

Twickenham & Richmond **TRIBUNE**

Contents

- TwickerTape
- TwickerSeal
- History Through Postcards
- COVID-19
- Borough Photos
- Twickers Foodie
- WIZ Tales
- Arts Reviews
- Traveller's Tales
- Football Focus
- LBRUT
- RFU

Contributors

- TwickerSeal
- Alan Winter
- Graeme Stoten
- TwickWatch
- Marble Hill House
- Sue Hamilton-Miller
- Sammi MacQueen
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- Doug Goodman
- James Dowden
- Richmond Film Society
- LBRuT

Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



TickerTape - News in Brief

Retired social workers urgently needed to help support provision

Retired social workers are being urged by Richmond Council to return to work and help support Richmond residents through the coronavirus pandemic.

Richmond Council is making provisions to offer 7-day-week services, from 8am to 8pm, to cope with the increased demand anticipated over the coming months. Since the start of the pandemic, the local need has significantly increased and these additional pressures have meant that more qualified social workers are needed to help some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

A local campaign has been launched to recruit out-of-work social workers and invite those who have recently retired to temporarily return to work to help with the effort.

Qualified care workers can find out more information about the roles available by contacting priya.samuel@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Get coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person

Register if you have a medical condition that makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. For example, you'll be able to ask for help getting deliveries of essential supplies like food.

If you're not sure whether your medical condition makes you extremely vulnerable, register anyway.

This service is free. You can register yourself, or for someone else. [HERE](#)

Unessential Work At Twickenham Station?

This week there has been a great deal of consternation over the continued building work at Twickenham Station. Many have questioned this being 'essential' work and have also pointed out the lack of appropriate social-distancing by workers. You can see some comments and pictures on Twitter [HERE](#)

Twickenham's Naked Shopper!

There has been much discussion about the etiquette of queuing at supermarkets in this time of social-distancing, but what is the protocol for naked customers? Twitter was aflutter when a customer at Waitrose in Twickenham had the cheek to turn up in his birthday suit, perhaps inspired by the stripped shelves.

Clocks Go Forward

Don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour on Sunday!

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Its been a very difficult week, which has affected pretty much all of us one way or another. The imposition of the 'lockdown' has

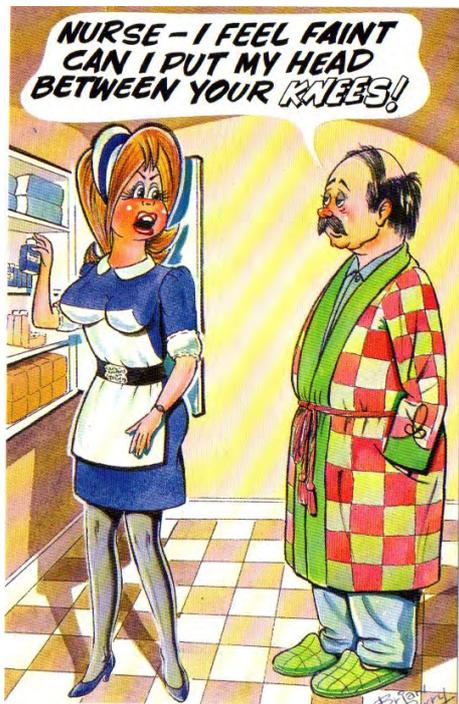
had a profound impact on businesses, shops and employment/self-employment, that could not have been conceived of when we welcomed in 2020 only a few months ago.

While the way we go about our daily lives has changed dramatically, we seem to be adapting well (except the pigeons, who still haven't got the hang of social distancing).

TwickerSeal had a tricky moment when he encountered TwickerDuck on Eel Pie Bridge and he couldn't figure out how to pass while maintaining a 6-foot distance. Luckily TwickerDuck gallantly dropped to the water below solving the dilemma, although this might not work for all Eel Pie residents finding themselves in a similar predicament ...



This week we are going to move slightly away from our regular topic of local history on postcards to something that I feel may put a smile on a few faces. Let's pay a visit to the working environments of our wonderful nurses as they were often portrayed on seaside comic postcards throughout the 20th century and through



to the present day. If you are a member of the medical profession, these images are in no way meant to offend anyone. They are just to raise a smile at this difficult time and thank you for everything you are doing to help us all.

These cards sold by the tens of thousands at every seaside resort in the land. It was a given that a trip to the coast would involve ice-cream, fish and chips and slot machines and a couple of saucy postcards to send home.

The most famous of the comic postcard artists was Donald Fraser Gould McGill (28 January 1875 – 13 October 1962) was an English graphic artist whose name has become synonymous with the genre of saucy seaside postcards that were sold mostly in small shops in British coastal towns. The cards featured an array of attractive young women, fat old ladies, drunken middle-aged men, honeymoon couples and vicars. He has been called 'the king of the saucy postcard', and his work is collected and appreciated for his artistic skill, its power of social observation and earthy sense of humour. Even at the height of his fame he only earned three guineas a design, but today his original artwork can fetch thousands of pounds.

Approaching 80, McGill fell foul of several local censorship committees, which culminated in a major trial in Lincoln on 15 July 1954 for breaking the Obscene Publications Act 1857. He was found guilty and fined £50 with £25 costs. The wider result was a devastating blow to the saucy postcard industry; many postcards were destroyed as a result, and retailers cancelled orders. Several of the smaller companies were made bankrupt, as they survived on very small margins.

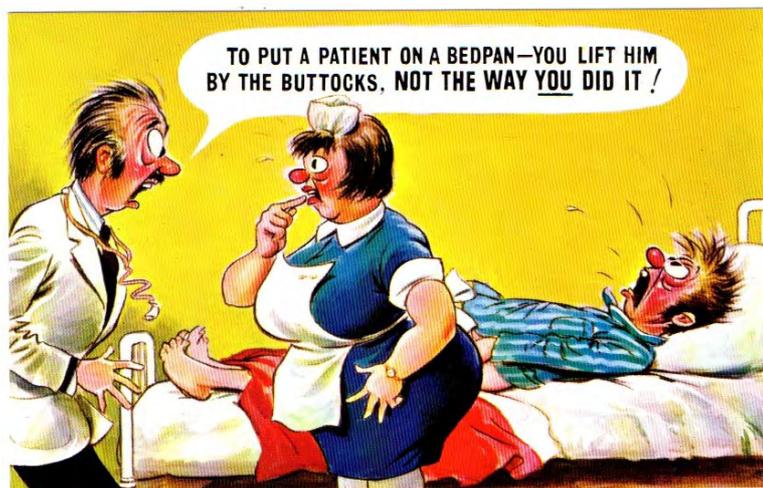
In the late 1950s, the level of censorship eased off and the market recovered.

McGill produced an estimated 12,000 designs, of which 200 million copies are estimated to have been printed. He died in 1962 with all his designs for the 1963 season already prepared. He was buried in Streatham Park Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Despite their wide circulation, McGill earned no royalties from his designs; in his will, his estate was valued at just £735.

One of his postcards, featuring a bookish man and an embarrassed pretty woman sitting under a tree, with the caption: "Do you like Kipling?" / "I don't know, you naughty boy, I've never kiplled!" holds the world record for selling the most copies, at over 6 million.

Next time you visit the Isle of Wight, do pay a visit to the Donald McGill Postcard Museum in Ryde. You will come out smiling!

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 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.





RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 1, March 27th 2020

MONSIEUR LAZHAR

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

RFS Context: MONSIEUR LAZHAR was 701st film screened by RFS on 15th January 2013. It was the top ranked film of Season 50 with an approval mark of 96% from those attending. The film can be streamed from Amazon Prime and Chili and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

MONSIEUR LAZHAR

Country:	Canada, 2011	Director:	Philippe Falardeau
Screenplay:	Philippe Falardeau	Editor:	Stéphane Lafleur
Music:	Martin LéonRunning	Time:	94 min., colour
Language:	French/English/Arabic	Cinematography:	Ronald Plante

Leading Players:

Mohamed Fellag	(Bachir Lazhar)
Sophie Nélisse	(Alice L'Écuyer)
Émilien Néron	(Simon)
Marie-Ève Beauregard	(Marie-Frédérique)
Vincent Millard	(Victor)
Seddik Benslimane	(Abdelmalek)

We do spoil you. Christmas is surrounded by last year's Academy Award winner (**A Separation**) and the runner-up: Philippe Falardeau's **Monsieur Lazhar**. Amongst its many awards **Monsieur Lazhar** was selected as the audience favourite at last year's BFFS viewing sessions for new rental films in the UK. **Monsieur Lazhar**, while a less fraught film than **A Separation** is equally subtle in its analysis of life within the constraints of society.

Both films address issues of guilt, grief and responsibility, and set individual conscience against state law.



Monsieur Lazhar interweaves the stories of an Algerian immigrant to Quebec and the suicide of a junior school teacher. The suicide has shocked the local community, makes the paper, and ensures that nobody applies for the vacant position. Then the fifty-ish Bachir Lazhar (played by Mohamed Fellag), turns up at the principal's office and applies for the job. With his smiling, old-fashioned courtesy Monsieur Lazhar is rather fascinating to his pupils, though they don't immediately warm to him. As we find out more about him the film tells the story of their developing relationship and examines the various responses to the suicide set within the personalities and politics of a modern school.

Sophie Néliste as Alice gives a remarkable turn here, as self-contained as an adult yet with a child's vulnerability to doubt. It's a sensitivity that makes her an ally of Lazhar, himself brought wonderfully to life in Fellag's performance; the grave twinkle we see in him suggests a happy man brought low by tragic circumstances. How he keeps his facade of good cheer is a mystery the film honours to the last.

Falardeau, despite handling weighty questions, moves the film along with an unfussy grace and a bright sense of location. It's a rare achievement to keep such a sympathetic balance between a child's view of schooling and an adult's; rarer still to lend it such wit and warmth. "A classroom," says Lazhar, "is a place of friendship, of work, of courtesy – yes, courtesy." In that moment you hear the true gentleman, and a great teacher.

Jonathan Earthy with thanks to The Independent & Wikipedia

Light Up At Night!!



Stay Safe
When cycling at night
always use a light

A Twickenham Tribune Campaign
www.TwickenhamTribune.com

COVID-19

Teresa Read

In Edition 176 I wrote about the lesson we should have learned from the SARS outbreak in 2003 and in Edition 175 Social Distancing and “Flattening the Curve” were highlighted. By now many of us will have acquaintances, friends, and family members who have been infected by the coronavirus COVID-19.

Indeed, as we know, even our Prime Minister and the heir the throne have tested positive for the virus.

Most of us should know the importance of following government guidelines for social distancing and hygiene. Those who ignore the rules are not only putting themselves at risk but may be responsible for spreading the virus exponentially.

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Thursday 27th March 2020 gave the following details for the countries with the most deaths - the figures in brackets were last week's figures: 3,293 deaths in China (3,231), 7,505 in Italy (2,978), 3,434 in Spain (598), 1,331 in France (244), 463 in the UK (103), 884 in the USA (100), 2,077 in Iran (1,135); and a total of 20,834 deaths worldwide (8,778). (World Health Organization Situation Reports are one day behind). *Note: within the last 24 hours it has been reported that the number of deaths has gone up considerably in the USA Italy and Spain; UK deaths have risen to 759.*

At the time of writing the “In Your Area” website for coronavirus local news gave the figure of 68 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames and 52 in Kingston upon Thames with 126 in Hounslow and 209 in Ealing.

It has been reported that the first vaccine trial began sixty days after the genetic sequence of the virus was shared by China. The World Health Organization and its partners are organizing a large international study - the Solidarity Trial - in many countries to compare different treatments. However, a vaccine is not imminent, possibly a year to eighteen months away.

Unfortunately, there are those who do not heed the warnings given to them or believe the seriousness of the situation evidenced by the number of deaths; the government advice is to “Stay At Home”. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home); Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people; Wash your hands as soon as you get home; You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Staying at home can be very difficult for many of us so it is important to develop coping strategies. You may have heard the advice from a former navy submariner; some people

do have to live in confined spaces for various reasons but, nowadays, with the internet we are at quite an advantage.

Children using learning platforms for schooling at home are streets ahead of many of us but there are interesting possibilities for everyone. For example, there is a video online from our very own Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) from St Mary's University in Strawberry Hill. Joe was featured in Editions 37 and 42 of the Twickenham Tribune and has a 10-minute Home Chair Workout for seniors. *"Millions of people are doing Joe's workout. Lots of parents are waking up with aching muscles, thinking they might have coronavirus and then remembering they did Joe Wicks!"*

Perhaps readers would like to share their coping strategies with others and help to keep us all safe.

BBC: Coronavirus in UK: How many confirmed cases are there in your area?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>

BBC: Coronavirus information: What should I do?

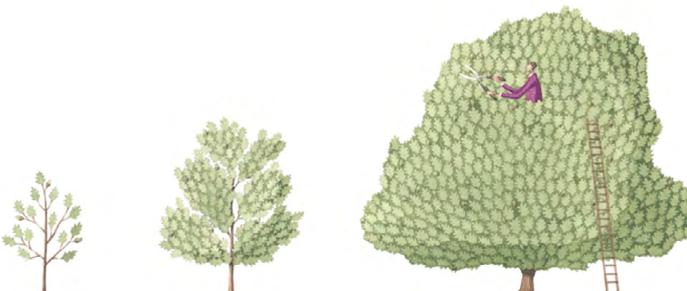
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51711227>

UK Government Advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

REMEMBER:

Regular hand washing, social distancing, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, respiratory hygiene and seeking medical advice if you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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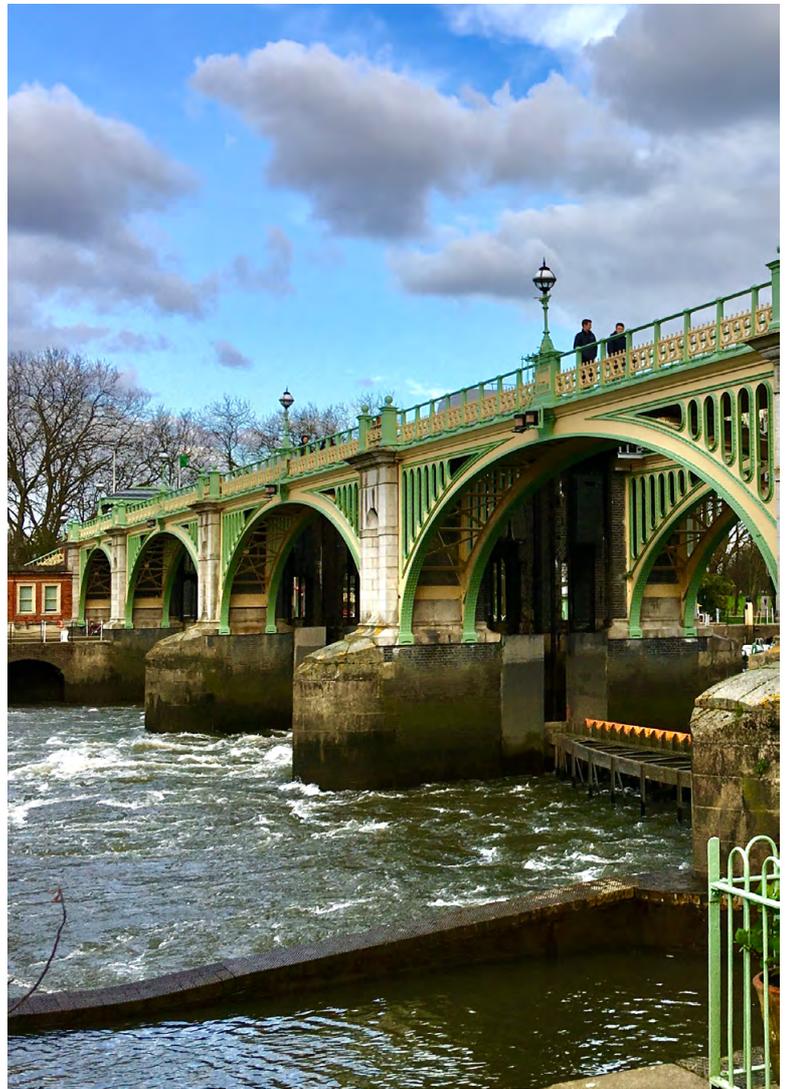
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Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

‘Richmond Lock and Weir’

Celebrating a 125th birthday with a full facelift, Richmond Lock walkway is now back in use. Beautifully painted and refurbished to meet full Heritage specification, this late Victorian structure is one of the borough’s architectural highlights.



Army delivers protective equipment for Richmond's social care workers

An emergency supply of masks and aprons were delivered to Richmond Council today (Friday 27 March 2020) by the British Army.

Richmond's social care staff provide support for some of the most vulnerable and frail people in the borough. Social care workers, operating in residential care homes and in people's own homes have been increasingly concerned that the lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) was placing the health of their clients and themselves at risk.

This afternoon, British Army personnel delivered limited supplies to enable staff to continue their work safely. These supplies are now being distributed to care homes and other key workers.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, welcomed the PPE as it arrived. He said:



“Given the critical role social care workers are playing, it is absolutely essential that they are fully protected.

“We had experienced issues obtaining supplies of PPE given the unprecedented demand across country. These supplies that provide a short term boost to Council and providers staff is welcome but we recognise more will be needed and we will continue to work with the Government and NHS to ensure longer term supplies.

“Social workers provide a lifeline for so many of our vulnerable residents – enabling many people to stay independent in their own homes. It is imperative that they stay healthy.

“The health and safety of our workforce and those who use our services is paramount, and I would like to thank the Armed Forces for their assistance in ensuring we receive this basic safety equipment.”

Leader issues warning to residents who flout Government guidance

Residents who are ignoring Government guidance regarding social distancing have been told that they are putting their lives, and the lives of others, at risk. Over the past few days, the Council has received a number of reports of residents ignoring the new Government distancing rules that have been put in place to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

The guidance states that everyone should stay at home. People should only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home) and stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people.

Since Saturday 21 March 2020, several social care workers have reported that whilst visiting the homes of vulnerable residents in the borough, they have struggled to access a small number of properties due to picnics and mini 'street parties' being held in the street.

An estate agent has continued to open a number of branches, despite the Government ruling that they should close. Staff members have also been seen 'flyering' households to tout for business.



In addition, in line with the Government guidance around banning visits to playgrounds, barrier tape in play areas has been 'ripped' off, encouraging children to play on the equipment.

Parkguard, the Councils park security contractors, have increased their patrols of borough parks, to encourage residents and visitors to abide by the 2-metre rule. Whilst they have been reinstating barriers around playgrounds, they have also had to ask people who have been holding picnics and gatherings to move on. (See the attached image of York House Gardens).

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, issued residents with a stark warning: *"I don't like having to chastise residents. Ninety nine percent of local people are following the rules around social distancing and doing their bit to stay at home and not make non-essential journeys. However, I am shocked and appalled at the very small number of people that seem to be content with putting their lives, and the lives of others at risk. It is irresponsible and not fair. The Police have confirmed that they will take action to stop this senseless behaviour. But I urge all residents and businesses – play by the rules. This isn't a game. These kind of decisions might not make you ill, but they might be deadly to an older person, a nurse, a social worker or child. This isn't forever. But the longer people are irresponsible, the longer it will take to eradicate this virus."*

See video of the [Leader's appeal to local people](#).



Photo: Feed Me! c. Sammi Macqueen



Photo: Mother Goose c. Iain Macqueen



Visit Website [River Crane Sanctuary](http://RiverCraneSanctuary.com)

Mayor sends special message to school children

The Mayor has sent a special video message to children across the borough who are going to school every day – inviting them to send in drawings.

Schools across the borough are open to vulnerable children and children of key workers who are providing vital support and services to help during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Nancy Baldwin, has sent the children a special message of reassurance, encouraging them to “be good” and talk to your teachers if they are worried or scared. She has also encouraged the children to try something different or new – inviting classes to share some of their artwork or pictures they are doing whilst they are in school.

Cllr Nancy Baldwin, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, said:

“I imagine for many children this must be a pretty scary time. Everything is so different for all of us. And, for many of those children attending schools, their mums, dads and carers are going off to work each morning on the front line – in our hospitals, essential businesses or other public service. We owe them a big debt. I would also like to thank our teaching staff who are still in schools. They



are doing a fantastic job, continuing the education of those who are coming in each day, and using new technologies to ensure that those children at home can still continue their learning.”

To see Cllr Baldwin’s video, go to: <https://youtu.be/bGrtEwRCMuM>

Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By:TwickWatch

In Britain today, communal efforts to alleviate food poverty are well documented, with community kitchens and social supermarkets operating alongside hundreds of food banks. Yet their historical precedents are less well known.

As with the current Coronavirus epidemic, a government has a duty of care to its people and the economy, using its best endeavours for all. At the beginning of World War II, a Liverpool housewife was recorded as saying, "I wish to goodness they would introduce rationing. At least I would be able to go into a shop and get what I was allowed." Many believed that rationing would bring fair shares for all, no matter where they shopped or how wealthy they were and stop profiteering, a common complaint during the previous war. Seem familiar?

Rationing was severe, not perfect and a huge change and inconvenience to people's lives, not forgetting their being bombed and losing their family members in combat.

It was illegal to feed human food to pets, even bread to birds.

Nothing as simple as self-isolating was on offer to assist the national crisis. People were asked to co-operate for the greater good, trust the government and overlook any small imperfections, most of which were sorted out as time passed. Government had worked behind the scenes for a long time; indeed, ration books were printed in 1938 although not used until found necessary, a little after the outbreak of war.



1940-1950 King Street, Twickenham
(© Richmond Local Studies Library)

The government made every effort to ensure the population was adequately fed as many people with war related jobs were constantly on the move. Local councils were provided with plans to establish 'Community Feeding Centres'. Winston Churchill championed the setting up of the 'communal feeding centres' although he hated that term (as being too 'redolent of communism and the workhouse').

Thus, they became 'British Restaurants' or "Civic Restaurants" and fantastically popular they were too, helping people who had been bombed out of their homes, had run out of ration coupons or otherwise needed help such as key war-effort workers. They were set up by the Ministry of Food and run by local committees on a non-profit making basis. Communal feeding was a war time economy. They were only effective based on the overall goodwill of the community.

At the start of World War II, private restaurants were initially exempt from rationing unlike the general populous but this was resented, as people with more money could supplement their food rations by eating out frequently.

In May 1942, the Ministry of Food issued new restrictions on private restaurants: Meals were limited to three courses; only one component dish could contain fish or game or poultry (but not more than one of these)

In general, no meals could be served between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. without a special licence and the maximum price of a meal was 5 shillings (equivalent to £12 in 2020). Extra charges were allowed for cabaret shows and luxury hotels.



1940-1950 King Street, Twickenham
- interior view of eating area (© Richmond Local Studies Library)

Councils were encouraged to make the interior of the restaurants as modestly attractive as possible and initially operated a self-service scheme. The British Restaurants served basic foods such as sausage, mash, gravy, or minced beef with parsnips, greens and potatoes. There was also pudding and custard. There was even a “Woolton Pie” (named after the Minister of Food), described as “a steak and kidney pie without the steak and kidney” “Lord Woolton Pie: The Official Recipe.



Ashley Road, Hampton - Interior of Civic Restaurant (© Richmond Local Studies Library)

In hotels and restaurants, no less than in communal canteens, many people would have tasted Lord Woolton pie and pronounced it good. Like many another economical dish, it can be described as wholesome fare. It also meets the dietician’s requirements in certain vitamins. The ingredients can be varied according to the vegetables in season. Here is the official recipe: - Take 1 lb. each diced of potatoes, cauliflower, swedes, and carrots, three or four spring onions – if possible, one teaspoonful of vegetable extract, and one tablespoonful of oatmeal. Cook all together for 10 minutes with just enough water to cover. Stir occasionally to prevent the mixture from sticking. Allow to cool; put into a pie dish, sprinkle with chopped parsley, and cover with a crust of potato or wheat meal pastry. Bake in a moderate oven until the pastry is nicely browned and serve hot with a brown gravy.” - London: The Times. 26 April 1941.

The driving force behind the creation of public restaurants, had been Mrs Flora Solomon, who was in charge of Marks & Spencer’s staff canteens at the beginning of the war and who was inspired to action by seeing the Londoners’ Meals Service, which London County Council started in September 1940, to feed those who had been bombed out of their homes.

Meals were sold for a set maximum price of 9d (equivalent to just under 4p, about £1 in purchasing power 2020) or less. No-one could be served with a meal of more than one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese. In one in ten restaurants the meals were prepared at central depots. Schools and churches were often used because they had dining halls and kitchens. In London, mobile canteens delivered meals to air raid shelters and on the street in the aftermath of air raids.

It was deemed each outlet ‘must not resemble a soup kitchen for the poorest sections of society’, but rather, a place in which ‘ordinary people in ordinary circumstances’ could purchase an attractive yet cheap meal. Staff had to be well dressed, cooks experienced, and customers were not to be patronised as members of the deserving poor; neither could the decor be chintzy, with gramophones and pianos recommended for ambience.



Broad Street Teddington – interior view of eating area (© Richmond Local Studies Library)

Twickenham had five “British Restaurants” by the end of the war, all being disbanded by 1947.

- Winchester Hall St Margaret’s Twickenham
- 46 King Street Twickenham
- 33/35 High Street Whitton
- 64 Broad Street Teddington
- Metropolitan Water Board Employees Institute, Ashley Road Hampton

The most significant instruction from the Ministry was that national kitchens were ‘not to be conducted as a charity’; rather, they had to function as a business, complete with a full set of accounts and break even. Kitchen staff, cashiers and cooks were paid, and meals were modestly priced, but never provided for free. Although considered later in the war, they were never treated as part of an individual’s rations.

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

The National Lottery heritage fund, along with English Heritage have provided the £7 million for the Marble Hill Revived project. As well as offering 17 full time employment opportunities, this grant has also opened the doors for a number of apprenticeship opportunities.

We are very lucky to have appointed Jack Morris as our horticultural apprentice, who as well as passing his first exam, and inspiring our amazing volunteers and working the ground has been researching the trees on site. The most famous of these is of course the black walnut which was around at the time of Henrietta herself. As part of the project there will be more information about the black walnut on site but we thought you might be interested in some of the research Jack has been creating.

Juglans nigra



This is without a doubt; the most famous and historic tree at marble hill and may well be the oldest and largest Black walnut in the whole UK. This is a fantastic tree; it's so valuable to be able to see a black walnut of this age. This specimen dates back from the original development of the gardens at marble hill in the 1720s; it's one of the last survivors of the original planting still standing strong.

The black walnut is an amazing tree; it has so many different uses and quirks: the roots actually contain a growth inhibitor to stop many other trees from growing near it and competing for space, water and nutrients. The tree has a staggering amount of medical applications:

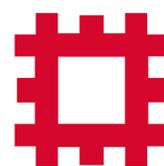
as a mosquito repellent, dermatological aid, has been used to fight fever and even treat kidney ailments. The husks of the nuts contain Juglone, a chemical that stops bacterial and fungal growth which may be valuable in fighting infections in humans. Research is even going into its cancer fighting abilities. Actually there is a medical use for every part of the tree.

The timber is also highly prized in joinery and furniture making; the wood is super strong and very attractive making it one of the most expensive woods available.

Black walnut trees are very culturally relevant in areas of North America, where the black walnut has long been associated with creation myths of the Native Americans. And you can see why, with its beautiful timber, medicinal qualities and countless. Just the structure of the tree standing tall with its large hanging compound leaves, wonderfully dappled canopy and its very dark, almost charred looking bark. It's a truly stand out tree which is guaranteed to be a striking eye catcher of any landscape.

The flowers are very popular with pollinators, and the fruit is a favourite with squirrels. It provides nesting and roosting opportunities for many different types of birds despite not being a native tree species to the UK but instead coming over from America.

For more information please contact Marblehillrevived@english-heritage.org.uk



ENGLISH
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Not a lot of people know this!

By Sue Hamilton-Miller

Nearly 100 years ago an important house in the centre of Twickenham was pulled down. It had been built on the site of a much grander house, built it is thought in about 1650, and was situated in four acres of land on the banks of the River Thames opposite Eel Pie Island, between King Street, Water Lane and Wharf Lane in Twickenham. The house was called Richmond House but the area is now better known as where the old swimming pool or Lido existed on Twickenham Riverside.

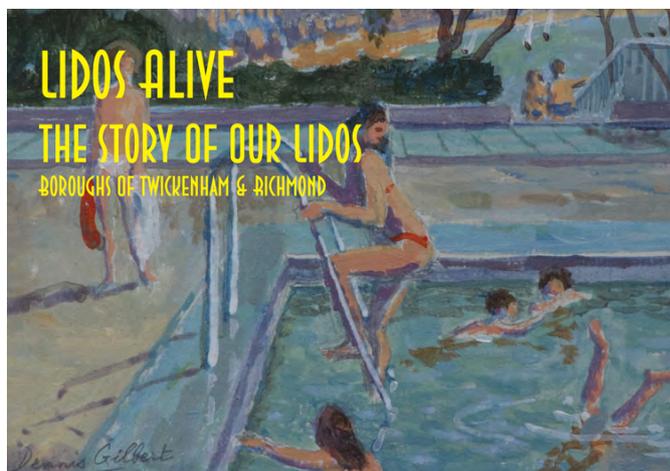
Throughout the centuries illustrious owners/tenants of Richmond House played an important part in the history of our country and I'm surprised at how often I find myself saying "Oh, he/she lived in Richmond House" or "so and so were connected with that event," so for fun over the next few weeks of self-isolation I thought I would see if I can continue to find a link (maybe very tenuous) to what is happening in our current daily lives and the lives of those who called Richmond House home.

To kick off with – today, as I write (25th March), Parliament has closed early because of the Coronavirus outbreak. Edward Birkhead, who is the first known owner of Richmond House, was a Serjeant at Arms (equivalent to Black Rod) in Parliament from 1637 until his death in 1662. He and his fellow Serjeants at Arms would take it in turn to have been present, bearing the Mace, at the opening and closing of parliament. He served under both Charles I and Charles II as well as Oliver Cromwell and is listed as being in the 7 hour long funeral procession for Cromwell. At the time it is noted that he was quite unwell, so the lengthy funeral might have been the last straw as he went into semi-retirement soon after. I'm sure I shall be referring to him and his relations/descendants many times, as they feature not only in the story of Twickenham and its illustrious inhabitants but also our Island's history. Also, his Serjeant at Arms salary enabled him to buy up most of the riverside land from Richmond Bridge to beyond Strawberry Hill, but more of that maybe later.

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.



Online workshop to help businesses ‘survive’ the lockdown

Richmond businesses can take part in a free online workshop to help them “Survive the lockdown and come out fighting” next month.

Run by StartUp Richmond – supported by Richmond Council, the free online summit aims to provide businesses with practical advice to help them navigate their business through the current uncertain times and out the other side.

StartUp Richmond has gathered together a team of business experts from across all aspects of business life to provide advice and guidance to help businesses meet the challenges facing them. They will cover areas such as finance, technology, staffing, business resilience, insurance, legal issues, marketing and sales.



The session is on Thursday 2 April 2020, from 2 to 5pm.

For more information and how to register visit [Survive the lockdown and come out fighting](#).

Cllr Geoff Acton, Lead Member for Business at Richmond Council, said:

“This is the most challenging time for most of our local businesses. We know that many of the businesses who are closed are hugely worried that the uncertainty around the pandemic means that they are fearful they may never reopen.

“We have already announced a number of grants and local measures that we are taking to help our local businesses. This Summit will give businesses a chance to hear some of the other ideas that will help them survive the crisis.”

The Royal Parks suspends cycling in Richmond Park following social distancing concerns

Cycling in Richmond Park will be suspended until further notice from Saturday 28th March to support social distancing guidelines as set out by the government to stay 2m apart and to prevent crowds at park gates which are becoming hugely congested says The Royal Parks, the charity which manages London's eight Royal Parks.

A Royal Parks spokesperson, said: "It is necessary to suspend all cycling in Richmond Park to protect public safety and ultimately help keep this vital green space open for everyone. Cycling is still permitted in the other Royal Parks, where there is no current evidence of congestion.

"We're continuously monitoring the situation and intervening where appropriate, with the support of the police, to reduce congestion in all areas across all our parks. Many Parks are closing across the UK because people aren't following the Government's guidelines and people are gathering in groups of more than two. We really want to keep our eight Parks open across London as they are such important green spaces for those that can reach them safely for daily exercise and to walk in nature."

NHS workers can continue to cycle though the park if they show their staff pass.

The Royal Parks is appealing to everyone to please remain at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other and there must be no gatherings of more than 2 people outside your immediate household at all times – that includes no groups of people cycling, walking or jogging, no group picnics and no sitting on a bench next to someone outside your household. We recommend that dogs are kept on leads, particularly in the deer parks.

Thank you to everyone who is following these rules but if they continue to be disregarded we will have no choice but to close.



Household garden waste collections paused due to coronavirus pandemic

Garden waste collections are being paused from Monday 30 March 2020, until further notice, to direct resources into ensuring weekly household waste and recycling collections can continue during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Council have stressed that household collection of general rubbish bins and recycling boxes are currently uninterrupted - and residents are asked to put out their bins and boxes as they normally would. Do not put out your garden waste bin from Monday 30 March 2020 – it will not be collected.

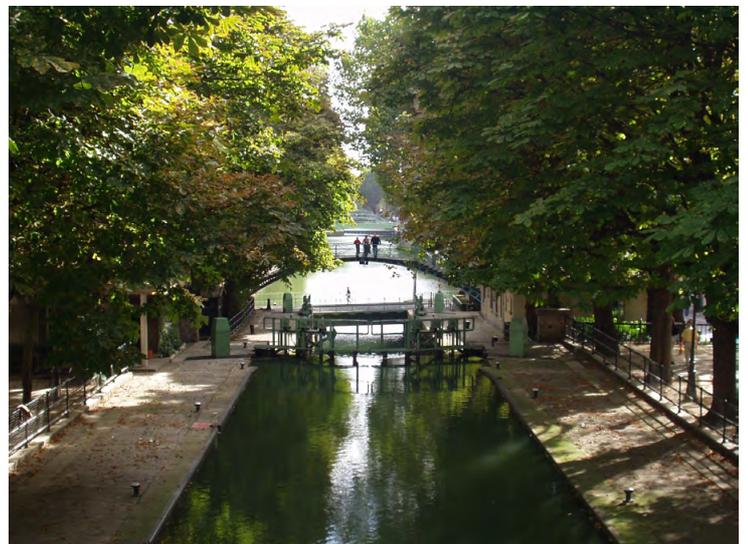
Residents who have subscribed to the garden waste service will have their subscriptions frozen for the duration that the service will not be delivered. [Garden waste sacks](#) can still be ordered from for £16.40 per 10 bags (postage fees waived).

WIZ Tales

By Teresa Read

This week WIZ Tales looks at photographs of Paris - in happier times.

www.worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=France



SOME ‘EGGSALENT’ EASTER GIFT IDEAS

I planned to write about Easter treats in next week’s column, but bearing in mind the lockdown situation and how busy online shops are, I thought it wise to feature this week.

The shops that we can access should have a reasonable supply of eggs. One of my favourite chocolate companies – **Divine** – always has a good range of reasonably priced eggs. This year the company has two new eggs: 70% dark chocolate with raspberry is one of their best selling bars (believe me it is divine!) and they have a 90g egg (£5), perfect for the more sophisticated chocolate aficionado. The company launched a Hot Cross Bun flavoured milk chocolate bar last year - so popular that it’s available as an egg too now. Both are definitely a great choice and available at £10 from Waitrose, Ocado and a number of independent stores. Divine also has little bags of mini eggs – milk, hazelnut praline milk or 70% dark at £4.50 for a bag of around 150g. You’re assured to be buying a product from a highly ethical, FairTrade chocolate producer. If you want to order online, the company also does mail order – great for sending to a family member who is self isolating!



Still on the ethical slant, I was pleased to learn that Asda’s new Extra Special Easter egg range is packaged in 98% less plastic this year – saving a total of 16 tonnes year-on-year. The shape has changed from a wider, rounder to a thinner, oval; removing the need to be supported by plastic packaging, instead using recyclable cardboard. Hopefully more companies will take note for the future!

We all know that M&S can be relied upon to supply great Easter products. The hot cross buns are fab (not sure about some of the slightly odd new flavours, but then I’m a traditionalist on the hot cross bun front!). This year you can also buy cheese Easter eggs – what a great idea! A cardboard egg box filled with six wax-covered mini cheesy eggs that have been made with Barber’s

Farmhouse Cheddar and a vintage 18-month matured Red Leicester ‘yolk’ - £8.50 a box (360g).

And if you can stand the wait to get inside our new local Lidl that opened last week, you might like to check out their Deluxe Ultimate Dessert 4in1 Easter Egg. This features not one, but four layers of flavoured chocolate, each inspired by a different dessert: an outer Tiramisu layer; Black Forest gâteau; panna cotta and finally a golden mini egg filled with salted caramel. £9.99. Lidl has a range of

Easter chocs starting at just 79p.



But if you are stuck at home with the children and trying to entertain them, try making onion skin wrapped eggs – check out the videos online such as the one [here](#). This clever method is far healthier and lots more fun!



A Thespian Celebration for Mothering Sunday 2020

Mothering Sunday has been a day of celebration ever since the Middle Ages. The fourth Sunday in Lent is the day to go “a-mothering”, exactly half-way through Lent, so you can have a break from what you gave up, time for celebration indeed! Although nowadays usually confused with the American Mothers’ Day (which is mid-May in USA) and ruthlessly commercialised, we still love this happy day.

Alas, in 2020 the pestilence of COVID-19 has cast its ominous shadow over poor mum, and many mums, particular the septuagenarian ones have not been celebrated in person.

This led us in Mark Aspen Reviews to cogitate that we have seen so many plays (and operas) over the past twelve months, in which mothers have featured strongly.



We start a year ago with [*My Mother Said I Never Should*](#), which toured throughout March and April last Spring. Grandmother, mother and daughter relationship, so two mothers for the price of one.

In June, Paula Young played Mrs Beech, a “damaged and dangerous” mother in Edmunds’ [*Goodnight Mr Tom*](#), a real tear-jerker.



Out into the countryside in June for the Grange Festival’s remarkable production of Handel’s opera [*Belshazzar*](#). The feisty Nitocris, Belshazzar’s mother, is savagely protective of her son, but what a son!



Opening the autumn season, the Best family have a very busy 115 years of troubles, tribulations and titillations in Questors' [Table](#). Who come out the strongest? The mums of course.

In [A Taste of Honey](#) the mother, Helen, is no sweetie. Even her daughter, Jo thinks of her as a “semi-whore”. “Brash, bold and brassy”, Helen is alas not an ideal role model.

RSS confused traditionalists with its gender-bending Scandi-Noir production of [Hamlet](#). Gertrude, Hamlet's mother may have been robbed of the role's ambiguity, but Jane Marcus played it to the hilt.



If you want tragedy laid on with a trowel, Euripides is your playwright. And [Women of Troy](#) is as tragic as you can get. In the plush surrounds of the Athenæum Club, the Actors of Dionysus presented some hard-rending depictions of tragic motherhood. Grandmother Queen Hekabe and mother Andromache must part with the baby Prince Astyanax to be killed by the Greeks.

At the end of November Sarah Crowe gave us the “frazzled and hollowed-out” Phoebe, the ultimate put-upon mother, trying to keep a crumbling family together in [The Entertainer](#)

In the New Year, [Blood Brothers](#), has another stretched mother Mrs Johnstone, played by Lynn Paul, in Bill Kenwright's “somewhat darker” take on the musical.

Another set of heroically tragic mothers were found in [The Revlon Girl](#), a moving account of the 1966 Aberfan disaster.

ENO's revival of Puccini's [Madam Butterfly](#), one of opera's many tragic mothers, “threw the nerves in patterns”, until it was tragically cut short by the shadow of coronavirus and the London Coliseum, as all London theatres closed its doors for the foreseeable future.

Our dramatic mothers this past year are all pretty strong characters, but not one of has had a happy story to tell. In retrospect, for our real mothers, isolated by the novel coronavirus, Mothering Sunday 2020 doesn't seem so bad. So, let's give thanks for mothers.

Read more of Mark Aspen's cogitations at www.markaspen.com/2020/03/22/poor-mum

Photography by Sheila Burnett, Simon Annand, Robert Vass, Rishi Rai, Marc Brenner, Sally Tunbill, Katerina Kalogeraki, Helen Murray, Jojo Leppink and Jane Hobson

TRAVELLER'S TALES 68

ISOLATSIA OR LOCKED UP IN LENINGRAD

Doug Goodman recalls a spell of isolation in Leningrad



'Isolatsia – Russian for isolation is not my favourite word. An experience over 40 years ago in the Soviet Union, during the Cold War, remains vividly in my mind. A long weekend in an isolation hospital in Leningrad wasn't the best start to a week-long visit to Russia's second city and then Moscow with a party of travel writers. When the Soviet border authorities discovered that I had visited Tunisia three days previously, where an outbreak of cholera had occurred, an official mentioned the single word 'isolation'. And so began a memorable four days as an enforced guest of the Soviet health system in the Botkin Isolation Hospital. Back in the 70s everything was State controlled: humanity, friendliness and basic care were lacking. Since the fall of communism in 1991 every aspect of life in Russia has changed, something particularly noticeable during my 25th visit to the country last September. People now talk openly of the repression and control they experienced and how the free health care available 40 years ago was quite primitive.

TOO MANY COINCIDENCES

So often little events or actions by themselves have no consequences but when they combine the outcome can be very different. What occurred to lead to my incarceration with suspected cholera was a series of several coincidences. Throughout the 70s I took many press groups to the Soviet Union on behalf of Thomson Holidays the tour operator for whom I worked for 17 years. Flights were always on Britannia Airways, the airline owned by Thomson. But on this visit we flew Aeroflot, the Soviet State airline. Extensive travel was part of my job and I had been in Tunisia three days earlier; my passport had a Tunisian stamp on it and I knew that if my answer on the health form, demanding details of all recent travel, had omitted North Africa then, if discovered, I could be in trouble. The incubation period for cholera is 7 days so I could be isolated for 4 days.



Russia 1978. Leningrad .
Cruiser Aurora



Russia 1978. Young Pioneers



Leningrad 1978. Winter Palace
Square

I handed over documents to my wife, who unusually accompanied me on this trip, so she then had to look after the six journalists in Leningrad from the Friday to Monday and then take them onto Moscow by train not knowing if I would be freed in time. She wasn't allowed to take money from me in case it was contaminated and she hurriedly had to find knickers and other clothes from our two suitcases. Guards escorted me from the airport to a Red Cross van and

I was driven through the city's icy streets and into a very forbidding looking building. A small room with barred windows, a decrepit bed, a wash basin and dirty floor was to be my home for I knew not how long.



The Truth



Communist Party Leaders

CANCER WARD

I had just read Cancer Ward by the acclaimed Russian author, historian and political prisoner Solzhenitsyn. He was a critic of Soviet power and his books were banned for many years. My new surroundings brought back his descriptions of a cancer ward, bodies being wheeled along snow-covered paths and of harsh treatments. A portable loo was brought in case I contaminated the city: supper consisted of thin soup and a mouldy apple. I was told to take pills given to me without any explanation of what they were for. I managed to hide them all in my shoes. Stale bread for breakfast was followed by a visit from my wife peering in through a window. No help could be provided by the British Consul as the office was closed during the weekend. The food deteriorated and I felt sick and had a temperature. Speaking Russian I was able to convince a nurse that I was perfectly well. Then a report in the British press of a UK businessman locked up in Siberia for 'spying' came to mind. Perhaps I would become a hostage to be swapped for a Soviet spy held in the UK.

By the end of the following day I had finished two books, smoked a large number of cigarettes and felt very low. After a breakfast of unappealing porridge and a fruit I couldn't identify the door was unlocked and a stern-faced woman said 'go out.' I walked through dingy corridors and out into the snow-filled yard which had been the view from my barred windows. With grim humour I imagined a bread van, (traditional transport for prisoners), waiting to whisk me off to The Gulag. Guards opened the rusty entrance gates and pointed at a minibus with 'Intourist', (the state tourist agency), written on the side. There was a great cheer from the journalists waiting inside and we drove off to the station for the Moscow train. I suddenly realised that the 7 day incubation period was over and I didn't have cholera.



Butterflies bounce back to their best year in over 20 years

The summer of 2019 has provided a welcome boost to butterfly population levels, according to the latest results from the annual UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) led by Butterfly Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

In their best year since 1997, just over half of UK butterfly species showed higher population levels in 2019 compared with 2018, making it the 8th best year out of the 44-year series.

Butterflies most likely benefited from an usually warm and wet summer conducive respectively to both a strong emergence of adults and successful development of the immature stages preceding this emergence.



Marbled White_Bob Eade, Butterfly Conservation

Summer flying species which benefited included the Marbled White, which had its best year in the series with annual abundance up by 66%, Ringlet (second best year in the series, up by 23%), Dark Green Fritillary (third best year, up 51%), and Meadow Brown (fifth best, up 38%). The rare Lulworth Skipper, restricted to the Dorset coast which has been in free fall in recent years rallied with its annual abundance up by a whopping 138%.

It wasn't all good news for summer flying butterflies though as the Common Blue dropped in annual abundance by 54%, Adonis Blue by 40%, Green-veined White by 43% and Large White by 40% with all four species having below average years. Of particular concern is the rare Heath Fritillary, which is restricted to a tiny number of sites in southern England. This butterfly saw its annual abundance drop by 34%. This ongoing decline raises fears for the long-term future of the butterfly whose numbers have fallen by a shocking 91% due to the cessation of traditional management practices.

However, 2019 was an excellent year for two of our three regular migrant butterflies which undergo periodic influxes, with Red Admiral annual abundance up by 195% (making it the fifth best year in the series) and Painted Lady numbers up by a massive 1993% (third best year in the series).

Other well-performing species included several spring flying species such as the Chequered Skipper which was up by 175%, Orange-tip, up 63%, and Brimstone, up 32%, all of which had their best year on record. The threatened Duke of Burgundy also bounced back to log its 8th best year in the series. These species were all likely to have benefited from warmer than average spring weather, whilst the Duke of Burgundy is benefiting from targeted conservation efforts.

Professor Tom Brereton, Associate Director of Monitoring and Research at Butterfly

Conservation said: *“The results from the 2019 season are really encouraging and provide evidence that the overall rate of decline of butterflies is slowing and for some species being reversed. Reasons for this include positive conservation through agri-environment schemes, increased woodland cover, climate warming, increases in grazing levels by wild animals and a slowing in the rate of agricultural intensification. We’re really heartened to see a shift in the fortunes of many of our most loved species. Encouragingly a number of Priority Species such as Adonis Blue, Brown Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Large Heath, Marsh Fritillary, Silver-studded Blue, Small Blue and the Silver-spotted Skipper that have been the focus of intensive conservation efforts in recent decades by Butterfly Conservation and partners are no longer in long-term population decline. The long-term situation for butterflies in general does remain a cause of concern though, with more species declining than increasing since the 1970s.”*



Dark Green Fritillary_Gary Faulkner, Butterfly Conservation

Dr Marc Botham, Butterfly Ecologist at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, said: *“The analysis shows that numbers of a wide range of species benefited from a couple of warm summers in succession. In addition to record numbers of spring species such as Orange-tip and Brimstone, it was also encouraging to see annual increases in garden favourites such as Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell, both of which have had some poor years recently. Despite this, some wider countryside species such as Wall and Small Skipper remain at low levels compared to what they used to be.”*

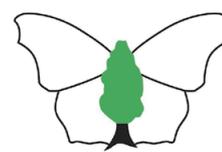
Sarah Harris, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) National organiser at the British Trust for Ornithology, said: *“It is great to see some good news from our natural world, with over half the butterfly species monitored showing higher population levels compared to 2018 - a welcome respite for some.*

“It is thanks to volunteers that we are able to monitor butterfly populations and the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is proud to contribute to the UKBMS via the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, whereby BBS volunteers revisit their bird recording squares to survey butterflies, moths and dragonflies. We are grateful to all the volunteers contributing to this project, allowing us to track the long-term changes faced by our butterfly species.”

Anna Robinson, Monitoring Ecologist at JNCC said: *“The UKBMS provides an excellent evidence base to help us understand how butterflies are faring. This evidence is important to help inform environmental policy to take better account of biodiversity. We are really grateful for the input of the thousands of volunteers who have contributed from 1976 until today, and without whom the scheme would not be possible.”*

The UKBMS has run since 1976 and involves thousands of volunteers collecting data through the summer. Last year 3,014 sites were monitored across the UK, with this record level exceeding 3,000 sites for the first time.

www.butterfly-conservation.org



Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Butterfly Conservation



**United Kingdom
Butterfly Monitoring Scheme**



BRENTFORD FC

Bees clinch victory over London rivals

Brentford 1 – 0 Leyton Orient

27/3/10

As there is currently an absence of football the Tribune takes a look at retro matches that took place this week in Brentford's history.

First up it's a visit from Leyton Orient as they make the short journey across London to Griffin Park during the 2009/10 League One season. Brentford come into the game in 12th place whilst the visitors are 16th.

A goal on his debut for Millwall loanee Lewis Grabban was enough to seal a 1-0 win for Brentford in a hard-fought London derby against Leyton Orient. The striker gave the Bees the advantage in the 43rd minute with a clever back header which looped over goalkeeper Jamie Jones and in off the post. Jamie Scowcroft went closest for the visitors midway through the first half but fired a half-volley straight at keeper Wojciech Szczesny.



Orient came into the game after the break and only the Bees keeper denied Adam Chambers who was clean through on goal. But Brentford were always a threat, Grabban again going close when his looping drive was tipped over by Jones just after the hour mark. Sean Thornton flashed an angled drive wide for Orient before Charlie MacDonald had a shot tipped wide at the other end. Szczesny was the Brentford hero in injury time when he dived late to tip a low goal-bound effort from Sean Thornton wide of the upright.

Speaking after the game Brentford manager Andy Scott said "It was a really tough game, but we expected a tough one and we certainly got that.

"The conditions weren't ideal; the wind was pretty strong particularly in the first half.

"We didn't play well in the first half at all."

Brentford starting lineup

53	W Szczesny
2	K O'Connor
29	P Balkestein
32	L Legge
7	S Saunders (Yellow carded 40' Subbed 61')
4	M Bean
20	T Diagouraga

11 M Weston
23 L Grabban (Goal 43' Subbed 89')
10 C MacDonald

Substitutes

1 L Price
2 C Cort
13 D Hunt (Subbed on 89')
14 D Foster
18 B Strevens (Subbed on 61')
22 K Osborne
27 R Blake

Referee: Keith Stroud

Attendance: 6,369

Possession: 42% Bees 58% O's

Attempts on target: 5 Bees 7 O's

Attempts off target: 5 Bees 1 O's

Corners 6 Bees 5 O's

Fouls: 17 Bees 16 O's

Stay safe Bees fans!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Beavers march on in title push against Tanners

Hampton 2 – 0 Leatherhead

28/3/16

A tight first half didn't really get going for a while and it took until the 25th minute for a shot on target.

Brendan Kiernan's well-timed run saw him on the end of Mark Smith's long clearance; facing Wells, his shot was just about knocked away by the keepers feet and Nicke Kabamba couldn't do anything with the rebound.

Tom Beere was having a sound game in midfield and his was the next chance as he met Kabamba's knock down, but the volley from the edge of the box flew just over the bar.

The game livened up in the second half as the Beavers knew they would have to be more creative and assertive to break the Tanners down.

Jamal Lowe and Kabamba both had chances before the hour mark: Lowe's shot flew over the bar and Kabamba's header from a Josh Casey corner was wide of the post.



It took a bit of good fortune to break the deadlock and it came through the predatory instinct of Kabamba to be in the right place.

A corner was cleared out by Leatherhead, Brendan Kiernan took on the ball and cut inside the defender. The shot was half saved by Wells, and it looked to have been stopped on the line, but Kabamba had followed up, Leon Solomon half a step behind, and the striker forced it home.

This put a bounce in the Beavers step and from then on, the Tanners were second best.

A bouncing ball on the edge of the box was met by Kiernan, whose well struck volley forced an agile save from Wells to his right.

In a season of goals, there have been many memorable ones and the 84th minute goal that sealed it for the Beavers is right up there. A foul on the edge of the Leatherhead box saw Jamal Lowe line up the shot and fancy his chances where you might have seen Tom Beere step up. But Lowe's accurate strike was inch perfect as it rounded the wall and Wells' dive to hit the back of the net to send the players off dancing.

It could have been three for the Beavers with a couple of minutes left as Kiernan broke through the defence. One on one with Wells, his shot was well struck but it was just 6 inches too wide as it clipped the post and ran out of play, which would have been the cherry on a gritty performance by Hampton.

Attendance: 707

Hampton & Richmond Borough: 1 Mark Smith, 2 Tom Jelley, 3 Josh Casey, 4 Joe Hicks, 5 Moussa Diarra, 6 Leon Solomon, 7 Jerome Federico (Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick 61'), 8 Tom Beere, 9 Nicke Kabamba, 10 Brendan Kiernan, 11 Jamal Lowe
Subs: 12 Dean Sinclair, 14 Eddie Hutchinson, 15 Michael Kamara, 16 Charlie Moone, 17 Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick

Stay safe Beavers fans!

Gibraltar Alive: A scenic view of the Rock

92 pages of full colour photos of Gibraltar. See the Rock as you've never seen it before! Only £10

Available to collect from Crusader Travel
or contact@TwickenhamAlive.com



An update on COVID-19 support and planning - Bill Sweeney, CEO RFU

My thoughts and those of all of us at the RFU continue to be with everyone impacted by the difficult and exceptional situation we are all facing, both across the country and within our own rugby union community. Earlier today we held a virtual board meeting and I am writing to advise you of the actions that have been agreed to offer a support package directly funded from the RFU worth £7m to provide support for community clubs in England.

Impact

To support clubs we are today announcing that the RFU will be providing a £7m relief package for community clubs. The package includes monies ring fenced and diverted for the community game as well as additional funding. These measures include:

- An early release of £800,000 cash due to clubs through the ticketing fund.
- Early release of final funding payments (£600,000) to Constituent Bodies and suspension of the activity plans against which this was allocated, enabling them to utilise this to provide “immediate support grants” to clubs most in need. In addition £400,000 will be made available to Constituent Bodies who elect to match fund from their own reserves.
- A suspension of the Quarterly loan repayments for clubs with outstanding loans due in March (£335,000).
- The creation of a £5m support loans programme, offering loans of between circa £2k and circa £10k to clubs, with deferred re-payments for six months and repayable over three years.

We will be providing more details on this financial package in the coming week. We will also be issuing regular club recovery updates with practical advice on how government grants can be accessed as well as other business management advice. We welcome government interventions which will provide business rate holidays and grants for clubs.

The RFU will continue to provide a free helpline to assist clubs with legal and tax related matters: <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/legal-and-administration> Significant progress has been made on the process for considering the implications of ending the season early. We will ensure a fair and balanced outcome for the game and are now committed to update on this by the middle of April.

No one can predict every possible outcome of the COVID-19 outbreak particularly with regard to the duration of this crisis and we are managing in the unknown. We have modelled three potential scenarios and are working on an assumption based on a medium term impact with a view to a return to rugby in the autumn. We will continue to monitor against this assumption and review and revise planning where necessary.

The RFU had budgeted for a loss making year within a four year cycle due to the costs of the 2019 RWC campaign and hosting only two home Six Nations games. The loss will now be considerably more as we face challenges similar to businesses across the country.

The RFU's biggest asset is also a major cost and the closure of Twickenham Stadium has a significant impact on the revenues we can generate to re-invest back into the game. In that sense we are like every other club in the Union, when we do not stage matches and events we do not generate revenue.

Based on our planning assumption we estimate RFU revenue losses over the next 18 months to be approximately £45-£50 million and have a firm plan in place to mitigate this. The RFU Executive Team will be taking a cut in remuneration in excess of 25%. In addition, combined Board fees will be reduced by 75%.

Welfare

We are continuing our support to ensure colleagues and communities are given help to follow government advice and are providing recommendations on how to stay fit and healthy and a range of new content will be made available to players and fans across our social media channels.

We are discussing with government and the NHS the role the RFU and Twickenham Stadium can play in providing volunteers as well as support for the NHS including accommodation, parking and meal provisioning.

I am confident that rugby will play a big role in energising communities across England after this difficult period. In the meantime, we are working hard with the wider rugby community to take the necessary measures to safeguard a financially resilient Union so that we can.



NATIONAL EMERGENCIES TRUST GETS FIRST GRANTS OUT TO FRONT LINE CHARITIES

Almost £11m raised in first week of Coronavirus Appeal

The National Emergencies Trust has announced the first allocations of nearly £2.5m will be going out to front line charities to help those most in need. The money will be distributed through UK Community Foundations to 46 local community foundations across the country.

This initial allocation is just the start. To date almost £11m has been pledged to the Trust with the nation's businesses and major charitable trusts stepping forward to help. A further allocation of funds will be made in the coming days.

Lord Dannatt, Chairman of the National Emergencies Trust, said: "We are delighted that there is growing support for the Trust and that we have been able to start getting money out to organisations who can help people within a week of launching.

"But we need much more. That's why we are calling on everyone, even at this unsettling time to dig deep and make a contribution. That generosity will ensure that we get through this unprecedented time with our most vulnerable communities cared for and supported."

Rosemary Macdonald, Interim CEO of UK Community Foundations, said: "Never before have we had to pull together so quickly to support the most vulnerable in our society. Through our network of 46 community foundations, we have an in-depth understanding of local need and will ensure the generous donations support local groups to tackle this crisis."

Anyone can make a donation at Further donations can be made at: www.nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk

Ways in which funds from the appeal will help people include:

- Getting food to people who are isolated and in greatest need
- Protecting our most vulnerable children while schools are closed
- Helping people who have recently left hospital to recover at home
- Supporting people with their mental wellbeing
- Helping people who are struggling with debt.

Last week's appeal was launched in partnership with the British Red Cross and with the support of the Duke of Cambridge and the Trust has received thousands of donations from the public, companies and charitable foundations. The most significant contributions have come from the following:

Charitable trusts

- The Sainsbury family has come together to contribute £3m, £1m each from three of the family's charitable foundations, the Indigo Trust, The Three Guineas Trust and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation
- Westminster Abbey
- CHK Foundation
- SC Catto Charitable Trust
- CASE Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation

Companies

- Hewlett-Packard
- Marks & Spencer
- RBS
- NatWest
- Nationwide
- BlackRock
- Majedie Asset Management
- Mulberry
- Co-op
- Iceland
- The FA
- M&G Investments
- Quilter
- REED
- Bloom & Wild
- Warehouse
- Jayley.com
- National Grid
- ERDEM
- Stream Marine Training
- SchoolsTrader
- Just a Splash
- AI Corporation
- Just Giving
- GoFundMe
- BigGive
- Muslim Giving
- VirginMoneyGiving
- LaunchGood
- Give Brite
- Ramadan Giving
- Paypal Giving
- Crowdfunder
- Benevity

Among those backing the campaign are a number of Premier League stars who have launched #FootballUnited – a new initiative with the aim of raising £100,000 to help local communities through the National Emergencies Trust appeal. Those who have already pledged their support include:

- Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin
- Manchester United right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka
- Chelsea starlet Reece James and sister Lauren, who plays for Manchester United
- Crystal Palace winger Andros Townsend
- Burnley star Dwight McNeil
- And England striker Callum Wilson



**NATIONAL
EMERGENCIES
TRUST**

LIDL ROLLS OUT CUSTOMER FOOD DONATION BOXES IN STORES NATIONWIDE TO HELP SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Lidl has, from Wednesday 25th March, started to roll out its new customer food donation boxes in stores nationwide in an effort to help local community groups and those in need of food and supplies. The initiative comes as an extension of its existing 'Feed in Back' scheme which is run in partnership with Neighbourly.

The boxes will be available in store for those customers who may wish to donate any food or groceries to the cause. Donations will be distributed to a broad range of organisations across Neighbourly's extensive network of community partners including food banks, community centres, soup kitchens and more, where any donated food will be put to good use every day.

Christian Härtnagel, CEO at Lidl GB commented: *"The current situation continues to be very challenging for everyone and that's why we're extending our 'Feed it Back' scheme with Neighbourly in our stores to offer our customers the chance to help make a difference too, if they feel they are able to. In these trying times, it's vitally important that we look to help those within our communities who are in most need of our support."*

Steve Butterworth, CEO at Neighbourly, added: *"We're pleased to be able to support Lidl as they roll out this new initiative. Our network of charities and community causes are working round the clock at this time to support isolated and vulnerable members of the community with food and basic essentials. Anything that customers can donate will make a huge difference to someone in their community."*

The roll out follows last week's announcement that the supermarket will donate £100,000 to its partnership with Neighbourly as part of the Covid-19 Emergency Community Fund.

Lidl has run its 'Feed it Back' scheme in partnership with Neighbourly since 2017, which enables the retailer to distribute unsold surplus food to local communities, and has so far donated the equivalent of over 5 million meals to its partner charities.

Any community projects that are interested in partnering with a Lidl store for ongoing food surplus donation can visit www.neighbourly.com/FeedItBack or email lidl@neighbourly.com.

LIDL TO INSTALL COUGH AND SNEEZE PROOF CHECKOUT PROTECTION SCREENS IN ALL STORES

Today, Lidl announced it will install checkout protection screens across all its stores in Great Britain. The safety measure will see thousands of screens rolled out in stores across the country in order to protect Lidl colleagues and customers.

Christian Härtnagel, CEO at Lidl GB, commented: *"The safety of our colleagues and customers continues to be a key priority for us, which is why all of our stores here in Great Britain will be fitted with protection screens at checkouts. We hope that this additional safeguard will help to provide extra reassurance for those both working and shopping in our stores. We are eternally grateful to all of our store teams who are working hard every day to support their communities. And, we would once again like to thank customers for their consideration during this very challenging time."*

Last week, the supermarket announced that it was creating up to 2,500 new store jobs to provide necessary additional support to its workforce and customers.

Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

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