

Twickenham & Richmond **TRIBUNE**

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12th June 2020

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Discover over 30 secret gardens in Barnes

Once every two years, owners of beautiful gardens in Barnes open their secret spaces for everyone to enjoy whilst raising money for local charity FiSH. This year, people can explore the gardens virtually.

Visit [FiSH Open Gardens](#) to see videos, photo galleries and stories of magical gardens ranging from small, walled and courtyard gardens, to woodland gardens with colourful foliage.

Council supports campaign to ban night flights at Heathrow during the pandemic

With the number of flights leaving Heathrow Airport during the pandemic greatly reduced, Richmond Council is supporting a campaign to encourage the airport to introduce a complete moratorium on night flights. The campaign urges the Government to stop flights between 11pm and 7am during the pandemic. View the petition [HERE](#)

Compete for the Borough this London Youth Games 2020! 8th June - 4th July

Over a period of four weeks, a number of sport related challenges will be set that can be done at home, at school or while out on your daily exercise. The challenges will go live every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9.00am on the [London Youth Games website](#) and on its social media channels. Participants will then have until Friday at midday to complete the challenges and submit their scores via the website.

Be aware of pesky toxic moths this summer

Residents out and about enjoying borough parks and open spaces this summer are reminded to be on the lookout for the Oak Processionary Moth – a pest that can pose serious health risks for those who come into contact. Find out more or make a report about [Oak Processionary Moths](#) sightings and how to treat a private infestation.

[Visit the News page for more stories](#)

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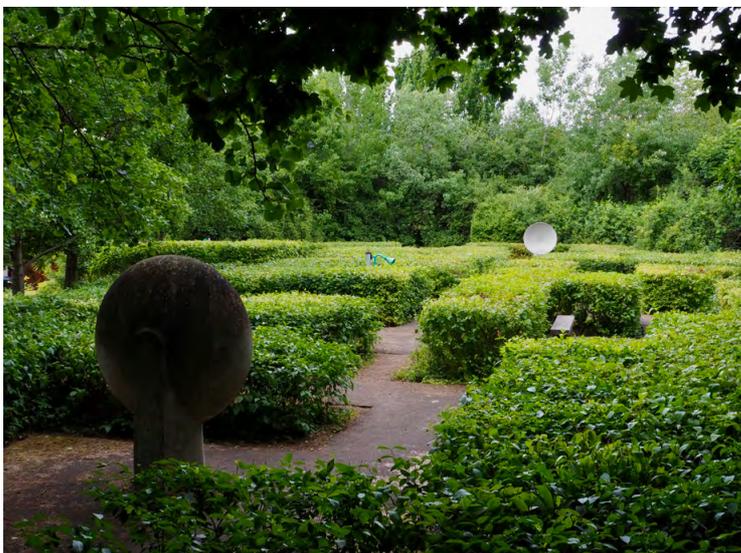
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Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

‘Kew Sound Mirrors’

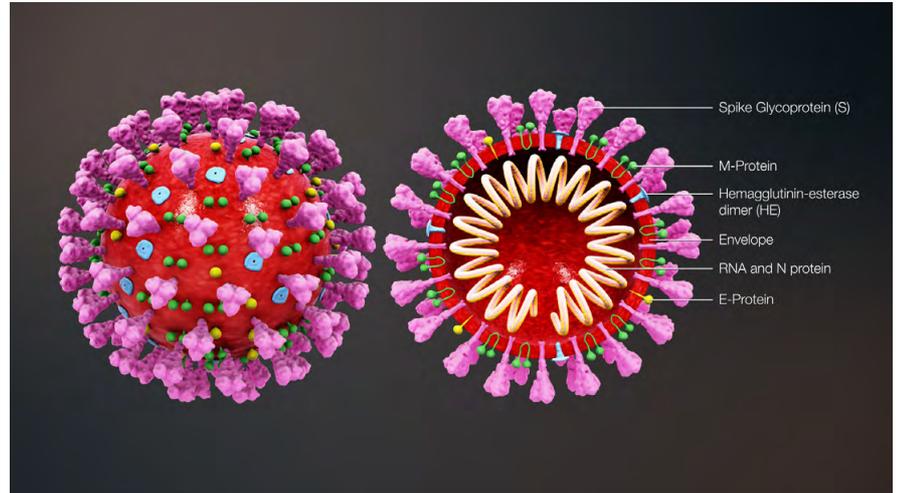
Located within the Kew Riverside development is a delightful small park of well kept pruned hedgerow, but at either end is positioned a concrete structure known as a ‘sound mirror’. Based on a parabolic design which allows sound to focus at a precise point, a conversation can be magically made over 20m apart. Such mirrors with diameters of 30ft or so were the forerunner to radar. Built on the south and north east coast In the 1920’s they provided invaluable early warning of incoming enemy aircraft.



Was COVID-19 Circulating in the Wuhan Area Much Earlier Than Reported?

By Teresa Read

It is reported that the Chinese government has refuted conclusions emanating from a study by Harvard Medical School, and circulating in the media, that there was increased use of hospital car parks in the Wuhan area last summer and an increase in internet searches from Wuhan for “coughing”; leading to speculation that COVID-19 may have been at large much earlier than the rest of the world has been led to believe.



3D medical animation still shot showing 2019 novel Coronavirus Structure
Image courtesy of [Scientific Animations](#)

The Tribune follows the trail of a virus which is affecting all our lives:

In March, Hong Kong’s South China Morning Post reported that the first case of COVID-19 could be traced back to 17 November 2019.

On 9 April this year ABC News reported that the US was warned of the COVID-19 crisis in November.

The Harvard Medical School Analysis of data in the Wuhan area concluded that COVID-19 was active in China earlier than previously thought – “late summer or early Fall.”

[Harvard Library: Analysis of hospital traffic and search engine data in Wuhan China indicates early disease activity in the Fall of 2019](#)

Local Statistics

The In Your Area website gave the following statistics for COVID-19 on Friday 12 June: 416 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 530 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 757 in Hounslow. 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 12 June 2020 gave the following details for countries with high death rates: 112,810 in the USA, 41,279 in the UK, 39,680 in Brazil, 34,167 in Italy, 29,284 in France, 27,136 in Spain, 15,357 in Mexico, 9,636 in Belgium, 8,763 in Germany, 8,584 in Iran, 8,498 in India, 7,960 in Canada, 6,715 in the Russian Federation, 6,044 in the Netherlands, 5,903 in Peru, 4,814 in Sweden, 4,763 in Turkey, 4,645 in China, and a total of 418,294 deaths worldwide.

This week the council was very quick to announce its wholehearted support for the review and removal of historic statues, street names etc. The problem is that you can leap in too quickly (qv.) and great care needs

to be taken on how far to go, how to go about it and how to ensure there are not unintended consequences.

TwickerDuck overheard a conversation by, he presumed, some council officers returning from a seminar on Iconoclasm and was somewhat alarmed at some of the measures being considered.

It seems that King Street has been deemed as too authoritarian, patriarchal, colonialist and monarchist. The council is apparently considering renaming it Community Conversation Boulevard, but a competition and public consultation will take place to choose the new name (although the results will be ignored and the council will make its own choice as usual).

Concerns have been raised about York House. As everyone knows York is derived from Jórvík (Danish York) and its association with the pillaging and marauding Norsemen (let alone the founding Romans) has made many uncomfortable. There is much disagreement on a suitable new name and an early suggestion of Titania McGrath Towers was quickly rejected.

There are not many statues in our borough (Spain has been muttering about the statue of Bernardo O'Higgins), but TwickerSeal was keen to protect the famed Naked Ladies in York House Gardens and took pre-emptive action to ensure that the statues would not cause any offence.



PART 183. WHITE LODGE IN RICHMOND PARK. ROYALTY, BANKRUPTCY AND BALLET

290 years ago a grand house was built in what is now the Borough of Richmond upon Thames. If this house could talk it would no doubt become a source for many films, novels and newspaper headlines. Here is the story.

White Lodge is a Grade I listed Georgian house situated in Richmond Park. Formerly a royal residence, it now houses the Royal Ballet School, instructing students aged 11–16. Our first postcard shows the frontage of the lodge and was posted in 1924.

The house was built as a hunting lodge for George II, by the architect Roger Morris, and construction began shortly after his accession to the throne in 1727. Completed in 1730 and

originally called Stone Lodge, the house was renamed New Lodge shortly afterwards to distinguish itself from nearby Old Lodge, which was demolished in 1841.



Caroline of Ansbach, wife of George II, stayed at the new lodge frequently and, on her death in 1737, White Lodge passed to her friend Sir Robert Walpole, the prime minister. After his death, it passed to Queen Caroline's daughter, Princess Amelia, in 1751. Amelia also became the ranger of Richmond Park and closed the entire park to the public, except to distinguished friends and those with permits, sparking public outrage. In 1758, a court case made by a local brewer against a park gatekeeper eventually overturned Princess Amelia's order, and the park was once again opened to the public. Amelia is remembered for adding the two white wings to the main lodge, which remain to this day.

The prime minister, John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, became ranger of Richmond Park after Princess Amelia's resignation in 1760. Although White Lodge remained Lord Bute's official address, he was also entitled to the use of White Lodge's neighbour, Old Lodge.

It was during the Bute-Meadows period that the name White Lodge first appeared, in the journal of Lady Mary Coke. In her entry for Sunday 24 July 1768 she says that she went to Richmond Park hoping to catch a glimpse of King George III and Queen Charlotte, "tho' they are always at the White Lodge on a Sunday".

After restoration of the house following disrepair at the close of the 18th century, George III gave the house to another prime minister, Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth, who enclosed the lodge's first private gardens in 1805. The King (affectionately called Farmer George for his enthusiasm for farming and gardening) made himself ranger, and Lord Sidmouth was made deputy ranger. On 10 September 1805, six weeks before the Battle of Trafalgar, Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, visited Lord Sidmouth at White Lodge and is said to have explained his battle plan to him there.

After Viscount Sidmouth died in 1844, Queen Victoria gave the house to her aunt – the last surviving daughter of George III – Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester and Edinburgh. After her death in 1857, Prince Albert decided on White Lodge as a suitable secluded location for his son the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII of the United Kingdom, during his minority and education.

Queen Victoria's and Prince Albert made frequent visits to White Lodge when the future Edward VII was living there.

Although the Prince of Wales favoured stimulating company to hard study, Prince Albert kept him here in seclusion, with only five companions, two of whom were tutors, the Reverend Charles Feral Tarver, his Latin tutor and chaplain and Frederick Waymouth Gibbs. Understandably, the Prince of Wales found the few years at White Lodge boring.

After the Prince of Wales was sent to Ireland to continue his training, Queen Victoria, desperately grieving the death of her mother, the Duchess of Kent, came to White Lodge with Prince Albert in the early months of 1861. This was only the first of two deaths in her family that year. On 14 December, Prince Albert died of typhoid fever. The Queen was devastated, and never came out of mourning during the remaining 40 years of her life.

The next occupants of the Lodge were Prince Francis, Duke of Teck and his wife, the former Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge, who were given use of the house by the mourning Queen Victoria in 1869. Princess Mary Adelaide, a granddaughter of George III and therefore first cousin to the queen, was famous for her extravagance. Requests for a higher income from the Queen were unsuccessful. Debts increased, and the family fled abroad during the 1880s to escape their creditors.

In 1891, the aged Queen, anxious to find a bride for her grandson, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, settled on Princess Mary Adelaide's daughter, Victoria Mary. Following Prince Albert Victor's death a few months before the marriage in 1892, Victoria Mary married his brother, Prince George, Duke of York, the future George V in 1893. In 1894, the Duchess of York gave birth to her first child, the future Edward VIII, at White Lodge. Queen Victoria visited the Lodge to see the Prince shortly afterwards. He was baptised Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David in the Green Drawing Room of White Lodge on 16 July 1894 by Edward White Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Three years later, the Duchess of Teck died, followed by the Duke of Teck in 1900. Our second image shows the Duke on a postcard published by Beagles in a series of Royal personages issued shortly after his death.

After Queen Victoria's death in 1901, the Lodge was occupied by Eliza Emma Hartmann, a wealthy widow prominent in London society who was declared bankrupt in 1909. The house returned to royal use in 1923, during the honeymoon of Prince Albert, Duke of York, the future George VI, and the Duchess of York. Queen Mary, who had lived at White Lodge with her mother, Princess Mary Adelaide, insisted that they make their home at the Lodge. In 1924, Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, son of the Yorks' friends Prince Paul of Yugoslavia and Princess Olga of Greece and Denmark, was born at the house during the stay of his mother



there. The duke and the duchess remained in the house until late in 1925 after which the building was leased out by the Crown Estate.

From then on, the house was occupied by various private residents including, from 1927, Arthur Lee, 1st Viscount Lee of Fareham. The last private resident was Colonel James Veitch, who lived at White Lodge until 1954.

In 1955, the Sadler's Wells Ballet School was granted the use of White Lodge on a permanent basis. The school was later granted a Royal Charter and became the Royal Ballet School in 1956. It is now recognised as one of the leading ballet schools in the world.

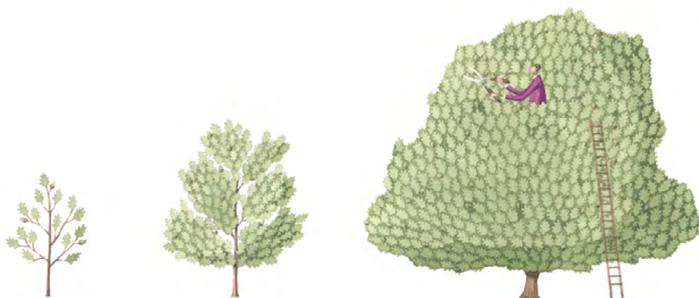
Classical ballet is the principal dance discipline taught at the school. It is the means by which students are prepared for a career with the world's top dance companies.

This seems a good time to look at our third photograph which shows a c1957 view of the students outside the front of the building photograph of a ballet class hard at work. (Courtesy Royal Ballet School museum).



That pretty much brings us up to date. No wonder this area is called the Royal Borough. There were also palaces at Richmond Green as well as Kew Gardens and Hampton Court. In the last 50 years we have had more than our fair share of rock royalty living in this borough. We'll leave that for a future column.

With many of us spending more time at 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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RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 12, 12th June 2020

THE LIVES OF OTHERS

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 LIVES OF OTHERS** was 620th film screened by RFS on 16th October 2007. **The Lives Of Others** was the top ranked film of Season 45, it got an approval mark of 96% from those attending.

The Lives Of Others can be streamed from Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS (Das Leben der Anderen)

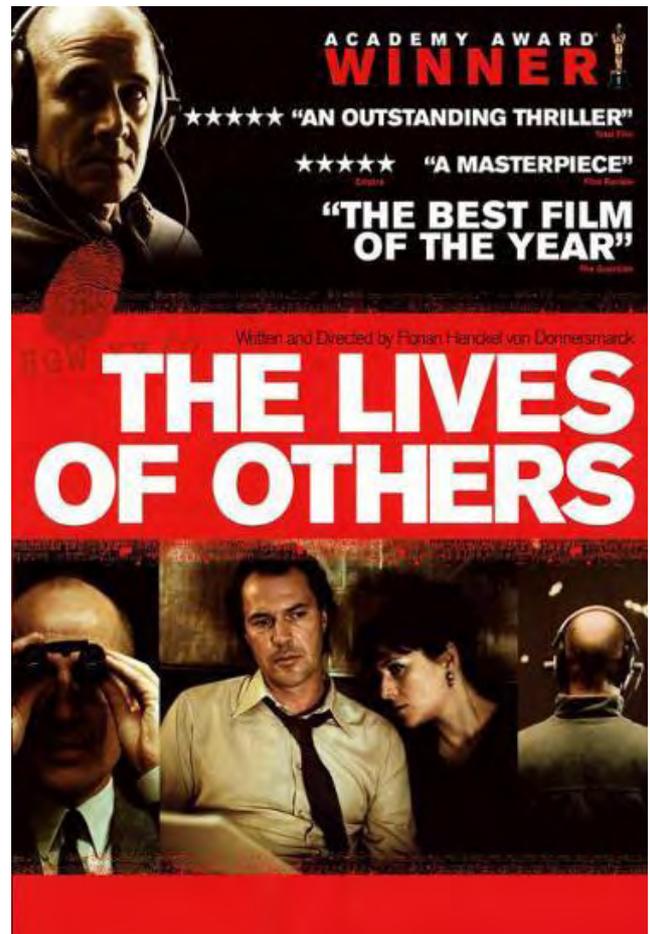
Country: Germany, 2006
Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
Screenplay: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
Language: German
Editor: Patricia Rommel
Music: Stéphane Moucha & Gabriel Yared
Cinematography: Hagen Bogdanski
Running Time: 137 min., colour

Leading Players:

Martina Gedeck	(Christa-Maria Sieland)
Ulrich Mühe	(Hauptmann Gerd Wiesler)
Sebastian Koch	(Georg Dreyman)
Ulrich Tukur	(Oberstleutnant Anton Grubitz)
Thomas Thieme	(Minister Bruno Hempf)
Hans-Uwe Bauer	(Paul Hauser)

Like the communist witch hunts that spooked Americans in the 50s, the Stasi haunts East Germany in the 80s.

They are grey men lurking in the shadows (175,000 active informers employed out of a 17 million population), noting every movement of suspected rebels - stopping just short of the bowel-related variety. Ulrich Mühe plays one of these GDR agents, the aptly



named Wiesler in Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's big screen debut *The Lives Of Others*. It offers a rare and fascinating snapshot of life behind The Berlin Wall. Wiesler's latest mark is celebrated playwright Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch of *Black Book* fame), but initially the operation seems futile. From his dingy lair across the street, Wiesler listens to Dreyman and his actress girlfriend Christa-Maria (Martina Gedeck) either idly chatting or engaging in what's amusingly reported as "various acts of intimacy." However, after the suicide of a blacklisted director chum, Dreyman is moved to write a diatribe against the State.

By this time, it isn't the opposition of the two men but their odd kinship that creates intrigue. An unwitting Dreyman is nudged towards revolt by Wiesler's covert interferences, as both try to protect Christa-Maria from the lascivious clutches of a government minister (Thomas Thieme). Wiesler's gradual transition from loyal drone to actual human being is where the film is most powerful. The love story between Dreyman and Christa-Maria doesn't pull the heartstrings with quite the same force. Tension also slackens in the final stages, as Von Donnersmarck scrabbles around for the perfect ending. He gets there in the end, and even when the pace lags slightly, you just cannot help but watch...

After BBCi



Death of cygnet

Wednesday afternoon (10th June) saw the death of the cygnet, violently kicked by an unknown male jogger in Richmond Park.

The Swan Sanctuary said “Firstly we’d like to thank everyone who sent well wishes for this tiny little guy.

Despite our staff working with him around the clock his injuries were just too great for him to over come and he passed away this afternoon.”

Police call for witnesses after jogger kicks cygnet in Richmond Park

Police are appealing for witnesses to a shocking incident Injured Cygnet that happened in Richmond Park on Monday evening (8th June). Royal Parks Police said “A jogger kicked a new born Cygnet out of his way instead of going around”. The badly injured cygnet is being cared for by The Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton, who said the cygnet had made it through the night, but still had a long way to go.

The incident happened at approximately 5.30pm on Monday 8th June at Pen Ponds in Richmond Park.

Appealing for witnesses the police said “**The suspect is a white male, about 60 years old, 5ft6, grey hair, wearing black running shorts and vest.**”



Did you witness this inexcusable act?

Anyone with information is asked to contact The Royal Parks Police on 07920 586546 and quote ref 0705738/20.

The Anniversary of The Falklands War

This Sunday is the anniversary of the end of the Falklands War which saw a ten-week battle in 1982 to defend the British Overseas Territory of the Falkland Islands from invasion by Argentina. The Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands began on 2nd April with the war ending on 14 June.

At the time I was on the island of Hvar in Yugoslavia and on 2nd May watched reports of the sinking of the Belgrano on the hotel television, along with other guests.

During this time there were also fears by the UK government, led by Margaret Thatcher, for the safety of the UK Overseas Territory of Gibraltar.

An article from The Sunday Times, reprinted in Gibraltar's Panorama newspaper, reported that an Argentine underwater sabotage team tried to make its way to Gibraltar via Spain. The plan was to blow up ammunition and fuel supplies - and sink any British warships in the harbour - destined for use by British troops. However, the team was intercepted in Spain and sent back to Argentina.

On return to the UK I spent some time in Northumberland, near Bamburgh, where I met a family with two young children from the Falkland Islands who were staying near RAF Boulmer for the duration of the war. They were pleased to be safe, but couldn't wait to return.



Goose Green



Ross Road



Asado Barbecue



Albatross with chick



Magellanic Trip



Seal and Tussac Plant

<http://www.worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=FalklandIslands>

The Falkland Islands: A personal connection

By Berkley Driscoll

As editor of this paper I am occasionally allowed to indulge myself with a story of my own. This Sunday (14th June) sees the anniversary of the end of the Falklands war, 2nd April-14th June 1982. I would like to introduce my ancestor Rear Admiral Thomas Edward Laws Moore. RN, who served as Governor of the Falkland Islands 1855-1862. He was the first governor to reside at Government House.

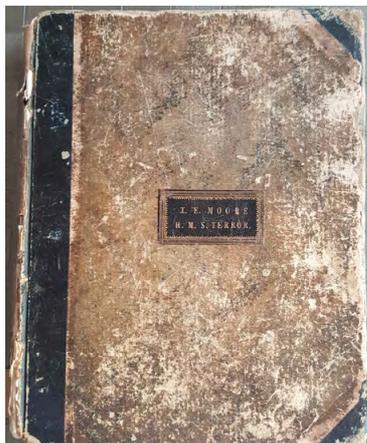
However, Moore is most notable as a polar explorer. Moore entered the Navy on 19 Oct. 1832. He served on HMS Terror during Captain James Clark Ross' Antarctic expedition 1839-1843. HMS Terror was commanded by Captain Francis Crozier and HMS Erebus was commanded by Captain Ross; both unfortunate ships were to feature in Moore's later career. After this Moore was given command of HMS Pagoda, which sailed for the Antarctic from Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope on 9th January 1845; when Moore returned to Simons' Bay on 20th June 1845, he had sailed through more degrees of longitude south of 60°S than anyone before him. Moore then went to the James Bay area of Northern Canada to conduct magnetic surveys.

On 17th November 1847 Moore took command of HMS Plover and set out from Plymouth to the Bering Sea to follow Sir John Franklin's expedition, which had been sent in 1845 to explore the Northwest Passage. Instead of joining Franklin, Moore instead ended up leading one of the searches for Franklin, who had disappeared with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. By 1850 it had become clear that Franklin's expedition had been lost and Moore continued to follow rumoured sightings of survivors, but to no avail. (The wreck of HMS Erebus was discovered in 2014 and that of HMS Terror found in 2016.) Moore returned to Plymouth in 1852 after a five-year search for Franklin, having set records for the longest time a ship had spent in the Antarctic as well as the last ship to explore the Antarctic that was not steam powered. Moore was elected Fellow of the Royal Society on 1st June 1854 in recognition of his achievements. The following year he was appointed Governor of the Falkland Islands.

We still have many of Moore's belongings, including the Arctic Medal (shown in his portrait), his journals from HMS Terror and HMS Plover and sitting on my desk as I write this is a wooden box containing his cartographic instruments.



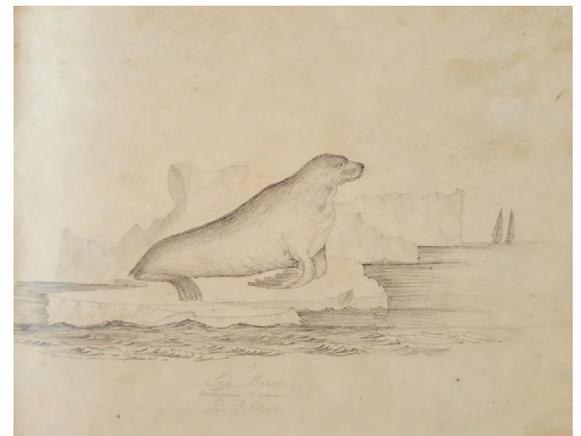
*Thomas Edward Laws Moore
by Stephen Pearce
oil on canvas, 1860
© National Portrait Gallery*



*One of Moore's journals
from HMS Terror*



*A sketch from Moore's HMS Plover
journal*



A sketch from Moore's HMS Plover journal

Not a lot of people know this!

By Sue Hamilton-Miller

This week I want to tell you about George Lenox-Conyngham, who lived in Richmond House in 1855. He was Chief Clerk in the Foreign Office, having originally worked in its Slave Trade Department. This latter had been set up to eradicate the trafficking in human misery, something that the British Government was committed to, and would have had dealings with the Blair family that I talked about last week.

I have to admit that when I started to research George Lenox-Conyngham my initial thought was “Chief Clerk” - hmm, that sounds a bit boring! Instead I uncovered a series of tragedies in his life that really saddened me.

George was born in 1796 to George Lenox-Conyngham (1752-1816) and his second wife, Olivia Irvine. They lived in Springhill House in County Londonderry, now in the hands of the National Trust. In 1816 George Snr, our George’s father, who had been seriously depressed for several months, went into the Blue Room in Springhill House, sat on the bed and shot himself. Olivia, realising what he was about to do, had rushed to stop him but was at the bedroom door when she heard the shot. He lingered for a couple of days before dying, leaving Olivia to bring up five children on her own. Olivia’s ghost is still said to repeat the desperate dash to prevent her husband’s death and has been seen on several occasions standing at the door of the Blue Room, her hands raised in horror - she had been unable to save her husband.



Springhill House

George Lenox-Conyngham was educated at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He joined the Foreign Office in 1812, spent two years as Précis Writer to Viscount Castlereagh and made his way up through the ranks until being appointed Chief Clerk in 1841.

As Chief Clerk, mostly serving under Viscount Palmerston, he was responsible for the Foreign Office’s housekeeping, its routine expenditure and the salaries and allowances of diplomats and clerks on the establishment. At one stage he tried to ban smoking in the building, which wasn’t well received. He was told *“Half of the philosophy of life consists of when to shut one’s eyes and when to keep them, or one of them, open. We must deal gently with those who have had their long allowed enjoyment suddenly cut off and who show some temper at the prohibition. Do thee likewise”*. It is said that he was detested at work, and described as *“that one-legged and ill tempered Ulsterman”* but I can’t help feeling sorry for him as he had a lot to contend with.

In Edward Hertslet's "Recollections of the old Foreign Office" it is written:

"When a young man, Mr. Lenox Conyngham met with a severe gun accident. He had just got on to the outside of the Cambridge coach, at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing Cross, intending to go into the country for a day's shooting, when his gun, which had been loaded and was carelessly left resting against his leg, went off, and the charge entered the upper part of the thigh of his left leg. He was at once removed from off the coach into the hotel, where his leg was amputated near the hip joint. Some days later the surgeons discovered that it had not been cut off quite high enough, and Mr. Conyngham submitted, with wonderful courage, to having another slice taken off, and as this was before the days of anaesthetics, his sufferings must have been very great indeed, considering that he was a very tall, stout, and heavy man. He was very seldom seen with an artificial leg. When in the office, he used to walk, or rather hop, about with a crutch under his left arm and a walking stick in his right hand. When the weather was changeable and heavy rains were expected, his sufferings were intense, and I have seen him cry like a child with the pain. At such times he was obliged to take large doses of laudanum to alleviate the suffering, but as soon as the rain actually fell, the intense pain ceased."

George was a keen botanist and some of his correspondence can be seen in the Doneraile Papers in the National Library of Ireland. These include letters from Sir William Jackson Hooker (Director of Kew Gardens) concerning objects collected and exported by Foreign Office agents, as well as references to Dr Livingstone. Lenox-Conyngham was also an avid collector of sea shells from around the world, helped by his Foreign Office connections. The Doneraile Papers also show that he had a mistress, a German lady called Adelaide Theresa Nachtigall, with whom he had a child, but wasn't keeping up with his agreed annuity payments to her, leaving her in debt.

George married Elizabeth Emmet Holmes, the daughter of the barrister Robert Holmes. She was an Irish poet as well as a translator of poetry, apparently speaking French, German and Italian. Her many books, including "The Dream – and other poems" are still in print today. They had two children, a son also called George, nicknamed Gino, and a daughter, Mary Ann Grace Louisa.

George (Gino), their son, joined the diplomatic corps and seems to have been moved around nearly every year, having served in Florence, Vienna, Naples, the Hague, Greece, Berlin, Madrid and Rio de Janeiro. It appears that somewhere along the line he blotted his copybook as he is described as living under a cloud but I haven't been able to track down his misdeeds.

Their daughter Mary married Hayes St Leger, 4th Viscount Doneraile, who died tragically in 1887. Apparently he had a tame vixen he had raised from a cub and he used to take her with him when he went out in his carriage. One day when the coachman was lifting the fox into the carriage it bit them both. Although they were both wearing gloves at the time they went to Paris to seek out Louis Pasteur who was in the early stages of developing a rabies vaccine. He was away from Paris when they arrived and they had to wait a week before he returned and could treat them. Sadly the treatment was unsuccessful and Viscount Doneraile died in 1887. In the end it is said that he was smothered with pillows by the housemaids, both to spare him suffering and prevent him spreading the disease to others. They had three children but only one, a daughter, survived into adulthood.

George Lenox-Conyngham died on November 26, 1866, in London. His son Gino, died a month later, aged 32, in a Foreigners Hotel in Rio de Janeiro.



GEORGE LENOX-CONYNGHAM
Portrait Miniature
by Captain Robert Smith, 1817
©NTPL/Brenda Norrish



Mary Anne Grace Louisa (née Lenox-Conyngham), Viscountess Doneraile
by William Henry Mote, after Henry Weigall
stipple engraving, 1854
© National Portrait Gallery

Look Before You Leap

Teresa Read

On Friday evening a spokesperson from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames gave a story to a local media organisation asking Marble Hill House to let visitors know about the House's connections to slavery – in line with the latest concern about this trade in the history of mercantile countries around the world.

However, the spokesperson from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames should have done his homework as English Heritage, which manages Marble Hill House, had commissioned research on the slavery connections to their properties over a decade ago, including a 63-page report on Marble Hill.

“English Heritage has commissioned - and continues to pursue - research into the links between the Atlantic Slave Trade and its properties, including Marble Hill House, in an effort to help communicate this difficult history. English Heritage is committed to telling the full story of the sites in its care, including those elements that are painful today.”

“In 2007, to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the British transatlantic slave trade, English Heritage (now separately English Heritage and Historic England) commissioned research into the connections to slavery at English Heritage sites.”

“This report surveyed 33 properties that were built or occupied during the main period of the British transatlantic slave trade (c. 1640–1807). Twenty-six properties with some level of connection to slavery or abolition were identified.”

The slavery connections of Marble Hill House by Dr Laurence Brown, 2010 can be read here: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/research/the-slavery-connections-of-marble-hill-house.pdf>

How easy is presentism, i.e. to judge the past from present-day thought, i.e., to project the views of the present onto the past instead of considering how historical figures viewed the world?

It has taken centuries for us to evolve and with that evolution the world has changed, more so in recent times, with instant communication which our ancestors would not have conceived.

And today, many of us are just starting to learn who we are through advances in modern technology.

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

CHEERS! IT'S NATIONAL BEER DAY

Grab a beer and celebrate on Monday suggests Doug Goodman



A Beer by the Thames



Twickenham Resident Nick at the Pub Show

Remember when we used to meet at our favourite pub for a drink with friends: how long ago was it? In the past three months, since pubs were told to close on March 20th, an estimated 70 million pints of beer have been poured away by the UK's 47,000 pubs. Such a tragedy! It seems as if we'll have to wait a few more weeks before pubs, even those with gardens, are allowed to resume business. However on Monday you can join beer lovers around the UK to celebrate National Beer Day when, at 7.00pm, we can

raise a glass and look forward to 'opening day'. Will drinkers queue all night to be the first to get their pint; will we have to book a time slot to stand at the bar? Who knows what the new rules will bring but one thing is certain – Twickenham has a lot of thirsty and expectant drinkers.



After Work Drink



Old London Pub

Beer Day is a celebration for everyone who appreciates and enjoys beer: from craft beers to traditional ales and from lagers to your local brewery's most exciting new brew. So visit the supermarket, local shops, order from the

Twickenham Brewery or head to the Brewery Market in Church Street for a take-away. The Sussex Arms is offering beer to go according to a report in The Times last week. Cheers and here's to a pint in your local in the near future.



Brewery Market

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

Marble Hill Park Gardens

Work is continuing in the gardens at Marble Hill and although the construction fencing is still up in order to give the gardens time to establish before opening the space to the public, it is still possible to view the gardens through the fencing. The plants are establishing very well and are enjoying the weeks of sunshine we have had (although this means they demand a lot of watering to keep them happy!).



To date we have planted 4,522 plants and 113 trees, the tree avenues running down from the House to the river are looking wonderful with rows of both black and white poplars and Indian Horse Chestnut. I have noticed people already using and appreciating the shade cast by these beautiful trees to rest in the shade or picnic under the trees. In these times of increasingly hot summers the shade of these trees will become more important to our visitors and also provide important food sources and habitats for our park wildlife inhabitants.

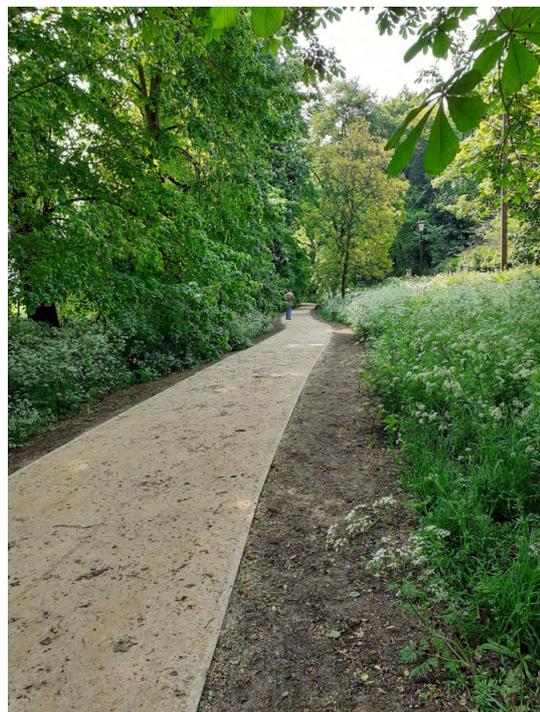
The woodland quarters are beginning to thrive and the meadow areas which cover half of these areas will soon start greening up and establishing. In the autumn we will be planting an orchard of old heritage fruit trees such as Greengages, Plums and Damsons which will be an exciting start to the next phase of the project.



The edges of the Parkland are being developed and appreciated by our visitors too and the path that runs alongside Orleans Road has had a make-over which makes the area much more accessible to

everyone including wheelchairs and prams throughout the year. The edges of the paths will be seeded with a wildflower meadow mix which will increase the types of wildflowers found in these areas.

The Park has remained open to the public throughout this difficult period and is the only English Heritage property to have done so because we appreciate how important it is to local people to have this beautiful green space to use and we are still making great progress on improving the Park not just for now but for future generations to enjoy.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Council supports London commission reviewing the diversity in our street names and statues

The Leader of Richmond Council has welcomed the Mayor of London's decision, following the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests, to commission a review of statues, plaques and street names across the capital to ensure they 'suitably reflect London's achievements and diversity'.

The Commission will review the many statues, plaques and street names across London and, working with arts, community, historical and council leaders, will agree what legacies should be celebrated, and make a series of recommendations aimed at establishing best practice and standards.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, said:

"The killing of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter demonstrations have brought into sharp focus the horrific effects of racist attitudes towards people from ethnic minority backgrounds. And those events have forced us to confront the stark reality of those apparently innocuous names which shape our environment; the names of streets and buildings to which, until very recently we didn't give a second's thought"

"It is an uncomfortable and shaming truth that large parts of this country's current and historic wealth is founded in the horrors of the slave trade and while other towns and cities have a far greater connection with that disgusting trade, here in Richmond we also bear the stain.

"It is true that in the borough we have no statues glorifying those involved in slavery but we do have a small number of buildings and roads named after those involved in this horrific industry.

"I am therefore pleased that Mr Khan's commission is going to look at what should be done about these historical dedications. I will make sure I am personally involved in the considerations for any proposals relating to Richmond upon Thames. And we will work closely with the community to take such action as is needed and recommended by the Commission"

York House was illuminated purple on Tuesday 2 June to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement.





“Farewell, Farewell for what it’s worth
From the final Hedgehog left on earth”
[The Last Hedgehog](#)

Pam Ayres’ beautiful, sad, funny and educational poem reminds us that it is up to us whether these endangered creatures become extinct. Enchanting Illustrations in this book are by Alice Tait.

“The poem sees our hero tell of all the terrible ends his family come to at our own hands – and exactly what we can still do to keep them alive, and see them thrive once more.”

Our long-term hedgehog family visitors still grace us with their presence and this little one posed for awhile after a drink from our shallow water trays this week.

The [Hedgehog Street site](#) has more information on our spiky friends such as frequently asked question like, “When do they Mature?”

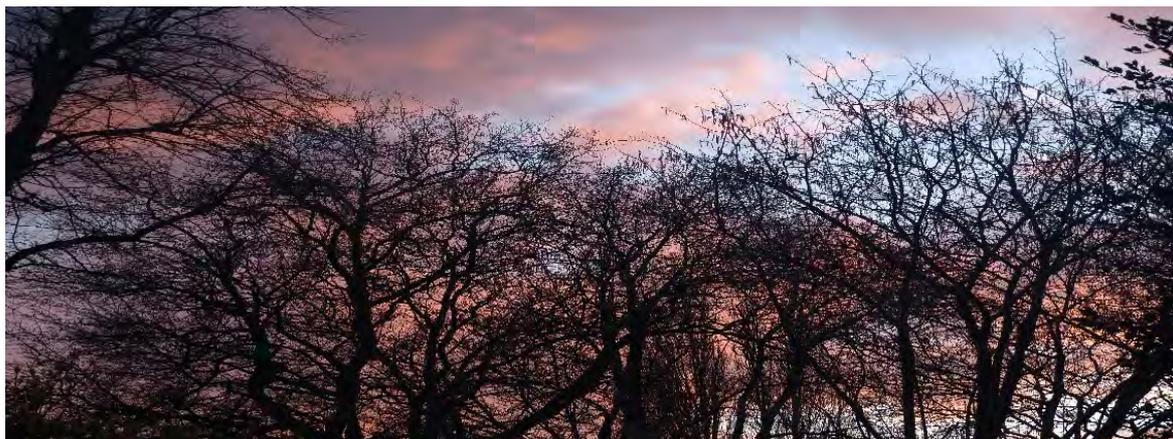
*“Hedgehogs reach sexual maturity in their second year of life, and after this can breed every year until death. They reproduce between April and September, but the period of greatest activity, ‘the rut’, occurs in **May and June in Britain.**”*

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and if you see one in the day it may be in trouble. Avoid handling them unless you know what you are doing and **telephone 01584 890801** for advice if you are concerned.



Five go on an adventure in the [River Sanctuary](#)
“You can’t stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes”

Winnie the Pooh



Dear Editor

Kneller Gardens Path

Last year a disabled friendly path was installed along the river in Kneller Gardens. An excellent initiative. However, the pathway is now breaking up with small rubberised pieces now spreading out across the path and into the river. I am sure that the pieces from the path must be harmful to fish and wildfowl as well as polluting the river more generally.

Hopefully, you kind folk at the Twickenham Tribune will know the right people at the council to alert them to this problem.

Keep up the good work. The Tribune is a great read.

Regards

Dave Rutter, Twickenham

The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune contacted the council as well as local ward councillor Piers Allen, who were all quick to follow up on the issue raised by Mr Rutter.

The Park Services Manager provided the following response:

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately we are aware of this situation and the contractor who carried out the work has been instructed to relay the path as the resin used was not suitable and has not held or bound the product. I have asked that Continental sweep the verges in the meantime to address the loose topping.

Dear Alan

Cunard

I was interested to learn from the Postcard Page by Alan Winter in [Edition 187](#) that Cunard owned Marble Hill House for a short time at the turn of the twentieth century.

Cunard is a household name in my family and thought I would share some photographs of interest including the dragon (from Cunard liner RMS Caronia) which protects my house.

Kind regards,
Teresa Read
Strawberry Hill



Council to waste less time with new 'smart bins'

Richmond Council is trialling smart bin technology to help keep the borough's streets clean. Since lockdown measures were relaxed, thousands of people have been flocking to the borough's parks and open spaces. Unfortunately, many have left items behind including takeaway containers, BBQ leftovers, and cans and bottles that could have been recycled.

The Council has increased the number of litter pickers and bin collections and reminds residents and visitors that leaving waste and recycling behind is irresponsible. Not only is litter unsightly and damaging to the local environment, but it also is a health risk to Council staff – leaving them potentially exposed to COVID-19.

Bins at nine locations across Richmond upon Thames have been replaced with solar powered bins, fitted with a sensor that alerts the Council's waste team, in real time, when the bins are full. This means collection teams can focus on those that need emptying.



The new bins make use of the 'Internet of Things' technology, increasingly used to connect everyday objects to the internet and help cities to provide better and more efficient public services.

The bins have been installed on the Council's behalf by PEL UK, who supply councils with waste reduction equipment, at the following locations,

- Cambridge Gardens Towpath, Twickenham (1 x litter bin)
- On corner by slipway / Richmond Bridge (1 x litter bin)
- On towpath outside Cambridge Gardens park (1 x litter bin)
- Cambridge Park footpath / towpath, Twickenham (1 x litter bin)
- Cholmondeley Walk / towpath, Richmond (2 x litter bins)
- Ducks Walk / Park House Gardens, Twickenham (1 x litter bin)
- Outside Teddington School, Broom Road, Teddington (2 x litter bins)

If the 12-month pilot project is successful, it will help ensure Richmond's bins are emptied more efficiently.

CLLr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment and Richmond Council Smart Bins Sustainability Committee, said:

"We are continually looking at ways to improve our services; this initiative is very welcome and I hope it will help us to keep Richmond clean and tidy.

"Monitoring levels in our on-street bins, in real time, will help us to reduce litter and create an environment where residents are proud to live. Our teams will be able to make better informed choices and empty these smart bins based on fill level, traffic conditions and other relevant criteria, reducing unnecessary travel time related to waste collection around the borough.

"However, whilst we are doing our bit, we need everyone else to do theirs. There is no justification for leaving waste and recycling behind. If a public bin is already overflowing, do the right thing, take your items away with you and dispose of them properly in your household waste and recycling or on-street local recycling sites."

READY STEADY GO! News from the travel desk this week

By Bruce Lyons

After some 3 months of cancelling & delaying our current bookings we have just about sorted them out - I hope!!!

From our perspective the early Summer does look a little daunting, nobody wants to go on holiday overseas with the prospect of quarantining either before they leave or when they come back, and at present not only is our Government requiring conditions, if it is a villa holiday the owners are having to comply with local conditions too, to which they need to subject the holidaymakers, so it is hardly surprising that new bookings are more for later on, maybe August, even the very end of July!



Slowly, really slowly, it looks like there will be a late booking season in the Med and if anyone fancies taking a punt Villas are on sale , excellent prices for top quality with excellent get out clauses if the FO still has embargoes on travel, flights can also be booked , but the conditions are less favourable if you had to cancel, but the way things are going my hunch is things will be pretty sorted by then (late July) I reckon the odds are safer for this than picking the winner of the Grand National, which I never get right anyway.

However, the better news is that now our industry has got the chaos from the COVID Pandemic under control It is turning its attention to enticing travellers back with mouth-watering offers at good value prices. At the top end of the cruise market Seabourn are offering free cabin upgrades as well as cabin spends , Cruise & Maritime are still offering their Winter Round the World Cruise on a book 2 pay for 1 (BOGOF - Buy one get one free) . One of our favourite operators , Caribtours Have just launched a new promotion with up to 35% savings at East Winds, St Lucia, for departures between 1st September , 2020 and 31st January or a complimentary upgrade to half board at Calabash Grenada, a wonderful hotel on Grand Anse Beach (1st May thru 31st October 2021) For Europe they are offering 20% discounts @ Grand Duque , Tenerife (July thru October) and similar offers @ Pinecliff ,Algarve. They also have family offers in the Caribbean @ Crystal Cove.

The other news is that Hurtigruten, the famous Norwegian Shipping line famous for its Norwegian Coastal Voyages is starting sailing from June 2021 with Dover departures and next week we will see Royal Caribbean's new UK departures for 2021.

So it is not all Doom and Gloom - dust off your suitcase and start dreaming.

P.S. Did you know that our little Church Street is going Pedestrian in the interests of Social Distancing from 22nd June (a trial for 4 months)

Businesses and Council agree 'Space to Shop' scheme for Church Street

Church Street in Twickenham will become the borough's first 'Space to Shop' scheme from Monday 22 June 2020, where pedestrianisation of the road will allow for residents and visitors to maintain social distancing, while still enjoying the retail and hospitality offerings of one of Twickenham's landmark locations.

As part of the Council's Post-COVID Transport Action Plan, a series of rapid temporary measures are being installed on some of the borough's roads, outside local schools and in key shopping areas around the borough.

As part of these emerging measures, from Monday 22 June 2020, the Council will make changes that ensure Church Street, between King Street and Church Lane is only open to pedestrians. The restrictions of vehicle movements will apply every day, between 10am and Midnight.

The additional pedestrian space made available through Church Street these changes, will help facilitate 2-metre social distancing requirements for visitors and provides important space to allow for potential business activity in the areas immediately outside various business premises.



Deliveries for local businesses can still continue up to 10am each day. The eight short stay parking spaces on Church Street will be temporarily converted to loading bays to facilitate deliveries and these will operate midnight to 10am every day.

Over the next few weeks and months, further plans around other high streets will be announced.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee, said:

"I am delighted that we've been able to work together with the fabulous local businesses on our iconic, Church Street in Twickenham. I know what a difference it will make to our residents, knowing that when they come to visit they'll have the Space to Shop.

From Monday 22 June, visitors can come and enjoy what this welcoming street has to offer and do so with the comfort of being able to socially distance. We understand that this change has the support of the majority of businesses in Church Street."

Bruce Lyons from the Church Street Traders Association, added:

"If COVID-19 gives us nothing but the opportunity to trial pedestrianisation it is perhaps an unexpected dividend. What do they say? 'Every Cloud has a silver lining'. At least social distancing will be possible and perhaps, hopefully, the Community will still be able to enjoy the 'welcome' the traders so enthusiastically provide. Pedestrianisation has often been proposed overtime and out of necessity our little street may be the better for it."

Richmond Council is considering a range of further measures across the borough, including cycling lanes, extending pavements to ensure social distancing, pavement one-way systems etc.

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

Bushy Park Gates Closing Overnight

Bushy Park is an important refuge for nature and is home to over 300 wild deer. It is important to stress it is not a place for late night parties.

Recently, the police and the park teams have witnessed or been informed of, late night anti-social behaviour on the cricket ground at Hampton Hill. In response the police have asked that we close the seven surrounding gates at 9.30pm as a short-term measure from the 12 June.

After listening to feedback, we will now reopen the gates each morning from 5.30am (with all gates open by 6am), not 7.15am as previously stated.

Park management and the police are dealing with this as a two-pronged approach. The gate closures are there to deter people from entering the problem areas late at night. Secondly the police will be increasing their presence at night and will complete the physical closing of the gates themselves at 9.30pm so they can deal with any anti-social behaviour on the spot. The closed gates from 9:30pm to 6am will be:

- Dukes Head Passage
- Hampton Hill Gate
- Hampton Hill New Gate
- Laurel Road Gate
- Blandford Gate
- Coleshill Road Gate
- Clapperstile Gate

Each of these can be viewed on our updated park map



We fully appreciate the potential impact on early commuters and will closely monitor this and react accordingly. Please be assured that this is not a decision we have taken lightly, and we look forward to returning to normal operations immediately once this issue has been resolved.



TIME TO GET CREATIVE WITH THOSE VEGGIES!

This time of the year is my favourite as far as cooking is concerned. Our home-grown British Asparagus is in abundance - just so fabulous and easy to cook. We've been spoiling ourselves lately, as it's so plentiful. Try just grilling it on a griddle pan – it makes a speedy and delicious change from steaming it and the grilling adds a further dimension to the flavour. I tend to use the 'snap' method to remove the woody part of the stem – and we always use our fingers to eat it – there is something rather decadent about that.

Asparagus is packed full of goodness: eating it promotes healthy bacteria in the large intestine and can help reduce bloating; it contains vitamin K which is essential for healthy blood clotting, it's a source of vitamin C (boosting that immune system) and is a mild diuretic, believed to detoxify the body...all that and it tastes damned good too!

If you want lots of inspiration, then visit the **British Asparagus Growers'** website [here](#) and also **UK Shallots** [here](#) where there are loads of great recipes. Here, below, are a couple I've chosen that are perfect for picnics and socially distanced gatherings outside with our friends and family, (assuming the weather improves again!) Perfect for summer entertaining and picnics, they are quick and easy to prepare for delicious results. The sweet and sour shallots in the tart just melt in the mouth. While the recipe calls for Dolcelatte, it will work equally well with our British blue cheeses, like the delicious Shepherd's Purse Harrogate Blue (Waitrose and Ocado). Our artisan cheesemakers desperately need our support.



And if you are unable to visit the shops or farmer's market to buy your asparagus, then you might like to check out another excellent home delivery service I have recently discovered. [Pale green dot](#), like [Frankonia the Bread House](#) that I mentioned last week, had been supplying the hospitality industry, which of course has been shut down since the end of March. The quality of produce is superb, and the prices very reasonable indeed. The company offers a wide range of different products including meats, dairy and much more. While nothing beats selecting your own fruit and veg, this comes a

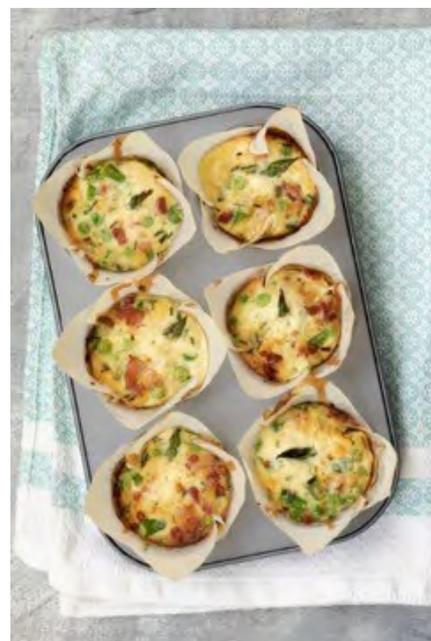
pretty close second and is a Godsend for anyone who is in quarantine or unable to get out and about. Or perhaps, like me, someone who appreciates not having to lug it all home – and relishes the excitement of finding out what's in the box!

Asparagus, Pea and Bacon Mini Frittatas

Serves: 6 **Preparation time:** 10 minutes **Cooking time:** 30 minutes

- 100g bacon lardons
- 3 large eggs
- 75ml crème fraiche
- 30g Parmesan cheese, grated
- Salt and Pepper
- 100g chopped, blanched British asparagus
- 50g frozen peas
- 2 tbsp chopped chives

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C and line a muffin tin with six cases.
2. Heat a small frying pan and cook the bacon lardons until they are golden and crispy. Allow to cool.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, crème fraiche and Parmesan and add a little salt and pepper. Add the asparagus, peas, bacon lardons and chopped chives and stir together.
4. Spoon the mixture into the prepared muffin case and bake for 25 – 30 minutes.
5. Serve warm or cool completely and pop into a container



Balsamic Glazed Shallot, Dolcelatte and Asparagus Tart

Serves: 4 **Preparation time:** 15 minutes **Cooking time:** 15-20 minutes

- 16 shallots, peeled and halved
- 150g asparagus tips
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 320g ready-rolled puff pastry
- 100g Dolcelatte blue cheese
- A little milk or egg for glazing

1. Pre heat oven to 200c /180c fan /gas 6.
2. Place the shallots and asparagus in a griddle pan, add the oil and toss until lightly coated.
3. Cook over a medium heat turning at regular intervals until softened and beginning to colour, remove the asparagus if it cooks quicker than the shallots.
4. Add the balsamic vinegar to the pan and allow to bubble and coat the shallots and asparagus. Set aside and allow to cool.
5. Unroll the pastry and place on a baking tin, with a sharp knife cut a border around the pastry, approx 2.5 cm from the edge, tap the edges with a knife to separate the layers slightly and prick the middle with a fork several times.
6. Spoon the shallots and asparagus onto the pastry case, inside the border and top with cubes of Dolcelatte. Brush the edges with a little milk or beaten egg and cook for approx 15 - 20 minutes until golden and risen.
7. Serve warm with a watercress and rocket salad.



Follow Alison on instagram: [@theseasonedgastronome](https://www.instagram.com/theseasonedgastronome)



Forward from Dunkirk

by Keith Wait

A critique by Eleanor Lewis

Forward from Dunkirk follows the fortunes of a family-owned boat which went, with all the other little ships, to help evacuate soldiers from the Dunkirk beaches in 1940. What makes the recall of those poems you learnt at school so easy is the solid rhythm and rhyme; they permeate your memory and stay there. *Dunkirk* on the other hand breaks the rhythm to support the drama. It begins in a gentle, meandering style echoing the rocking of the boat on the water. The pretty boat on the river by Teddington Lock has always been in the family and it carries memories of the generations who used it before. Soft, whispering vocabulary evokes the breeze and the lapping water in the sunshine, a gentle stable rhyme.



A burst of alliteration wakes up the senses with images of remembered dancing and parties, “crêpe de chine ... Sobranie smoking”, then the rhythm breaks with both the shock of first love and the arrival of 1940. Suddenly the boat is on its journey across the Channel and dreamy memories of happy times are shattered by the vision



of the now pitching boat fighting its way through smoke and shrapnel “breaking her bees-waxed boards”, under a “hail of hell”. All the “willing hostages to valour” are thrust mercilessly into the reality of war and the boards on the “fifteen foot of heaven floating” are now flying “heavenwards, upwards, to Dunkirk / in shards like prayers on high”.

The horror of the threat faced by the free world eighty years ago is encapsulated by the image of the tiny much-loved pleasure boat under fire on the rolling sea. The fate of the boat, its passengers and its family history is that of many other little boats.

Forward from Dunkirk is something of a hymn to human decency. It acknowledges the altruism and the sacrifices made in war, but it views the future with optimism. As flawed human creatures we do not always see clearly but we always love, and love conquers all.

Read Keith Wait’s poem in full a www.markaspen.com/2020/05/26/fwd-dunkirk and Eleanor Lewis’ critique at www.markaspen.com/2020/06/11/fwd-dunkirk-critique

Photography by E.J. Gregory, Philip Broadbent



The Ballad of Teddington's Dunkirk Little Ships

By Mike Pemberton

A critique by Vince Francis

Having a deep interest in local history, I have always been conscious of how seeped in history is our area on the west of London. One such link is Teddington Lock and the famous Little Ships. Then, whilst browsing, the [Twickenham and Richmond Tribune](#) (edition 186) led to the discovery of a little gem in the form of a ballad describing the involvement of a local boatyard in one of the major events of World War II. Local balladeer Mike Pemberton commemorates the evacuation of



British troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in early June 1940 and incorporates a particular nod to Tough's Boatyard, a Teddington business that played a pivotal role in the exercise.



A version of the song, which is available as [The Ballad of Teddington's Dunkirk Little Ships](#) on YouTube, includes authentic footage of Tough's boatyard and the Dunkirk evacuations. The editing is sympathetic to the song and thus enhances the presentation overall.

This is a well-constructed piece, using many of the norms and devices of ballad singers

through the ages. The key sentiment, the "Boys with their backs to the wall" has a natural rhythm in speech which is reflected in the singing and repeated at the end of each stanza for emphasis. A solo acoustic guitar starts each verse in the root minor key, moves through a major key chord sequence and returns to the root at the end, so we get a sense of development resolving back to the initial premise. Minor keys generally signify sadness, mourning, or drama, so the use is appropriate for this piece. Mike uses a sparing finger pick pattern, which supports, rather than competes with the lyric and so helps us to retain focus on the story

Read Vince Francis' critique at www.markaspen.com/2020/06/07/little-ships-critique and watch Mike Pemberton's film and song in full at <https://youtu.be/DSXEzDIW5MU>

Photography by Luke Radcliff (by courtesy of John Tough)



Introducing Rhymes_n_Roses

by Sharron Green

Book Printing UK (www.rhymesnroses.com), £5.00, 28 pp; ISBN 978-1-5272-4878-6

This beautifully designed collection of poems is a slim book that I was lucky enough to acquire from the author Sharron Green at the Cranleigh Arts Festival. *Introducing Rhymes_n_Roses* concentrates twenty poems revolving around English life, and the life-changing gates that we enter, if we haven't already. These rhyming poems are in neat and trimmed blocks, and are deceptive with their underlying emotions, and random shades of anger. The discreet quirkiness goes at a regular pace.



You cannot lose with this collection. Everything is covered from weather, nightclubs, shopping centres, Love Island, eBay, Fitbits, and my favourite, *The Menopause*, which examines the ultimate natural stage in women's lives. Lack of choice? Nature being cruel? Or an exciting new phase in life? Painful, quirky and humorous.



The amazingly detailed *The Tree Lined Village Square*, opens up like a theatrical production with very personal reflections on how we embrace our birthplace. Plus how often we tend to return. A whole story of who and what we grew up with emerges with this first piece. Those often painful, but blissful stages of life are seeped in these words of tender decoration.

But then, we enter the oases: *The Oasis Nightclub*, sordid, bringing up uncomfortable memories; *The Oasis Shopping Centre*, painfully descriptive in its rituals as ordeal or freedom; and *The Oasis Spa*, its savage opening panning across the needs of its strangely enticing characters, predatory women in pampered surroundings. There is an air of ambivalence within these familiar buildings.

One of my personal favourites, *Stolen*, sweeps, in beautiful detail, across the lifespan of a young woman taking that relevant journey to motherhood. Sit back and enjoy the ride of no return in an absorbing and tentative piece.

There is such strong human love in this anthology, which is a joy to read.

Read Heather Moulson's full review at www.markaspen.com/2020/06/06/rhymes-roses

Photography by Justin Holmes and Jennifer Soames

St Mary's University Update

Black Lives Matter – A Statement from Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran

On Tuesday, George Floyd's funeral took place in his home city of Houston. His senseless and brutal death has sparked profound shock and outrage both in the US and UK, and across the globe - St Mary's University stands with our Black community affected by this.

I apologise for not writing on this sooner, but as someone new to the St Mary's community I wanted to take time to listen, reflect and understand where we are on this and the issues facing the Black members of our community on this vitally important subject before writing in more detail.



Our University both acknowledges and recognises that the events of the past two weeks have caused considerable distress and anxiety, particularly for our Black colleagues and students, and the wider BAME community.

St Mary's University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and that means that we must all take responsibility to make real and lasting change in our community. There is no place for racism or racial harassment of any kind at our university and beyond.

George Floyd's death has brought into focus yet again the issues of inequality and racism which still exist, and we acknowledge that there is still much more that needs to be done to achieve lasting and positive change.

While work is underway, not least through

our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network, alongside our Student Equality and Inclusion Group, there is a lot more to be done. As Vice Chancellor, I am committed to listening to, and working with, our staff and students to address racial inequalities in our learning community. I am meeting both staff and students this week and will continue to ensure opportunities for the University's leaders to hear, reflect and act on the issues which the Black Lives Matter movement has brought to the fore.

Our core values, most importantly Inclusiveness and Respect, make clear that we celebrate differences, recognise that everyone is born with a unique identity, respect everybody and treat everyone as we would want to be treated. These values are crucial in creating a culture where everybody, regardless of their background, feels they belong in the St Mary's community and that their contribution is both heard and valued. That is one of the meanings of the Generosity of Spirit that we also hold as a key St Mary's value

Our fourth value, Excellence, means that we must continue to identify, reflect and act on institutional and cultural barriers that stand in the way of our colleagues and students from minority ethnic backgrounds. To support this, we are working towards ensuring that diversity is recognised in decision making and embedded through our organisation to ensure that every voice is heard.

Together with our partners and colleagues from across the higher education sector we are working hard to address issues of racism and hate crime. We need to ensure that our students and colleagues can have confidence that they can study, work and live in a safe, enabling and inclusive environment.

We understand this is a very difficult time for our students and colleagues and, together with our Students' Union, we are here to support them.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

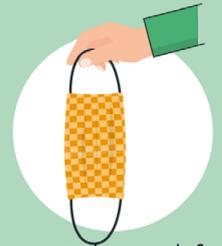
HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

who.int/epi-win

Do's →



Clean your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for damage or if dirty



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Avoid touching the mask



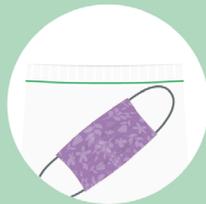
Clean your hands before removing the mask



Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head



Pull the mask away from your face



Store the mask in a clean plastic, resealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it



Remove the mask by the straps when taking it out of the bag

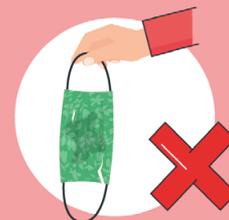


Wash the mask in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water, at least once a day



Clean your hands after removing the mask

Don'ts →



Do not use a mask that looks damaged



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not wear the mask under the nose



Do not remove the mask where there are people within 1 metre



Do not use a mask that is difficult to breathe through



Do not wear a dirty or wet mask



Do not share your mask with others

A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.



World Health Organization

Council agrees planning guidance that aims to protect air we breathe

New planning guidance which aims to tighten how we implement existing air quality policy and help ensure consistency for developers before submitting a planning application has been agreed by Richmond Council.

In 2000, Richmond upon Thames was formally designated as an air quality management area due to poor air quality. Last year, Richmond Council consulted on a draft Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) designed to give developers clear information on how their planning applications will be judged in terms of air quality.

At the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee last week, this guidance was approved. It includes information on construction, development design, traffic reduction, electric vehicles, heating, cooling and power supplies, commercial premises and how to conduct an air quality assessment.

The impact on air quality will be considered as part of any planning application submission.



The Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2019/20 - 2024/25 was agreed earlier this year in March. One of the actions was to produce this guidance, to ensure developers focus on air quality throughout the build and for the life of the development.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, said:

Clean air is vital to our health. Air pollution has been linked to cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes and possibly dementia.

We have all seen over the past few months how much our air quality has improved – with fewer people driving and more people walking or cycling. We need to build on this.

In the consultation on this SPD, one thing was clear – residents support the Council's ambition to be as robust as possible when reviewing air quality implications for planning applications.

Richmond's growing air quality problem mostly relates to emissions from traffic. However, other sources also play a role, such as domestic and commercial heating. With an ever-increasing population, managing the air quality impacts of new development is crucial.

Whilst planning policy cannot solve air quality issues, it has an important role to play. We need to make sure that future developments reduce or mitigate any potentially harmful impacts on the locality, whether from buildings or transport wherever legally possible."

[See the SPD online.](#)

Deep Cleansing of Richmond with Anti-COVID-19 Spray

In what is believed to be the first action of its type in London, businesses in Richmond town centre are funding a programme of regular deep cleansing of people-facing surfaces in the town with an anti-COVID-19 viricidal disinfectant spray.

The disinfectant, which is harmless to passers-by and the environment, not only kills COVID-19 pathogens in seconds, it also creates a barrier against future infection and, once applied, will remain active for up to 72 hours after cleaning. It has been approved by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

The programme which started on Saturday 6th June, sees an estimated 10,000 square metres of surface area being disinfected twice weekly. The aim is to protect and reassure visitors to the town as lockdown is relaxed and non-essential shops reopen on June 15th.



The deep cleansing is part of an initiative by Be Richmond (the brand name of the Richmond Business Improvement District – BID), which comprises over 350 member businesses, to reassure visitors to the town that post-lockdown, Richmond is safe for shopping, dining and exploring.

The Richmond Safe S.P.A.C.E. Initiative will see retail and hospitality businesses receiving safe re-opening training and certification as well as agreeing to a safe operating code of conduct.

Be Richmond Manager, Ellen Amorina Storrar said:

“Many of our member businesses are in the retail and hospitality industries and have been badly hit by the lockdown and are keen to safely restart trading as soon as possible. We want to demonstrate that Richmond is a safe environment where people can feel confident and reassured. We will do whatever we can to achieve this.”

The disinfectant spray we are using is a genuine breakthrough in biosecurity. It not only kills COVID-19 pathogens, it also provides a barrier against their recurrence. However, deep cleansing whilst important and reassuring is only one part of our strategy. Social distancing, hand-washing and use of PPE equipment are still vitally important. Our businesses are playing their part by undergoing training and following a safe operating code. We want visitors to be reassured that our businesses are doing all they can to make Richmond a safe place to visit and explore. We are proud to be the first town in London to take this action.”



New planning guidance aims to encourage sustainable travel in the borough

A guidance document has been approved outlining the role new development should play in relation to active travel, public transport, roads and parking in Richmond upon Thames.

Last year the Council adopted a new ambitious Transport Plan (Local Implementation Plan), detailing its vision for how the transport network will be transformed over the next 20 years.

Following a public consultation, a Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has now been finalised to help people when they are submitting planning applications. The SPD supports the Council's adopted planning and transport policies by detailing the expectations for planning applications and signposting to existing plans and further information that may assist in the development of applications.



The SPD includes information on travel plans, deliveries and servicing, sustainable development and active travel, cycling, car clubs, electric vehicle charging, car parking, dropped kerbs and vehicle crossovers. By promoting best practice in transport provision and highway design we aim to maintain or improve the borough's already high-quality environment.

The Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee approved the SPD last week, taking into account the current coronavirus pandemic, and the increased number of people using active travel modes of transport for example cycling, walking etc. to travel around the borough.

Whilst current Government guidance advises people not to travel unless it is essential, particularly on public transport, it is important that the Council capitalise on the current behaviour change of residents, and understand that the long term environmental impacts caused by Climate Change and carbon emissions will require even more people to change the way they move around the local area.

Creating space in the borough that encourages walking and cycling, both in the short and long term, is a high priority for the Council as part of its sustainability ambitions. This will also make it easier for people to observe social distancing measures and avoid the increased risk on public transport, where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

CLlr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, said:

"The Council has been working hard to ensure walking, cycling and public transport are the natural choice for trips to and from new development, reflecting our transport strategies and our response to the climate emergency. We have seen many more people using sustainable forms of transport recently and we need to harness the shared desire for sustainability in a well-planned future of which this SPD forms part."

View [more information about the SPD](#).

London's River Bus to return to service

Contactless journeys, fresh air throughout, double the capacity for bikes and naturally more space

London's leading River Bus service, Thames Clippers (www.thamesclippers.com), will return to service on 15 June to help Londoners safely commute through the capital. The operator has implemented a range of enhanced hygiene and social distancing measures to allow for a safer transport option through London.

With almost half (46 per cent) of Thames Clippers' London commuters having 'concerns over getting ill on other forms of transport', and a quarter (24 per cent) stating they believe they have a 'better quality of travel on Thames Clippers', the River Bus service is keen to support London's workers with getting moving again as we start to see an ease in the lockdown measures.

Thames Clippers will be offering a bespoke timetable for the restart of service. All services will include measures in place to support social distancing at piers and on board the vessels, as well as an enhanced cleaning regime.

Sean Collins, Thames Clippers co-founder and CEO, said:

"It is key that we can support London and its commuters with the ease of lockdown and return to work, by providing travel in a safe and comfortable way. My entire team has worked incredibly hard to deploy new safety measures and to ensure our passengers have a contact-free and enjoyable commuting experience."

"The unique travel experience with Thames Clippers naturally provides good personal spacing and in addition we have reduced our passenger capacity to ensure even greater social distancing, which has allowed us to increase the number of bicycles we can carry on each boat, so those who want to cycle part of their journey can do so too."

At peak times pre-coronavirus, Thames Clippers carried 1.4 passengers per square metre. With the new social distancing measures in place, this is reduced to just 0.85 passengers per square metre. For context, ordinarily, there were 5-7 people per square metre on the London Underground and with its current social distancing measures, TfL has managed to reduce this to around 1.3 passengers per square metre.

From a recent customer survey, 41 per cent of river commuters plan to increase their use of Thames Clippers, with more than one in five (21 per cent) citing their reason for that being that they can 'travel in the fresh air'. In addition to plenty of space on board, including outdoor deck space and the ability to travel with bikes, fresh air will flow through the cabin while the boats are moving, ensuring that the river is an even more spacious and enjoyable way to travel.



New safety and social distancing measures being introduced by Thames Clippers include:

- Fully contactless journeys for every passenger both at piers and on board
- Social distancing at piers and on board, with signage, floor markings and blocked-off seats helping maintain adequate social distancing
- Double the capacity for bikes on board for most boats in the fleet: up to 20 on the largest vessels
- PPE equipment for all staff with health and safety screenings for all crew at the start of their shift
- Implementation of Government requirement that all passengers should wear a face covering to travel by public transport, to protect crew and fellow passengers
- Onboard facilities to enable passengers to wash their hands, with NHS posters displaying the correct hand-washing procedure, or the option alternatively to use one of the five hand sanitiser stations on board
- Safe procedures in place to allow fresh air to pass through the cabin whilst the boat is underway (passengers also still have the option to sit on the outside back deck)
- The onboard bar will be open initially for takeaway orders, with new safety measures in place to protect staff and customers, including a clear glass screen at the till and only contactless payments accepted
- Touch points and surfaces on board will be regularly wiped down with cleaning wipes during service, and every vessel deep-cleaned overnight
- In addition to the daily touchpoint cleaning, the vessels will be disinfected using an electrostatic spray during out of service periods during the day (when no passengers or crew are present) as well as nightly. The cabin doors will be opened during this time to allow good ventilation. There are no hazardous ingredients in the spray – the cabin will be safe to enter immediately after use



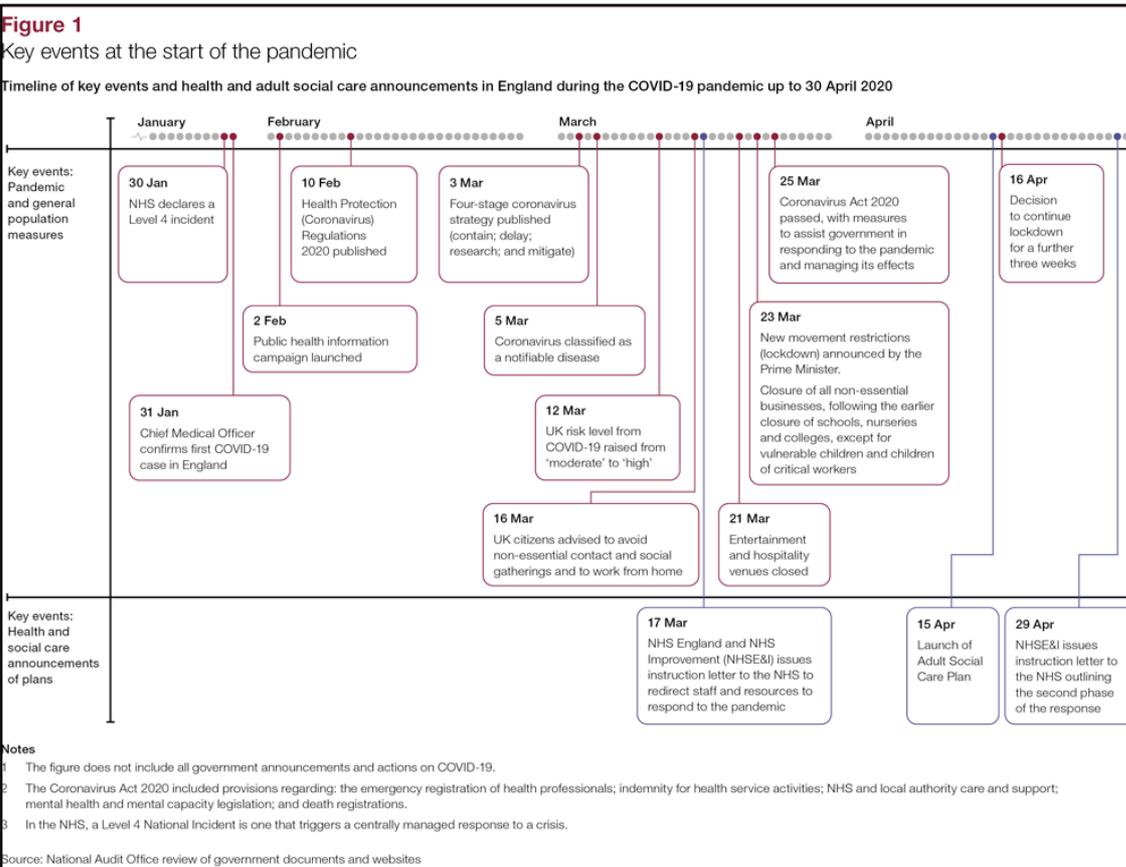
As we begin to see more of the lock-down rules relax, people will follow a more agile way of working in the 'new normal' world. 70 per cent of river commuters stated that they will work more from home. Thames Clippers carnet tickets offer a flexible solution for agile workers, with 10 pre-paid journeys for the price of 9 when purchased via the Thames Clippers ticketing app. Standard journeys start from just £4.05 (East or West Zone). For full details regarding ticketing options, visit thamesclippers.com/commuters.

The fleet is currently moored at Trinity Buoy Wharf and due to resume service imminently. For more information about Thames Clippers, the new timetable and safety measures, visit thamesclippers.com/servicechanges.

thames clippers

Today's report by the National Audit Office (NAO) provides a factual overview of the response by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and other bodies during March and April 2020 to prepare the NHS and adult social care in England for the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the second report in the NAO's programme of work on government's response to the outbreak.

After declaring a Level 4 National Incident¹ in relation to COVID-19 in late January, on 17 March the NHS set out measures to prepare for a surge in infections. From 13 March DHSC began to issue guidance to the care sector before publishing an action plan for adult social care on 15 April. So far, government has allocated £6.6 billion from the Coronavirus Emergency Fund to support the health and social care response to COVID-19 and £3.2 billion directly to local authorities to respond to COVID-19 pressures across local services.



Action taken by the NHS to increase capacity meant there were enough beds and respiratory support nationally at the peak of the outbreak in April. Between mid-March and mid-April, the NHS increased the number of beds available for COVID-19 patients from 12,600 to 53,700, by, for example, discharging patients and postponing elective, or planned, procedures. Planned activity fell by 24% in March 2020 compared to March 2019. The NHS also contracted with private hospitals to use

up to an additional 8,000 beds, and established temporary Nightingale hospitals.

This meant that nationally the number of COVID-19 patients never exceeded the number of available beds. From early March to mid-May, available ventilators and other oxygen support also increased, with the number of mechanical ventilators rising from 9,600 to 13,200. Over the April peak, the NHS also met the national demand for oxygen supply.

Other measures implemented to help the NHS cope with the outbreak included the temporary deployment of 18,200 additional staff to clinical and support roles, of which around 8,000 were retired or former staff making themselves available for such roles.

There have been numerous outbreaks of COVID-19 within adult care homes in England, with more than one in three reporting an outbreak between 9 March and 17 May. This peaked at just over 1,000 homes in the first week of April. Some parts of the country were more affected than others, with the North East being the area with the largest proportion of its care homes (just under half) reporting an outbreak by 17 May.

Patients discharged quickly from hospitals between mid-March and mid-April were sometimes placed in care homes without being tested for COVID-19. On 17 March, hospitals were advised to discharge urgently all in-patients medically fit to leave in order to increase capacity to support those with acute healthcare needs. Between 17 March and 15 April, around 25,000 people were discharged from hospitals into care homes, compared with around 35,000 people in the same period in 2019. Due to government policy at the time, not all patients were tested for COVID-19 before discharge, with priority given to patients with symptoms. On 15 April, the policy was changed to test all those being discharged into care homes. It is not known how many patients discharged to care homes had COVID-19 at the point they left hospital.

The £3.2 billion funding for local authorities was to help them respond to COVID-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including adult social care. Some in the sector are concerned that local authorities have not increased the rates they pay to care providers. In a survey by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, around half of local authorities said they were temporarily increasing rates.

Testing for health and social care workers has faced challenges. On 17 March the NHS announced that testing would begin being rolled out to NHS staff with symptoms. Limits on testing capacity meant tests started to be rolled out to symptomatic NHS staff from 27 March. This was extended to care workers on 15 April and to the rest of their households two days later. From 28 April, all care home staff were eligible for tests but the DHSC capped the daily amount of care home tests at 30,000, to be shared between staff and residents. The government does not know how many NHS or care workers have been tested in total during the pandemic. Based just on tests carried out by the NHS, NHS England & NHS Improvement estimates that the number of NHS staff and the people they live with who were tested increased from 1,500 to 11,500 a day during April.

A range of bodies across health and social care have raised concerns about the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). At the start of the outbreak, the only central stockpile of PPE was designed for a flu pandemic. Although an independent committee advising on stockpile contents had recommended in 2019 that items such as gowns and visors should be included, these had not been stockpiled. The central procurement route set up to supply PPE during the outbreak met the modelled PPE requirement (under a worst case scenario) for some items in NHS trusts, but distributed 50% or less of the modelled requirement for gowns, eye protectors, or aprons. It only addressed a small proportion of the modelled requirement for PPE among social care providers.

Within its wider programme of COVID-19 related work, the NAO will undertake more detailed assessments of specific elements of the health and social care response, which will also help to identify lessons for subsequent stages of this pandemic and other future emergencies.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“This report demonstrates the enormous efforts of staff across health and social care to respond at speed to the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have not sought to evaluate government’s response in this report, our work raises some important considerations.

“The speed and nature of the response in health and social care has been shaped by longstanding differences between the sectors and ongoing financial pressures. Government’s ability to increase beds, ventilators, PPE and testing has varied in part because of the number of other bodies, both national and international, with which it has had to engage. All of these issues need to be taken into account as government plans for the later phases of the pandemic and future emergencies.”

View full report PDF [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

www.RichmondTribune.com

Diabetes Week 8-14 June 2020

There are 4.8 million people living with diabetes in the UK, and every two minutes someone new will receive a diagnosis of diabetes that will change their lives for good. It's a serious condition which – regardless of type – can bring with it many challenges. And living with diabetes can be relentless.

This Diabetes Week (8th-14th June 2020) – at a time when life is more challenging than ever before – we're on a week-long mission to paint #TheBigPicture of life with diabetes. The triumphs as well as the setbacks; the persistent frustrations and small victories; the laughter and tears.

Through sharing experiences, and support, we hope to bring the diabetes community together, and show more people the reality of living with diabetes. So we're asking those who want to take part to share #TheBigPicture through their social media networks, to spread the message to more people than ever before. We'll also be sharing inspirational stories to show the impact of our work on the lives of millions, every day.

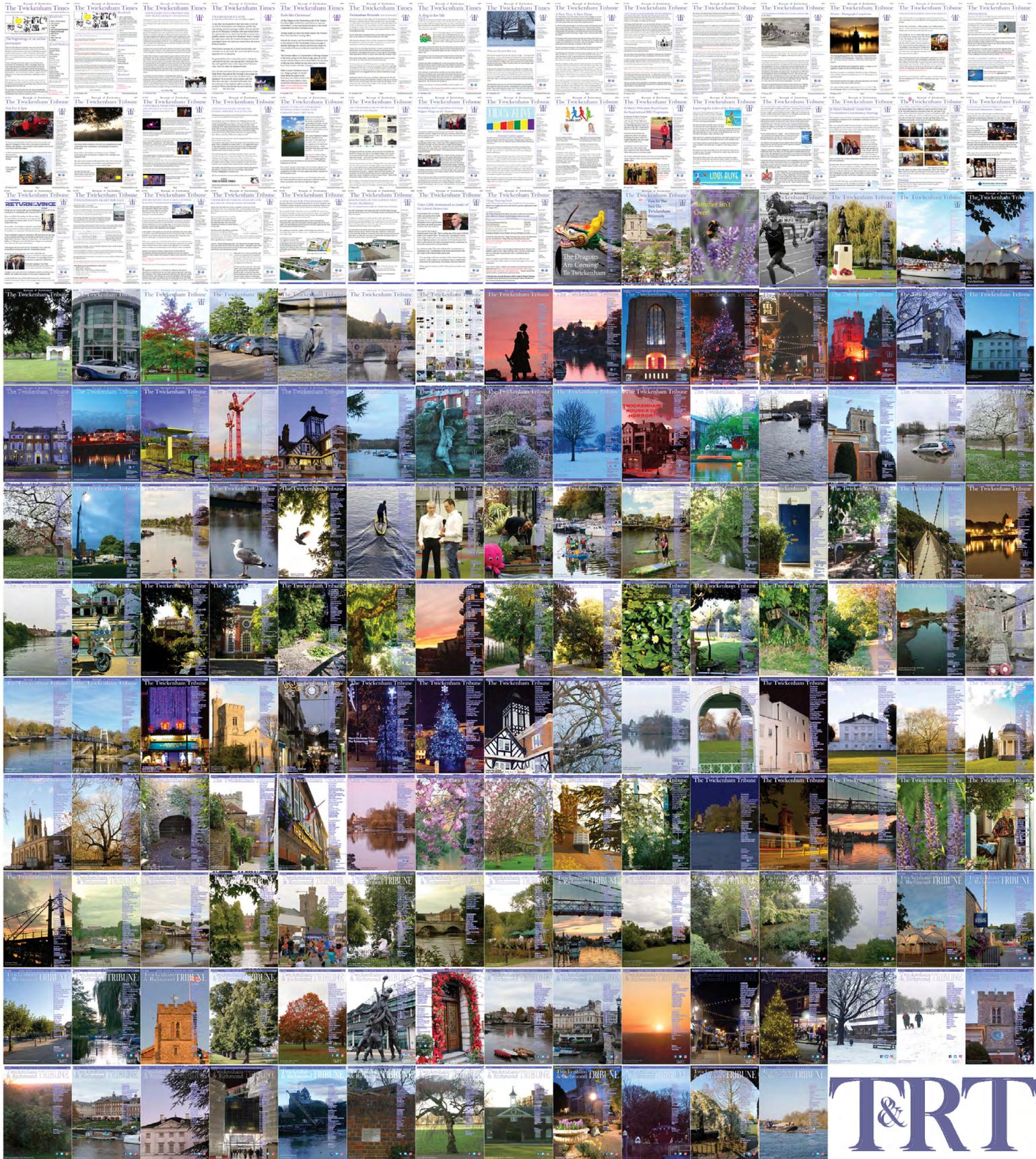
We also hope to inspire more people to join us in our fight for a better future for people with diabetes. That will be by either signing up to our email newsletter, helping us spread #TheBigPicture message far and wide, or donating to help us continue our life-changing work.

Everyone experiences diabetes differently, but we're united by a common goal: building a better future.

Diabetes is relentless. But together, so are we.

If you have any questions regarding your diabetes, or need extra support at this time, you can call our Helpline on 0345 123 2399 or email us at helpline@diabetes.org.uk

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