

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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- Teresa Read



18th September 2020



TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond Riverside – no more parked cars

Residents have had their say and a new Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) will operate on Richmond Riverside from Monday 21 September 2020. The Council launched a consultation in response to complaints from pedestrians about hazardous parked vehicles in the popular beauty spot, visited by hundreds of people every day.

The feedback was clear and the RPZ will be implemented to keep the Riverside clear of vehicles. Loading and unloading vehicles (including deliveries) will be permitted between 7 and 10am every day to support businesses and residential properties that require access onto the Riverside solely for this purpose.

Find out more about the [RPZ](#).

Residents warned to be on guard against coronavirus council tax fraud

Residents are being warned to be in their guard against a new sophisticated fraud that promises victims a Council Tax reduction because of the coronavirus outbreak. The scam, which has been seen in other parts of London, but not yet in Richmond, uses what appear to be official council letters complete with logos, which direct victims to a fake website that is designed to harvest people's sensitive personal data.

Offering recipients a Council Tax reduction, the letters invite people to visit what appears to be a government-style website – and provides a six digit log in code. When people enter that code, their address appears and they are then invited to answer a series of questions that discloses sensitive personal information that would be of key use to fraudsters.

Do you have a big idea for the Richmond Community Fund?

Richmond Council is about to launch the next phase of the Community Fund. Residents or local groups with ideas on potential projects can attend a virtual information session to find out how their idea can be turned into a reality. The Richmond Council Community Fund comes from the Community Infrastructure Levy. A tax paid by developers to help reduce any negative impact upon the community, a portion of the total tax collected will fund local priority projects.

The fund will launch on Monday 12 October and will close on Friday 4 December 2020. To help people understand the fund, submission criteria and for hints and tips on what makes a great application, two sessions are being held next month on Zoom.

[Thursday 8 October 2020, from 10am to 12pm](#)

[Monday 26 October 2020, from from 5.30 to 7pm](#)

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

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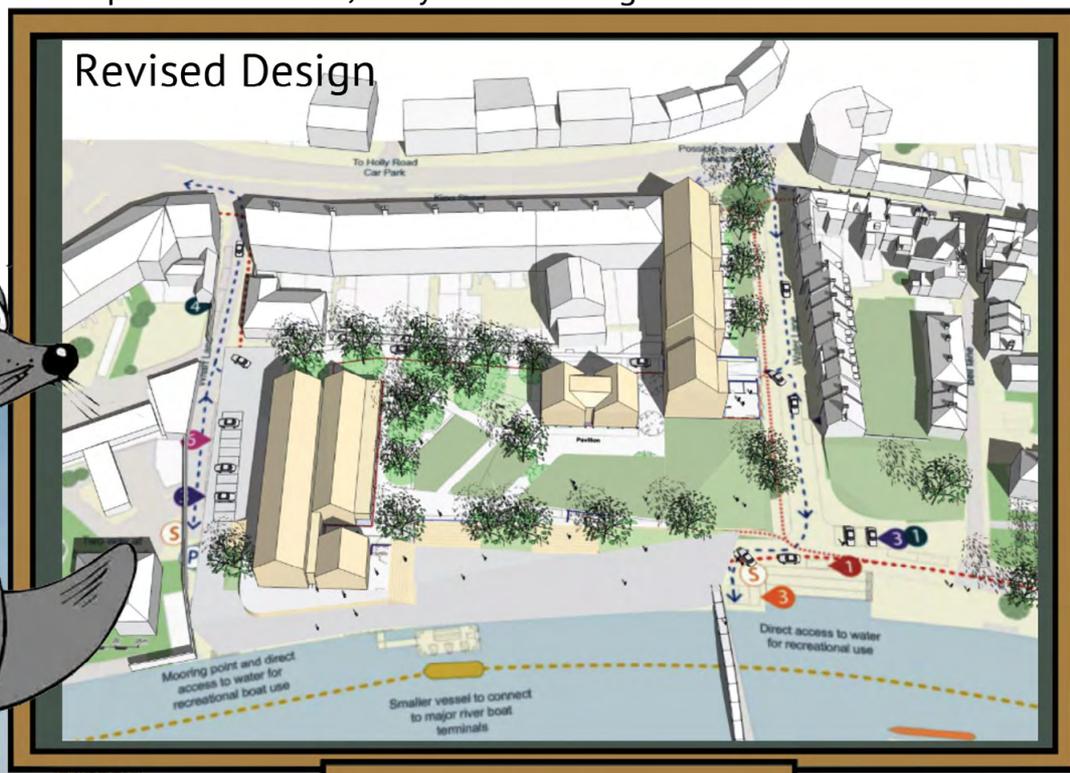
The council's revised Hopkins design has been circulating and people are not happy.

The development has been pushed back from the river, leaving a large hard-surfaced area within the floodplain (which looks suspiciously like a servicing and access road). Wharf Lane has widened and has more parking. The Wharf Lane buildings no longer sit on stilts at the front elevation, instead offering a podium providing a solid cliff face to passersby on the Embankment below. The popular 'Winter Gardens' have gone and boathouses are a distant memory. There is no Town Square. A slight improvement is an opening up of the view from King Street to the riverside. The design so far shows scant regard for the wish lists put forward by residents in the numerous consultations conducted in the last ten years. It seems the design offers little, unless you are a fan of housing.

It appears that even the Stakeholder Representative Group is unanimous in being concerned about the council's plans and lack of proper community engagement. It has even been suggested that the current proposal be withdrawn!

But we must give the council and Hopkins their due; they have managed to take an initial bland, unimaginative design that does little for our community and given us ... a blander, more unimaginative design that offers even less for the community.

Bravo!



‘Upstream from Kingston Bridge’

This view from Kingston Bridge offers a split screen panorama of where both the boroughs of Kingston and Richmond adjoin.

To the left lies Kingston’s Riverside Walk and to the right, Hampton Wick’s Barge Walk.

The many rowing clubs located both North and South of Kingston set afloat at this early hour bringing the recognisable ring of both oar and voice from across the water.



Special Meeting, Council

Tuesday, 22 September 2020 6:00 pm

Venue: Virtual meeting

Watch the webcast online :

<https://richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

You can register to be updated on the meeting [HERE](#)

Notices of Motion

This extraordinary meeting of the Council was requisitioned on 13 August 2020 by Councillors Geoffrey Samuel, Paul Hodgins, Kate Howard, Pamela Fleming and Peter Buckwell in the following terms:

Motion

“This Council agrees to the immediate provision of portaloos on Twickenham Green and in Richmond Town Centre”

Petition for Richmond and Twickenham

Provision of Public Toilets in Richmond & Twickenham and enforcement of Anti-Social behaviour PSPO's

A petition has been launched seeking action from the council regarding anti-social behaviour, including public urination and defecation, in Twickenham and Richmond (particularly the greens).

On 23th August a call was made to hold an emergency meeting of the Council to discuss the growing problem; however, this was refused by the council delaying any discussion until late September.

Residents can't help but feel that the administration is kicking the can down the road.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

The Anomalies of the LBRUT Online Petition System

Teresa Read

Before you are able to access a Petition on the Council online system it is necessary to verify that you are a resident in the Borough and sign up for an account.

Once you have achieved this, although some have fallen at the first post, you can sign your name but not write anything else.

Strangely the LBRUT Petition files people by their Christian name so if you are Yvonne, Xanthie or Zac you will probably appear on the last page.

The pages are numbered but once you get to page 10 you see ...Last. In order to get to page 11 you need to click ... Otherwise you will find yourself with the list 22 23 24 etc.

However, if you want to go back to Page 11 you need to go back to this sequence

[1](#)[2](#)[3](#)[4](#)[5](#)[6](#)[7](#)[8](#)[9](#)[10](#)...[Last](#)

And the Council insists that they will only accept online petitions if they are Council ePetitions.

Of course, our Council will happily accept hand-written petitions which may have been signed by numerous people who had little idea what they were signing, whose hand-writing may be illegible, and who is to say if they live in the Borough. I remember a well-known petition which was presented at 10 Downing Street which, over the years, had been signed more than once by a number of petitioners.



Senior officers in their wisdom refuse to accept Change.org online petitions which are quick and easy to access and allow a comment from the petitioner. Addresses are supplied but not available online.

A long overdue complaint to the Council resulted in the following information:

“Please be assured that we are interested in the views of residents. The ePetition facility has been in place since 2010 and anyone who lives, works or studies in the borough is very welcome to express their view to the Council in this way.

Access via the Richmond Card was put in place as a result of previous feedback. If you experienced a particular problem, I would like to hear about this.

I appreciate that this may be more difficult at present, but petitioners may also collect signatures on paper provided the wording of the petition is exactly the same as the online version. These will count towards the total number.

Governance Department

Serving Richmond and Wandsworth Councils”

So, the LBRUT ePetition has been in place since 2010; perhaps it is time for an update? Any budding programmers willing to give it a try? We would like to hear from you and will publish your solutions in the Tribune.

Dear Sir,

West Twickenham CPZ

George Orwell's Animal Farm runs on pig fat and lies. By the end, "truth" has become so malleable that the animals can't even remember what actually happened. Unfortunately this is how councils manage to deploy the 'dreaded CPZ's' which don't actually address parking issues (but exacerbate the problem) and which allow the CPZ within one hot-spot area to move the problem to adjacent areas, so that the residents who are now inconvenienced then cry out "something be done about the local parking issue", low and behold the council have just the solution, and so it continues until the whole borough is covered by CPZ's.

When Strawberry Hill got its CPZ in 2019 the council decided to provide 300 pay-to-park street places for commuters parking near Strawberry Hill Station. But If you visit the area around Strawberry Hill station today you can see that most of the pay-to-park spaces are empty. Why? well a 200 yard walk away and outside the CPZ you can park for free and the 'problem' which was not a problem for Strawberry Hill (where most residents have off-street parking anyway) was displaced to streets in the surrounding areas and so that became somebody else's headache.

Particular streets in the nearby area found they had suddenly become overrun with commuter's cars making life a parking hell for residents. The council therefore offered to ease residents parking concerns by offering them a CPZ too: The West Twickenham CPZ. There was a sense of relief as the prospect of parking one's car somewhere near one's house became a likelihood once again. All good stuff then even though there was to be substantial cost to pay to the council for the annual and daily parking permits.

Stage one of the West Twickenham CPZ consultation went well and a majority of residents supported the scheme which was for a CPZ with controlled times and permit parking. People in the proposed West Twickenham CPZ area voted on an assumption and that they would get permit parking with no change to road markings ie: same spaces available. But when the proposed final plan was sent to them this week there was a shock waiting in the wings: the council had found it's yellow felt tip marker and added double yellow lines all over the place! Taking one road as an example, Fourth Cross Road would lose 35 car parking spaces, around 40%, of the available parking. It was the same story in surrounding roads. The excuse given for this radical action by the council was 'Health & Safety': by eradicating parking on one side of the street fire engines and refuse trucks could navigate more easily. This was a slightly odd as there had not been a problem before.

The truth of the matter is that CPZ's are a revenue earner for the council, why park for free when you can pay. The Lib Dem run council is also opposed to cars so making life difficult for people to park them is a big ideological tick in the box for them. There is now a second consultation in process and people in the proposed CPZ can make their voice heard and hopefully the council will unclog their ears and listen. Below is a link to the live thread for this issue on the Nextdoor website:

https://nextdoor.co.uk/news_feed/?post=17592195695447

(The letter that was sent to residents seeking their views on the CPZ has the wrong response e-mail address which will obviously limit comments.

The correct response address is SWTwickComments@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

I have contacted the council about this error but no response.)

Yours faithfully

Richard Walters, Twickenham

As Royal Parks propose parking charges, a reminder of the previous campaign against charges

Pictures taken in 2009/10 covering the Royal Parks anti-car park charging campaign in Bushy Park and Richmond Park. (© Brian Holder)



Sir,

Royal Parks Parking Charges

Whilst we are still in the middle of a pandemic, the Royal Parks propose that parking charges should be introduced in all the public car parks in Bushy and Richmond Park.

I believe this is a terrible idea and set out my reasons below.

Outdoor exercise, whether it be walking, relaxing the peaceful Isabella Plantation or Woodland Garden, dog walking, running or cycling, is vital for peoples mental and physical wellbeing.

During Lockdown the footfall in the Royal Parks increased substantially, highlighting how important this resource is. As a result, the car parks were closed to actually try to reduce the traffic into and through the Parks and to make it a safer and more peaceful environment for everyone needing some outdoor space. It was the victim of its own success and we all know that the adverse side of course was the tonnes of litter that selfish people left behind.

Although the car parks have been re-opened, with no through traffic measures, the number of cars has reduced significantly and indeed one of the car parks in Bushy Park is only open at weekends. I can't see how parking charges would give the Royal Parks enough income to make parking charges worthwhile, in addition to the infrastructure and management needed too.

I am a volunteer dog walker for The Cinnamon Trust and walk a dog three times a week and if parking charges were introduced, I would be paying between £5-£10 a week just to walk her and more if I were to make further visits. I can afford to pay this if necessary, but there are many park users for whom a charge would seriously impact on their ability to visit a Royal Park.

Not everyone is fortunate enough to live within walking distance of Bushy or Richmond Park, or able to cycle. To visit Richmond Park or Bushy Park by public transport I would have to take two buses with a large dog, which would take considerable time and in the current covid-19 climate, I would not wish to do so.

Introducing charges will see an increase in parking in nearby roads by those who need to drive and on double yellow lines on Sundays, when there is no traffic warden presence.

There are already machines in Bushy Park which look like parking machines to encourage people to make donations. Not everyone may be aware of these. If the Royal Parks really is so desperate for the revenue from parking, I would like to know how much they anticipate receiving on an annual basis and ask them to explore other creative means to raise this revenue.

To have your say:

<https://www.royalparks.org.uk/managing-the-parks/consultations/parking-charges>

J. Hill, Twickenham

COVID-19

By Teresa Read

Contact Tracing from the World Health Organization

Seemingly simple, contact tracing is the process of identifying all people that a COVID-19 patient has come into contact within the previous two weeks.

A system to identify cases needs a functioning laboratory, a way to feed back data, follow-up with contacts and support if quarantine is needed.

Contact tracing becomes complicated and time-consuming very quickly, especially in the context of COVID-19, as the virus can be transmitted between people without manifesting symptoms.

There is still much to learn about contact tracing in the age of COVID-19. The World Health Organization aims to make sure what is known is put into practice.

REMEMBER TO AVOID the 3 C's: Crowded places, Close Contact, Confined and Enclosed Spaces

Local Cases of COVID-19:

739 Richmond-upon-Thames 901 Kingston-upon Thames 1,505 Hounslow

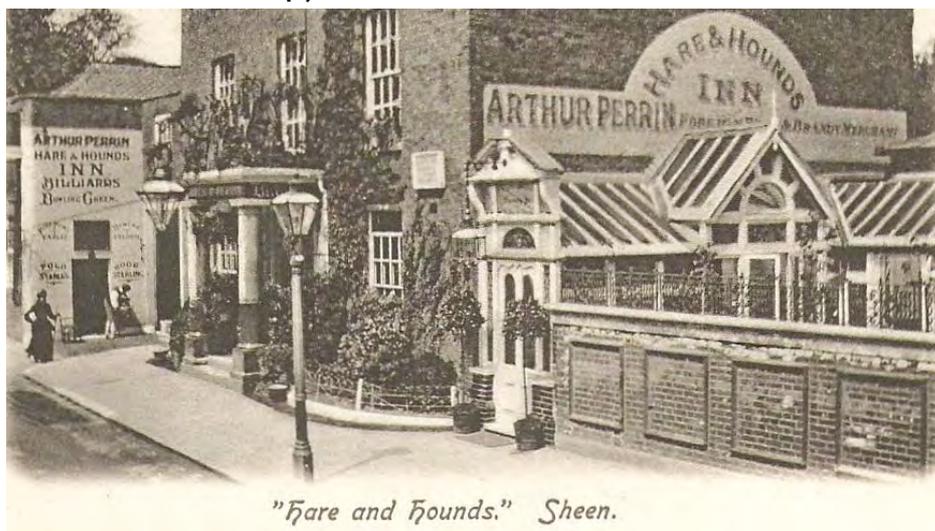
Countries with High Numbers of Deaths Recorded by the World Health Organization:

USA: 195,638	France 30,930
Brazil: 134,106	Spain 30,405
India: 85,372	Iran 23,808
Mexico: 71,978	Colombia 23,478
The United Kingdom 41,705	Russian Federation 19,195
Italy 35,658	South Africa 15,772
Peru 31,051	Argentina 12,229

We continue our occasional pub crawl around the Borough this week. Finding ourselves on the busy South Circular Road in East Sheen, we spot a road house at 214-216 Upper Richmond Road. The Hare and Hounds is a Grade II listed public house and has been East Sheen's landmark pub on this busy road since it opened as a Coaching Inn in 1776.

Originally built as a large wood panelled Inn with a very large garden it is thought that the nearby Palewell estate which housed a pack of hounds may well have been the origin of the pubs name.

The Hare & Hounds in East Sheen was first leased by Young and Bainbridge in 1831 together with the extensive grounds with lawns and kitchen gardens on the other side of Church Walk. Young's got the freehold in 1897. Two years later the kitchen gardens were exchanged for land from the Hollies, a grand residence next door to the pub (shown on the 1875 OS map). This was demolished in 1902 so that the frontage of the pub could be extended on the Upper Richmond Road.



"Hare and Hounds." Sheen.

Our first postcard image is from Edwardian times just before the First World War and shows the proprietor of the day was Arthur Perrin. The advertising clearly shows that the pub was a billiards venue and also boasted a bowling green.

The second postcard is from about 1908 and shows an open topped bus outside the pub and on its way towards Fulham.

The final postcard is probably from the 1950s and is typical of that era.

Billiards and snooker were played at the pub well into the 21st century and I fondly remember Friday lunchtime snooker upstairs. Sadly its wonderful billiards room and tables are now things of the past as today



The Upper Richmond Road, East Sheen, c. 1914. The Hare and Hounds public house is on the left, in front of which is an open-top bus en route to Walham Green – now called Fulham Broadway.



the Hare and Hounds presents itself as a gastro pub.

Samuel Pepys described the English pub as the beating heart of the country. Unfortunately they are dying fast – with 31 pubs closing every week nationwide. Pubs are victims of taxation, over-regulation, the decline in beer consumption, the availability of low-cost alcohol in supermarkets, large pub conglomerates selling off unprofitable venues, rising rent and falling trade.

These days, a couple of pints in a pub will set you back in the region of £10, for which price you can buy 8 large cans of beer to drink at home. In short, they are pricing themselves out of existence. What a shame. I'm very glad that there are still a handful of "proper pubs" on my local patch that will see me through my final years. In fact, now I have finished this week's column I think I'll pop out for 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.



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darryl parkin

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Wilson Raises Concerns Over Twickenham Stadium Rugby Fixture Announcements

Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, has today written to the Sports Minister to raise her concerns following RFU's announcement of the autumn rugby fixture schedule for Twickenham Stadium. The proposed events are the largest sporting events since lockdown began and could see up to 44,000 spectators from across the country travel to Twickenham during a single weekend.

In the letter, Munira Wilson urges the Government to put the "public health and safety of local residents" first by ensuring the games pose a "very low risk in any local spike in infection rates" if they go ahead. She has also pushed for a two-week gap between games following the first big match on 24th October to ensure there is enough time to assess the impact of the first match on infection rates.

Munira Wilson said:

"In view of the recent increase in Covid-19 cases, the rising R number and the ongoing issues in the Government's Test and Trace system, I have significant concerns about the announcement of the rugby fixtures to be held in October and November. In particular, the weekend of 24th and 25th October will see the first two big rugby matches held on consecutive days, with up to 44,000 spectators from across the country travelling to Twickenham.

"We all want to see a return to normality as soon as possible, including sport, which is crucial to our economy and our sense of wellbeing. However, the public health and safety of local residents is absolutely paramount.

"The proposed events are the largest live sporting events since lockdown began. It goes without saying that the Government must provide assurances that these games do not pose a significant risk to any local spike in infection rates.

"Should the Government give the green light for these events to go ahead, I feel very strongly that it should insist on a clear two-week gap following the first big match to assess the impact on infection rates. It would be reckless of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport to allow the first two events to take place back to back in one weekend."

RFU Fixtures At Twickenham Stadium

DATE	EVENT	KICK-OFF	CAPACITY
Saturday 17 th October	Rugby test event	TBC	7,500
Saturday 24 th October	Rugby event	TBC	25,000
Sunday 25 th October	2020 Quilter Cup England v Barbarians	14:00	19,000
Saturday 14 th November	Quilter International – Autumn Nations Cup England v Georgia	15:00	25,000
Saturday 21 st November	Quilter International England Women v France Women	12:00 (TBC)	25,000
	Quilter International – Autumn Nations Cup England v Ireland (25,000)	15:00	
Sunday 6 th December	Quilter International – Autumn Nations Cup Finals weekend England v TBC	14:00	21,000

Tall handsome Italian

By JP

In late August, the last Lombardy poplar on the riverside terrace in York House Gardens came crashing down. An impressive row of these tall, slender trees once lined the river frontage here, adding elegant, continental sophistication to this area of formal riverside garden.



In falling, the poplar did minimal damage, keeping a sociable distance from the 'naked ladies' in the Italian cascade, skirting the circular pond and landing short of the footbridge. It did cut through the yew hedge though, squashing several rose bushes and swiping a few branches from the tulip trees.

In its prime, the original row of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) would have been an impressive sight, with a touch of Italian flair. It was planted over a century ago, when the formal riverside area of York House Gardens was laid out, much as we see it today. Lombardy poplars were a fitting choice here, complementing the garden's newly installed Italian centre piece – the cascade with its Carrera marble sea nymphs, or naked ladies.

In the book *Bygone Twickenham* there's an aerial view of the garden from around 1920 showing at least 30 of these slender trees lining the riverside path. They can also be seen in photos from 1928 and 1949 on britainfromabove.org.uk, as well as in various other historical images online, declining in number over the years.



Lombardy poplars, it turns out, succumb readily to disease and the once uniform row gradually became interspersed with a more diverse mix of trees. Photos online from the last few decades show only two Lombardy poplars on the river frontage – this one (about halfway along), and another (near the Champions Wharf entrance) that disappeared around 2013 – both now just ragged-topped trunks. Lombardy poplars are rarely planted nowadays, as their tendency to topple unexpectedly has become apparent, so I suspect no more will be planted here.

I would like to think that this last poplar was from the original row, but haven't found any definitive proof. Lombardy poplars are generally short lived, growing fast and dying young. But perhaps this one bucked the trend? It was, at the very least, a reminder of a bygone era, when this riverside garden was a place for entertaining high society and enjoying la dolce vita, among frolicking sea nymphs, riverside walks and handsome Italian trees.

Destruction of a street

Simon Fowler recalls the disastrous effect of an airmine dropping on Peldon Avenue, off the Sheen Road in Richmond in the early hours of Friday 20 September

Perhaps the worst damage was caused by a thousand-kilogram mines that landed on houses in Peldon Avenue, off the Sheen Road, Richmond at 2.40am on 20 September 1940. The *Richmond Herald* reporter thought: 'The area resembled part of Ypres in the last war.'

Writing in 1945, the *Herald* remembered:

Seen in early morning light Peldon Avenue presented a grotesque and terrible picture. In the centre of the roadway about halfway up the avenue was a huge gaping cavity caused by the mine. Rubble was piled up over the road and a few bricks by the cavity were the remains of three houses. The rest had completely disappeared. Not a house had escaped. They stood grotesquely with split walls, roofs blown clean away – most of them simply shells, filled with the wreckage of collapsed floors, ceilings and inner walls. Here and there a bed sprawled rakishly over a mound of debris. Clothing and contents of drawers were strewn widespread among them – the most moving of all – children's toys.



Peldon Avenue

© LB Richmond upon Thames

Here was real tragedy. Among the casualties were a policeman's family: Lillian Maude Danby (aged 44) and her three daughters

Margaret Ellen (aged 14), Stella Annie (13) and Sybil Lillian (11) of 15 Peldon Avenue:

A policeman who was first on the scene collapsed on hearing that his three daughters had been killed. His wife crawled out from under the wreckage of her home to tell the workers that the children were underneath. They were found huddled together. A young son who had taken refuge under the stairs was found unhurt.

Mrs Danby later died of her wounds at Richmond Royal Hospital. Her daughters were all pupils at the Richmond County School for Girls, where the school history described them as being 'the best of pupils, pleasant, thoughtful, intelligent and had faced with cheerfulness and courage the difficulties of the war'.

Next door lived the Blackburn family. Their youngest daughter Audrey has vivid memories of that evening:

My mother, my older sister, and my twin brother and I were asleep in our Anderson shelter in the garden. The explosion awakened me, and then the screams and cries of the trapped injured and dying mingled with the sounds of falling bricks and buildings and the shattering of glass. The silence which had followed the "All Clear" five or ten minutes earlier turned into a horrifying medley of terror and confusion. My mother managed to claw her way through the earth and debris which effectively blocked our only exit to the shelter, and called out that next-door's house was down - OUR house was down - they're ALL down!

... the family next door on our left were sleeping in the house that night: the mother, three daughters and a son. These children were much the same age as us and we played together. Sybil, Stella, Margaret and John Danby. All the girls were scholarship pupils at Richmond County School for Girls. The bodies of the mother and the girls were eventually recovered, but John was found safe and unharmed and he was brought to our shelter by the wardens, along with an elderly woman (I believe she was a Belgian refugee) and another woman.

After the war Courtlands was rebuilt and a new block of flats – Peldon Court – were constructed on the bombsite of Peldon Avenue.

Simon Fowler's *Richmond in the Second World War* is on sale in independent bookshops in Richmond and from the Richmond Local History Society website www.richmondhistory.org.uk

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THINK

How a picture in a Moscow gallery led to a publishing contract

By Peter Denton

Since the publication of Molly Gartland's debut novel this week, life has been busy for the Teddington author. Not only has her book been well received by the literary critics, but she's also been participating in a whole raft of virtual discussion groups concerning first novels and the trials and tribulations of creative writing. And in November, she's all set for the Richmond Literary Festival.

Molly's novel is *The Girl From the Hermitage*, published by Lightning Books. It has an interesting root history.

When she and her husband Steve visited an art gallery in Moscow, they came across *Bird Girl*, a portrait by Ludmila Mikhailovna Sgibneva, and liked it so much that they bought it. That was in the mid-1990s, when the newly-married couple were living and working in Russia. Then, fast forward to 2014, when out of curiosity Molly searched for the artist on the internet – and up came *Bird Girl*.

"I started reading Ludmila's biography" recalled Molly. "She's now in her eighties and I discovered that she had lived through the Siege of Leningrad, one of the most dreadful events in Russia's modern history."

Coincidentally, Molly had long been interested in authorship, and reading Ludmila's account of those harrowing times prompted her to take a course in creative writing at Richmond Adult Community College and, later, at St Mary's University, where she earned an MA.

"Were it not for those wonderful local education resources, my writing abilities may never have been primed" she said. "We're hugely fortunate to have these facilities here on our doorstep."

But primed they were – and one consequence of Molly's MA was that she felt equipped and confident to embark on a serious writing project. The result is her fictional account of the portrait (which, incidentally, hangs on her living room wall).

"I wouldn't have been able to write the book had I not had the experience of living in Russia in the '90s" she said. "In those days, the country was crazy and lawless because it had moved from a very orderly regime to utter madness. But now, day to day living is substantially better than it was, but in the West we're not really aware of that. One of the aims of my book is to offer the reader a different view of that enormous and fascinating country, with all its faults."

Patriotism and pride are important to Russians, "just as they are to Americans", Molly says. And she should know – she was born and grew up in the United States. She studied financial management and elective Russian at Michigan State University, and first visited Russia as a student in 1993. Today she's a British citizen and lives in a quiet part of Teddington with husband Steve and their two teenage children.



The Girl From the Hermitage was published as an e-book earlier this year, and is now available in paperback. **Shortlisted for the Impress Prize, and longlisted for the Bath Novel Award and the Grindstone Novel Award**, it's already attracting favourable reviews: "An ambitious family saga... an extraordinarily well-written book for a debut" says the Historical Novel Society. While the *Moscow News* describes it as a "commendable debut novel. Molly Gartland has provided a fine addition to the rich genre of historical fiction set in St Petersburg". And the *Yorkshire Times* describes the book as "elegantly written and convincing... an

enthraling read".

So with her first novel safely in bookshops and on her CV, what's next for Molly? "Oh, a prequel" she says. "The Russian Revolution and into the 1930s. I'm working on it!"

The Girl From the Hermitage by Molly Gartland is published by Lightning Books, £8.99. Molly will be appearing at the Richmond Literary Festival on November 11th and 17th.

Details: www.richmondliterature.com
www.mollygartland.com



Bumblebee on Hibiscus

The bees are still foraging and so many moths are present along the River Crane Corridor which is heartening given the news of declining populations amongst insects and other species plus the real possibility of extinction for some. We have encouraged the reduction of Light Pollution by individual households especially if we live in nature sensitive areas and this is one easy action that we can all take to make a difference. The Richmond Biodiversity Partnership have an excellent leaflet – [Rivers and Light Pollution](#) – Text by A.Fure

and P. Briggs. Reading this well researched document gives credence to the argument that, ***“artificial light, in the wrong place at the wrong time is a pollutant, which can harm the natural environment.”*** This may seem obvious but look around our Borough and see the amount of street lighting and school lighting which is left on when totally unnecessary and too bright. i.e. Trafalgar Infant school, The Meadway, is built next to the River Crane, partly on MOL and which looks like Disneyland as darkness falls and is still lit up in daylight. Lighting does not appear on the Nuisance reporting Council website and when investigated it is a judgement call by Officers as they do not carry Light Meters and do not seem to give it as much weight as Noise pollution. Sad when our Council actually funded this leaflet and presumably thinks it is worth reading and actioning!



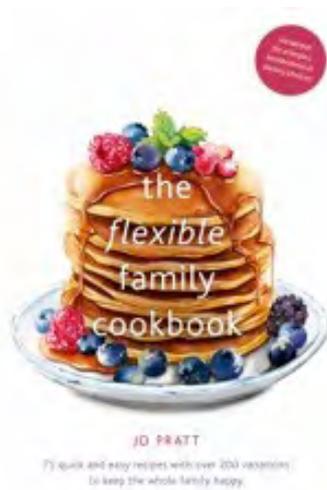
Oxford Dictionary definition of Vermin:

“Mammals and birds injurious to game or crops etc. noxious or parasitic worms or insects; vile persons”. We mentioned the collared doves in a previous article commenting on the List which allows them to be shot as Vermin. Given the horrendous farming practices which have denuded the land/ habitats/wildlife along with other contentious and damaging usage of green spaces; it would seem that some two-legged mammals meet the definition.

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

YOUR FLEXIBLE FAMILY KITCHEN FRIEND

I've been fortunate to meet **Jo Pratt** on a couple of occasions now, at various food festivals, and she gave a great demonstration at last year's Surrey Food Festival. Hopefully, when things are back to 'normal' we will all be able to go along to it again and see her prepare more of her delicious recipes.



I was already a fan of her **Flexible Pescatarian** and **Flexible Vegetarian** cookbooks, and her latest tome - **The Flexible Family Cookbook** – is another fabulous book. It has just been published, by Frances Lincoln, at £20 for a lovely hardback. As with her other 'Flexible' books, Jo realises that many families nowadays have one or two members who can't or won't eat certain foods, so her recipes give multi variations on each recipe's theme. In fact, the book gives so many options it represents amazing value for money too! Ever practical, Jo offers a variety of family friendly recipes that can be used for cooking balanced, nutritious meals to suit a host of requirements. Recipes range from traybakes and one-pot roasts (easy and convenient timesavers), to scrumptious puddings and simple bakes (enabling smaller hands to help). Covering everything from gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free cooking and veganism, to suggestions for flavour and spice adjustments for younger or fussier palettes, this book's a culinary lifesaver

and a crowd pleaser.

A fellow West London resident, **Jo Pratt** is an award-winning writer, cook, food stylist and presenter. The best-selling author of seven cookbooks, she's worked with many high-profile chefs and brands including Marcus Wareing, Jamie Oliver and the late, lovely, Gary Rhodes. And being a mum, she shares her tips on encouraging youngsters to enjoy experimenting with different flavours.



I've chosen a couple of recipes for you to give you a taste of the book: Creamy Pea, Spinach & Cashew Soup and Mango & Coconut Chicken – both perfect for this time of year.

CREAMY PEA, SPINACH AND CASHEW SOUP (Time taken 30 minutes / Serves 4–6)

'We actually just call this 'pea soup' in our house as the kids weren't keen on knowing there was spinach and cashew nuts in it, so I shortened its title to reduce the moaning. However, without these the soup wouldn't have its wonderful vibrant colour and creaminess, not to mention the punch of nutritional goodness. The kids know no different and enjoy it anyway, so it's a winner all round.'

- 125g/4½ oz cashew nuts
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 stick celery, finely chopped
- 700ml/1¼ pints/scant 3 cups hot vegetable stock
- 500g/1 lb 2 oz frozen peas
- 100g/3½ oz fresh spinach
- flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- crusty bread, to serve



Put the cashew nuts in a bowl and pour over enough boiling water to thoroughly cover. Set aside to soften. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and

celery, and gently sauté for about 10–12 minutes until they are softened but not coloured. Increase the heat and pour in the stock. Bring the stock to the boil and then stir in the peas and spinach. Once the stock returns to the boil, cook for 1 minute, then remove from the heat. Drain the cashews and transfer them to a blender or food processor with 200ml/7 fl oz/scant 1 cup cold water. Blitz thoroughly until you have a really smooth and creamy consistency. Reserve about one quarter of the cashew cream for spooning on top of the soup when serving and keep the rest in the blender.

Ladle the soup into the blender with the cashew cream and blitz until smooth – work in batches if necessary. Return the soup to the pan, season with salt and pepper to taste and reheat if needed. Spoon into bowls and dollop on or swirl in the reserved cashew cream and serve with crusty bread.

Flexible:

Nut-free: the cashew nuts can be substituted for 125g/4½ oz silken tofu, which blends really nicely into the soup and also gives you a low-fat, high-protein addition, too.

Get ahead: as with most soups, I'll often make this in a big batch and freeze half in individual portions for an emergency nutritious lunch.

MANGO AND COCONUT CHICKEN (Time taken 50 minutes / Serves 6)

'I started to make this recipe when the kids were little and I was trying to introduce more spice in their diet. The addition of mango brings a mellow sweetness to the curry, balancing out the spices perfectly. For more heat, I like to scatter some chopped fresh chilli on mine at the end. Or for a hotter curry for everyone, you can add chilli flakes at the start. You can also cook veggies in the sauce to bulk it out.'

- 2 tbsp coconut, sunflower or rapeseed (canola) oil
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 2 tsp grated ginger
- 5 tbsp Korma or a mild curry paste
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 800g/1 lb 12 oz boneless chicken pieces (thigh or breast), cut into bite-size chunks.
- 1 x 400ml/14 fl oz tin coconut milk
- 1 large ripe mango, peeled and chopped into small pieces
- 75g/2¾ oz ground almonds
- flaked sea salt
- To serve:
- ½ –1 mango, peeled and sliced
- handful of toasted coconut flakes
- Steamed Basmati Rice



Heat the oil in a large wide saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onion and ginger. Sauté for about 8 minutes until the onion is softened and becoming golden. Add the curry paste and tomato purée, stir for around 30 seconds or so, before mixing in the chicken. Stir to coat in the paste and cook until the chicken has started to brown all over.

Mix in the coconut milk, mango and ground almonds. Bring to a simmer and cook uncovered for 30 minutes for the sauce to thicken and the chicken to cook through. Season to taste, and serve with sliced mango, coconut flakes, and coriander on top, alongside the basmati rice.

Flexible:

Pescatarian: make the sauce as above but minus any chicken. Once its cooked, add skinless fillets of any sustainable white fish, salmon or even some prawns. Spoon over the sauce and bring to a simmer. They will only need 5–10 minutes cooking time, depending on their thickness.

Vegetarian: diced paneer, halloumi and chickpeas are good protein-rich substitutes for the chicken, with the addition of cauliflower florets and broccoli to bulk out the sauce.

Nut-free: if you can't have ground almonds then the same quantity of desiccated coconut can be used.

WIZ TALES - Swaziland

By Teresa Read

Computers to Africa at the Turn of the Century

The World InfoZone project started in 1997 with a visit to Hong Kong just before the Handover to China. The project connected with virtually every country in the world over a ten-year period. There was communication with many schools worldwide as well as a variety of organizations and individuals. This week I am looking at two of the schools World InfoZone assisted with computers in Africa at a time when they were rarely seen in classrooms in some parts of the world.

In October 2003 World InfoZone donated a computer and various items of hardware and software to Computer Aid International, a registered charity. My daughter was a medical student in central London at the time and was able to deliver everything to Computer Aid's office which was shipped to Swaziland.

The charity aimed to provide a minimum of 20 computers to every school and high school in Swaziland. The aim of the project was to provide children and teachers with computer skills to bridge the digital divide and break the cycle of poverty. At the time Computer Aid was working in 80 countries.

The photographs of the students are from the St Theresa High School in Manzini, Eswatini (Swaziland).



I have previously written about another World InfoZone computer donation, this time to a village in Ghana where one of my former students was working in a four-month placement to teach English as a foreign language in Ekumfi Attakwah, a small village near Accra.

The World InfoZone project also collaborated with over 40 schools worldwide in the Linking Our World project.

Linking Our World - a project with over 40 schools worldwide.

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

The photos of Swaziland were donated to the WIZ project by Kate Braun at the beginning of 2005.

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

Mark Aspen Wins Top Award

Better known to readers of the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune under his pen-name of Mark Aspen, as its theatre and opera critic, Keith Wait has been presented with Arts Richmond's prestigious Swan Accolade. The Accolade is awarded by Arts Richmond to a person who has made an exceptional contribution over many years to dramatic arts in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The Swan Awards are made annually to encourage excellence in the theatrical arts, and this year the award was made on-line rather than at the customary glamorous Gala Evening. At the culmination of the event last Sunday, when the nominees gathered to hear the winners of the eighteen Awards, Keith was introduced both as a critic and as an "actor, director, writer, creator, adaptor, theatre manager, technical adviser and general organiser who has received many plaudits for his work".

The citation specifically mentioned Keith's two decades as a Swan Judge, and his work with Arts Richmond to dramatise the winning entries of its annual Young Writers competitions and to mastermind Arts Richmond's One Act Plays Festivals, both at the Orange Tree Theatre. Also of particular interest to Arts Richmond, the celebrations of its Golden Jubilee in 2016 were recalled.



These coincided with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death when Keith organised readings over one day of all 154 Shakespeare Sonnets by distinguished Arts Richmond Patrons and various celebrities, together with representatives of its Affiliates.

The citation concluded by asking the virtual audience to "raise your glasses at home to a lifelong promoter of the arts in Richmond upon Thames. Thank you Keith for all your years of dedication to the arts."



Swan Awards 2020

Arts Richmond, On-line, 13th September
 Review by Thomas Forsythe

Arts Richmond’s annual Swan Awards gala evening is usually a glitzy black-tie affair. Last Sunday’s event was, inevitably in these times of pandemic, pushed on-line. However, there was still much evidence of that glamour as local theatre groups tuned in to hear who would win the much-converted Swan Awards, presented for excellence in the theatrical arts.

The year’s gala had two American actor as hosts, Nancy Baldwin and David Menkin. Last year, Nancy Baldwin wore a more ornate hat as Mayor of Richmond, but was equally flamboyant as this year’s presenter. The current Mayor, Cllr Geoff Acton was one of the several distinguished guests. Sir Vince Cable also put in a relaxed appearance. They joined the Nominees and Judges by Zoom and in parallel the evening was [streamed live on YouTube](#) by the [Blue Fire Theatre Company](#).

Amongst the delighted winners were the young actors. The talented under-fourteens of Dramacube won Best Youth Production for their [Wizard of Oz](#), a show in which “enthusiasm and commitment shone from everyone”. The show also won both Best Boy Performer and Best girl Performer plus Best Design Element



for its ultra-realistic projection of a horse: “you would swear that it turned and winked!” Teenagers did get a look in though, with BCP’s panto [Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood](#), with Best Young Performer.

At the Swan gala everyone’s waiting to hear which productions won Best Play and Best Musical. In the event, the play that pipped the other contenders was TTC’s [Pornography](#) which focussed on the terrorist attacks on the Tube and “skilfully explored everyday issues ... in a metropolis”. It not only won Best Play but Best Actor, and Best Design Element for its meticulous set, with its “sheer level of details”.





Similarly, HLO Musical Company’s “infectiously entertaining” [The Pirates of Penzance](#), which won Best Musical Production, also gained awards for Best Male Performer in a Musical and for the supporting roles of the Police Chorus which “nearly stole the show”.

As with everything theatrical, the Swan season had been suddenly truncated in March, so there was not a full complement of candidates for some awards. Instead, a special award was instituted the 2020 Award.

There had been an enjoyable incidence of remarkable singing within the drama entries, hence the two 2020 Awards went to Helen Geldert

for “the challenge of the fiendishly difficult” Queen of the Night aria in [Amadeus](#) and to Julie Thomas’ *Myfanwy* in [The Revlon Girl](#). These were



sung in German and Welsh respectively, but whatever the language, it is a mark of this strange COVID year that song has been universally used to lift the spirits. The Swan Awards do just that.



Photography by Bomi Cooper, Patrick van de Bergh, Rebecca Dowbiggin, John Malone, Sarah J Carter and Jojo Leppink

Open House London 2020 will be 19 & 20 September, with additional events taking place until 27 September

Open House London looks a little different this year, we have a combination of building visits, guided and self-guided walking and cycle tours, other events and an online only programme.

The programme is subject to change due to the current situation

Please continue to check the [website](#) up until your visit.

Richmond upon Thames Libraries will be sharing an online, behind the scenes, tour of the treasures of **The Old Town Hall** on Saturday and Sunday. Find more info [HERE](#)

Open House

WHO NEEDS A TRAVEL AGENT!?

By Bruce Lyons

Never before has there been a greater need for travel advice. Covid-19; Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) Travel advice and Brexit have, combined, made the Travel Puzzle just that more confusing. However there are safe destinations and Corridors too and whilst there are protocols and disciplines to observe – there are here in the UK too – so don't be put off.



For the immediate future you will need to have a reliable source (that's us) to go to get the full Monty, so to speak. For example this week they announced "Corridors" to Singapore and Thailand, which means in FCO jargon that you can go there without having to quarantine on your return, but, for your information, you will still have to quarantine on arrival! So that will mean you'll have to wait till their respective governments make it acceptable to UK arrivals to stay.

There are now well over 70 International Destinations that the FCO have OK'd for UK to travel to without fear of being quarantined on your return, but beware most have protocols to follow, many simple, and disciplines that must be observed- most of these are far from daunting and have little or no impact on the enjoyment of the holiday.

As I write this, the easiest destinations to go to are Italy, Turkey, Gibraltar, Germany and much of Greece – though there are now some Islands in Greece that have quarantining in place in the UK on your return and THAT is why you need a Travel Agent- As the "Corridors" become more sophisticated (regional if you like) it is important to get the facts right, and in my view it will become increasingly different from one location to another as countries around the world are endeavouring to limit the spread of Covid-19 and at the same time open their borders & their tourism businesses on which many economies rely.

For now it is even more important that you have the right insurance, for whilst the "Package" may be ring fenced against FCO advice (COVID) cancellation you need to be sure that were you to have to cancel because you had Covid infection, or even caught it whilst away – then you need the right cover!!!

So whilst our trade association's talk of a "minefield" with all these different directives, it is only a matter of focussing on the destination and to be sure you have all the correct, up to date information, which over the last few weeks has had a tendency to be updated at a moment's notice.

Many of you still want to travel but feel apprehensive because of all the mixed messages, well you shouldn't!! Because that is exactly what we are here for and we make sure every client knows how Covid may affect their plans and how their money is protected- which should make it less stressful to plan. Remember in the winter there is little chance of finding warm weather here, OH! And by the way with all this Covid stuff going on there are often disciplines and protocols to follow here in the UK too!

And, dear reader if I haven't persuaded you yet to travel – let's just think what is coming next. Yes, you've guessed it, Mr Johnson's Brexit. We will all need 6 months validity in our passports, the NHS health exchange will not work, and there will be changes to the insurance policies. You will almost definitely need an International licence if you drive. Then you may need Visas where you didn't before.

Another good reason why you need a Travel Agent and not an On Line Travel Agent (OTA) – and dear reader, did you know that two of the biggest of them (OTA's) left ABTA this week – I wonder why? Was it something to do with refunds?

So, don't give up – want some sun? – you know where to go - Northern Lights anyone?

School Break – Great offers in Rhodes – Sicily and all the amazing Italian Cities. Many of which have superb offers. Don't Delay – Book Today

www.CrusaderTravel.com



St Mary's University Update

St Mary's University Welcomes Students Back to Campus

St Mary's University, Twickenham has successfully welcomed back its first cohort of students since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown began in March.

The students, from the University's PGCE Teacher Training Programme, are the first to experience St Mary's newly adapted Covid-Secure campus. St Mary's has also started to welcome international students back to campus, who have been arriving early so they can quarantine safely in their halls of residence, in line with government requirements.



St Mary's has developed one-way systems to manage the flow of foot traffic around campus, repurposed spaces to develop socially distanced hospitality and study hubs, installed screens and sanitizers across campus, and changed the layout of classrooms to make them Covid-Secure learning spaces. The University has also recently launched a new [Stay Safe](#) at St Mary's campaign to remind staff, students and visitors about the actions and behaviour required both on and off campus to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The University is now preparing to welcome back its main cohorts of undergraduate and postgraduate taught students. Residential students will be moving to campus by appointment from the 21st September, with teaching beginning from the 28th September.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and students and to minimise the number of students on campus at one time, St Mary's committed early in the summer to take a blended approach to learning, teaching in person where it is safe to do so and online where social distancing can't be

maintained.

The Students' Union meanwhile have arranged an exciting range of welcome activities, 80% of which are online, to ensure students have a great start to their university experience. Events include online DJ Sets, Netflix Parties, online quizzes, talks and lectures on social issues, and a virtual Freshers' Fair, amongst much more.

Travelling to campus has also been made easier for students, with the University making more pay as you go parking and bike storage available across the University estate.

In line with government guidance, students, staff and visitors to campus will be required to wear face coverings in the follow settings:

- The Library and Social Learning Space
- The Commuter Lounge
- In any University retail or food outlets
- Places of Worship
- To attend a production in the Theatre
- Our community hub, The Exchange (except in teaching spaces)

The University is also providing every student and member of staff with two washable cotton face coverings at the start of term to help them stay safe and adhere to government guidance. Speaking of the return to campus, Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "Teams across the University have been working hard throughout the summer to ensure the campus is safe and ready for learning to begin during September. We are working closely with our partners locally and nationally to ensure we have the most up to date information on how we can keep staff, students and our local community safe."

If you would like to find out more about how you can Stay Safe at St Mary's, please visit www.stmarys.ac.uk/coronavirus.



**St Mary's
University**
Twickenham
London

UNICORNS DO EXIST ... THE 'ORIGINAL' PARENT FOUNDED SCHOOL, 50 YEARS ON!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE UNICORN SCHOOL

Today, as we navigate through so much that is new, and adapt in an ever-changing world, the original 'Parent Founded' school is celebrating its golden anniversary, fundamentally unchanged.

Unicorn School was founded in Kew, Richmond, by a group of local, pioneering parents and teachers who wanted to create a school that offered a rounded education, encouraged children to flourish creatively and enjoy the process of learning.

Fifty years on, the school has come a long way from the village hall venue (that had to be packed up on a daily basis) and second-hand furniture reclaimed from a GLC furniture dump! Today, based in a converted Victorian house opposite Kew Gardens, the school provides a broad and rich educational experience, alongside an outstanding reputation in the arts. Unicorn covers much more than the National Curriculum, focusing on developing social skills, resilience and a love of learning at all ages, with its ethos remaining as strong today as it was at the beginning.



Unicorn School 1970
Classroom



Unicorn School 1970

"...This is a well-maintained, stimulating, setting with happy children engaged in learning"

The Good Schools Guide



Unicorn School Sep 2020

Unicorn is very much a local school, with most parents living in and around Kew and the surrounding area. It is proud to achieve excellent academic results as a by-product of the relaxed, friendly and nurturing environment provided by the school.

"The overall high standard of teaching contributes strongly to the pupils' excellent levels of achievement and personal development, greatly supporting the school's aim to educate and nurture the whole child" - **Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2016**



Unicorn School September 2020

Headmaster, Mr Kit Thompson, said, "It is a great honour to be at the helm, driving this wonderful legacy forward with the support of excellent teaching staff and the Unicorn community as a whole."

LOCAL HEADTEACHER WINS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD

Meadlands Primary School (Ham) headteacher wins Silver Award in The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School

Selected from thousands of nominations, Sophie McGeoch is one of just 76 Silver Award winners across the country. Sophie McGeoch was honoured with a Silver Award in The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School for their outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

Sophie McGeoch's leadership underpins all that the school does, and is the central reason behind the school's academic success. Sophie has built and developed a team of school leaders who all share her vision of 'work hard and be kind', and they have transformed the school into one that the local community proudly treasures. This is more than academic as Sophie's dedication to her pupils ensures that there are a range of measures to protect their emotional wellbeing at every stage of their school lives.

Sophie McGeoch is now in the running for one of just 14 Gold Awards later in the year, in a programme which will be broadcast on the BBC. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

The Pearson National Teaching Awards is an annual celebration of exceptional teachers, founded in 1998 by Lord Puttnam to recognise the life-changing impact an inspirational teacher can have on the lives of the young people they work with. This year marks its 22nd year of celebrating, award-winning teachers, teaching assistants, headteachers and lecturers across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, said:

"Over the past year, we have, all of us, come to appreciate and respect the value of teachers. They have so often been taken for granted. Not any more. Parents know now what it takes to teach, and teach well, and how much commitment, dedication and enthusiasm and knowledge and understanding, yes – and patience. Children know it too, if they didn't before. So many missed their teachers as well as their friends. We all honour them today. Let's now praise them, wish them well and above all, thank them."

Rod Bristow, President of Pearson UK, said:

"Congratulations to all of our Silver Award winners for their commitment, dedication and passion for their work. Despite the incredible challenges they have faced over the past few months, school staff have risen to the occasion time and again.

"It is so important to recognise and celebrate teachers, teaching assistants and lecturers for the impact they have on our young people every year, and that is why Pearson is delighted to support these Awards."

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

"My warmest congratulations go to all this year's silver award winners. They should be proud to receive this recognition of their commitment to the profession, and the outstanding education and guidance they provide for their students.

"Teachers and school staff up and down the country consistently go above and beyond for their students, and this is especially true over the past few months. It is down to their hard work that schools have been able to open their gates to all pupils again for the start of the new term, and I cannot say thank you enough for everything they have done."

Have your say on a new sensory garden in Suffolk Road Recreation Ground

As part of Richmond Council's continued commitment to improve parks and open spaces, a sensory garden has been designed for Suffolk Road Recreation Ground in Barnes.

A consultation took place in 2017 to improve the grounds and the sensory garden was one of the agreed upon proposals.

Working with a local landscape designer and [Friends of Suffolk Road Recreation Ground](#), the sensory garden will be installed in the dog free area of the Recreation Ground, near to the playground.

An artistic impression of the garden has been created. One of which is shown below.

View other [images](#)

You are encouraged to share your views on the design by completing a survey online. You can request a paper version of the survey by contacting consultation@richmond.gov.uk.

The consultation closes on Tuesday 13 October 2020.



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

“A sensory garden is designed to stimulate our senses and allows garden users to interact with the environment around them.

“Please share your thoughts on the design as we want as many people as possible to benefit from a new, therapeutic and relaxing garden in Suffolk Road Recreation Ground.”

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021

London universities continue to bookend the new UK university academic rankings published by **The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021**, with three institutions in the top 10 and five in the bottom 10. **LSE** has overtaken **Imperial** as the **top university in London**, now ranked fourth and fifth respectively, whilst Ravensbourne and East London occupy two of the bottom three spots in the rankings.

Overall, London universities have enjoyed an excellent year, scooping two of the newspapers' prestigious University of the Year awards. **Imperial** has won **University of the Year for Graduate Employment**, with 95% of graduates in high-skilled jobs or postgraduate study 15 months after leaving - the most of any university. **West London** has won **University of the Year for Student Experience**, and has the most satisfied students of any London university. Meanwhile, **Queen Mary, London**, was runner-up for the UK **University of the Year** award.

The new edition of **The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021**, a free 96-page supplement will be published this weekend in The Sunday Times (September 20). It provides the definitive rankings for UK universities and the most comprehensive overview of higher education in Britain. It includes profiles on 135 universities and the definitive UK university rankings, making use of the latest data published in the past two months. A fully searchable website with university profiles and 67 subject tables will be published at <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/good-university-guide-in-full-tp6dzs7wn> today (September 18) for subscribers to The Times and The Sunday Times.

London rank	University	National rank	Last year's national rank	2020 National student survey teaching quality (%)	2020 National student survey student experience (%)	Graduate prospects (% in high-skilled jobs or graduate-level)	Completion rate (%)
1	London School of Economics and Political Science	4	6	77.3	74.3	92.5	97.2
2	Imperial College London	5	4	75.5	78.5	95.4	96.8
3	University College London	8	9	75.4	75.7	86.1	94.6
4	Royal Holloway, University of London	22	19	79.7	79.2	75	91.2
5	King's College London	30	30	72.5	70.8	86.3	91.4
6	Queen Mary, University of London	41	49	72.8	73.9	80.3	90.7
7	St George's, University of London	49	67	71.7	73.1	90.3	94.4
8	SOAS, University of London	50	44	75	71.3	68.5	82
9	University of West London	60=	52	86.3	85.2	68	77.8
10	University of Roehampton	78	69	79	77.9	61.6	75.1
11	City, University of London	82	73	71.7	72.1	76.7	87.5
12	University of the Arts London	83=	79=	76.7	69.7	57.9	84.2
13	St Mary's University, Twickenham	86	85	82	80.1	70.1	82.8
14	Brunel University London	88	100	73.9	73.9	75	87.5
15	Goldsmiths, University of London	97	68	70	63.8	62.4	78
16	University of Greenwich	98	84	78	76.3	73	81.4
17	Kingston University	104=	106	79.1	77.3	70.2	80.9
18	Middlesex University	121	107	76.1	74.3	61.9	78.1
19	London South Bank University	123	86	77.9	75.5	70.6	76.4
20	London Metropolitan University	125	126	80.8	78.4	60	64.8
21	University of Westminster	126	119	76.8	76	63.9	82.4
22	University of East London	129	127	78.6	75.5	59.7	73.1
23	Ravensbourne University	130	131	71.7	65.1	70.7	72.4

Ofsted report on Richmond Upon Thames Borough Council adult and community learning (ACL) courses and apprenticeships

The borough subcontracts its apprenticeship provision to Achieving for Children (AfC). AfC is a community interest company, which also contracts with other local London boroughs.

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
The quality of education	Requires improvement
Behaviour and attitudes	Requires improvement
Personal development	Requires improvement
Leadership and management	Inadequate
Adult learning programmes	Inadequate
Apprenticeships	Good
Previous inspection grade	Good

Richmond Upon Thames Borough Council provides adult and community learning (ACL) courses and apprenticeships. Managers subcontract the delivery of all the ACL provision to around 20 organisations across the borough.

At the time of the inspection, the borough had 217 learners enrolled on a range of ACL programmes, including family learning, employability, functional skills qualifications and well-being courses.

The borough subcontracts its apprenticeship provision to Achieving for Children (AfC). AfC is a community interest company, which also contracts with other local London boroughs.

At the time of the inspection, there were 106 apprentices studying a range of apprenticeship standards and frameworks from levels 2 to 5 in subjects including children and young people's workforce, customer service, business administration, and supporting teaching and learning in schools.

View the Ofsted Report [HERE](#)



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 26, 18th September 2020

PAN'S LABYRINTH

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.

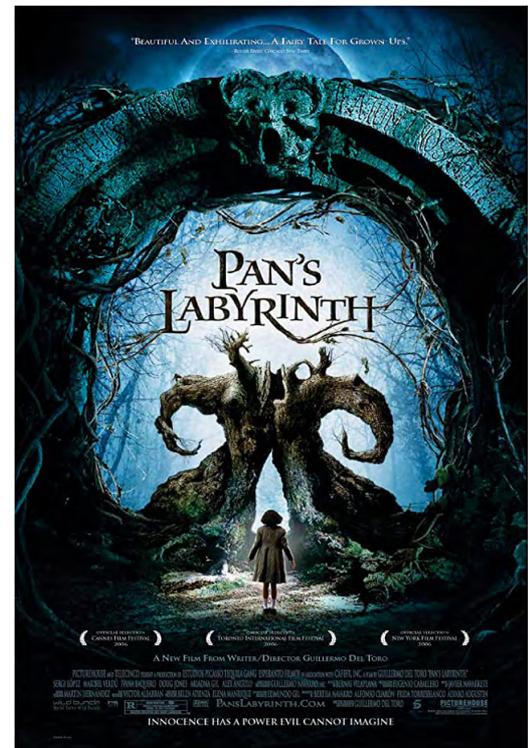
RFS Context: **PAN'S LABYRINTH** was 632nd film screened by RFS on 22nd April 2008. **Pan's Labyrinth** was the joint third ranked film of Season 45, it got an approval mark of 88% from those attending (It was the joint third to top film with **Little Miss Sunshine**, which has already featured in our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings as **Issue 23**; from season 45 we have also already featured its top and the two joint second ranked films **The Lives of Others**, and **Les Choristes** and **Volver**, as **Issues 12, 17 & 20** respectively). **Pan's Labyrinth** can be streamed from Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

PAN'S LABYRINTH (El Laberinto del Fauno)

Country: Mexico/Spain, 2006
Director: Guillermo del Toro
Language: Spanish
Screenplay: Guillermo del Toro
Editor: Bernat Vilaplana
Music: Javier Navarrete
Cinematography: Guillermo Navarr
Running Time: 119 min., colour

Leading Players:

Ivana Baquero (Ofelia)
Sergi López (Vidal)
Maribel Verdú (Mercedes)
Doug Jones (Fauno / Pale Man)
Ariadna Gil (Carmen)
Álex Angulo (Doctor)
Manolo Solo (Garcés)
César Vea (Serrano)



The Academy Award winning **Pan's Labyrinth** is written and directed by Mexican, Guillermo del Toro. The action takes place in Spain in 1944, after the civil war, where rebels are still fighting in the mountains against the fascist troops. The heroine is a girl Ofelia, who travels with her pregnant mother to live with her

stepfather Captain Vidal. He heads up the local Falangists, who are engaged in hunting down and destroying the rebel forces.

The story is allegorical and exists in both the real world and that of Ofelia's imagination. In the imaginary world, which Ofelia creates to escape the harsh and brutal realities of the violent world around her, she meets a fairy and together they go to the centre of the labyrinth of the title. Here they meet a faun who informs Ofelia that she is a princess from the underworld, and that her father is waiting for her. In true fairy tale fashion Ofelia is assigned three challenging and dangerous tasks. She must complete all three without fail to be able to meet her destiny and see her father again.

Meanwhile, in the real world of fascist northern Spain, the struggle between the rebels and the Falangists plays itself out violently.

Del Toro has said that the film is a parable, and it is clearly influenced by traditional fairy tales.

The film has strong connections in its themes to **'The Devil's Backbone'** (El espinazo del diablo), also shown by RFS, in 2004. Del Toro states that it should be seen as an informal sequel dealing with some of the issues raised there. Something of Del Toro's own view of the film can be conveyed by the following quote from him: -

'Pan's Labyrinth' started with a visual image. As a child, I was convinced that a goat man lived in the bedroom closet and was going to come out and grab me. This goat man later became the basis for Pan, the central character of the film. I also wanted to create two opposing worlds. I used the angular, cold world of fascist-era Spain to represent reality, and a very rounded and uterine world to represent the fantasy that the child escapes into. I guess you could say that I am obsessed with images of stillborn things, and seduced by the idea that the womb is the most comfortable place to be. I also have a fear of reason and dogma; it gives me the shivers. But maybe my upbringing keeps getting in the way. When I showed **Pan's Labyrinth** to my friend Alejandro González Iñárritu, he said: "That's a truly Catholic film." And there was me thinking that it was a truly profane film, a layman's riff on Catholic dogma. It's true what they say: once a Catholic, always a Catholic.' (Guardian 17 November 2006)

Mike Day

FOOTBALL FOCUS

By James Dowden



BRENTFORD FC



Bees fall to opening day defeat on the road

Birmingham City 1 – 0 Brentford

Brentford started their quest to avenge their Championship play-off final defeat from last season in the worst possible way following a frustrating defeat to Birmingham City.

The host started the better of the two sides in their familiar surroundings of St Andrew's and early on a poor touch from Sergi Canos in the middle of the park, which allowed George Friend to break upfield. The ball eventually arrived to the feet of Jérémie Bela who cut infield and drew a fine save from Luke Daniels.

The Bees responded through Ivan Toney and the Bees' forward shot on his weaker left foot but still produced a powerful shot which Zach Jeacock had to gather at the second time of asking.

Canos then skipped past a number of challenges as he dribbled into the box from the left hand touchline where he pulled the ball back into the path of Emiliano Marcondes. Marcondes on the swivel couldn't direct the ball goalwards and the ball broke to Bryan Mbeumo who forced Jeacock into a save.

Brentford then hit the post via a long range shot from Josh Dasilva came back off the inside of the left hand post, having beaten Jeacock in goal for the Blues.

Unfortunately for Brentford they would be punished for their missed chances when Birmingham took the lead on 37 minutes. A corner from the left hand side from Ivan Sanchez found Bela making run to the near post and with a glancing headed put the hosts ahead.

The Bees' came out of the tunnel a goal down but were unfortunate to hit the woodwork for the second time of the afternoon through Canos. A training ground move for a free-kick that found Ethan Pinnock unmarked and the Bees' defender headed the ball back across goal. The ball dropped to Canos who's overhead kick hit the bar before Birmingham were able to smother the ball.

On an afternoon where it seemed the ball just wouldn't go in for Brentford the Blues once again managed to miraculously survive after Kristian Pedersen had inadvertently headed the ball into the path of Marcondes. Marcondes stooped low to header but header was well blocked as Brentford couldn't take advantage.

Late on Mbeumo flashed a shot past the far post and Pontus Jansson headed over from a corner as the Bees made a losing start to their league campaign.

Bees march on in the cup with victory at St Mary's

Southampton 0 – 2 Brentford

Brentford bounced back from a disappointing opening to their league campaign with a midweek victory in the EFL Cup to send them through to the Third Round where they will face West Bromwich Albion.

The Bees made a bright start on their travels but it was the hosts who produced the first clear sight of goal. A long ball over the top found Ryan Bertrand on the left wing who opened his foot and crossed first time into the penalty area. Danny Ings stretched out a leg in the middle but mistimed the shot and weak shot went wide.

Brentford looked to press high up the pitch against their Premier League opponents and were nearly rewarded for the work when Tariqe Fosu picked up a loose pass and drove inside. A couple of step overs allowed the Bees' forward to make room for a shot that moved in the air and which Saints' goalkeeper Alex McCarthy had to get his full body behind.

Shandon Baptiste then cut out another long ball from the home side and turned defence into attack with a lovely, flighted ball into the Bryan Mbeumo's path. The Frenchman shot with power from a narrow angle which McCarthy pushed away.

Southampton could have taken the lead before the interval when Bertrand pulled the ball back to Che Adams but a magnificent save from Luke Daniels pushed the ball onto the post before the Bees' keeper gathered the second time.

Instead it was Brentford who took the lead from a set-piece. A corner from Mbeumo found Christian Norgaard rising highest in the box to head the ball in for the opener.

Things would get even better for the Bees as they doubled their lead just minutes later. A flowing team move involved the exchange of passes between Fosu and Baptiste before down the left hand touchline before the ball was pulled back to Josh Dasilva who nonchalantly swept the ball into the bottom corner.

The second half was a tighter affair with Brentford dropping deeper to protect their two goal advantage. A corner for the Saints found the head of Jack Stephens who's arching header forced Daniels into tipping the ball over the bar. Norgaard was also called upon to make a key defensive clearance as the Bees held out to record an impressive victory.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Huddersfield Town (H) Saturday 19h September 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Terriers

Competition: Championship

Manager: Carlos Corberán

2019/20: 18th Championship

Interesting fact: Huddersfield Town hold the record for the most draws in a season by an English championship-winning season with 16 in 1925.

Game 2

Opponent: West Bromwich Albion (A) Tuesday 22nd September 19:45 The Hawthorns

Nickname: The Baggies

Competition: EFL Cup Third Round

Manager: Slaven Bilić

2019/20: 2nd Championship (promoted)

Interesting fact: At an altitude of 551 feet above sea level, the Hawthorns is the highest of all 92 Premier League and Football League grounds.

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers held to a draw against the Causals

Hampton continued their pre-season with a hard fought 1-1 draw against local side Walton Casuals. A brilliant goal from Niko Muir was the highlight on the day for the Beavers as they were matched by their opponents for large periods of the game at the Elmbridge Sports Hub.



Ahead of kick off Gary confirmed that both Nathan Minhas and Danny Bassett, having impressed in pre-season, had signed as the Beavers continue to strengthen their squad ahead of the start of the new season on the 3rd October.

Hampton settled the quicker of the two sides and had an early shout for a penalty. A lovely through ball from Jake Gray fed Ryan Hill in the box and after a challenge from the Walton defence the Hampton man went to ground inside the area but the referee remained unmoved.

Gray made an enterprising start to the game and had a couple of early attempts. The first was supplied from a reverse ball from Ruaridh Donaldson and drew a decent save from the Walton keeper. Two minutes later he took the ball down after a well worked free-kick routine but unfortunately for Hampton Gray's effort went into the side netting.

On his return Tyrell Miller-Rodney had a good chance to open the scoring when he received a pullback on the edge of the area, but his shot had too much power and comfortably cleared the crossbar.

At the other end of the pitch Dean Inman produced a great challenge to deny a promising run from Walton as their forward dribbled infield. Steer then showed excellent pace and strength to chase down and marshalled the ball for a corner after a Walton attacker had initially escaped the Hampton backline.

When the opening goal did arrive, it was worth waiting for. Drifting over to the right hand side of the pitch Muir was faced with two Walton defenders between him and the goal but it proved no issue, as he lashed a belting strike into the top corner which the keeper had no chance of stopping.

At half-time Gary introduced Minhas for his first appearance since singing for the club as Kyron Farrell also came on for the Beavers. However just two minutes after the restart the sides were level once more after Walton pounced on a defensive mistake.

The home side then had a brilliant chance as their forward found himself one on one with our goalkeeper, but his touch let him down and the ball went away from him. Four minutes later the trialist keeper was called upon to produce an excellent one handed save after Walton had counterattacked from a corner.

On the hour mark Christian Smith was cautioned for a challenge inside the centre circle. Walton took the resulting free-kick quickly and from 40 yards hit the ball in the underside of the bar before rebounding out without the ball crossing the line. Hampton's keeper then had to be alert to catch the rebound as a number of Walton attackers closed in.

As the game progressed Gary introduced a number of subs as David Amate, Razzaq Coleman De-Graft and Imran Uche all entered the pitch. Danny Bassett was also given his first appearance since signing

for the club as he came on for the industrious Donaldson.

It was Bassett who went the closest of the replacements to finding a winning goal as a venomous drive from distance drew the Walton keeper into a good save. From the resulting corner Bassett went close once more as he found himself with space at the back post but his shot was kept out by a combination of keeper and bar. In the end neither side could find a winner as a competitive pre-season encounter ended all square.

Hampton & Richmond continue good pre-season form

Hampton & Richmond Borough continued their pre-season with a succession on games underneath the Tuesday night floodlights.

First up for the Beavers was a 4-0 away win against Isthmian League South Central Division One side Chertsey Town. The Beavers were clinical rather than spectacular and took their chances well on the night. The Beavers opened the scoring through a trialist and the same trialist doubled their advantage with a powerful effort into the top corner. Jake Gray converted from a Danny Bassett cross as the Beavers took a three goal advantage into the break. With eight minutes to go Ruairidh Donaldson headed the ball in after Christian Smith had himself headed the ball from a Ryan Hill Cross.

Hampton then followed this up with a 1-1 draw against higher opposition in the form of National League side Eastleigh. In a match played behind closed doors due to government guidelines a goal from Imran Uche cancelled out a Ben House strike for the visitors as neither side could be separated.

Hampton announced double signing

Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced the signing of two attacking players as manager Gary McCann looks to strengthen his squad for the upcoming season.

Nathan Minhas signs from Bracknell Town and Danny Bassett arrives to the Beavers from Tooting & Mitcham. Both players have featured heavily for the Beavers in pre-season under the 'trialist' guise and both have performed well enough to secure contracts for this season.

Speaking to club media McCann was delighted to make their moves permanent, "When I bought both in, I genuinely wasn't expecting to arrive at a situation where I'd keep both of them. Such has been their attitude, application and ability in training and in game situations, I'm delighted to be able to bring both on board permanently. The fans that have attended our recent games can see that these signings will undoubtedly add to a talented squad. Their arrivals will also put pressure on others as we move towards the start of what will be a demanding season, where we have to make every penny count in terms of budget."

As a result of these signings it has been announced that Eddie Dsane, who was signed earlier this summer from Kingstonian, has left the club after McCann was unable to guarantee him first team football.

Come on you Beavers!

The production and distribution of cash

Today the National Audit Office (NAO) reports that HM Treasury and the public bodies responsible for overseeing the cash system need to work together more effectively to achieve the government's goal of safeguarding access to cash. A coordinated effort is needed to prevent vulnerable people who rely on cash for transactions from being excluded.

Ten years ago, cash was used in six out of 10 transactions but by 2019 it was used in less than three in 10 transactions. The outbreak of COVID-19 may have accelerated this trend, as data suggests that market demand for notes and coins declined by 71% between early March and mid-April during the lockdown, although demand has since been recovering.

The decline in the use of cash in transactions is putting pressure on the cash system. Commercial operators who distribute cash rely on high demand to maintain the attractiveness of their business models, and cover large fixed costs, such as bank branches and ATMs. In March 2020 the government announced that it would be bringing forward legislation to protect access to cash and address the sustainability of the cash infrastructure.

According to the NAO, the pressures on the cash system could mean that people who rely on cash find it more difficult to use cash in transactions. Published research shows that older people and those on a low income are more likely to make cash transactions.

In the two years to December 2019, there was a 17% reduction in free-to-use ATMs. LINK, with support from the Payment Systems Regulator, have protected ATMs in specified areas where provision is limited. However, while there remains a higher number of free-to-use ATMs in more deprived areas, in the two years to January 2020 the proportion of free-to-use ATMs has declined faster in those areas than in less deprived areas.

The NAO cannot currently see a clear link between the government's aim to safeguard the consumer's ability to use cash, and the responsibilities of the five public bodies in the cash system. No single body has responsibility for reporting on the performance of the system in meeting the government's aim. In May 2019, HM Treasury established the Joint Authorities Cash Strategy Group (JACS) to coordinate work to support nationwide access to cash. Although the group has improved joint working towards government's aims, JACS does not oversee the cash system and has no decision-making power.

Changes in cash use are having an impact on the production of coins. Coin production shrank by 65% in the last decade to 383 million UK coins a year in 2019-20, from around 1.1 billion in 2010-11. When the Royal Mint (the Mint) replaced the old £1 coin in 2017, the public returned large volumes of all coin denominations. As a result, the Royal Mint's stocks exceeded targets in all denominations. At the time of the NAO's fieldwork, the Mint had no plans to produce new 2p or £2 coins for at least ten years. To drive efficiencies, the Mint has reduced headcount by 22% on coin-making work within its currency division and scrapped two of its six plating lines.

Despite fewer people using cash for transactions, the demand for notes has continued to increase. In 2020, the number of notes in circulation reached a record high of 4.4 billion, with

a value of £76.5 billion. In 2018, the Bank of England (the Bank) estimated that only 20%–24% of the value of notes in circulation were being used or held for cash transactions, with UK households holding a further 5% as savings. Little is known about the remainder, worth approximately £50 billion, but possible explanations include holdings overseas for transactions or savings and possibly holdings in the UK of unreported domestic savings, or for use in the shadow economy. The Bank and other government bodies have little reliable information to quantify how much is likely to be held where.

At March 2020 the Bank’s contingency holding of notes significantly exceeded its minimum guidance levels, which was partly affected by the launch of the new £20 note. Its contingency stock levels were above minimum levels for all denominations, with a total value of £39 billion, against its minimum contingency guidance level of £20.5 billion. The Bank considered these stock levels to be appropriate in light of the transition of the £20 note to polymer. However, it is not clear from the documentation shown to the NAO what process the Bank operated to determine adequate stock levels, and how the cost implications of building stock levels were taken into account.

Recent anti-counterfeiting work by both the Bank and the Mint is delivering improvements. Indications so far are that £5 and £10 polymer notes, with new security technology, have reduced the incidence of counterfeiting compared to equivalent paper notes. In addition, since the Mint introduced new advanced security technology, surveys have found very low counterfeiting rates for the new £1 coin and other denominations.

The NAO recommends that HM Treasury should set out more clearly the specific outcomes it wants the cash system to deliver for consumers and small businesses, and how this should be balanced against costs. To drive efficiency, the Mint and the Bank should maximise opportunities to learn from each other’s experiences of cash production and align production capacity closely to future needs.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“As society progresses towards the wide use of digital payments, the use of cash in transactions is dwindling. It may become harder for people to access cash when they need it and those without the means to pay digitally will struggle if cash is not accepted.”

“HM Treasury now works more closely with the public bodies in the cash system to achieve the government’s goal of safeguarding access to cash. However, the approach is fragmented, and it is not clear that the action being taken will keep up with the pace of change.”

The full report can be viewed [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

Epic SUP

Eel Pie Island Club SUP

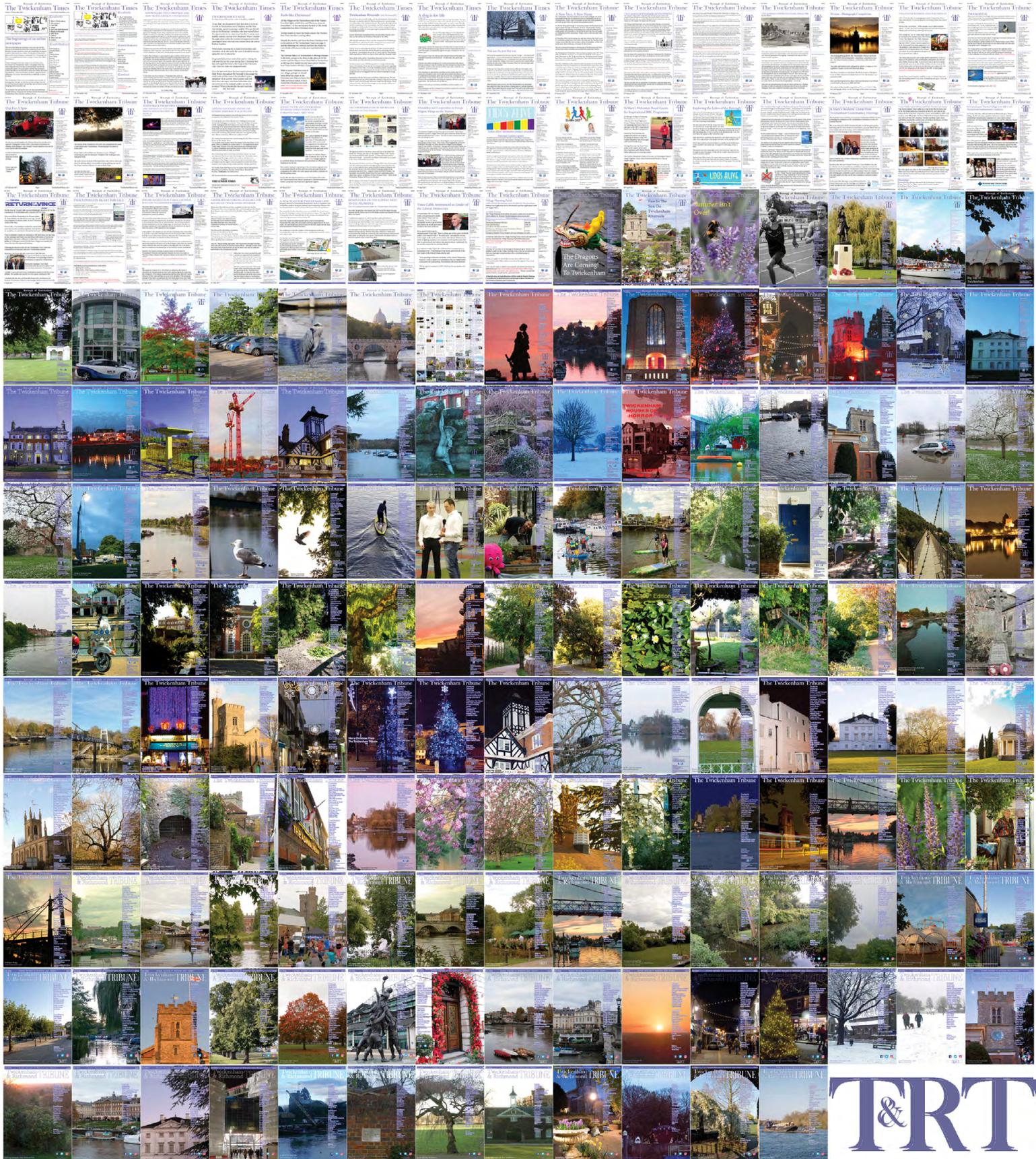


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