

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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- Berkley Driscoll
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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## **Twickenham Station - Issues With Entrance Opening Times**

A number of residents have complained that the main and night entrances to Twickenham Station have been closed late at night while trains have still been running. This has resulted in passengers having to climb over the security fences to exit the station.

Councillor Alexander Ehmann (Cabinet Member for Transport) was quick to contact South Western Railway seeking a resolution to this untenable situation. Councillor Ehmann received the following answer

Dear Councillor Ehmann

I am sorry that we have caused you to have to contact us again. The incident at Twickenham was reported to me [on Tuesday evening](#) and I immediately asked the Station Manager to investigate what happened, and why. It seems the incident was the result of human error with our agency team forgetting to unlock the night exit before leaving the station.

To ensure this does not happen again we are now arranging for our late team to stay on at Twickenham until after the last train, enabling passengers to exit via the main entrance, rather than the night gate.

The main entrance will only be locked after passengers from the last train have left the station. This new arrangement should ensure that no further passengers are inconvenienced in this way.

## **More Strike Action In March for South Western Railway**

RMT has announced that its members will be taking further strike action on the SWR network in March, and SWR will be running an amended strike timetable on the following dates:

- Monday 9th March
- Tuesday 10th March
- Thursday 12th March
- Friday 13th March

## **Local Plan Direction of Travel Consultation**

Have your say on the Local Plan Direction of Travel Consultation.

The Local Plan is the key planning document for the borough. It will set out policies and guidance to shape our places, plan and manage growth and guide development across the borough over a 15-year period. The Local Plan will be the main document against which the council will assess planning applications.

***Closing date is 22nd March 2020***

Find out more and submit your views [HERE](#)



On 20th February the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee had a meeting. Doesn't sound very exciting I know, but

one of the outcomes of this meeting is the formal approval of the chosen architects for the Twickenham Riverside Development, namely Hopkins Architects.

The meeting and formal appointment of Hopkins also paves the way for the council to release the report on the 'public engagement' undertaken prior to the Design Panel's selection of an architect.

TwickerSeal is looking forward to seeing this report on local residents' views, along with the five letters submitted to the Design Panel by some of the Stakeholder Group. The ten day 'cooling off' period ends this weekend, so TwickerSeal expects that the council will be publishing all the engagement information imminently.

You can see details [HERE](#) (item 4)



## PART 168

### ALEXANDER POPE

If ever a man left his mark on a town it would be Alexander Pope and Twickenham.

Popes Villa, Popes Grotto, The Popes Grotto Hotel (now misguidedly re-named) and Popes Avenue were all named after the man regarded as one of the greatest English poets, and the foremost poet of the early eighteenth century.

Alexander Pope was born in London on 21 May 1688. He lived in his parents' house in Mawson Row, Chiswick, between 1716 and 1719. The red brick building is now the Mawson Arms, owned by Fuller Smith and Turner and which commemorates him with a blue plaque.

He is best known for his satirical and discursive poetry, including *The Rape of the Lock*, *The Dunciad*, and *An Essay on Criticism*, as well as for his translation of Homer. After Shakespeare, Pope is the second-most quoted writer in the English language,



The money made from his translation of Homer allowed Pope to move in 1719 to a villa at Twickenham, where he created his now famous grotto and gardens. The serendipitous discovery of a spring during the subterranean retreat's excavations enabled it to be filled with the relaxing sound of trickling water, which would quietly echo around the chambers. Pope was said to have remarked that: "Were it to have nymphs as well – it would be complete in everything." Although the house and gardens have long since been demolished, much of this grotto survives. The grotto now lies beneath Radnor House Independent Co-ed School, and is occasionally opened to the public.

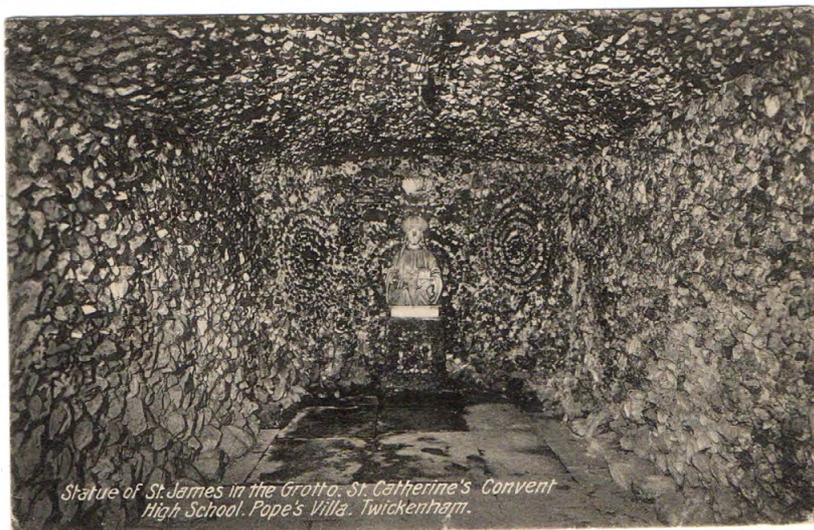
Pope, known as 'the wasp of Twickenham', wrote many of his great works here – including *The Dunciad*, which ruthlessly satirised Colley Cibber who later became the Poet Laureate.

Pope assisted John Gay in the writing of *Three Hours after Marriage* but wrote nothing else for the theatre.

In his career as a satirist, Pope made his share of enemies as the critics, politicians, and certain other prominent figures felt the sting of his sharpwitted satires. Some were so virulent, that Pope even carried pistols at one point while walking his dog.

Pope died in Twickenham on 30th May 1744 and was buried next to his mother in St. Marys parish church under a stone marked with the letter 'P'. His friend William Warburton later

erected a monument to him on the north wall commenting on his preference for Twickenham over Westminster Abbey. Our postcards this week show Alexander Pope painted as an oil on canvas by Jonathan Richardson (1655-1745)



*Statue of St. James in the Grotto. St. Catherine's Convent High School. Pope's Villa. Twickenham.*

We then have a rare advertising postcard of the Popes Grotto Hotel. This is owned by Howard Webb who I am sure would let me use it for this column.

Lastly is a postcard showing the grotto itself. This postcard dates from about 1909.



Telegrams :  
'Grotto' Hotel,  
Twickenham.

J. F. Ewington  
from  
Wandsworth.

Luncheons, Teas,  
and  
Dinners provided.

Billiard Room, etc.

Near River.  
Boats of all  
descriptions  
on Hire.

Good Stabling  
Accommodation.

You can immerse yourself in the history of Alexander Pope by wandering down Cross Deep from King Street to Radnor Gardens and then back on the other side of the road stopping off at the pub named after him for a swift half. The Borough of Twickenham Local History Society has done much work on Pope over the years and some published works are available from either their web site or the Twickenham Museum.

I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I would like to see them and I pay cash! Don't throw old postcards in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first! Thanks.

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# The Duchess of Malfi

by **John Webster**

Directed by John Buckingham

Richmond Shakespeare Society



at the Mary Wallace Theatre

**Mary Wallace  
Theatre**

The Embankment  
Twickenham  
TW1 3DU

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> to  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 2020**

**Box Office**  
**07484 927662**  
*(10.00 to 19.00)*

**www.richmond  
shakespeare.org.uk**

***Tickets from £10***

Richmond Shakespeare  
Society is a registered  
charity No. 276271, a  
member of the Little Theatre  
Guild of Great Britain and  
affiliated to Arts Richmond



 Scan me

*A woman's desire to choose love unleashes a nightmare.*

# Arts and Entertainment

By Emma Grey



## Theatre

Sunday 23 February to Saturday 29 February (Sunday at 4pm and Monday to Friday at 7.45pm) Teddington Theatre Club presents *The Revlon Girl* by Neil Anthony Docking at Hampton Hill Theatre. A heart-wrenching story of how lipstick brings hope to a group of bereaved Aberfan mothers.

## Music

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.

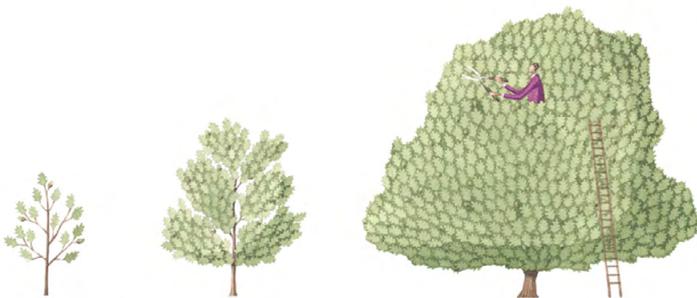
## Exhibitions

*Turner and the Thames: Five Paintings* – oil sketches seldom seen by the public - until 29th March at Sandycombe Lodge, 40 Sandycombe Road, Twickenham. **The** Turner's House Trust will be organising a Turner Lecture Day in Twickenham on **11th June 2020**.

Richmond Art House Open Studio Festival is offering young visual artists, designers and makers from across the borough the opportunity to take part in the 2020 Open Studios Festival for free, as part of its new First Steps Programme initiative which takes place over the final two weekends in June, Friday 19 to Sunday 21 and Friday 26 to Sunday 28 June.

This year's festival is looking to attract first time exhibitors in an effort to encourage young artists to showcase their work as part of the hugely popular Open Studios Festival with event organisers offering a limited number of free spaces to artists under the age of 30, or those on certain state benefits, if they are a Richmond resident and have not previously taken part in a Richmond Open Studios Festival.

***If you are interested in advertising an Arts & Entertainment event write to [advertise@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:advertise@twickenhamtribune.com) for further information.***



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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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*



# Devotions: Sacred Music of the Baroque

Saturday 14th March 2020, 7.30pm

With music from Byrd to Bach via Buxtehude, Cantanti Camerati, accompanied by period instrument ensemble Endelienta Baroque, explore themes of sacred and religious devotion. Join us on this journey through some of the most enduring and profound vocal music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.



Tickets £15 (£10 under 25s)

from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cantanti-camerati](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cantanti-camerati)  
(small fee applies)

or reserved by phone 020 8898 8020  
or on the door if available.

**St Anne's Church**

Kew Green  
TW9 3AA

[www.cantanticamerati.org.uk](http://www.cantanticamerati.org.uk)  
Registered Charity no. 287337-R

# Court of Appeal clips Heathrow's wings as third runway forced into climate emergency landing

Today the Court of Appeal delivered its decision on the Judicial Reviews of the government's Airport National Policy Statement (ANPS), which in 2018 gave Heathrow's proposed third runway the go-ahead. The Court's most important finding was that the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling) had failed to give due consideration to the UK's commitments to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, which was legally fatal to the ANPS, and a new one must be produced before the development can continue.

John Sauven, Executive Director of Greenpeace UK, said:

*"The court has decided that the Airports National Policy Statement is fatally undermined by ignoring climate commitments, but we still need the government to permanently ground Heathrow's expansion plans. The third runway is already on its knees over costs, noise, air pollution, habitat loss and lack of access, and now Heathrow Ltd has yet another impossibly high hurdle to clear. No amount of spin from Heathrow's PR machine can obscure the carbon logic of a new runway. Their plans would pollute as much as a small country. Boris Johnson should now put Heathrow out of its misery and cancel the third runway once and for all. No ifs, no buts, no lies, no u-turns."*

John Sauven continued:

*"Instead of locking in more carbon pollution with more airport expansion, we urgently need a fair and effective way to cut aviation emissions. Currently, the vast majority of UK flights are taken by the 10% of the population who are frequent fliers, with around half of the UK not flying abroad at all in any given year. A frequent flyer levy would help make flying cheaper for those who do it rarely while applying a heavy cost to binge flying."*

Other problems confronting Heathrow's plans have been moved to the jurisdiction of the planning process, to be determined when Heathrow Ltd apply to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order, if they ever do. A ruling from the High Court last year stated the development could not go ahead if it posed a risk of breaching air quality limits. The area around Heathrow is already frequently in breach, as is central London and other areas affected by Heathrow traffic, and so meeting this requirement seems unlikely.

Heathrow have recently published plans to reduce their carbon emissions to net-zero. However, these plans exclude emissions from aeroplanes, and so ignore the vast majority of Heathrow's pollution. [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)

**GREENPEACE**

## FTA RESPONSE TO COURT OF APPEAL DECISION ON HEATHROW AIRPORT

In response to the decision today (27 February 2020) by the Court of Appeal regarding Heathrow Airport, Alex Veitch, Head of Multimodal Policy at FTA, comments:

*"This decision is a blow to the economy. However, planning consent for a third runway at Heathrow Airport has always been contingent upon meeting climate obligations, and with the rapid improvements in aviation fuel and engine technology we are confident that Heathrow will be able to demonstrate that this challenge can be met. Now more than ever, the UK needs world-class global gateways. Heathrow Airport accounts for 40% of the UK's non-EU trade by value but has been operating at peak capacity for freight for many years; expansion is long overdue."*

Efficient logistics is vital to keep the UK trading, directly having an impact on more than seven million people employed in the making, selling and moving of goods. With Brexit, new technology and other disruptive forces driving change in the way goods move across borders and through the supply chain, logistics has never been more important to UK plc. FTA is one of the biggest business groups in the UK, supporting, shaping and standing up for safe and efficient logistics. We are the only business group in the UK that represents all of logistics, with members from the road, rail, sea and air industries, as well as the buyers of freight services such as retailers and manufacturers whose businesses depend on the efficient movement of goods.

For more information please visit [www.fta.co.uk](http://www.fta.co.uk)

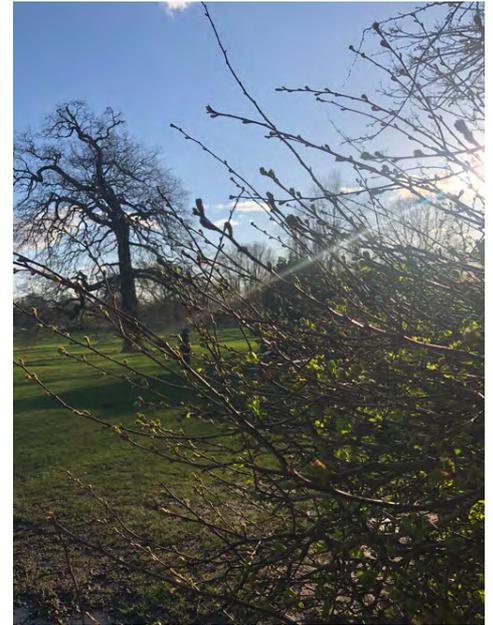
 **Leading UK  
Logistics**

# Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

By Jane Biro

Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna* *Crataegus*, from the Greek *krataigos* - derived from *kratos*, strength, alluding to the hardness of the wood - is a flowering thorn grown in the gardens of Marble Hill House.

Hawthorns are small deciduous trees, native to Britain and found all over Europe, western Asia and north Africa. They are fast-growing and sturdy; hawthorn makes an almost impenetrable barrier when it is cut and laid.



During the land enclosures of the 16th to 18th centuries, hawthorns were planted in their thousands in the hedges with which the landowners surrounded their estates. Today many of the resultant ancient hedgerows have been destroyed to make farming easier, which has proved an ecological disaster.

The medicinal properties of hawthorn have been utilised by many cultures for a variety of therapeutic purposes for many centuries. Although further research is needed in certain areas, current research suggests that hawthorn may potentially represent a safe, effective, nontoxic agent in the treatment of cardiovascular disease and ischemic heart disease. ("Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.) in the treatment of cardiovascular disease", National Center for Biotechnology Information)

Hawthorns, sometimes called 'may' or 'quickthorn', were associated by early Christians with Joseph of Arimathea. He was said to have planted his hawthorn staff in the ground during a visit to Glastonbury in Somerset and it sprouted to produce a 'Holy Thorn' that bloomed twice, in May and at Christmas.

Hawthorn is also a pagan symbol of fertility and has ancient associations with May Day and medieval rites to greet the advent of summer. It was the ancestor of the Maypole and its leaves

and flowers the source of May Day garlands as well as appearing in the wreath of the Green Man. Hawthorns were called 'The May' or 'Queen of the May' and her consort was the Green Man, the May King or Jack in the Green. These legends arose as hawthorn blossomed around May Day. However, this is not quite so true nowadays as the flowers now commonly bloom in April. Its blossoming marks the point at which spring turns into summer, and the old saying 'Cast ne'er a clout ere May is out' almost certainly refers to the opening of hawthorn flowers rather than the end of the month.



Hawthorns attract over 300 different insects and beetles and host many different kinds of fungi and bacteria. It is food for moth caterpillars, including the hawthorn, orchard ermine, pear leaf blister, rhomboid tortrix, light emerald, lackey, vapourer, fruitlet-mining tortrix, small eggar and lappet moths. Its flowers are eaten by dormice and provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. Hawthorn berries, called haws, are winter food for many small mammals and birds including winter migrants such



as redwings, hawfinches and fieldfares as well as resident birds such as robins, blackbirds, thrushes and woodpigeons. The seeds pass through the birds and are dispersed in their droppings, and so help the spread of new hawthorn trees. Birds like their dense tangled branches to build their nests in and feed on the many moths and butterfly caterpillars that feed on their leaves.

Hawthorn flowers are highly scented, white or occasionally pink, with five petals, and grow in flat-topped clusters. It will grow in most soils, but flowers and fruits best in full sun. Common hawthorn timber is a creamy-brown colour, finely grained and very hard. It can be used in turnery and engraving and to make veneers and cabinets, as well as boxes, tool handles and boat parts. It also makes good firewood and charcoal, and has a reputation for burning at high temperatures.

The young leaves, flower buds and young flowers are all edible. They can be added to green salads and grated root salads. The haws can be eaten raw but may cause mild stomach upset. Rich in vitamin C, they are most commonly used to make jellies, wines and ketchups.

Further Reading *G. Kindred, Walking With Trees*

[www.worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StrawberryHillPope&page=2](http://www.worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StrawberryHillPope&page=2)

# Chief Executive for Richmond and Wandsworth councils to move on

Following Chief Executive Paul Martin's decision to step down from his position, Richmond and Wandsworth councils will be launching a search for his successor.

Paul Martin joined Wandsworth Council in 2010, and since 2016 has also been Chief Executive of Richmond Council in an innovative Shared Staffing Arrangement. The shared service is a unique staffing model serving half a million Londoners in south west London and focused on improving public service, innovation and new ways of working. The shared arrangement has resulted in savings to the two councils of £60 million to date.

Paul is one of the most experienced council Chief Executives in the country, having served in this capacity for over 20 years in a career that has taken him to Greater Manchester, the Midlands, East Anglia as well as London. He is unusual in having served in this capacity in three London boroughs - Sutton (2005/10), Wandsworth (2010/20) and Richmond (2016/20).

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

*"Paul has been a steady hand on the tiller as we navigated our way through the early years of the Shared Staffing arrangement with Wandsworth. Although we're still on the journey his professionalism and dedication to effective governance has ensured Richmond Council is on a strong footing as we move forward. There will be time for words of thanks later, but we can rest assured that as we look for his successor that the sterling work he has done with our team here in Richmond will ensure that we attract the very highest calibre of applicants."*



Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council, also paid tribute to Paul Martin:

*"Paul Martin has been Chief Executive at Wandsworth Council throughout my entire time as Leader; and he has carried out the role during a period of transformational change in the borough. We have worked closely together to ensure Wandsworth grows and develops for the benefit of the whole community. Paul has led an exceptional group of officers to enhance Wandsworth's reputation as an exemplar in the way it has risen to these challenges and he leaves a remarkable record of sound achievement. I would like to thank Paul for his decade of service here and wish him every success for the future."*

Paul Martin, added:

*"It's been the privilege of my career to be Chief Executive at Wandsworth for the past decade, and also of Richmond since 2016. South west London is widely seen as the most attractive part of the capital city in which to live and work, and this is in no small part due to the work of the two councils. For the past four years, our shared service has delivered £60 million efficiency savings across the two boroughs, meaning we can provide better social care, cleaner streets and more parks and leisure services than would have otherwise been the case. All of this is down to our fantastic staff group which has risen to every challenge asked of them. It's not an easy decision to leave such a fantastic job, but I know in my heart this is the right time for a new Chief Executive to take the two councils into their next phase of growth and development. My successor will find the spirit of municipal ambition alive and well amongst our members and staff."*

Executive recruiter, Penna, has been appointed to support the councils with the recruitment of the Chief Executive. The lead consultant can be contacted at [julie.towers@penna.com](mailto:julie.towers@penna.com).

# Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By TwickWatch

As we all watch events unfold in the UK and across the world with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) - ['CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.] I am sure all our hearts go out to those affected, especially those who may have lost family and friends.

Understandably people can be scared of the unknown and media hype often does not help, but positive thinking, not panicking and simple medically guided precautions, will serve you well in helping to protect yourself. Although some people will inevitably succumb to infectious disease, the majority will make a full recovery as they have done over the centuries. Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever<sup>1</sup>, cough, and difficulty breathing.



**Be Prepared  
Be Aware  
Be Ready**

Infectious diseases are transmitted from person to person by direct or indirect contact. Certain types of viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi can all cause infectious disease. Malaria, measles, and respiratory illnesses are examples of infectious diseases which can be known as an epidemic if specific to one city, region, or country. If an infection becomes widespread in several countries at the same time, it can become a pandemic.

The word pandemic comes from the Greek pandemos meaning "pertaining to all people." The Greek word pan means "all" and the Greek word demos means "people."

In the case of influenza (flu) for instance, seasonal outbreaks - or epidemics - are generally caused by subtypes of a virus that is already circulating among people. Pandemics, on the other hand, are generally caused by novel subtypes (Corona virus being a subtype). These subtypes have not circulated among people before.

A pandemic affects more people and can be more deadly than an epidemic. It can also lead to more social disruption, economic loss, and general hardship. Scientific research has assisted in eradicating diseases that created pandemics in earlier generations, but the threat of new pandemics increases in an age where large numbers of people travel the continents quickly by air and congregate in larger numbers than previously.

Viruses are always lurking in the background over the generations, trying to find ways of thriving and reproducing themselves. From time to time they take hold. Over 20,100 Londoners died in the 1563 London plague and over 19,900 people died in London and the outer parts in the 1592-93 London plague.

It has long been the case that people themselves can be their own worst enemy by panicking. Most of the country parishes nearest to London had plague-burials in 1603, doubtless from the escape of infected Londoners to them and from the spreading of the infection. In Twickenham there were 67 plague burials.

Meanwhile in 1665 various parts of England were affected with plague during and after the great epidemic, and in one or two instances a little before it. In the immediate neighbourhood of the capital, all the towns and villages usually implicated by the exodus from the City had cases of plague, In Twickenham there were 21 plague burials.

The London Evening Standard in February 1895 reported "The latest reports to hand concerning the spread of the influenza epidemic all go to show that, in spite of its prevalence throughout the Metropolis, it is likely to prove far less fatal in its consequences than in 1892-1893. It is more widespread but the symptoms are less malignant and the percentage of deaths will as a consequence, be materially reduced. Influenza has become very prevalent in Richmond and Twickenham. The spread of the epidemic has been very swift. Three days ago, there was only an isolated case or two, now hundreds of persons, chiefly children, have been attacked. Medical men report the disease to be of a milder type than usual".

In 1918 the Medical Officer of Health for Hampton Wick issued and distributed handbills as Influenza took hold advising “The following measures for patients are officially recommended by the Local Government Board” The guidance remains similar to that given today.



## RULES FOR PATIENTS

### ISOLATION

*If every person suffering from a fever, with or without catarrh, were willing and able to stay at home for a few days, the spread of disease in factories and workshops, offices and shops, schools and other institutions, would be greatly reduced.*

### PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS

*Avoid scattering infection in sneezing and coughing. Use a handkerchief to intercept drops of mucus; the handkerchief should be boiled or burnt if of paper. Expectoration [spit] should be received in a specialist receptacle, its contents being subsequently disinfected or burnt. General disinfection of premises after influenza is not required, but a thorough washing and cleansing of rooms and their contents and washing articles of bedding or apparel is desirable.*

### RELAPSES

*Influenza is very liable to relapse and pneumonia may occur as a late as well as an early complication. Relapse is less likely if the patient goes to bed at once and remains there until all fever has gone; avoidance of chill or over-exertion during convalescence is also of great importance.*

Nowadays all Government departments and Local Authorities have contingency plans in place for most “disasters” and issue guidance as and when necessary and appropriate. These can be temporarily disrupted by people not following the advice and can divert resources from where urgently needed. You will never be allowed to starve and actions such as panic buying can exacerbate disruption,

People can help themselves. Simple things like breathing through the nose, when in crowded places, the nose being designed to trap dust and other particles in the air and prevent them from getting into your body. It is the tiny hairs that line the inside of your nasal cavity that are responsible for carrying out this task and preventing additional infections caused by external agents. It is important to sensibly bin any tissues used to clear the nose.



Frequent hand-washing is and always has been, one of the best ways of avoiding non-airborne infections. Consider where people’s hands may have been minutes before when using cashpoints & point of sale terminals, bus hand-rails & tube train hand-rails, ticket machines etc! Wash hands in soap and water or use a purposely designed sterilising gel as soon as feasibly possible ensuring you do not touch other parts of your skin such as your face or arms.

Information for the public on the outbreak of coronavirus in China, including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.

The UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. The risk to individuals remains low. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

# Borough View By Graeme Stoten

## 'Daffodils'



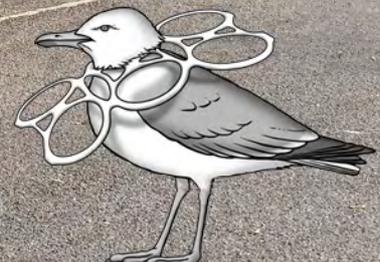
'Springing' up throughout the Borough, the early arrival of daffodils along with many other first-days of Spring seasonal blooms. Whilst Marble Park is enjoying some refurbishment these profuse beds bring a striking pool of cheerful colour to the path-side...



## TwickerDuck's Eco Tip



Look after our wildlife!  
Cut open plastic can rings

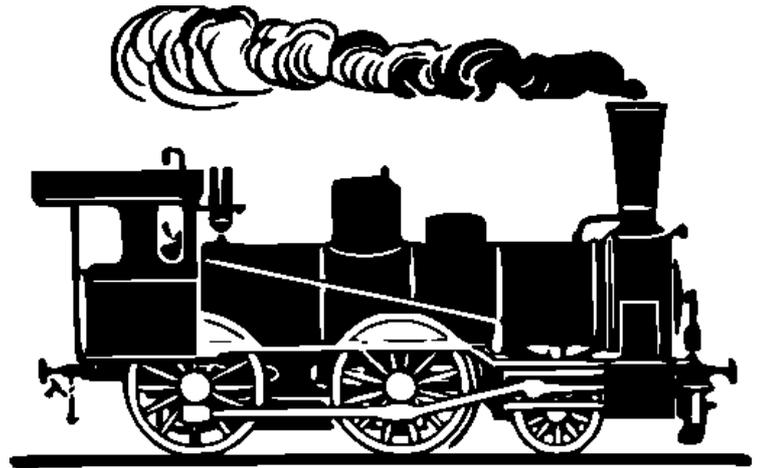


# Munira Wilson MP demands an end to SWR passengers misery as March strike dates announced

South Western Railway passengers face four more days of strikes after the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union (RMT) has voted to strike in March. The upcoming strikes follows a stretch of 27 days of strikes in December and is the sixth time in the past two and a half years that the union has voted for industrial action. The strike will last from 10:00 on 9 March and 09:59 on 10 March and then again between 10:00 on 12 March and 09:59 on 13 March.

The strikes come after negotiations between SWR and RMT on the role of guards operating train doors have failed to come to a resolution.

Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, said: “It is outrageous that SWR passengers will have to suffer through an additional four days of strike misery after what they were forced through in December.



“I met with RMT just after my election to Parliament and last week met with SWR. I implored both of them to come back to the negotiating table and find a way to end passengers’ seemingly endless grief.

“It is unacceptable that passengers must endure further strikes on top of the regularly appalling service they face.

“I am calling on RMT to come back to the negotiating table and for SWR to lay out now what plans they have for compensation for passengers during the strikes.

“Boris Johnson’s government needs to intervene on behalf of passengers. If RMT and SWR cannot come to an agreement and service continues to decline, the Government needs to terminate SWR’s franchise and bring commuter routes into TFL’s remit.”

Munira waged a successful months-long campaign for compensation for passengers affected by the December strikes and consistently poor service. Since December, she has also been pressing government ministers on the various issues regarding SWR service and has secured a meeting with the Minister of State for Rail. Last week, she met with Mark Hopwood, Managing Director at SWR, to discuss the extensive problems about which local passengers have been contacting her.

# Guaranteed job interviews for forces veterans

Armed forces veterans will get a guaranteed job interview at Richmond Council under a new scheme announced this week.

Many people leaving the armed forces find it difficult to transition to civilian life, especially finding secure and lasting employment. The Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Veterans means they will get a chance to demonstrate their strengths beyond the initial application stage.

The Council signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2012 and since then has worked to make it easier for veterans to access help and advice, including support with accessing housing.

The Guaranteed Interview Scheme builds on this support and aims to:

- Help veterans overcome barriers to finding civilian employment
- Reduce the risk of health and welfare problems as a result of long-term unemployment
- Redress the balance for veterans' re-employment prospects by giving them the chance to improve their transition back into civilian life
- Complement the re-employment support provided to veterans by the Ministry of Defence
- Help the council benefit from the transferrable skills and qualities of veterans

Veterans will not get a guaranteed job – that will still go to the best candidate based on objective criteria in the role profile – but there is a guaranteed interview for any veteran whose application meets the minimum criteria for the post. A veteran is anyone who has served, at any time and for any period, in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

Richmond Council's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Michael Butlin, said:

“We are proud of our work supporting veterans and their families. This new scheme will help them get back into civilian life and will enable the council to benefit from the skills and life experience of men and women who have served their country with dignity and honour.”

To apply for a job at Richmond Council under the Veterans' Guaranteed Interview Scheme, visit the [recruitment website](#) and make the declaration when requested in the online application. You will be required to evidence your service at interview stage.

[Find out more](#) about support for the Armed Forces in Richmond.



PROUDLY  
SUPPORTING  
THOSE WHO  
SERVE.

# The Homeless in Richmond & Twickenham

By Shona Lyons

CRUSADER TRAVEL

Shona's  
Gallery



**We urgently need your old  
Sleeping bags & men's clothes  
e.g hats, Scarves, gloves,  
Socks, Rucksacks, thermals,  
jeans, new underpants, T Shirts  
jumpers, sweat shirts/pants,  
jackets. They are donated to the  
borough's homeless** 

Please bring to Crusader Travel,  
58 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NR  
All donations very gratefully received

One of my earliest memories as a child was sitting in my parent's car and driving past homeless people who were sleeping on the benches by the riverside. It was the first time I had seen such a thing and for my young eyes I really couldn't understand why these men were sleeping outside in the cold weather, all dark and dreary with their dirty clothes and a few bags of belongings. They were so vulnerable and exposed and I had never seen people sleeping like that in the outdoors without a roof over their heads. I remember being really upset about it and to this day it still upsets me, to think of these people, many with mental illness and abandoned by family, so very alone and with no one to turn to for many of the things we all take for granted. Sleeping alone often in exposed and dangerous situations and melting into the towns when day light emerges, invisible and ignored.

These last few weeks I have been trying to ask for donations for them, as the homeless drop in shelter I collect for told me a few weeks ago that they had absolutely no more clothes to

give them. People locally are always amazing and once I make a few posts on social media I find people beating a path to our door laden with bags of warm clothes & sleeping bags. Over the years we have been able to give them a regular supply.

With Corona Virus rearing its ugly head, we were discussing here in the office how even more vulnerable they must be to this, without the option of washing their hands regularly, buying tissues and keeping clean. They are often so malnourished too that if they got it, it would most definitely kill them.

I made a shout out to the local community yesterday about the dire state of affairs at the Vineyard with no clothes to give these weary souls and already next to me are bags of clothes ready to take to them next week. There are some very lovely people out there 😊 If you are reading this and have some men's warm clothes to spare, or the odd sleeping bag you don't need please think about bringing it to us here at Crusader Travel, 58 Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NR. Thank you so much from me and from them!

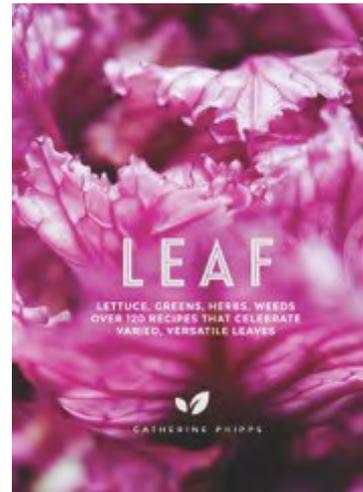


## TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THIS GREAT NEW BOOK

I just love salads, and know that a good variety of leaves is key to a successful recipe. With spring now starting to show her face (phew!) I am starting to think of lighter, healthier dishes so it's timely that I discovered a fab new book. It's called **LEAF**, is by **Catherine Phipps**, and has inspired me to be more diverse with my verdures and use lots more varied, versatile leaves of all colours. It's a glorious celebration of edible and aromatic leaves and all they can offer.

Bitter, pungent, peppery, lemony, sweet – in terms of flavour profiles, is there any ingredient as diverse as culinary leaves? From the palest shades of white and yellow, through to the deepest, darkest greens, via blushing reds and pinks, and rich purples, leaves are a riot of colour and texture.

LEAF is packed with enticing ideas for soups, salads, brunches, starters, mains, puddings, baking and drinks, featuring flavour combinations from around the world. There is an array of salads and mains that make the most of vegetable leaf tops, foraged herbs and unusual leaves. What's more, Catherine's desserts are just as enticing as her savoury dishes! With lovely photographs by Mowie Kay, Catherine also shows the best ways to store, dry and cure leaves as well as includes advice on making flavoured oils, salts, butters, vinegars, kimchi and jellies. It is the sort of book you will refer to time and time again.



Catherine Phipps lives in West London and is a food writer, cookbook author and recipe developer who frequently features on TV and radio, including BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme. She is the author of four books, including *Citrus* (another fabulous book by the way!). And the good news is that you can **meet her in person soon** at the [Surrey Food Festival](#) on **April 25** and watch her demonstrate some recipes from [LEAF](#) and her other books (which will be on sale there too on the WH Smith stand). So book your tickets soon.

As a taster of what you can expect from LEAF, here are a couple of recipes I thought you would like. The first is a superbly easy and truly delicious starter and the other is a very tasty chicken dish – both perfect for this time of year.

### **Grilled chicory with Pangrattato** Serves 4

*One of the things I love about closed-leaf varieties of brassicas, chicories and endives is how beautiful they are when they are cut in half, or even into cross sections. This dish uses the central part of chicory to show this off – do not waste the rest of the chicory, it can be braised or shredded into a salad. You can use anything for this – including lettuces such as little gem, endives or wedges of cabbage. And they will lend themselves to all sorts of flavours. Try grilling and then melting over any flavoured butters.*

2 large heads of endive, cabbage or lettuce, such as chioggia  
Lemon wedges

#### **For the pangrattato**

30g (1/2 cup) sourdough chunks  
30g (1oz) walnuts  
1 tbsp olive oil  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
3 sprigs of rosemary, quite finely chopped  
Zest of 1 lemon



#### **Instructions**

First make the pangrattato. Crumble up the sourdough into fairly fine breadcrumbs and chop or process the walnuts to the same texture. Do not over-process the walnuts as they will start leaching oil. Heat the olive

oil in a frying pan. Add the garlic and fry for a minute over a medium heat without colouring, then add the breadcrumbs and rosemary. Fry for a few more minutes until the breadcrumbs are golden brown. Stir in the lemon zest.

To cut 2 cross sections from each endive, cut around 2.5cm (1in) to the side of the core, then cut the centre piece you end up with down the middle. Heat a large frying pan and lightly coat with olive oil. When the pan is hot, add the pieces of endive and cook for 2–4 minutes on each side, until the flesh is lightly charred and the leaves are wilting. Scatter over the pangrattato and serve with lemon wedges, for squeezing over.

### **Braised Chicken with Coriander, Chilli And Orange Serves 4**

*The alchemic combination of coriander (cilantro), chilli, garlic and orange is one I can't seem to leave alone. It is central to one of my favourite lamb dishes, but here I use it with chicken. The flavours are taken from a Peruvian recipe, so I serve it with quinoa, but it would be just as good with rice or potatoes.*

- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 8 chicken thighs, skin-on, bone-in
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, thickly sliced

#### **For the paste**

- 1 large bunch of coriander (cilantro)
- 1 garlic bulb, cloves separated and peeled
- 150ml (2/3 cup) orange juice
- 100ml (scant 1/2 cup) lime juice
- 2–3 green chillies (I use jalapeño)
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### **To serve**

- Coriander leaves Sliced green chillies



#### **Instructions**

If possible, start the day before. Mix the thyme with the sea salt and sprinkle over the chicken thighs. Leave uncovered or loosely wrapped in paper towel in the fridge, then remove 30 minutes before you want to start cooking. If you don't have time for this, simply sprinkle with the salt and thyme before cooking.

Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan. Add the chicken thighs, skin-side down, and fry over a medium-high heat until they are a rich golden brown, around 15 minutes. This will take longer than you expect it to, and you shouldn't stint at this stage – you want crisp, thin, skin, nothing thick or flabby. Turn the chicken thighs over and spoon off some of the rendered fat if there seems a lot of

it – you can store this fat and use it for frying some other time. Add the onions to the pan and continue to cook until the onions have softened and the chicken is just about cooked through, around 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the paste. Take two thirds of the coriander and put it in a blender with the garlic, juice and chillies. Remove the leaves from the remaining coriander and add the stems to the blender, reserving the leaves for garnish. Add salt and pepper, then blitz until fairly smooth – a very fine green flecking is fine.

When the chicken is just about cooked, pour two thirds of the paste around the chicken. Bring it to the boil and let it reduce by half – it should thicken and it will turn a murkier colour, but this cannot be helped – it will be worth it for the flavour.

When you are ready to serve, stir in the remaining paste to enliven the colour, then top with the coriander leaves and sliced chillies.

**LEAF** is published by Quadrille at £25 for a beautiful hardback book



## Dream

by Katie Abbott, based on William Shakespeare

RSS Young Actors' Company at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 23<sup>rd</sup> February

There have been many adaptations and interpretations of most of Shakespeare's plays. I have seen *A Midsummer Night's Dream* set in World War II, in a travelling fairground and once in a holiday resort where Bottom was a security guard hoping to make it onto the entertainments staff. Despite this being possibly Shakespeare's most accessible play, trying to update the plot itself just does not work. The crossover of "real" and "fairy" worlds in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is taking suspension of disbelief a little too far.



*Dream* is a mix of Shakespearean dialogue, modern dialogue (including some expletives that did not sit quite right in context, but must have been a treat for the performers to play with!) and music that attempts to weave the plotline into a climate-change themed morality tale. It is also evident that the entire cast is passionate about what they are doing, but poor diction made it very difficult to follow the storyline. Only the mechanicals managed to avoid this fate, facing the audience and with no musical accompaniment. They were very funny.

The design element of this production was excellent, a visual delight of both wardrobe and set design that immediately gives the impression that the audience are going to experience something other-worldly. Video projections are used throughout the piece and are very clever but a little distracting at times. (My preference would have been for more burning planet and less Greta Thunberg.) Despite the overly loud soundtrack, the use of music is excellent.

Director Katie Abbott is also responsible for choreography, which includes working on aerial silks. This is such a difficult thing to do that it deserves special mention; several of the cast spent time in and on the "hammocks" and made it look so easy –impressive indeed!



Read Eleanor Marsh's review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/02/21/dream-YAC-EM](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/02/21/dream-YAC-EM)

Photography by Tom Shore



## The Revlon Girl

by Neil Anthony Docking

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Theatre, until 29<sup>th</sup> February.

Review by Melissa Syversen

Well over half a century on, the Aberfan disaster is still well known in Britain. The effects that that terrible day in October 1966 had in the Aberfan and the surrounding areas cannot be understated. It robbed a close-knit community of an entire generation. Of the 144 killed that day, when hundreds of thousands of tons of mining slurry came down from the mountain and crashed into Pantglas Junior School and the surrounding buildings, 116 were young children.

How does anyone manage to go on after trauma of that magnitude?

In the months following the tragedy, a group of bereaved mothers organised to meet once a week, to talk, grieve and support each other.



*The Revlon Girl* imagines one of these meetings.

Inspired by a true story, the title refers to a Revlon representative whom the women secretly invite to one of their meetings to give them some beauty tips. Through this narrative lens, Welsh playwright Neil Anthony Docking has found a beautiful opportunity to not only tell the story of the Aberfan disaster, and its immediate aftermath, but also the long term effects of trauma and grief.



It is clear that the cast and crew of *The Revlon Girl* care deeply about the material at hand and they treat it with great respect and sensitivity. Rising to the challenge of the Welsh accent, the performers portray these women with empathy and heart, whilst doing justice to the humour and anger present in the text. What the writing, the cast and director Kelly Wood are so successful at capturing in *The Revlon Girl* is the everyday, almost humdrum quality of grief. *The Revlon Girl* is a moving, heartfelt piece of theatre and I'll admit I shed a tear more than once.

Read Melissa Syversen's review at

[www.markaspen.com/2020/02/24/revlon-girl](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/02/24/revlon-girl)

Photography by Jojo Leppink, Handwritten Photography



## Round and Round the Garden

by Alan Ayckbourn

Rare Fortune Productions at OSO Arts Centre, Barnes until 6<sup>th</sup> March

Part *The Norman Conquests* trilogy, *Round and Round the Garden* is based on the premise that Annie, who is the main carer of her demanding mother, has decided she needs a weekend off. She has been beguiled by her sister Ruth's husband Norman and is planning on a "dirty weekend". Things inevitably go wrong when Norman arrives early to collect her and they are joined by brother Reg and his wife Sarah and – for added farcical comedy value – sister Ruth. The family are also visited by local vet, Tom, who has ostensibly called in to check on the cat but really has his eye on Annie. Drunken escapades, temper tantrums and inappropriate liaisons ensue.



The play is presented "in the round", which is an interesting pun on the title. Although of its time, design and direction paid suitable homage to the classic TV sitcoms of that era. Congratulations, therefore, to director Maurice Thorogood for having the courage of his convictions and a true belief in the writing.

The characters in this, and every Ayckbourn play, are far more complex than they first appear, and they require actors to be thoughtful in producing a multi-layered performance. Taking on the formidable task of covering for an indisposed actor and playing the part of Reg himself, Thorogood really impressed. The energy levels of the entire cast seemed to increase every time Reg made an

appearance. There was the impression that beneath the blustering "hail fellow well met" lurked a much darker character.

Jeremy Drakes as Tom was the quintessential sitcom underdog and played the role straight without trying too hard for laughs. The laughs came, as they always do when the writing is of this standard ... ..



Read Eleanor Marsh's review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/02/27/rrtg](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/02/27/rrtg)

Photography courtesy of Rare Fortune Productions



## Madam Butterfly

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica.  
English National Opera at the London Coliseum, until 17<sup>th</sup> April

*Madam Butterfly* opens in silence: from the cinematic space at the rear of the stage, the silhouette of Cio-Cio San appears and moves down the ramp towards the audience, fluttering fans and trailing cloths in a way that suggests the insect from which she takes her name. It's a striking image, conceived by the original director Anthony Minghella, and prepares one for a production in which visual spectacle will predominate.



This emphasis is a perfect complement to mood and action. Pinkerton and Butterfly are alone together and the lights pick them out, both in their white outfits against the dark, with moon-shaped paper lanterns gradually closing in on them.



It's a tender moment that concentrates our attention on the lead and her lover, and one can almost believe, as she does, that he will love her forever.

The motif of puppetry is an important one to this production, what with its mini mannequin son, origami birds and even servants playing puppets, and suggests we need to be conscious of who's pulling the strings even as the stagecraft contrives to hide them.

The production treads lightly at first, conscious it is walking on thin ice with a tragic depth beneath. Its mannered quality is clear in the contrast between Butterfly's white bridal gown – matching her husband's uniform – and the vibrant colour blocks of her entourage, there to witness the nuptials with good humour, and subsequently drawn into denouncing it.



As the tragic Butterfly, Natalya Romaniw is remarkable, her performance tender and mischievous in her flirtatious early encounters with Pinkerton, deepening as they become closer. Romaniw sings affectingly, raising the hairs on one's neck. She awaits the return of her husband with a fragile faithfulness, ultimately broken when he arrives with his American wife in tow ...

Read Matthew Grierson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/02/27/mdm-butterfly](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/02/27/mdm-butterfly)

Photography by Jane Hobson

# TRAVELLER'S TALES 66

## Delightful Turkey

### Doug Goodman takes a train to Istanbul



My first visit to Turkey was by train to Istanbul – all the way by train apart from the ferry crossing. Steam engines operated for a large part of the five day trip and return was on Concorde. It was the centenary of the London to Istanbul Orient Express with stops in Vienna, Bucharest and Sofia. Gleaming Pullman carriages and a band awaited the passengers at Victoria for the trip to Folkestone and the ferry. Many of the travellers were dressed in 20's costumes and there was a contingent of 'officers' looking very important in WW1 uniforms.

The original blue Venice-Simplon-Orient-Express carriages greeted us in France pulled by a wheezing steam engine. The ride through France was interrupted at Abbeville when the loco needed an urgent drink. The old water towers had long gone when steam trains were retired but to our rescue came the local fire brigade who, very obligingly, filled our tender with several thousand litres of water. For dinner on the train it was black tie and long dresses. A laundry and ironing car were available for anyone with crumpled clothing. An excellent formal dinner with fine wine was served as we steamed through France heading for Vienna. My compartment was beautifully furnished: Lalique glass adorned the panels and the bathroom had shiny brass fittings and a mosaic floor. The train had 18 cars – 12 for sleeping, four for dining and two for crew.



Victoria Station send off



The Original Orient Express



Bulgarian Beast



Crossing The Bosphorus

### VIENNA AND ONWARDS

The second night was spent in The Queen Elizabeth hotel in central Vienna with a grand dinner. A city tour was followed by a private performance of the Vienna Boys' Choir in the Schonbrunn Palace. The following day was spent exploring Budapest before steaming onwards to Sofia. A delay departing from Bulgaria's capital was caused by the difficulty of coupling a shiny loco – straight from a museum it transpired – to our carriages. Whenever we halted to change engines or to cross a border we would jump down onto the track to admire our loco and talk to the crew. The long journey through Southern Bulgaria's vast vineyards and past tiny Turkish villages offered interesting views of the two different lands. Arrival in Istanbul was greeted by bands, flags, speeches by local dignitaries and copious amounts of Raki. The fourth night was at a grand hotel



Café

overlooking the Bosphorus with a banquet at a palace on the Asian side of the city. On the last day a boat trip along the Bosphorus and a shopping trip to the Grand Bazaar were arranged before a problem occurred. British Airways needed the Concorde booked for our return to London for one of their New York flights. Panic by the organisers from 'Flights of Fantasy'? Not in the least! Later I was told that a phone call to Air France went something like... 'Bonjour Air France, can we charter one of your Concordes tonight .....? And it worked although the replacement aircraft was not up to British Airways' standards but no one minded.



Tasty Snack



Hagia Sophia



The Dish We Got



Grand Bazaar

## A SHORT BREAK IN ISTANBUL



Ferry Terminal

A more recent visit was to the capital by air for a long weekend break at a pleasant three star hotel near the St. Sophia Mosque. The Topkapi Palace was close by and just outside the hotel were located the Roman Cisterns. If you can remember the film from Russia with Love you would have seen these underground reservoirs as Bond is rowed to spy on the Russian embassy. Sitting in cafes with mint tea or a shisha pipe while people watching was a great way to relax. Spicy kebabs with a meze formed lunch most days accompanied by surprisingly good local wine. Furious bargaining in the Grand Bazaar for brightly coloured dishes in the style of the hand-painted Iznik tradition was immensely satisfying and as well as breakfast bowls we acquired a very large dish. The St. Sophia Mosque was stunning and the mosaics and frescoes in the churches were so beautiful. Near to the Grand Bazaar is the ferry port with

its vast crowds arriving

from or embarking for distant parts of Turkey. The view over the Bosphorus from the castle battlements, with boats darting across the water from Europe to Asia dodging the huge freighters, was the perfect spot for photographers and sightseers alike. Traffic jams in the city were continuous and taxi fares outrageous unless you agreed a sensible price in advance with the driver. Away from traffic noise and pollution you could relax in the gardens or beside the sea and watch the stall holders selling bread rings to hungry passers-by.

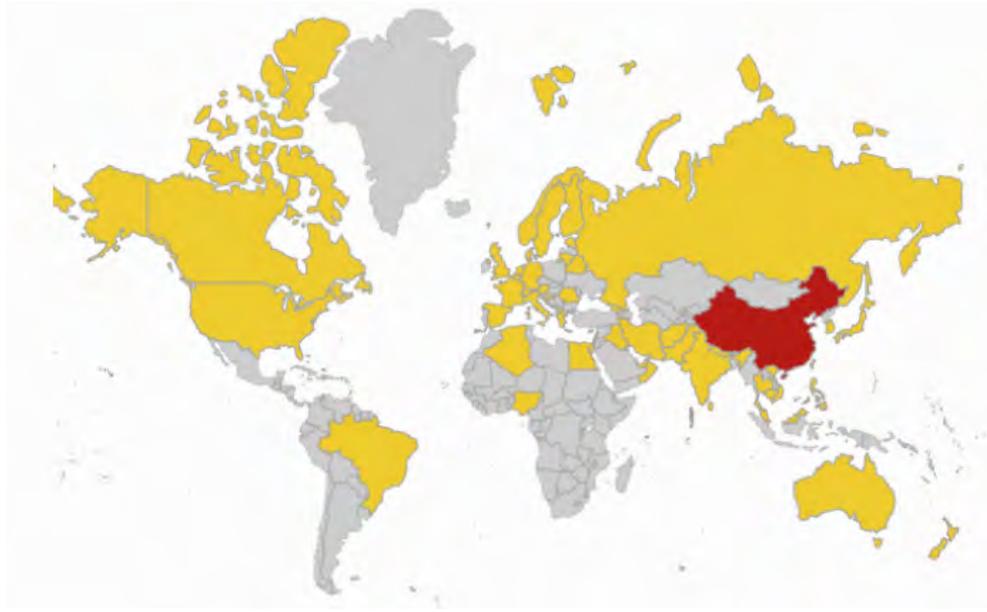


Topkapi Palace

A short break in Istanbul is highly recommended and the good news is that from March 2nd UK visitors will no longer be required to buy a visa. Entry for a stay of up to 90 days in Turkey will be free.

# Trouble at Mill with Coronavirus

By Bruce Lyons



Dear Reader

I am sure you will not be surprised to hear that our week was somewhat disrupted by this awful disease, the map above illustrates where the major outbreaks have occurred – A few of our clients have been affected, on the whole people going to Asia and feeling vulnerable, So had to cancel their trip and here in our Borough of Richmond we have all read

about a school coming back from a Ski Trip from the very areas of Italy where there were Outbreaks – so the school has had to be on Red alert, in case any of the students developed a fever, let us all hope that will not be the case.

However, if you look at the map (it is fresh this Friday evening) you will see that there are still large areas of the World not yet reporting even one sign of contagion. And many of the coloured countries have only isolated cases

So how has it been in the agency? As for the moment there is no FO advice NOT to travel to most countries, even some that have contagion cases in quarantine, well many of the calls have been to “put on hold” planned but not yet booked trips and that is what I would expect and even more understandable is the downturn in interest in Cruise Travel this week as the awful plight of the passengers on the Diamond Princess unfolded. But on the positive side we have seen a good level of interest in Israel, Jordan and Egypt as well as Morocco all popular destinations at this time of year and to date barely touched by the virus.

What I wrote last week about making sure your booking is properly protected is still true, even if it is a tad more expensive than you could do it DIY, as in the event the situation gets out of control and the FO gives us all instructions to stay at home – you will be protected financially.

But for now Winter Sun destinations further afield have mercifully been spared and that includes all the Caribbean and Central American areas of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. As well as large tracts of the African Continent and South America ,and most of these countries as well as those in the Middle East and Indian Ocean have good disciplines in place to contain the virus .And we are seeing bookings to all these places as well as Canada and the USA coming through on a normal basis but always with the caveat “is this ATOL`d” something we make sure of.



# WIZ TALES



In Edition 171 (page 29) the WIZ team went in search of wildlife in [Borneo](#). This week's photos are of Australia's most well known wildlife, kangaroos and koalas.



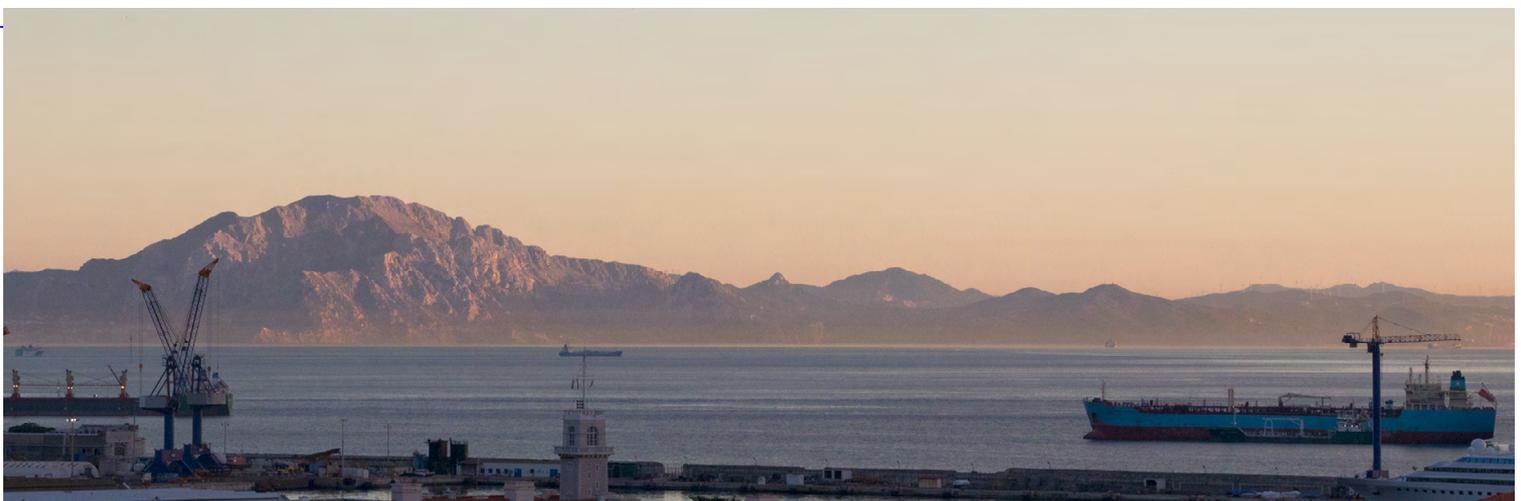
A Tour of Australia's Sunshine Coast

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

Australia Gallery <http://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Australia>

## A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Africa from a penthouse veranda at the Elliott Hotel, Gibraltar



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



## BRENTFORD FC

### Watkins and Benrahma inspire Bees fightback

#### Brentford 2 – 2 Blackburn Rovers

Second half strikes a piece from Ollie Watkins saw Brentford fightback from two goals down to claim a share of the spoils at Griffin Park. Adam Armstrong had fired the visitors into the lead inside the opening eleven minutes and grabbed his brace nine minutes into the second half. However, Watkins grabbed his twenty second Championship goal of the season to half the deficit and the comeback for a valuable point was completed from the penalty spot by Benrahma.



Despite Brentford dominating possession inside the opening ten minutes it was the visitors from Lancashire who broke the deadlock. In a goal in which the Bees will feel they should have defended better, a long kick upfield from Rovers' keeper Christian Walton evaded Ethan Pinnock and allowed Armstrong to stoop in. He then delicately chipped the ball over the onrushing David Raya to break the deadlock between the sides.

Rico Henry was fed the ball by the left-hand touchline and he teed the ball up to Watkins at the far post. Watkins brought the ball down well and played the ball to Josh Dasilva as the Bees attacked with intent, but Benrahma was denied by an excellent save from the feet of Walton.

Things went from bad to worse for Brentford as nine minutes into the second half Raya was penalised for a challenge on John Buckley in the penalty area as the referee pointed to the spot. Raya could not atone for his error as Armstrong stepped up to convert the resultant spot kick to give Blackburn a healthy advantage.

However, Brentford responded well and had halved the deficit just nine minutes later. A ball over the top from the Dane Henrik Dalsgaard caught out the Rovers defensive. With their hands in the hand appealing in vain for the linesmen's flag, Watkins volleyed the ball home from just inside the area, his strike arrowing into the top corner, to score a truly special goal in front of the Ealing Road stand.

Mads Roerslev, on as a substitute, was at then at the heart of the equaliser for the Bees. Picking the ball up on the right-hand touchline he tricked his way infield with the aid of some stepovers, before being felled in the box by Amari'I Bell and Bradley Johnson. Referee Tim Robinson pointed to the spot for the second time in the game and the Algeria Benrahma coolly dispatched the penalty.

Heading into the final twenty minutes of the game both sides pushed for the elusive third goal. Raya did well to deny Armstrong a hat-trick for Rovers, producing a smart stop with his feet as the forward sought to capitalise on an under hit back pass.

Walton was once again called upon to deny Bryan Mbeumo and Dasilva an effort blocked by the defence as he broke into the edge of the area. Late on Walton saved his best for last as stuck out a

foot to prevent Benrahma when one-on-one to deny the Bees a late winner.

Speaking after the game Brentford head Thomas Frank said “I’m annoyed we didn’t win but immensely proud of the boys for their attitude, the way they stayed together, kept going and worked hard to the end.

“In the end Blackburn looked so tired and that is a huge credit to our team. We have big togetherness even after going behind in the first half when we really should have been in front.

“Not everything was perfect but we produced enough chances to get a goal. Then after conceding a very debatable penalty for their second goal we were relentless, got closer to them and got our reward.”

## **Bees mad as a hatter as unbeaten streak comes to an end at Luton Luton Town 2 – 1 Brentford**

Brentford slipped to a disappointing defeat at relegation-battling Luton as they were punished for a poor first half under the lights at Kenilworth Road.

An own goal from Shandon Baptise and a strike from Martin Cranie in stoppage time gave the Bees an uphill task as they went two goals down for the second consecutive game but unlike on Saturday they were unable to turn it around, as Ollie Watkins strike seven minutes from time could not galvanise a grandstand finish.

The Bees made a nightmare start in Bedfordshire as they went behind inside nine minutes via an owl goal from recent arrival Shandon Baptiste. A free kick close to the right-hand touchline appeared to catch the Brentford defence by surprise as the low driven ball evaded everyone in the box, before cruelly deflecting off the leg of Baptise and beyond the despairing dive of David Raya.

Brentford responded well though and a fine passing move through the midfield, initiated by Baptiste, found its way to Mads Roerslev on the right-hand side. He crossed low and found Benrahma who took one touch before releasing a powerful shot that Simon Sluga did well to push over the bar.

Wearing their commemorative blue kit, the Bees continued to patiently probe the Hatters defence and Josh Dasilva forced Sluga once more into a decent save, his curling effort parried initially by Sluga before eventually being scrambled away by Cameron Carter-Vickers.

As the clock ticked into injury time the Hatters were awarded a free kick in an almost identical position to the one from which they scored in the first half. Luke Berry whipped in a dangerous delivery which Raya came and punched and in doing so appeared to be fouled. However, the referee waved away the Brentford protests as Martin Cranie lashed the ball into the roof of the net to land a sucker punch before half time.

Brentford started the second half well and after sustained attacking pressure where they switched the ball back and forth across the pitch. The ball found its way to Benrahma and the Algerian, never afraid of a shot from distance, drove from twenty-five yards and once again Sluga was called upon to palm the ball away from danger.

In the opposite penalty area Raya had to make a fine save of his own with his feet after Harry Cornick had escaped the Bees defence and burst into the box.

Seven minutes from time Brentford did eventually give themselves a glimmer of hope through the familiar figure of Watkins. Watkins picked the ball up on the edge of the area and combined with Roerslev to calmly sweep the ball into the bottom corner.

As Brentford pushed late on Raya was sent forward from a corner but the Spaniards downward header was hoisted away to safety as the Hatters held out for a crucial win in their survival battle.

Speaking after the game Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said “We definitely didn’t play at our normal high level. We started well and then the goal changed the momentum of the game.

“We needed to do better. After the goal we struggled and it was back and forth for 20 minutes but by the final 10 minutes [of the second half] we were back on top.

“In the second half we started badly and we built pressure at the end of the game. We scored one goal and came close to a comeback but this is the Championship and we knew it would be difficult against Luton.”

## UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Brentford head across the Severn Bridge as they take on Cardiff City on Saturday with a 3pm kick off. After being relegated from the Premier League last season Cardiff have endured an indifferent campaign so far this term in the second tier and currently sit eleventh in the table. The Bees saw their five-match unbeaten streak come to an end last time out against Luton and so will be looking to rediscover their form as they look to keep up their fight for the playoffs.

The Bees shaded the reverse fixture 2-1 at Griffin Park in December with goals from Bryan Mbeumo and Ollie Watkins and they would love a repeat of the same score line on Saturday afternoon.

***Come on you Bees!***

# HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

## Hampton leave no stone unturned as they strike late against Maidstone

### Maidstone United 1 – 2 Hampton

A late goal deep into stoppage time from top scorer Danilo Orsi-Dadomo salvaged a crucial win for Hampton against fellow playoff contenders Maidstone United in Kent.

Hampton had initially fell behind to a Justin Amaluzor strike but goals from Jake Grey and Orsi-Dadomo gave Hampton a deserved three points for the afternoons work.

Playing on their familiar artificial surface it was the hosts who made their stronger start and they drew an early save from Dion-Curtis Henry via Max Watters.

Just minutes later the Stones were ahead through former Hampton player Justin Amaluzor. Picking the ball up on the edge of the six-yard box the Maidstone forward cleverly spun away from a clutch of



Hampton defenders and produced an unstoppable strike right into the bottom of the corner that Henry could only watch as it went past.

However, the Beavers were soon level and through Gray. Ryan Hill went on a mesmeric dribble down the right-hand touchline before cutting the ball inside to his partner Orsi-Dadomo. The forward forced Stones keeper Chris Lewington could only divert via his legs into the path of Gray who calmly rolled the ball home for the equaliser.

Ibby Akanbi headed over from close range while at the other end Niko Muir saw a shot go wide.

Henry had to be alert in the Hampton goal to produce an excellent fingertip save to prevent a wayward cross from Ryan Johnson from sneaky in.

Into the second half and Maidstone deliveries from wide were causing Hampton problems. A Gavin Hoyte corner was flicked on by Johnson, but his effort flashed wide past the far post to the relief of Hampton.

Maidstone did eventually have the ball in the back of the Hampton net but it was ruled out by the linesman's flag for offside. A ball from Dan Wishart out of defence was flicked on by Akanbi into the path of Max Watters who finish well through the legs of the Hampton keeper only to see his celebration such sort.

Hampton went close through a free kick from Ryan Hill which had Lewington scrambling across his goal to make a save from about 25 yards.

Hampton then went even closer as a goal bound effort from Ruaridh Donaldson after being passed to by Orsi-Dadomo in the penalty area looked to be heading in, only for Wishart to clear the ball on the goal line.

As the clock ticked into injury time Hampton were once again denied by a goal line clearance from the Stones. Orsi-Dadomo did well to turn in behind the defence and skip inside a sliding challenge. His subsequent shot was only half saved by Lewington and looked to be heading in, only for Wishart to once again deny Hampton.

However, the Beavers persevered and with the last attack of the game Orsi-Dadomo fired past Lewington at last to send the travelling Hampton fans into absolute bedlam. Fans crashing down the terrace steps to celebrate with their team. Players hopping over advertising boards, shirts being ripped off. A sea of red and blue. The value of this three-points crystal clear for all to see at the Gallagher Stadium.

The Hampton dream lives on...

## **Jake Gray's Loan Deal Extended**

Hampton announced that midfielder Jake Gray's loan deal from National League Side Woking has been extended for another month. The midfielder has shone in recent times picking up eight assists in the past month as well as contributing with goals.

Speaking to the club website about the extension manager Gary McCann said "It's great to keep him here for another month. He was brilliant in his first stay and he's replicated that this time around as well. So, we are obviously very happy to keep someone who has been a big part of our successes in

the last few months. It was an easy decision our end, and we thank Dowse, and of course our Chairman Jacques for ensuring we can keep Jake here”

## **Coleman De-Graft Becomes A Beaver**

Hampton have announced the signing of highly rated youngster Razzaq Coleman De-Graft from Isthmian League South side Tooting & Mitcham United.

The 21-year-old forward has caught the eye of Gary McCann with his six goals this season on the left wing and his performances in the black and white.

Speaking on the signing McCann said “He is a player that we’ve been monitoring since early on in the season. He is a quick powerful wide player that will bring a different dimension to our side in the final third. He is only 21 and a player with huge potential, and if he applies himself correctly, I’m sure he’ll progress from us.”

Razzaq commented “I’ve decided to join the club because like me, it aims to progress. I feel like I will thoroughly develop here as a player and a person. I’m really looking forward to working with the personnel at the club, and the hard work begins now.”

## **UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON**

Hampton face a crucial National League South encounter Chelmsford City at the Beveree of Saturday with a 3.00pm kick off. The Clarets are currently ninth in the table on 43 points having played a game more than Hampton who themselves are on 46 and so a win for Hampton could prove vital in their push for the playoffs.

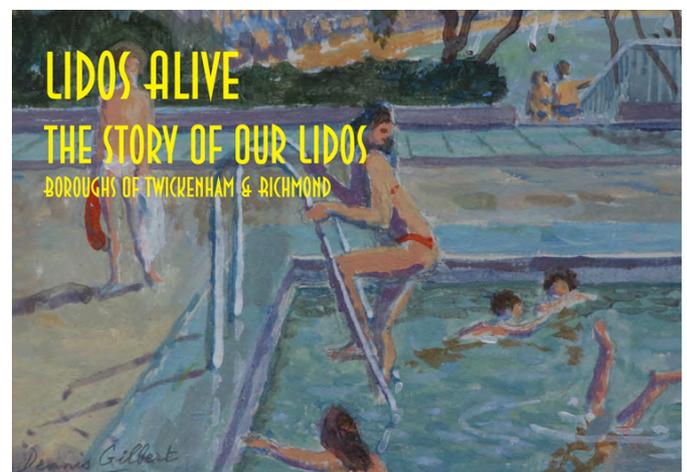
The reverse encounter finished 4-1 in favour of Chelmsford back on the opening day of the season but in their twenty games Hampton have taken the third highest points total of any side in the division and are pushing to the playoffs at pace.

***Come on you Beavers!***

## **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.



# 2020 Quilter Internationals: England to host Tonga as kick off times for all matches confirmed

Tonga is confirmed as the fourth opponent that England will host at Twickenham Stadium in autumn 2020 for the Quilter Internationals.

England will play Tonga, their opening pool opponents in Japan last year, on Saturday 21 November, kick off 15:15. This will be the fourth time the two sides have faced each other and the first time outside of a Rugby World Cup. England have won the previous three encounters.

Eddie Jones' squad will begin its Quilter International campaign against New Zealand on 7 November with the match kick off now confirmed at 17:30. The All Blacks last visited the home of England Rugby in 2018.

Seven days later Argentina, England's pool opponents in Japan who were defeated 39-10 in Tokyo, head to south west London. This match will kick off at 20:00.

Following the match against Tonga, England will end its Quilter Internationals on 28 November versus Australia, kick off 15:15.

Hospitality packages for England v Tonga are now on sale via [www.englandrugby.com/hospitality](http://www.englandrugby.com/hospitality) alongside packages for the other matches. Tickets will be available later in the year. To be at the front of the queue, fans should join The England Rugby Club by registering for an account at [www.englandrugby.com/tickets](http://www.englandrugby.com/tickets).

In addition, England host a Quilter Cup match against Barbarians F.C. at Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 21 June 2020, kick off 15:00. Tickets are on sale with prices from £20 for adults and £10 for children. Visit [www.englandrugby.com/tickets](http://www.englandrugby.com/tickets) to book.

England 2020 Quilter Internationals at Twickenham Stadium

- Saturday 7 November: England v New Zealand KO 17:30
- Saturday 14 November: England v Argentina, KO 20:00
- Saturday 21 November: England v Tonga, KO 15:15
- Saturday 28 November: England v Australia, KO 15:15

Quilter Cup 2020 at Twickenham Stadium

- Sunday 21 June 2020: England v Barbarians. KO 15:00

## Guinness Six Nations: England squad update Oxford week

England men's head coach Eddie Jones has recalled 25 players for three days of training in Oxford this week ahead of England's next Guinness Six Nations match against Wales at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 7 March (KO 4.45pm).

In addition, apprentice Alex Mitchell will join up with the squad and George Furbank will be in camp for rehabilitation. Mako Vunipola and Luke Cowan-Dickie are not included for family reasons.



# Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival 2020

## Competitions and Performance Opportunities for all ages

**Piano, Vocal, All Orchestral Instruments, Speech & Drama**  
**February to March in Richmond (Kew) and Hampton**

For full information, fees and entry forms visit

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

Performance opportunities for all ages in **piano** (jazz, classical & exam sections), **singing** (for choirs and soloists), **string & wind orchestral** instruments, including **harp, guitar & percussion**. **Acting, verse and prose speaking, musical theatre** for solos and groups. **Every performer receives a verbal and written assessment**. Trophies, Medals, Cash prizes and vouchers to be awarded including: **£100 prizes each for the Young Pianist, Young Singer, Young Instrumentalist and Young Speech & Drama Performer of the Year**

### Dates, Venues, Adjudicators 2020

**Vocal Section** - Adjudicator: **Belinda Mikhail**, BMus(Hons),PgDipRCM, ARCM

**February 28th** at YMCA White House, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN (mainly choirs and ensembles)

**February 29th & March 1st** at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ (Solos)

**Piano section**: - Adjudicator: **Li Lin Teo**, ARAM,LRAM,ARCM(Hons), LRSM

**March 6th, 7th, 8th, 14th** at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ

### Instrumental:

**March 15th** (Wind/Brass & Percussion) - Adjudicator: **Paul Harris**, FRAM, HonTCL, GRSM, LRAM, ARCM ARAM, MTC, FRSA

**March 21st, 22nd** (other orchestral instruments) - Adjudicator: **Fiona McLean Buechel**, BA (RSAMD) Cert RAM. All **Instrumental** sections at Kew Community Centre

**Speech & Drama March 28th & 29th** - Adjudicators: **Tish Nicoll** LGSM, DipCE, FESB, MSTSD

& **Ann Bauer**, MEd, BA (Hons),LRAM, LGSM, PGCE, DipSpLD at YMCA White House. Hampton TW12 3RN

### Section Secretaries (to whom entries should be made)

Instrumental: Pamela Frazer, [pam@fra3zer.demon.co.uk](mailto:pam@fra3zer.demon.co.uk)

Piano: Sue Thornton, [suethornton101@virginmedia.com](mailto:suethornton101@virginmedia.com) Assistant Piano Secretary: Kay Aldridge

Vocal: Judy Hildesley [judyhildesley@btinternet.com](mailto:judyhildesley@btinternet.com)

Speech & Drama: Emma-Louise Tinniswood [richmonddramafestival@gmail.com](mailto:richmonddramafestival@gmail.com)

### Closing dates for Receipt of Entries

Piano - January 19th 2020

Vocal & Speech & Drama - January 31st 2020

Instrumental - February 8th 2020



General enquiries - [info@richmondfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@richmondfestival.org.uk)



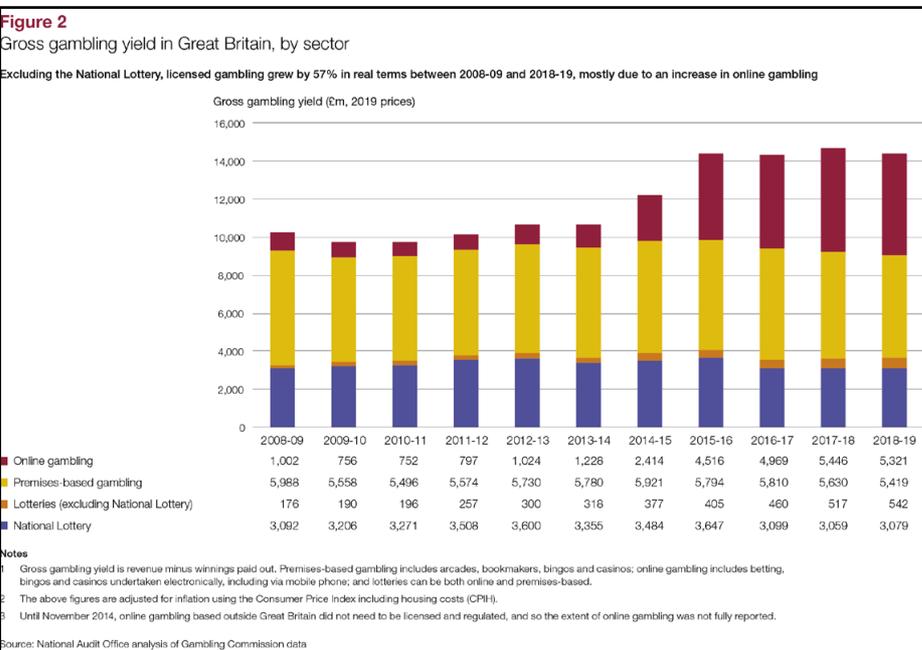
# Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people

The Gambling Commission and government need to do more to ensure that regulation can protect gamblers effectively, according to a new NAO report.

There are an estimated 1.8 million 'at risk' gamblers and 395,000 'problem' gamblers – including 55,000 children, some of whom are as young as 11.1 Gambling addiction can lead to mental health problems, relationship difficulties, large-scale financial loss and, in some cases, crime or suicide.

The NAO's report looks at regulation of an industry which now yields over £11.3 billion<sup>2</sup> for gambling operators every year. The Gambling Commission<sup>3</sup>, which regulates the industry, has annual funding of £19 million and almost all of it comes from licence fees paid by gambling operators. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) is the government department with overall responsibility for gambling policy and regulation.

The report concludes that while the Commission has improved regulation, there is much more it should do. It has increased enforcement against gambling operators that break rules, for example



by revoking licences, and has also strengthened its rule book.<sup>4</sup> But it needs to do more to incentivise operators to raise standards and be more systematic and detailed in recording and analysing information about gamblers to plug gaps in its knowledge.

Even if the Commission makes these improvements, it is a small body that is unlikely to be fully effective in regulating a challenging and fast-changing industry within the current system. Gambling regulation does not have features seen in other sectors, such as an ombudsman, and the way it

is funded is not flexible meaning the Commission cannot change licence fees to respond to new risks emerging quickly from changes in technology and demand.

The report's recommendations include that the Commission and DCMS should:

- Be more strategic about getting gambling companies to better protect people. This could include incentivising companies to do more to make gambling safer beyond meeting minimum requirements.
- Ensure gamblers are aware of services to resolve disputes, and review whether these arrangements are working effectively.
- Review how regulation is funded so they can keep pace with a fast-changing industry.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said today:

*"Licensed gambling has grown by 57 per cent - £4.1 billion - over the last decade mainly due to a massive increase in online and smartphone gambling. The risks to gamblers are changing as technologies develop. Yet the Gambling Commission is a small regulator in a huge and fast-evolving industry. While the Commission has made improvements, gambling regulation lags behind the industry. The Commission and government need to work together to ensure that regulation keeps pace with the risk to gamblers."*

Read the full report [HERE](#)

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

3rd March 2020, 8.00pm

## '3 Faces' (Iran)

Fascinating road-trip depicting rural Iran/Turkish life. An actress receives an upsetting phone video in which a provincial girl pleads for help but is it genuine? She hitches a ride with Panahi to get to the bottom of the matter...

[www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk)

Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office (subject to a cap of 70) - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at [www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/](http://www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/). A further 50 or so tickets will be available to purchase on the door on the night of screenings (cash only) on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.



Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp on alternate Tuesdays (no trailers and no ads) and are screened at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available. Film notes are provided for each screening and audience feedback is obtained via response slips.

Half Page

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Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page  
Landscape

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