

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

TickerTape
 TwickerSeal
 COVID-19
 Borough Views
 History Through Postcards
 Film Screenings
 Marble Hill Marvels
 Letters
 River Crane Sanctuary
 Twickers Foodie
 Mark Aspen Reviews
 WIZ Tales
 Football Focus

Contributors

TwickerSeal
 Alan Winter
 Graeme Stoten
 Richmond Film Society
 Marble Hill House
 Sammi Macqueen
 Alison Jee
 Shona Lyons
 St Mary's University
 Mark Aspen
 Doug Goodman
 Bruce Lyons
 James Dowden
 LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
 Teresa Read



17th July 2020

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

House of Fraser, Richmond store receives planning permission

The mixed-use redevelopment at 80 George Street will include 22,000 square of retail and leisure space on the ground and lower ground floors, while the top four floors of the building will be used for 42,000 square feet of office space. The developer, Canadian and Portland, expects the retail units could be ready for occupation by the end of 2021.

Johnson's Shoes (Partly) Saved

Johnsons Shoes has been rescued out of administration by independent footwear retailer Newjohn Limited. The Teddington and Twickenham branches have been saved, along with four other shops outside the borough; the East Sheen and Richmond branches are among the six shops which have closed permanently.

Call To Save Trees in St Margarets

Residents in St Margarets are fighting to save 11 mature trees, all of which are protected, from developers who want to fell them to build four houses. The trees were given to the community in the 1980s as community payback for building a business estate. More info [HERE](#)

Police Called To Old Deer Park

On Wednesday evening, 15th July, Park Wardens called the police to assist in dealing with a large group of young people (approx 250+). One male was arrested for public order offences. The team witnessed a drug deal. Suspects ran off, but dumped wraps of Class A drugs that were recovered.

Private Security Trouble In Richmond

Increased anti-social behaviour in the Richmond Green area has led to local residents hiring private security firms and there have been a number of serious incidents, allegedly involving some of these security personnel, including an assault in George Street where a 39-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of assault. The council and police view this development with concern and have written to Richmond Green residents.

Hampton Pool Reopens

Hampton Pool will be reopening the main pool, for lane swimming only, from Friday, 17 July. More info [HERE](#)

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

skyelectrical

Replacing your halogen recessed lights with LEDs will:

- ✓ SAVE ENERGY
- ✓ SAVE YOU MONEY
- ✓ PROVIDE BETTER LIGHTING

So...

- ✓ CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE HOME ASSESSMENT AND QUOTE

For a timed appointment please call Sky Electrical on 020 8894 1799

22 Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 5LF

www.skyelectrical.co.uk



020 8894 1799
info@skyelectrical.co.uk



TwickerSeal visited that oasis of green on Twickenham Riverside, the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. As he looked at the wonderful

view of the river and Eel Pie Island, he couldn't help but notice that there seemed to be a car park in the way. Who on earth, he wondered, would give priority to parked cars and traffic at such an idyllic site, rather than focus on recreation and public enjoyment of the riverside?

Ah, but then he remembered the rumours of the concerted campaign emanating from Eel Pie Island intent on fighting against the council's plans to remove traffic and parking from the Embankment between Water Lane and Wharf Lane. It seems the residents, and numerous business tenants, on Eel Pie Island have been rallied against the council's dastardly plans to, er, make the riverside a nice place for people. No doubt when the council assesses its recent consultation on the matter, they will note the spike in the EPI population that seems to happen on these occasions. As for the alleged fund that the islanders are building in preparation for the fight against the council, well that's another matter...

Save Our Riverside

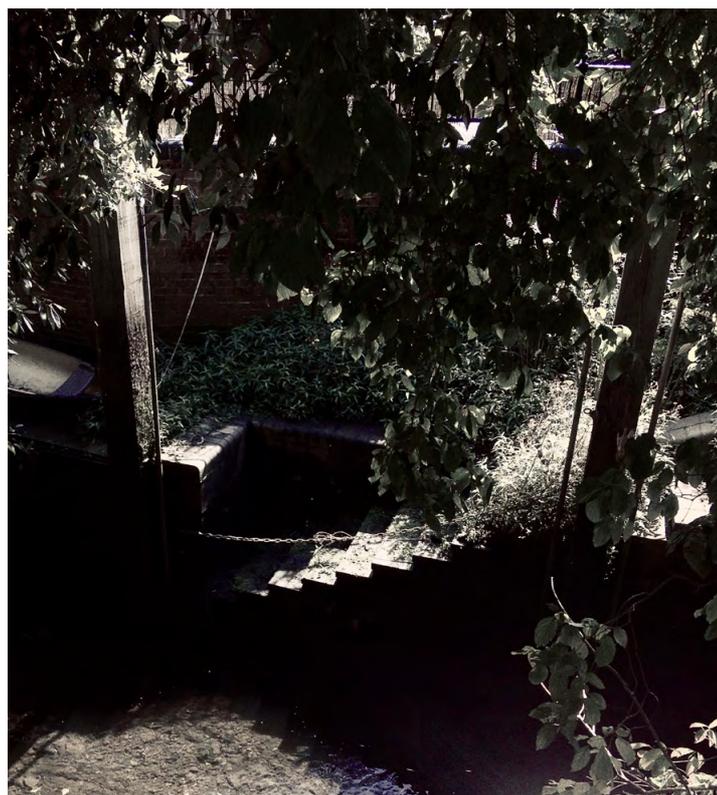
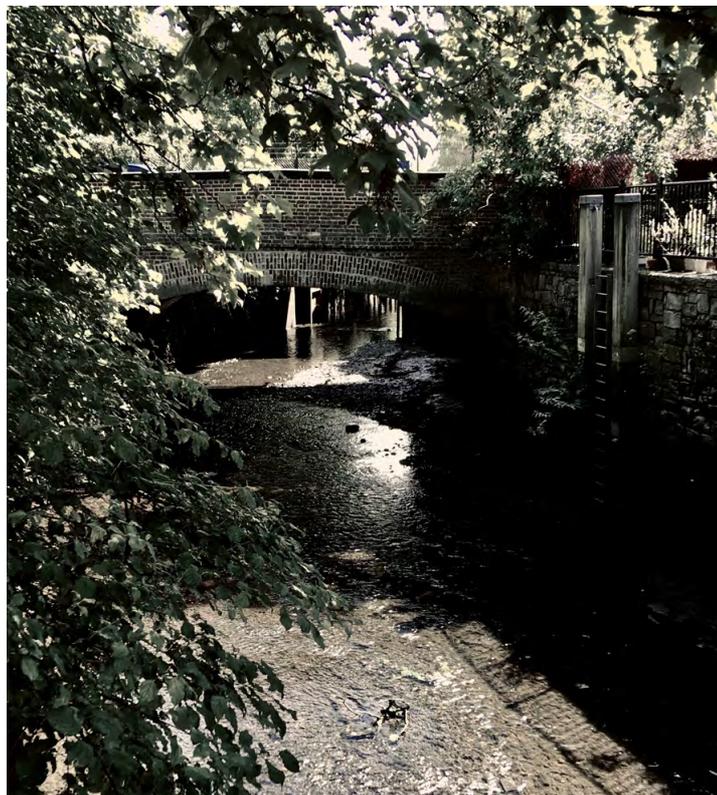
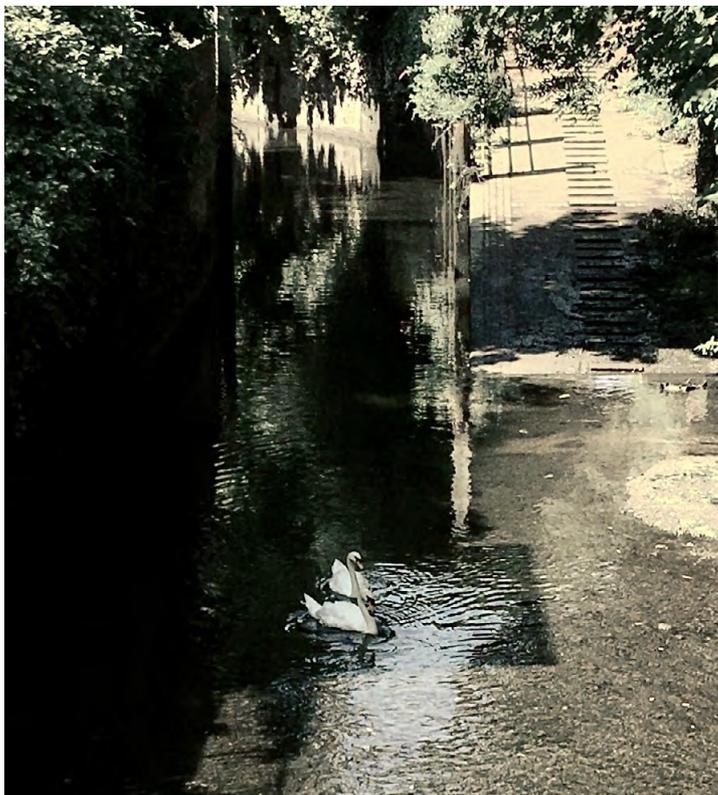


Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

'River Crane'

A familiar site to many who visit Crane Park, the River Crane then meanders north-east through Twickenham and onto Isleworth to join the River Thames so forming a natural border between the London boroughs of Richmond and Hounslow. Running past allotments and squeezed between residential properties the river emerges into sight here at Isleworth where it meets the impact of the ebb and flow of the Thames tide.



COVID-19

By Teresa Read

Local Statistics

The In Your Area website gave the following statistics for COVID-19 on Friday 17 July 2020: 536 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 744 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,077 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 17 July 2020 gave the following details for countries with the highest death rates: 136,753 in the USA, 75,366 in Brazil, 45,119 in the UK.

South Africa has the highest number of recorded deaths in Africa: 4,669

Mexico is in third place for a high death rate in the Americas: 36,906

Iran has the highest number of recorded deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean: 13,608

Italy has the second highest number of recorded deaths in Europe: 35,017

India has the highest number of recorded deaths in South-East Asia: 25,602

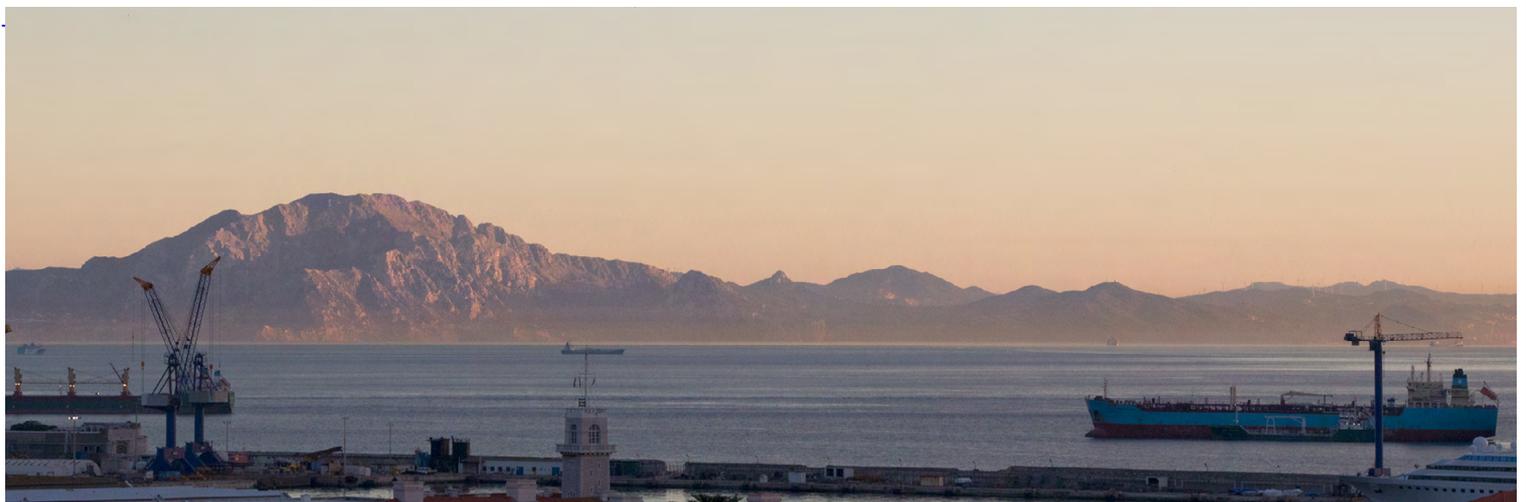
China remains the country with the highest number of recorded deaths in the Western Pacific: 4,651

The total number of recorded deaths worldwide is 585,727.

A number of islands report no deaths and the UK Overseas Territories of the Falkland Island and Gibraltar report 0 deaths.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Africa from a penthouse veranda at the Elliott Hotel, Gibraltar



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

PART 188 – THE RED LION PUB AT TWICKENHAM DIP

It is with both sadness and fond memories that I now drive past the Tesco's Express on the corner of Lion Road by Twickenham's "Dip" just by the Green. This was the site of the popular Red Lion pub and hotel since 1726 when it was first recorded as a beer house. The upstairs room and bar hosted many a family and musical function including my wife's 40th birthday party while the pub itself evolved over decades offering snooker, pool and bar billiards, dart teams, lunch time meals and live music sessions. It turned into Tesco in 2010.

Our first postcard is from the early Edwardian period around 1904/05 and shows that the shops in Heath Road previously extended past the pub and almost up to the railway bridge. A tram is negotiating its way under the dip and on towards the town centre. How about the fabulous external lamps adorning the pub and there is the young lad with his hand cart possibly looking for bits of coal and anything else that would burn on the open fires of those days.



The area behind Twickenham Green was populated by large families living in the network of cottages in the area. No one had motor transport back then and so the women shopped on foot locally every day. This is why there were far more shops and pubs in those days catering for the large number of local pedestrians. The roads behind were built for the railway workers who were extending the lines at the back end of the 19th century. People tended to be born, schooled, married and lived their lives in relatively small areas and so the pubs and churches were very much the community hubs of the day.



The next postcard was posted in 1908 and is a wonderful view of the pub and hotel as it then was. In the 1960s I worked for one summer



at the Crimony Company opposite the Red Lion. The firm stood on a large site on the corner of Heath Road and Heath Gardens and many of us were to be found playing darts in the Red Lion at lunchtime.

The 3rd colour photo of the Red Lion brings us forward to the 1990s and is possibly how most of us remember it.

Pubs are at the very heart of our local social history

although they are not functioning quite the same today due to the current virus. Should you be interested in the subject, I must recommend Kenneth M Lea's book "Twickenham Pubs". It is available through the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society website on www.botlhs.co.uk for not much more than the price of a pint!

All previous articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting www.twickenhamtribune.com Just go the archive editions which start in 2016.

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.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

Gibraltar - the Twickenham Connection

At the beginning of the week Gibraltarians remembered that it was this week in 1713 that Gibraltar was ceded to Britain in perpetuity; a treaty was signed between Great Britain and Spain in Utrecht, Holland (now the Netherlands).

The first Earl of Strafford, who negotiated the Treaty of Utrecht, lived in Gifford Lodge opposite Twickenham Green which is now in the London Borough of Richmond.

Gibraltar is a beautiful sunny place which is a bit like a home from home; English is the main language and many Gibraltarians are more British than those of us who live in the UK.



Gibraltar:

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

Gifford Lodge, home to the first Earl of Strafford:

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



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 17, 17th July 2020

LES CHORISTES

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.

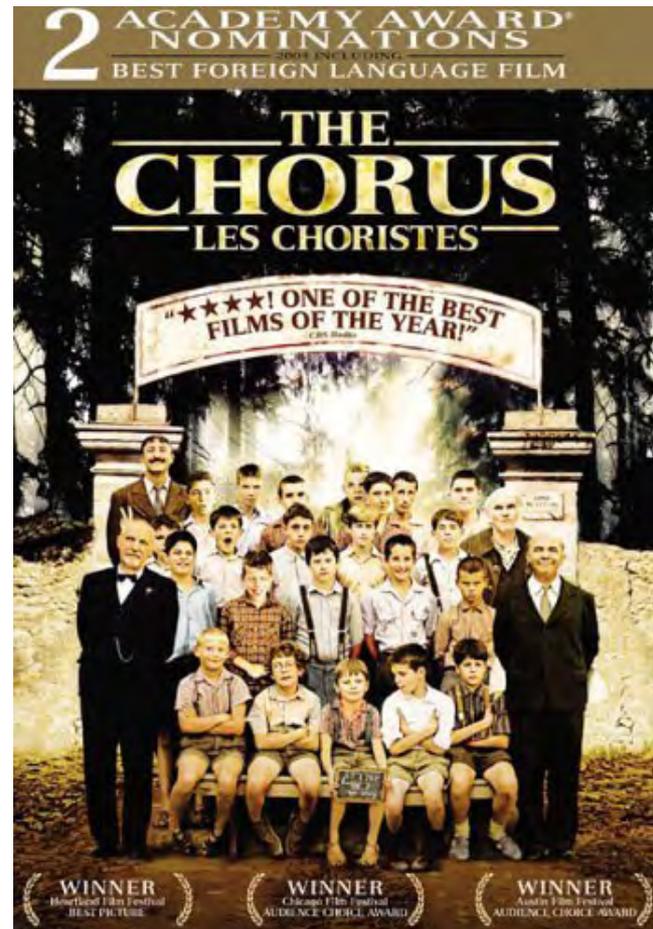
RFS Context: **LES CHORISTES** was 623rd film screened by RFS on 27th November 2007. **Les Choristes** was the joint second to top ranked film of Season 45, it got an approval mark of 90% from those attending (It was the joint second to top ranked film with **Volver**, which is planned to feature in a future issue of our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings; from season 45 we have also already featured its top ranked film **The Lives of Others**, as **Issue 12**). **Les Choristes** sadly at present I could not find it on any streaming service but discs are available from Amazon and others.

LES CHORISTES (The Chorus)

Country: France, 2004
Director: Christophe Barratier
Screenplay: Christophe Barratier & Philippe Lopes-Curval based on La Cage Aux Rossignols by Georges Chaperot & René Wheeler
Editor: Yves Deschamps
Music: Bruno Coulais
Cinematography: Jean-Jacques Bouhon, Dominique Gentil & Carlo Varini
Running Time: 96 min., colour
Language: French

Leading Players:

Gérard Jugnot	(Clément Mathieu)
François Berléand	(Rachin)
Kad Merad	(Chabert)
Jean-Paul Bonnaire	(La Père Maxence)
Marie Bunel	(Violette Morhange)
Maxence Perrin	(Pépinot)



This Academy Award nominated film "**The Chorus**" (**Les Choristes**) inspired by the 1945 film "**La Cage Aux Rossignols**" (A Cage of Nightingales) is one of the best pieces of cinematography to come from France in a number of years. With first time director Christophe Barratier in

control, the film is effortlessly delivered and a joy to watch, the help of the greatly talented and dedicated actors just emphasize its success.

Set in a correctional boarding school in rural France, just after the Second World War, in a society overflowing with depression and countless orphans, **Fond de l'Etang** provides a home for rebellious boys under the dictator-like leadership of headmaster Rachin. However, the arrival of failed musician turned supervisor Clément Mathieu turns the system upside down through his music and rapport with the students. After an initial bumpy start with run-ins with Rachin, Mathieu sees the children's potential through the countless rude rhymes, sung insultingly at the staff of **Fond de l'Etang**. He forms a choir/chorus hence the title, of an extraordinary standard and at the same time falls for Violette, mother of the singing sensation Morhange (Jean-Baptiste Maurier). And when troublesome adolescent Mondain arrives, something disastrous is bound to happen.

Is it the angel faced young actors or the respectable Gerard Jugnot mortgaging his house to fund the film, which has made it a world-wide success? An act which shows great dedication for a film that was never thought to leave France. Yet it did and swept the world with great gusto with its quaint French charm-a welcome change from the usual Hollywood poppycock.

This nostalgic look in to the French past, with ill-fitting knitted jumpers and shorts worn all year round, will leave anyone with a smile on their face. With the mise en scène of an 18th century French chateaux plastered with ivy, it is a picturesque look back in time. A perfect homage to the nouvelle vague resembling films such as "**Les Quatre Cents Coups**" directed by François Truffaut, and rounding the narrative executed precisely. This is done in a way that is subconsciously unforgettable with Clément leaving and arriving in a bus, simple yet effective.

The film has one of the best musical scores seen in a long time, composed by Bruno Coulais. The music is the best credit to the film and the way in which the songs are delivered through the choir, not pasted over on the top of rolling film where no music is even needed, is a refreshing look at how music and film can merge together effortlessly. The only blemishes are the flash forwards at beginning and end, which, although adding a comprehensible form to the film, are not needed, and just provide ammunition for critics to write off the film with the ill-fated first few seconds.

I advise anyone to go and see this film, although getting past the subtitles can be challenging for some, it is well worth the learning curve and will be a surely memorable film, with remarkable performances from Gerard Jugnot and Maurier who set the heartfelt story alive it is an un-missable film and well worth its Oscar nomination.

My rating is 8 out of 10 stars, for the way in which this film is a fresh look at cinema, compared to the ridiculousness of Hollywood's blockbusters that contain weak plot lines and feeble casts.

Catriona Sheil

TODAY'S TRAVEL BULLETIN FROM NO.10 AKA 58, CHURCH STREET

By Bruce Lyons

Dear Reader,

Here's where you find out about changes that happened this week in the "Lockdown" easement. Please take note of my calm approach to this chaotic evolving scenario!!

Most of you know that we Beach starved Brits are now OK to travel to several European Countries, albeit with some caveats on the disciplines to be observed in travel and in the host countries, at least you won't be quarantined there or here!! Lucky You.

Last Monday there was a bolt out of the Blue from our lovely FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth office) No One, that's right No One should go cruising in the immediate future, and of course there was an uproar, later in the week it was clarified.



So here is the real message, the embargo is on one of more nights being spent of International Cruise Ships at Sea, as opposed to River Cruising or even cruising around the British Isles, and small ships as Gulets are excluded too. As a result of this clarification there is a new wave of sailings on the European Rivers and a number of British Island Sailings are also back on schedule. Most products being offered now include a COVID-19 protection plan which means you can book with confidence with protection from either you having to cancel because you caught it or if there was new lockdown that meant the holiday couldn't go ahead – don't catch it – it is not very nice, I can tell you!!

More news, the major airlines continue cutbacks on both staff and aircraft, so if you have booking made in advance I recommend you check them. On the other hand several long distance destinations have been given the green light; Vietnam, Mauritius and Dubai and the Maldives – so there could be some good pickings there if you book soon!



The last of the good news is that our beloved Shearing (shut down two months ago) has been re-incarnated by Leger and many of the old favourites are on offer as well as their ever popular self-drive vacations – they do have Autumn 2020 dates but most of the departures are in 2021, but all the local pick-ups are included.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about the great success Gibraltar had with controlling Covid-19 there. A three-night weekend in August in a 4* star Hotel, the Elliott will cost from Gatwick £440 on B & B, or £520 at the 5* Sunborn. Heathrow flights also available <https://www.crusadertravel.com/>

Last Saturday Night on Twickenham Green

Teresa Read

Local alcohol off-sales on and around Twickenham Green led to a new spectacle last Saturday night - as pubs opened their doors a much younger crowd congregated on the Green.

Walking along the road next to Twickenham Green I witnessed a young girl of around fifteen propping herself up on a tree and vomiting profusely, surrounded by girls of a similar age.

The noise from these gatherings on Twickenham Green can be heard in local homes and public urination and defecation is evident, continuing past midnight.

This Saturday night there were no Park Marshals visible as there had been for some nights in the previous week or so.

There is no Community Toilet Scheme evident at the moment; there does not appear to be a sign at Arthur's Restaurant telling its many customers or visitors to the Green that they can use their toilets and Sainsbury's head office has made it abundantly clear that they will not allow customers to use their toilet facilities.



Barrels of beer ready to supply the Green's thirsty visitors

How long will it take the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to sort out the toilet problem on Twickenham Green? Some local residents feel that it is unfair that the Council is off-loading its toilet problem on to their properties when they pay Council Tax to deal with this sort of thing.

We are still learning about COVID-19 and its transmission; new facts are emerging as time goes on. A question we should consider is the possibility of the virus spreading through the vomit of an infected person, no doubt bodily fluids will be of interest to dogs walked on the Green who are in turn stroked by owners; and what of children playing on Twickenham Green?

However, following a phone call to the Council out-of-office hours on Saturday night and the police at 101, on Sunday residents were treated to a different version of the Green. Sunday on the Green was a vision of a pleasant summer's afternoon with a cricket match and groups of families enjoying the good weather; two Park Marshals were on duty and even a policeman was on foot patrol. But, as evening drew in, the stumps were packed away and the families and Marshals returned home the evidence of urination on residents' properties was back, reminding us that, however pleasant the day may have been, this is an ongoing problem in need of urgent attention and a solution.

Editor's Note

On Sunday walking past the tree where the girl vomited, a young boy was scooping up the earth around the same tree and carried it over to other children and they started to play with it.



MARBLE HILL REVIVED



WILD FLOWERS AT MARBLE HILL



At Marble Hill Park we are working to improve wildlife habitats in many ways. This includes enhancing grasslands and encouraging more native wildflowers to flourish in an area of the park near Orleans Road. In July we will spread cuttings from the rich meadow near Ham House by the ‘green hay’ technique. We will protect the area with a rope boundary marker and we ask everyone to leave the meadow to develop and to keep dogs outside.

More information: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Email: marblehillrevived@english-heritage.org.uk

Have your say: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MarbleHillRevival

**FREE ZOOM SEMINAR 20th JULY 10AM:
WILDFLOWER MEADOWS**

Rachel.morrison@english-heritage.org.uk



www.environmenttrust.org



Community Toilet Scheme

For months residents' concerns about the lack of toilet facilities on Twickenham Green have been fobbed off by councillors who keep referring to the much-vaunted Community Toilet Scheme. However, it is abundantly clear that the CTS is not fit for purpose in the context of a large open public space such as the Green, and is rather more suited to the High Street.

Councillors have been quick to refer to the cricket pavilion as if it was the answer to all problems. But the pavilion is closed most of the time, is essentially a club and not exactly welcoming of casual toilet seekers (a reader wrote to us saying she had asked to take her young children into the pavilion toilet, but was refused) and as it is run by volunteers it should not really be expected to cater for the Green's toilet needs. Councillors also point to the pizza restaurant Arthur's as having toilet facilities, but as can be seen from the adjacent image the toilets are not available to anyone, even though they are happily selling takeaway drinks to people on the Green; the irony of the Arthur's building being a former public toilet is obviously lost on them.

There has been a lot of PR from the council about its commitments to combatting anti-social behaviour, with Zoom meetings and photo ops with the police, but residents are yet to receive any clear indication of what can be done to 'relieve' the situation; perhaps the council is waiting until the end of summer so the problem will magically go away, just like they did last year.



Take note of important changes to 'shielding' guidance

Vulnerable residents are reminded to take note of changes to the Government's COVID-19 guidance around 'shielding'.

Anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 has been advised to stay at home as much as possible and keep interactions with people to a minimum. This is called 'shielding', and the government is currently advising clinically extremely vulnerable people to shield **until 31 July 2020**.

The Government has made some changes to its guidance for people who are shielding because transmission of COVID-19 in the community has gone down. The changes came into effect on Monday 6 July and mean that:

- People who are shielding no longer need to socially distance from the people they live with
- They can meet in a group of up to six people outdoors, including people from other households
- If they live alone, they can also form a 'support bubble' with one other household

Importantly, the Government has confirmed that people who are shielding will still receive support with food, care and medicine deliveries up to 31 July.

After the 31 July, Government food parcels will cease and people are advised to register for a priority supermarket delivery. This will only be allocated to those who have registered online by Friday 17 July.

Register here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

Review of Strawberry Hill Controlled Parking Zone (Zone SH) consultation

In February 2019, the Council implemented the Strawberry Hill Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), Zone SH, operating 10am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, following consultation with residents and businesses in the area.

You may be aware that the Council conducted a consultation in January as part of a review of this CPZ to assess its effectiveness during its initial period of operation. Some residents have contacted the Council to say they did not receive the consultation documents. Our investigations suggest that an issue occurred with the delivery undertaken by Royal Mail so we are therefore re-launching this consultation. If you previously received the documents and completed the questionnaire/online survey, it would be appreciated if you could please complete it again. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

This review will consider all comments received since the CPZ's implementation and the feedback received from this consultation. As part of this review, the Council will also be considering other improvements to the CPZ to include access to local amenities and a possible review of zone boundaries.

The consultation seeks feedback from residents and businesses within the CPZ on its operation including whether the existing operational days/hours should be retained, reduced or extended.

Please be informed that a number of other parking consultations in the Strawberry Hill / Teddington areas were carried out earlier this year. These comprised the review of existing CPZs and seeking views on introducing new parking controls – see plan [HERE](#). The results of these consultations are currently being analysed.

Have your say

Please give us your views by completing the online survey below. If you would like a paper copy questionnaire please contact 020 8891 1411 and this will be posted out to you along with a pre-paid envelope for your response.

What happens next

All feedback to this consultation will be considered by the Council along with all relevant traffic management and other highway factors, prior to a decision being made on the way forward. The Council would like any changes to a CPZ to have the support of local residents, so a good response is very important.

Further information, including on parking charges is available on the Council's website (links below) or by calling the Customer Service Centre on 020 8891 1411 and asking for the Parking Policy Team.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/strawberry_hill_cpz

www.richmond.gov.uk/controlled_parking_zones

Find more information and links to the survey [HERE](#)

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

This Week In the Marble Hill Park Market Garden

By Jack Morris.

Our dedicated and skilled volunteers have been hard at work, here's what they've been up to: harvesting onions and garlic which are now curing, Seedlings have been thinned and are been given the space they'll need to thrive, potatoes have been earthed up to increase the yield and shield the developing potatoes from sunlight which will turn them green and inedible, they have been planting out vegetables & flowers for cut flowers such as zinnia elegans. Its also been a constant challenge in this hot dry weather to keep the plants well watered and enable them produce the best quality produce

Curing Onions & Garlic

- Curing is a process that allows onions and garlic to ripen. This simple process improves the flavour and storage life of onions and garlic.

If you are going to harvest your own on-ions and garlic in the coming weeks, its well worth curing them.

Here's how you enjoy your Onions and garlic all winter:

1. Lift onions or garlic and place in boxes or trays in a single layer ensuring good air flow.
2. Place these boxes in a warm dry place out of direct sunlight.
3. The onions and garlic can now be left for several weeks, even a month until the outer skin is brown and paper like.
4. Now onions can be stored in a cool dry place they should keep for most of the winter and even until the early spring.

Sources and useful websites:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

<https://charlesdowding.co.uk/>

<https://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/>



Above: Zinnia elegans - popular choice of cut flower

Seeds to Sow in July

Just because we're entering peak summer doesn't mean there still isn't plenty to grow. In fact some of the veg you can sow in July, such as Florence fennel and pac choi, are some of the fastest growing crops you can grow.

Here are some to try sowing this month!

Sow undercover* or outdoors –

Lettuce, chard, endive, chicory, Florence or bulb fennel, chervil, coriander, savoy cabbage also carrots until mid July.

At months end – salad rocket, pak choi & mustards

*meaning in a windowsill, potting shed etc.

How to grow courgettes



Courgettes are one of the most versatile of vegetables, ranging in colour from very dark, almost black looking fruit to pale gold. Courgettes and marrows can be used in a huge range of dishes, from soufflés to being eaten raw in salads. Courgettes can be wonderfully simple to grow and just 2 or 3 plants can keep a hungry family stocked for the whole summer!

- Seed can be sown in pots from mid- may in a potting shed or on a windowsill, or sown direct into the ground at the end of may – begging July. Or plants can be purchased from garden centres from may.
- If sown in pots, or if using pre-grown or garden centre plants the plants should be transplanted to their final position but only once the risk of frost has passed.
- The ground should be fed generously with well rotted compost or farmyard manure, as courgettes are gross feeders. - This can be achieved by forking in 2 or 3 buckets of manure in the area the courgette is to be planted. Or for those who prefer a no dig approach the soil can be mulched heavily.
- It is very important that courgettes are given enough space, they can grow quite large and they need good airflow and lots of water. courgettes should be placed no closer than 90cm (3ft) for bush varieties and 1.5M (5ft) for trailing varieties.
- Courgettes are very versatile vegetables to grow, as the fruit can be harvested at any size; thumb sized fruit for slicing into a summer salad, foot long ones for fry-ing in butter or large marrows for stuffing.
- The most common problem with growing courgettes is powdery mildew on the leaves. This is a dusty white deposit which covers the leaves and stunts the growth of the plant. The best way to avoid this is keeping the soil moist, growing in cooler conditions if possible and having good air flow through the leaves - not crowding plants.



'Lockdown litter' up by a third as The Royal Parks collects '20 London buses' of rubbish in June alone

Soaring lockdown littering levels led to an astonishing 258.4 tonnes of rubbish collected from London's eight Royal Parks in June alone - the equivalent in weight of 20 new London buses, or 74 elephants.

This represents an increase of 32 percent compared with June 2019.

And it took staff 11,078 hours (the equivalent of 15 months) just to clear the litter left on the grass - in addition to the time spent emptying bins.

Richmond Park saw a 7-fold increase in littering this June (from 6.64 tonnes left in June 2019 to 42 tonnes left in June 2020) – much greater than the other parks

The Royal Parks has welcomed increased numbers of visitors to the parks during the peak of the pandemic, providing a boost to physical and mental wellbeing.



Click image to view video of a stag with some rubber tubing caught in its antlers

of R&R, to keep fit or to spend time with family and friends in the fresh air. We've had lots of really nice messages from people thanking us for keeping the parks open and telling us how the parks have been a lifeline for them, particularly for those without gardens,

"But the downside is the litter. We've never seen anything like this before. Every day we wake up to unprecedented levels of litter, with PPE, pizza boxes, plastic bags and picnic scraps strewn all over the grass. And we fear the worst is yet to come, with another spell of hot weather on the way.

"So we're asking everyone who visits the parks for a bit of help to spread some kindness this summer and help us look after the environment. Binning litter or taking it home will keep the parks beautiful places for everyone to enjoy – and will help ensure that our incredible wildlife continues to thrive and stay safe."

However, now groups can gather, park managers have reported never-before-seen levels of littering on the grass every day, including plastic bags, pizza boxes, glass bottles, picnic items and PPE – there was even some office furniture and a Christmas Tree left in Kensington Gardens – with trash levels increasing on warm evenings and over sunny weekends.

This is despite increased numbers of bins in place, more frequent emptying to accommodate greater volumes of rubbish, and staff starting sometimes as early as 5am to ensure the parks are pristine when the majority of visitors arrive.

Plastic waste can get worked into the ground, plastic bags can blow onto waterways harming waterfowl, and wildlife can ingest items causing them pain or even death. Unsightly litter spoils the parks for others and is a strain on the charity's resources.

In response, The Royal Parks is launching a 'Summer of Kindness' campaign, to inspire visitors to care for the 5,000 acres of historic green spaces as we head into the summer holidays and more hot weather is predicted.

Tom Jarvis, Director of Parks at The Royal Parks, said: "It's been truly fantastic to see more people enjoying our parks and getting closer to nature for a spot

Epic SUP

Eel Pie Island Club SUP



Stand Up Paddleboarding
The club is open again for membership,
taster sessions, SUP-Yoga, SUP-Pilates
and coaching

Based on Eel Pie Island
At Twickenham Rowing Club
info@EpicSUP.org

www.EpicSUP.org

Orleans House Gallery to reopen after coronavirus closure

Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham is set to reopen next week (21 July), following the coronavirus closures, with measures in place to ensure the safety of all staff and visitors.

The popular riverside gallery has been closed for four months after having to shut its doors on Thursday 19 March.

In accordance with government guidance, measures are being put in place to ensure visitors are able to enjoy visits to the gallery once again. Whilst there will be restrictions on the number of visitors allowed entry at any one time, a one-way system will also be in operation along with directional and distancing signs and sneeze screens located at customer service points.

Cllr John Coombs, Lead Member for Arts and Culture for Richmond Council, said:

"Although we're eager to return and can't wait to welcome people back to Orleans House Gallery, before we reopen we need to put safeguards in place. The health and safety of our visitors, staff, and volunteers remain our priority. We're working on this process now and following government guidelines to ensure our visitors, staff and volunteers can be safe when we re-open.

"We have an exciting programme of exhibitions planned for the next few months and I am sure that everyone who visits the gallery will enjoy the experience."



Orleans House Gallery is a free public art gallery in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, managed by Richmond Council.

It includes the Grade 1 listed Octagon Room and is home to the Richmond Borough Art Collection.

Two galleries offer a varied programme of historic and contemporary exhibitions, and the Study Gallery explores the history of the local area.

Highlights at the Gallery this summer include:

- Beyond the Frame will reopen in the Main Gallery, showing new work from eighteen artists. Taking inspiration from the Richmond Borough Art Collection, they invite you to peer beyond the frame, peek beneath the canvas and step behind the brush.
- Robin MacFarlan's Views from a Playroom will reopen in the Stables Gallery. In scenes that are both natural and ludicrous, toys that were once our playthings now play with us, as they quietly mock the behaviour of the adults we have since become.
- Upcoming this autumn... artist collective Alice in Hackneyland will take over the Main Gallery with Trompe-l'œil and a fluorescent banquet to celebrate the 300th birthday of the Octagon Room.
- Upcoming this autumn... Art Unlocked is a response to the unfurling of Covid-19 by the artists, designers and makers of Richmond Art House Open Studios.

The Gallery will reopen on the 21 July 2020. Opening hours and days are: Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm.

For more information, go to the [Orleans House Gallery website](#).

SUP-YOGA & SUP-PILATES CLASSES IN TWICKENHAM

SUP-Yoga & SUP-Pilates classes offer a unique, dynamic and fun way to challenge your fitness on water! The sessions are taken on anchored paddleboards floating on water. The buoyancy of the water adds intensity to every movement and makes a refreshing change from usual mat classes. The classes suit all levels and abilities. EPIC SUP are running SUP-Yoga and SUP-Pilates classes from Twickenham Rowing Club, this summer.

To book or for enquiries contact: coach@epicsup.org



Reassurances sought as Royal Parks announce plans to reduce traffic in their two local parks

In response to Royal Parks' decision to restrict through-traffic in Bushy and Richmond Park, Richmond Council has requested Royal Parks support for detailed monitoring of the impacts of these six-month trials.

Royal Parks have launched their Movement Strategy aimed at reducing the volume of through-traffic in Richmond and Bushy parks.

As a result of the current COVID-19 crisis, both parks have been temporarily fully closed or partially closed to motor vehicles since the end of March.

While the proposals for Richmond Park are not yet specified and the detail regarding changes to Bushy Park are still to be seen, the trials, which will be launched later in the year, seek to provide continued access to motorised vehicles to car parks, while curtailing the use of either open space as a cut through.

Responding to the announcement, Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Committee at Richmond Council, said:

"As lockdown continues to ease, car usage is predicted to increase beyond pre-COVID levels. Royal Parks strive to improve visitor experiences in their parks and actively manage these important Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Therefore, as responsibility for managing traffic within Richmond and Bushy Park lies with Royal Parks, they have decided to use those powers to trial measures to reduce levels of motorised through-traffic using these Parks.

"Richmond Council is seeking immediate reassurances regarding the monitoring of traffic volumes and air quality impacts associated with these changes. When these trials launch, Richmond Council will be studying their effects closely to ensure that residents are not adversely impacted by any changes.

If either of these trials result in poor air quality, a decline in road safety or additional congestion in nearby communities where our residents live and work, then they may need amendment or could even prove unsustainable.

"We encourage residents to share their views with the Royal Parks during the trial phase. We also welcome direct feedback that will inform the Council's overall view and ongoing dialogue with the Royal Parks."

To stay informed of the process and progress of the trials, people are encouraged to sign up to the [Movement Strategy mailing list](#).



Quick response by LBRuT officers to Strawberry Hill 'Water Pool' problem

Families walking with young children in Strawberry Hill will no longer have to worry about their offspring splashing about in a big pool of water on the way to Twickenham Green and the LBRUT Family Contact Centre (for vulnerable children).

There has been a dip in the road for a long time but on sunny days many people visiting Twickenham Green use the area as a toilet - since there are no toilets available for public use on the Green.



Those who live in the area were becoming concerned with the composition of the "cesspool" which had built up at a dropped curb and had been seen to be contaminated by bodily fluids.



An email to Council officers led to a quick response and work was put in progress to remove the dip to prevent the build-up of "water". Within ten days the work was completed ensuring that children and the elderly do not suffer contamination as they cross the dropped curb.

The work was completed quickly and efficiently - so thank you to all those officers who came to the rescue, since there are no toilets available for visitors on Twickenham Green.

Of course, we do need toilets on the Green, using people's gardens and driveways as toilets is unhygienic and as we are constantly told, hand washing is very important to stop the spread of the virus (COVID-19).



The Book Shop, Hampton - a community asset for 45 years!

The Book Shop in Hampton has been part of the community for many years. So many, in fact, that some are a little fuzzy on the dates when the shop first went from a WH Smith to the local community shop we all know and love today. "I started volunteering 10 years ago and was told 1975, so that is what I painted on the sign" says Sally, a regular Saturday volunteer.

If 1975 is true, that means the shop has been a community asset for 45 years! It has served generations of Hampton residents, frequently ones who first started shopping there with their parents when they were little. One supporter in a review said:

"I absolutely love this little book shop, full of memories... My nan used to take me there when I was a kiddiwink and I spent many rainy afternoons chatting with the volunteers. I love the smell of books. Yes, digital downloads are great but there is nothing quite like opening a book for the first time and falling into a world, falling in love with the characters..."

The past year has seen many changes: the lease was coming up for renewal, the shop was in need of a bit of TLC and the fate of the shop was uncertain. Behind the scenes, the volunteers were working hard to create a more established organisation, with a core team formalising arrangements so that the shop's future was looking bright.



Then the un-expected happened; COVID-19. "We were just getting everything sorted out, and this was like the wind being knocked out of our sails," says volunteer James.

The shop's closure came before the official lockdown as the majority of the volunteers were in an "at risk" category, as are many of The Book Shop customers. "We took the view that it was better to be safe than sorry."

Like a number of local fundraising organisations at the moment, the bookshop has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. However, the volunteers have found ways to

keep the community reading and funds coming in. "We launched an online donation page which allowed us to raise money to cover just over a month's worth of running costs while we were closed."

They also recently started a walk-up book service. "It has been great to see our regulars and talk to our neighbours," says Sally. "We can't wait to welcome everyone back with open arms but this solution is a nice stop gap."

The shop is too small to handle social distancing guidelines, but there is a plan in the works to make sure this community shop can open again soon. Sally says:

"We are working with a local building firm to undertake some building works to create more space in the shop. These plans were previously postponed but with the shop being closed, now is the perfect time. It may not be what we were planning, but we are excited for everyone to see it - and if it means people can come through the door it is going to be worth it."

But there's no need to miss out if you can't get to the shop. If you are light on reading material or want to chat to likeminded readers, head The Book Shop's Facebook page which is constantly updated with walk-up opening times and latest news on the refurb.

<https://www.facebook.com/hamptonbookshop/>



Dear Twickenham Tribune,

Udney Park

Lib Dem Councillors from Hampton Wick and Teddington Wards have today issued a press release calling on Quantum to manage Udney Park properly or sell up to a local community based group.

You can read the press release and the Councillors' letter to Quantum here...

[udney_park_lib_dem_councillors_tell_quantum_to_shape_up_or_ship_out](#)

Udney Park Playing Fields were donated to a London college for use for amateur sport as a memorial after the First World War. They were bought by a developer - Quantum - who proposed building on the site contrary to planning policies in a move that was opposed by Sport England and environmental groups as well as by many in the local community. Quantum's plans were thrown out by a planning inspector after an appeal hearing earlier this year.

The future of the playing fields is now in limbo and the sports pitches are deteriorating through lack of maintenance. Lib Dem Councillors in the area have vowed to campaign vigorously for the playing fields to be protected and for them to be used for their original purpose.

Regards.

Councillor Robin Brown
Hampton Wick Ward

Dear Sir,

Empty trains to Waterloo

This was the 8.38 from Strawberry Hill to Waterloo. Only one other person on the train the whole way; the train companies must be losing £ millions.

Regards,
Suzanne
(Name and Address supplied)





Bramble Beauty

An abundance of Bramble flowers near us has now produced a free food bank for our wildlife and humans can also be tempted to pick a few mouth-watering blackberries. Leave some for the Birds who give us their beautiful song in return for this bounty from Nature's Larder.

The adjacent photo shows a Female Black cap asking the Male to hurry up in the queue!



We have found the Identification page on the Butterfly Conservation site an invaluable education tool and it is a great way to learn about different species even if you do not see them in your locality. Below we have photos of three Butterflies from the Brown Family which we took this month and which you may know already but if you are not certain then click on this link: [Butterfly ID](#)

The Big Butterfly count runs from 17th July to Sunday 9th August and we are all encouraged to take part even if we have never done it before or think we do not know enough. Have a go and if nothing else enjoy 15 minutes

of gazing at nature wherever you find yourself. [Butterfly count register here](#)



Visit us on: River Crane Sanctuary [website](#) [Instagram](#)

Readers may like to see a Freedom of Information request for Supporters' Representations which were not presented on the Agenda at the TPO 1046 item /Planning Committee, 11th March 2020. These balancing documents are now available, albeit, too late for a transparent presentation of all points of view and facts to be available at the time for Councillors' deliberations. [FOI Link](#)

Get behind the lens with #PictureGreenLondon

We're calling on all those with a keen eye for capturing London's diverse natural cityscape, to take part in our new photography competition.

The events of 2020 have highlighted just how precious London's green spaces are for everyone. Whether for their beauty, tranquillity, or just a place to escape, London's natural habitats are key to ensuring our mental and physical wellbeing, and we have come to appreciate them, now more than ever.

CPRE London wants to capture this heightened sense of awareness and connection to our surroundings, by encouraging people to submit photographs that showcase the interaction of London's green spaces with the urban setting and diverse resident neighbourhoods.

We're excited to announce that the images will be judged by an impressive line-up of key figures in London's photography and environmental community including Professor Kate Jones (Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity, UCL) Derek Man (Royal Photographic Society Exhibitor), and Shirley Rodrigues (Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Greater London Authority).



Credit-Neil-Sinden

We encourage entrants to submit their personal interpretation of what London's countryside means to them, including – woods, trees, parks, plants, flowers, rivers, and wildlife – all set against the urban backdrop of this wonderful city. The images will be judged in accordance to this theme and the submitted photographs can be present or past favourites, from any season, over the past three years.

This is your opportunity to bring passion, creativity and expression to the fore to celebrate London's unique, natural beauty as one of the world's greenest cities and to secure its post-pandemic protection and enhancement for years to come.

GET INVOLVED

Competition entry is FREE and entrants can enter up to three photographs.

The winning entry will receive a cash prize of £150 and free membership to CPRE London for a year. There will be two runner-up cash prizes of £50 each and free membership to CPRE London for a year.

The competition will close on Friday 18th September at 12:00hrs.

Click [HERE](#) for details on how to enter



The countryside charity
London

Richmond Art House Open Studios Festival

#TheirOpenStudio20 Winners Announced

With hundreds of entries and just 3 places on the podium we are delighted to share the work of the winning students.

1st Place Winner:
Olivia Staniaszek, Grey Court School

Highly Commended:
Lavinia Proietti, Gumley House
Romina Farahmand, Grey Court School

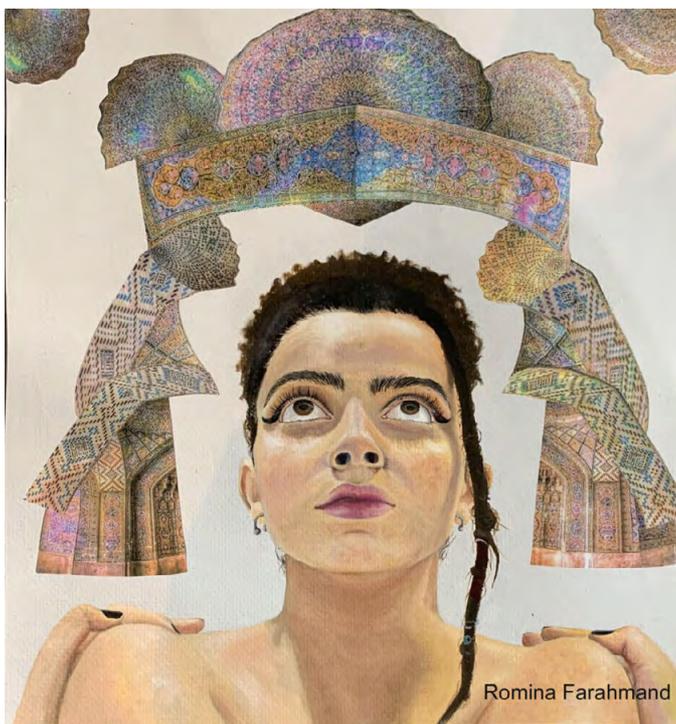


Olivia Staniaszek

The quality of work was outstanding, as was the range of form and concept. Thank you to all the Art and DT teachers of the schools and colleges who took part. With confidence we can say the future of the visual arts in South West London is in very talented hands.



Lavinia Proietti



Romina Farahmand

You can read more about the competition which runs each year as part of the Richmond Art House Open Studios Festival [here](#). Thank you to Star Print Twickenham for supporting with prizes.



**Orleans House
Gallery**

Staycation in Church Street of Twickenham

By Shona Lyons

The square is really looking lovely now and we are getting lots of visitors with people stopping at the benches and at our little table and chairs to chat and eat their ice creams all times of day! When we come to open our office in the morning, the square's benches are full of people enjoying this peaceful little enclave in the sun.

During the week the trade can be a little slow but the many restaurants do really well later on with Al Fresco dining and during the day you can barely find a table free at the cafes, with many working people coming early for a coffee and even a breakfast before work starts or later on, a break for lunch. As Romina says, you can have your staycation in Church Street where it really does feel like you are on holiday! The air is clean and there is a healthy amount of space for everyone.



Hamed from Pulcinella told us that business here is good now that the street has been pedestrianised and it is doing SO much better than his restaurant in Richmond (where there is no outdoor dining available due to no pedestrianisation) and Romina from Corto tells she couldn't have opened the café at all if it wasn't for Pedestrianisation. Mint and Kiss n Make up have also said how much better it is and we have had a lot of good feed-back from many of the others although an officer from the council did tell us that he has had complaints from about 8 people in the Street.

At the weekends the street really comes to life with a gentle hub bub of chatter as people come from far and wide to enjoy the atmosphere. Right now, we are still not allowed to have a small band for live music but many of the establishments play a little music for their diners and their drinkers too.

Hope to see you soon!

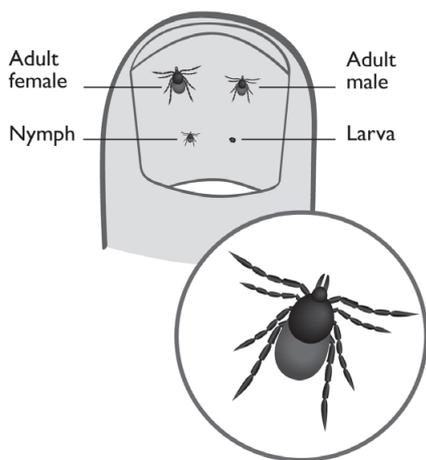


WHAT ARE TICKS?

Ticks are small creatures related to spiders and mites, that feed on the blood of animals and sometimes people. Ticks can survive in many places but prefer slightly moist, shady areas such as bracken, bushes and leaf litter. They can be found in both long and short grass. Ticks can't jump or fly, so they have to wait until an animal (or human) brushes past to attach to their skin. The tick population peaks between late spring and autumn (April to October).

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

Tick nymphs or larvae are about the size of a pin head, flat in shape and ranging in colour from brown to black. Adult ticks are slightly bigger and look like small spiders. When feeding, a tick's body will fill with blood and swell to the size of a match head, becoming purple, blue-grey or pink in colour.



WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

Lyme disease or Lyme borreliosis, is a bacterial infection spread by infected ticks. Human infection is uncommon, because only a small proportion of ticks have the infection. However, those ticks that may carry Lyme disease are common in the countryside, especially woodlands and parks with deer, such as Richmond Park and Bushy Park.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

The early symptoms of Lyme disease develop between 3 to 32 days after receiving a bite from an infected tick. The first sign is often a pink or red rash around the bite site. The rash can gradually spread to form a large circle up to 50cm (20inches) in diameter, which can be faint or difficult to see on darker skins.

Other symptoms can develop, including flu-like symptoms such as headaches, chills, tiredness, muscle pains, joint aches and fever.

More serious complications may develop weeks or months after an infected bite is untreated. These include temporary facial paralysis, pain, weakness or loss of sensation in the arms, legs or trunk and arthritis.



Symptoms resolve quickly with antibiotic treatment. Early recognition and treatment is important and will help to prevent the more serious complications from developing.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about tick bites or Lyme disease visit the following websites:

www.hpa.org.uk

www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease

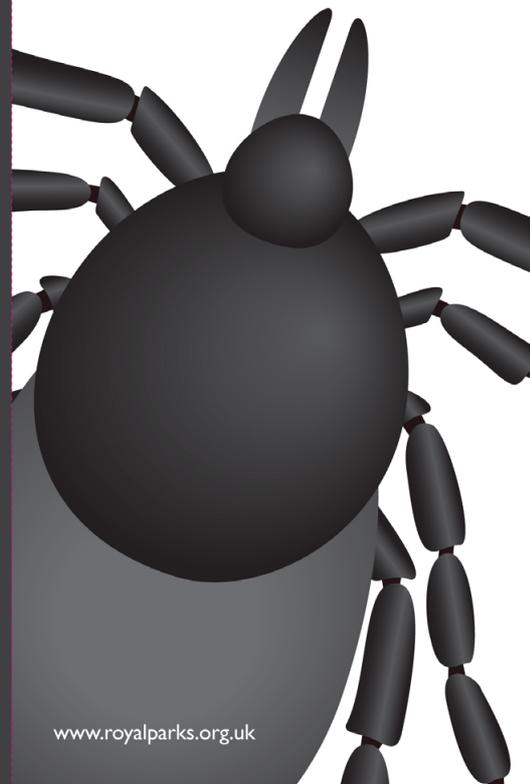
www.oeghmp.at/eucalb/

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/Lyme/



www.royalparks.org.uk

TICK BITES AND LYME DISEASE



www.royalparks.org.uk

HOW TO MINIMISE RISK OF INFECTION

The best precaution is to avoid being bitten so follow the adjacent prevention tips. Tick bites don't hurt, so they can easily go unnoticed. When you get home check your whole body for ticks, paying particular attention to your head, neck, skin folds (armpits, groin, backs of knees and waist) and your clothes. Be sure to check along the hairline and neck area, particularly in young children.

WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN

Remove the tick as soon as possible. Using fine pointed tweezers or a tick-removal tool, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. To detach a tick, pull upwards firmly and steadily, without jerking or twisting.

- ✗ Don't squeeze or crush the tick's body as this could increase the risk of infection by prompting the tick to regurgitate saliva into the bite wound.
- ✓ After removal of the tick, apply an antiseptic to the bite site.
- ✗ Don't use petroleum jelly, liquid solutions, freeze or burn the tick.

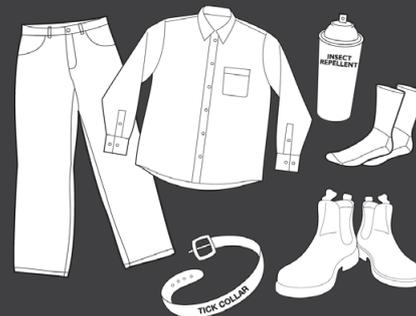
After tick removal, continue to check the bite site over the subsequent month, looking for signs of increased redness or rash. Consult your doctor if any symptoms develop.

Remember to check pets for ticks too! Ticks like our ears, eyes, chin, muzzle, tail and toes. If you are a regular dog walker in Richmond Park or Bushy Park consider carrying tweezers or a tick removal device in your pocket for rapid removal of the ticks.



TO PREVENT TICK BITES

- Wear long sleeved tops, trousers tucked into socks and closed shoes, not sandals
- Use insect repellent
- On pets, use tick repellent collars and tick treatments available from your vet
- Stick to paths
- Avoid walking through dense vegetation



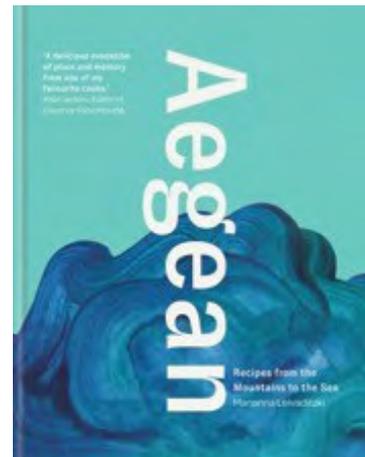
TICK REMOVAL

Fine tweezers or a specialised tick remover can be used to remove the tick. The specialised tick removal tool has a flattened hook for effective grip on the tick. They are available for purchase at the Richmond Park Information Centre at Pembroke Lodge and the park office located in Holly Lodge. They are also available at vet practices and online. For proper use follow the manufacturer's instructions.



A DIP IN THE AEGEAN

At this time of year I have normally been to one of the Greek Islands on holiday, or am looking forward to visiting one in September. Not this year of course! But if you, too, are missing the Aegean, then I have just the ticket – and this one only costs £26, and you won't need your passport! **Aegean: Recipes from the Mountains to the Sea** by Marianna Leivaditaki has just been published by **Kyle Books** and is fabulous. Illustrated with great photos by Elena Heatherwick, Marianna's love for the food of her childhood (spent helping out in the family-run tavern in Chania), on Crete, shines through on every page. The book offers achievable, yet delicious, dishes that celebrate the wealth of seasonal, fresh food that is abundant in the Aegean (but also, luckily usually here as well). I've chosen a few recipes from the book to whet your appetite – you can buy Red Mullet from most fishmongers (fresh and frozen).



Pan-fried Prawns with Metaxa

This is an excellent dish for real seafood lovers who have no fear of tucking into whole prawns and no hesitation when it comes to sucking all the lovely juices from their shells. My only advice is: don't be shy, but you may want to consider finger bowls.

100g (3 1/2oz) salted butter
1 tsp grated fresh ginger
500g (1lb 2oz) fresh whole prawns, shells on
4 tbsp Metaxa (Greek brandy), or another good-quality brandy
Juice of 1 lemon
1 handful of fresh parsley, roughly chopped
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Serves 4–6 as a sharing plate

Heat a large pan over a medium heat and add the butter and the grated ginger. When the butter begins to take a light golden colour, add the prawns and turn the heat to high. Toss the prawns in the butter by shaking the pan until they turn a shade of pink, which means they are ready. Add the brandy, lemon juice, season with salt and pepper and give the pan a final shake. Remove from the heat, transfer to a plate together with all the juices and sprinkle over some freshly chopped parsley.



Pan-fried Red Mullet with Rosemary, Tomato and Sweet Vinegar (Serves 4)

This rosemary and vinegar sauce is an all-round winner and very versatile. I love it with fish, but in Crete you often have it with land snails when the season is right. It's definitely one of my favourites.

4 medium red mullets (about 800g/1lb 12oz), scaled and gutted
200ml (7fl oz) extra virgin olive oil, for frying
Plain flour, for dusting the fish
4 sprigs of fresh rosemary
2 tbsp chopped tomatoes
100ml (3 1/2fl oz) aged white wine vinegar, such as moscatel
Sea salt, to taste

Wash the fish thoroughly under cold water and keep them in the fridge if you are not going to use them immediately.

Heat a wide frying pan over a medium heat. When it's hot, add enough olive oil to cover the sides of the pan by about 1cm (1/2in). Generously salt and dust the cleaned red mullets in the flour and carefully place in the pan.

Add the sprigs of rosemary. Cook until golden brown and crispy on one side, turn and do the same for the other. When you turn your fish to cook the other side, add the tomatoes to the pan. This should take about 4 minutes in total.

Just before you remove the mullets from the pan, add the vinegar and turn off the heat. Place the fish on a plate and serve with some of the juices in the pan. You just need a slice of very fresh bread for this and a cold beer.

Oven-baked Potatoes with Capers and Anchovies

Serves 4–6 as a sharing plate

This dish is simple and so delicious. It's perfect on its own with a leafy salad, and a great accompaniment to lamb or fish. If you fancy making it even richer, you can always add a dash of double cream.

4 medium waxy potatoes
2 green peppers, deseeded and sliced
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
200g (7oz) red tomatoes
2 tbsp capers
8 anchovy fillets
200ml (7fl oz) white wine
2 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp freshly black ground pepper
Sea salt, to taste



Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4.

Slice the potatoes on a mandolin very thinly and place in a colander with a touch of salt for 15 minutes.

Fry the peppers in 1 tablespoon of olive oil for a few minutes until soft.

Blitz the tomatoes, peppers, capers and anchovy fillets to a paste.

Transfer the drained potatoes to an oven dish and add the wine, remaining oil, oregano, black pepper and anchovy paste to the dish. Mix everything really well with your hands and check the seasoning.

Flatten the potatoes and cover with baking parchment. Bake in the oven for about 40 minutes and then check whether the potatoes are nice and soft. When this is the case, remove the parchment and put back into the oven until a nice golden crust has formed on the top layer.

Remove from the oven and serve.

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



La Sainte Courtisane

by Oscar Wilde

Teddington Theatre Club, zoomed until 28th June, then on-line on YouTube

Review by Thomas Forsythe

There was a short time in Oscar Wilde's life that his writing embraced the spiritual. Two plays in particular, [Salome](#) and *La Sainte Courtisane*, concern Christian subjects. Ironically both were written shortly before his conviction for gross indecency. If there were a burgeoning faith, Wilde's experiences in Reading Gaol extinguished it. Nevertheless [Salome](#) remains his

masterpiece, free from the destructive cynicism typical of Wilde. Who knows, *La Sainte Courtisane* may have eclipsed it ... had it ever been finished.

You see, on his release in May 1897, Wilde left the manuscript, forgotten, in a Parisian taxi.

Fragments of the work do exist, but no-one has ever staged it. It was therefore a bold move for TTC to include *La Sainte Courtisane* within its *Wilde Weekend*. But what a shame that it should first see the light of day in the middle of the night. What could be more perverse than a world premiere at half-past-one in the morning!

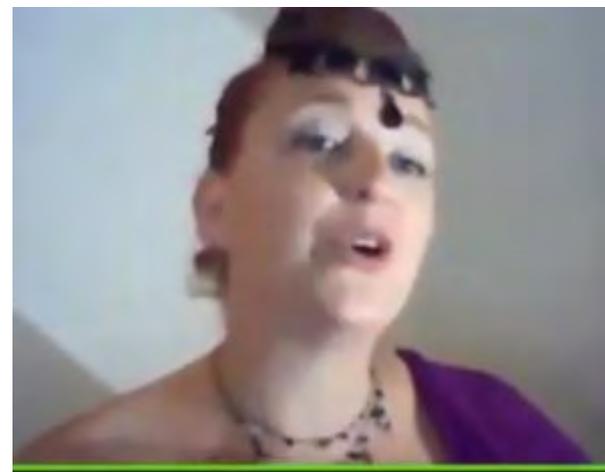
Director Clare Cooper's version seized the mood, which Wilde, pre-incarceration, described as amongst his "beautiful coloured, musical things". *La Sainte Courtisane* takes place in unspecified location in the

Levant. Myrrhina, the courtesan of the title, is a hedonistic aristocrat who travels into the desert with the aim of seducing Honorius, a Christian hermit, away from his devotions and anchoritic life. The plot is strongly redolent of *Salome*.

Myrrhina though is testing her personal powers. She tempts Honorius with extravagant riches. She catalogues lovers she has had, from kings; gladiators and wrestlers, whom she has massaged with perfumed unguents; to sailors on the wharf, "drinking black wine and playing dice". Myrrhina offers to rescue him from his dust and seclusion with myrrh and spikenard and sexual favours

Read Thomas Forsythe's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/07/03/ste-courtis with a link to the on-line production.

Photography by Joseph John Elliott, David Gareja and TTC



St Mary's University Update

After coming third in the country for Postgraduate study in the recent Whatuni? Student Choice Awards, St Mary's University, Twickenham has continued its excellent student satisfaction ratings in this year's National Student Survey.

The annual survey, which asks final year students to rate their university on their experience in a range of areas, found that St Mary's outperformed the sector in eight categories. The University also saw eight subjects score over 90% on overall satisfaction, with BA History scoring an astounding 100%.



For overall and teaching satisfaction, St Mary's ranked third amongst universities in London*, with the University rating 3.3% and 2.8% ahead of the sector averages respectively.

The University's top results for student satisfaction came in Student Voice, where the University was 5.3% ahead of the sector, Academic Support, 4.4% ahead, and Learning Community, 4.3% ahead.

St Mary's success continued at subject level with eight subjects scoring over 90% on overall satisfaction. Amongst these courses, History scored 100%, Primary Initial Teacher Training scored 96% and Foundation Degree in Football Education Coaching and Development, run in collaboration with Chelsea FC Foundation scored 94%.

These outstanding results come weeks after new employability data from the Higher Education Statistic Agency found that 98% of graduates

from St Mary's were in employment, vocation or further study. Results, which saw both the Times and The i newspapers praise St Mary's for having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Speaking of the results, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "I am delighted to see how well St Mary's students rate their experience with us. We place the student experience at the heart of all we do and its clear from the feedback our students are giving us that this is paying dividends in terms of how satisfied they are with their time at St Mary's."

St Mary's University Project Officer for the Chelsea Foundation, Adrian Salisbury recently hosted a Q&A webinar on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion with former England, Chelsea, Arsenal, Charlton Athletic, Fulham and Millwall Lionesses legend Katie Chapman.

Katie a FIFA Women's World Cup 2015 bronze medallist with England and the winner of over 30 major club and international honours, including ten FA Cup's spent an hour taking questions from students on the St Mary's University two year Chelsea Football Club Foundation Coaching and Development Degree programme.

Katie discussed her life as player, her own experiences of equality, diversity and inclusion in a career spanning over twenty years and some of the challenges facing football on and off the field.

The Chelsea Football Club Foundation Coaching and Development degree is a key part of a unique collaborative relationship between the Chelsea Foundation and St Mary's University.

Further details of the course and of the Q&A with Katie Chapman are available via the links below.

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/foundation/chelsea-football-coaching>

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2020/07/q-and-a-with-katie-chapman>



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

TRAVELLER'S TALES 76

ON THE ROAD TO MOROCCO

Doug Goodman enjoys bargaining in Marrakech



It was inevitable that someone in the mini bus should start to sing 'we're off on the road to Morocco' as we left Agadir for the 153-mile drive to Marrakech. The song was the theme tune to the 1942 comedy film starring Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour. A few days in Agadir spent relaxing on the sunny Atlantic beaches were very enjoyable. The resort is ideal for a summer break in one of its western-style hotels and its 'old' town on a hillside, rebuilt after a terrible earthquake in 1960, was worth exploring. But I wanted to experience a little of the real Morocco so off on the road we went.



Straight on to Marrakech



The Koutoubia in Jemaa el Fna



Cooking Pots



Charming!

Marrakech is the country's fourth largest city situated to the west of the Atlas Mountains. Founded in 1062 it was briefly Morocco's capital in the 16th century and today is one of Africa's busiest cities serving as a top tourist destination as well as an economic centre. The old city, surrounded by 12 miles of walls is packed with stalls, tiny shops, narrow streets and 18 different souks, (markets), selling everything from carpets to pointed carpet slippers and from jewellery to brass pots: in fact all the things you never knew you needed. The city is dominated by Jemaa el Fna – the main square and is a centre for trading – and overlooked by the Koutoubia Mosque built between 1184 and 1199: it's called Marrakech's Spiritual Lighthouse. The square, a World Heritage Site, has an amazingly vibrant and noisy atmosphere. Cooking smells waft around the dancers, musicians, acrobats, fortune-tellers snake charmers, water sellers, tooth pullers and hawkers all anxious to get hold of your money. The entertainment is free although you have to pay for a tooth removal but if you take photos expect a demand for payment.

HIRE A GUIDE

You'll be accosted frequently by people who want to show you the souks and practice their English. If you do brave the labyrinth of alleyways you'll easily become lost. To avoid this hire an official guide from the tourist office or, for a much lower cost pay a few dirhams to one of the 'students' who will escort you to see whatever you want. Of course he'll take you to his father's, brother's, uncle's shop 'just to look'. But at least this means you avoid the 5,000 shop keepers who want to entice you in. Don't be worried by their persistence: you want to buy something and they want to make a sale. Don't rush, sit down and accept a glass of mint tea: discuss football, the weather and the benevolent rule of King Mohammed VI and then start to bargain. Offer a quarter of the asking price and never pay more than two thirds. If the price doesn't drop then walk away with a polite thank you. The price will suddenly drop as the owner

runs after you. There's always a price below which the shop keeper cannot sell but you'll never get near it. The secret of bargaining, which is expected, is to enjoy the encounter and before negotiating decide on how much you want to pay for your chosen item.



Easy to get lost



Jemaa el Fna



Food Market in Jemaa el Fna



Cheap Dental Treatment

Exploring the souks gives you an idea of the wonderful craftsmanship and skill that goes into the production of all the colourful goods on sale. Different areas of the medina specialise in various products: Seffarine for copper items; Sebbsghine for dyers; Zrabi for carpets; Fekharine for pottery and many more. The greatest pleasure for me was wandering through the markets, talking to the locals – most speak English or French and simply absorbing the noise, smells and watching the master craftsmen at work.

MUCH TO SEE

Back to Jemaa el Fna for a snack cooked in front of you or enjoy the view from the terrace of one of the cafes. Mint tea with sugar served from a teapot with a curly spout is the traditional drink and you sip it from a small glass. Most popular of the many dishes is tajine prepared from chicken, lamb, beef or fish with fruit, olives, vegetables and spices. It's slow cooked in an earthenware tajine pot. Harira soup made from lamb, chickpeas, lentils, vermicelli, tomato paste and seasoning makes a great snack with fresh bread. There's a huge choice of accommodation in Marrakech with over 400 establishments ranging from big western -style hotels outside the city to cool private mansions tucked away in the city's narrow streets. A big wooden door and high walls greet your arrival before entering a tiled courtyard with a fountain, palms and often a small pool. These beautiful houses are known as Riads. An amusing misunderstanding occurred when I asked a local travel agent for information on a Riad in Marrakech. I was assured that Riyadh was in Saudi Arabia! For something more opulent you can stay at the world famous art-deco Mamounia built in 1925. Many celebrities have stayed here including Churchill who liked to sit in the gardens to paint.

Many of the palaces, tombs, museums and art galleries are within the city walls but in the heat, when you explore further afield, a horse drawn barouche is more comfortable. Plenty of gardens around the city with their orchards, lakes and irrigation channels offer an escape from the crowds. My favourite spot was the Majorelle Garden bought and restored by Yves Saint Laurent. Plants from all over the world set against buildings with a dark blue backdrop offer a haven of peace. Don't miss the museum of Islamic Art in the garden. In Marrakech you have to immerse yourself in its culture and traditions and enjoy the sometimes frenzied atmosphere to make the most of your visit to this part of Morocco.



Will it fit in the Bedroom



Dye and Dry



Majorelle Garden



A Riad in the City



BRENTFORD FC

Benrahma brace and Watkins strike keep automatic hopes alive

Derby County 1 – 3 Brentford

Said Benrahma kept up his magical run of individual form with a two goal and man of the match performance to steer Brentford passed play off chasing Derby County.

Ollie Watkins had given the visitors the lead with just three minutes on the clock as the Bees maintained their series of quick starts to matches. Josh Dasilva combined with Benrahma who then played the ball into the path of Bryan Mbeumo. The Frenchman's love drive from inside the box hit the bottom of the post, but Championship top scorer Watkins was on hand to turn in his 25th goal of the season.



Derby however, with play off ambitions of their own to fight for, came back into the game and deservedly levelled the game on 29 minutes. Former England captain Wayne Rooney picked up a loose ball in midfield and showing his class and experience played a intelligent ball into the path of Jason Knight who fired the ball past David Raya.

Rooney then showed the excellence of his all-round game when he threw his body in the way of a dangerous Benrahma shot, following a free kick. Ben Hamer in goal for the Rams then did well to save from Benrahma once again as the Algerian continued to look threatening in attacking positions.

Hamer though would prove to be the villain and just minutes into the second half made a crucial error that had a decisive impact. Benrahma was found my Emiliano Marcondes and the Algerian's curling shot appeared to be straight forward, however to the disgust of Derby and the delight of Brentford the ball rolled over the line for the second.

In complete contrast to his first, Benrahma's second of the afternoon was an absolute peach and could well be the goal of the season for the division. Marcondes was once again involved and his linkup play with Benrahma again found the forward with space. He then cut inside and having skipped past several despairing derby challenges rammed the ball into the top corner from over 25 yards out.

With the two-goal advantage secured the Bees naturally defended deeper and the Rams had efforts of their own through Louie Sibley and Tom Lawrence but neither sufficiently troubled Raya as Brentford held out for a remarkable seventh consecutive win.

Speaking after the victory Thomas Frank praised his teams recent run of form, "We knew when we went into this restart we were 10 points off the top two so that was a very difficult task," the Dane, 46, said.

“Our aim was to win as many games as possible and first and foremost to secure a play-off place and then see what is happening but now, can we catch them (the top two)? Fantastic but if not, then we want to keep the momentum and good performances and take that into the play-offs.

“Right now, we are in a very good place and we just need to continue. I am spoiled with good players that it is a privilege to coach and be around.”

Early Watkins strike proves to be the winner Brentford 1 – 0 Preston North End

An Ollie Watkins’ goal after just four minutes saw Brentford record an eight consecutive victory in their hunt for an automatic promotion spot to the Premier League.

Ethan Pinnock gained possession of the ball for the Bees in defence and the ball transitioned to attack very quickly. Pinnock then delivered a long ball over to the left-hand touchline where Said Benrahma controlled the ball and passed to Mathias Jensen. Jensen in turn found Emiliano Marcondes and a brilliant piece of ingenuity saw the Dane flick the ball into the path of Watkins who smashed the ball in for his 25th goal of the season beyond Declan Rudd in goal for Preston North End.

Brentford continued to produce chances and Marcondes had a shot that deflected just wide and Pontus Jansson played in Watkins, who just couldn’t convert.

David Raya had to be called into action to deny Darnell Fisher with a dipping free kick that the Spaniard had to be alert for to push the ball around the post to preserve his clean sheet.

Daniel Johnson went close for the Lillywhites when he had an effort blocked from Henrik Dalsgaard and Raya was again called into action with a save down low to deny Ryan Preston.

The second half produced few chances and saw Brentford controlled the game and grind out a vital result with other results going their way. Late on they had to defend well from a free kick but a header from Josh Harrop lacked power and the Bees held out for the record equalling win.

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said speaking after the game, “Sometimes you forget to enjoy the moment and just move on to the next one.

“We have won eight on the bounce playing some top football and it is eight well-deserved wins.

“In a league which we call the most even league in the world, that is remarkable.

“We are in the play-offs, so why not give it a go for direct promotion? We are on a high but I am not thinking at all about the game after Saturday and seeing if we can win nine in a row.”

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Stoke City (A) Saturday 18th July 12:30 Bet365

Nickname: The Potters

Competition: Championship

Opponent record: P44 W14 D8 L22 GF57 GA67 (18th in the Championship)

Top scorer: Sam Clucas (11)

Manager: Michael O'Neill

Previous game: Brentford moved into the fourth round of the FA Cup for the third time in four seasons courtesy of a superb Emiliano Marcondes' free kick. In the all-Championship tie there were few chances and Marcondes curled home past Adam Davies to send the Bees into a home tie at Griffin Park against Leicester City.

Interesting fact: Sir Stanley Matthews holds the record for the oldest ever player to feature in England's top division. His appearance for Stoke City against Fulham in February 1965 came shortly after his 50th birthday.

Game 2

Opponent: Barnsley (H) Wednesday 18th July 12:30 Bet365 Stadium

Nickname: The Tykes

Competition: Championship

Opponent record: P44 W10 D14 L21 GF46 GA68 (24th in the Championship)

Top scorer: Cauley Woodrow (15)

Manager: Gerhard Struber

Previous game: A unique hattrick of headers from Ollie Watkins saw Brentford record victory on their travels to Oakwell. The Bees had made a nightmare start and found themselves a goal down inside the opening sixty seconds after Cauley Woodrow curled home a screamer from 25 yards. Brentford fought back though and were level when Watkins claimed his first of the afternoon from a Mathias Jensen cross. Soon after the interval Watkins stooped in again from a Sergi Canos hattrick and the three points were secured midway through the second half when Canos again crossed to Watkins to ensure the match ball was coming home with the forward.

Interesting fact: Barnsley have spent more seasons at the second level of English football than any other team and on 3 January 2011 became the first club to achieve 1,000 wins in the second level of English football with a 2-1 home victory over Coventry City. Barnsley are also the first club to play 3,000 games in second-level league football (W1028, D747, L1224)

Come on you Bees!

Drawing Money Competition

Looking for creative things to do over the summer holidays? Enter our free drawing competition for 5 to 11 year olds.

What to do

Our banknotes have many details on them that celebrate places around the UK. They include Big Ben in London, a lighthouse in Kent and a factory in Birmingham.

We want your child to draw a note that celebrates the city, town or village where they live. We would like to see lots of colour and interesting details.

Prizes

Competition winners will get a selection of goodies from the museum shop and see their drawing published on our website and Facebook page.

Competition rules

Please read our competition rules carefully before you enter.

1. The competition runs from Monday 13 July to midnight on Friday 14 August.
2. The competition is open to UK residents aged 5 to 11 and has three age categories:
 - 5 to 7 years old
 - 8 to 9 years old
 - 10 to 11 years old
3. A responsible adult should enter on a child's behalf. Please only submit one design per child.
4. Drawing should be one side of a banknote (not a coin), and include the name and features of the city, town or area where your child lives.
5. We cannot judge an entry if it is not a drawing of a banknote, a copy of an existing note, shows anything offensive, or has anyone visible in the photo.
6. If your drawing looks like a real bank of England note, you may need to follow our [reproduction conditions](#). For example, if your design looks very convincing, you might need to write 'SPECIMEN' across it.
7. By submitting an entry, you give consent for your child's drawing to be publically displayed on our webpage and Facebook if it wins. We will include their first name, age, and the town they live in.
8. The winning entries displayed on our Facebook and website reflect the judges' final decisions.

How to enter

You can either take a photo of the drawing or scan it. The image should be in jpg or png format. Please make sure it is in colour and the file is less than 5 megabytes in size.

Take the photo in good light, against a flat surface, and make sure the drawing is clear. A dark, blurred or grainy image will reduce the chance of winning.

Attach the file to the [entry form on our Facebook page](#) (you do not need a Facebook account to do this). Or you can email it to museum.events@bankofengland.co.uk including your child's first name, age and a telephone number.

We will contact the winners by Friday 4 September, and ask them to provide a postal address. Please add museum.events@bankofengland.co.uk to your contacts list so our email does not end up in your spam folder. If we don't hear back from you in five working days we will choose another winner.



BANK OF ENGLAND

The Natural History Museum to re-open Wednesday 5 August

- *South Kensington site to open Wednesday 5 August - Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am-6pm*
- *The Natural History Museum at Tring to open Wednesday 5 August - seven days a week*
- *Admission remains free. To ensure a safe experience it is essential for visitors to book a timed slot online at nhm.ac.uk*

Following an almost five-month long closure, the longest period since the second world war, the Natural History Museum is delighted to be able to offer a warm welcome to visitors, throwing open the doors to its world-famous building in South Kensington from Wednesday 5 August. The Museum will initially re-open on Wednesdays to Sundays only and from 11am to 6pm (last entry at 5pm).

New measures will be in place to ensure staff and visitors can have a safe and enjoyable experience. To help manage the number of people in the Museum at any one time, capacity will be significantly reduced. It will be essential to book a free timed ticket in advance online at nhm.ac.uk or by [phone](tel:02079464747). Museum Members and Patrons will have priority booking 48 hours before it opens to the public; they will also benefit from fast-track entry.

Director of the Natural History Museum Sir Michael Dixon says: *"We're delighted to be able to safely share our wonderful buildings, spacious galleries and gardens once again.*

"The nation has reconnected with the natural world during lockdown and there is no better place to discover all it has to offer than our Museum. From visiting our world-leading dinosaur gallery to seeing our awe-inspiring blue whale Hope plunging from the ceiling in Hintze Hall, we look forward to offering a uniquely relaxed visit. Visitors will be able to explore our magnificent halls and galleries without the crowds – something only our staff usually experience outside opening hours."



The vast majority of the Museum's galleries will be open alongside its five-acre gardens. Strolls, picnicking, exploring pondlife and wildlife watching are all encouraged. Food and drink will be available to purchase either as takeaways or to enjoy at socially distanced seating. Transactions will be contactless where possible, but cash will be accepted.

The Museum's perennially popular **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** exhibition is planned to open in October with brand new winning images to captivate audiences. The Museum's **Ice Rink** is set to also open in October with new measures in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for skaters.

The major new exhibition, **Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature**, the result of a creative partnership between the Museum, the BBC and Warner Bros. will continue to be created on-site with the aim of welcoming guests to experience it this winter; more news on an opening date will be shared imminently.

Both the Museum's main entrance on Cromwell Road and its Exhibition Road entrances will be open.

Invitation to local community groups

In recognition that many of our local audiences will have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 we will be reaching out and working with local community organisations who are supporting families and young people who live in the surrounding boroughs to extend a special and exclusive visit offer.

Executive Director of Engagement Clare Matterson says: *"We want to better serve our local communities that live in the boroughs surrounding our site and create advocates for the planet right here on our doorstep. We will be building on existing partnerships with London community organisations as well as establishing new relationships to encourage more first-time visitors and better respond to local needs as part of a long-term*

community development programme.”

Safety First

The Museum has achieved Visit Britain’s ‘We’re Good To Go’ industry standard by demonstrating adherence to the respective Government and public health guidance and the implementation of new safety measures.



Limiting visitor numbers will allow visitors to keep a safe distance from people who are not in the same household. Our friendly and trained staff will be on hand to support visitors to have a great time and stay safe.

Hands-free hand sanitiser will be available at all entrances, cafes, shops, toilets, lifts and in our largest gallery spaces. Multiple toilet facilities across the site will be open with clear 2-metre queuing signage in place.

Acrylic protection panels will be in place in cafes, shops, visitor information and ticketing stations and our staff who are not based behind these will be issued with face coverings.

We are recommending that all our visitors wear a face covering during their visit and this will be made clear at the point of booking a timeslot. Additional reusable and washable face coverings will be available for purchase in the shops.

The vast majority of galleries will be open. Visitors will be able to plan their visit in advance with new online itineraries.

Lifts will be available for anyone with access needs and cloakroom facilities will be limited initially to large luggage items.

South Kensington Cultural Quarter

Alongside this announcement, our Exhibition Road neighbours, the V&A and the Science Museum have also announced that their doors will reopen on 6 and 19 August, respectively. The three museums are staggering opening dates and times to reduce footfall on Exhibition Road and ease visitor flow at nearby underground stations.

South Kensington is London’s home of arts and science – the original cultural quarter since its foundation 175 years ago - providing free access to astonishingly diverse collections held on behalf of the nation, all within a stone’s throw of each other. At a time when ideas, beauty, curiosity and connection to nature have never been more important, the three South Kensington museums have all bases covered. Galleries, exhibitions and experiences span art, design, performance, fashion, science, technology, engineering, medicine and the wonders of the natural world. Visitors will be able to welcome culture back into their lives and enjoy fantastic days out in wide open, safe spaces they can reclaim as their own.

The museums are collaborating with their two local authorities, local businesses and more than a dozen other cultural institutions to improve provision for cyclists and pedestrians and take other steps to ensure South Kensington offers the same vibrant experiences supported by all the reassuring safety measures.

Both South Kensington and Gloucester Road Underground Stations will be operating but where possible it is recommended visitors minimise the use of public transport or combine the journey to the Museum with walking or cycling. The nearest Santander Cycle Hire docking stations are outside our Exhibition Road entrance and on Thurloe Place, near South Kensington Tube station.

The Digital Museum

For those unable to visit the Museum buildings just yet, our digital offering allows visitors to browse millions of specimens from the collection, take a virtual tour, participate in citizen science and access learning resources online.

Highlights include: an interactive experience about Hope the blue whale; audio guides narrated by Sir David Attenborough; activity ideas to try at home or in local outdoor spaces and the popular [Nature Live Online](#) interactive discussions featuring topical content with our scientists and cutting-edge research.

E-SCOOTABILITY INDEX REVEALS UK CITIES READY FOR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

- Newcastle is the UK's most e-scooter friendly city, scoring 50/70 in the e-scootability index
- Seven out of the top 10 scoring cities are located in the north of England
- Leeds has the most e-scooter friendly roads with just 3 pothole complaints this year
- With the poorest air quality in the UK, Wolverhampton could benefit from emission free e-scooter rental
- The E-Scootability Index can be found here: <http://uswitch.com/gas-electricity/uk-cities-ready-for-electric-scooters/>

Rented e-scooters look set to ride to the rescue as the UK begins to return to work. And according to new research from Uswitch.com, Newcastle is the city most likely to give the green light to this emission-free mode of transport.

Taking a seed list 40 of the UK's most populous cities, the energy team at Uswitch have analysed the 'e-scootability' of each city, based on metrics such as air quality, pothole complaints, bike thefts and planned cycle with a maximum score of 70 available.

City	Index Score /70
Newcastle upon Tyne	50.0
London Westminster	49.0
Carlisle	47.1
Hull	46.7
Salford	46.0
Preston	43.5
Oxford	42.2
Manchester	42.0
Sunderland	39.4
Peterborough	39.3

Source: Uswitch.com

Scoring 50 out of 70 available points, Newcastle topped the index, owing to 13km of planned cycle lanes and 8,306 potential commuters who could benefit from the rental scheme

The North is home to the most e-scootable cities. Seven out of the top 10 are located in the north of England; Newcastle, Carlisle, Hull, Salford, Preston, Manchester and Sunderland all score high on the e-scootability index.

The air quality rankings saw Preston and Carlisle top the list which would make for a pleasant e-scooter commute. Cities scoring low on this metric such as Wolverhampton and Wakefield could also benefit from the emission free advantages that e-scooter bring.

The study also scored each city based on the number of pothole complaints made via FixMyStreet. Leeds had the smoothest roads for scootering, followed by Exeter and Cambridge.

To understand the potential uptake of e-scooters, we scored each city based on the commuters already using two wheels to get to work[9]. Cambridge topped the list with 15.34% of the population already cycling, followed by Westminster (12.42%), Oxford (8.75%) and York (5.29%).

Will Owen, Energy Expert from Uswitch comments on the results of the e-scootability index:

"Cities all over the UK have been working hard to stop the spread of COVID-19 and with lockdown finally easing, we're seeing a welcome push towards climate-friendly transport options such as e-scooters.

"Later this year, the UK will join several European countries including Spain, France and Italy following the release of the DfT's e-scooter rental framework. 50 city councils have already applied to be part of the trial.

"But the research behind the e-scootability index revealed that some cities were more 'geared' up for their arrival than others, with cities in the north making up 70% of the top 10 list.

"Rental e-scooters will be banned from footpaths to protect pedestrians so road safety is another factor that needs to be considered. Alongside the obvious environmental benefits of e-scooter rental schemes, there are many other factors for regulators to consider.

The E-Scootability Index can be seen in full here:

<http://uswitch.com/gas-electricity/uk-cities-ready-for-electric-scooters/>

Government support for exports

The Department for International Trade (DIT) and UK Export Finance (UKEF) have made a good start in developing a strategy and operating arrangements to better support UK businesses in trading overseas but face significant challenges in boosting exports over the long term, according to today's report by the National Audit Office.

DIT has primary responsibility for delivering the UK's trade policy and works closely with UKEF, the UK's export credit agency.¹ Growing exports is an important element of government's strategy to boost productivity and growth following the UK's exit from the EU. DIT and UKEF will also play a key role in supporting economic growth following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the UK exported £701.2 billion of goods and services to overseas countries.

35%

government's ambition for the level of exports as a percentage of GDP. UK exports were 31.7% of GDP in 2019

£24.4bn

value of exports supported by the Department for International Trade (DIT) in 2019-20 against an internal target of £20.91 billion

£4.4bn

value of contracts supported with export finance provided by UK Export Finance (UKEF) in 2019-20 against a target of £5 billion

£701.2 billion

of goods and services exported by the UK in 2019

6th

UK's position compared with the rest of the world by value of exports in 2018 as estimated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

£500,000

business turnover threshold above which DIT plans to provide bespoke export support. DIT estimates that around 230,000 UK businesses have a viable product or service to export and a turnover above £500,000

339

number of customers UKEF supported in 2019-20; 199 directly and a further 140 customers benefited as suppliers to UKEF-supported projects

9/10

British Exporters Association rating for UKEF's product range in 2019

The government's 2018 export strategy included an ambition to increase exports from 30 to 35% of GDP. However, today's report questions the value of the ambition. The lack of a timeframe for the ambition and the existence of other factors that can affect export growth, some of which are outside of government's control, make it difficult to hold DIT accountable for its progress.

UKEF and DIT both set targets for the value of exports they aim to support. DIT met its internal 'exports wins' target for the value of exports it supports, achieving £24.4 billion wins against a target of £20.91 billion. The export wins measure is a useful

tool for incentivising staff because DIT can set sector and regional targets, align activities across its UK and overseas network, and track trends in performance. However, the measure has limitations because it focuses efforts on short-term export support rather than longer-term activities. DIT has improved the way it measures performance, but the report recommends it needs to do more to assess the impact of some of the longer-term support it provides.

In 2019-20, UKEF operated within all its financial limits and the controls set by HM Treasury to provide assurance that it does not expose taxpayers to excessive risk. UKEF narrowly missed its 2019-20 target on the value of export contracts it aimed to support, supporting £4.4 billion of export contracts against a target of £5 billion. It fell short of its target to directly support 500 customers, supporting 199 in 2019-20. A further 140 customers benefited as suppliers to UKEF-

supported projects.

DIT is making early progress in addressing a gap in the data it holds on UK exporters. It needs good data to identify which of the 5.9 million UK businesses already export or have the potential to do so. DIT expects the forthcoming Trade Bill to support data sharing between DIT and HM Revenue & Customs, which will help DIT to identify UK exporters.² DIT has good information on some well-established sectors of the UK economy, such as aerospace, but could improve its data on emerging sectors such as renewable energy.

To make the best use of its resources, DIT plans to target its bespoke support at larger businesses and to direct smaller businesses to its digital services. However, a recent DIT survey of its clients suggests that some services on its website are not meeting the needs of some UK businesses.³ DIT is currently developing its digital offer to include more specific guidance and an evaluation strategy to help it understand the costs of its digital services, how well they meet user need and where the gaps are.

There is scope for UKEF and DIT to work more closely together overseas. UKEF supported exports to 72 countries in 2018-19, but 80% of the value of these exports was concentrated in five countries. UKEF relies on DIT staff to help identify potential customers, but those who are not finance experts may lack the skills to promote export finance; to address this, it aims to increase the number of UKEF staff overseas and has introduced training for DIT staff.

DIT and UKEF are developing a new export strategy which will build on the 2018 strategy by reflecting the UK's exit from the EU and the government's economic response to COVID-19. The NAO recommends that this strategy should encourage DIT, UKEF and other departments to work closely to ensure that UK industry is ready to exploit emerging opportunities overseas. This should include a robust sector-based analysis of opportunities for UK exports and UK businesses' capacity to deliver.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“DIT has made a good start in developing a strategy and the arrangements it needs to support export growth, and UKEF has expanded its offer of export finance to support UK businesses. Continued progress is needed for both DIT and UKEF to strengthen their approach and address the significant challenges that UK trade exports will face.

“To increase exports and boost UK productivity and growth, DIT and UKEF must work closely together and across government to ensure efforts and resources are focused in the regions and sectors where there are the greatest opportunities to support UK businesses.”

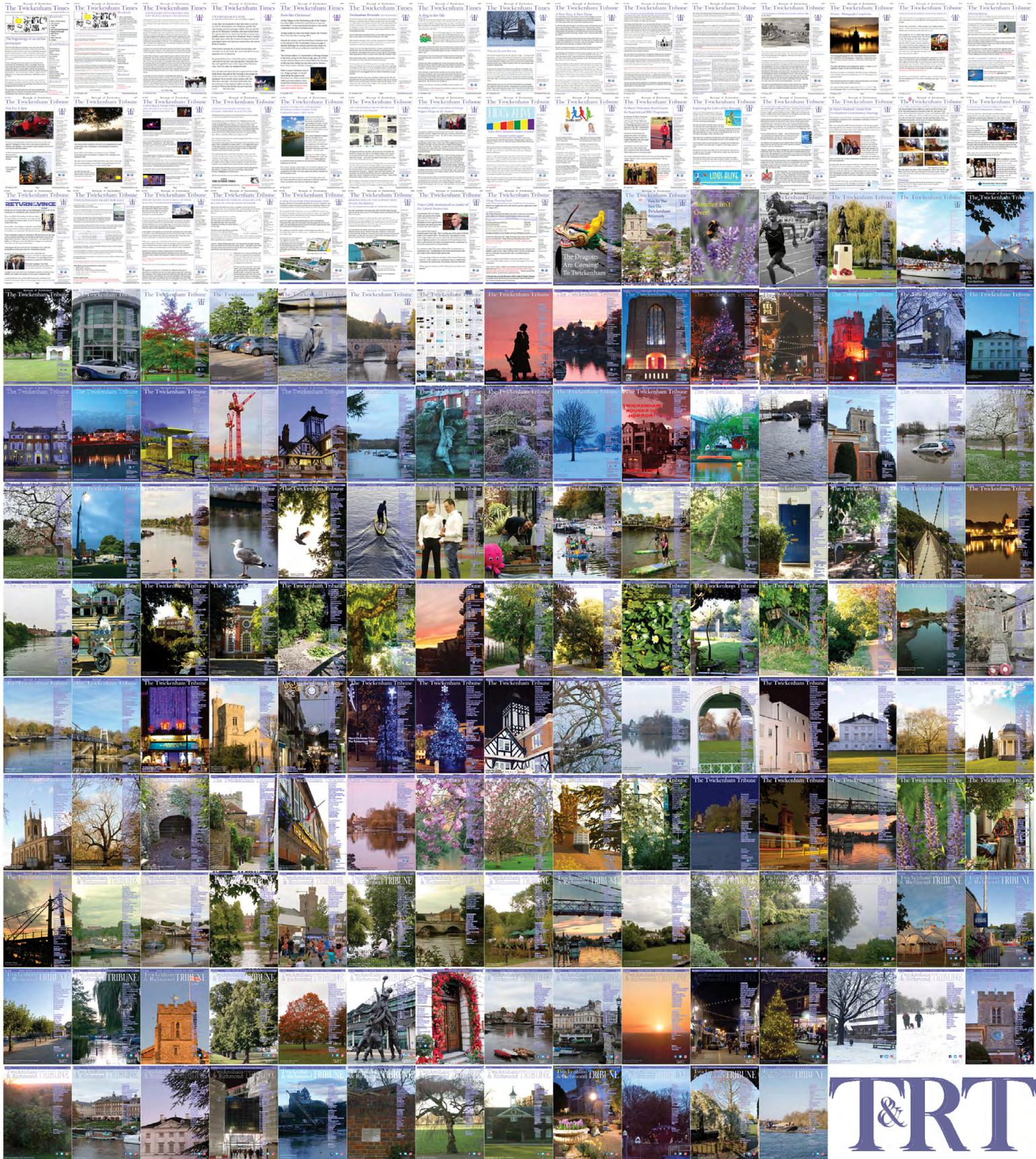
View the full report [HERE](#)

A forthcoming Trade Bill has provision for collecting data on the whole UK business population through an additional question on the corporate tax and self-assessment income tax forms on whether a business exports. More information on the Bill can be found here: <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2019-21/trade.html>



National Audit Office

193 editions of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune online - Lots to read: News, Reviews, History and On-going Sagas in this Borough in South-West London.



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

Thousands read The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

If you are reading this you could be advertising your business with
The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. Community rates are
available

Contact: advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com

View ad details at www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise

Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



Published by:

Twickenham Alive Limited (in association with World InfoZone Limited)
Registered in England & Wales
Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data
Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

©Twickenham Alive Limited. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the permission of Twickenham Alive Limited. While we take reasonable efforts, this online newspaper cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information. The views and opinions in these pages do not necessarily represent those of Twickenham Alive Limited or The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. [Terms & Conditions](#)