

The Twickenham Tribune

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Dennis Gilbert at his Teddington Studio
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TwickerTape - News in Brief

Local Charities Honoured

Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) and Companion Cycling have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

www.force.org.uk

www.companioncycling.org.uk

Hampton Wick Application

The Hampton Wick Association has submitted a Community Fund bid for improvements to Bullen Hall and to end lunchtime closing at the Library. For more information and to offer support see www.hamptonwick.org.uk

Help celebrate the heroes in your community

Do you know inspirational individual, group, or business whose heroic efforts make this borough a better place to live and work? We want to know them too!

Nominations for 2019's Community Heroes' Awards are now open. It is a chance for us to highlight and celebrate the commitment of the people and groups living and working in Richmond upon Thames, who improve the lives of our communities and represent the borough with pride and excellence.

Awards will once again be offered in specific categories, to reflect the breadth of voluntary work being done in your communities. Winners will be recognised for their heroic achievements in everything from sporting activities and community events to care giving. Visit the [Community Heroes](#) web page to submit your nomination for any category before 10pm on Wednesday 10 July

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This week there has been renewed TwitterChatter about a bridge across the Thames following an announcement by our chums at Radnor Bridge who will have a stall at the Ham Fair (8th June) and Church St Goes Green (15-16 June).

The subject was a hot topic at last year's Community Conversations, following the release of a [report](#) commissioned by the previous administration.

The Radnor Bridge folk have been enthusiastically promoting their idea for many years now and have featured in this newspaper.

TwickerSeal and TwickerDuck hot-flipped to Radnor Gardens and used their O-Level engineering to quickly knock together a bridge. Unfortunately, it had to be dismantled immediately; the PLA were going on about river traffic or some such nonsense.

Perhaps the competition architects will include a bridge in their Twickenham Riverside Design Competition proposals, ideally at the 'dead' Wharf Lane corner where the Lido will be located?



PART 130 – THE GATES OF BUSHY PARK

Our Borough is blessed in that it contains the two largest Royal Parks in London as well as Hampton Court Park which is managed by Historic Royal Palaces. Richmond is by far the largest of the eight Royal Parks with Bushy Park second.

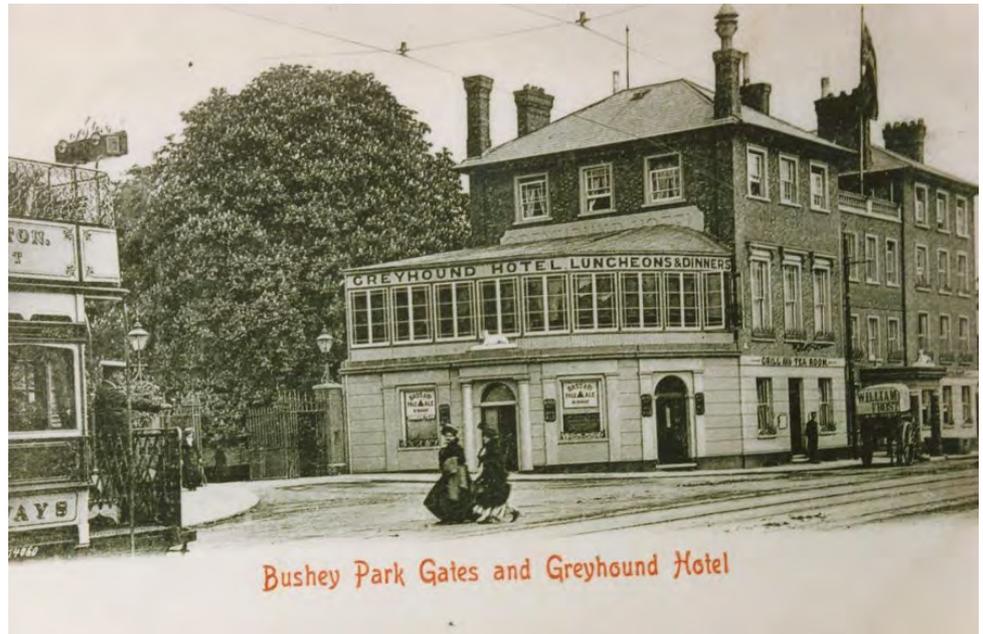
Bushy Park is 445 hectares (1,100 acres) in area. When Henry VIII took over Hampton Court Palace from Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in 1529, the King named three parks that make up modern-day Bushy Park and a small area beside: Hare Warren, Middle Park and Bushy Park. A keen hunter, he established them as deer-hunting grounds. Today the park contains herds of Red and Fallow deer.

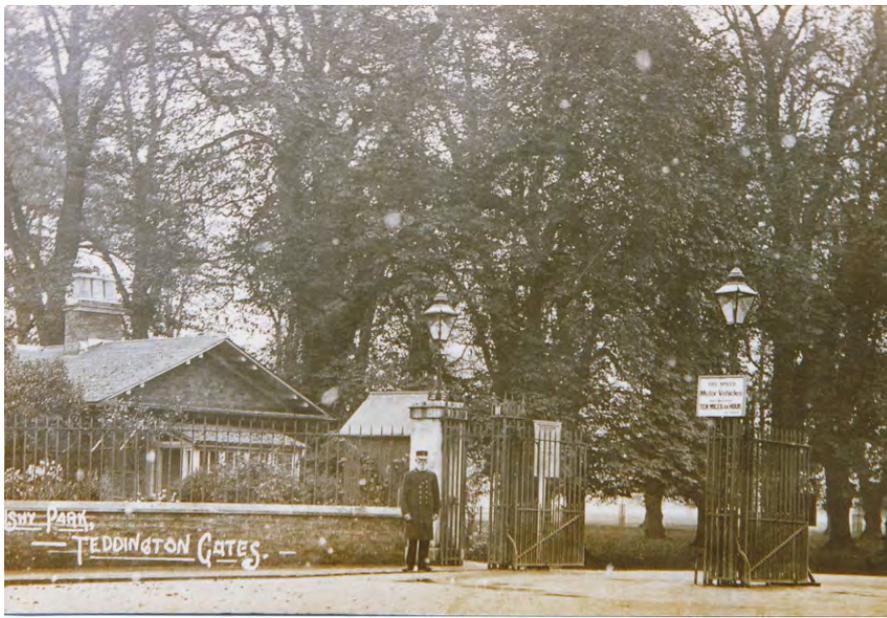
Therefore the parks were enclosed and gated entrances were built to ensure that the deer, sheep and other livestock were confined within the park boundaries.

His successors, perhaps less involved in traditional sporting activities, added a number of picturesque features, including the

Longford River, a 19-km canal built on the orders of Charles I of England to provide water to Hampton Court, and the park's various ponds. This period also saw the construction of the main thoroughfare, Chestnut Avenue, which runs from Park Road in Teddington to the Lion Gate entrance to Hampton Court Palace in Hampton Court Road. This avenue and the Arethusa 'Diana' Fountain were designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a grand approach to Hampton Court Palace.

It is the two gates at either end of Chestnut Avenue that are shown on our picture postcards this week.



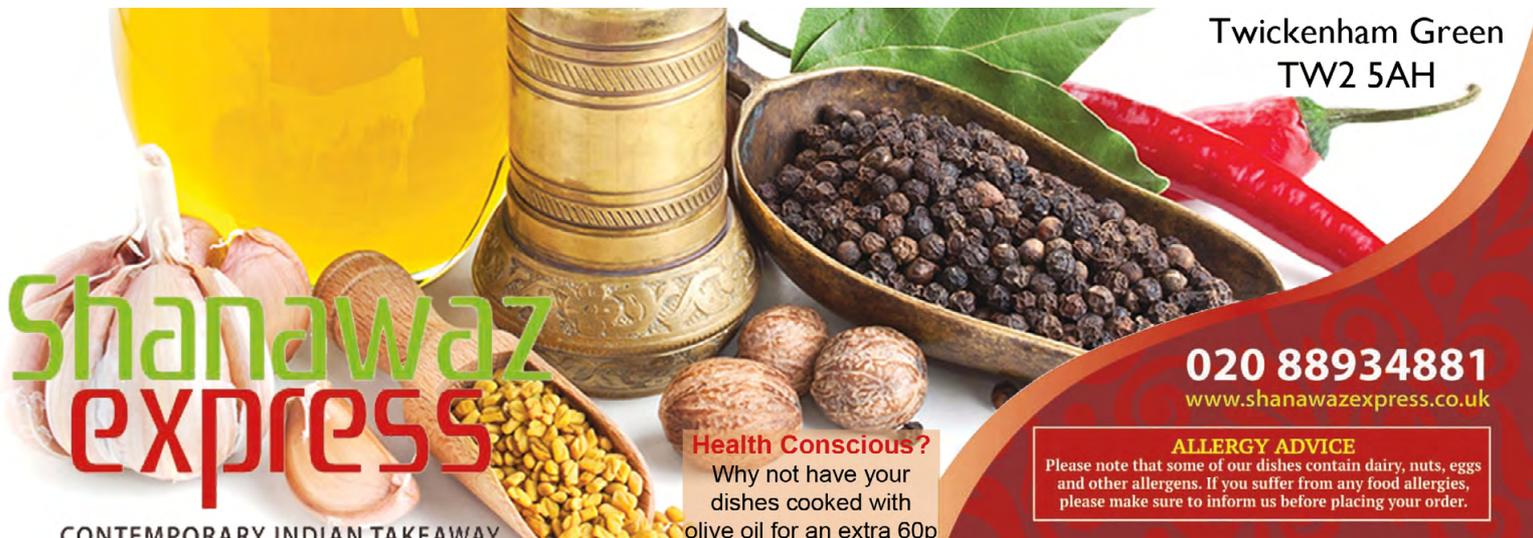


The first postcard at the Hampton Court end is interestingly spelt “Bushey” while the second at the Teddington entrance is spelt “Bushy” which is today’s spelling. Both postcards are probably showing the gates before the First World War and I particularly like the one showing the Greyhound Hotel

which at the time was a vibrant popular hotel for visitors to the Palace which is directly opposite. And you thought that Park Gates were boring before you read this didn’t you!

You may be interested in a talk that I shall give to the Twickenham Society next Tuesday 11th June. “Wandering around Central Twickenham in 100 years of postcards” will be an anecdotal stroll between York House and Heath Road taking in the riverside and London Road up to the railway station. Supported by picture postcards, published from 1900 onwards. It should bring back a few memories of Twickenham as it was. Venue is the Twickenham Club in Church Street and the talk will begin at 7.30. Admission is £2 to non-members.

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Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



*denotes new listing

Saturday, 8 June - Saturday, 15 June. 7.45 (except 9 June at 3.00 and no performance Wed. 12) Mary Wallace Theatre, TW1 3DU
Richmond Shakespeare Society presents THE LONESOME WEST by Martin McDonagh.

Info: www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

Sunday, 9 - Saturday, 15 June at 7.45 (Sun at 6pm) Studio Theatre, Hampton Hill Theatre.
Teddington Theatre Club presents A VISIT FROM MISS PROTHERO and AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD by Alan Bennett. Booking now open. Only 50 seats each night. Don't leave it too late to book your seat.

Info: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Saturday, 22 - Saturday, 29 June. Various starting times. Hampton Hill Theatre. Teddington Theatre Club is proud to present the award-winning Hilary Mantel novels adapted for the stage by Mike Poulton, WOLF HALL and BRING UP THE BODIES.

Info: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Thursday, 30 - Saturday 8 June. 7.30 at St Edmunds Church Hall, TW2 7BB. Edmundian Players present GOOD NIGHT MISTER TOM by David Wood, based on book by Michelle Magorian.

Info: www.edmundianplayers.com

Saturday, 15 June, 7.30. Landmark Arts Centre, TW11 9NN. THAMES PHILHARMONIA with DAVID CAMPBELL, renowned clarinettist perform a programme of music of Irish and English traditional folk music, and Italian and French classics.

Info: www.landmarkartscentre.org

*Saturday, 15 June, 7.30 Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham Green. COMMUNITY CONCERT featuring the popular TRINITY SINGERS, supported by solo performances, vocal and instrumental, comedy and fun.

Info: admin@holytrinitytwickenham.org

*Friday, 7 - Sunday, 23 June Multiple venues, TWICKENHAM FESTIVAL, starting with Tug-of-War on Friday in Church Street at 6.30. and on Saturday the regular attraction, the Flower Festival in St Marys Church, crafts of all kinds in the street. Continues on Sunday.

And return of special attraction, Abseil Down Grade 11 listed All Hallows Tower (on the Chertsey Road) - a sell-out event last year.

Info: abseilalhallows@gmail.com

*Friday, 7 June, 8.00, The Exchange. MANSFORD COMEDY CLUB. Jason Mansford and brother Colin feature up and coming performers as well as more well-known names.

*Saturday, 8 June, 2-4pm. Diamond Jubilee Gardens TWICKENHAM FESTIVAL DOG SHOW. Go along with your pooch to enter or just go and admire others' pets. Categories include Waggiest Tail, Best Golden Oldie, Cutest Puppy and Best Fancy Dress.

*Saturday, 8 June. 6.30 COMEDY IN THE BREWERY.

Info: www.twickenham-fine-ales.co.uk

Monday, 10 June. - 24 August. 9.30-6.00, (Mons-Friday, Saturday. -4.00)

Riverside Gallery, TW9 1TP. Richmond Printmakers exhibit TRANSFORMATION. Works of art from plain, unblemished wood, metal, stone, lino or silk.

Info: www.richmond.gov.uk/arts

*Tuesday, 11 June. The Exchange, TW1 1BE. Robert Redford in his final performance.

Info: www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Jazz, rock, and blues music enthusiasts who head to the bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit Twickfolk, Twickenham Jazz Club and Eel Pie Club websites to check what's on.

Sunday, 9 June, Twickfolk reopens with BILLY KEMP, singer and guitarist with songs and stories from the heart of Nashville.

Info: www.twickfolk.co.uk

*Friday, 14 June. 8.00. The Exchange, TW1: THE CARNABY ARMY AT THE EXCHANGE. Carnaby Army joins the Eel Pie Island Museum for a fundraising event of 60's tunes with special guest appearances from original Eel Pie artistes.

Info: www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/event/carnaby-army

*Thursday, 13 June. 11.00, 13.00, 15.00. A SLICE OF EEL PIE: a guided tour, 45 minute, fully illustrated Twickenham Embankment tour, taking in sights and sounds of Eel Pie Island, followed by a guided tour of Eel Pie Museum.

Info: eelpieislandmuseum@gmail.com

Remember to check alternate Thursdays at 8.00pm at The Turk's Head, Winchester Road, St Margaret's, where the Pub Choir invites you to join in or just relax and listen.

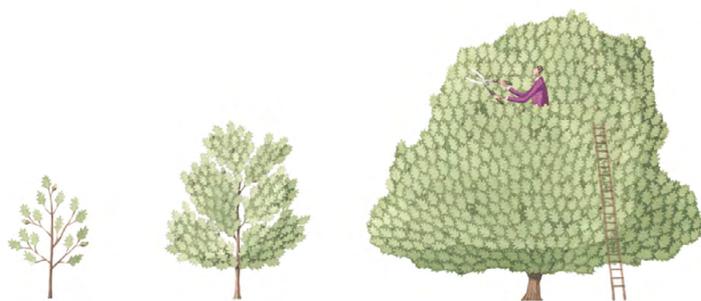
Friday evenings from 7.30 at Arthurs on the Green, TW2 Live jazz from THE BUCKINGHAM TRIO. Jazz and Italian grub. What a combo!

Saturdays and Sundays. Fun and games for all the family, at ORLEANS HOUSE GALLERY, Riverside TW1 3DJ.

Info: info@orleanshousegallery.org

Wednesdays-Sundays, 12noon-4.00 at TURNERS HOUSE Exhibition: MINIATURE LANDS OF MYTH AND MEMORY. Also wander round the garden now in full bloom.

Info: www.turnershouse.org



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
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info@thetreeagency.co.uk
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The Tree Agency

Help map out new ward boundaries for Richmond upon Thames

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people for their help in drawing up a new pattern of council wards for Richmond upon Thames. The consultation is the second part of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across the borough. This follows a review earlier in the year to determine whether or not the current number of councillors is the appropriate for the borough size and population. Following this review, it was determined that there should be no change from the current arrangements of 54 elected members.

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in Council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across Richmond upon Thames.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“I am pleased that the Commission agrees that the size of the Council is right. However, making sure that our ward boundaries are in the right place is important. So, understanding from people which ward they think they should live in, will help the Commission with their review. I encourage all residents to have their say.”

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said:

“We are asking local people and organisations to help us draw up new wards for Richmond upon Thames. As we develop the recommendations, we will take into account local community identities as well as ensuring electoral equality for voters.

“If you have a view about which communities or neighbourhoods should be part of the same council ward, then we want to hear from you. And if you think a road, river or railway makes for a strong boundary between communities in your part of Richmond upon Thames then this consultation is for you.

“If you’re interested in the way the borough is run, just log on to our website to explore our interactive maps and have your say. Your views will make a difference.

“We will carefully consider all evidence that is provided during this phase of the review, whoever it is from and whether it applies to the whole of Richmond upon Thames or just a small part of the borough.

“Residents will then have a further chance to have their say after we publish our draft recommendations in October.”

Local people have until 5 August 2019 to submit their views in this consultation. Further information on the review and interactive maps of the existing wards can be found at consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk.



Be a part of the art

Creative laboratory at Orleans House Gallery

Be a part of the art as Orleans House Gallery transforms into a laboratory with its latest exhibition running from 4 July to 30 September.

The Overview Effect, from artists Abby and Alice, will take over the Stables Gallery and bring their open studio to life. Visitors of all ages are invited to come and see the artists as they work and even contribute to the exhibition!

Through a series of 'Playtests' (community build workshops), visitors to the gallery can work alongside artists, using different materials to create new structures and artwork.

Or if you'd rather just watch our artists at work, the gallery will be open to the public throughout the summer. You can drop in and see how the artists' exhibitions are coming along, chat to them about their creation and even offer your own ideas!

Cllr Martin Elengorn, Chair of Richmond Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee said:

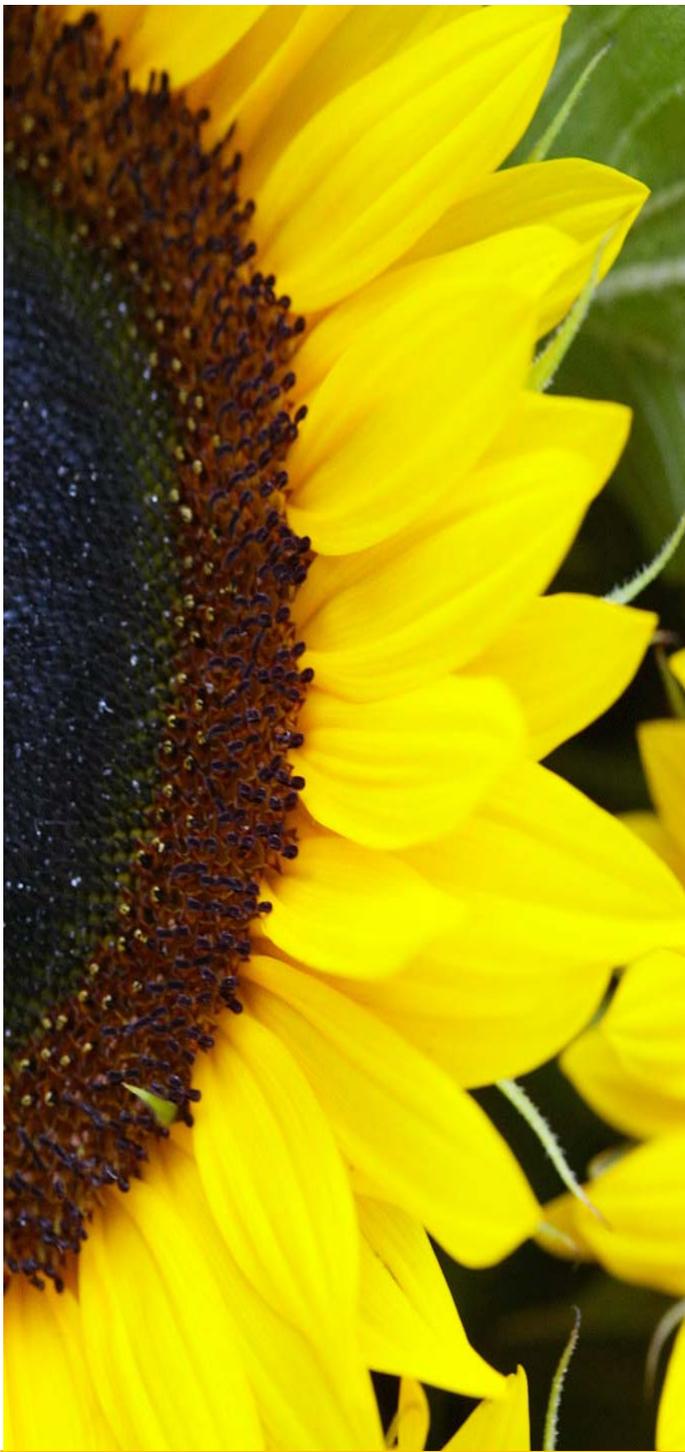
"Orleans House Gallery are launching their new season with a wonderfully interactive exhibition. For residents of all ages, whether you're an artistic expert or just looking for a fun day out, come down to the Stables Gallery and get creating alongside our resident artists."

Find out more and see a full list of dates by visiting the [Orleans House Gallery](#) website.

TEDDINGTON OPENS ITS GARDENS FOR CHARITY

Sheena Harold, Chairman, The Teddington Society

Sunday June 9th is the day to come to Teddington for an afternoon of horticultural delights. Our gardeners open their back gardens, not normally seen, for charity. This year six green fingered Teddingtonians are taking part. A full list of where they are and a description of the hidden gardens can be had from the Library. You can find refreshments, honey, home made floral cards, local art works and plants for sale. Then pop along to St Mary with St Alban our Parish Church in Ferry Road for a cream tea in the lovely churchyard and pop into the church to hear the St Mary Teddington Bells hand bell ringers perform at 2.30 and again at 3.30. Organiser Sian Morgan will be escorting the Deputy Mayor to all the gardens. All money raised will go to supporting improvements to the woodland surrounding the Landmark Arts Centre and to projects being maintained by the Teddington Society. A lovely way to spend an idyllic Sunday afternoon. See you there.



Teddington in Flower

Sunday
9th June 2019
2pm to 6pm

**Entrance: £1 per garden for
Teddington Society Members**
(Non-members £2 per garden)
Children free with accompanying adult

Come and Visit

6 beautiful back gardens not
normally open to the public
**PLUS: Refreshments
& Bell Ringing at
St Mary's Parish Church**

**All Proceeds to
Local Charities**



Organised by
**The
Teddington
Society**

Details of
Participating Gardens
available from Local Libraries
&
Teddington Society Website
teddingtonsociety.org.uk

Teddington in Flower

Annual Open Garden Event Raising Money for Local Charities

2pm - 6pm, Sunday 9th June 2019

Entrance: £1 per person per garden for Members of the Teddington Society
£2 per person, per garden for non-members. Children free with accompanying adult.

52 Somerset Road: Kitty & Geoffrey Wass

Paintings will be on sale inside the house

Accessed via a gate on Church Road, this secret garden is hidden behind a high wall. There is a lovely hand-built greenhouse, a pond where the fish hope to escape the local heron and self-seeded and wild flowers are very much encouraged.

Alma Cottage, Albert Road: Dick & Gilly Hughes

Floral cards for sale

This large walled garden, was first laid out in 1854 by the owner, a gardener from Chiswick. Some of the original layout has been retained, currently planted with fruit trees, grapevines and shrubs. There is an air raid shelter, greenhouse, a pond and a 'secret' pathway where you might possibly spot a fairy or two! Weather-permitting, some local maps will be on display.

26 Gomer Gardens: Gianna Saccomani

Open for the first time this year, this contemporary courtyard garden (accessed via a gate on Boulton Gardens) perfectly complements the recently extended house. A green wall, a stylish water feature and interesting garden sculptures make this stunning garden far from ordinary.

34 Kingston Lane: Jan & David Pollock

This terraced garden was landscaped in 2013 with a curved sandstone terrace, Roman steps leading down to a path edged lawn and a further drop to a small pond with a waterfall and a pergola over a small seating area. Some of the planting has changed over the last six years and the shrubs are now more mature.

15 St Winifred's Road: Andy & Clare Oakley

Open for the first time this year, this garden has a tropical feel. Accessed through a small side courtyard with a fountain and tree ferns, the garden opens out on to a bamboo-sheltered patio, with steps leading on to a path of crushed slate with a charming summer house at the end surrounded by bananas and other exotic plants.

59 St Winifred's Road: Caroline & Peter Sayer

Refreshments and local honey

Last opened 5 years ago, this is a relatively large garden for Teddington, with lovely flower and shrub borders, fruit trees, a vegetable plot and a pond bursting with wildlife. The garden also has some interesting garden pots, ornaments and chickens!

St. Mary with St. Alban Church, Ferry Road

Refreshments & Bell Ringing

Enjoy a moment of peace in this lovely old church and wander around the old-fashioned churchyard where cream teas and other refreshments will be served. St Mary Teddington Bells will be performing in the Church at 2.30-3pm and 3.30-4pm.

The Woodland, Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road

Toilets available

With the benefit of money raised by Teddington in Flower over the last few years, the formerly impenetrable 'Wilderness' surrounding the Landmark Art Centre has been transformed in to a tranquil woodland area. A meandering pathway leads to a circular clearing surrounded with rustic seating created from logs repurposed from one of the site's dead cedar trees. The remaining trunk will be carved to create a woodland-inspired art installation, as soon as funds allow. Come and take a look at this as well as the newly installed composting area and stag beetle hotel! The Arts Centre will also be open for anyone needing to make use of the toilets.



Teddington in Flower is organised by **The Teddington Society** (Charity No: 902026) teddingtonsociety.org.uk
The funds raised support local charitable projects.

The Teddington Society does not check, supply or endorse any food or products supplied by the garden owners.

The Teddington Society accept no responsibility for injury or other damage suffered by visitors to the gardens.

NB: Surfaces and changes in levels in some of the participating gardens are not fully accessible.

As much as we love dogs, we regret they are not allowed in the gardens, apart from blind and hearing dogs.



TUG OF WAR IN CHURCH STREET



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Diana Award for Richmond upon Thames College student Bethannie York



Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is delighted to announce that local student Bethannie York has been chosen to receive a 2019 Diana Award for her outstanding social achievements in and outside of college.

Established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, The Diana Award is the most prestigious accolade a young person aged between 9 and 25 years can receive for their social action or humanitarian work. It is the longest running award for young people that is given to individuals and groups through a retrospective nomination process only.

Bethannie studies Photography, History and English A Levels at RuTC. Due to her involvement in the

Honey Pot Children's Charity, based in West London, she recently had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Theresa May at Downing Street. Honey Pot works towards enhancing lives of young carers and vulnerable children. In addition, Bethannie supports the Hounslow Young Carers Project, which earned her The Diana Award nomination.



About her involvement with the project, Bethannie says, "Through working 1:1 with vulnerable young carers, as well as watching young carers blossom into incredible people, my work with the Hounslow Young Carers Project has been inspiring. Having been a member of the project since the age of 9 and having first-hand experience, the importance of caring organisations for vulnerable young people across the country is immeasurable. This is why I am helping to establish a new young carers' charity, to help support young people in their hour of need. Every child should have the

chance to be exactly that, a child."

Sharon Cousins, Assistant Principal Student Experience at RuTC, says, "We believe Bethannie's achievement is very special. Young people do not work towards the award, rather they demonstrate their suitability through their actions, without any expectation of reward. Bethannie was nominated for her work with the Hounslow Young Carers Project, and her own caring role at home, plus her fundraising and awareness raising activities for the Honey Pot Children's Charity."

Bethannie will officially be included in the award scheme's 'Roll of Honour' on Monday 1 July 2019 and will receive the award at a ceremony later this year.



Richmond upon
Thames College



**Twickenham
Festival
2019**

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WWW.TWICKENHAMTHETOWN.ORG.UK

Talented architects shortlisted for Twickenham Riverside redevelopment competition

Five talented architects have been shortlisted to create potential designs for the future of Twickenham Riverside – in a competition where over 50 architects submitted expressions of interest. In March, Richmond Council announced the launch of a Design Competition to find an architect-led team to work on proposals for the Twickenham Riverside site. The competition is managed by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The RIBA has extensive experience and is a widely recognised provider of architectural competitions, delivering high profile selection processes for both private and public-sector clients. They were commissioned to support the Design Panel to develop a new brief for the site and deliver an OJEU compliant competition programme.

The first stage of the competition invited architects to come forward and express interest in working on the site. An impressive 54 architect firms subsequently applied.

The Design Panel, chaired by the Leader of the Council, leading Councillors for Environment and Businesses, a local ward Councillor, a representative from the Local Stakeholder Reference Group and two local representatives with architectural experience, reviewed all the applications to ensure that they met the required criteria. And, with the support of the RIBA, five companies will now move to the next stage of the competition and be asked to produce designs.

The companies are:

- Baynes and Mitchell
- Allies and Morrison
- Cullinan Studio
- Hopkins Architects
- Haworth Tompkins



In September there will be a period of engagement where residents can have their say on the ideas from the 5 shortlisted teams. The results of the engagement will be available to the Design Panel prior to making a final decision.

CLlr Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council, said:

“I am thrilled that so many companies have shown an interest in the Twickenham site. I am confident that the five shortlisted companies will offer a good mix of styles and ideas. Each architect team comes with an impressive CV and I look forward to seeing their varied proposals.

“For nearly 40 years this beautiful stretch of the River Thames has been awaiting a design that can showcase the riverside as a destination for people to live, play, work, enjoy and thrive. The interest in the competition from such a wide number of companies proves that there was an appetite from the industry to help create an exciting and energising development and there is a clear opportunity for a firm to leave their mark.”

Sarah Williams, from the RIBA, said:

“The Council received some exemplary submissions at this first stage of the competition and have selected 5 excellent firms to participate in phase 2. This is an exciting opportunity for teams to create something vibrant and beautiful along the river Thames for the benefit of the community. The panel are very much looking forward to receiving proposals from this strong shortlist”



The Lonesome West

by **Martin McDonagh**

Directed by Fiona Smith

Richmond Shakespeare Society



at the Mary Wallace Theatre

**The Mary Wallace
Theatre**

The Embankment
Twickenham
TW1 3DU

**Saturday
8th June to
Saturday
15th June 2019**

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affiliated to artsrichmond**



"God's got no jurisdiction in this town."

Teddington Artist Celebrates 80 Years At The Easel

Recently The Twickenham Tribune attended an exhibition at the Teddington studio of well known artist Dennis Gilbert. The exhibition was a retrospective showcasing Dennis' 80 years as an artist. Readers will recognise Dennis' name from artwork he contributed to the two local history books *The Most Famous Ice Rink In The World* and *Lidos Alive: The Story Of Our Lidos*. www.dennisgilbert.net



River Crane Sanctuary



Green Hairstreak Butterfly



This beautiful butterfly visited last week and is very tiny and well camouflaged but we managed to get this photo on a pesticide free Thornless Blackberry Bush.

The birds have been busy cleaning up the greenfly and aphids so that the gardens are full of blooms for all to enjoy and it is worth a little damage to our flowers/plants to ensure that wildlife and humans are not harmed by chemicals released into the environment.

There is information everywhere now on wilding our gardens to make up for the catastrophic loss of habitat in our countryside due to intensive farming and other impacts but is the message reaching the non-converted and very busy sections of our community or those who just do not care but know their rights once they own land?

More worrying is whether our Councils and other Statutory bodies are enforcing laws when they are informed of infringements. Unfortunately, we have not found that to be the case and in fact there is often a considerable delay or no response in getting any updates on issues raised. For this reason alone, it is vital that we oppose any new buildings which can impact on green areas even if they have so called restrictions put on the site because it is very unlikely that these will be enforced in the current climate of budget restraints and high turn-over of staff. Therefore, we ask for your support in objecting to the below application.

As expected, another planning application has been received for the Garages in Churchview Road and we trust that it will be rigorously opposed in this over developed and sensitive area next to the River Crane Corridor and Metropolitan Green Space. Please look at the [application](#) and comment or contact us through the River Crane Sanctuary website below to sign a petition to Councillors which we will be asking to support a refusal on this site again:

Please look at past photos on our album to show how this site was for decades a dark space for Bats and a rich, quiet habitat for wildlife well before these Developers started to prepare it for a Planning Application and to convince people to support them by showing it as a derelict and overgrown wasteland. You may also object to sixteen new car spaces being put next to Trafalgar Infants School when there is awareness of air quality health issues.



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

June is bursting out all over

By Bruce Lyons

Every year, as regular as clockwork, the month before the Summer School Break we are deluged with emails and post from far and wide – suppliers getting their Summer House in order & Selling off holidays that were “left on the shelf” so to speak .At the same time as the Half Term has passed there is also a scramble to move the spare capacity in June.



Big operators like Warner and Club Med often try also to balance their bookings by offering discounts on “slow weeks” Mark Warner has 15% off just now on any unsold space in the School Holiday – not cheap but excellent

value for active families.

Just today we received from a consolidator inexpensive charter flight allocations in June at less than half price, Cagliari, Dalaman, Corfu and Prevesa – flights only yes – but we can match with Villas and hotels from other sources – So if you fancy a break before Granny Duty take a look.

Greek Operators and Italian too with charter flights have over 40% off superb Hotel holidays, some with flights from Heathrow –selected June dates of course but excellent value.



Family holidays at Prices you can afford – maybe you would like to know about Northern Cyprus, for long a popular destination away from the really over commercialised hotspots or you are looking for Family Adventure, Intrepid have quite a few exotic adventures in their Family Programme with 15 to 30% reductions too.

A good month June to get the best of the last – so to speak – I am always looking out that really fun last minute holiday. Nothing like paying less for something you wish you could have but can't afford !!

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Foreign Office advice to Travellers not to go to Sri Lanka except for essential reasons has been lifted (just yesterday) Really good news for the near million Sri Lankans who work in the Tourist Industry there – I am sure you will get more than just a warm welcome if you go – a big smile too!!



2020 Winter Escapes



STAR CLIPPERS

Treasure Islands

**Departs UK 3rd January 2020
8-night package
7-nights aboard Star Flyer**

Visiting: Philipsburg | Anguilla
Gorda Sound | The Bight | Soper's
Hole | White Bay | Basseterre | South
Friar's Bay | Gustavia | Philipsburg

**Price includes return indirect
flights from London Heathrow,
1-night pre-cruise stay at Grand
Case Beach Club, all non-UK
transfers, 7-nights full board sailing
with Star Flyer and port charges.**

From £2,589pp

Southern Thailand

**Departs UK 30th January 2020
8-night package
7-nights aboard Star Clipper**

Visiting: Phuket | Ko Butang | Penang
Ko Adang – Butang Group | Ko Rok
Nok | Phang Nga Bay | Ko Hong
Ko Similan | Phuket

**Price includes return flights from
London Heathrow, 1-night pre-
cruise stay at The SALA Phuket,
all non-UK transfers, 7-nights full
board sailing with Star Clipper
and port charges.**

From £2,469pp

Windward Islands

**Departs UK 21st February 2020
8-night package
7-nights aboard Royal Clipper**

Visiting: Bridgetown | Rodney
Bay | Cabrits | Falmouth Harbour
Basseterre | South Friars Bay | Terre-
de-Haut | Martinique | Bridgetown

**Price includes return flights from
London Gatwick, 1-night pre-cruise
stay at The Sugar Cane Club, all non-
UK transfers, 7-nights full board
sailing with Royal Clipper and
port charges.**

From £2,479pp

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Teddington Theatre Club brings you two stand alone plays on alternate nights in the main auditorium of Hampton Hill Theatre

WOLF HALL & BRING UP THE BODIES

**By Hilary Mantel, adapted for the stage by Mike Poulton
Directed by Sally Halsey**

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The year is 1527. King for almost 20 years, Henry has no male heir. While Catherine is determined to remain Queen, Henry obsesses about replacing her with a wife who can give him a son. In a highly dangerous and politically charged Court, this could be a golden opportunity for a man with the right talents. Enter Thomas Cromwell...

Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies - two stand-alone plays being performed on alternate nights.

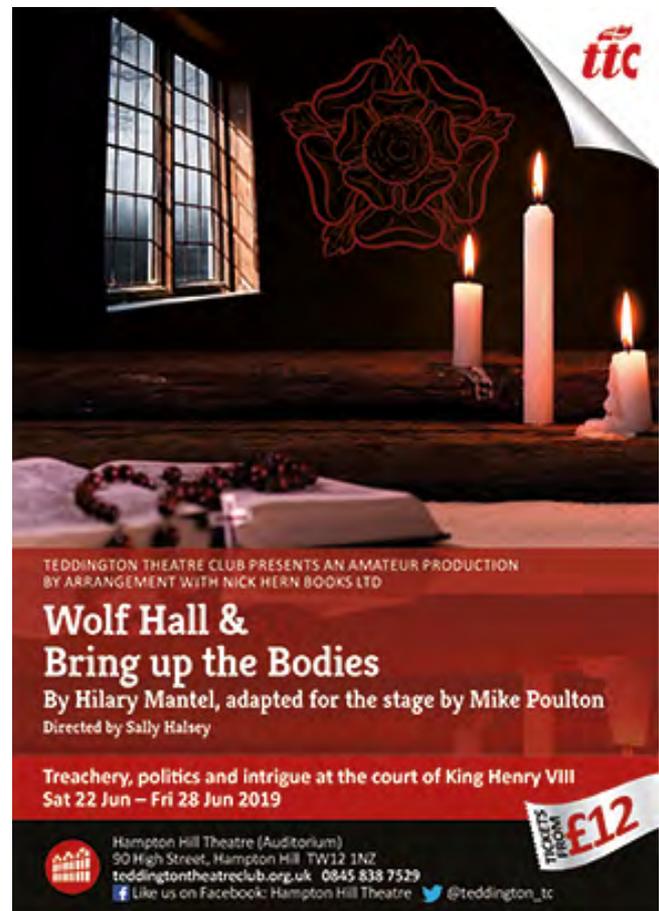
Dates: Saturday June 22nd – Saturday June 29th. (No performance Monday)

Performance Times: Saturday, Sunday Matinee 2.00pm

Evenings: 7.00pm

Ticket prices: £12.00 & £16.00

<http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk/production/wolf-hall-bring-up-the-bodies>



The Twickenham Society Presents

A walk around Central Twickenham in 100 years of postcards

A talk by The Twickenham Tribune's Alan Winter

Tuesday 11th June. 7.30. Talk on Venue is the Twickenham Club in Church Street

Non-members are welcome.

£2 admission.

Village Noticeboard

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At: Marble Hill, Richmond Rd, Twickenham TW1 2NL

Sunday 9th June
2pm - 5pm

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& 4pm
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£8 TICKETS HERE:
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2019
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www.twickenhamyc.co.uk or email:
openday@twickenhamyc.co.uk

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St Mary's University Update

St Mary's League Table Rise Continues in 2020 Guardian University Guide

St Mary's University, Twickenham has seen its sixth consecutive rise in the league tables following today's publication of the 2020 Guardian University Guide.

The annual publication ranked the University 77th, a rise of three places from the 2019 table. The ranking also put St Mary's top in London for Satisfaction with Course and Teaching. St Mary's also saw a rise of 25 places in the 2018 ranking,



allowing for a total rise of 28 places in the past two years.

This is the sixth consecutive major ranking in which the University has seen significant growth; having also risen 39 places in the Sunday Times Good University Guide and 22 places in the Complete University Guide in the past two iterations of both publications.

The 2019 Good University Guide praised the University's student satisfaction rating, noting that "St Mary's has the most satisfied student in London by a considerable distance".

Data released from the 2018 National Student Survey (NSS) saw overall student satisfaction at St Mary's University, Twickenham rise to 88%, the highest rated amongst institutions with university-status in London, and in the top 20 nationally. The Good University Guide found that the NSS ranked St Mary's ranked as no 1 in London for Student Experience and Teaching Excellence.

Speaking of the University's performance in the ranking St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Prof Francis Campbell said, "At St Mary's we put the student experience at the heart of all we do, working to ensure fantastic outcomes and an enriching academic curriculum for our students. Seeing rises in the past six publications of the university league table is a strong endorsement of the hard work and dedication of all the staff at St Mary's."



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

CHEERS! IT'S WORLD GIN DAY

I mentioned last week that we have **World Gin Day** to look forward to, and it's here! Saturday 8 June. Last September it was reported that sales of UK gin have doubled in value in the past five years, with exports and domestic sales totalling £2.2 billion in the year ending 16 June 2018.

Now I love a good G&T, but with the plethora of new artisan gins on the market (and boy, they can charge a premium price!) I find that even by adding a 'superior' tonic, it generally masks the unique flavour properties of the particular gin. So quite often I prefer to drink a high-class gin with a dash of soda, or better still with good vermouth. Incidentally, if you are a serious vermouth fan there is a new book just published '**A Spirited Guide to Vermouth**' by Jack Adair Bevan, which will even tell you how to make your own!

Back to the business of gin... there are a number of different styles of gin, and one I like is Old Tom, which tends to be a bit sweeter than London Dry but is great in a cocktail. **Langley's England Old Tom** at £25 a bottle from Ocado (currently on offer at £20) is one I would suggest trying.



How about a French gin? One made by a Calvados producer? Yes, it is delicious. I tried **Le Gin de Christian Drouin** and it's très bon. This well-known, and highly respected, producer has created a base spirit from no less than 30 varieties of cider apple. The botanical recipe features a host of floral, spicy, fruity notes and it's from Normandy of course, so why not treat yourself to a bottle especially after watching that very moving coverage of the D-Day commemorations this week? Around £37 a bottle from Master of Malt.

When you are drinking a G&T don't automatically serve it with a slice of lemon or lime, check online if necessary for serving recommendations but some gins benefit from other garnishes, such as cucumber (Hendricks), star anise (Opshr), raspberries (Pinkster), strawberries (Blooms) or even a sprig of fresh herbs (rosemary, or lavender are particularly good). You'll be surprised at the different it makes. And don't just serve tonic with it – as well as soda, you can try ginger ale that works well with quite a few of the more spicy gins. And of course there are so many different gins already infused with flavours such as rhubarb, Seville Orange, Pink Grapefruit or Lemon (Malfy gin has some fab examples). And look in supermarkets for a good range of artisan gins at good prices, such as Lidl, Aldi and Marks & Spencer (the delicious Rose Gin mentioned last week, and also a Lavender Gin, that change colour when you add the tonic!)

Offers And Competitions

Win tickets to The House & Garden Festival

The House & Garden Festival at Olympia from 19-23 June is the only event of its kind and a great day out. It brings together three individual events; [The Art & Antiques Fair Olympia](#), [HOUSE & GROW London](#) and [Spirit of Summer](#).



Talks and workshops provide a wealth of inspiration and advice from interior, garden and lifestyle experts. For foodies there are stalls selling food items to take home as well as two Champagne bars and the new pop-up Scully's pop up restaurant. This serves small plates - or a full afternoon tea. More information at www.houseandgardenfestival.com

HOUSE & GARDEN FESTIVAL

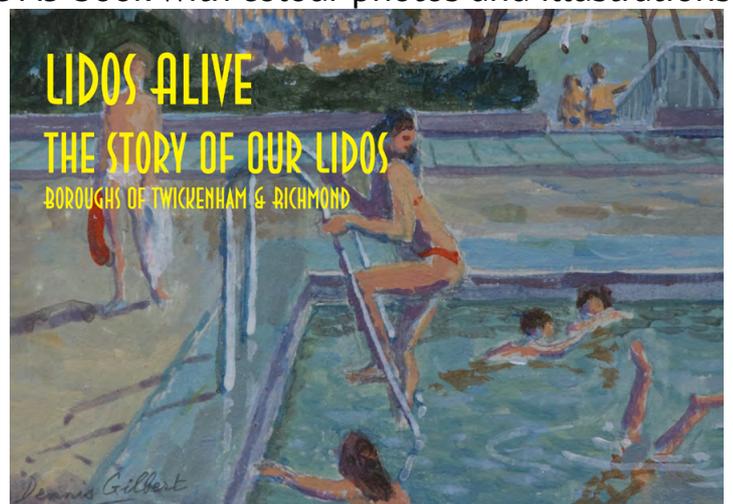
We have a pair of entry tickets to this year's festival to be won. To enter check out the festival website and tell us the full name of the chef at Scully's. Send your answer as the subject header to win@twickenhamtribune.com and give us your contact details. Closing date: noon Friday 14 June. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over. Entry into

this competition deems permission to name winner in the publication. No cash alternative available.

An Ideal Present for just £6

Lidos Alive – the Story of Our Lidos - is a 63-page A5 book with colour photos and illustrations full of interesting information about the history of outdoor swimming in the Borough and the rise of the lido. Contents include Mereway Bathing Place, pools in Bushy Park, Hampton Pool, Teddington Pool, Hampton Wick, Tagg's Island, Marble Hill, Twickenham Baths, Pools on the Park and other interesting stories.

Books can be purchased at Crusader Travel in Church Street, Twickenham and Premier Wines next to Strawberry Hill Station.





Don Giovanni

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, libretto Lorenzo da Ponte

Rogue Opera at Hampton Hill Theatre, until 1st June, then on tour until 9th June

Review by Matthew Grierson

Setting itself in the Milanese fashion scene, this production of Mozart's tragicomic opera exhibits a sharp dress sense and sharper satire. The stage is furnished with clothes rails, a trolley of champagne and design sketches, as well as a selection of mannequin torsos and legs that signify the objectification of women we are to witness from the saturnine young antihero (Theo Perry). For a moment, all is bathed in the violent violet light of a nightclub toilet, ready to disclose his crimes clinically and coldly.



Giovanni's valet-cum-tailor Leporello carries a measuring tape around his neck showing that, even when he connives to with his master to ensnare women, he has his measure. As the manservant, André Andrade's performance is a highlight among a strong cast, treading with careful footsteps between comedy, collusion and caution.

In this respect, he is as equivocal about his boss's behaviour as the unfortunate Donna Elvira (Anna Sideris) is about her quondam paramour. As we are introduced to her, she is ripping pages from a fashion magazine and swearing to do the same with

Giovanni's heart, but cannot be rid of her attraction to him all the same. The parallel between the spurned lover and reluctant retainer is established in the first act as he recounts the list of his master's conquests to the unfortunate woman, all the time counting off their numbers on the measuring tape he holds against her; I

was reminded not so much of a dressmaker as an undertaker, preparing to bury her romance. But by act two, both Elvira and Leporello are back under the Don's sway, as he invites his manservant to take advantage of the blindfolded woman in his stead ...

...

Read Matthew Grierson's full review at www.markaspen.com/2019/06/01/don-gio



Photography by Cristina Schek



King Charles III

By Mike Bartlett

Wild Duck and BCP at Kitson Hall, Barnes until 8th June

Review by David Marks

When Mike Bartlett's Modern Shakespearean history opened in 2014 it was nominated for every award going on both sides of the Atlantic. It was written pre-Brexit, pre-Trump and, probably most importantly pre-Meaghan Markle, as a response to the News International phone hacking scandal.

King Charles III is set in the near-future and imagines the political fallout and social unrest likely after the



death of HM the Queen when the new King Charles refuses to play the Government's political game. Needless to say the wider issues that the play tackles are mirrored in the family scenario of the royal household. Echoing several Shakespearean devices to complement the blank verse, the play is clever and very ambitious. It is also very long and was made longer by the addition of a guest appearance by a local choir at the beginning of the piece and the many, lengthy scene changes throughout the play.

Daniel Wain is a totally believable King Charles, giving us a realistic portrayal of the real man without falling into caricature. Likewise, Richard Scott's Harry is a delight. The stage came alive every time either of these actors inhabited it. Director Susan Conte has done a fine job in finding a "royal family" with more than a passing resemblance to their real counterparts who can also deliver blank verse and have decent comic timing. Emily O'Mahony's Prime Minister and Chris Mounsey's Leader of the Opposition have a particularly difficult time here as they are portraying fictional characters in a world inhabited by household names and faces. They both manage admirably and their individual scenes with King Charles are some of the best in the play



Read David Marks' full review at

www.markaspen.com/2019/06/07/king-charles-iii

Photography by Marc Pearce

A STEAMY TOE TAPPING AFFAIR!



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Nell Gwynn

by Jessica Swale

The Questors at The Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 8th June

Review by Viola Selby

'Let not poor Nelly starve', those were Charles II's famous last words and Jessica Swale has certainly not let her do so by creating this raunchy, regal feast of comedy and talent. *Nell Gwynn* transport its audiences back in time and tell a tale based mainly on historical facts about the 'Protestant Whore' who stole the heart of the king.



Nell Rose gives both a sensual and feminist edge to the title character, proving she is not just a woman out to grab herself a title by 'lying back and thinking of England', like Lady Barbara, or Louise de Kerouaille, both brought to life by the brilliance of Maya Markelle. No, Rose's Nell is a woman achieving her career goals, a role model for female advancement, telling an anxiety-prone Dryden (Tim Pemberton) to stop writing such flimsy pathetic female characters as 'we're as knotty and tangled as you'.

The audience is greeted with a sense of regal pomposity, thanks to the creativity of Set Design Advisor Alex Marker, whose painted statues, marbelsque columns and red velvet curtains are echoed by Carla Evans's fantastic use of shape, material and colour in her period costume designs. Each piece perfectly matches its character and helps to bring this period to life. From the rainbow of colours worn by Charles and Nell to the sinisterly black outfit of Lord Arlington, a sneaky game-playing chief adviser to the king - played so realistically by Philip Sheahan you would have thought he was one of our current MPs!

From phones being thrown in buckets of water, tit jokes and naughty ditties to perfectly planted puns and the very honest responses from Nancy, performed by the wonderfully witty Wendy Megeney, the audience are kept laughing throughout. If you are a fan of the *Carry On* series or *Black Adder*, then this would definitely be up your alley!



Read Viola Selby's full review at

www.markaspen.com/2019/06/01/nell-g

Photography by Carla Evans and Marissa Hahn

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**Summer
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Saturday 8 June 11.30am - 3.30pm

BBQ & Food, Puppet Making, Painting, Fancy Dress Competition,
Views from the top of the Church Tower, Live Music,
Garden Plants, Children's Entertainment & Activities,
Tea Tent, Flower Displays, Cakes,
Chutney & Jams, Raffle, Toys, Books,
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www.stmarywick.org.uk

TRAVELLER'S TALES 33

Happy Travelling

Doug Goodman recounts some of the highlights during his 50 years in travel



They asked if I'd like to go to Jamaica with a special passenger: I said yes please. It was a month or two after I joined Thomson Holidays in the early 70s and I had been appointed Public Relations executive and Press Officer for what was destined to become the world's biggest holiday company. Nearly 50 years ago the package tour business was slowly developing and the entrepreneurs were prominent. Publicity was vital with so many companies trying to attract bookings and it was my responsibility to supply the media with stories and to take travel writers to see the new holiday destinations featured in the travel brochures.

NEW DESTINATIONS AND FAMOUS NAMES.

With some excitement I looked forward to my first visit to the Caribbean. Then I discovered that I would have just 40 minutes in Jamaica after a 9 hour flight and that my passenger would be a very smelly baby crocodile. A holidaymaker had brought home an egg from Jamaica, which had hatched and in desperation he wanted the creature returned so that it might survive. A press reception was held at Gatwick, which the two London evening papers duly covered: I departed on a Boeing 707 of Britannia Airways and handed over the crocodile to the keeper of a local zoo and flew straight home. Later I discovered that my crocodile had played a leading role in the Bond film 'Live and Let Die' when Roger Moore escaped from a tiny island by stepping on a line of floating crocodiles.



A Crocodile Goes Home



Brezhnev's Limo



Margaret Thatcher

I met a few famous people in my travel career; Archbishop Tutu spoke to me when my press colleagues encountered him in a Mallorca hotel, I failed to recognise Kim Philby when I greeted him in Moscow and Margaret Thatcher once asked me what

a package tour was. Miss World of 1977, the Swedish model Mary Stavin, had a holiday arranged in Mallorca by me and of course someone had to accompany her. Prince Charles held a press conference at my nephew's country house in Devon and I was the only photographer allowed to accompany him while the press pack was kept away. An awkward event occurred when I inadvertently photographed Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev when he was visiting his mother's grave in a Moscow cemetery.

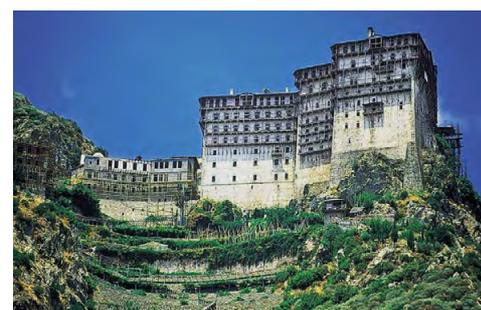
Visiting destinations, which were new to tourism was always exciting: launching £25 weekends to Moscow and accompanying writers all over The Soviet Union, especially to Siberia, was a landmark. Visiting the world's largest hydro-electric power station at Bratsk in minus 30 degrees centigrade was a chilling experience. You didn't stay outside for long but it was even colder when we crossed the Altai Mountains on a Mongol Air flight from Irkutsk to Mongolia's capital Ulaan Bator. The vast majority of visitors at that time were Russians and we were given a wonderful welcome and looked upon with great curiosity. Naturally we wanted to send home postcards from such an exotic place but there were none. So the authorities printed a selection for us. Stamps had to be affixed by a brush dipped into a glue pot. Back in Siberia a visit to the town of Listvianka with a BBC TV Holiday team provided the opportunity to walk over the world's largest expanse of fresh water – frozen Lake Baikal. Touring China long before the country opened up to tourism gave an insight into a very unfamiliar way of life. Not a word could I understand but people were very keen to practice their English and learn about the Western world.



Prince Charles with the Goodman Family



Bratsk in Siberia



Mt. Athos

Mount Athos, The Holy Mountain in the north of Greece is a closed society with just Greek Orthodox men, scholars and historian allowed in. Written permission from the Church authorities in Thessaloniki had to be obtained before the granting of a four day visa. Women are banned in the Athos Peninsula where 20 monasteries are home to several thousand monks who spend their lives in prayer, study and growing the food they need. There's no meat or dairy produce and a very frugal existence is required. Their calendar is 13 days behind ours and the first impression

is that you've travelled back 250 years. It was an amazing experience and on returning to the outside world I felt spiritually refreshed and wondered why we tolerate noise, crowds, pollution, fast food and all the things I didn't miss during three visits to Mt. Athos.

Travelling long distance on foreign railways was another great joy. A journey to Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, on a three day train trip from London to begin a study course took us through the notorious Check Point Charlie – the heavily guarded crossing from West to East Berlin. A five day rail trip from London to Istanbul and return by Concorde was another highlight of my travels.



Into East Berlin



Orient Express Send Off



Meet the Rhinos

I first met rhinos at Whipsnade as a guest of London Zoo and fell in love with them. Rhinos are such gentle creatures and I resolved to help protect them by assisting whenever possible the charity Save the Rhino.

Many more magic moments occurred in my travels. These are just some of the most memorable.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Africa and Europe from a penthouse veranda at the Elliott Hotel, Gibraltar



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

Sugar-free schools by 2022

The dental health of children in London is not good.

By the age of five, over a quarter of our children are suffering from tooth decay. Bad dental health is unfairly spread around London too; a child in Bexley has much better teeth than one in Brent. [1]

Sugar is one of the biggest causes and a number of schools in London have become 'sugar-free'. This means no sugary drinks, crisps or chocolate are allowed in packed lunches.

Today, the London Assembly Health Committee publishes the report 'Child Dental Health: Keeping the tooth fairy away'. One of the main recommendations is that all schools in London should be sugar-free by 2022.

Some of the recommendations include:

- Supervised brushing in schools
- Every child in London needs to see a dentist at least by age one.
- The Mayor should appoint a specialist in children's dental health to the Child Obesity Taskforce

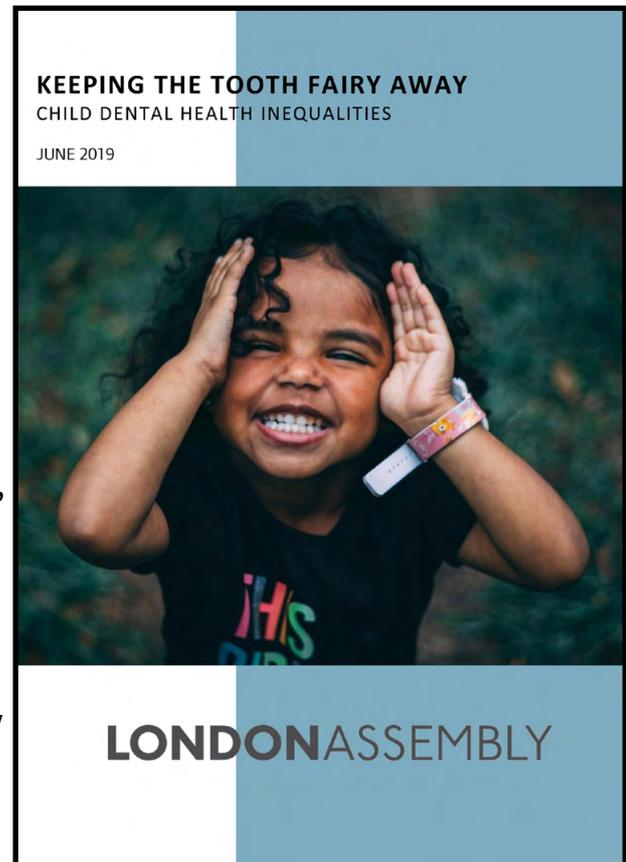
The Chair of the Health Committee, Dr Onkar Sahota, said:

"Research in recent years has told us just how dangerous excess sugar is in our diet.

"Tooth decay and diabetes are just some of the many negative outcomes if precautions are not taken.

"Schools are the centre of a child's education and a commitment to sugar-freedom would be revolutionary. Every child in London could have a sugar-free start in life – the health benefits would be enormous.

"The Mayor has the clout to encourage families and schools to make sure London children see dentists as early as possible, be part of a supervised brushing scheme and keep sugar to a minimum."



Click image to view full report

LONDON ASSEMBLY

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE TWICKENHAM FILM FESTIVAL 2019



www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com

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

The suggested theme for submissions is 'Where You Live' and the films can be on any aspect of the area, way of life, attractions, culture, sport or environment of the entrants' home area.

Please contact us if you need further clarification.

Films can be of any genre, such as documentary, drama or animation.

Click image below to view a previous entry

Gorham Caves

Filmmaker: Gibraltar Museum

Festival Award Winner 2016

Gorham's Cave is the last known site of Neanderthal occupation in the world.



Photos of Gorham's Caves and an interview with the Deputy Director of the project

<http://www.worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Gorham2>

England men U20s team to play Italy in World Rugby U20 Championship

England men U20s head coach Steve Bates has made 10 changes to his starting XV to face Italy in their second game of the World Rugby U20 Championship on 8 June (KO 7.30pm BST, live on World Rugby platforms).

Props Kai Owen and Alfie Petch join U20 debutant Will Capon in a new front row.

Richard Capstick is named at lock, while Josh Basham and Rusiate Tuima come into the backrow.

Sam Maunder starts at scrum half, Connor Doherty is named at outside centre while wing Arron Reed and full back Josh Hodge also come into the side.

Fraser Dingwall will again captain the side, switching to inside centre with lock Alex Coles, flanker Aaron Hinkley and wing Tom Seabrook starting their second match of the tournament, as does Tom de Glanville who moves to fly half.

Prop James Kenny is in line to make his England U20 debut as a replacement, while Manu Vunipola (concussion) and Alfie Barbeary (suspended) are ruled out of the fixture.

The side were beaten in their opening fixture of the Championship defeated by Ireland and will play their final pool fixture against Australia on Wednesday.

Steve Bates said: "There are a lot of changes but we've picked a team that we know can be really competitive, I want to see the players put in a performance that they are proud of and for everyone to contribute.

"We agonised over the first selection and picking this XV has been equally as tough, but this is a strong team and we expect them to play with belief and confidence and play the sort of rugby we saw at times against Ireland but with a bit more consistency and discipline."

England U20s team to play Ireland

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 15. Josh Hodge (Newcastle Falcons) | 1. Kai Owen (Worcester Warriors) |
| 14. Tom Seabrook (Gloucester Rugby) | 2. Will Capon (Bristol Bears) |
| 13. Connor Doherty (Sale Sharks) | 3. Alfie Petch (Exeter Chiefs) |
| 12. Fraser Dingwall (Northampton Saints) - captain | 4. Richard Capstick (Exeter Chiefs) |
| 11. Arron Reed (Sale Sharks) | 5. Alex Coles (Northampton Saints) |
| 10. Tom De Glanville (Bath Rugby) | 6. Josh Basham (Newcastle Falcons) |
| 9. Sam Maunder (Exeter Chiefs) | 7. Aaron Hinkley (Gloucester Rugby) |
| | 8. Rusiate Tuima (Exeter Chiefs) |



ENGLAND WOMEN SEVENS SQUAD NAMED FOR BIARRITZ

England Women Sevens head coach James Bailey has named his 12-player squad for the HSBC Biarritz Sevens on 15-16 June, streamed live via WorldRugby.org. There are six changes to the side that finished sixth at the previous tournament in Langford.

Lizzie Adam and Emma Hardy, who helped England to a silver medal in Kitakyushu, return alongside Katie Mason who makes her first appearance on the world series this season; while there will be debuts for Sydney Gregson, and Beth Wilcox. Claire Allan, who features in her first tournament since Sydney after recovering from injury, will captain the side as England face Russia, invitational side Scotland and New Zealand in Pool A on day one of the competition.

Commenting on selection Bailey said: “We managed to build some good momentum over the past two tournaments, and the past few weeks has enabled us to have a real focus on what went well and thus what we need to do to reach our season goal.

“Selection has been looked at from an individual point of view. There are some players in need of match sharpness and some that could do with a refresh, so there are six changes to the squad for Biarritz.

“It’s also great to have Claire return from injury. I know she’s put a lot of effort to get back and will be looking forward to putting on an England shirt again and also to captain the side out in France. She’s well-respected within the squad and this is a great opportunity to see her step up and lead the side.”

Held at the Stade Aguiléra, Biarritz is the sixth and final round of the 2019 HSBC World Rugby Women’s Sevens Series. England currently sit sixth in the HSBC World Rugby Women’s Sevens Series standings. The next opportunity to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games will be through the European regional qualifier event in Kazan, Russia (13-14 July).

Bailey added: “Our season goal has always been to qualify for the Olympics. We’re going into a really busy period now of four tournaments in six weeks. This means we need to be smart about how we manage the squad to ensure we peak at the right time.

“Biarritz offers another opportunity for us to grow as a squad and take another step in the right direction as we head into the key competitions over the next few weeks.”

England Women Sevens squad for Biarritz:

Lizzie Adam

Claire Allan (C)

Abi Burton

Heather Fisher

Deborah Fleming

Sydney Gregson

Emma Hardy

Megan Jones

Ellie Kildunne

Katie Mason

Celia Quansah

Beth Wilcock



RFU

Departments' use of consultants to support preparations for EU Exit

The National Audit Office (NAO) has today published its investigation into the use of consultants by government departments to support preparations for EU Exit.

By April 2019, departments had spent at least £97 million on EU Exit consultancy. The Cabinet Office holds information on departments' use of its support to access consultancy services for EU Exit work, but this does not represent all EU exit consultancy expenditure by departments. Cabinet Office information shows that £65 million had been spent or agreed to be spent on consultancy services in support of preparations for EU Exit from April 2018 to April 2019. The NAO reviewed data held by a sample of four departments and by the Crown Commercial Service and found an additional £32 million in EU Exit consultancy expenditure. This largely relates to contracts entered into before Cabinet Office began offering support to departments requiring consultancy support, and contracts with consultancy firms that departments are not able to access through the Cabinet Office arrangements.

£97m	119 days	43%
the minimum expenditure by departments on EU Exit consultancy up to April 2019	the average time it took departments to publish the basic details about EU Exit-related consultancy contracts after they were awarded; guidance is to publish within 90 calendar days	the proportion of engagements for EU Exit consultancy organised by the Cabinet Office which have been renewed at least once
5	organisations account for most EU Exit consultancy organised by the Cabinet Office. These are: Cabinet Office; Home Office; Border Delivery Group; Department of Health & Social Care; and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	
6	consultancy firms have received 96% (by value) of the EU Exit consultancy work organised by the Cabinet Office. These are: Deloitte; PA Consulting; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Ernst & Young; Bain & Company; and Boston Consulting Group	
3 months or less	the length of time for which most engagements (68%) for EU Exit consultancy run	
£1 million	the threshold for the value of consultancy contracts above which departments must seek Cabinet Office approval	

Cabinet Office analysis found that overall spending on consultancy services has increased since 2015-16 from £0.5 billion to £1.5 billion in 2017-18. However, the figures reported in departments' annual reports for consultancy costs totalled £332 million for 2017-18, compared with £134 million for 2015-16. Cabinet Office informed the NAO that it was working to understand these differences and was planning to review trends in departments' spending on consultancy and other professional services.

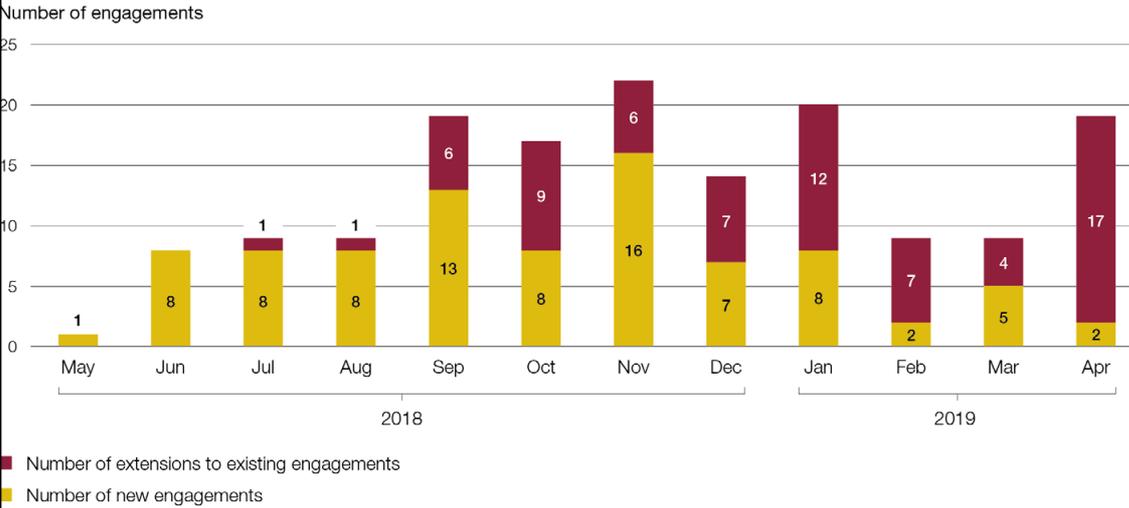
Preparing for the UK's exit from the EU has been

a significant challenge for departments and has required skills such as project delivery and commercial skills that are in short supply. In summer 2016, following the EU referendum, 12 of the then 17 main departments had identified a 'considerable' or 'significant' impact to their capability in policy, operational and specialist skill areas.

In early 2018, Cabinet Office identified that departments required support to access the consultancy services needed for EU Exit work and put in place a process to allow departments to access a range of consultancy support more quickly and with less effort than other procurement routes. Departments using this arrangement submit a bid to Cabinet Office, which assesses the request and decides which consultancy firm should be used.

Figure 11
Cabinet Office data on EU Exit consultancy engagements by start or extension date

New EU Exit consultancy engagements peaked in autumn 2018 and extensions peaked in April 2019¹



Note
¹ This figure uses Cabinet Office data and does not include the additional expenditure we identified in our sample of four departments. The start date for one engagement is not recorded.

Source: National Audit Office analysis of Cabinet Office data

Departments have used consultants for EU Exit activities to fill specific skills gaps and to meet immediate staffing needs. Around one quarter of the consultancy services accessed through the Cabinet Office provided project and programme management support. Almost a further one third of consultancy services relates to developing departments' preparations, and in

particular planning for if the UK left the EU without a deal. Consultants have also been used for departments' planning and development work, in some cases where the time available has constrained departments' ability to recruit or train civil servants to carry out that work.

Six consultancy firms have received 96% of EU Exit work under the Cabinet Office arrangement. These were by value: Deloitte (22%); PA Consulting (19%); PricewaterhouseCoopers (18%); Ernst & Young (15%); Bain & Company (11%); and Boston Consulting Group (10%). Most individual pieces of work with consultants ran for less than three months, but departments have regularly extended these, with a peak in extensions in April 2019, following the extensions of Article 50 and the changes to the date when the UK is expected to leave the EU. Departments continue to prepare for EU Exit and total spend on consultancy support will rise.

The NAO found that departments have not met the standards of transparency expected by government when publishing details of contracts for EU Exit consultancy. In December 2017, the Crown Commercial Service issued guidance to encourage greater transparency in government procurement. It recommended that departments publish basic information about the award of contracts within 90 calendar days. However, the NAO found that it has taken on average 119 days for basic details of EU Exit consultancy contracts to be published, compared to 82 days for all consultancy contracts. The NAO also found that in its review of contracts for EU Exit consultancy that some had not been published as recommended, and all that had been published were significantly redacted.



National Audit Office

Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

11th June, 8:00PM

The Old Man & The Gun (USA)

Directed by David Lowery

Robert Redford, in his final role, plays Forrest Tucker, a career bank robber who escaped from prison 18 times and whose last robbery was committed at the age of 78. A captivating and beautifully understated crime comedy, whose stellar cast includes Oscar winners, Sissy Spacek and Casey Affleck.

www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Films are screened at 8:00pm at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE.

Members go free. Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3). Tickets can be purchased on the night (cash only) or in advance from The Exchange's Box Office – in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online

www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events

Facilities include a very comfortable, tiered 285-seat theatre, lifts, disabled access, a bar and a café. Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp, with no trailers and no ads. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and the auditorium opens at 7.30pm.



Half Page

Quarter Page Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

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