers, Energy Boosters, Soothers, Immunity Helpers, and Skin Savers**. A comprehensive, clear introduction on the different types of juicers and how to make the most of them, along with a symbol system highlighting each juice's suitability for special diets makes the book very user-friendly.

This book remind sme of the fun and varied ways juicing can help supplement our diets, packing in the flavour and goodness. So make the most of the fabulous fresh fruit and veg we are lucky enough to have available locally in Twickenham, here is a recipe from the book.



## TOMORANGE FRESH

A hint of mint takes this juice up a notch in the refreshing stakes.

A great immunity booster.

### NUTRIENTS

*Beta-carotene, biotin, folic acid, vitamin C; calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, sulphur*

4 tomatoes

2 oranges

1 small handful of mint leaves

Chop the tomatoes into quarters and pop them through the juicer chute to juice.

Zest a ribbon or two from an orange using a vegetable peeler, then peel the oranges, leaving the pith on, and break or chop the flesh into sections.

Add the oranges to the juicer with the mint leaves, but reserve a couple of leaves to garnish.

Pour the juice into a glass and dress with the ribbons of orange zest and reserved mint leaves.



**Credit:** *I Love My Juicer: Over 100 Fast, Fresh Juices and Smoothies*, by Natalie Savona. Nourish Books, 2018. Paperback, £12.99. Commissioned photography by William Lingwood.

## CELLAR MASTER

Talking of seasons, at the other end of the health scale, we popped along to a great event the other evening. Ricardo, whom many of us know from Ricardo's Cellar in Church Street and Last Try Wines on Whitton Road, has launched a Festival Club, which gives discounts and tickets to events. We attended one of his four seasonal tastings – which took place across the road at The Eel Pie Pub. The place was buzzing (not surprisingly) as there were three different tasting tables laden with wines to taste, plus a very popular gin station - manned by Sipsmiths - and a stand for Twickenham's newest (and smallest) brewing company. This is The Eel Pie Brewing Company recently launched by local resident Guy Hutchinson. (But more of that in a later column as my husband is keen to check it out!)

# Offers and Competitions

## FREE TICKETS FOR THE EAT & DRINK FESTIVAL

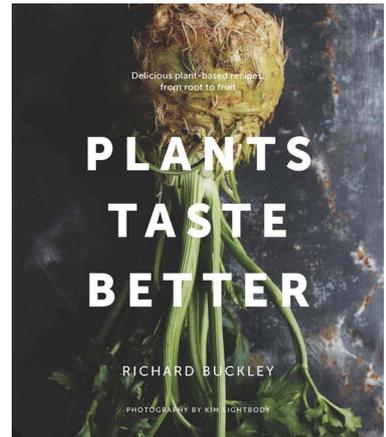
Winner is

Alex Stovold, TW1

Winner of a copy of Plants Taste Better  
by Richard Buckley, worth £25

IS

Ben Makins



## 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](mailto: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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**To find out more visit: [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)**



# WHAT DO THEY KNOW

## FOI Requests

Dear London Borough of Richmond Council,

An allocation of £700k for RIBA4 drawings for the LBRuT Twickenham Riverside plans was made before the Planning Application was heard. Now the planning application has gone to the Secretary of State, triggered by the Environment Agency's objection. Has any of this money been spent, or allocated, and if so how much? Additionally what is the total amount spent and committed so far on the Twickenham Riverside proposal? All this money has been approved by the LBRuT Cabinet without any assurance that the plan will go ahead.

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/spending\\_on\\_twickenham\\_riverside](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/spending_on_twickenham_riverside)

*The following question was asked on behalf of a reader.*

Dear Richmond upon Thames Borough Council,

A competition for architects was held to choose plans for Twickenham Riverside. The competition was won by Quinlan and Francis Terry. The father and son partnership went their separate ways and Francis Terry carried on producing more designs for LBRuT. The latest plans submitted to the planning department did not bear the Terry name. As part of the winning partnership for the Twickenham Riverside competition did Francis Terry have any creative involvement in the final plan, as submitted to the planning committee on Wednesday 7th March, and to what extent, and if not, who was the architect?

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/architects\\_on\\_twickenham\\_riverside](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/architects_on_twickenham_riverside)

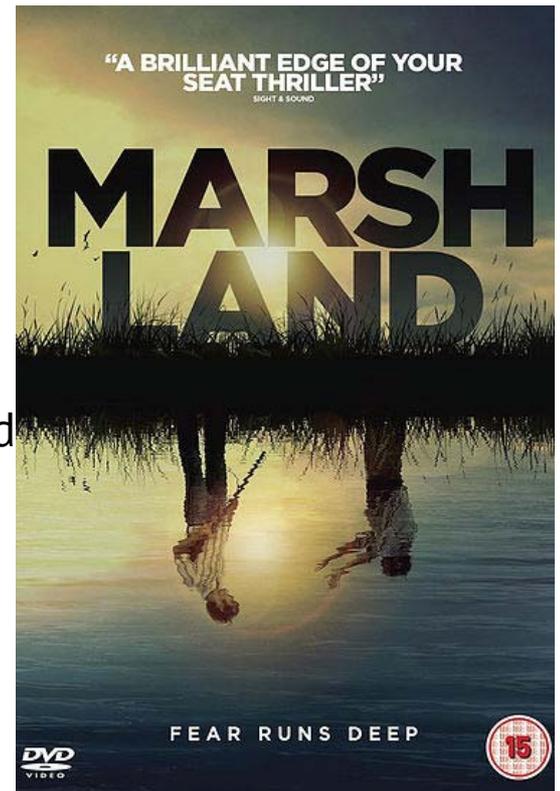
## The second half of Richmond Film Society's Season comprises the following eight films at The Exchange:

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.

The RFS's current Season will be extended by two films, provisionally, 'Hotel Salvation' (India) on 8 May and 'Le Havre' (Finland) on 22 May.

These two extra screenings will be free to all members in appreciation of making the venue transition so successful, whilst non-member tickets will, as usual, be available for £6.

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



## Richmond Film Society: 5-Film Membership Offer for £20

Following the success of its relocation to The Exchange in January, Richmond Film Society has decided to extend its current Season by two films, provisionally, 'Hotel Salvation' (India) on 8 May and 'Le Havre' (Finland) on 22 May. These two extra screenings are free to all members in appreciation of making the venue transition so successful. Non-member tickets will, as usual, be available for

£6 on the door (cash only), in advance via The Exchange's Box Office on 020 8240 2399 or online via their website at <http://exchangetwickenham.co.uk/box-office>

RFS is, in addition, making available a special **5-Film Membership Offer** for the remainder of the season at a cost of only £20 -i.e. £4 per film.

The five films in question are:

- 27 March - Marshland (Spain)
- 10 April - Toni Erdmann (Germany)
- 24 April - A Man Called Ove (Sweden)
- 8 May - Hotel Salvation (India)
- 22 May - Le Havre (Finland)

To take advantage of this offer, please contact us by email - [richmondfilmsociety@btinternet.com](mailto:richmondfilmsociety@btinternet.com) - telephone (020 8893 3503) or via our website at [www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk) ; alternatively, sign up on the night at the screening of 'Marshland' on 27 March (cash or cheque only).

All are very welcome. Please come along and join us.



## A Month of Sundays

by Bob Larbey

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Theatre until 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Review by John O'Brien

*A Month of Sundays* showing all this week at The Hampton Hill Theatre is a gem. The Teddington Theatre Club has produced a marvellous production of a play that is pertinent, poignant and pleasing. *A Month of Sundays* was written by Bob Larbey, best known as the writer of classic TV sitcoms.

The play is set in a Surrey retirement home. The two central characters are Cooper (Roger Smith) and Aylott (John Bellamy). Their respective worlds have shrunk, a la *Ever Decreasing Circles* to the grounds of the care home for Aylott and to just his room in Cooper's case. All of the action takes place in Cooper's room. Cooper and Aylott can be thought of as the two "Likely Lads" in an old people's home or two characters from Samuel Beckett faced with the daunting prospect of getting through the day. How



to pass the time? how to deal with boredom? how to get through the day? these are the questions Cooper and Aylott now face. A military metaphor is used to frame their lives. The care home is imagined as a POW camp and the regime is likened to the panzer divisions conducting a blitzkrieg. This works particularly well when the tea trolley (pushed by Nurse Wilson, Julie Davis) and the Hoover (activated by the cleaner Mrs Baker, Lara Parker) are seen as analogous to tanks. Cooper and Aylott form a bond based on the notion that they are the "Escape Committee" resisting the POW regime and planning their escape to Switzerland. Their biggest challenge is the unending struggle to remain with it and not to become one of the zombies. The latter are the living dead, such as Colonel George who has lost it and has had to be fished out of the pond in his best blue suit. Like a Chekhov play, *A Month of Sundays* works as a tragi-comedy; it shows that life is at once tragic and comic and that the two cannot be separated. *A Month of Sundays* is full of gallows humour, laughing in the face of oblivion.

However, Cooper and Aylott find ways to resist the panzers ... ..

Read John O'Brien's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/18/sundays](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/18/sundays)

Photography by Jo-Jo Leppink at Handwritten Photography

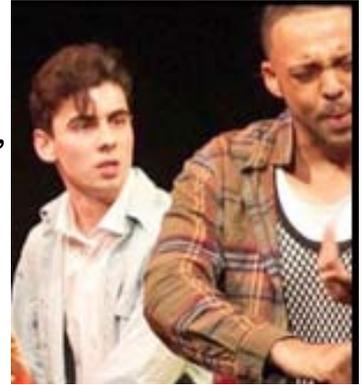


## Windrush Square

Monument Theatre Company at OSO Arts Centre, Barnes until 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Review by Matthew Grierson

When we enter the auditorium for *Windrush Square*, the cast are seated and reading newspapers as though waiting in a laundry or barbers. Then, as the play begins, they move into a carefully co-ordinated routine with the papers lifted to cover and then reveal their faces as they move about the stage. Like an overture, this sets up the show's mixture of issues and people, and how the former can obscure the latter. It also demonstrates the formidable range of the cast: they work in step physically before first breaking out into a well-choreographed crowd scene and then assuming the roles of the Johnson family of Brixton.



The thread around which the narrative is braided is the Johnson family, under patriarch Elijah. Abayomi Oniyide impresses with the gravitas of his performance, inflected with the humour, heart and hurt that binds his family, and the community, together. Similarly, Romy Iris Conroy as Elijah's mother Joyce convincingly ages up in her portrayal of an authoritative, yet often cheeky, grandmother, trying to keep her son's children in check. This does not often prove easy, however. Isaac for instance repeatedly falls foul of the law, and in Sirach Mcleish's characterisation, we witness his

bravado, frustration and sensitivity. Deslie Thomas as sister Ruby, meanwhile, is as vocal as her convictions, and though she cherishes her family is not shy of challenging them.

The family story develops with the romance between younger sister Naomi (Nadeyne Lewis) and her white boyfriend Lucas (Jack Bloss), a sweet relationship that is related from their meeting at dance, through his awkward encounters with her family, to its end in the concluding scene. While the tone of this is realistic rather than tragic, the social context is such that every scene between them is charged with threat, as though *Romeo and Juliet* could go straight from the balcony scene to the poisoning.



Read Matthew Grierson's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/21/windrush](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/21/windrush)

Photography by Deslie Thomas



## Dispatches

OSO Arts Centre, Barnes 15<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Matthew Grierson

*Dispatches*, the OSO's night of "scratch writing", comprises eight short new plays selected from more than 100 submissions, and what makes them an interesting selection is the ways they resonate with one another – in fortunate and sometimes less fortunate ways.

The maiden over is *Heaven Help Us*, a diverting but slight piece about a cricket team of literary luminaries, based on one that actually existed under the captaincy of J. M. Barrie.

Different fare follows in the form of *The Cabby*, an altogether tighter conceit in which three young passengers are taken home by the titular driver, their stories gradually revealed to be interwoven. Third on the bill is *Three Women 2*, comprising monologues from a trio whom we come to realise are each mourning the death of a loved one. Number four, *For Love*, is the highlight of the first half, and among the best of the evening.

The economical script takes harrowing subject matter – the state-sanctioned torture and disappearance of Chechens – and makes it ring twice true. There is a change of tone with *Pancake Factors*, an awkward title for a sweet vignette of adolescence. As a pair of teenagers willing their way into womanhood, both actors create a believably loving dynamic, doing justice to the carefully observed writing. *Love is a Minefield* is set the garden of a country house in 1945, where injured army officer is visited by former fiancée, despite his mother's attempt to deter her. But the script cannot decide whether it's homage or parody, neither serious enough to engage as drama nor exaggerated enough to send up the genre.

*Numbers*, the best of the second half's offerings, is a surefooted engagement with modern masculinity. It uses comedy to engage us with something more serious, for within its concern with male identity and mental health, this still seems a hopeful piece. The evening is rounded off by *Hannah*, which picks up on the themes of troubled relationships and doubtful men and does something entirely unexpected with them.

The artistic agility of individual performers is invaluable to playwrights flexing their muscles in these 15-minute exercises, and between them, the *Dispatches* explore what can – and cannot – be achieved in the format. On the strength of the scratch night, there should be much to look forward to as these writers and actors get the opportunity to stretch themselves further.

Read Matthew Grierson's in-depth review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/dispatches](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/dispatches)

Photograph by Laura Sedgewick





## *Arts Richmond New Plays Festival Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, 18th March Review by Mary Stoakes*

The Arts Richmond New Plays Festival is a biennial event, to encourage the writing of short plays, originally conceived by Edie Purdue in memory of her husband Roy, who enthusiastically supported local drama, especially for young people. The unique feature of this Festival is that all the plays submitted are read by a distinguished and experienced panel, who then shortlist four, whose authors have the opportunity of seeing their work in live performance in the round at Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre.

The Open Window, presented by the Richmond Shakespeare Society, was a tense, dark, psychological thriller which kept the audience guessing right up to the violent ending. Difficult moral choices had to be made and these were translated into good theatre by the taut plotting and economic dialogue.



And now for something different! Mr Stripeytail was a verse play, written by Katie Abbot for her Performing Arts group of young people. The action describes an animal who finds a human voice and his difficulties in crossing the line between the animal kingdom and man. In verse throughout, with many changes of rhythm and metre, this was exceptionally well written.

The mysteriously named Tia and the Falcon was presented by two members of Teddington Theatre Club, which told of two friends reunited after several years and their subsequent exploration of what had gone wrong. The depiction of the

characters was very credible, understandable and at times funny and the final resolution was brave and unexpected.

Matrexit, presented by Barnes Community Players, another thought-provoking, surreal, sci-fi drama. Humanity's minds have been uploaded to a virtual reality Digiscape to build a utopian society but this is questioned by the newly-arrived Sukky. She leads a campaign to return to the physical world but voting doesn't necessarily lead to the desired outcome.



The judges were Sara Burn Edwards, Kate Edwards, Jerry Gunn and Vivien Heilbron. After an interval for deliberation, the judges praised the high standard of all the works which had presented them with hard choices. Plays must be good in performance as well as on the written page. The winner was announced as The Open Window by Miranda Barrett. The Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Cllr. Benedict Dias presented the Roy Purdue trophy to Miranda, who is 18 years of age: obviously a talent to watch!

Read Mary Stoakes' full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/19/arnpf](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/19/arnpf)

*Photography by James Bell*

### Editor's Note

Arts Richmond would like to express its appreciation to the Reading Panel and the Judges for their hard work which made this event such a success. Special thanks must also be given to Keith Wait and Johanna Chambers (Production Manager and Assistant Stage Manager), The Orange Tree Theatre and Stuart Burgess (Technical Manager), and Gillian Thorpe who co-ordinated the Festival on behalf of Arts Richmond Drama.



*This week we conclude our reviews of London's own fringe, The Vault Festival 2018, which staged in lots of eclectic venues in and around Waterloo. In a final offering, Georgia Renwick muses that life is a funny thing, but is death?*

## Timothy

by David K. Barnes

Snatchback, The Vaults, until 18<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Georgia Renwick

Life is funny, and death can be too. David K. Barnes' dark comedy *Timothy* takes a more sinister turn, with a comedy about murder.



Annette's friends are mysteriously summoned to meet in a basement one afternoon. Her husband, charming, handsome, sensitive Timothy is – she attempts to assure them – not all he seems. He is trying to kill her, and she needs witnesses. Is she right? Is she crazy? Once they've finished their hot cocoa, can they escape with their lives?

I left with my life – but I left feeling profoundly uncomfortable. I reiterate that death can be funny, but on this occasion, I feel Barnes strays too far over that invisible line between comedy, and bad taste. There was laughter in the room on opening night, but I think it's safe to say it won't be *everyone's* cup of cocoa.



Snatchback, the new company producing the show, are a “female led” ensemble who “champion female-led productions... which at least equally represent women”. *Timothy* is a good fit in this regard, and perhaps it is these female-positive credentials that make me even more incensed that the show's foundation is making jokes about domestic murder. The World Health Organization ([Violence against women: fact sheet no. 239](#)) has stated that globally, about 38% of female homicides are committed by an intimate partner\*, but that fact doesn't make it onto the posters or into the show.

Perhaps, I am taking it altogether too seriously. Barnes has written elements into the play, such as the absurdity of the basement, that are evidently not meant to be taken seriously. A lone lightbulb sways and flickers, and an impeccably well timed dripping tap causes uproarious laughter. The cast's performances too, are heightened and there is some more light-hearted comedy to be found in their clever quips with one-another. Indeed, the primary content aside, it has all the other elements of a pleasingly well-crafted play.

But yet, I can't shake that profoundly uncomfortable feeling that some things just aren't meant to be joked about.

Read Georgia's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/timothy](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/16/timothy)

Photography by Joyous Gard



## The Zoo

by Arthur Sullivan, libretto by Bolton Rowe

Hounslow Light Opera Company at Hounslow and Hampton, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Mark Aspen

When Albert, in Stanley Holloway's rhyme, goes to the zoo at Blackpool, his whole family, the Ramsbottoms, are not impressed with the journey there. "They didn't think much to the ocean, the waves they were piddlin' and small. There were no wrecks and nobody drowned, 'fact, nothin' to laugh at at all! Hounslow Light Opera Company take no such chances when taking us to the zoo at Hounslow.



The froth, fun and frolics that is HLOC's *The Zoo*, takes us to its operetta menagerie by a delightful and entertaining route. We pack our musical bags with *The Bare Necessities*, melodious close harmony by the chorus, fetchingly dressed for the occasion with scarlet cravats over snappy black costumes. They sing *Bye Bye Blackbird* and we are off. Along the road, we see plenty of other birds. First *Meadowlark*, a blind bird whose "voice could match the angel's in its glory". Then stop to *Feed the Birds*, although having been urged to go *Poisoning Pigeons in the Park*. (This wicked little piece points out that "it's not against

any relig-i-on to want to dispose of a pig-e-on".)

A quick stop for refreshments and then the gates of Bolton Rowe's zoo, *The Zoo* that we've all come to visit. This bijou operetta is immediately recognisable as in the G&S style, but this was premiered in 1875 with Rowe as librettist. However, *The Zoo* was usurped at the box offices by *Trial by Jury* and has languish somewhat ever since. The overture is pure Sullivan, and how skilfully it opens the zoo gates for us in the hands of HLOC's incomparable musical director, Lee Dewsnap, teasing the impact of an orchestra from a keyboard.

We stroll into *The Zoo* together with a preoccupied Crowd of Visitors, the HOLC's chorus. They are so enjoying the day that they hardly notice a young man about to hang himself at the refreshment stall by the bear pit. Not that they are too bothered, just curious to know the reason why. The distraught man, the wonderfully named Aesculapius Carboy, is a pharmaceutical neophyte, who explains that he has been communicating with his love, Laetitia via the labels on the family's medications, because her parents disapprove of the match. But the labels have got swapped around ...

Read Mark Aspen's full review at

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/14/zoo](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/14/zoo)

Photography courtesy of Hounslow Light Opera Company





## Pressure

By David Haig

Touring Consortium Theatre Company at Richmond Theatre until 24<sup>th</sup> March

Review by Mark Aspen

Umbrella, overcoat, sun-block? We take weather forecasts for granted, and in truth our needs are pretty trivial, notwithstanding the Beast from the East, which for most meant an extra spray can of windscreen de-icer. But what if the lives of 350,000 men and the whole history of freedom in Europe depended on a weather forecast? This was just the case in the historic opening days of June 1944, as the D-Day counter-invasion of Europe was poised to be unleashed. The knife-edge decisions of those few days, days which changed the world, are the subject of the aptly named play, *Pressure*, currently finishing its national tour at Richmond this week.



Less than 72 hours before the planned date for the D Day landings, a Scottish research meteorologist, Group Captain Dr James Stagg was sent by Churchill to advise the allied supreme commander, General Eisenhower, on the weather conditions predicted on the day, a forecast that would affect the success or failure of the largest seaborne invasion in history.



A drama about meteorology may seem unlike, but the title of the play drops the clue as to how it works, and work it does, for the pressure is on all round. There is atmospheric pressure of course, barometric readouts rattle through the dialogue like hailstones, but for Stagg there is the pressure of making the most significant weather forecast in history, pressure exacerbated by a heated difference of opinion with his arrogant US counterpart, then pressure brought explosively to a head by a family crisis.



The first half of the play is ultra-high paced. It zings along with an urgency propelled by an anxious soundtrack and frantic acting of the whole ensemble, fast, fraught and frenetic, the action builds an almost unbearable tension.

Read Mark Aspen's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/21/pressure](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/21/pressure)

Photography by Robert Day

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