

The Twickenham Tribune

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 Michael Gatehouse
 Helen Baker
 Mark Aspen
 Richmond Film Society
 Strawberry Hill Golf Club

EDITORS

Teresa Read
 Berkley Driscoll

Contact

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



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Spring Begins?

Radnor Gardens

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

What Do They Know?

Pre-construction Spending on Twickenham Riverside

In response to a FOI (view [HERE](#)), the following statement is from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

The Twickenham Rediscovered pre-construction budget (approved by Cabinet) is £2.186 million.

Cabinet	Pre-construction budget approval
Jan 2017	£220,000
Jun 2017	£1,166,000
Oct 2017	*£800,000
TOTAL	£2,186,000

*£700,000 for development of the scheme design and £100,000 for site preparation works

Total invoiced expenditure to end of Feb 2018 is £1.176 million with commitments (work in progress) to a further £273,000.

Total committed expenditure is £1.449 million, therefore £63,000 of the £800,000 signed-off by Cabinet in Oct 2017 has been committed.

What Do They Know?

Architects for Twickenham Riverside

In response to a FOI (view [HERE](#)) the following statement is from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

Carey Jones Chapman Tolcher (CJCT) were appointed, with the agreement of Francis Terry and Associates, to support the Design Team with the production of the detailed planning application submission.

It is common practice for Francis Terry and Associates to work with other firms to develop internal layouts and technical detail for planning submissions. CJCT worked in collaboration with Francis Terry and Associates to develop further the latter's Concept Design for the site, based on feedback, and to produce the Developed Design for planning application submission.

An email was sent to Francis Terry asking for comment on the design, but no answer has been received.

Note: The Secretary of State is still considering whether to call-in the council's planning application.

Having heard rumours that the council has used its significant resources to rectify the problems caused by the new gates on Twickenham Riverside, TwickerSeal wandered down to have a look.

TwickerSeal nearly missed it, but a new sign has appeared announcing “Temporary access in times of flood”. The council obviously didn’t have a spirit level or enough screws to finish the job properly; hopefully not an indication of the build quality of the council’s proposed development!

Not sure what this ‘skewed solution’ achieves considering that the access road will be permanently closed once building commences?

Not sure what this ‘skewed solution’ achieves considering that the access road will be permanently closed once building commences?



TwickerTape - News in Brief

Get Ready To Stomp!!

The Stomping Nomads will be performing at 2.30pm on Saturday at the Surrey Food Festival, Old Deer Park, Richmond.

Success for dog owners over Richmond council PSPO

The Kennel Club backed a challenge in the High Court against parts of a PSPO introduced by the council. Details at:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/press-releases/2018/april/victory-for-dog-owners-in-uks-first-successful-pspo-legal-challenge/>

Udney Park Planning Application

Udney Park Playing Fields Planning Application

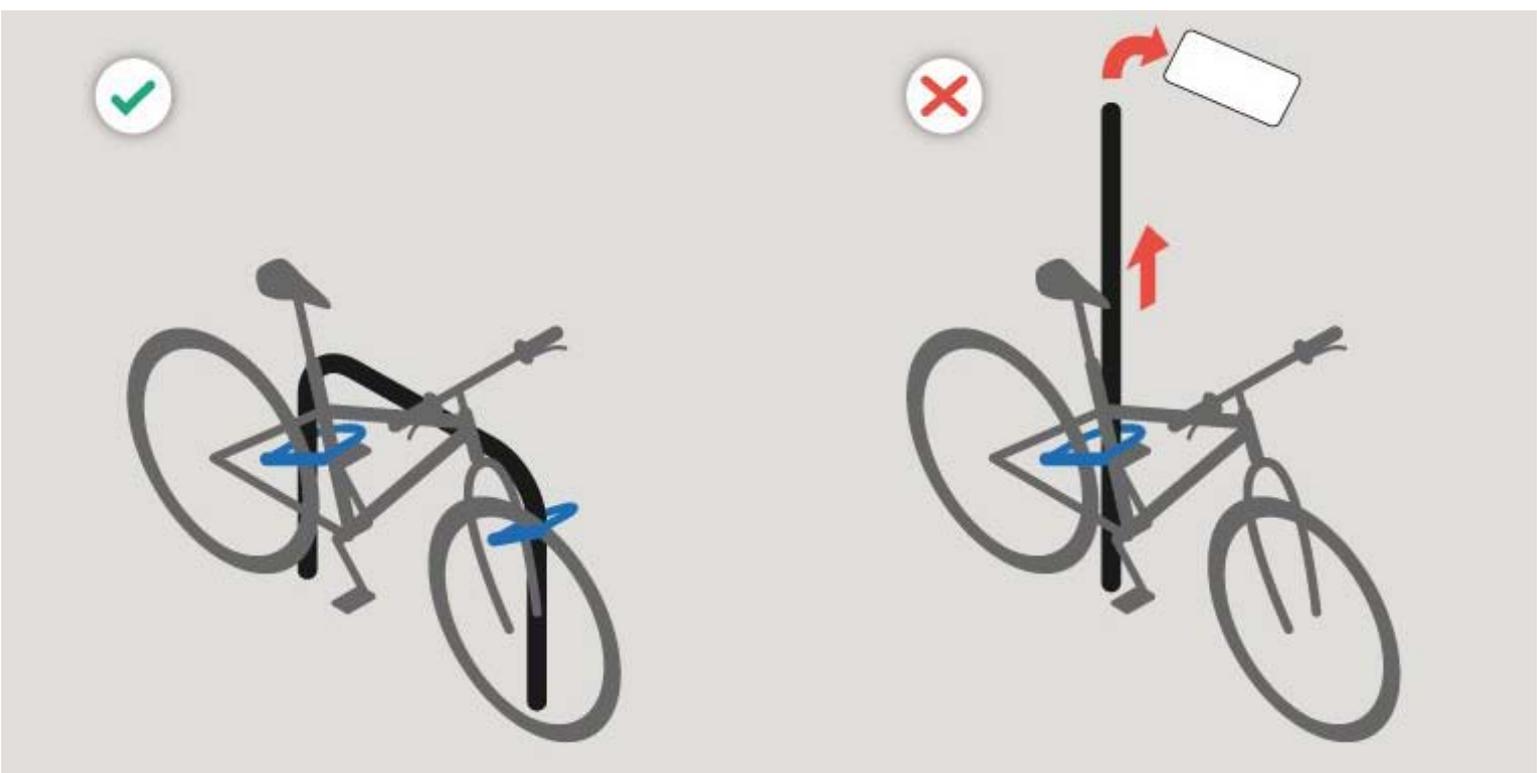
http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/Planning_CASENO.aspx?strCASENO=18/0151/FUL

Hampton Burglaries

Hampton police warn that over the past 10 days or so there has been an increase in residential burglaries in the Hampton area mostly during the day. Unusually, these have been characterised by forced entry through the front door or by smashing a small pane of glass.

Lock Your Bike!!

TeddingtonMPS have been urging bike owners to invest in a sturdy D lock and remove any valuable components i.e. Lights or electronics before locking up, following ongoing issues with bike theft in Teddington.



PART 70 - ST MARY'S CHURCH WHERE DID THE CUPOLA GO?

St Mary's Church, also known as St Mary the Virgin, is a Grade II* listed Church of England place of worship dedicated to Saint Mary the Virgin in Church Street. The parish church stands a short distance from York House and the banks of the River Thames, immediately opposite Eel Pie Island.



Like the ancient church on the site, the present one began life as the parish church for the whole of Twickenham. However, housing development in the 19th and 20th centuries

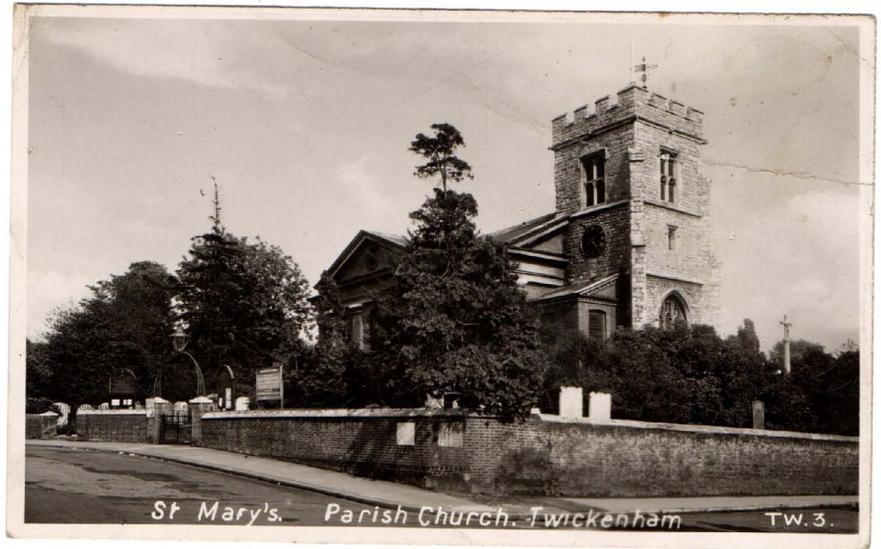
led to new parishes being created for several new Church of England churches: Holy Trinity, Twickenham Common (1842), St Philip and St James Church, Whitton (1862), St Stephen's, East Twickenham (1875), All Saints, Twickenham (1914) and All Hallows, Twickenham (1939). As these came into being, the parish of St Mary's became smaller, but it still takes in most of central Twickenham



The first record of a Vicar of Twickenham was in the early thirteenth century, although the original church pre-dates this earliest record. The church stands on the site of an earlier one

and incorporates its 15th-century medieval tower. On 9 April 1713 the ancient church's 14th-century nave collapsed. The church was soon rebuilt in 1715 to a design by architect John James who had recently built the house in Twickenham later known as Orleans House. Originally the windows were filled with Victorian stained glass but bombing in 1944 destroyed this.

The tower has a ring of eight bells. A cupola was added to it in 1789 but wasn't there for very long. *Cupolas* often appear as small buildings in their own right. They may serve as a belfry, belvedere, or roof lantern above a main roof.



We know the cupola was still there in 1850 as our first postcard which is a modern card published by LBRUT shows a painting by Sir John Thomas Selwin Ibbetson around that date. You can see the cupola clearly in the distance. About 55 years later when the other two photographic postcards appeared, the cupola was gone. You can see the cupola clearly in the distance. This week's question therefore is why and when did the cupola disappear? The first person to explain will receive the actual postcard showing the cupola that illustrates this article.

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!

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& postally franked envelopes.

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Please ring Alan to discuss on

07875 578398



Just time to catch last performances of YAT production of THE WITCHES by Roald Dahl on Saturday, 14 April at 2.30 and 7.30 at HHT.

Info: yat.org.uk

THE 39 STEPS adapted from John Buchanan by Patrick Barlow is performed by RSS at Mary Wallace Theatre from Saturday, 21-Saturday 28 April at 7.45, Sunday at 3.00pm, no performance Weds.

Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk.

Saturday, 20 April at 7.00 and Sunday, 21 at 6.30 INSTANT OPERA perform Mozart's DON GIOVANNI at Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Down Park, TW119PS.

Info: langdondowncentre.org.uk.

Arts Richmond sponsors YOUNG WRITER'S AWARDS CEREMONY at The Exchange, TW1 1BE, Sunday, April 15 at 2.30.

Info: exchangetwickenham.co.uk.

Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 April, 9.30-5 at LAC, TW11 9NN,, TWICKENHAM ARTS CIRCLE SPRING EXHIBITION. Wide variety of media and styles on display.

Info: twickenhamartscircle.org.uk.

Richmond Concert Society's next concert at St Margaret's Church, East Twickenham on Tuesday, 17 April, at 7.45 will present THE BUSCH TRIO playing Schubert and Dvorak, Piano Trios, 2 & 3.

Info. Richmondconcerts.co.uk.

Thursday, 19 April at 7.00 at The Hammond Theatre, Hampton TW12 3HD another chance to see Encore live screening of JULIUS CAESAR from the new Bridge Theatre, directed by Nicholas Hytner.
Info: thehammondtheatre.co.uk.

Thursday, 19 April at 8.00pm Prof Robert Winston will give an illustrated talk entitled IMPROVE YOUR LEARNING at The Exchange, Twickenham.
Info: exchangetwickenham.co.uk.

Friday, 20 April SCUMMY MUMMIES return to The Exchange, Twickenham, featuring comedians Helen and Ellie Gibson.
Info: exchangetwickenhan.co.uk.

MIDNIGHT RIVER BLUES BAND make a welcome return to The Blucher Pub, Twickenham Green, TW2 5AG (parking suspended at 6.30). Hot food available.
Info: shandy22ntlworld.com.

Cabbage Patch pub hosts Twickfolk, Eel Pie Club and Twickenham Jazz Club on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively.
Info: see individual websites.



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

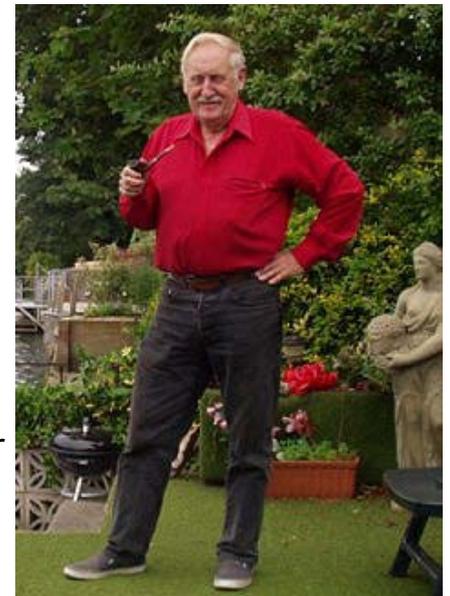
Trevor Baylis, born in 1937, was brought up in Southall. At 15 Trevor was swimming for Great Britain and later began to study mechanical and structural engineering.

At 20 Trevor began National Service as a physical training instructor and then went on to become a professional swimmer, stunt man and entertainer.

Trevor's first company was Shotline Steel Swimming Pools. In 1985 he started to develop a range of products for disabled people called Orange Aids.

Trevor's gift for invention came into its own in 1991. Having seen a programme about the spread of AIDS in Africa, Trevor set about developing the Wind-Up Radio as a means of spreading educational information in countries where electricity and batteries were not readily available. Eventually a group of foreign investors came on board forming a company called Baylis Generators, later named Freeplay.

In an interview with Trevor in July 2009, Trevor advised young people to "always follow your heart", for instance, if you are a water skier become a water skiing instructor. Trevor went on to say that life is not about money and that you can only wear one suit at a time.



For many years Trevor lived on Eel Pie Island in Twickenham which he used to visit in his youth - after leaving National Service, he moved to East Twickenham visiting the island at weekends for jazz concerts in the Eel Pie Island Hotel.

Trevor built his own house on the island, constructing a raised deck with soil from the area where he dug out his swimming pool. He says that building his house was the best thing he ever did.

Eel Pie Island is a tight bonded community, always ready to help if something goes wrong. Trevor said that the community is very unusual today. There is so much friendliness and someone in the boatyard will always help with something practical. Also, London, where Trevor often visited to give after dinner speeches and accept awards, is only twenty minutes away by train.

Trevor received many Academic Honours. He travelled to many countries with the British Council and met Nelson Mandela in [South Africa](#): "an amazing man for whom I have the greatest respect". He lectured in [Ethiopia](#), [Malawi](#), [Namibia](#), [Tanzania](#), [Zambia](#) and [Zimbabwe](#) as well as in [Greece](#), [Malta](#), [Slovenia](#), [Bahrain](#), [Cyprus](#), [Israel](#), Palestine, [Singapore](#), [India](#) and [Australia](#).

In 2001 Trevor completed a 100 mile walk in searing temperatures across the Namib Desert to raise money for the Mines Advisory Group whilst demonstrating his new invention, the Electric Shoes.

Trevor promoted the concept of "personal power" and helped inventors take their ideas to market (Trevor Baylis Brands). He believed that none of us have all the skills to bring a product to market but he thought that we could all be inventors: "you do not need to be a genius, often it is pure chance."

<http://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=EelPieTrevorBaylis>

TRIBUNE BOOKS

Lidos Alive FREE download

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



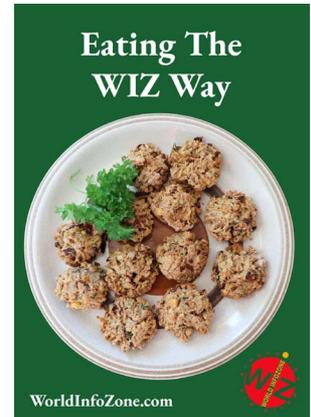
Eating the WIZ Way

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 Contact@TwickenhamTribune.com

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

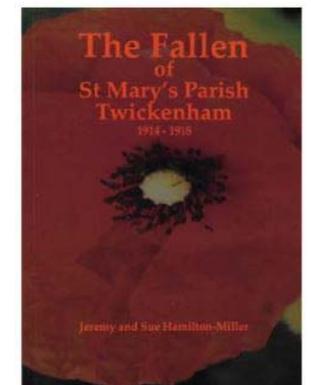


The Fallen of St Mary's Parish Twickenham 1914-1918

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



Age UK London Safer Services

The Age UK London Business Directory is an online directory that was developed to help protect older people from rogue traders by putting them in contact with businesses that have all been checked and vetted by our staff. We have a great selection of different businesses from the typical traders like plumbers and electricians to hairdressers and solicitors.

You can go on-line to www.saferservices.london and search for the particular service you are after or you can also call FREE on 0800 334 5056 where a dedicated member of staff will be happy to take your call.



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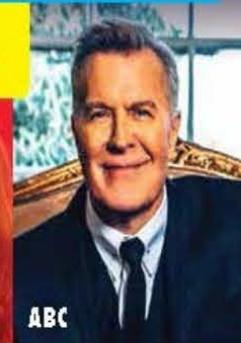
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WINNER OF A FABULOUS SPRING TIPPLE AT THE IVY CAFÉ

IS

Jannie Petersen, TW11

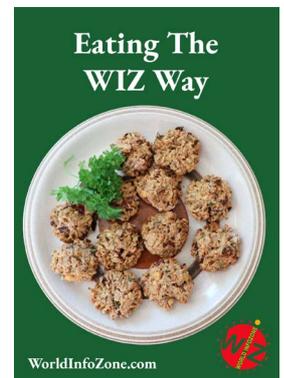


WINNER OF A COPY OF “EAT THE WIZ WAY”

IS

Amanda Day, TW1

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



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)



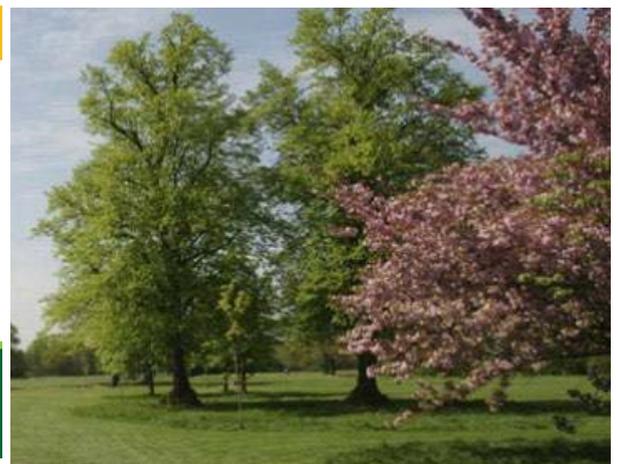
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ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY UPDATE

St Mary's Student Wins Gold at Commonwealth Games



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Strength and Conditioning Science student at St Mary's University, Twickenham and Paralympian Joe Townsend won the Gold Medal in the Men's Paratriathlon at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Hosted in Gold Coast, Australia, these are the first Commonwealth Games to feature the Paratriathlon. Joe completed the 750m swim, 20km hand bike and 5km wheelchair race in a time of 01:02:39, 49 seconds ahead of second place.

Joe, a former Royal Marine commando, lost both of his legs in Afghanistan. He previously competed at Rio 2016 in the Paratriathlon and carried the Paralympic flame into the London 2012 Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony.

He is part a record team of 15 athletes and alumni from St Mary's who a represnting a range of countries and competing in a range of sports and athletics disciplines at the game up on the 13 who attended Glasgow and nine at Delhi.



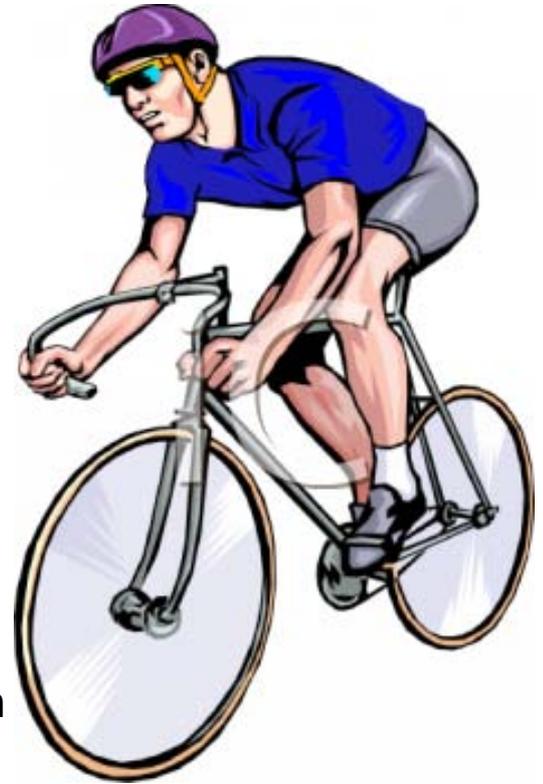
Speaking of Joe's success, Programme Director for Strength and Conditioning Science Phil Price said, "All of us on the programme are delighted with Joe's success, he is a big inspiration for his fellow students and I'm sure they'll be looking forward to celebrating his success with him when he returns to St Mary's."

Director of Sport Andrew Reid-Smith added, "Joe produced a wonderful performance to chase down and beat a world-class field. He's proved himself to be one of the best Paratriathletes in the world and everyone at St Mary's is absolutely delighted for him."

CYCLISTS - Be Seen, Be Safe, Light Up!!

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

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

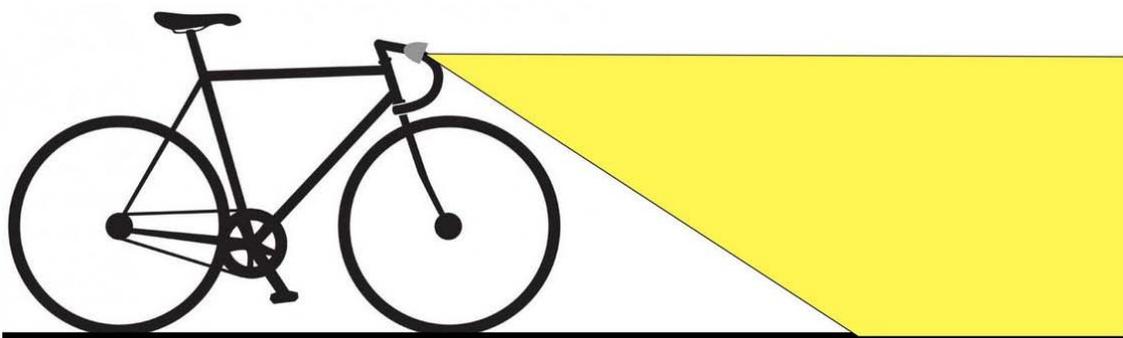


If an adult is seen at night by local Officers, then it is hoped they are challenged and consideration given to issuing the offender with a ticket/fine.”

The links below are useful for cyclists:

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

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



River Crane Sanctuary



Beautiful Bluebells, flowers and buds are getting braver and coming out for us to enjoy and we have to thank the volunteers again for the amazing work they have done in the Meadway Orchard which is well worth a short diversion to take a look if you are walking along the River Crane Corridor this weekend.

We have seen our first butterfly and eagerly await the bats! The birds are busy foraging but they still have time for a bath or two and just a simple bowl of water left out to fill with rainwater ideally or tap water will encourage them in to whatever space you have outside. More Photos/Videos/Map: <https://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>



*Bathtime!
Grumpy Robin and Nuthatch*

“Did you know, composting at home for just one year can save global warming gases equivalent to all the CO2 your kettle produces annually or your washing machine produces in three months.”

Our council is working with the below company to provide compost bins, water butts and information to help with home use. Please consider giving this a try if you have space as it will be a real contribution to helping the environment for everyone and provides us with free nutrients and fresh water for our gardens.

<https://getcomposting.com/composting-guide>



*White/Yellow Primrose Red Camellia Blue/Green Muscari
No Political Affiliation here - All welcome to join us in supporting the Environment!*

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat
<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

LBRUT COMPOST GIVEAWAY

On Sunday 22 April, Richmond Council, along with West London Waste Authority and Veolia, will be hosting a 'Compost Giveaway' day from 11.00am at Holly Road car park, Twickenham. There will be 10 tonnes of compost to give away, with residents being able to take home two bags of compost per household for free. A WEEE takeback facility will also be available for residents who want to dispose of any small electrical items they no longer need.



Ishbel Murray, Assistant Director for Environment and Community Services said:

“This is a great opportunity for environmentally responsible minded residents to collect some free compost and bring their unwanted or broken small electrical items for recycling at the same time.”

“The Council’s waste and recycling team, Veolia and West London Waste Authority, will be also on hand to provide general waste and recycling advice and information about composting. We know how much these WEEE recycling days are valued by our residents, with last January’s collection being the most successful ever and we hope that this one will be just as successful.”

The collection will take place at Holly Road Car Park in Twickenham from 11.00am until the compost is finished. We are only able to accept small WEEE items that can fit inside a 240 litre household wheelie bin.



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BLOOMING DISGRACEFUL !

By Bruce Lyons



Who`d have thought that when Pat Schooling , our chair said “How do we replenish the sponsor money we used to have for our Schools Project? (read below) and I suggested “Crowdfunding” that it wouldn’t work. After all between the committee, SWLEN – our Borough’s Green Crowdfunding site and Richmond in Bloom

itself along with assorted social media resources we could tap into 50,000 likeminded people – or so we thought.



Well, if your child grows up not being able to tell the difference between a Sunflower and a Beanstalk we will have nobody to blame but ourselves.

What`s a fiver? To date after a month’s campaigning we have raised only £700 from 26 donors and at least one has given some £200 of that!

Here was Pat`s Launch – as Mr Tesco says every little helps. The link is in the article below

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.

They do say that the borough is the greenest in London, maybe they meant we were the meanest!

But it is not too late to put a smile on Pat's face, come on you Quins dig deep and follow the link.

To donate visit

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

Further information from Pat Schooling on 020 8744 1171.

Twickenham Festival 2018

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- Half page LANDSCAPE - £200
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- Quarter Page PORTRAIT - £150
93mm high x 65mm wide
(No bleed required)



Twickenham Festival 2018

The 8th until the 24th of June



Anger Over Massive Hike in Care Charges

From Vince Cable MP

Residents attending day care facilities across Richmond – the Woodville Day Centre in Ham (primary client group dementia care); the Access Project in Whitton (a specialist day centre for people aged 18 to 65, with a physical disability or sensory loss) and Sheen Lane Day Centre (individuals aged 60 plus with a physical disability/frailty, and/or sensory loss or impairment) – have been stunned to find their fees rising in some cases by over 30%. They have also been given no notice (the fees came in on April 1st).

Whitton Lib Dem councillor Liz Jaeger has criticised the move, but the Conservative-run council pressed ahead.

Vince Cable MP said: “Residents have come to me very upset about the new charges since they already pay for social care through their council tax and are now being asked to pay really big increases, on top of that, for their relatives. The Council brushes off the criticism saying that these residents are ‘able to pay’. But the threshold for being ‘able to pay’ is only savings of £23,000 so many people of modest means are affected.

“The issue is not just the increase but the speed with which the increases were pushed through. They are very insensitive changes”.

Twickenham Aid Generosity One of Highest in Britain

From Vince Cable MP

The International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt MP, has written to Vince Cable MP to point out that 241 Twickenham residents – one of the highest numbers for any constituency in Britain – have helped to contribute to £11.5 million being raised nationally in the last six months through UK Aid Match, for charitable activities in the world’s poorest countries.

Vince Cable said: “Overseas development has taken something of a battering recently with the sex scandal in Oxfam and the sustained hostility of some national newspapers. It is refreshing, therefore, to see the continued generosity of many local people. We have several, highly regarded, development charities locally, including Tearfund, and also smaller projects, often linked to churches, doing valuable work”.

Teddington Based Portrait Artist Dennis Gilbert



Friends 21 x 31 cm (oil)



Harry 36 x 24 cm (oil)



Father Christmas 20 x 25 cm (oil)

DENNIS GILBERT
NEAC

Exhibited: Royal Academy, Paris Salon, Royal Society of Portrait Painters, and in many commercial galleries in England and abroad.

Member of the New English Art Club, past President of the Contemporary Portrait Society and past President of the Small Paintings Group.

Enquiries

dennis@dennisgilbert.net
www.dennisgilbert.net

DENNIS GILBERT



Ann 40 x 30 cm (oil)

Portrait Painter



Breakfast on the balcony 24 x 36 cm (oil)



Polly and her fish cafe 20 x 30 cm (oil)



Leticia 14 x 20 cm (pastel)



Arthur 8 x 6 cm (oil)



Christie playing Kodolwender 20 x 30 cm (oil and watercolour)



Gab 24 x 30 cm (oil)



Conversation 27 x 24 cm (pastel)



Neil composing at Kathy's desk 24 x 24 cm (watercolour)

AFTERNOON INDULGENCE SCALES NEW HEIGHTS WITH HIGH COFFEE

It is UK Coffee Week and I was privileged to try a totally new coffee concept the other day; one that is just being launched here in the UK. It has already gone down a storm 'down under' when the InterContinental Hotel Group launched it in Australia, and now we can experience it here, at the InterContinental London Park Lane. Similar in concept to the traditional afternoon tea, the High Coffee Experience is a sublime flavour journey through mouth-watering savoury and sweet delights, each course served with specially paired coffees. The hotel collaborated on the menu with L'Unico Caffé Musetti, a company that supplies many of the finest hotels and restaurants in the UK. You are probably already a regular - but unaware - consumer of its coffee, as the company also supplies bespoke blends for many other well-known outlets.



We arrived in the elegant Wellington Lounge where a pianist was tinkling the ivories and we sat by the window, watching the world struggle past in the pouring rain (it is April, after all!). We were in the height of comfort. Emma, our lovely server, gave us a quick overview of the forthcoming

High Coffee Experience and then brought us a delicious Espresso Martini to kick-start our journey. We enjoyed an assortment of bite-sized open sandwiches, which paired with the cocktail perfectly. My favourite was the smoked eel, pickled red onion, caper aioli beautifully arranged on a beetroot brioche roll...yum!

Our afternoon indulgence continued with warm, melt-in-the-mouth savouries, perfectly paired with Caffé Freddo, followed by a palate-cleansing blood orange and ginger sorbet, then traditional warm scones with clotted cream, and finishing with a delectable array of desserts (each with a suggested accompanying coffee variation). It finished with a Coretto, and the offer of a 'digestivo' to bring a highly pleasurable afternoon to a close.



What is so very unique about this new concept is that different blends of coffee - all high-grade, handcrafted, hand roasted, wood fired - had been carefully selected to match and accompany each chapter of this veritable 'culinary cavalcade of caffeinated decadence'. Dear reader, I was in coffee heaven. The coffee pairings ranged from single origin smooth, honey coffees, to blackcurrant, nutty, candied lemon blends, all from Gran Cru coffee plantations. The feast even included a rare new Gold Cuvée blend, making its debut in the UK.

For anyone worried about their caffeine intake, decaff options are available too.

The High Coffee Experience is available at £42 per head from April 23 – booking is advisable, especially at weekends.

Buon appetito, as we like to say here in Twickers!

Beaujolais – the Wine of Spring *Premier Wine*

By Michael Gatehouse, Premier Wine

Once upon a time, there was a thing about Beaujolais Nouveau, a marketing craze that ended up a disaster. Oceans of the fruity, almost fizzy stuff were hurtled across Europe to arrive with a loud noise on a certain date. Soon, demand outstripped supply, and so much more was produced that when everyone got wise by the early 2000's and realised the wine wasn't much good, producers were left with such a surplus it was called a "wine lake". And that was only half the problem: Beaujolais was stuck with a bad reputation and nobody was interested in the really good stuff. And what good stuff it is!



Made from the Gamay grape, Beaujolais is just south of Burgundy, and north of the Rhone Valley. Low in tannins, typical Beaujolais is light bodied, soft, fruity, and pretty easy to drink. Some basic wines, however, can be quite thin and acidic, so care is needed when buying inexpensively. Beaujolais Villages "Les Pivoines" £9.99 is full of soft strawberry and cherry notes, and certainly worth taking on a picnic.

But it's the Beaujolais Cru wines that are really special. Fleurie is possibly the best known; 180 growers making 5.5 million bottles per year. Seductive and silky, elegant and refined. Morgon is perhaps my favourite; a "masculine" Beaujolais: "Domaine des Montillets" Morgon £12.49 full bodied and powerful, with a deep garnet hue. Brouilly is dark and rich, the big brother to Cote de Brouilly, the "wine on the hill", softer and lighter, with floral aromas. Saint-Amour, the most romantic of wines: "Le Cru des Amoureux" Saint-Amour £11.99 is situated below the village church. Moulin-a-Vent, full bodied and complex, with hints of truffles and game. Julienas, with violet, spice and vanilla flavours, Regnie, the youngest of the Crus, aromatic with wonderful berry flavours, Chenas, the rarest of them all, a sophisticated wine that needs a couple of years, and Chiroubles, the most typical Beaujolais in terms of weight and structure.

Now these wines compliment the best of foods and they will delight you and satisfy you in equal measures. Beaujolais – the wine of Spring, Love, Paris. And the price won't bite your fingers off either, unlike Burgundies. So if you're looking for a change from your usual rasping Aussie Shiraz or your wooden Merlot from Chile, try a Beaujolais Cru – slap bang in the middle of Smooth City!



Steam, Steel and Shells – 4

By Helen Baker

Early August 1914. Well-to-do refugees from Belgium were already trickling into Richmond, Twickenham and other parts of the UK. Over in Hampshire there was no saw-mill yet in the vicinity of Liphook in Hampshire, as there was later on.

With the start of war, future refugee munitions producer Charles Pelabon had put himself at the disposal of the Belgian war industry, together with his employees. But then Brussels fell on 18th August. Like the King, the government and many other Bruxellois of both high and lower standing, Charles had just fled ahead of the German advance. Most of the fugitives went to Belgium's second city of Antwerp. In those days a company like Pelabon's was seen as a family: all Charles' men and their dependants went with him and he still held himself responsible for them.

Surrounded by no fewer than 48 forts in a double ring, the City of Antwerp was regarded as impregnable. Charles had got stuck into work at once, taking over The National Factory of Seamless Tubes in outlying Merksem (La Fabrique Nationale de Tubes sans Soudure) with the help of his own skilled metal-workers. If they were not by now producing actual munitions, they were undoubtedly producing war materials of some kind. We're not sure quite where the factory was but this photo shows part of the industrial area of Merksem.

Their sanctuary was not to last long - more next week.

© ETCG (Heritage Lottery Funded) and Hollycombe Steam Museum



German troops marching through Brussels, in 1914.
Vintage postcard, public domain, available on Wikipedia



Industrial Merxem:
East Twickenham Centennial Group



The Witches

by Roald Dahl, adapted for the stage by David Wood
YAT at Hampton Hill Theatre until Saturday 14th April
Review by Matthew Grierson

I'm not sure what time it was when I came out of *The Witches*, though it seemed to have rushed past. But the play still has all the scares, jokes and charm you would hope for, especially if you're eight years old.

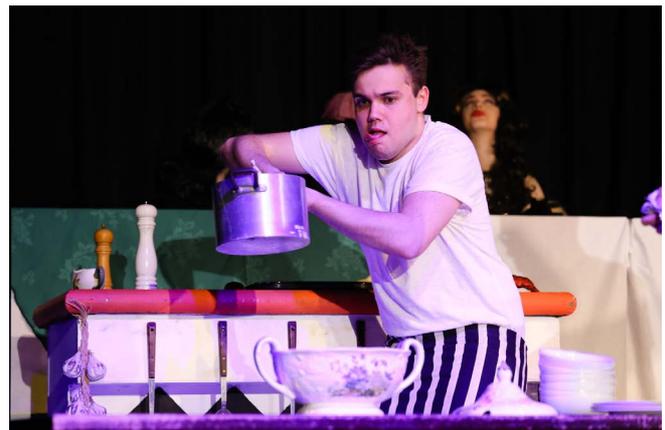
Going along at a fair lick, the story is told largely as a series of set pieces, most of them likely to be remembered from the Roald Dahl book the show is based on. The witches' AGM is one of the most memorable: their arrival down either aisle before taking to the stage is suitably scary (the girl a couple of seats away cuddled up to her grandmother for comfort), while later on their hunt for a hidden boy made even me grip the armrests in tension.



Presiding over her British coven through this scene is the Grand High Witch, played by a flamboyant Zofia Komorowska. In a generically East European accent, she outlines her Grand High Plan to convert the UK's children into mice before going on to subject two young unfortunates to this fate. The assembled cast of witches revel gleefully in this demonstration of her powers, although as they have their backs to the audience to enable everyone to see the presentation, some of the expository dialogue gets lost. Nevertheless, there's no doubting that it's a spectacle, and it is rounded off with a mischievously macabre musical number.

In the central role, Meaghan Baxter is convincingly boyish, wide-eyed with enthusiasm or terror as the situation demands, and she is nicely counterpointed both by Rebecca Tarry as his twinkly Grandmother, and by Ella Barnett as the hapless and greedy Bruno. I would also highlight the sterling work of Benjamin Buckley and Emily Coates as Bruno's dimwitted dad and highly strung mum, Timmy King and Josh Clarke as a double act of chefs who make fine work of an hilarious slapstick kitchen routine, and Daniel Lee as a froggy familiar to the GHW. But being fair, the young cast share the load fairly evenly, and are of such a consistently high standard that they should also share the plaudits ...

Read Matthew Grierson's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/04/13/witches



Quartet

by Ronald Harwood

Cheltenham Everyman at Richmond Theatre then touring until 21st April

Review by Eleanor Marsh

“Art is nothing if it does not make you feel” is the phrase that I took away with me from *Quartet* at Richmond Theatre.

This is a no expenses spared production from the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. It has an all-star cast, truly sumptuous and well thought out set and costumes that would be proud to grace the stage of the Royal Opera House.

The plot of the play is simple and well executed by Ronald Harwood, who has inhabited this world and writes about what he knows. Wilf, Cissy and Reggie are all past stars of opera are seeing out their days in a retirement home for musicians. The annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday is looming and they are searching for something to perform. Enter Jean, the biggest star of them all in her day – and still the grandest. Her arrival means that they can recreate their finest hour, the quartet from *Rigoletto*. Jean, however is not playing ball. No spoilers here but the journey to the play's lavish finale is funny and touching, giving each actor several moments to shine. In any ensemble piece such as this the true delights are in the banter and relationships between the characters.



The Everyman's cast are all well-known television faces who have a strong pedigree in theatre and, crucially, have musical experience, which makes all the difference at the end of the play. Then Cissy is at her most vulnerable I was genuinely moved and wishing I could have seen more of this more naturalistic performance throughout the play. It was a lovely moment.

Read Eleanor's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/04/10/quartet

Photography courtesy of Cheltenham Everyman Theatre Company

Thrills but no Spills in East Twickenham

Helen Baker reports

The river was flooded above and below Richmond Bridge on Thursday night with lights from a gigantic preying-mantis crane occupying the whole of East Twickenham's slipway and towering over the mansion flats of Clevedon Road. More lights lined the towpath outside Cambridge Gardens, disturbing no-one except perhaps the ducks.

Scenes of high adventure beneath the lights were part of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's *The Hustle*, a 2018 remake of the 1988 film *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. This time the con artists are female, played by Rebel Wilson and Anne Hathaway. Their young male mark is played by Alex Sharp. In Thursday's sequence a desperate chase through the April (yes, April) Christmas Market on Richmond Riverside ended in a furious upstream escape by speedboat at two o'clock in the morning. In the blink of any eye only the slipstream was left behind.



The film will be released on June 29th 2018 by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Annapurna Pictures. NW UK Productions Ltd who are making the film from Twickenham Studios have promised a donation to a local charity and are liaising with local councillors to identify which group would benefit the most.

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

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.



8th May - Hotel Salvation (India) - Directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani

Convinced that his end is near, 77-year-old Daya resolves to spend his last days in the holy city of Varanasi and insists upon his dutiful son, Rajiv (an overworked accountant), accompanying him to a hostel on the banks of the Ganges where elderly believers go to die and find salvation. In the event, the atmosphere has a restorative effect and the scene is set for a beguiling, tender and humorous tale of self discovery, tradition and modernity, family ties and reconciliation.

22nd May - Le Havre (Finland) - Directed by Aki Kaurismäki

When a young African stowaway arrives by cargo ship in the port city of Le Havre, Marcel, an ageing shoe shiner takes pity on the child and, with the assistance of friendly neighbours, hides him from the police.

Like 'The Other Side of Hope' - which proved hugely popular when screened earlier this Season by RFS - 'Le Havre' is another instalment in Kaurismäki's proposed trilogy about life in port cities. Once again, it deals with immigration and attitudes to refugees but it does so with all of Kaurismäki's trademark lightness of touch, drollery and deadpan humour. The result is an offbeat, warmhearted and charming film, which garnered fifteen awards worldwide, including at the 2011 Cannes, Chicago and Munich Film Festivals.



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

Rail Company Rethinks Timetable Changes

From Vince Cable

After a strong protest, South Western Railway has dropped its proposal to change to the new train timetable that would have removed faster trains from Whitton in the peak period from December of this year.

There will instead be three (Reading) fast trains at peak hours, morning and evening, over and above the (Windsor) half hour service.

Vince Cable MP said: “The protests made by the local community, our Liberal Democrat councillors and myself seem to have worked in getting the rail company to back down. We still await some final details but it looks as if this very unpopular and disruptive proposal for Whitton residents has been stopped.”

The deadline to get on the electoral register for next month’s borough elections is midnight on Tuesday 17th April.

Most people in Twickenham are of course already on it, but if you have moved into the area recently, or moved within the area, or perhaps you live in private rented accommodation - then the advice is to not assume you are automatically on it.

You can check whether you are on the electoral register by contacting Richmond Council - better to be safe, than sorry, and suddenly find you can’t vote in May.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/elections_voting_and_registration

Getting on the electoral register is quite easy and can be done online. It takes no more than five minutes.

Details of how to get on the electoral register are here:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>



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Places People Play



Making The Best Borough Even Better

Richmond Borough Conservatives

Local Conservative Councillors have been running Richmond Council for eight years and it's now the best borough in London.

In a recent independent survey 87% of the residents have said they are happy with the way the council is run by local conservatives.

Council tax has been frozen for 6 of eight years and frontline services have been maintained while living within our means.

Our promises to you for the next four years.

We will continue to keep Council Tax as low as possible.

Protect Weekly rubbish and recycling collections.

Massively increase investments to bring all pavements and roads to a high standard over five years.

We continue with the Richmond Card giving residents 30-minute free parking.

Support our elderly and vulnerable by protecting Social care services, representing over half the council budget.

Preserve choice and protect our six forms from an opposition party that consistently opposes them.

Help the police to further tackle anti-social behaviour, moped crime and burglaries.



Greens and Lib Dems Aim for Better Representation for Residents on Richmond Council

In the local elections on 3rd May, the Greens and Liberal Democrat have agreed to run joint campaigns in six wards. There will be two Liberal Democrat candidates and one Green candidate in each of the following wards: Barnes; Fulwell & Hampton Hill; Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside; Hampton Wick; South Richmond; and South Twickenham.

The two parties are doing this because the deeply flawed first past the post (FPTP) voting system creates a council dominated by just two parties. Both Richmond & Twickenham Green Party and Twickenham & Richmond Liberal Democrats believe that Richmond Council is less representative and its decision-making is poorer for not having a wider range of political voices in the Council Chamber. We hope voters agree that the constraints of the electoral system have forced us to make some difficult choices to get more diverse voices on Richmond Council. Both parties continue to fight hard to change the outdated electoral system.

Richard Bennett, Green Party Coordinator and candidate for South Twickenham says: "The Green Party believes in collaborating with other parties at all levels of our elected bodies to achieve the best outcome for residents. Until we have a fairer system, that allows voters to choose equally between a wider range of candidates and parties, we are working with the Liberal Democrats to ensure Richmond Borough has a wider range of representation on the Council after the May elections.

The Green Party would like to thank all our supporters who have voted for us in the past and hope that you will be able to vote 1 Green and 2 Lib Dems in these six wards on 3rd May.

Candidates in the six 'joint wards':

Barnes

Nicola Albon (Grn), Merlene Emerson (LD), Anne McKee (LD)

Fulwell & Hampton Hill

Jonathan Cardy (LD), Matthew Hull (LD), Monica Saunders (Grn),

Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside

Andree Frieze (Grn), Penny Frost (LD), Gareth Richards (LD)

Hampton Wick

Dylan Baxendale (Grn), Robin Brown (LD), Jim Millard (LD)

South Richmond

Elizabeth Nash (Grn), Bill Newton (LD), Paulina Vassileva (LD)

South Twickenham

Richard Bennett (Grn), Michael Butlin(LD), Katie Mansfield (LD)

Half Page

Quarter Page Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

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