

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Red Robin Flypast (*Not the Red Arrows*)
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

3rd July 2020

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Cllr Baxendale steps down from the Council

A by-election will be held in 2021 after the resignation of a Hampton Wick councillor, Dylan Baxendale. Mr Baxendale, a member of the Green Party, was first elected to the Council in 2018. He sat on the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee. He represented Hampton Wick ward alongside Cllrs Brown and Millard. He said his decision to step down was for personal reasons.

Have your say on traffic reduction measures on Burtons Road in Hampton Hill

Local residents will soon receive a letter inviting them to share their views on proposals to reduce traffic in and around Burtons Road, Hampton Hill.

An initial consultation took place in June 2019 following a residents' petition about the high number of vehicles using the area, particularly during peak times. The results of the consultation showed mixed views on the Council's original traffic reduction measures. A significant number of respondents favoured a timed restriction.

[Complete the online survey here](#). Please respond by 24 July 2020 when the consultation closes.

Princess Alice Hospice

The Princess Alice Hospice has re-opened shops in Twickenham & East Twickenham. You can find more information [HERE](#)

Hammertons Ferry Theft

On the morning of Wednesday 1st July, a small boat, two fire extinguishers and the petrol from Hammertons ferry were stolen. Luckily the boat was later retrieved.

Arts Richmond Online Virtual Exhibition

The Artists at Redlees Art Studios are showing a representation of their work in an online virtual exhibition from 3rd July to 19th July. An exciting mix of paintings, ceramics, jewellery, photography, cards and textiles will entice and inspire you. View exhibition [HERE](#)

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

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With the nice warm weather continuing, TwickerSeal and TwickerDuck decided to return to Twickenham Green; after all, other than Richmond Green, that seems to be the place to hang out.

This time they brought along a nice picnic and a bottle of Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs to relax in civilised style.

The council had, finally, put in place additional bins and TwickerSeal was careful to dispose of any rubbish.

As they watched the never-ending stream of people wandering off to relieve themselves on local residents' properties, they wondered what was happening about providing toilet facilities on the Green.

TwickerDuck commented that it was odd that the two opposition parties, the Conservatives and Greens, were wholeheartedly supporting residents' demands for toilet facilities, while the council was dragging its feet. Don't fret, TwickerSeal replied, I'm sure the council will come up with a solution ... in time for winter.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

- A message to all of us from the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros: “Not testing alone. Not physical distancing alone. Not contact tracing alone. Not masks alone. **Do it all.** Countries that have adopted this comprehensive approach have suppressed transmission and saved lives.

Flare-ups are to be expected as countries start to lift restrictions.

- On 29th June the WHO stated that 10 million cases and nearly 500,000 deaths of COVID-19 have now been reported globally.
- WHO has published an update to the scientific brief on smoking and COVID-19, which assesses the available evidence on the risk of smokers being infected by the virus, severity of disease, and deaths among hospitalized COVID-19 patients who smoke. The conclusion remains that smoking appears associated with increased severity of disease and death in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

Local Statistics

Statistics for COVID-19 on Friday 3 July: 532 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 733 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,056 in Hounslow. Updates are also available from the BBC on their Coronavirus UK Map.

[VIDEO](#) - WHO: How to protect yourself against COVID-19

Number of Deaths from WHO Situation Reports:

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Friday 3 July 2020 gave the following details for countries with high death rates: 127,858 in the USA, 60,632 in Brazil, 43,995 in the UK, 34,818 in Italy, 29,791 in France, 28,510 in Mexico, 28,368 in Spain, 18,213 in India, 11,106 in Iran, 9,860 in Peru, 9,859 in the Russian Federation, 9,765 in Belgium, 9,003 in Germany, 8,677 in Peru, 8,591 in Canada, 6,109 in the Netherlands, 5,920 in Chile, 5,411 in Sweden, 5,167 in Turkey, 4,648 in China, and a total of 517,877 deaths worldwide.

Can people wear masks while exercising?

People should **NOT** wear masks when exercising as masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably.



Sweat can make the mask become wet more quickly which makes it difficult to breathe and promotes the growth of microorganisms.

The important preventive measure during exercise is to maintain physical distance of at least one meter from others.

16 June 2020

#Coronavirus

#COVID19



Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

'Early Riverside'

Twickenham riverside bathes in the early morning sunshine as the morning bustle gets going. At a little after 7am, the tranquility is just breaking as the river path begins to fill with joggers, dog walkers, cyclists and early commuters. Once again a lower tide adds a delightful context and atmosphere to the Eel Pie Channel.



Today we can look at the history of one of Richmond's newest hotels in that it was named 'The Petersham Hotel' as recently as 1978.

The Petersham stands between what remains of Richmond Hill's Common and Petersham Common. These were originally one area and grazing animals would stray across the manor boundaries. In 1639, a strip of land on the Richmond side of the boundary was granted to Francis Barnard on condition that he made and maintained 'a sufficient fence... with a gate and stile' between the two commons. At the top end the villa called 'The Wick' replaced the Bull's Head tavern in 1775.

The history of the buildings where the Petersham Hotel now stands goes back almost 400 years. The land is first recorded as being built on around 1650 as a cottage, the building was then reconstructed as a substantial house in the 1770s. The name of 'Nightingale Cottage' was given as reference from the nightingales on Richmond Hill.

In 1863, Nightingale Cottage (which by then had been renamed Ashburnham Lodge) was acquired by the Richmond Hill Hotel Company and further constructed by British architect John Giles, in a style at the time described as 'florid Italian gothic' - the building was completed in 1865.

Our first postcard shows what "florid Italian Gothic" looks like!

Over the next 100 years the hotel underwent no less than seven changes of name, starting in 1877, when following a change of ownership, it became 'The Mansion'. In 1889 it became 'The Mansion Hotel'.

Once the 'Star & Garter' on the hill above was replaced as the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen in 1922, The Mansion Hotel was consequently renamed the New Star and Garter Hotel.



The 'New' was dropped a few years later and the hotel continued as 'Star and Garter' until 1945, when the Bank of England bought it for use as a staff hostel under the name of 'Nightingale Hall'. Six years later, in 1951, Nightingale Hall was sold and reopened as 'The Star and Garter Hotel'. In 1978 it was purchased by the Dare family, who are still the present owners, and renamed 'The Petersham', the name which remains to this day.

The most notable feature of the interior is the magnificent Portland stone staircase; reported to be the tallest unsupported stone staircase in the country. The paintings on its ceiling were by Ferdinando Galli Bibiena (1816-97), an Italian painter who worked in the Hapsburg court in Vienna and also briefly in England. He also he exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1866.

The ceiling paintings depict Italian renaissance artists: Raphael (1483-1520), based on a self-portrait in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence; Michelangelo (1475-1564), a typical portrait showing his 'broken nose'; Titian (1485-1576), based on a self-portrait in the Staatliche Museum, Berlin and Annibale Carracci (1560-1609), renowned for his decoration of the Farnese Gallery, Rome.

Our second postcard shows The Petersham looking out across the meadows to the sinuous bend in the Thames. These meadows are protected from development by an Act of Parliament passed in 1902 to also protect Marble Hill Park. This Act was renewed in 2002 to safeguard the iconic view from the Terrace on Richmond Hill. This view has been painted by many of our greatest artists. These include Sir Joshua Reynolds (for whom Wick House, next door to the Wick was built) and J M W Turner who lived across the river in Twickenham for some years.



In recent times the hotel has been used by many of the great and the good including the England Rugby Union team, numerous members of the acting profession and Sir Mick Jagger. It is a hotel that I also have fond memories of, as Astrid and I celebrated our wedding night there.

The Petersham is open for business again from today (4th July) following closure due to the pandemic. We are lucky to have such a hotel in our borough, why not pop in for a traditional English afternoon cream tea but don't forget to book!

I would like to thank John Cloake and Alan Bissell, both of whom had originally researched some of the background facts that I have used in this article.

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 15, 3rd July 2020

BROKEN EMBRACES

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.

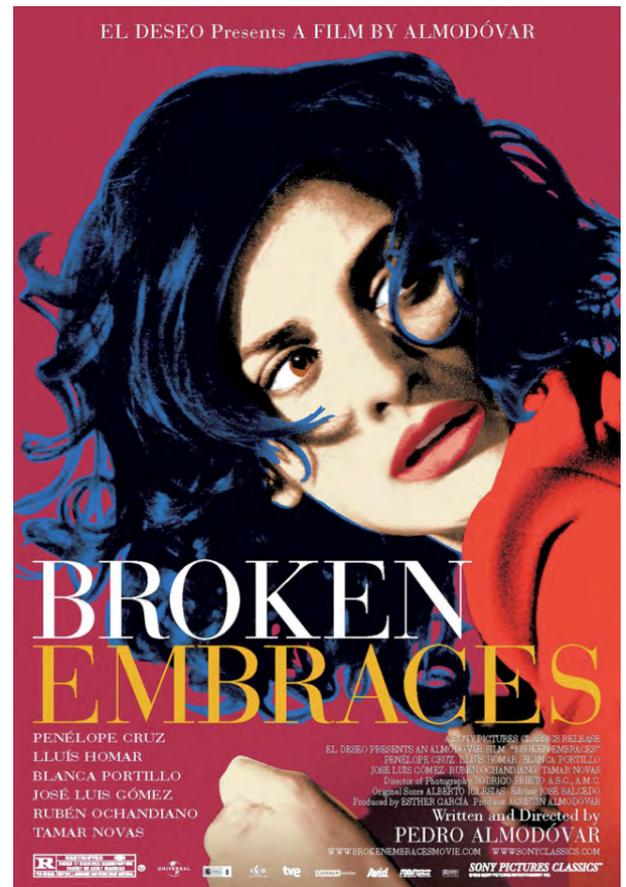
RFS Context: **BROKEN EMBRACES** was 687th film screened by RFS on 31st January 2012. **Broken Embraces** was the second to top ranked film of Season 49, it got an approval mark of 93% from those attending (The top film from Season 49, **North Face** has already featured in our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings as **Issue 2**). **Broken Embraces** is directed by RFS favorite **Pedro Almodóvar** – to date we have screened ten of his films. What is more, his latest, **Pain and Glory** is in contention to be included in our next, 58th Season, whenever that might be! **Broken Embraces** can be streamed from Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

BROKEN EMBRACES (Los abrazos rotos)

Country: Spain, 2009
Music: Alberto Iglesias
Director: Pedro Almodóvar
Editing: José Salce
Cinematography: Rodrigo Prieto
Running Time: 127 min., colour
Language: Spanish
Screenplay: Pedro Almodóvar

Leading Players:

Penélope Cruz (Lena)
Lluís Homar (Mateo Blanco/Harry Caine)
Blanca Portillo (Judith García)
José Luis Gómez (Ernesto Martel)
Rubén Ochandiano (Ray X)
Tamar Novas (Diego)



There's often something charmingly eccentric about the English titles of Pedro Almodóvar's films, as if Spain's greatest living director spent just a few minutes pondering their translation with the aid of an online Spanish-English dictionary. **'Live Flesh'**? What exactly is that? **'Bad Education'**? The Spanish means 'Bad Manners' or 'Ill Bred'. And now **'Broken**

Embraces. I'm not sure what they are either, although having seen Almodóvar's seventeenth film twice, what's clear is that the name reflects the feeling of watching it: it pulls you in and repels you, pulls you in and repels you. After over two hours of flirtation and rejection (this is Almodóvar's longest film), it finally resolves itself into a beautiful love letter to cinema and its glorious potential, but not without exploring the darker side of the medium and how a film can so easily slip through its maker's fingers.

While some of Almodóvar's films are out-and-out heartbreakers – perfect storms of melodrama, storytelling and extreme living – this is a more cerebral, self-reflective and noir-ish affair. It's part of his brilliance to tell wild stories without you even batting an eyelid. But here you can't help notice the film's complexity, not least because this tragic romantic thriller is mostly about films and filmmaking: Almodóvar is intent on piling image upon image so that there are several films within a film, including an amusing pastiche of the director's own '**Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown**', here renamed '**Girls and Suitcases**'.

We start in the present: Harry Caine (Lluís Homar) is a blind scriptwriter who doesn't let his disability disarm him: we encounter him having fun on his sofa with a woman who helped him to cross the road. But his past rears its head when a young man comes knocking and we flash back to 1992 to meet Lena (Penélope Cruz), a young secretary driven to desperate measures to help her ill father. Two years later, Lena is living with her violent, older millionaire boss Ernesto Martel (José Luis Gómez) and starring in a film funded by Martel and directed by Caine – not yet blind and using his real name, Mateo Blanco.

To explain more is unnecessary, but Almodóvar explores themes of spying and control, each of which he reflects through cinema itself: Martel follows his wife via snatched video recordings; Blanco fights for the ownership of his work as much as he struggles to keep a grip on his life; and Lena seeks personal and professional escape through acting.

Cruz is as enchanting as ever and channels images of actresses from Monroe to Audrey Hepburn through her various masks of hair, clothes and make-up. The photography may be more restrained in colour than anything Almodóvar has produced but this suits the film's stately, reflective air.

Be warned though: you have to be prepared to think more than you feel, and to think more about cinema even than life itself. But what brilliant thoughts...

After Dave Calhoun -Time Out

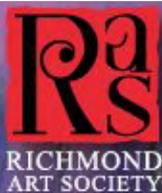
Lighting up for the NHS and in Remembrance

York House will join national landmarks in lighting up blue for the 72nd anniversary of the NHS and to remember those who have died during the coronavirus pandemic.

The gesture will take place this weekend on Saturday and Sunday when the building will be lit up blue, the colour of the NHS.

Saturday 4 July will be a moment of remembrance and reflection for those we have lost during the pandemic. This is a chance for the nation to come together and pay our respects. It is being led by the [Together Coalition](#) and we are asking people to place an LED light or torch in their window or on their doorstep.

On Sunday 5 July, the day the NHS was founded, the whole country is invited to come together at 5pm to applaud all those who have been helping us through the pandemic and recognise the vital community connections that continue to support us all.



Richmond Art Society Virtual Summer Exhibition

Online from Saturday 4th July at
[www.richmondartsociety.com/
summer-exhibition-2020/](http://www.richmondartsociety.com/summer-exhibition-2020/)

Opportunity to view our latest work
for sale – over 40 artists taking part

Painting by Laura Parker

Paintings Prints Drawings Sculpture Ceramics Art Photography Digital Art

Toilet troubles across the borough

Andree Frieze, Councillor for Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside.

As a councillor in Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside, residents have also been contacting me about the anti-social behaviour of some people using local streets and green spaces as open latrines. No one, except the people doing it, think it's acceptable. Sadly, as we all know, this problem is widespread and with so-called 'Super Saturday' tomorrow, 4th July, meaning pubs are open again, people taking the piss is likely to be repeated across our parks and riversides.

We can but hope that the numbers doing so will be far lower than before, given that cafes and restaurants are opening too, so people should have more options than a resident's doorway or garden to urinate in. The Council is taking measures to expand its community toilet scheme (https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/roads_and_transport/public_conveniences/community_toilet_scheme) by offering businesses who join the scheme in June/July a larger payment of £350 for 3 months (until the end of September/October), if they open their toilets to non-paying customers.

This doesn't get round the fact that as a borough we do not have enough public toilets. The situation over the last few weeks has been completely unacceptable, causing a public nuisance and a health hazard. In addition, it's making a mockery of our PSPO - https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/15033/pspo_anti_social_behaviour_order.pdf - which specifically bans people from urinating or defecating in public.

In response to residents' complaints, I brought up the problem of lack of public toilets with Assembly Member Caroline Russell at the beginning of June. Caroline has long campaigned for additional facilities in London to enable those restricted from travelling across our city by the lack of toilets due to disability, illness, age or gender. She immediately wrote to Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government about the increased problem due to lockdown. You can read it here - <https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/assembly/caroline-russell/londoners-needs-their-loos> as well as in the Evening Standard - Londoners need public loos after parks turn smelly with human excrement, say Greens | London Evening Standard

Many others wrote to the Minister and their elected representatives, too, and the result of all this public pressure was a change in policy allowing pubs to open their toilets to customers if they were open for off-sales. This meant that from the last weekend of June, people have been able to use a convenience rather than a street corner to relieve themselves.

Clearly, this has not solved the issue, and it seems that Richmond Council is finally beginning to respond to calls for more public toilets in addition to relying on businesses to open up their facilities to more than just their customers. However, part of the problem is that there is no legislation obliging Councils to provide public toilets for residents. If you want to help change that - and demand more public toilets in general - take a look at the Royal Society for Public Health's 'Taking the P***' campaign - <https://www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/policy/healthy-places/taking-the-p.html>.

Meanwhile, if you are heading out and about and need to plan your journey around access to a public toilet, make sure you check out <https://www.lockdownloo.com/>, which provides an open-access google spreadsheet of the locations of loos that are open. As the person said when they send this information to me: "There's nothing like a global pandemic to expose the threadbare state of public toilet provision and to encourage community creativity and shared enterprise to fill the gaps." Now is the time for continued pressure to get those gaps filled.

Dear Sir/Madam

Comment - public toilets

Just to thank and congratulate you for raising and championing the issue of public toilets.

I did rail against the closure of proper public toilets in the letters column of the Richmond and Twickenham Times in the old days when it was a real newspaper.

My point then was that the Community Toilet Scheme was flawed and ineffective from the start. The people in most need of toilets, the elderly and parents with children, were obviously not going to push their way into posh restaurants and boozy pubs asking to use the lavatory. It would be too embarrassing and/or intimidating.

Of course it has proved a total failure despite Council attempts to laud it as a successful initiative. The signs on premises participating in the scheme, and directional signs to them, have largely disappeared or are now inaccurate.

The Council, even before Covid 19, had abandoned any pretence to provide adequate public facilities. This would be bad enough in any context but in an area which attracts thousands of visitors and tourists, it is a disgrace. And a serious public health hazard.

Some towns, for example, Windsor and Stamford, do provide clean well staffed facilities. If they can do it, then surely it's about time that Richmond did.

Yours,

W Stewart

(Name & Address supplied)

Exercise compassion

Waste and recycling services are facing risks and pressure due to Covid-19. If public bins are full then please take your litter home.



Support our key workers.

Please help them by taking your litter home.



Local outbreak plan launched to help control coronavirus

A plan to suppress future COVID-19 outbreaks in Richmond upon Thames has been published this week.

The Government has instructed all local authorities to devise Local Outbreak Management Plans (LOMP) to prevent and control local outbreaks of the virus.

Richmond Council, which has a statutory role to protect health, will lead the response to local COVID-19 outbreaks through its Director of Public Health and will work with the regional Public Health England health protection team and local partners.

The Council wants to remind residents, that [despite national reports](#), the number of confirmed cases currently in the borough remains low. The Government has now published (late 2 July) Pillar One and Pillar Two combined figures showing that since the start of the pandemic - Richmond upon Thames has seen a total of 531 confirmed cases. [See the latest figures here](#).

However, whilst the borough is not currently at risk of a local lockdown, it is important to remain vigilant and continue to follow the national guidance. This plan would help the Council respond to any outbreaks - should they occur in the future.

Shannon Katiyo, Director of Public Health for Richmond upon Thames, said:

"I want to reassure local residents that we are working hard to help prevent and control outbreaks of COVID-19 here in Richmond upon Thames.

"Protecting the health of the public is one of our key priorities and this new local outbreak management plan is the next phase of controlling the spread of coronavirus and encouraging people to get tested and cooperate with NHS Test and Trace. The plan allows us to act fast as we receive local information and to manage and prevent the spread of outbreaks as lockdown measures are relaxed."



The Council has been given £858k by the Government to implement its tailored outbreak management plans, which will focus on seven key themes. These include:

1. Care homes and schools
2. Planning for prevention and management of outbreaks in other high-risk places, locations and communities
3. Ensuring local testing capacity
4. Leading contact tracing in complex settings
5. Integrating national and local data for scenario planning and responding fast to outbreaks
6. Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate
7. Establishing local boards to oversee prevention and control of COVID-19

The Council will use the national test and trace services in the borough, including the regional testing centre at Twickenham Stadium and local mobile centres, to reduce the spread of the infection.

The Council will use its own local knowledge and that of partners and third sector groups to quickly identify and manage new outbreaks and identify vulnerable people who may need support.

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Housing Committee, and Chair of the Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board, added:

"Although nationally the number of COVID-19 cases is falling and our local numbers remain low, we are acutely aware that we are far from the end of this crisis and there is potential for further spikes in the disease. We have already seen this in Leicester. We therefore have to do everything we can to ensure that here in Richmond we put a lid on any new, future, outbreaks as soon as they occur. We are fortunate to have the regional coronavirus testing centre located in the borough and that will allow us to very quickly establish if we have any new outbreaks and to then carry out a rapid track and test process.

"It is important to note that we all have our part to play in combatting this virus. Everyone has to keep following the Government advice, keeping their distance and washing their hands, whilst we continue to keep the cases at a low level."

[See the Local Plan](#)

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

Marble Hill is being revived and planted with a host of heritage plants to represent those that Henrietta Howard, owner of Marble Hill, herself might have seen within her grounds. Emma, aptly surnamed Greenwood has researched a plant whose namesake is close to that of her surname. The plant's latin name is *Genista tinctoria* (now replaced by *Spartium junceum*) but in layman's terms, it is the Greenweed.

Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*). A member of the legume family Fabaceae, this yellow-flowered native perennial grows on natural grassland, especially on clay soils.



The common name alludes to the plant's long history as a dye, with evidence from York dating its use in England back to Viking times.[i] On its own Dyer's Greenweed yields a yellow colour but combined with Woad (which produces blue) and fixed with alum, it can be used to create a green dye. The most famous example became known as "Kendal green", named after a coarse woollen cloth made in Kendal and worn by foresters.

Although never classed as an official drug in pharmacopoeia, both the flowers and seeds have been used in treatments for rheumatism and gout, and as a diurectic for urinary infections and kidney stones.[ii]

Illustration from William Baxter, *British Phaenogamous Botany* (Oxford: Published by the author, 1834-43)

Marble Hill is receiving a £7 million investment which seeks to open up the house more often, revive the landscape, and - from the play area to the sports pitches - improve the facilities across the park. We have been delighted to have remained open throughout the pandemic to be

a space of calm and beauty for all to enjoy. We would however love to understand more about those using the park and **would really welcome your involvement within our anonymous e-survey** to understand how you use the space and how we can do things better.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MarbleHillRevival>.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Please help us and be a part of the revival.



Marble Hill: Exhibition of Hope

Across our 66 acres there are 12 prints, gifted by author Charlie Mackesy from the book called **The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse**, Waterstones book of the year 2019.

We are asking people to take a picture of the map on their mobile as they enter Marble Hill so as to avoid people handling anything and we are obviously asking people to obey the social distancing rules and if anyone is looking at a print to move to the next.

Explore the grounds, find the prints and answer the twelve questions. Have fun!

Please note that the exhibition opens on **Monday 6th July**.

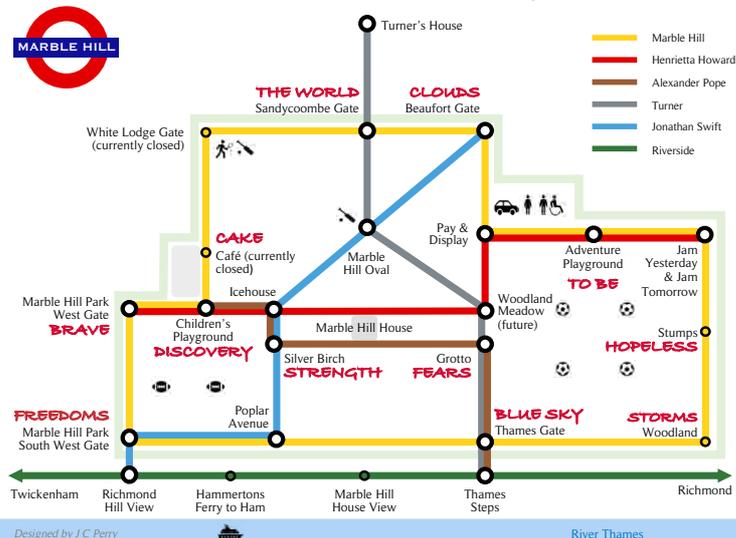


ENGLISH HERITAGE Marble Hill: Exhibition of Hope

Questions based upon prints from *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse*, by Charlie Mackesy.

01. What do you bring to **THE WORLD**?
02. What do you do when you see dark **CLOUDS**?
03. When you grow up, what do you want **TO BE**?
04. What can you remember if your mind tells you it's all **HOPELESS**?
05. What's the best thing you know about **STORMS**?
06. What do we know about the **BLUE SKY**?
07. Do old moles wish they had paid more attention to their **FEARS**?
08. What is a true sign of **STRENGTH**?
09. What is one of our greatest **FREEDOMS**?
10. What have you ever said that was **BRAVE**?
11. What is your best **DISCOVERY**?
12. Are we only here for **CAKE**?

Visit the corresponding stations in Marble Hill Park to find the prints and the answers.



VISIT [ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK/MARBLEHILLHOUSE](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillhouse)

Marble Hill: Exhibition of Hope

Images created by Charlie Mackesy from his book "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse"

Marble Hill's team continue to work hard to ensure that the 66 acres of the park can remain open as a place of respite & restoration. Henrietta Howard, the original owner of Marble Hill House, was a prolific writer and many eminent writers and poets frequented Marble Hill including Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift.

With the unprecedented impact of the events of 2020, we recognise the need for hope more than ever; so in conjunction with the author Charlie Mackesy, 12 prints from his book "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse" have been spread throughout the park to encourage exploration, reflection and movement.

It is our hope this exhibition will offer you some words of wisdom and inspiration to uplift you during these challenging times. During your visit to the park, please do not touch the prints and please observe the latest Government policy with respect to social distancing.

With special thanks to Charlie Mackesy for his support and generosity, Paul Lyward and his wonderful staff at Windsor and John Perry our volunteer exhibition map creator .

We would love to hear what you think about Marble Hill. To complete a short anonymous survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MarbleHillRevival> . Please get in contact on social at @MHRRevived @marblehillhouse #MarbleHillRevived



Step into England's story

A Tribute to Jack Lowe

Jack Lowe, a life-long Twickenham resident, died peacefully on 22nd June, just three days short of his 101st birthday, in the much-loved home built by his family in the 1920s. Only the year before he had celebrated his 100th birthday in Canberra, Australia, with his niece, Jan Moule, and her family and friends. Much to his delight, a congratulatory card from the Queen was hand-delivered there. Jack saw Jan much as a daughter, his beloved elder brother, Jan's father, having died in his mid-thirties when she was a young child.

This was the last of many flights Jack made to visit Jan. He was thoroughly spoilt by the Singapore Airlines crew. They held a party during the stop-over, and presented him with a signed cake and champagne. On his departure back to the UK, the captain and crew formed a 'guard of honour' to welcome him on board.



Jack was born in St Margarets on 26 July 1919. At the age of eight he moved with his family to Chudleigh Road, Twickenham, the same home in which he died 93 years later. It was the first house to be built in the road, to his parents' specification, and was surrounded by fruit orchards. Jack spoke often of early Twickenham, and had clear memories of Richmond House on Twickenham riverside before its demolition in 1924. He attended St Mary's Church for 92 years, having first been brought there by his mother as an eight year old.

Jack had a varied career, training as a chef in the hotel industry in the 1930s, retraining and running his own business, a successful hair salon in Whitton in the 1950s and 60s, before switching many years later to work for HMRC. He spent the Second World War as a driver for senior military officers, a role that put him in the vanguard of numerous significant events. He was among those to land at Sword Beach just after D-day, with his landing craft nearly sinking in a terrific storm, having lost the chunk of mulberry harbour and a barrage balloon that it was towing. He was with the British troops who liberated Brussels in September 1944, and among the first troops to enter Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945. After VE Day Jack spent a further two years in Germany involved with reconstruction work.

By any measure Jack was a remarkable man. He loved the theatre, music, ballet and his G&Ts. He was fiercely independent, running his own home until a fall in March. He was a consummate cook and ardent gardener, keeping an impeccable welcoming home to the end. He drew friends from all backgrounds and generations, with his innate love of people, and a wicked sense of humour. He was loyal and generous to a fault – and this was returned in equal measure. He was close to his extended family, often spending Christmases and other family occasions with the Hawking family in Cambridge, Jane Hawking being the daughter of his close cousin, Beryl.

In March, after a fall, Jack was admitted to West Middlesex Hospital where, sadly, he contracted Covid-19. Remarkably he survived, but was left exhausted. He desperately wanted to return home, which he did in May, and for the first time in his long life had to accept the help of carers. He died peacefully there on 22 June.

His funeral service will be held in St. Mary's Church, Twickenham on Tuesday, 7 July at 10:30 am. Please note that because of Covid-19 restrictions, attendance is by invitation only. Should you wish to pay your respects, the Committal will be outside the church from about 10:45 am. As per Jack's wishes, in lieu of flowers any donations should be made to the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher.

Epic SUP

Eel Pie Island Club SUP



Stand Up Paddleboarding
The club is open again for membership,
taster sessions, SUP-Yoga, SUP-Pilates
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Based on Eel Pie Island
At Twickenham Rowing Club
info@EpicSUP.org

www.EpicSUP.org

Council and Police commit action to combat anti-social behaviour in Richmond and Twickenham

Hundreds of residents joined the Council's first virtual Community Conversation events on Friday, to discuss the issue of anti-social behaviour throughout Richmond and on Twickenham Green. At the borough's first public Zoom events, hosted by the Leader of Richmond Council and senior representatives from the local police, over 70 Twickenham residents raised concerns about late night revellers causing unacceptable noise, public urination and defecation and litter – resulting in many fearful for their safety and property.

At a subsequent event – over 170 Richmond residents expressed similar concerns, with the situation escalating since the Pandemic lockdown measures have been eased.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"Having this kind of unruly behaviour on your doorstep is unacceptable. Unfortunately, as we have seen from footage across other parts of the Capital – it is not unique to Richmond upon Thames.*

"This is not just about enforcement. It is about everyone in the borough taking responsibility. That includes parents knowing where their children are and what they are doing, supermarkets selling alcohol responsibly and those who are socialising in our open spaces to not act like idiots and go home if they can't find a bathroom."



At both events, Cllr Roberts was joined by ward councillors, senior Council officers – including the Director of Environment and Heads of Licencing and Community Safety and Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar and Inspector Rebecca Robinson from the Metropolitan Police. In each of the 90-minute events, residents were given the opportunity to share their concerns. As a result, the Council agreed to increase capacity of the borough's Park Guard service (park security provider) – particularly over the weekends.

The Council has also increased the payment to those businesses who join the borough's Community Toilet Scheme for the next three months – agreeing to open their toilet facilities for non-paying customers. Officers are also investigating the possibility of opening new public toilets in both Town Centres.

Licencing officers have written to all cafes, pubs and restaurants in the borough, to remind them that if they are currently open for business and have customer toilets – then they should be open.

In addition, at the Richmond event, representatives from both Sainsbury's and Tesco's attended the discussion. Cllr Roberts pleaded with them to be more responsible with their discounts and sales.

He said: *"The Green is full of people who have stocked up with cheap booze from nearby supermarkets. We know it has been tough for local businesses – but they need to take responsibility for their actions. I hope that the supermarkets that attended these meetings heard how they are letting so many local people down and make changes to how they market and sell alcohol."*

The Police equally emphasised to local people that they are working hard to deal with the unacceptable behaviour that is understandably causing concern for residents. They do have the powers they need to deal with the rise in anti-social behaviour and encourage the public to continue to report it. Over the weekend an increased numbers of officers were on duty, including volunteer Special Constables. Unlicensed music events and large gatherings in open spaces are illegal and the public can report suspected events by dialling 101, by tweeting @MetCC or by calling Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Chief Superintendent, Sally Benatar, added:

"The Community Conversations via Zoom were a great opportunity to hear directly from residents of Richmond and Twickenham. Our role as the police is to keep our communities safe and we are determined to protect the law-abiding public and respond to their concerns with a visible police presence, both during the lockdown and in the long-term future. The easing of the lockdown is bringing fresh challenges and we recognise the need to provide a robust and proportionate policing response to it."

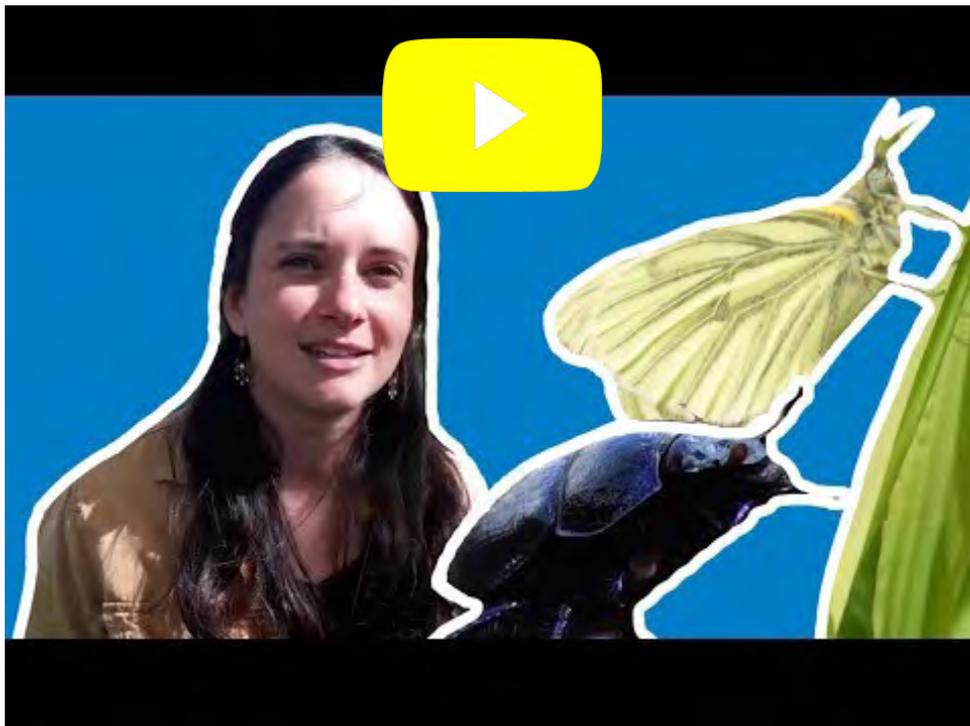
See videos of the events: [Twickenham](#) - [Richmond](#)



Stag Beetle emerges and Rose Chaffer on the Elder Flower

We have our favourite wildlife and there are the stars of nature which get the most funding and support but the not so 'beautiful' or popular are all essential for life to flourish. The RSPB sent the below video link which is worth a look to understand what we are missing in the Small World.

Afterall, Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder.



Subtitles are helpful for identification and inclusion in so many situations and we would like to see more videos/webcasts libraries like this one which gives equal opportunity access.



Photo: Spider Visitor on the window

An Instagram follower gave us useful information on our bees in the lawn and thinks they are mining bees who have made a nest underground and in Spring we will see new life emerging! The children have made a flag with 'Bee Home' to mark the spot and so that we are careful around that area.

River Crane Sanctuary [Website](#) [Instagram](#)

PUBLIC ENJOYING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY FROM LACK OF HEATHROW FLIGHTS

Almost 3,500 people took part in a survey by the No 3rdRunway Coalition on aircraft noise during lockdown.

- 80% of respondents found the experience of fewer flights to be positive.
- 49% noticed the reduction in flights all day long.
- 52% said there had been an impact on their sleep.

Thousands of people from across London and surrounding areas have found the experience of fewer flights to have had a positive effect on their lives, a survey has found.

The survey, initiated by the No 3rdRunway Coalition, examined the impact on local communities under a flight path during the lockdown period.

From substantial reductions in the level of annoyance from noise, to the absence to its several, distinct negative impacts on health, this atypically large sample from around Heathrow airport's hinterland, seems to have produced a singularly unified report.

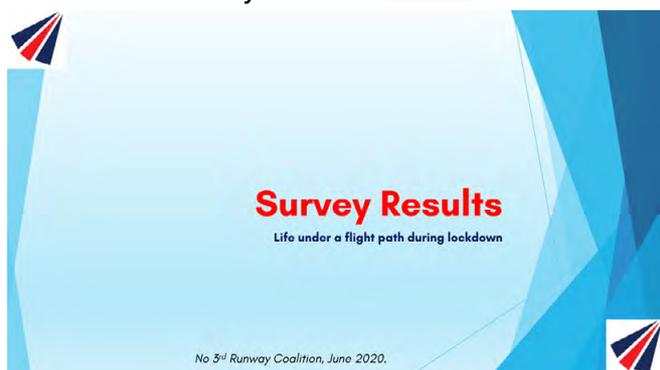
The most common themes were the beneficial effect of fewer flights on mental and physical health, through a reduction in noise, and (from postcodes close to roads providing access to the airport) an appreciable improvement of air quality (through reduced air pollution).

Of the 80% who found the experience of fewer flights to be positive:

- 46.5 % noticed a reduction in flights all day long.
- 63% said there had been an impact of sleep patterns.
- 82% described a variety of noticeable health impacts.

A range of consequential, positive benefits were also cited, from improved sleeping patterns to greater use of gardens, and greater enjoyment of green spaces. A wide range of responses was received from across London and surrounding counties. There was also a range of responses from communities near other airports (Gatwick, Stansted, Birmingham, Aberdeen, Leeds Bradford).

View the survey results [HERE](#)



VISIT PEDESTRIANISED



CHURCH STREET

- . TWICKENHAM TANDOORI
- . SORRENTO ITALIAN RESTAURANT
- . PULCINELLA ITALIAN RESTAURANT
- . MILESTONE & COLLIS
- . THE BLOOMERY FLORIST
- . THE FOX PUB
- . ALISSIAS ATTIC
- . MOJO
- . NAZ BALTI
- . MASANIELLO ITALIAN RESTAURANT
- . MISS PRETTY LONDON
- . ROCC
- . JIMMY MARUMS BARBERS
- . SNAX TWICKENHAM
- . COMPLETELY FLOORED
- . NURRV
- . SHEER LASER & SKIN CLINIC
- . MADISON BROOK INTERNATIONAL
- . RICARDO'S CELLAR
- . LIMPOPO TWICKENHAM BILTONG
- . EEL PIE RECORDS
- . CORTO ITALIAN DELI
- . SWEET MEMORIES SWEETS
- . VAPE SHACK UK
- . MINT HAIRDESSERS & SPA
- . TSARETTA SPICE
- . CRUSADER TRAVEL
- . THE TWICKENHAM CLUB
- . THE EEL PIE PUB
- . TOES & KNEES COBBLERS / LOCKSMITH
- . ROSIE CHAI
- . SRB SOLICITORS
- . BAZIL & RUBY PET BOUTIQUE
- . KISS N MAKEUP
- . WAKE & PAINE FUNERALS



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TWICKENHAMTHETOWN.ORG

Don't lose your chance to vote next year

Don't lose your voice - residents in Richmond upon Thames are urged to look out for their voter registration details from the Council.

Local residents are being encouraged to ensure that they do not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With elections taking place in London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in May 2021, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The annual canvass ensures that the Richmond Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so. They would then be able take part in any future elections.

Mark Maidment, Electoral Registration Officer at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames said:
"It's important that residents keep an eye out for messages from the Council so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in the borough. To make sure you are able to have your say at the Mayor of London and Assembly elections taking place next year, simply follow the instructions from the Council's electoral services team. If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or we'll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.

"This year's canvass, which we have to carry out by law, is taking place during a challenging public health situation. We are working to ensure that we take account of public health guidelines, including the continued importance of social distancing."



The 2020 canvass will run from 1 July 2020 in England and Wales, and from 3 August 2020 in Scotland. Electoral registration Officers are required to do this by law. It has not been suspended as a result of COVID-19.

When you are contacted, if you need to make a change to your registration information, please respond as soon as possible. It will make sure the process runs smoothly. It also means there will be no need for additional contact, which is particularly important now.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and check the details.

Research by the Electoral Commission indicates that recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. Across Great Britain, 92% of people who have been at their property for more than 16 years will be registered, compared to 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

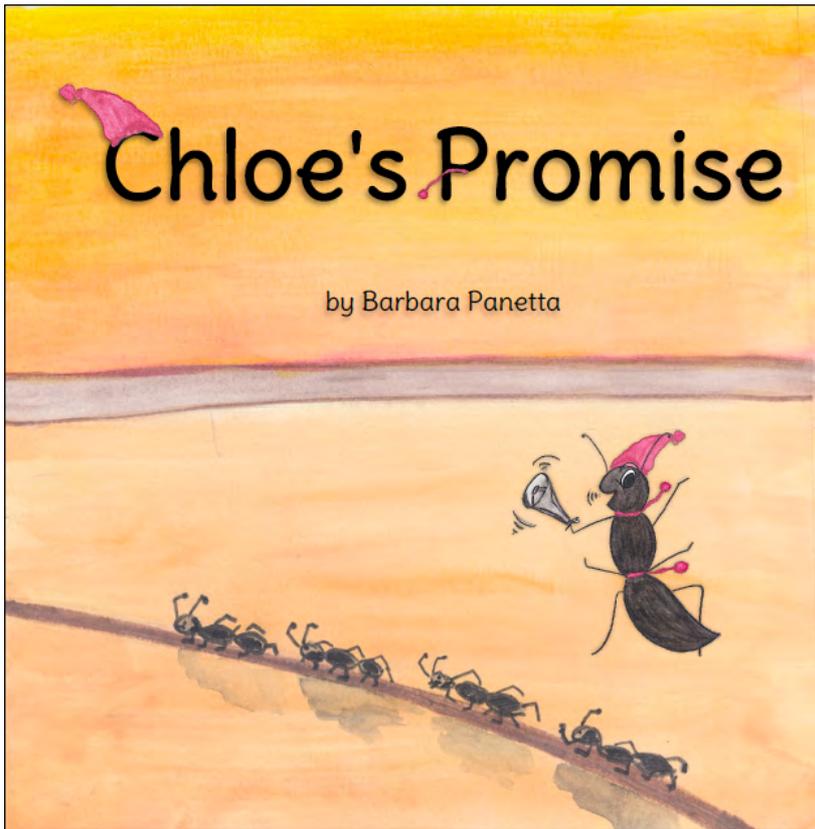
Melanie Davidson, Head of Support and Improvement at the Electoral Commission, said:

"It's really important that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so. Making sure you provide the necessary information to your local authority when it is needed will ensure the process runs smoothly. This is particularly helpful in the current public health situation, as it will help avoid the need for home visits from canvassers.

"There's lots of helpful information about registering to vote on our website <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a-voter>."

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames by e-mail to electoral.services@richmond.gov.uk.

CHLOE'S PROMISE - A DELIGHTFUL NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK AND VIDEO BOOK RAISING FUNDS FOR THE NHS AND MOMENTUM CHILDREN'S CHARITY



Momentum, a Surrey-based charity supporting children with cancer and life-challenging conditions, and NHS Charities Together are set to benefit from a charming new video and print book that reinforces to children the importance of taking time to rest - and keeping their promises. Written and illustrated by mother of two, Barbara Panetta from Richmond, Surrey, **Chloe's Promise** is free to download, but aims to raise valuable funds from voluntary donations.

Ben Shephard, presenter of **ITV's Good**



Morning Britain and **Tipping Point**, proudly agreed to narrate the story, which uses an ant called Chloe to reinforce its key messages.

Local resident **Barbara Panetta**, an Italian published novelist, was in her garden listening to one of her daughters diligently practising a difficult Chopin piece on the piano, when she noticed a column of ants struggling to collect a biscuit crumb that had fallen to the ground. This set Barbara's thoughts in motion, and the idea for Chloe's Promise was germinated.

With both her daughters being very musically gifted, Barbara was able to enlist the kindest collaboration of pianist **Alessandro Viale** to create and perform a bespoke soundtrack for the video book. Barbara worked together with children's psychologist Giovanna Campolo to ensure that the words used and the moral is appropriate for children of three years and above. The result is a charming, illustrative lesson that is sure to engage any small child.

The book can be viewed on the website www.antchloe.com

For more information about Momentum Children's Charity please visit

www.moment-um.org



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Europe is Re-Opening

**There's a HUGE welcome out there
& great prices too!**

Hurry Summer is not over yet....



The latest coronavirus updates from The Royal Parks

Our sole priority for the last few months has been to keep the parks open and safe, and we're doing everything we can to ensure this is the case. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone for their support and for following the rules on social distancing.

We know how crucial it is for people's physical and mental wellbeing to be able to have access to these valuable green spaces, and if we all work together we can keep them open for everyone to enjoy at this difficult time.

In preparation for the [Government's lockdown restrictions changing on 4th July](#), we are doing what we can to open our facilities safely but want to warn visitors that it is not business as usual. Social distancing is still essential and we ask that you act with kindness and consideration to other park visitors, as well as making sure you [throw your litter in the bins](#) or take it home if they're full.

Please see below for the latest changes to our park facilities.

Playgrounds

The Royal Parks, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and City of London Corporation, who operate the largest open spaces in London, have decided to keep playgrounds and outdoor gyms closed this weekend.

This will be reviewed over the coming days but when they do re-open, we will ensure there is clear and appropriate signage telling users to take precautions, security fencing is removed and safety checks have been completed on equipment not used for some time.

The review of re-opening will also consider how large demand could be and if it is realistic for visitors to use our popular facilities and still maintain social distancing.

Safety is our biggest priority, both from using the equipment and minimising the risk of passing on infection when using the equipment, and this will continue to be assessed.

- All park offices are now closed to the public until further notice
- The Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park is closed until further notice.

Catering

Many catering outlets across our parks have reopened with social distancing measures in place. They are offering takeaway only, with some having socially distanced external seating from 4th July. There is no internal seating.

A list of open cafés is below, if it's not on the list then it remains closed for the near future.

Richmond

- Roehampton Café – with external seating
- Broomfield Hill Kiosk
- Pen Pond Kiosk
- Pembroke Lodge Kiosk

Bushy

- Pheasantry Café
- Pheasantry Kiosk
- Diana Car Park Kiosk
- Ice Cream mobile van



The Week that was (in Church Street Twickenham)

By Shona Lyons

Well it has been quite a week! Last weekend after getting the ok from the council we arranged for some great musicians come to Church Street to play for everyone. We thought it was a good idea in our new socially distanced world as Church Street has been a little quiet and empty of late with half the shops, restaurants and pubs closed and with it being just pedestrianised to aid social distancing we thought a small band would be no trouble at all – attracting people to the street with plenty of space to move around and enhancing their shopping experience.

So the band came and it was really great. At no time was there a crowd of people, just a steady stream of people passing. Some did stop to listen but they were all considerate of each other and spaced themselves carefully apart.



We had planned for the band to come for a month, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and Sunday to help bring people back to Church Street after lock-down and also in our new pedestrianised and socially distanced world. From the reception and compliments we received on social media a lot of people really enjoyed it and we know our music students really enjoyed themselves as well having been locked away at home for months.

But it wasn't to be because on Tuesday I was told off and told that there had been ONE complaint and that I did not have permission. (Even though I have an email trail to prove that I did) and then subsequently I have had lots more emails from the council telling me that no live music is permitted as people will not be able to talk over the music and so will be spitting and therefore transmitting the disease. But we could have taped music. I don't understand the logic to that especially as the musicians tell me that they have had lots of experience playing for diners in restaurants and can easily soften the volume so that people will be able to talk to each other without raising their voices.

But I have been told that I also had a singer – all weekend. But actually there had only been a singer for the first hour and then the rest of the day and the weekend there was no singer – but I have been told that is absolutely sacrilege because a singer can spit and therefore transmit the disease – although I don't think there was a spike in cases after that first hour on the Friday but I might be wrong.

I had no intention of endangering anyone's health and I do take this issue really seriously. It is a shame but at the moment there will be no more live music. Slowly more shops have been opening their doors on Church Street, although the beauty Spas won't be able to for the time being. At the moment there is A LOT of activity in the street with huge cleaning and moving going on in the barbers, hair dressers, restaurants and pubs as they are getting to open tomorrow and we will have AL Fresco dining, so watch this space....



The New Alfresco Experience might not be quite like this, but there is sure to be a great welcome!

Council to open Civic Centre for appointments only

The Civic Centre in Twickenham will be partially reopening next week on an appointment-only basis. This follows a public closure during lockdown.

On the 24 March, the Council's main public reception closed, inline with Government guidance around COVID-19.

New guidance has now been issued about public buildings and over the past few weeks the Council has put in place measures to ensure the safety of all those in the building. This includes a rigorous deep cleaning programme and social distancing measures – including signage / hand sanitisers and sneeze screens.

As the country begins to slowly reopen, the Civic Centre will partially open for residents who are unable to access services online. Those who need face-to-face support will be able to make an appointment via the Council's Customer Services Team, enabling them to meet a Council officer to discuss:

- Parking Permits
- Council Tax
- Housing Benefits
- Housing needs
- Blue badge assessments
- Registrars (limited services as per government guidance)

Appointments will be staggered each day and residents will be asked to use an intercom when they arrive. Only those with an appointment will be able to come into the building.



Cllr Robin Brown, Lead Member for Finance for Richmond Council, said:

“Similarly to all other local authorities, we closed our Civic Centre reception to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff but also residents.

“Throughout lockdown, residents have been able to access nearly all our services online – paying bills, finding information, applying for grants or support. Our contact centre has also taken thousands of phone calls – continuing to offer similar support.

“For those residents who can, we encourage them to continue to go online or pick up the phone. But for the small number of people who are not able to go online, we are now opening a limited appointments service.

“If you do have an appointment, I can reassure you that we have made every effort to ensure that our buildings are safe. However, I do ask everyone to read the signs, use the hand sanitiser and respect social distancing – to ensure your safety and the safety of our staff.”

To access services online, go to: www.richmond.gov.uk if you are not able to, please call: 020 8891 1411.

ALL ABOARD FOR FAB TAKEAWAY

I've been watching with interest, as the preparations for the new Twickers York Street branch of Teddington's renowned Middle Eastern restaurant Sidra were underway. Of course, due to Covid-19 and lockdown, their timetable had to change, but now it's open, albeit takeaway and home deliveries only. But that didn't stop us!



We decided to have a socially distanced supper on our boat last week with some friends – and what better opportunity was there to check out Sidra's offering? Reader, we certainly weren't disappointed, in fact we were blown away by the fabulous food and value for money. We decided to have two large mezze platters so that we could eat one per couple (£8.99 per head), as it would give us a chance to try out a whole raft of their dishes. I phoned to order, and en route to the boat we popped in to collect two enormous wooden platters, all beautifully arranged and carefully wrapped in cling film. A carrier bag with a selection of hot pastries and warm flatbreads accompanied it. I was touched by their trust, as they didn't know me, and although I offered to pay a deposit on the lovely platters and dishes, they just asked me to drop them back when convenient.

Richmond and they were so good. I had a cheese one and an olive one (which was very good but a tad heavy on the pastry v filling ratio for my taste) and everyone enjoyed their different snacks. Apologies - I didn't have a chance to photograph these before everyone ate them.

Once anchored at our favourite spot in Teddington, we unwrapped the platters and delved in! What a feast!

Everything was delicious, but some dishes stood out for me: the Baba Ghanouj was outstanding, (creamy and smoky) as was the Tubulla, which was a 'proper' one i.e. a parsley salad with additions and not a heap of cracked wheat is as so often the case. The roasted Halloumi was excellent too. All the cold mezze dishes range from £3-7, depending on portion size. The pastries range from 50p to £1.50

Sidra also offers wrap meals which also look excellent and I can see us popping in on a regular basis to scoop up a couple of wraps and portions of cold mezze to enjoy on the boat. They also offer salad boxes – again, stonkingly good value at £5 or £6.

At just under £36 for supper for four it was great value. If you are unable to pop in to collect your food, then you can use a delivery service for a small supplement.

It's **World Chocolate Day** on July 7 folks, and as many of you know, I love good quality chocolate. When I've helped judge the Chocolate Awards for the Academy of Chocolate (sadly not happening this year for obvious reasons) I've generally been unimpressed with the standard of vegan chocolate as it often has a distinct coconut flavour. I do however like Ombar, which is organic, vegan plus all things fair, and the new Salt & Nibs variety is very good indeed. With 64 per cent cacao, it delivers a good, smooth chocolate 'punch' with the salt crystals and nibs adding a further point of texture and interest. At around £3 a bar it ain't cheap, but you don't need large portions, and it is worth spending a bit more on quality chocolate. Widely available: Waitrose, Ocado, Wholefoods.





Salome

Teddington Theatre Club, zoomed until 29th June, then on-line on YouTube.

Reviewed by Nick Swyft

The story of a man who is prepared to give anything to have his step-daughter dance for him is one that has inspired, and continues to inspire, artists throughout the centuries. And why not? It is a mine of those salacious undertones that we all love.



Wilde originally wrote this play in French because

English law forbade the depiction of biblical characters on stage, although this was probably more down to the nature of the tale than anything else. The French were not so fussy. Still to a modern, perhaps more jaded, audience *Salome* now seems a little staid. So Herod wanted his stepdaughter to dance for him. She was a grown woman and she's fair game. One might be puzzled as to why he would have given way to her incendiary demand for the head of Jokanaan (played convincingly by Dave Brickwood).

In this production Herod (Peter Hill) is portrayed as a feeble minded fop, which was credible but unsatisfactory. Perhaps playing more on his 'illicit' desire for his young step-daughter would have worked better.

Both Herodias (Juanita Dahhan) and Salome (Mia Skytte-Jensen) came across well as high-born women whose egos had been badly bruised by Jokanaan. In particular Mia Skytte-Jensen was a very alluring Salome in the end. Her yawning earlier on might have been due to a heavy day finished by a few glasses of wine, but could equally be ascribed to her boredom with Herod's constant demands for her to dance for him.

The Zoom production worked well since you do not need a lot of stage action for this play, although the technology was a little problematic. A background was provided for each actor of a full moon in a dark sky. The play made much of the influence of the moon, but its image here was a little ordinary. Perhaps a 'blood moon' would have worked better. Inexplicably, not all the cast made use of this background; although Salome could get away with a lamp-lit room, Herodias' Velux blind detracted from the atmosphere.



Photography by Aubrey Beardsley, Clive Barda and Teddington Theatre Club

<http://markaspen.com/2020/06/29/salome-2/>

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL

By Bruce Lyons



If you're confused join the gang. Last week I forecast that we were just about set to go!

With the promise from high that on Monday (that is last Monday 29th June) all would be revealed Well that wasn't to be, was it?! Here we are on Friday the 3rd July and at last there is a glimmer of light.

Now, our Government says it has a list of 59 countries, some pretty obscure that it is ok to go and come back without getting quarantined there or back here. But,

before you rush down here with your debit card you need to know there are new disciplines and protocols to follow and, guess what, one country can be different to another.

Yes you will be able to get to the Sun this July and August after all, you may even be able to get a bargain, but the "New Normal" could be a bit different. So this weekend we are studying what you have to do , in all the popular countries, as each country has its own priorities as they are just as worried about protecting their community as well as helping their tourist industries to recover.



A lot of these destinations have for years relied on the Tourist Economy which, for now, has not been there for 2020. Another thing, there is an acute shortage of flights, though more may be added, so that will restrict the bargains, that are usually proposed at short notice when unsold space is put up for sale, so that may affect your perspective of what is value.

On the other hand there have been few bookings these last 3 to 4 months and the result can vary from one destination to another. Today we were doing a booking and the flight price leapt by £50 per person in an hour – so we all need to stay focussed and use a bit of pragmatism – Book what you see and like - if you dither it is not there!

We'll be here tomorrow, and as the street is fully operational, drop by on your "walk about" and see what's on offer. Personally for a safe holiday in 2020 book a villa.

See you!

CRUSADER
TRAVEL

TRAVELLER'S TALES 75



CHINESE EXPLORATION

Doug Goodman describes the highlights of his second China visit in 1985

The Times of 28 July 1977 reported, under the headline 'China comes within reach of the package tourist', on the launch of holidays by Thomson to Peking and Shanghai for 12 nights costing £795. My second visit to the People's Republic was eight years later when much had improved for western tourists but every aspect of life in China was still far below today's standards. Western visitors generated curiosity, special shops existed where only foreigners could purchase intricate handmade goods, bicycles were the main form of transport and people still wore Mao jackets. Communication was difficult as few spoke English but those who did were anxious to practice on tourists. One guest was stopped by a young man who wanted to speak English: he asked how to pronounce Pelham Greville Wodehouse. After being told he replied gratefully, 'thank you for letting me savour the taste of English in my mouth'. Everyone we encountered was polite and keen to help. I'm sure today that an 'honoured guest' attitude remains the same and the tourist infrastructure has improved vastly.



Group Photo in Wuxi



River Boat Station



River Li Cruise

In Chairman Mao's Little Red Book I saw the following quotation. 'Whoever wants to know a thing has no way of doing so except by coming into contact with it, that is, by living in its environment'. He might also have said that the more you experience of China the less you really understand. That was certainly my reaction after my first visit in 1983: on my second I hoped to discover more about the country's history and way of life when I toured Suzhou, Wuxi and Guilin. On this trip a lot of time was spent in the company of ordinary people on boats and trains. I had grasped a few words and phrases in Chinese but it remained impossible to read signs, shop names or newspaper headlines.



Captive Cormorants



Fishing Team



Take away Lunch

LEISURELY TRAVEL

The high-speed rail network, the wide motorways and the extensive network of domestic air routes, which China portrays with pride, hardly existed 35 years ago. Boeing 747s were used on international flights but local ones were served by old Soviet jets. The few official cars looked very similar to the American chrome-covered, gas-guzzlers of the 1950s and trains were slow and crowded. Steam locos were much in evidence as coal was and still is plentiful. Tourists could travel soft or hard class as first or second class terminology was very reactionary. Snacks were served on every journey and hot water was brought to your seat in a large kettle. You took your own china mug with a lid ready filled with tea leaves. Staff wore immaculate uniforms and ensured that trains ran on time.

Our first trip was to Suzhou 62 miles from Shanghai. The city, the second largest in the Jiangso province after Nanjing, lies on the Yangtze and is known as The Venice of the North. Founded in 514 BC Suzhou is famous

for its stone bridges, pagodas and gardens. It's a World Heritage Site. The journey onwards to Wuxi was a great experience as we travelled on the Grand Canal on a passenger barge. 'A bit like being on the M25 with water,' someone suggested. This canal, the world's longest artificial waterway was constructed in the fifth century BC and rebuilt between 1271 and 1633. Its 1,104 miles link major cities for the transportation of goods and eases access between the Yellow River and The Yangtze. We experienced an unforgettable half-day cruise. In Tim Radford's feature for The Guardian he writes about the trip: 'people, pot plants, sacks of rice, straw, vegetables, mulberry leaves for the silkworm hatcheries, rice to be milled, cabbages for the markets all went past us on barges. On the canal you aren't going anywhere. You are standing still, and for a few hours the real China – uncaring, good humoured, busy with its cooking pots, slides past just a few feet and a bamboo fender away, on a great timeless silver ribbon, as it has done for over a 1000 years.'



Paddy Fields



Local Express



No First Class Only Soft

WUXI AND GUILIN

Wuxi is an important historical city as well as a centre for the production of rice, textiles and silk. We were invited to a school where the pupils spoke excellent English and staged a concert for us. The ballet and visits to farming communities were on the programme as well as free time in the markets. Stir fried meals from the market stalls were delicious and quite safe. A paper plate was used for your noodles and vegetables but you had to provide your own chopsticks. At 5 pence for a bundle of 25 I even took some home. In the city I spotted an establishment with pictures of wild and domestic animals on the windows. Assuming it was a pet shop I wanted to go in but the bucket of wriggling snakes by the door rather deterred me. It was of course a restaurant serving animal dishes. In S.E. Asia animals are more likely to be eaten than kept as pets. I read in The Times last Monday that in Yulin an annual dog meat festival had taken place despite the protests and risk from coronavirus,



Cruising the Grand Canal



Medicine Stall



Souvenirs Brought Home

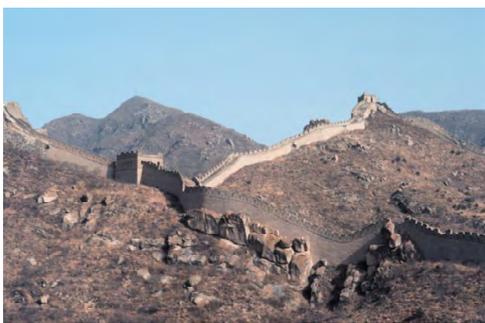
Guilin in Guangxi Zhuang province has a sub-tropical, humid climate. A major city with 4.7 million inhabitants it's a top tourist attraction because of the cruise and leisure activities on the River Li. The cuisine was hot and spicy with plenty of fish. Local fishermen have an 'easy' life using dedicated helpers to collect their catches. Captive cormorants are trained to dive for fish and return them to the boat with a small reward. Their throats are tied to prevent the birds from swallowing the fish. This spectacle along with the scenery during a cruise was possibly the highlight of the visit to China. The curious pointed limestone hills – Karst peaks dominated the region. Paddy fields covered the plains providing a glimpse of peasants toiling in the fields with only bullocks to help. Guilin is popular for young people for its water-borne activities, climbing, cycling and hiking. It was a place of great beauty providing the chance to relax after a week of plane, train and boat travel. Before the flight home there was time to visit the Friendship Store to buy ceramics, embroidered figures and many more items which still bring back happy memories of China.

China is much in the news - including in the Tribune

It has been reported in the last few days that China's new security law for Hong Kong brings in penalties for "new crimes" including life imprisonment. It is the end of "one country, two systems" government, agreed between China and the UK and was to last for fifty years; the end of life in Hong Kong as many people know it.

The news comes following on from more fears of yet another virus in China - which can be transferred to humans from pigs. It has been said that this latest virus - similar to Swine Flu - may have the potential to spark yet another pandemic.

Of course, we are all experiencing the "new normal" way of life since the arrival of COVID-19 in the UK which the world first saw in Wuhan, one of China's major cities.



[Hong Kong](#)

[Visiting Hong Kong Students a Week Before the Handover of Hong Kong to China 1997](#)

[China - Country Information](#)

[China - the Teachers](#)

[China - the Students](#)





BRENTFORD FC

Watkins' winner keeps automatic promotion hopes alive

Brentford 1 – 0 West Bromwich Albion

Ollie Watkins' 23rd league goal of a remarkable goalscoring season propelled Brentford to within five points of an automatic promotion place to continue the fine return to football for the Bees since the restart.

Brentford playing at Griffin Park without a crowd for the first time took the lead on a cool evening in west London. A flowing team move gave the hosts the lead on 16 minutes through inform marksman Watkins. Tariqe Fosu initiated the move picking up the ball in midfielder before passing the ball onto the

Algerian Said Benrahma. Benrahma dribbled up the left-hand touchline and played the ball into the advancing Josh Dasilva. Dasilva fired in a powerful cross along the ground and Watkins was alive to stab the ball home from close range.



Despite sides being amongst the highest scorers in the Championship this season there were few clear cut chances in the first half and a free kick from Emiliano Marcondes was the closest either side came to scoring again after the Dane's dangerous cross was headed wide by Ethan Pinnock.

After the break West Brom came of the tunnel the fresher side and went close through Matheus Pereira, who fired off from range. The Brazilian attacker, who has been one of the players of the season in the league, grew further into the game and linked up with Kenneth Zohore, who produced a curling an effort against the bar that had David Raya well beaten.

Thomas Frank sent on fresh legs in the form of Shandon Baptise and Bryan Mbeumo in order to try and see out the game and the extra energy of these players helped to give Brentford greater presence.

Josh Dasilva had the final notable chance for the Bees to seal the game but the he dragged a left footed effort wide of the post from a Benrahma cross. In the end it proved inconsequential as the Bees held off for a hugely significant three points.

Speaking after the victory Thomas Frank praised his team's leadership, "We scored a beautiful goal on the counter and I would have liked to see more football from us like that, but they are the leaders and have been an unbelievably good side all season

"Our performance team and the medical staff have done a great job in keeping the players fit

during the lockdown period. But all credit to the players for staying fit and pushing each other.

“Now we’d like to see Fulham win at Leeds on Saturday and create a truly competitive last seven games of the season. But, for us, the most important is now at Reading on Tuesday. Winning these two games will mean nothing if we don’t follow it up.”

Royals dethroned as Bees record convincing victory

Reading 0 – 3 Brentford

Brentford made it a hat-trick of victories in a row since the Championship season resumption as forward Bryan Mbeumo marked his own personal return from the coronavirus with a goal.

The Frenchman who had been self-isolating under government guidelines before returning to training with the squad wasted no time in marking his return and he scored after only 23 minutes on his return to first team action.

A deep corner from Emiliano Marcondes found Ethan Pinnock peeling off from the back post who headed the ball back across goal and into the path of Mbeumo who glided in-between the Reading defence and headed home from inside the six-yard area.

Although the score line may suggest a comprehensive defeat Reading had their moments and when a free kick was Pontus Jansson into the path of Michael Olise the captain had to stick out a leg to divert a powerful volley over the crossbar that could have troubled David Raya.

The Bees got their crucial second goal midway through the second half when Josh Dasilva fired low at Rafael, who could only parry the ball into the path of the Brentford forward who made no mistake second time around, scooping the ball high into the net.

Late on Joel Valencia, who has had opportunities limited this season due to the excellent form of the ‘BMW’, tried to exert an influence on the game and the Ecuadorian had a shot blocked as the clock approached injury time. However, just minutes later Valencia found space 25 yards out and let out a moving shot that deceived Rafael to cap a perfect afternoon for the Bees.

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said speaking after the game, “This was a very good performance going away from home. We maintained another high level, especially on the defensive side of our game.

“That is a most important side of the game to be focused on. You have to be disciplined and stick to your structure.

“You can always talk about putting the pressure on them (West Brom) but the only thing that we can do is focus on our training and our games - and make sure that we win the next one.

“It’s then up the other teams to either win or fail - and then put more pressure on themselves. But we can’t look too far ahead.”

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Wigan Athletic (H) Saturday 4th July 15:00 Griffin Park

Nickname: The Latics, The Tics

Competition: Championship

Opponent record: P40 W13 D11 L16 GF45 GA50 (14th in the Championship)

Top scorer: Cheyenne Dunkley, Kieffer Moore (6)

Manager: Paul Cook

Previous game: Brentford climbed to 9th in the table after a convincing 3-0 away wigan against the Latics. Bryan Mbeumo scored after just five minutes to give the visitors the lead and Kamohelo Mokotjo doubled their advantage midway through the second half. Just three minutes after Mokotojo's goal Cedric Kipre was sent off for a second bookable offence and the Bees took advantage with Josh Dasilva's third goal of the season. Late on Julian Jeanvier was sent off in the only blemish of the afternoon for a scuffle which led to Wigan's Joe Gelhardt being stretchered off.

Interesting fact: In August 2019, the club announced that a giant pie, called Crusty, would serve as the team's new mascot for the 2019-2020 season. Crusty The Pie was chosen following a competition in which more than 90 primary schools were invited to submit ideas.

Game 2

Opponent: Charlton (H) Tuesday 7th June 15:00 Griffin Park

Nickname: The Addicks

Competition: Championship

Opponent record: P40 W12 D10 L18 GF46 GA54 (18th in the Championship)

Top scorer: Lyle Taylor (11)

Manager: Lee Bowyer

Previous game: A sole goal from Conor Gallagher four minutes from half time was enough to give the Addicks all three points and move them up to second in the embryonic end of August Championship table. On loan Chelsea midfielder Gallagher finished from a quality Jonny Williams assist. The closest the Bees went was through Ollie Watkins with the striker testing the reflexes of Dillon Phillips with a stinging shot which the keeper did well to hold on to/

Interesting fact: Keith Peacock is the club's second highest appearance maker with 591 game and was also the first-ever substitute in a Football League game, replacing injured goalkeeper Mike Rose after 11 minutes of a match against Bolton Wanderers on 21 August 1965.

Come on you Bees!

Asylum accommodation and support

Today's report from the National Audit Office (NAO) finds that despite asylum accommodation and support contracts being replaced with less disruption than last time, it is not clear whether the new, more costly contracts will be value for money, with some providers initially failing to meet Home Office standards. This has left some supported asylum seekers¹ facing waits for longer-term accommodation and specialist advice.

The Home Office designed the 2019-2029 asylum seeker accommodation and support contracts to improve services for asylum seekers and their families while their cases are processed. These replaced the previous COMPASS contracts for asylum seeker support with seven similar regional contracts for accommodation and transport, and a new national helpline and support service, AIRE.²

£4.0bn	48,000	96%
estimated total value of the new asylum accommodation contracts and the AIRE support service, 2019 to 2029	asylum seekers in accommodation under new contracts, March 2020	increase in asylum seekers in initial (short-term) accommodation, July to October 2019
£560	estimated cost per month for each accommodated asylum seeker compared with £437 under previous COMPASS service – a 28% increase	
5%	the number of accommodated asylum seekers who had to relocate during the transition to new providers, compared with 10% when contracts transitioned to COMPASS in 2012	
26 days	the average time that accommodated asylum seekers spent in initial accommodation before being rehoused in longer-term accommodation, between September 2019 and February 2020. The Home Office (the Department) expects most people to be rehoused within 35 days	
more than 1,000	accommodated asylum seekers in hotels each night, October 2019 to March 2020	
2%	of calls to the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service answered within 60 seconds, against performance standard of 90%, September to December 2019. The service answered 94% of calls within 60 seconds in February and March 2020	
47%	of local authorities (180 of 382) have agreed to house asylum seekers in their area, March 2020	

Between July and October 2019, the number of asylum seekers in initial (short-term) accommodation increased by 96% from 1,678 to 3,289. Most people were moved from this initial, short-term, accommodation into longer-term housing within a few weeks, although some have stayed much longer. Between September 2019 and February 2020, the average time spent in initial accommodation was 26 days, in line with Home Office expectations.³ However, 981 people who had arrived by the end of December 2019 stayed in initial accommodation for at least 86 days, during which time they were not able to register with a GP practice or enrol their children into school.

Although accommodation providers are now broadly meeting performance standards set by the Department, providers new to their regions struggled in the early months of their contracts. Both Serco and Mears told the NAO that some houses they took over from outgoing providers were below the standards required by the new contract. This increased the maintenance work needed and made it

harder to move people into longer-term housing on time.

The AIRE service failed its users in its early months and despite some improvements, the service has not yet delivered consistently acceptable performance. The contractor, Migrant Help, expected to receive 21,400 calls per month to the AIRE helpline, but received more than twice this number. As a result, only a fifth of helpline calls were answered. Although call waiting times have improved since Migrant Help recruited more staff, other AIRE services have not met standards set by the Home Office. Between September and March 2020, 2,800 asylum seekers did not receive an induction briefing within one day of moving into initial accommodation. Migrant Help also took on average three to four times longer than expected to complete application forms for failed asylum seekers who were facing

Following a request by local authorities, the Home Office agreed that by 2029 the regional distribution of supported asylum seekers would be in line with the UK regional population. This would require the Home Office to more than double the number of accommodated asylum seekers in the south of England. The Department has not calculated what this might cost, but given higher accommodation costs in the south, the NAO estimates that it could be an extra £80 million. This is in addition to price increases that the Department may have to negotiate with providers if the number of accommodated asylum seekers increases beyond limits in the contracts.

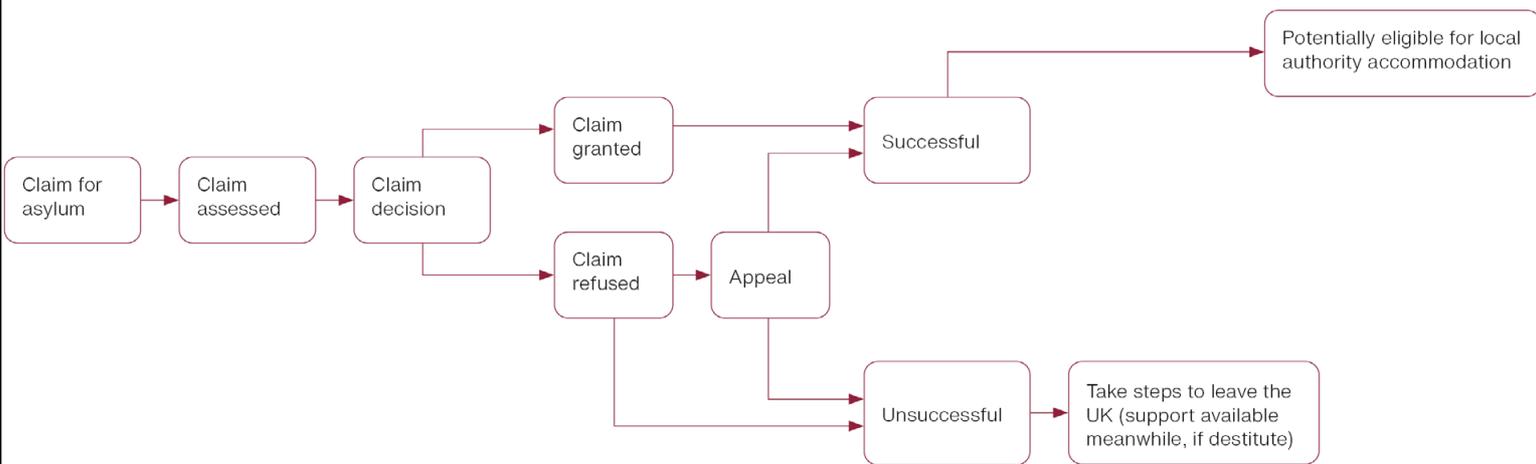
It is too early to determine whether the £4 billion asylum seeker accommodation and support services will achieve value for money. However, the NAO recommends that the Home Office should collaborate with providers to address early performance issues and to meet its future aims for the service. The Department needs to work with Migrant Help to improve the performance of the AIRE helpline and secure better outcomes in other areas, such as inductions for new arrivals. In addition, the Home Office should review whether asylum seekers who have been in initial accommodation for some time are being offered longer-term accommodation at the same rate as recent arrivals.

Figure 1

Asylum seeker journey through the asylum support system

Asylum seekers move to longer-term accommodation once the Home Office has confirmed their eligibility for support

Asylum claim process



Asylum accommodation process



Source: National Audit Office

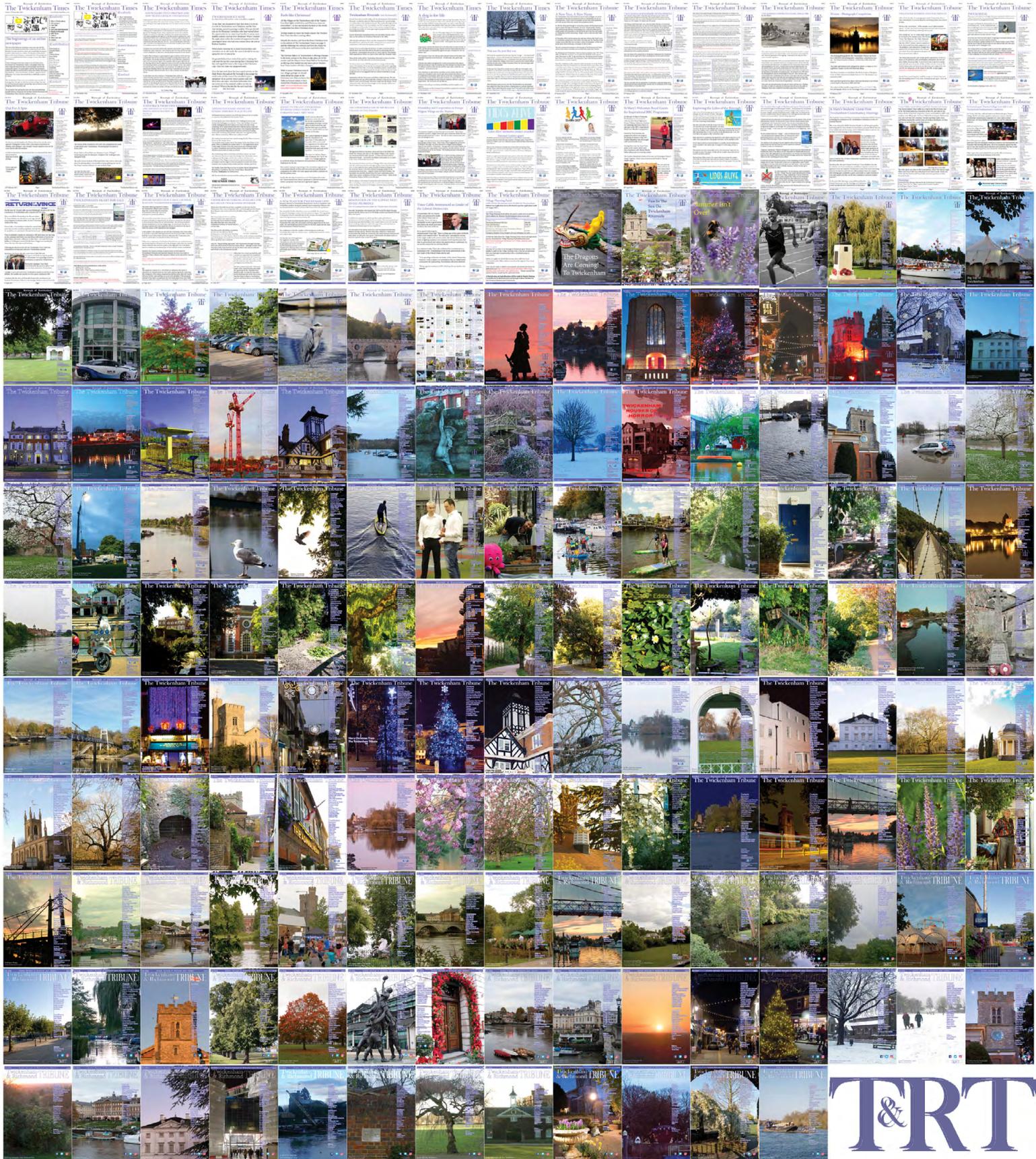
Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said today:

“The Home Office has replaced the previous COMPASS asylum seeker accommodation and support contracts to improve services at a higher but realistic cost. However, performance standards were missed in initial months, which left some asylum seekers facing difficulties accessing suitable housing and specialist support and advice. The Department has shown that it has learned from the COMPASS contracts and has laid the foundations of a better service. The Department now needs to show that it has addressed the challenges we identify, in order to deliver value for money over the life of these contracts.”



National Audit Office

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