

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Council goes 'green' for social care

York House in Twickenham was lit green on Thursday night to show support for those working in social care.

For the last few weeks, the Council building has been lit blue on Thursday evenings as part of the national 'Light it Blue' campaign to show thanks to the courageous NHS staff who are working tirelessly throughout the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in the UK.

On Thursday (7 May 2020), as well as recognising the vital work that NHS workers are doing every day, York House was lit green to reflect the continued dedication and hard work of all social care workers.

Cars Washed Away In Richmond

On Friday Teddington RNLI were called to assist Richmond Police after two cars washed into the river, casualties of very high spring tide.

Moped Attacks In Hampton

Residents have reported attacks by people on mopeds, including an alledged attempted mugging of a girl on Hampton Hill High Street

Highways works to recommence

After receiving reassurances about new work practices from its contractors (Conways), Richmond Council is set to resume its highway maintenance and improvement schemes from Monday 11 May. Responding to Covid-19, the Council is currently preparing an Action Plan of measures to support walking, cycling and physical distancing in key locations across the borough. Further information regarding these proposals will follow shortly.

The existing programme of works that predated 'lockdown' will recommence in the next few weeks.

You can see a list of the initial works [HERE](#)

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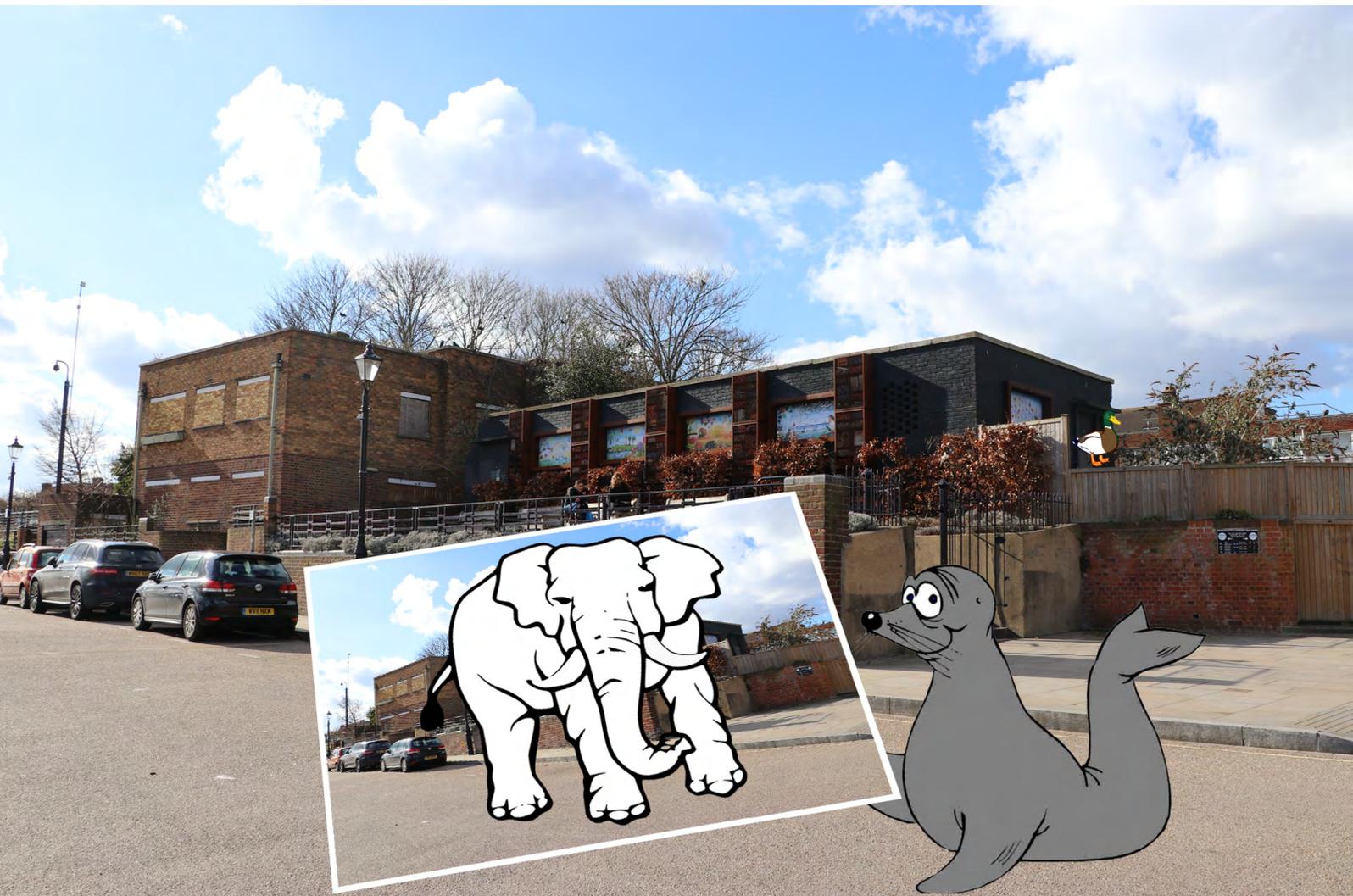
info@skyelectrical.co.uk





TwickerSeal has followed recent developments regarding Twickenham Riverside with interest. It seems the council is moving at full steam ahead in the background with its plans, despite COVID-19, and is currently in the process of 'refining a client brief for design'.

Obviously, it is not necessary to involve pesky public input regarding changes to the Hopkins design as the council knows best. After all, the council has already said that the public consultation for Twickenham Riverside was never intended to be a criterion for the council's evaluation and selection of the winning design. So why did they ask us if our views don't matter?



COVID-19 - UK Universities Show the Way

By Teresa Read

It is reassuring to know in these very worrying times that our leading university departments are using their expertise not only to find an effective vaccine and treatments for COVID-19 but to map how the virus spreads and behaves and provide information about the virus globally.

The news that research at [Oxford University](#), which has Government support to produce a vaccine, has been widely reported in the media but other universities are playing their part in this world-wide quest to combat COVID-19.

At [Cambridge University](#) Professor Anthony Davenport supports repurposing existing drugs for the treatment of COVID-19 which have already been shown to be safe and suggests that if they can be effective in treating COVID-19 they could be brought to clinical use relatively quickly.

One promising drug is Remdesivir. The US company Gilead has shortened the manufacturing time from nine to twelve months to six to eight months and is working with manufacturing partners in North America, Europe and Asia.

At [UCL](#) (University College London) researchers are contributing to finding a cure and improve diagnosis as well as advising the UK Government and providing information globally.

The Government has also backed a team from the [University of Liverpool](#), to map how COVID-19 spreads and behaves.

RECURRENT CASES OF COVID-19

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL: RECURRENT CASES OF COVID-19 IN PATIENTS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY RECOVERED

<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1498>

WHO PROBES IF RECOVERED COVID-19 PATIENTS CAN TEST POSITIVE AGAIN

<https://www.timesnownews.com/health/article/who-probes-if-recovered-covid-19-patients-can-test-positive-again/577451>

Local Statistics

The In Your Area website gave the following statistics for COVID-19 (confirmed cases) on Friday 8 May: 389 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 479 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 694 in Hounslow, 1,114 in Ealing, 670 in Merton and 637 in Hammersmith and Fulham. Updates are also available from the BBC on their Coronavirus UK Map.

Number of Deaths from WHO Situation Reports:

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Friday 8 May 2020 gave the following details for countries with high death rates - the figures in brackets were last week's figures: 67,146 deaths in the USA (55,337), 30,615 in the UK (26,771), 29,958 in Italy (27,967), 26,070 in Spain (24,543), 25,946 in France (24,342), and a total of 259,474 deaths worldwide (224,172).

Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

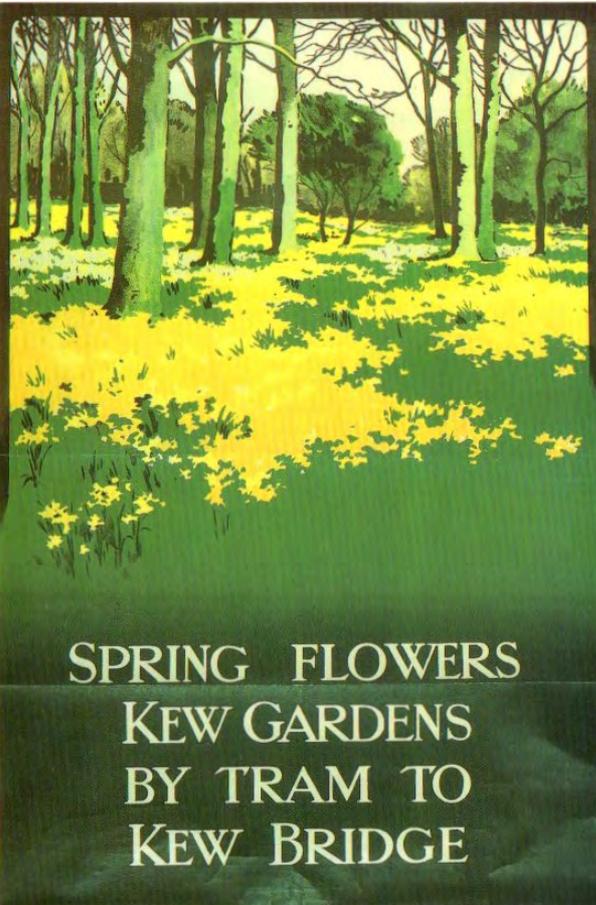
'The Great Pagoda'

Beautifully restored in 2018 to its original mid 18th. Century grandeur, The Great Pagoda was unique in offering magnificent and dizzying birds-eye views overlooking London Originally designed by Sir William Chambers, a seasoned traveller and enthusiast of East Asian architecture, it was completed as a gift to Princess Augusta, founder of the Gardens. The 'resplendent' dragons were finally reintroduced as part of the restoration project. Masterfully Carved from gilded wood they light up the exterior of the column as it heads skywards.



PART 178. HOW TO GET TO KEW GARDENS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Those of us who live in the LBRUT area will know how fortunate we are to have so many historic buildings, palaces, gardens, rivers and parks on our doorstep.



At the moment of course, they are either closed or only available for limited use for exercise purposes. Hopefully, things will change for the better in the future as the world gets used to living with this dreadful virus or better still, finding and producing a vaccine that will either prevent it or cure it.

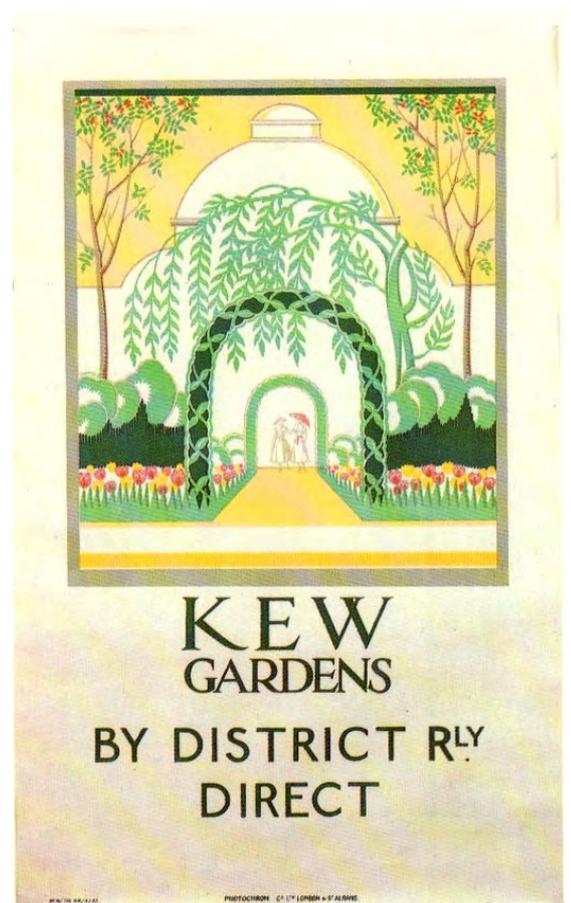
It got me thinking how people moved around 100 or so years ago and once again an answer can be found by looking at postcards from the period.

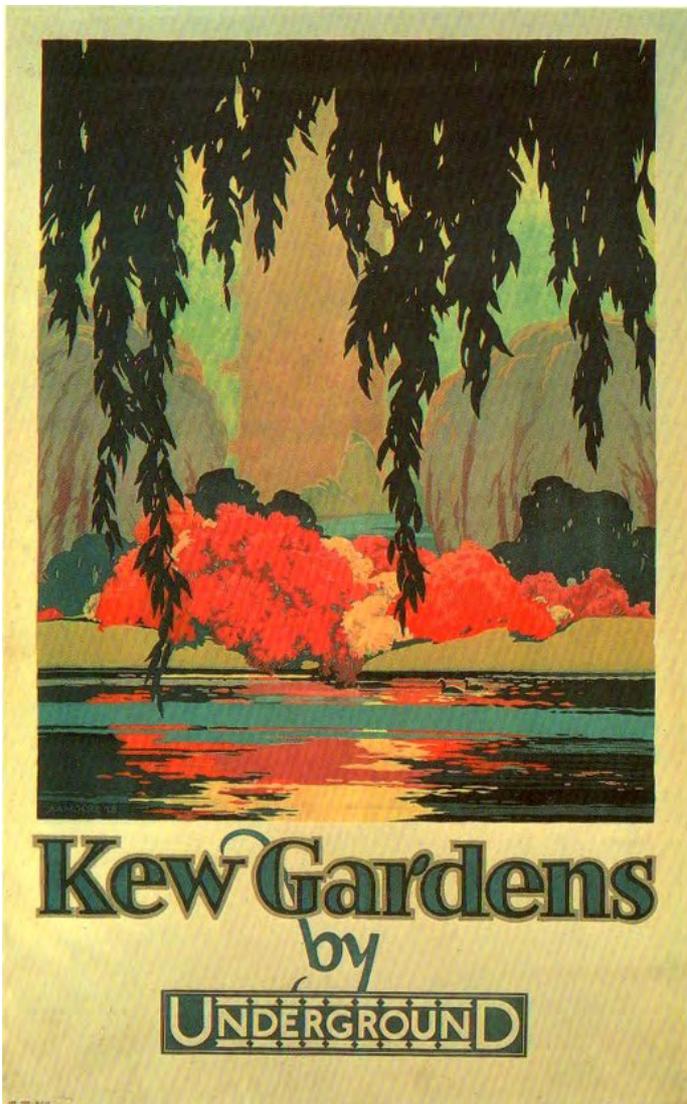
Today's three postcards were all originally designed as advertising posters for the transport systems of the day. It was

common to also produce postcards from the artwork as they were cheap to produce and could be sold for a penny or so.

We are looking at reproductions of these postcards produced by the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden in the last twenty years or so. Today they are recognised as superb examples of advertising art and I'm pleased to share them with you.

The first, produced for Springtime in 1911 was painted by C. Sharland and suggests that you can get to Kew Gardens by Tram. Fast forward twelve years to 1923 and we are being advised by artist





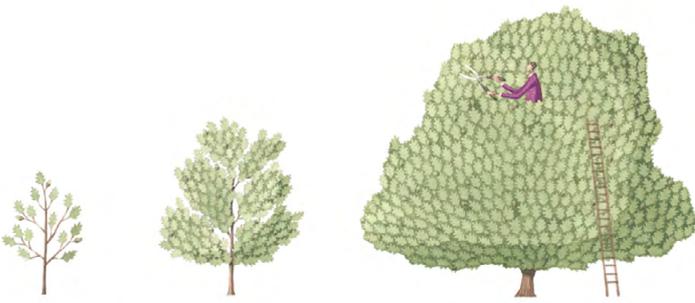
Miss T. Fawkes that you can reach the gardens by District Railway. In 1928 we can now see early use of the Underground logo which supports a lovely image of a view across one of the lakes. Original artwork for this by A.A.Moore.

Today, original postcards of this sort of poster advertising are quite hard to find but fortunately the London Transport Museum has artwork for all the original posters and still produces postcard reproductions to sell in its shop.

With many of us confined to home at present it may be that you are using the time to tidy a few drawers or have a bit of a clear-out. If you trip over any old postcards, old envelopes with stamps on, or photograph albums that you would consider parting with, I'd be very

interested in arranging to see them.

Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at alanwinter192@hotmail.com I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first! Thanks, stay safe and well.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Udney Park: Teddington 1 - Quantum 0. Time for QuExit?

After a 14 day Public Inquiry the Planning Inspector refused Quantum's Planning Application, in a Report which was so comprehensive it makes another Application very unlikely to succeed.



Quantum were opposed at the Inquiry by a combination of Richmond Council, Sport England, the England & Wales Cricket Board, and the Udney Park Trust/Teddington Society. The Directors of the Udney Park Trust would like to thank all of those Parties for their investment in the protection of the Park.

It is amazing that Teddington raised over £100k to be represented at the 14 day Public Inquiry, thank you to all our donors, you were incredibly generous. Together, we have saved Udney Park and created a powerful precedent case that will help many other communities protect their green spaces. Several NGOs and other groups facing loss of green space are seeking our advice. If Udney Park had been lost at a Public Inquiry it could have opened the floodgates for more sports grounds to be bought on speculation for alternative uses.

The Trust invested its donated funds in 3 parts of the Inquiry; Ecology, Sport and the overall decisive "Planning Balance". We also needed a Barrister for the entire Inquiry to be represented. The Inspector was very strong in his support of the arguments made by the Trust:

Protection of grass pitches

Quantum claimed that providing a floodlit plastic pitch operating until 10pm replaces the lost grass playing pitch space. The Inspector agreed with the Sport England & the Trust:

Para 115: "I conclude that the proposal would not protect the playing field in an area where there is shown to be a deficit. There would be a quantitative loss of playing fields area, and while there would be qualitative benefits from the provision of an Artificial Grass Pitch, these are nowhere near sufficient to outweigh the overall loss of the area of the playing field and the flexibility of provision that can currently be delivered"

Quantum infamously claimed that "cricket is a dying sport" as their scheme depended on ending cricket at UPPF. The Trust encouraged the ECB to speak at the Inquiry, and the Inspector was listening:

Para 104: “I heard evidence from the England and Wales Cricket Board that due to the success of both the women’s and men’s elite national teams there had been a material increase in demand in recent times”.

Ecology

Quantum claimed they would create “dark corridors” down each side of the Park and add a pond, in an attempt to avoid harming biodiversity and protected species, which the Trust’s ecologist; Dr Sarah Cox, showed was inadequate. The Inspector agreed with the Council and the Trust:

Para 136: “The benefit of the mitigation habitat would not outweigh the other ecological harms that I have identified by some degrees of magnitude. The proposal would, therefore, reduce the effectiveness of the site in its contribution to connectivity of the wider mosaic of open spaces in the area and harm bat populations”

Planning Balance

Quantum have always known that their Application breaches Policy, but argued that on “Planning Balance” the claimed “benefits” of their scheme outweigh the “harm”. The Trust’s Planning Consultant was present for the whole Inquiry and was able to deliver a complete and independent assessment of “Planning Balance”, showing it was significantly short of the threshold for Approval.

Para 189: “The proposal would be contrary to the terms of the Richmond Local Plan. The National Planning Framework make clear that substantial weight should also be given to any harm to Local Green Space and I have identified other harms that add to this. While there are benefits, I find that the other considerations in this case do not clearly outweigh the harm I have identified. Consequently, the very special circumstances necessary to justify the development do not exist”

Time for “Quexit”

The many Policies that protect playing fields and green space have got stronger in the 5 years since Quantum bought UPPF. There is much interest in a charitable “Plan B” that preserves all of Udney Park for ecology and community use. The Trust will be urging the current owners to exit Udney Park gracefully and sell to the community, under the “Asset of Community Value” legislation.

Parks have never been more important to society than they are today. If Quantum try and wear down the Council and community by closing the Park and allowing it to become “fallow” they risk serious remediation against them, and potentially a Compulsory Purchase Order. It is time for “Quexit” and a community-led future for Udney Park.





RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 7: 8th May 2020

THE HUNT

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: **THE HUNT** was 730th film screened by RFS on 25th November 2014. **The Hunt** was the third highest ranked film of Season 52, it got an approval mark of 91% from those attending (The top film from season 52, **Wadjda**, has already featured in our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings as **Issue 4**). The film can be streamed from Amazon Prime and BFI and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

THE HUNT (Jaqten)

Country: Denmark, 2012
Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Screenplay: Tobias Lindholm & Thomas Vinterberg
Music: Nikolaj Egelund
Editors: Janus Billeskov Jansen & Anne Osterud
Running Time: 115 min., colour
Cinematography: Charlotte Bruus Christensen
Language: Danish

Leading Players:

Mads Mikkelsen (Lucas)
Thomas Bo Larsen (Theo)
Annika Wedderkopp (Klara)
Lasse Fogelstrom (Marcus)
Susse Wold (Grethe)
Anne Louise Hassing (Agnes)



Lucas (Mads Mikkelsen) is an assistant at a nursery school in a small town in rural Denmark, having lost his teaching job as a result of economic cutbacks. He is embroiled in a custody battle with his recently divorced wife over their teenage son, although he has many friends in the close-knit community, where the men have grown up together, drink together and hunt together. His fortunes

also appear to be improving when he begins a relationship with an attractive and intelligent woman who has come to work in the area.

His life is, however, shattered when the five-year-old daughter of a close friend says something which is interpreted as an assertion that Lucas has exposed himself to her. This false allegation rapidly gains momentum and Lucas soon finds himself a pariah, reviled by an angry and self-righteous community, utterly convinced that a predatory paedophile is in their midst.

This is a powerful, tense and unsettling drama, which looks at how a stunned and innocent man seeks to respond to the hysteria and small-town witch hunt to which he is subjected. **The Hunt** is widely regarded as by far Thomas Vinterberg's best film since **Festen** (1998), in which also explored the issue of child abuse - in **The Hunt**, though, the victim is the man, not the child. The film illustrates, unnervingly, how individuals can be vulnerable to false allegations of this nature and, equally importantly, how apparently very close ties and loyalties can be shattered as a result.

At the heart of the film is a compelling and all too plausible performance by Mads Mikkelsen (seen previously at RFS in **Flame and Citron** and, more recently, in **A Royal Affair** – featured as our recommended film last week and currently starring in Carlsberg adverts on TV). His outstanding performance won him multiple Best Actor Awards, including at Cannes. In all, the film and its cast won a total of 39 awards internationally and **The Hunt** was short-listed for the BAFTA, Golden Globe and Academy Awards for the Best Foreign Language Film.

Peter Maguire with acknowledgments to The Guardian

The Royal Parks release video of Isabella Plantation to coincide with Garden Day (10 May)

Nestled in the vast expanse of Richmond Park, is the beautiful Isabella Plantation, a woodland garden that is home to one of the finest collection of azaleas in the country.

During the pandemic Isabella is temporarily closed to the public, so The Royal Parks has released a 60 second, never before seen video, so that people can still get their fix safely from home.

In spring, Isabella oozes with colour, as bluebells carpet the woodland floor, and azaleas and rhododendrons put on a bewitching display of vivid pinks, purples, and reds. The start of May heralds peak flowering season, and those in the know, make their annual pilgrimage to witness this kaleidoscope of colour.

The garden is temporarily closed to the public, as social distancing would be extremely difficult in this popular enclosed location, with its narrow paths.

Jo Scrivener, Assistant Park Manager at Richmond Park said: "We've had lots of people get in touch to ask if we could share photos of Isabella Plantation as it's so spectacular at this time of year.

"We've been sharing lots of images via our Royal Parks Instagram account, but we decided to go one step further and create a video that encapsulates the beauty and serenity of this much-loved idyllic location."

The film will be available to watch via the [Richmond Park Facebook page](#) at 9am on Sunday. You can find out more about Isabella Planation [HERE](#).



Not a lot of people know this!

By Sue Hamilton-Miller

Several of my friends are deriving a great deal of amusement at the tenuous excuses I am using to link the World with Richmond House and its inhabitants, but undaunted, I shall soldier on, ignoring their laughter! For those of you who aren't aware, Richmond House was a very grand house that existed on Twickenham Embankment for 350 years and housed an extraordinary succession of people, every one of whom had a story to tell.

The words "virus" and "vaccine", that are so much a part of our daily lives at the moment, caused equal concern to those living with the smallpox virus throughout the centuries. Smallpox was a devastating disease. In the 18th century in Europe, 400,000 people died annually of it. On average, 3 out of every 10 people who got it died. Those who survived were usually left with scars, which were sometimes severe, and one third of them went blind. Although it has been found on a 3000 year old Egyptian mummy, its spread across the world really started in the 6th century when increased trade with China and Korea introduced smallpox into Japan. Down the centuries the Arabs took it to northern Africa, Spain and Portugal; the Crusades spread it further in Europe; European colonization and the slave trade took it to America and in the 18th century Great Britain introduced it to Australia. (This all sounds rather familiar).

One of the first methods for controlling the spread of smallpox was the use of what is now called variolation. Named after the virus that causes smallpox (variola virus), variolation is the process by which material from smallpox sores (pustules) was given to people who had never had smallpox. This was done either by scratching the material into the arm or inhaling it through the nose. With both types of variolation, people usually went on to develop the symptoms associated with smallpox, such as fever and a rash. This is the method that is linked with Lady Mary Wortley Montegu, a Twickenham lady who was the cousin of Anne, Lady Torrington, who lived in Richmond House in the early 18th century.

The person who lived in Richmond House that I am drawing to your attention is Martha, Dowager Countess of Elgin, who introduced the "vaccine" as we now know it into Middle East.



*Martha, Countess of Elgin
by Allan Ramsay 1762*

In 1796 an English doctor named Edward Jenner observed that milkmaids who had had cowpox did not show any symptoms of smallpox after variolation. Cowpox is an uncommon illness in cattle, usually mild, that can be spread from a cow to humans via sores on the cow. During an infection, dairy workers may have pustules on their hands. Sufferers can spread the infection

to other parts of the body. The first experiment to test this theory involved milkmaid Sarah Nelmes and James Phipps, the 9 year-old son of Jenner's gardener. Dr. Jenner took material from a cowpox sore on Nelmes' hand and inoculated it into Phipps' arm. Months later, Jenner exposed Phipps a number of times to variola virus, but Phipps never developed smallpox. It was Jenner who coined the word "vaccination," derived from the Latin *vaccinus*, meaning of or from the cow. (Jenner also invented "golden eye ointment").

Martha, Dowager Countess of Elgin was the mother of Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin, who removed and shipped to England the classical marbles of the Parthenon in Athens, known as the Elgin Marbles. This was during the time that Martha was living in Richmond House. I think that Martha is probably my favourite inhabitant of Richmond House – she led such a sad though important life, being at one stage the Governess of Princess Charlotte, the daughter of George IV, who would have been Queen of England instead of Victoria if she hadn't died in Claremont, Esher, at the age of 21.



*Edward Jenner statue
by Giulio Monteverde 1878*

Martha's son, the Earl of Elgin married an heiress Mary Nisbet and they travelled to the Ottoman Empire where he was Ambassadeur Extraordinaire. It was Mary who introduced the smallpox vaccine to Turkey, having received a supply from her mother-in-law Martha. Martha's chaplain was the father of Dr Jenner and she asked for supplies to be given to her to send to her grandchildren in Turkey. The first vaccination to take place in Turkey was in the British Embassy in Istanbul to the Elgin grandchildren in 1800. The Elgins also went on to introduce the vaccine to Greece. (Interestingly, if you need travel health and immunisation advice, the NHS London clinic is named The Elgin Clinic!).

As an aside, and while we are on medical matters, Thomas Bruce, Earl of Elgin, suffered from migraines throughout his life and was treated with mercury given both internally (given with sugar or honey) and externally (in a blue ointment with balsam). This caused so much blistering on his nose that eventually part of his nose was amputated! No comment!

Martha, Dowager Countess of Elgin lived in Richmond House for a few years before her death in 1810. Her tombstone is on the floor just inside the doors of St Mary the Virgin Church, Twickenham, but sadly the stone is now virtually illegible.

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Smallpox Eradication

On 8 May 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrated the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox. A smallpox commemorative postal stamp developed by the United Nations Postal Administration, in collaboration with WHO, was unveiled. The stamp serves to honour the millions of people working together, from world leaders and international organizations to rural doctors and community health workers to eradicate smallpox. It is the first and only human disease eradicated on a global scale through the collaboration of countries worldwide.

There are many lessons to learn from the eradication of smallpox that can help fight COVID-19 and prepare for future pandemics.

“Commemorating the 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication is a reminder of the power of international health cooperation to do significant and lasting good. Together in solidarity, we can beat COVID-19.”

Smallpox is the first and only disease to be permanently eradicated worldwide. Until it was wiped out, smallpox had plagued humanity for at least 3,000 years, killing 300 million people in the 20th century alone, that is 4 million people annually.

At the 33rd World Health Assembly, 8 May 1980, smallpox was officially endorsed as eradicated. The stamp is available for purchase at unstamps.org

The World Health Organization Director, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus:

“The [smallpox] vaccine was first developed by Edward Jenner in 1796. It took another 184 years for smallpox to be eradicated. The decisive factor in the victory over smallpox was global solidarity.

At the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States of America joined forces to conquer a common enemy. They recognized that viruses do not respect nations or ideologies.

That same solidarity, built on national unity, is needed now more than ever to defeat COVID-19. Stories like the eradication of smallpox have incredible power to inspire.”



TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

Teresa Read

Smoke and Mirrors?

Last week in Edition 182 the Tribune highlighted the news that **the public consultation for Twickenham Riverside was never intended to be a criterion for the Council's evaluation: "not itself a criteria (sic) for evaluation nor a determining factor"**. Looking at the results of the public consultation this statement from a senior Council officer appears to be true.

Of course, going ahead with the project in the midst of dealing with COVID-19, the country's worst crisis since the Second World War, might not be seen as the best use of local government resources. And, to make matters worse officers seem reluctant to answer a question about the cost of the public consultation.

This week the Tribune has received the following question concerning project management from a reader querying LBRUT's budget control of the project.

"Are they [LBRuT] saying they were using a "bottomless uncontrolled budget throughout?" [Presumably LBRuT should know details of their Budget and so should be able to give an answer without interference from COVID-19].

Contents of Letters Given to the Design Panel for Twickenham Riverside?

The Council has also been asked about letters from some interested groups which were arranged to go to Council decision-makers just before the final choice of the competition winner - a RIBA Competition. An email from the Council this week elicited this response: *"As we have also repeatedly stated, public engagement was not one of the evaluation criteria and therefore the competition process would not have been jeopardised even if someone was to consider that some stakeholders groups did not have equal representation."*

A senior representative of the Residents' Groups said:

"I was not made aware that letters from some interested groups were to be given to the Council's Design Panel via Council officers until the weekend before the meeting which took place on the Monday.

*It was stated, by Cllr Gareth Roberts, at the very first Council meeting of interested groups (Stakeholder Representative Groups - SRG) that views should come from **all the groups as a whole**.*

*Members of the SRG were clearly told to make their views known on the **anonymous** on-line questionnaire. "letters from particular named groups may have had some influence on the panel; this information should be released into the public domain along with the official consultation results".*

Freedom of Information Question via What Do They Know?

[The amount of public money spent on consultations with residents for the Twickenham Riverside plans, re the RIBA Competition](#)

Twickenham Rainbows

By Graeme Stoten

Graeme has created a photo montage of rainbow images adorning houses across Twickenham, reminding people to stay positive as well as celebration the NHS, care workers and other key workers



Mayor of London calls in Stag Brewery applications

The Mayor at the Greater London Authority has decided to review the Planning Committee decision on the future of the Stag Brewery site in Mortlake.

On 29 January the Planning Committee resolved to approve Applications A and B for the redevelopment of the Stag Brewery and refuse Application C for the Chalkers Corner highway works, subject to no adverse direction or call in by the Greater London Authority or the National Planning Casework Unit.

The first application (Application A) incorporated a master plan for how the site would be developed – including residential units, a cinema, hotel, care home, pedestrian and cycle routes, on-site cycling provision and new public open space, amenity and place space. The Maltings would be retained and sit adjacent to a new plaza looking out over the River Thames, a linear park would be created linking this to Mortlake Green.

The second application (Application B) considered proposals for the erection of a three-storey building to provide a new secondary school with sixth form; Sports pitch with floodlighting, external MUGA and play space; and associated external works including, landscaping, car and cycle parking, new access routes and associated works.

The third application (Application C) proposed the reconfiguration of Chalkers Corner traffic junction, to include existing public highway and existing landscaped and informal parking area associated with Chertsey Court, to facilitate alterations to lane configuration, a new cycle lane, works to existing pedestrian and cycle crossing, soft landscaping and replacement boundary treatment to Chertsey Court.



The applications were formally referred to the Greater London Authority in April, and on Monday 4 May, Jules Pipe CBE, the Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills issued the Stage 2 referral report and Direction that the Mayor will call in and thereby act as the local planning authority for the purposes of determining **all three planning applications**.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) concluded “whilst the principle of the redevelopment for a residential-led mixed use development and a school is supported, it has not been demonstrated that the proposals optimise the delivery of affordable housing, and neither has it been satisfactorily demonstrated that the highways impacts of the proposal would be suitably mitigated”. Thereby the proposed development would have a significant impact on the implementation of the London Plan.

The Greater London Authority will hold a public hearing before deciding whether or not to grant planning permission for the three applications, which will be announced 1 week in advance of the meeting taking place.

Cllr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, said:

“The Planning Committee very thoroughly considered the arguments for and against the scheme for redevelopment of this important site. It is understandable that the Mayor wishes further to examine it in the context of his strategic planning policies for London and we look forward to further dialogue with him.”

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

Quercus robur-- English Oak.

One of our most iconic trees, the English oak (*Quercus robur*) truly a National treasure of a tree and is deeply embedded into our language and culture (who doesn't know a pub with the name 'The Royal Oak' ?

The oak is an amazing tree supporting more life and biodiversity than any other native tree, even its fallen leaves contribute to the ecology of the environment. Oaks prefer to stand alone rather than in woodlands as they need higher light levels than some woodland trees, hence why you can see grand old solitary Oaks in the landscape today.

The specimen in Marble Hill is not the type of growth you would typically expect to see from an oak we tend to think of trees as having a long stem or trunk with a bushy bit on top. However this tree has lowered its lower limbs over time. This happens with many trees as they age, the lower limbs of the tree lower over time to give stability to the tree. Think of it like an elderly person with a walking stick.



Unfortunately the great English Oak is under attack from the oak processionary moth. The moth is a non-native species to the UK, but can be found in London, Surrey and Berkshire. What happens is the moth lava process up the trees stripping leaves as they go, this can result in complete defoliation, leaving the tree weakened, unable to photosynthesize and susceptible to disease.



Oak trees have been used a symbols in cultures all over the world since time in memorial. In Roman and Greek mythology the Oak was sacred to many gods including Zeus and Jupiter, these gods ruled over thunder and lightning, oak trees are often hit by lightning as they are commonly the tallest living feature in a landscape. The Oak has long been associated with nobility, dignity and honour. The Knights of the Royal Oak was an order of Knights started by Charles II, the order was called so because Charles II is said to have hid in an Oak Tree to escape capture during the English Civil War. Today the Oak is can be found as the logo of



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

countless organisations: the national trust, the woodland trust, and multiple breweries and in the names of many pubs and restaurants to name a few.



Waste and Recycling services due to restart

The borough's Household Waste and Recycling Centre, garden waste and bulky waste services are due to restart later this month, with strict guidance in place to ensure the safety of residents and staff and to ensure access to Mortlake crematorium.

Townmead Road Waste and Recycling Centre will reopen from Monday 18 May 2020, however there will be significant rules in place regarding when and how people access the centre.

The fortnightly paid for [garden waste collection service](#) will restart on Monday 18 May and the paid for [bulky waste collection service](#) will commence on Tuesday 26 May 2020. Access to the online booking system to arrange for bulky waste collections will be open from Monday 18 May 2020.

Following updated national guidance, the Government has said that it's reasonable for residents to take waste or recycling to their local centre only if it cannot be safely stored at home or keeping it at home is a risk to public health or the local environment.

In accordance with this guidance, the Council will be putting in place several measures to ensure social distancing and the safety of people who **have to** use the centre.

- Weekday opening times have changed (see table below)
- You can only visit on certain days, based on your car registration number (see table below). This will be based on whether the second digit of your car registration number is 'even' or 'odd'

For more information visit [Townmead Road Re-use and Recycling Centre](#).

As it is anticipated that the centre will be very busy in the first few weeks of opening, the Council is urging residents to really consider whether visiting is urgent or essential. Townmead Road is adjacent to the borough's Crematorium – which is currently exceptionally busy with around 20 funerals every day. The Council will therefore be prioritising access to those vehicles who are attending funerals. Stewards will be in place to monitor and control traffic. However, residents are encouraged to look at the Council website and Twitter feed before leaving their homes for the latest updates.

Opening times for residents with 'Even' registration number plates based on second digit. For example, XX52 XXX.

Day	Opening hours
Monday 18 May	From 8am to 4pm
Wednesday 20 May	From 8am to 4pm
Friday 22 May	From 8am to 4pm
Sunday 24 May	From 9am to 4pm
Tuesday 26 May	From 8am to 4pm
Thursday 28 May	From 8am to 4pm
Saturday 30 May	From 8am to 4pm

Opening Times for residents with 'Odd' registration number plates based on second digit. For example, XX03 XXX plus old UK style, foreign, personalised, etc.

Day	Opening hours
Tuesday 19 May	From 8am to 4pm
Thursday 21 May	From 8am to 4pm
Saturday 23 May	From 8am to 4pm
Monday 25 May	From 8am to 4pm
Wednesday 27 May	From 8am to 4pm
Friday 29 May	From 8am to 4pm
Sunday 31 May	From 9am to 4pm

Gail Francis-Tiron Art

View Gail's work at www.gailfrancistiron.com and on Facebook [@gailfrancistironart](https://www.facebook.com/gailfrancistironart)

Gibraltar voted almost unanimously to stay in Europe. This painting is one of two paintings that I created at the time as the feeling of shock was felt throughout the community who share a border with Spain.



Stop the BREXIT Madness





I came for inspiration.
I came looking for grace and found
my reflection in every passing face.
In everyone who gathered
Standing on that Shore.
Searching the horizon
not knowing what exactly for.
Searching the horizon
for what we can't quite see.
When all we've ever needed
has been there all along
Inside of you and me.

[A Little Soon to Say](#). Jackson Browne

Princess Diana's favourite beach above, allegedly, and where so many find time for reflection. Jackson's prophetic songs over the years continue with the above new offering released just before he contracted Covid 19. "When will we ever Learn?"

[CLEAN the SEAS](#) [PLANT more TREES](#) [SAVE the BEES](#)

The Bumble Bee Conservation.Org site has a wonderful video by their Education Officer, [Andy Benson, on Pollination](#) which is one of many available learning resources for children and those of us still willing to learn. Take a look and get inspired by life and how amazing and resilient nature is and remember we are part of Nature and not Apart from her.

The below extract from their Nesting information raised a smile in our house:

"So, where do the boy bumblebees live? Boy bumblebees are born at the end of the summer. They start their lives inside the nest with their mother and sisters but boy bumblebees are very lazy. They're not very good at helping to keep the nest tidy or at collecting food for the nest. So, once they have fully grown, they leave home and spend their nights sleeping on flowers."

[Honey Bee](#)



[Bumblebee](#)



We have bumblebees nesting in our long grass and observation of what is in our gardens can really help protect wildlife. e.g. Strimmers and Netting can prove [fatal for Hedgehogs](#), Birds, Bees, Butterflies. Plastic is still a major pollutant and it is sad to see waste thrown into the River Crane and along the paths even during this lockdown. All the more heartening to witness a young boy building a Frog House in Gardener's World and seeing his enthusiasm for nature.

BE NICE TO NETTLES

By Doug Goodman

How many times have you bashed a clump of nettles after you have been stung? Instead of being nasty to nettles we should be kind to them as next week is 'be kind to nettles' week when we can learn how important these plants are for wildlife. *Urtica Dioica* – the stinging nettle is an herbaceous, perennial flowering plant. It has hairs on its leaves and stems which act like needles injecting chemicals to produce a prickling sensation on contact with our skin.



In the 19th century the nettle was acclaimed as a very useful plant for providing food – soups, stews, teas and for medicinal purposes. Nettle tea is still a popular beverage. The plant is a breeding ground for ladybirds in spring and without it butterfly species like the Red Admiral and the Small Tortoiseshell would have nowhere to lay their eggs. Loved by many insects nettles grow in rich soil and the leaves make good compost. Next time you decide to clear unwanted 'weeds' from your garden do leave space for the nice nettles. Nettles seem to grow well on Twickenham's soil as Doug Goodman discovered at the end of his garden.

Help us water our trees outside your house

Help is wanted to water many of the young trees planted across the borough.

With warm, dry weather for much of the lockdown, watering schedules have been increased by the Council, this is to give the trees a good start to the growing season.

However, in addition to the current watering effort, the Council is calling on residents to check on any new trees outside their home and give them the best start in life by providing extra water. A couple of 5 litre watering cans every couple of days will be greatly appreciated and help the trees in this important stage of establishment. We encourage the use of water that is sustainably sourced, for example using 'grey water' from washing up or a bath and rain water.

In return, the trees will provide clean air to breathe and homes for birds and creatures. It will help to cool the streets, combating the ill effects of climate change.

CLlr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment Committee at Richmond Council, said:

"Over the past few months we have planted a large number of trees around the borough. However, the recent warm weather has placed an additional stress upon these important assets. We are doing extra watering to help these trees establish, but residents can also help. If you can regularly spare a few minutes to fill your watering can and help water trees outside your homes, please do so – every little helps."

Dear Sir,

VE Day

Dwight D 'Ike' Eisenhower said: "In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable."

Last year saw the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy - on 6 June 1944. It is worth remembering that planning the invasion was formulated in Teddington.

Codenamed Operation Overlord - this was overseen by 'Ike' who headed SHAEF - Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

Headquartered in Bushy Park - SHAEF was based in Camp Griffiss - commemorated by naming the nearest park gate - Shaef Gate - and nearby street - Shaef Way.

Another nearby road - Widewing Close - memorialises Camp Griffiss' nickname of 'Widewing' as it started out as a US Air Force base. (The ghosts of the American Air Force must shudder to hear the nightly noise - in peacetime - inflicted by Heathrow Airport.)

Since May 1940, the Nazi's formidable fighting machine had swept across northern Europe - culminating in their occupation of France. Dunkirk was the site of British troop evacuation - using 'little ships' - many from Teddington - as 'little ships' have little bottoms and could reach the beach to save stranded men.

Operation Overlord was the counter-attack to crush the Nazi conquerors.

A parallel operation was in full swing - Operation Fortitude - to create disinformation. George VI publicly visited a military base in SE England and a naval base in Scotland. The Nazis believed this fake news and set about defending Scandinavia and making contingency plans for an Allied invasion of Calais in July.

6 June 1944 made military history as the largest amphibious assault - ever. 156,000 Allied - American, British and Canadian - troops landed on five Normandy beaches. This surprise attack filled the Nazis with foreboding. This was 'shock and awe' on a grand scale and the Nazis never recovered.

There are sixteen 'Heritage Plaques' marking the site of Camp Griffiss' temporary buildings. And the SHAEF Memorial Plaque - deep in Bushy Park - is a poignant reminder that D-Day - the turning point in the Second World War - was planned by brilliant brains in Teddington.

No wonder Churchill referred to it as "what a plan!"

And it was this plan - being implemented - that led to VE-Day - whose 75th anniversary was celebrated today - 8 May 2020 - as a Bank Holiday.

Yours faithfully,
Jill Garrow, Teddington

Dear Editor,

75 years ago this week St John Ambulance volunteers played a vital role delivering first aid and providing support to both the public and the armed forces on VE Day.

Throughout the Second World War, the global response by St John Ambulance took in the care of prisoners of war, displaced persons, the wounded and missing, ambulance transport and, of course, the training and provision of medical volunteers. With no NHS until 1948, and stretched hospitals dealing with the casualties of war, St John's community response on the Home Front saved innumerable lives. Between 1938 and 1945, we trained more than 1.2 million people in first aid, distributed over 3 million copies of the St John Ambulance First Aid Manual, and deployed over 200,000 St John Ambulance volunteers in support of the allies.

Fast forward to today and our charity is undergoing its greatest ever peacetime deployment and challenge. Our volunteers are working tirelessly to support the NHS, crewing ambulances, delivering assistance in Emergency Departments and helping in their local communities, as well as providing vital coordination and training behind the scenes.

I would like to pay tribute to all our volunteers, both past and present – not only those who gave their time freely during the Second World War, but also those who are offering their skills to keep people safe in 2020 as we live through these unprecedented times. Their dedication will not be forgotten. If readers would like to find out more about our work, or support us now when our presence is required more than ever, they can visit www.sja.org.uk.

Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, Prior & Chair of St John Ambulance

Dear Sir,

TwickWatch: Edition 182

I thoroughly agree with just about everything that was said in the article "TwickWatch - Never Mind..." (Page 25). I do so hope that lessons will be learnt from this pandemic.

Yours faithfully,
Don Turner, Twickenham

Dear Sir,

I thought I would add my bit of experience of working at Woolies in Twickenham when I was 15 back in 1960. Like the other lady I was the only Saturday girl who could work the electronic till there. I was working with a much older lady called Miss Wheeler on the pots and pans counter which wasn't so much of a counter as we were spread along the right hand side of the shop and I seem to have spent my time crossing the shop to go up the stairs to the stock room which covered the whole of the first floor. There was no cafe up there then. I earned the princely sum of 15s (75p)

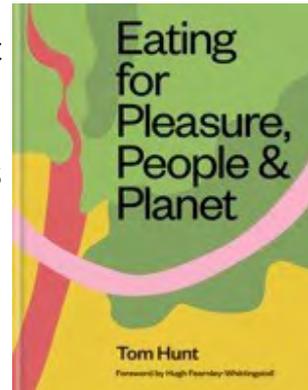
Brenda Whittaker

Alan Winter replies:

Thanks Brenda. That confirms that the upper floor at Twickenham was not used in the early 60s for either the cafeteria or for retail purposes. We will look at some of the other Woolworth branches which traded in this Borough in future columns. Now is a good time to send me your memories and anecdotes of branches at Woolworths at Whitton, Richmond, Teddington and East Sheen etc. If you happen to have a postcard showing these stores - even better!

EATING FOR PLEASURE, PEOPLE & PLANET

It's National Vegetarian Week next week folks – designed to highlight to the public the benefits of a meat-free diet. Well, I don't know about you, but I like to eat meat, but we are increasingly eating less, and better quality. Also, I'm encouraged to experiment more with vegetarian dishes, as more and more fabulous cookbooks come to my attention. One of these is newly published **Eating For Pleasure, People & Planet** by **Tom Hunt**. Tom's Bristol restaurant Poco has won numerous awards, including Best Ethical Restaurant at the OFM Awards. He writes for many newspapers offering ingenious no-waste recipes.



Tom is on a mission to have us all sourcing, cooking and eating in a way that helps fight food waste and prevent further climate change. For example, those tough kale stalks that I tend to chuck into the recycling; Tom suggests using them to make a risotto, or steam them, or even fry them. Cauliflower too... he suggests using the whole thing (Crystal Poodle won't like that as she loves raw cauliflower stalk!). But more than that, Tom's new book demonstrates how we can all adapt our ways and become part of the solution. It shows us how we can have a more sustainable diet and cut down on waste.

The recipes are vibrant and celebratory, yet simple, nourishing and affordable. They are all born out of his extensive research and in line with the most up-to-date food sourcing guidelines. The chapters include Morning Meals, Slow Food Fast: Lunch and Supper, A New Way With Salads, Family Meals and Feast Plates, Sweet Treats and the Larder. It really is a magnificent tome – a great gift and an inspiration for anyone who is a keen vegetable grower and/or consumer.

I've chosen a couple of recipes from the book that I felt ideal for this time of year. **Root Vegetable & Linseed Latkes** make a lovely weekend brunch dish, and the **Purple Sprouting Broccoli with Orecchiette** is perfect for a midweek supper dish, especially while these delicious stems are in season.

Root Vegetable And Linseed Latkes

A 'latke' is a traditional Jewish potato cake that also works very well made with other root vegetables. In this recipe, I replace eggs with nutty, omega-3-rich linseeds, which help bind the mixture together. Play around by adding different flours to see how the taste affects the flavour of the latke: you'll find spelt has a nutty flavour, while rye is malty and wheat more subtle and rounded. Latkes make a hearty breakfast served with apple compote and yogurt. Alternatively, they're delicious served as part of an evening meal.

Serves 2

- 150g mixed root vegetables, grated (e.g. beetroot, celeriac, turnip, etc.)
- half an onion, grated
- 1 tbsp wholegrain flour
- 1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 2 tbsp ground linseeds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- glug of extra virgin olive oil, for frying



To serve, optional

carrot or parsley leaves, apple compote, yogurt

Combine the grated root vegetables and onion in a bowl with a good couple of pinches of sea salt and set aside for 5 minutes to draw out some of the excess moisture from the vegetables. Pick up handfuls of the mixture and squeeze out all of the juice, placing the squeezed vegetables in a clean bowl. Keep hold of the excess liquid, which makes an incredible salad dressing mixed with a little extra virgin olive oil. Add the flour, mustard, linseed and baking powder to the grated vegetables and mix well to combine.

Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Divide the vegetable mixture into four balls and place them in the pan. Flatten the latkes slightly with a spatula and leave them well alone for 3-5 minutes, or until they are golden on the underside and ready to flip. Carefully turn them over and cook for a few more minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately, with the leaves, compote and yogurt, or save and reheat in the oven.

Purple Sprouting Broccoli With Orecchiette

I make this dish when I fancy a simple, flavoursome and homely lunch or supper.

The caper sauce is so umami rich, it removes the need for any cheese or anchovies

in the dish, keeping it affordable and low impact. It takes very little preparation to make if you have the pasta to hand. However, if you want to avoid the plastic packaging that pasta is usually wrapped in, you'll have to try making it yourself from scratch. Although it is an involved process, it's very simple and fun to make and a good opportunity to add other interesting wholemeal flours to the dough.

Serves 2

- 200g purple sprouting broccoli, or other greens
- glug of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 heaped tbsp salted capers, soaked in water for 10 minutes, then drained, or brined
- 1 small garlic clove, roughly chopped
- 200g wholemeal pasta, orecchiette or similar
- half an unwaxed lemon, zest and juice
- dried chilli flakes, to taste

Place a large pan of salted water on to boil.

Thinly slice the thicker stalks of the purple sprouting broccoli or other greens, leaving the tender stalks and leaves whole.

Warm a good glug of extra virgin olive oil in a large pan over a medium-low heat. Fry the capers until they start to crisp, then add the garlic and cook for just a minute without colouring. Set aside.

If using dried pasta, boil it in the salted water for 6 minutes, then add the greens, bring back to the boil and cook for a further 3 minutes. If using fresh pasta, boil the greens first for 1 minute, then add the fresh pasta and boil for a further 3 minutes. Strain the pasta and greens into a colander, then immediately transfer them to the pan with the garlic and capers.

Season with the lemon zest and juice, some freshly ground black pepper and salt, if necessary, bearing in mind the capers are salty anyway. Serve in pasta bowls, sprinkled with the chilli flakes and liberally with breadcrumbs.

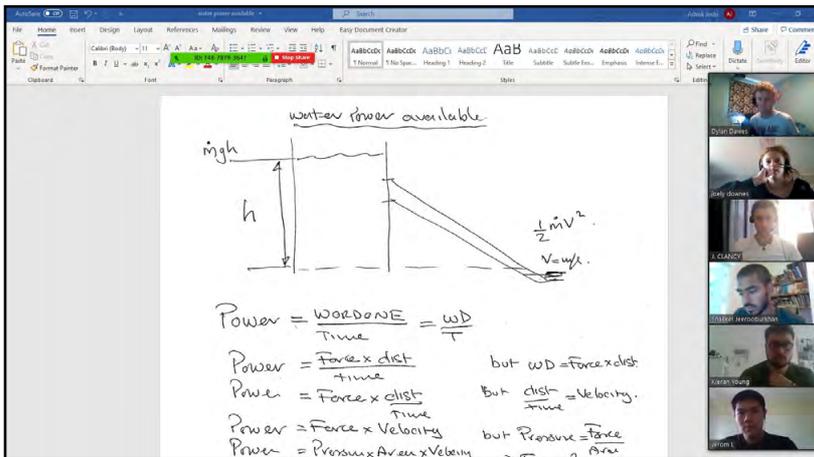


Eating for Pleasure, People & Planet by Tom Hunt is published by Kyle Books, £26 hardback (octopusbooks.co.uk) Photography: Jenny Zarins

Richmond upon Thames College Engineering apprenticeship delivery praised for remote teaching and learning

When the switch to remote teaching and learning took place in March, it was a big change for everyone, including Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) staff and students, who have risen to the challenge and embraced this new way of working.

Dawn Thompson, Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) Senior Account Manager, said, "I'd like to congratulate Richmond upon Thames College for their rapid response to the chaotic world we find ourselves in. We know from talking to other employers and training providers that they have experienced challenges in delivering certain apprenticeships during lockdown and in some cases, apprentices are being furloughed in these challenging circumstances. So to hear that Richmond upon Thames College switched almost immediately to virtual delivery to ensure that the apprentices continued to be trained, is fantastic news."



Ashok Joshi, Engineering Course Coordinator and Lecturer at RuTC, discussed how the lessons would be held remotely with his students and apprentices a week before colleges closed. For Ashok, the main priority was that the teaching and learning would continue in a similar way to how it would have been in the college – the schedule, course content and assignments would continue as normal.

RuTC's Level 3 Engineering Construction Design & Draughting apprentices usually attend college daily with second and third years coming in once a week for a full day, so Ashok continued with this schedule. The class now uses Zoom for their lesson to discuss course work and share their screens for presentations and material. Ashok said, "When teaching remotely, preparation is everything. The lesson needs to be structured well and all the material needs to be accessible online. I found that lessons are very interactive, and students behave professionally."

Jordi Clancy, apprentice working at global engineering company, Worley, has found the transition to learning from home to be very smooth, with Zoom online sessions available as soon as the lockdown was announced. He said, "The appropriate learning resources were made available via Moodle [the college's virtual learning environment] in good time, with lecturers offering consistent support to supplement the material. Remote learning has provided the same quality of teaching as in-class learning, but from the comfort of my own home, with no need for travel."

George Stocker is an apprentice, working at engineering, procurement and construction company, KBR. He said, "I think before attending online sessions everyone would have been slightly worried about how to produce the same effect as being in college, but credit to Zoom and Richmond upon Thames College lecturers, the lessons have been electronically shown on the screen allowing us to have similar experience as we would have being in college. In addition to having numerous videos and theory presented, the learning has been to a high standard and this has been reflected in assignments still being handed in on time."

Once the college reopens, Ashok is considering continuing online meetings, especially for one to one feedback as he finds this more efficient and can support students easily. He plans to use a lot of the material that he created for remote teaching when the college reopens.



St Mary's University Update

ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY LAUNCH APPEAL FOR OLD RUNNING TRACK PHOTO'S

St Mary's University has launched an appeal to the local community for photographs of its old running track, which was replaced with a floodlit synthetic track in 2004/05.

Championships and has been trained on by numerous world stars of athletics including Usain Bolt, Mo Farah, Vivian Cheruiyot, Sonia O'Sullivan, Jo Pavey and Nick Willis.



In addition, the St Mary's Endurance Performance Centre has helped develop numerous Team GB internationals, all of them students, including Andrew Osagie, Steph Twell, Andy Vernon, Charlotte Purdue, Charlie Da Vall Grice, Adelle Tracey, Elliot Giles and others. *Alongside this, thousands of school children use the track to access weekly athletics coaching from our highly-qualified students through our SIMMSport programme, as members of St Mary's Richmond AC and for school sport days and the annual Borough*

Andrew Reid-Smith Head of Department for Sport St Marys said "The old track was laid in the 1960s, it was made of melted tyres and tarmac and was the first artificial track in the country. Professor Dick Fisher was the driving force behind the development of the modern track, which was put in place in partnership with the London Marathon and Sport England."

"The old track was used by several world class athletes who studied at St Mary's including Dave Bedford, Gordon Pirie, John Bicourt and a visiting Emil Zatopek. George Gandy who went on to be the UK National Endurance Coach, would also have been here during this period whilst he trained to be a PE teacher."

"The new track has supported a large number of nations preparing for Olympic and World

sport day".

"It's an iconic venue but after recently searching for photographs of the old track we realised that we had little record of it."

"We'd like to appeal to anyone, who has lived close to the University, trained, visited or watched their children take part in athletics on the running track before 2004/05 to come forward and if they have any photographs that they could share with us for our own use then we'd be very grateful."

Any photographs can be sent to marketing@stmarys.ac.uk



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**



The Smell of Purple

by Dónall Dempsey

VOLE Books, £10, 107 pp; ISBN 978-1-913329-07-5

The latest collection from vibrant and prolific poet, Dónall Dempsey, gives us a hundred pages of insight into an emotional wallet of fatherhood. Yet it goes further than that, as we live our experiences through Tilly, the small child at the centre of this book's core, and the poet's 'makeshift' fatherhood. The sheer love for this magical child comes through strongly, but it's never overtly sentimental. We are simply presented with human nature. These words are emotional Polaroids, with all their faded colours. Dónall sets off a daisy-chain of haiku's growing organically into poems and vice versa.



Nothing gets away unscathed and no stone is left unturned, with dolls being repaired, a father shaving, crayoned houses, an ice cube melting. Things we've tended to ignore or forget rise up and greet us again. For instance, the line of a rag doll weeping makes uncomfortable but not unwelcome reading. The memory of being scared of a Jack-in-the-box makes us face our own childhood *bêtes noires*. It's these references that turn this collection of poems into the strong and vivid picture it is.

We go on a detailed journey, sharing the wonder of this child coming into the world, to real life, to the realisation that the little girl has actually grown up, a young woman who weeps over Tilly's box of childhood memories.

The Smell of Purple is a poignant insight into a father's deep love, taking us through the gates between childhood and adulthood.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/05/04/smell-purple

Photography by Neal Obstat and David Kanigan



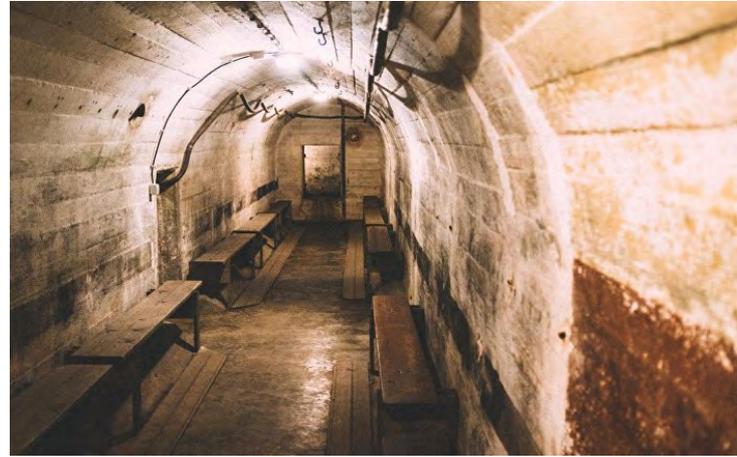


Grenade Genie

by Thomas McColl

Fly on the Wall Press, £8.99, 80 pp; ISBN 978-1-913211-13-4

The second collection from innovative poet, Thomas McColl, *Grenade Genie* takes us on a surreal journey into four profound sections, with an abundance of intelligent and humorous observations from his twenty-five poems. There are also deep black connotations, and he is ruthless with his words: truly relentless but far from unwelcome, and very compulsive.



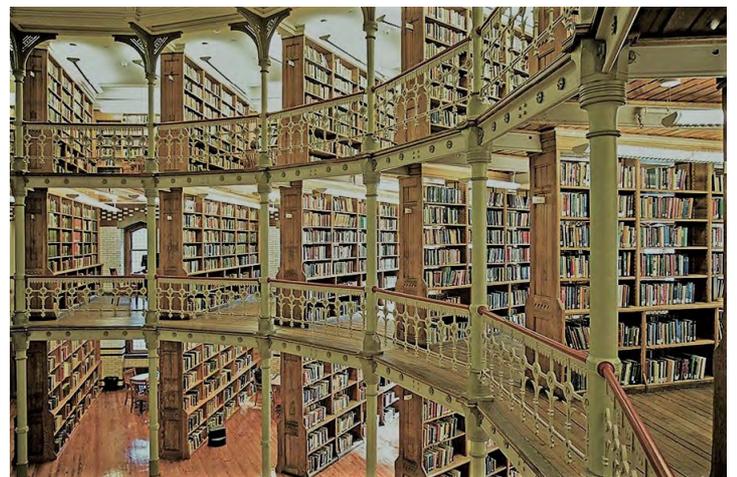
Each section has a title pre-empting its theme: *Cursed*, *Coerced*, *Combative*, and *Corrupted*

Cursed travels into a big threatening city. This intriguing roadway gives us a surreal, yet sympathetic, branch terrorism such that a bus ride will never be the same again. McColl's wasteland more frightening than TS Eliot's, yet it is laugh out loud material.

The next road which is *Coerced*, self-doubting, bordering on paranoid, but full of innovative strong notions. Nevertheless here you will find beautifully spaced and human stories.

Driving into the strong heading of *Combative*, you are welcomed by a wonderful, intelligent and witty original take on the fashion victim involving a hero of Greek mythology. Common observations, things we don't mean to ignore, are lit up a poem that leaves me quite certain I will never take Oxford Street for granted again. With its wonderful wit, terror and vivid observations, it is at once tender and frightening. It ends heart-wrenchingly, with an image of a sobbing grandmother at her stove, which will stay with us all.

Our journey takes us on to the last section, *Corrupted*, no less enticing than the other three chapters. Clever in meaning and punctuation, it is simply a great work of black humour. Its poems range from the true and sinister to the very chilling, but the last thing it leaves us is cold. Still, McColl never promised us a smooth ride, and this one is well worth the bus fare!



Its climax is extraordinarily surreal, and profound. And like all of this collection, acute.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/05/05/grenade-genie

Photography by BarnImages (© CC 2.0, *Underground Bunker*) and Christa Neu



Colour VE Day

by Keith Wait

The sky, precious platinum mirror,
Silvers itself,
Reflects today's sun, not fire of waging war,
Runs red as brother's blood in '45
VE day



Early May
Not yet light, white rubble dust covers Rheims
A grim General puts pen to paper
Black on white
The sky's leaden canopy shatters.

From a gold and white palace, two figures,
A future queen amongst the soldiers
They too are in khaki and olive drab
And walk down Whitehall with cheering crowds.
Men in grey trilbies, women in dowdy brown.
Now silk headscarves and contraband nylons
Once hidden in mahogany cupboards
Grace their cheering heads, red lips, dancing legs.
The shining black of Watney's stout foams free
In Victoria's pubs, while in Mayfair
Vintage Veuve Clicquot labelled in orange
Secreted in cellars, dark since '39
Spruts sparkling silver to the evening sky.
As searchlights become spotlights for the King
A steadfast symbol to the crowds below.

Despots love their colours.
The Corsican corporal's pompous pride, bright
blue,
The Munich beer hall bully, scarlet, black,

The Brussels bureaucrat a stealthy grey
Suffocating Europe with their colours
As their empires grow.

2020 vision sees no colour
To its silent despot, unseen and new.
Electron microscope, not eyes, can scan
Its colourless invisibility.
VE arc-lights, fire watch, needed colour
To see the coming enemy approach
However pale. No Enigma machine
Decodes our invisible enigma,
Suffocating lungs of prince and pauper,
Pulmonary pestilence.

But today's the day to wave the rainbow,
Fly the flag, red, white and blue.
Remember loved ones lost
For freedom.



Wars continue, then as now, but today
Colour it bright,
Thank God,
And shout
"VE Day",
Hurray,
The platinum mirror to all our past
When Europe was freed, and ... in peace ... was
coloured.

Read more at

www.markaspen.com/2020/05/08/colour-ve-day

Photography by Francis Coles

Church Street, Island Life and VE Day

By Shona Lyons



This week started last Sunday really when I decided that the tulips & daffodils in Church Street really had done their very best but had to go. So Sunday was spent digging them all up and putting them in bags so that people could take them away and naturalise them in their own gardens. It was quite hard work and I also tried to tidy up the Church Street Square and water everything as there are quite a lot of lovely perennials coming through now and it has been very hot and it all needs water.



Quite a few people looked rather suspiciously at me as I dug dead tulips out of the planters at the top of the street and a few asked me if I was from the council and if I had permission. I told them that the tulips and daffodils had finished flowering and we were clearing them away in time for the summer bedding plants. I did try and explain that we have a Church Street Association and the plants were put in by me and I look after them. I suppose that I should really feel very glad that people in the community care so much and are ready to challenge people who start messing about with the flowers. Sometimes they are deliberately damaged and stolen etc. so it is so good that everyone cares and that should be deterrent enough!!

I had about 13 sacks of lovely bulbs to give away and put it on face book and twitter and about 10 bags have been taken. There are 3 bags left which I think I will bring home to the island and naturalise in our garden.



This week we have been working hard on our Island Garden and have already dug a big patch for vegetables and have planted broad beans and cabbages and tomatoes. Some we have grown from seed, some we have got from Percy Chapmans whose been a life line really as even the seeds were from them and some have been brought from a charming lady who lives in a cottage in Bell Lane and grows all kind of vegetable plants that she sells from her door step, where she has a honesty box. It is £1 a plant and they are the most beautifully healthy little specimens. Bruce is so much better now and is taking a great deal of interest in the garden. He was at first a critical head gardener giving advice but after we sewed some seeds together about 10 days ago when he was still very weak, he has come on in bounds and is now getting involved a lot more.



Today Friday the 8th I woke up early and had coffee on the riverside with Bruce and then went to hang Union Jacks in Church Street. There were quite a few people enjoying the peace of the early morning and walking in the street or jogging. I did have a few people comment about the flags and a lot of people told me as the time went by that it really made them happy to see the flags. I've shared the pictures on face book and twitter and it seems to have ignited quite a lot of interest with many sharing the pictures on their own face book and twitter pages. The street does look really beautiful and it is so good to commemorate the fantastic victory over the Nazis and the amazing effort of everyone and all

the veterans who made it happen. It is thanks to them that we are able to enjoy the freedom we have today. I personally had a lot of relatives who were murdered by the Nazis so VE Day is especially poignant for me.

I came home and found Bruce still digging his patch in the garden and made us all orange juice and coffee and we all had a break by the river and then I went for a swim. It has been a good week, and guess it is the same for many, with lots of ups and downs but as Bruce tells me if I get upset by anything that we are so lucky to have this place and the wonderful environment of island life and I really shouldn't be complaining about anything. It has been a hard few weeks in lock down, not really because of anything in particular and I am kind of solitary person anyway so the isolationary aspect hasn't really bothered me at all – but their illness and having to manage a lot of things all at the same time hasn't always been easy but funnily enough, it is amazing what you can handle when you have to and It's good to end the week week feeling a lot stronger really.

TRAVELLER'S TALES 71

MEDIEVAL CITY

Doug Goodman visits Troyes in the Champagne Ardenne region of France



Troyes, (pronounced Trwa), is located in the south of the Champagne Ardenne department about four hours' drive from Calais or reached by train from London via Paris. The city is full of medieval buildings and packed with history. If you look at a map you'll notice that the outline of the city resembles the shape of a cork – a champagne cork naturally because Troyes is the gateway to the vineyards which produce the famous sparkling wine. In the 12th century the city experienced its first golden age when rapid growth in finance and commerce occurred as well as an intellectual and cultural boom. Constructed mainly during the 16th century it was the seat of the ruling Comtes de Champagne in the Middle Ages. In 1524 a disastrous fire destroyed many of the wooden buildings. Unlike Reims, which was devastated in World War One, Troyes was safe and today is recognised as a monument to its medieval and Renaissance past: ten years ago it was made an official 'City of Art and History'.



Hotel du Lion Noir



Courtyard



Ancient Carving

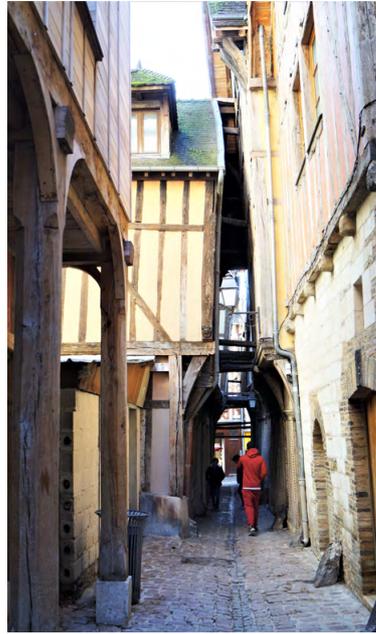
TIMBER-FRAMED TROYES.

When you wander through the narrow streets of Troyes you see a huge number of timber-framed houses. After the 1524 fire the richer inhabitants rebuilt their homes with stone while the poorer people reconstructed theirs from timber. These Renaissance-styled houses were based on medieval designs and thus give the city its unique character. The city and the Aube region are famous for stained glass and credited with having the world's largest and most beautiful displays in their churches of painted stained glass windows. Quiet courtyards with carved pillars and narrow streets, where two people can only just pass, mean that Troyes is easily explored on foot. Cafes and delightful restaurants are to be discovered hidden behind ancient facades. Reconstruction continues and any new building must comply with strict planning regulations. In the Ruelle des Chats, so narrow that I nearly stepped on a resident cat, there's a lovely restaurant with a pretty garden. Look out for 'Chez Feliz'. The city is well known for its food and wine. Andouillette de Troyes, a pork chitterling sausage has its origin as far back as 1590 and its popular Prunelle de Troyes is a strong liqueur made from sloe stones which are crushed and double distilled. Champagne is drunk at every occasion because you're close to five areas of vineyards: Cote des Blancs, Montagne de Reims, The Aube and Cote des Bar, Cote des Sezanne and

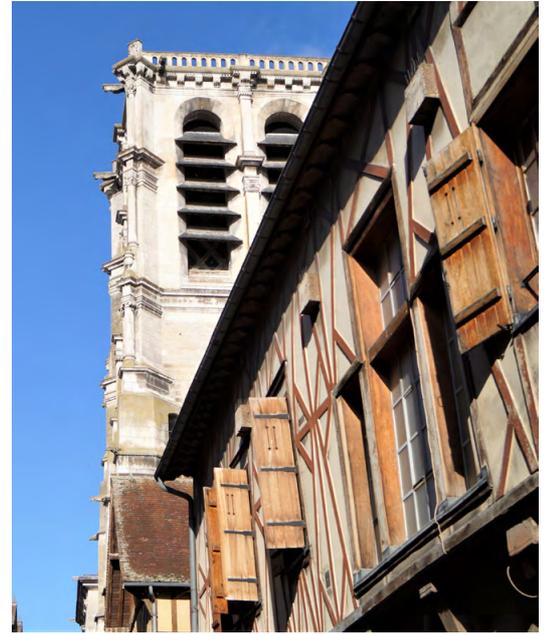
Vallee de la Marne. A day spent touring the vineyards, sampling the wines and buying direct from the producer is a really enjoyable experience. The three grape varieties used in the making of champagne are pinot noir, chardonnay and pinot meunier and it's the methods used to blend the different varieties which make the wines so special. The whole of the Champagne region produces around 300 million bottles each year. Consumption is down considerably now due to increased import taxes introduced by the USA. But we are still drinking champagne as the UK remains a huge market.



Silversmith's Tower



Ruelle des Chats



St. Peter and Paul Cathedral

GREAT SHOPPING

Troyes was the home of the mint until 1772 but it remains famous for the Troy ounce, the measurement for silver, gold, platinum and other precious metals. The Troy ounce, (31.103 grams), came about during the 13th century when champagne fairs were held and it's still in use today. In late spring vast fairs are staged in the city with markets, commercial exhibitions and live entertainment recreating the traditional, ancient Foires de Champagne. In 1903 Troyes accounted for half the hosiery production in France with 300 knitwear factories catering for the country's needs. Many well-known brands are made here today. Two hundred stores in the 'brand shopping' centres or factory outlets, attracting over four million visitors from Northern France, are another good reason to spend a long weekend break in Troyes. With its clothes, food, wine and goods from the traditional timber-framed shops you'll need a very large bag to bring home your purchases. The well- equipped tourist office in the main square should be your first stopping place to gather information from the helpful staff, who will ensure that you get the most from your visit.



St. Madeleine



City Centre



Vineyard Visit

More information from: www.tourisme-troyes.com

Travel in the time of COVID

By Bruce Lyons

It's been a busy two months in our travel business, really an enormous understatement.

As I am in "self-isolation" I got to reflect on the VE Anniversary day, whilst Shona flew the flags in Church Street, just how much has happened and what the future looks like!

We, self-isolated on the 21st of March & by the 28th we (Hedda and I) were both down with COVID . The office first went on "remote" and then to furlough. Now, as I am fully recovered, though weak, I am managing our "lock-down" on remote (see ; www.crusadertravel.com : for contact details) I can't remember the last Pandemic in 1917, but I get to wonder if my Grandad , who was serving with General Allenby in Palestine was impacted by the Spanish Flu, though I know he didn't catch it, but I think I would like to know, so I will look it up. So, dear reader, I thought you might care to know of the "cut & thrust" of our days since early March.

As COVID in Europe turned from a threat on the horizon to a crisis on our doorstep, things started to move at a meteoric speed and still are!!

It is difficult to diarise the precise dates as at that time not only was the UK "getting ready" , we and our clients were following FO advice, the media, as well as news from the destinations. The FO started to put travel warnings up, countries started "lockdown", often with just a day's notice!

Easter bookings (all paid and ticketed) vanished, though quite a few pragmatic families emailed and asked to defer, if possible, some to October School break, September or next Easter - these proved to be the easier ones.

But with many bookings, and our job is not only to care for our clients travel and wellbeing, but also keep an eye on the financials, it was not always easy as there is so many T& C's to keep an eye on too

The whole issue of cancelled bookings and refunds has been muddied by the disastrous situation the airlines find themselves in. The whole industry is concerned for the entire Summer Season , as it is not only how the UK eases up on the lockdown but a matter of the Destination countries , many of which have concerns about receiving travellers in the immediate future, many consider that the travel business will not revert to "normal" for a couple of years.

On the other hand there are European Countries Planning to "open for business" in June - fingers crossed. Nevertheless, beside all the uncertainty and mess, we have - on the whole - found our clients and the industry very accommodating, which in times of crisis is really as it should be. As far as the Travel Industry is concerned there are no winners really and the airlines are in free fall. Some weeks on from March 21st and we still have daily requests to defer summer 2020.



Perhaps we have a late, last minute, short haul summer, let's hope so But we are also doing new bookings, as many of our suppliers have brought out their Summer 2021 prices so they can defer this Summer easily and as a result there is plethora of product to choose from if you plan to have something to look forward to after all this chaos. You can choose from Italian Villas, to Mauritius and Caribbean winter and summer , Coach tours, Mexico and Corsica to name but a few so as today is VE Day anniversary It seem apt to say "we'll meet again"

By the way I can remember VE Day, I was 9 and away from home at school In Salperton and we had (I thought) the biggest bonfire - at least 20 feet high with a scarecrow (probably meant to be someone nasty) atop.



In 2001 World InfoZone was engaging with prospective members of the European Union. The photographs below are from Pavel at the Bratislava City Hall, in the capital city of Slovakia.

Pavel was able to send a photograph of his favourite path in the Velka Fatra mountain ridge and the following amusing comment:

“Maybe we could recommend your new worldinfozone.com to the Washington Post staff as despite bringing their attention to the fact that Bratislava is not in the Czech Republic (the capital Prague) they have used it for the last nine years in its *‘weather Europe’* incorrectly!”



Bardejov



Bratislava



Bratislava



Bojnice



Kosice



Vysoke Tatry

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



BRENTFORD FC

Five-star performance from Bees crushes Terriers Huddersfield Town 1 – 5 Brentford



7/5/16

Preview

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. Today we take a look at an away game for Brentford at Griffin Park as they travel to the John Smiths stadium to play Huddersfield Town. The game has a certain end of season feeling about it with Brentford in 10th but out of contention from the play offs and Huddersfield in 19th but safe from relegation ahead of kick off.

Key Moments

Brentford took the lead after just 21 second through Sergi Canos in a dream start for the Bees. The Spaniard capitalise on a poor back pass before slotting past Jed Steer. Jamie Paterson scored an equaliser for the Terriers five minutes after the interval, catching Brentford cold from a quick free kick. In the final forty minutes of the season the Bees put Huddersfield to the sword as they scored four unanswered goals. Scott Hogan made no mistake having been played through from Konstantin Kerschbaumer' as they referee played an advantage. Just ten minutes later Kerschbaumer slipped the ball through to Hogan who this time rounded the keeper to restore the two-goal cushion. Lasse Vibe, on as a substitute, got the Bees fifth with a good finish from a narrow angle. Vibe then turned provider as he crossed for John Swift to put the seal on a perfect afternoon.

Half-time Brentford teaser

Who is Brentford's all-time leading appearance maker?

- Ken Coote
- Jamie Bates
- Kevin O'Connor
- Peter Gelson

Brentford manager Dean Smith

"It was a great performance but the score line was very flattering for us because Huddersfield aren't a bad team.

"To finish ninth is a fantastic achievement for the club."

Brentford starting Lineup

- D Button
- M Colin
- J Bidwell

H Dean (Yellow card 12')
Y Barbet
S Saunders
R Woods (Yellow card 7')
K Kerschbaumer (Subbed off 82')
K Li (Yellow card 82')
S Hogan (Goal scored 52' 62' Subbed off 64')
S Canos (Goal scored 1' Subbed off 69')

Substitutes

J Swift (Subbed off 82' Goal scored 88')
L Vibe (Subbed off 64' Goal scored 67')
J Clarke (Subbed off 69')
J Bonham
J O'Connell
A Gogia
P Hoffman

Attendance: 13,397

Stay safe Bees fans!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

**Hampton into play off final following tense victory at Chelmsford
Hampton 1 – 2 Ebbsfleet United**

3/5/17

Pre-match teaser

Which international team does current H+R player Sam Cox captain?

- Grenada
- Jamaica
- Suriname
- Guyana



Key moments

Hampton will host Braintree Town at the Beveree in the 2018 National League South play off final following a 1-0 victory semi final against Chelmsford City. In the baking hot Essex sun, the host had the opening chance through Scott Fenwick, whose headed attempt but Hampton keeper Seny Dieng but fortunately for Hampton struck the crossbar and over. Just a minute later Dieng was called upon to save a lobbed attempt from Chris Dickson as he scrambled back to divert the ball over the bar. The Clarets dominate the opening and hit the crossbar for the second time inside the opening forty-five minutes through Anthony Church. Brenan

Kiernan eventually registered the Beavers first attempt of real note after half time which Jake Jessup did well to save. In the 54th minute the key moment in the match occurred as Hampton were awarded a penalty following a handball on the line from Jazzi Barnum-Babb. The clarets defender was shown a red card and Max Kretzschmar stepped up to convert with an ice-cool penalty. Up against 10 men Hampton found it easier to control the game. A late goal mouth scramble in which the Beavers produce a number of excellent blocks ensured their victory, where the seek to win promotion to the National League for the first time in the club's history.

Hampton starting lineup

S Dieng
B Wynter
J Casey
J Cook
C Wassmer
S McAuley (Subbed off 77')
M Kretzschmar (Goal scored 54')
S Baptiste (Yellow card 37')
S Jeffers
B Kiernan (Subbed off 86')
B Hudson-Odoi (Subbed off 71')

Substitutes

E Charles (Subbed on 86')
L Sheldrick
J Mulley (Subbed on 77')
M Kamara
T Roberts (Subbed on 71')

Attendance: 1,651

Stay safe Beavers fans!

Teaser Answers

Brentford = Ken Coote
Hampton = Guyana

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust deliver game-changing activity packs to children and young people across Hounslow

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust launched a new community initiative yesterday, which saw dozens of children receive free activity packs to keep them active and healthy within their homes during this period. The initiative, developed in partnership with Hounslow Council, will see 600 activity packs delivered across eight housing estates in Hounslow over the next couple of weeks. The first drop was at Brentford Towers with the following delivery areas planned next week:

- Benson Close
- Highfields
- Ivybridge
- Convent Way
- Brabazon Road/Harlech Gardens
- Brent Lea and Syon Lane.

At Brentford Towers, which is nestled between Brentford FC's historic Griffin Park home and the Bees' new stadium, youngsters emerged eagerly from their homes to collect their activity packs at allocated times. With Brentford FC Community Sports Trust's involvement on the estate spanning more than three decades, the activity packs were created to replace the free sports and youth activity sessions it usually runs every week in partnership with Hounslow Council.

Lee Doyle, Chief Executive of Brentford FC Community Sports Trust, said:

"Our #BeeatHome campaign is all about families remaining active during this period and the delivery of the activity packs epitomizes everything we are trying to achieve. The equipment is supported by a range of session ideas – developed by our experienced coaches. Brentford Towers was the first location and we are expanding this initiative across a number of local community venues. We would like to thank Hounslow Council, The Premier League Charitable Trust and EcoWorld for their support of this initiative."

Prior to the government lockdown, the Trust was delivering weekly sports sessions to more than 500 children and young people across seven estates in Hounslow. With many local families struggling with the impact of the lockdown, the activity packs, which include a foam football and physical activity resources, were designed to provide much-needed respite to children across the borough.

Cllr Lily Bath, Cabinet Member for Housing Services at Hounslow Council said:

"The council is delighted to support this excellent initiative at Brentford Towers. We have a long-standing relationship with Brentford FC Community Sports Trust and it has delivered a number of activities on our estates through HRA funding all of which have been a great success, and we have no doubt this one will be too. Part of our involvement will be to provide funding for basic workout equipment such as resistant bands and hand them out on the estates when it is completely safe to do so. Finally, I would like to personally thank the BFC Community Trust for all the great work that they do in the community particularly during these difficult times."

The initiative is part of the Trust's wider #BeeatHome campaign in partnership with EcoWorld. Over the past two months, Brentford FC's award-winning charity migrated all its front-line community activity online – supporting children and young people through a variety of engaging online content.

To register for an activity pack and to find out when the next activity drop is happening in your area, please email the Trust at ce@brentfordfcst.com



**Community
Sports Trust**

Umbro becomes the Official Technical Kit Partner to England Rugby this September

England Rugby and Umbro have today announced a new four-year partnership. The English sports brand will be the Official Technical Kit Partner from 1st September 2020, when the iconic double-diamond of Umbro will be worn by the England Men's teams, Red Roses, Sevens and age grade teams.

Umbro will provide the team's match kit, training wear and off-field kit as well as offering fans a full range of supporter wear including men's, women's and children's ranges from 1st September 2020. Umbro join England Rugby next season with nearly a hundred years of experience in the development of performance products that have been tried and tested at elite level, across sports.

Renowned for its pedigree supporting professional teams, Umbro has a heritage in rugby union; having previously supported each of the home nations, multiple clubs and the only British & Irish Lions team to win a series in New Zealand, in 1971.

The brand's extensive experience across sports and its pioneering approach to developing kit and rigorous testing has ensured Umbro is ready for rugby.

Anthony Little, Managing Director, Umbro, commented: "The partnership between Umbro and England Rugby from September is a seminal chapter in our history. The first time the England rugby team runs out onto the pitch, wearing the double-diamond logo, will be a proud moment for us, as an English brand."

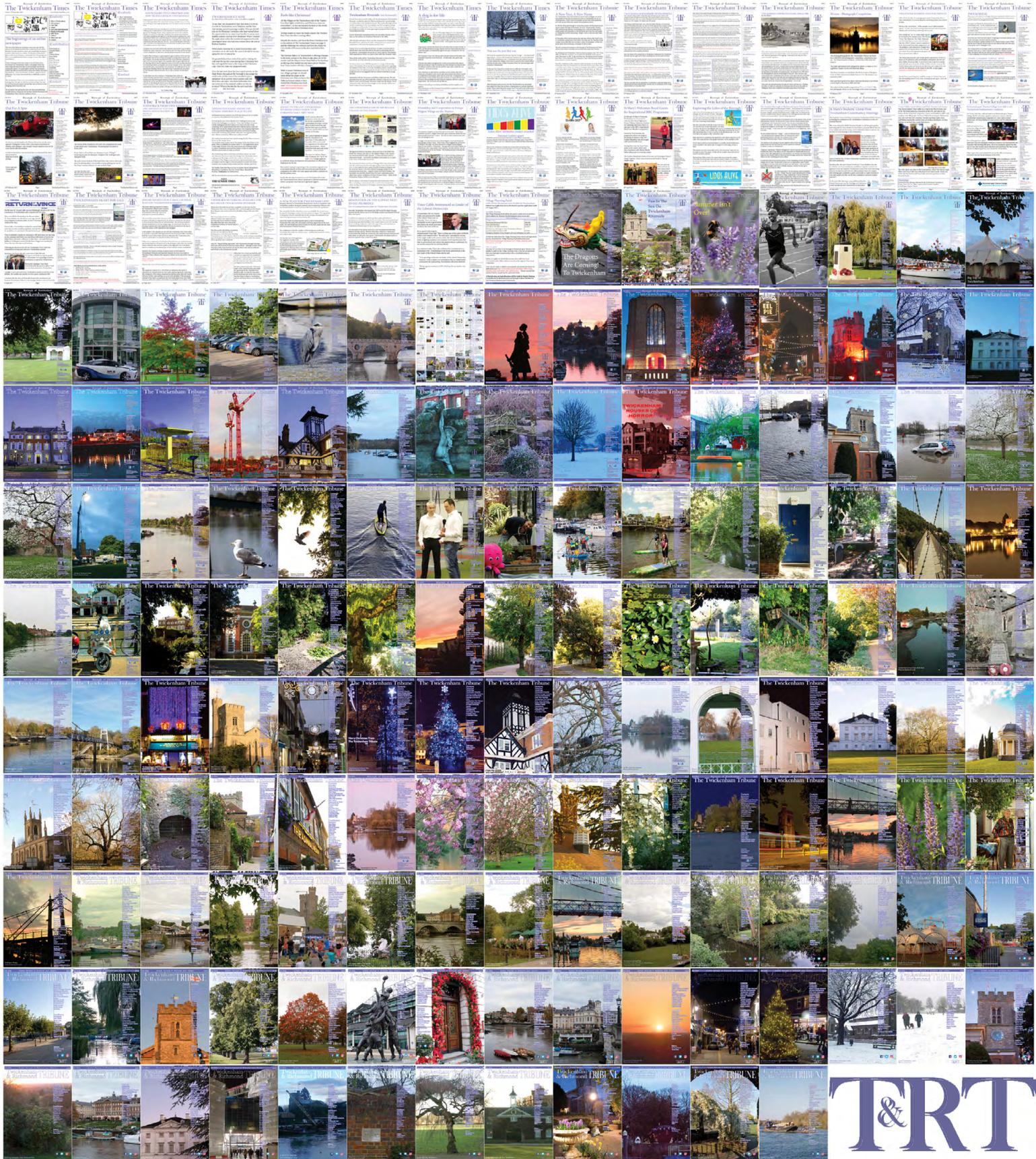
"Modern rugby is demanding but our approach at Umbro has always been to make sure our kits are fit for purpose and we have been working tirelessly to ensure that we meet those demands and deliver a kit that will perform for England Rugby."

"Simon Massie-Taylor, Chief Commercial Officer, England Rugby commented on the partnership: "We are delighted to be entering this new chapter with Umbro as Official Technical Kit Partner from September and welcome them into the England Rugby family. Umbro has a rich heritage supporting English sports and share our values in dedication to high performance and innovation. We look forward to unveiling the new kit later this year."



RFU

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