

# Twickenham & Richmond **TRIBUNE**

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- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read

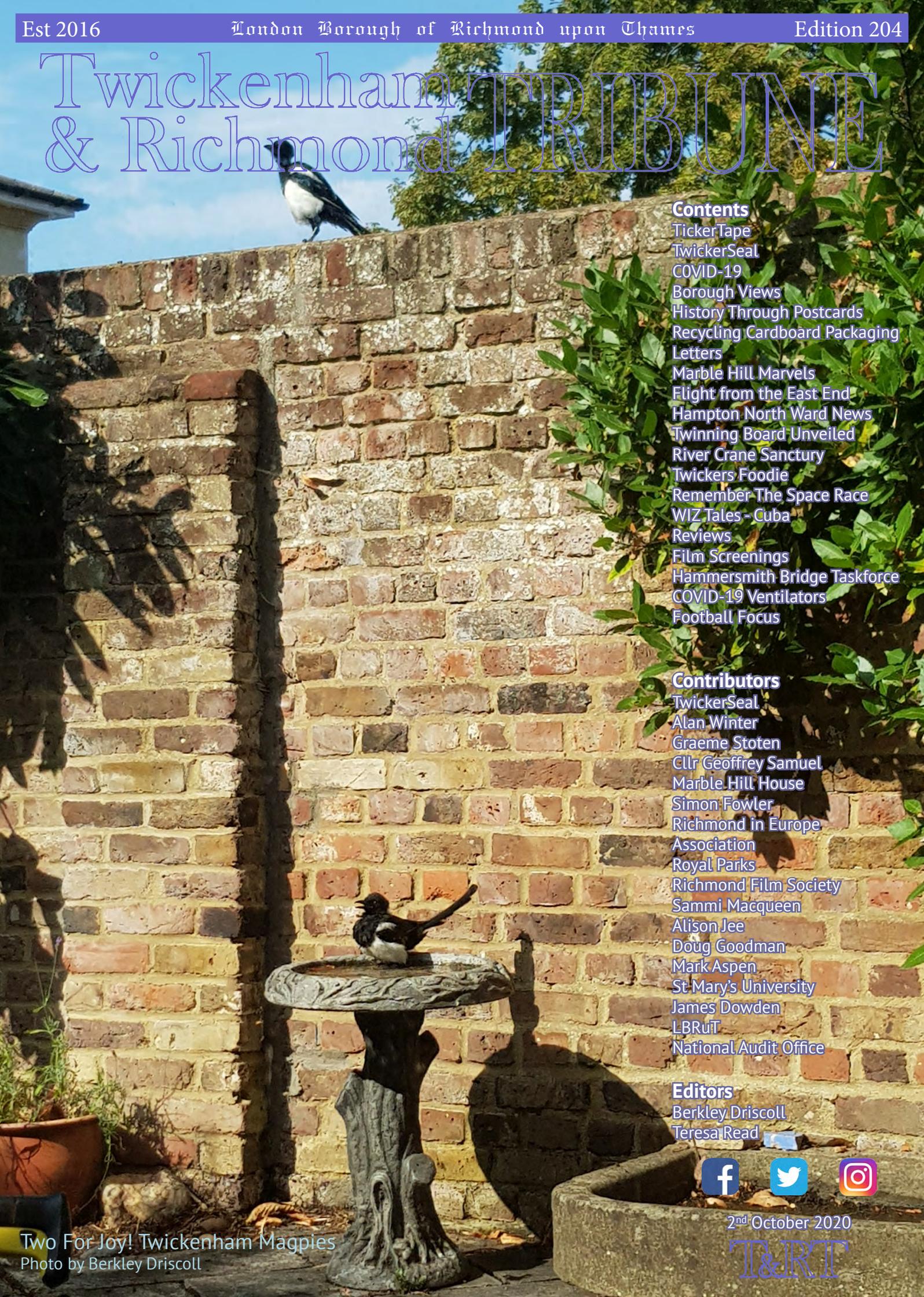


2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020



Two For Joy! Twickenham Magpies

Photo by Berkley Driscoll



# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Community Fund - Amendment To Figures

There is an amendment to the amounts available for the Community Fund this round:

- The East of the Borough - (Mortlake, East Sheen, Barnes, Richmond and Kew) **£161,000**
- The West of the Borough - (Whitton, Twickenham, Hampton, Hampton Hill, St Margarets, Strawberry Hill) **£252,000**

This is of course a significant difference and a much more even spread across the Borough.

## Catalytic Converter Thefts

There are increasing reports of the theft of catalytic converters across the borough; it has been reported that thefts in 2019 rose sixfold in England and Wales. Yesterday a resident posted on Nextdoor about a theft in Upper Grotto Road, Strawberry Hill saying *"It happened in less than a minute! They had a power tool and a jack and managed to lift the car up on one side. By the time we got down they ran off."*

## Council urges residents to reduce carbon footprint with £5000 home improvement voucher

Richmond Council is urging residents to take steps towards reducing the carbon footprint of their property by applying for a Green Homes Grant voucher.

To apply for the voucher, residents must either own their home or be a private or social landlord. Residents who are on a low income and receive certain benefits can receive a voucher covering all of the cost of the improvements, to a maximum value of £10,000.

Residents can learn more about the Grant and the approved measures, and check if they are eligible to apply, online [HERE](#)

## Stellar line-up announced for this year's Literature Festival!

In a year when books have never been more important, find out what's going on throughout November for this year's Literature Festival. The programme includes talks by authors, historians, politicians, poets and more, with writing workshops, as well as activities for children and families.

The full programme of events can be found [HERE](#)

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

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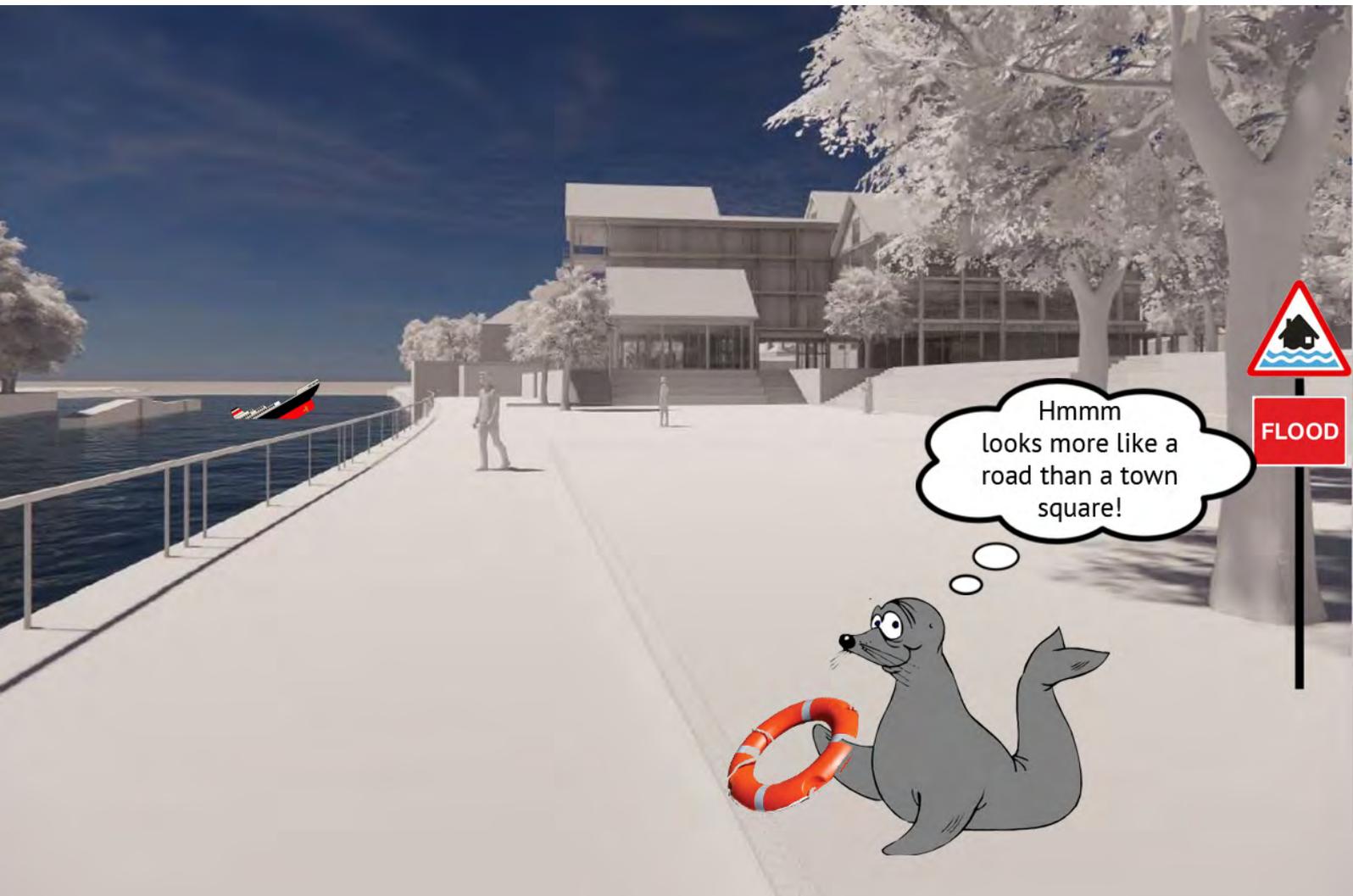
On Wednesday 30th September the long-awaited Stakeholder Representative Group Zoom meeting was held with the council, this time including a representative from Hopkins Architects taking part.

TwickerSeal understands that the first part of the meeting consisted of a presentation of the 'revised' plans by Hopkins, including details of the constraints arising from discussions with the Environment Agency.

The groups were then able to ask questions and make observations on the new designs. It is fair to say that the SRG members were given every opportunity to ask questions, considering the 1 ½ hour meeting extended to 2 ½ hours.

Some of the SRG members were disappointed that the scheme does not include boathouses, there is no town square (you have to use the empty, floodable area on the Embankment) and the slipway at the bottom of Water Lane is being ignored completely (except to park lorries in front of, providing a lovely view from King Street).

Unfortunately, it seems the SRG members are pretty unanimous in their disapproval of the amended designs and pretty unanimous in calling for the council and Hopkins to consult and work on the designs further, before rushing to RIBA stage 2. Sadly, the council appears determined to plough ahead regardless, preferring to 'get it done' rather than 'get it right'.

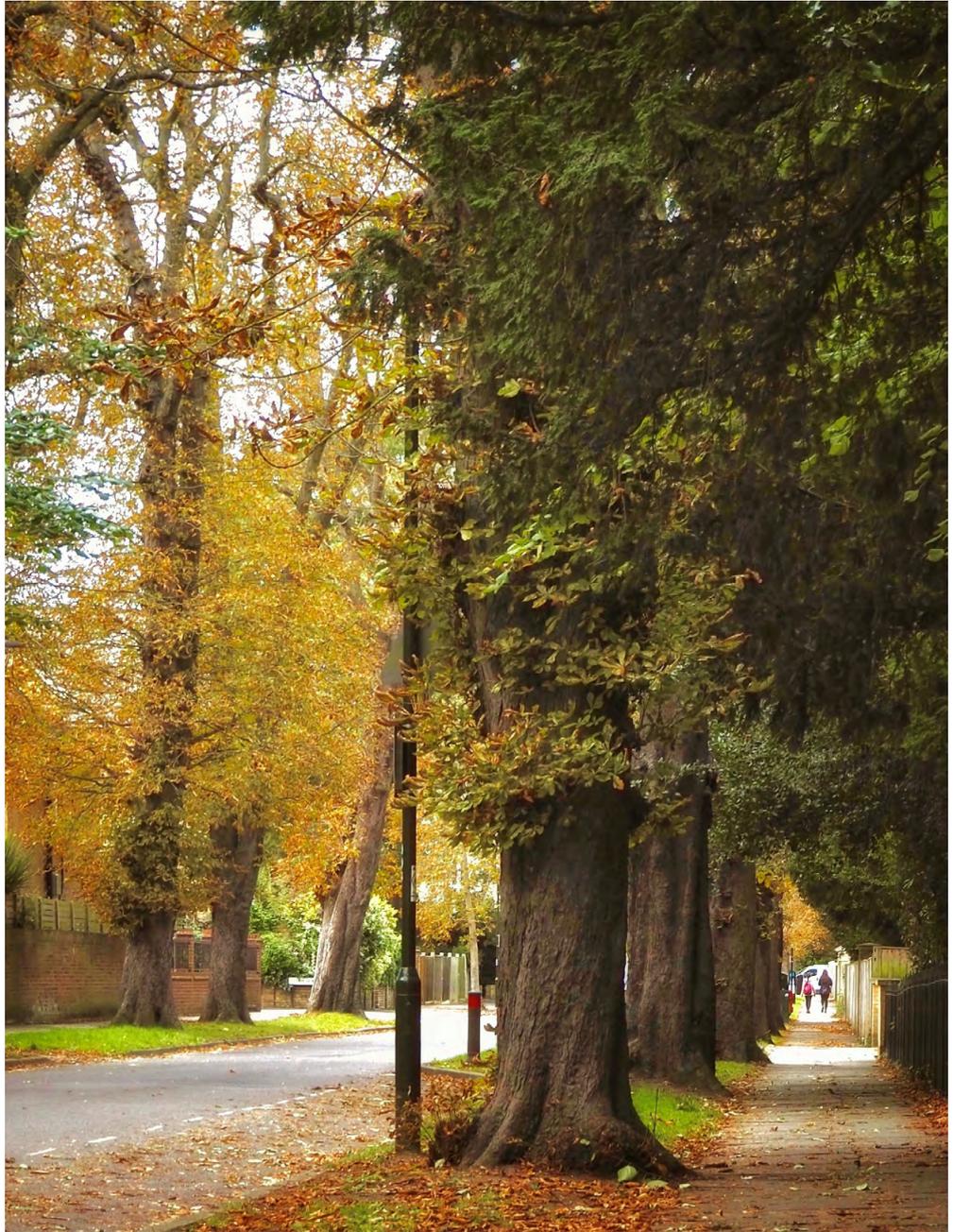


# Borough View By Graeme Stoten

## 'Conkers'

Whilst a traditional children's game by name, the horse chestnut seed is often called a conker. The fruit of the *Aesculus hippocastanum* matures to a capsule of up to 2 inches in diameter and those containing more than one seed or conker, result in one side of the 'glossy brown nut' being flat.

With the arrival of autumn, conkers spill across both roads and pavements: both a delight and a nuisance, but the horse chestnut tree remains proud, standing tall and regal as found here in Normansfield Ave, Hampton Wick.



# COVID-19

By Teresa Read

## **Public Health England statement: 'Londoners hold key to reducing infection rates'**

"Cases of coronavirus in London have been steadily increasing in recent weeks and we are now at a tipping point in our efforts to limit the spread of the virus in the city. Londoners still hold the key to reducing infection rates and lessening the impact of any second wave by making a continued conscious effort to consider our movements and behaviour.

Small actions can have a big impact on these trends, and by sticking to social distancing, practising good hand hygiene and following guidelines around the rule of six and face coverings, we can all play our part. Londoners have done it before and now is the time to do it again." **Professor Kevin Fenton, London regional director for Public Health England**

## **Never too late to fight back against pandemic**

### **Director-General of the World Health Organization**

One million people have now been lost to COVID-19 and many more are suffering because of the pandemic. This milestone is a difficult moment for the world but there are glimmers of hope that encourage us now and in the near future.

Just nine months on from the virus first being identified, some of the best scientists in the world have collectively developed tests to diagnose cases, identified treatments like corticosteroids to reduce mortality in the most severe cases of COVID-19, and produced vaccine candidates that are now in final phase three trials.

While we await further breakthroughs, we have seen that the virus can be effectively contained through the application of tried and tested public health measures.

... Although the Americas has so far been the most-affected region, Uruguay has reported the lowest number of cases and deaths in Latin America, both in total and on a per capita basis. This is not an accident. Uruguay has one of the most robust and resilient health systems in Latin America, with sustainable investment based on political consensus on the importance of investing in public health.

... But the key lesson is the same: no matter where a country is in an outbreak, it is never too late to turn things around.

**Individuals must play their part by taking the measures we know work to protect themselves and others – stay at least one metre away from others, clean your hands regularly, practice respiratory etiquette, and wear a mask.**

**AVOID the 3 C's  
Closed Spaces, Crowded Places and Close Contact**

### **Cases of COVID-19**

862 Richmond-upon-Thames  
1,000 Kingston upon Thames  
1,743 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 1,016,986

USA 205,666	France 31,808
Brazil 143,952	Spain 31,973
India 99,773	Iran 26,380
Mexico 77,646	Colombia 25,998
The United Kingdom 42,202	Russian Federation 21,077
Italy 35,918	Argentina 16,937
Peru 32,463	South Africa 16,866

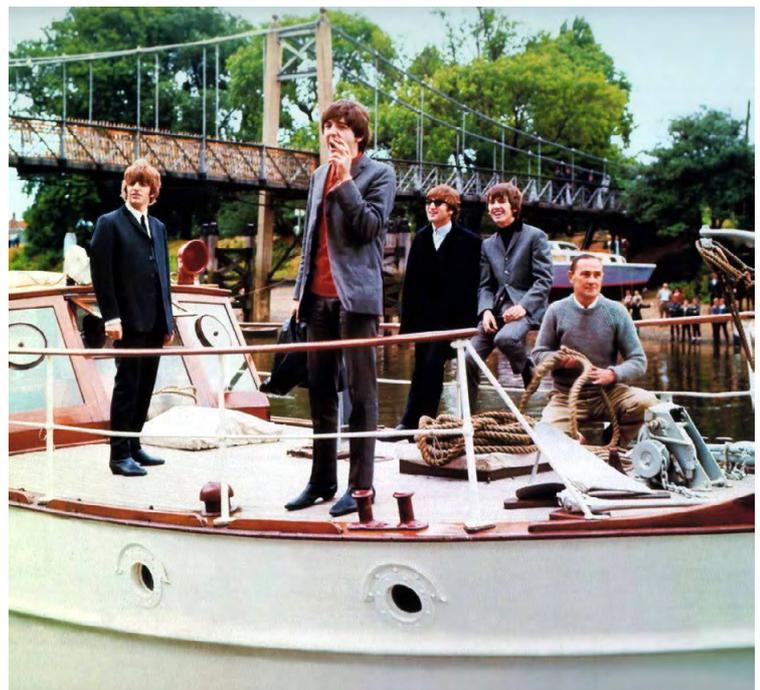
In the 1960s and into the 70s it was fair to say that you couldn't walk into a pub in St Margarets or the wider Twickenham and Richmond areas without tripping over a pop star or a television or film star. The cast list is as long as your arm but why?

Simple really. Our local area is only 8 or 9 miles from the West End with its numerous clubs, cinemas and theatres. Apart from Teddington and Twickenham studios which between them covered TV and films, we also had Ealing, Shepperton and Pinewood studios within a few miles. Heathrow Airport was close enough to jump on a plane to anywhere in the world.

This week we can take a closer look at a pop group who were, in the 1960s, the biggest selling and most famous band on the planet. Although their roots were in Liverpool, they came to spend a surprising amount of time in Twickenham and surrounding areas. John and Yoko lived on the St Georges Hill Estate in Weybridge, George Harrison was just down the road in Esher at that time while Paul and Ringo settled in the St. Johns Wood area.

Back in 1963 if we were lucky enough to have a television we only had two television channels and they were in black and white. Teddington Studios were used primarily by ABC and Thames Television in this period and The Beatles appeared on their early music programmes such as Thank your Lucky Stars in 1963, 1964 and 1965. Our images are a mixture of photographs and postcards this week and we start them off with the Beatles arriving at Teddington Studios by boat at that time.

In this period the first two Beatles films were being made at Twickenham Film Studios.



“A Hard Day’s Night” was filmed and released in 1964 followed by “Help” the following year. There were many location scenes shot in and around St Margarets.

Our second and third images are stills from “Help” which were subsequently published as postcards. The first was taken on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1965 when filming “Help” in Ailsa Avenue. Ringo is at the door of number 5 and John at number 7. On to the next image and there are John and Ringo again but this time in

South Western Road. There were also scenes filmed inside and outside the Turks Head pub in Winchester Road and if you walk into the pub today there is a still from "Help" on the wall showing Ringo Starr playing darts in the public bar.

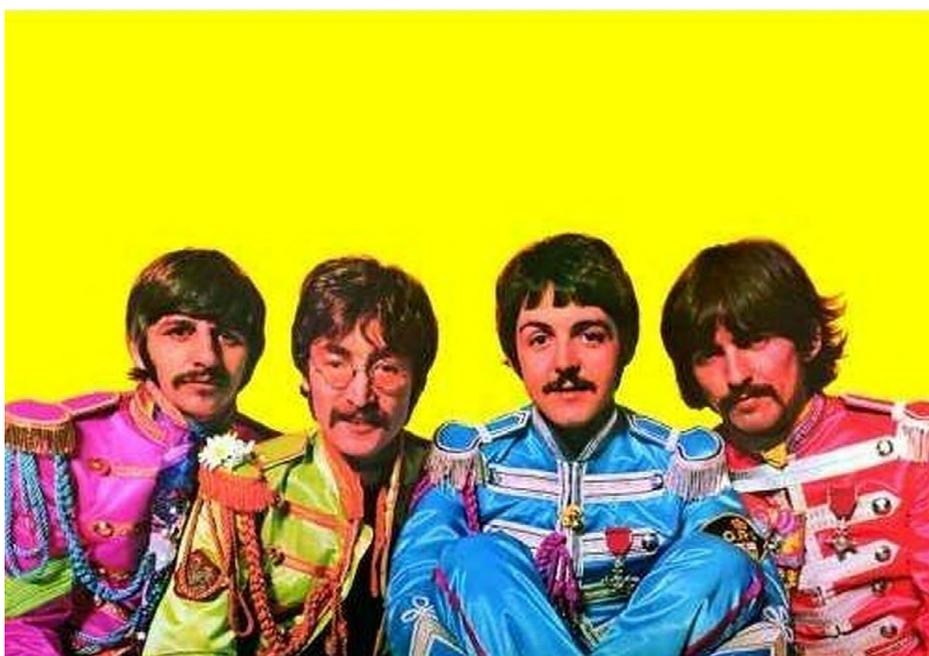
Our fourth image is taken at Twickenham studios where the famous Beatle hairstyles are being given a bit of TLC by girls who are showing off their own classic sixties hairstyles.

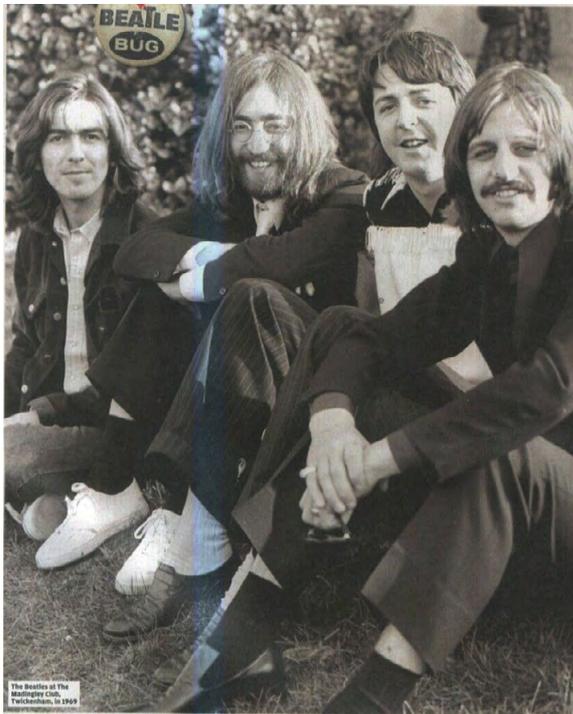


We move forward to 1967. The Beatles were at their peak and sat at number 1 in the pop charts with "All You Need Is Love". A new album, Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band was due for release and destined to become one of the biggest selling albums of all time. Again the Beatles were spending much of their time working in and around our locality with much of the single and album recorded at the Olympic Studios in Church Road, Barnes and lots of the PR shots taken in the grounds of Chiswick House. Our coloured postcard is from that photoshoot.

At this time a legendary party happened in Montpelier Row, Twickenham where John's psychedelic painted Rolls Royce was parked for most of the night. Word soon got round that all four Beatles had been spotted going into the house and chaos ensued as many of us climbed onto the garden wall at the Crown Pub to watch the goings on in the next gardens.

Two years later in 1969 the Beatles were back in Twickenham for most of the summer where the "Hey Jude" broadcast and "Let It Be" sessions were filmed at Twickenham Studios. There are several shots of them at the Madingley Club





in Ducks Walk. Our final image shows the fab four at the Madingley Club in 1969.

Not sure what they were doing there but I believe the psychedelic Rolls Royce was parked there for a while. Anyone know any more?

The sixties came to an end and in April 1970 the Beatles broke up. I find it amazing that the Rolling Stones are still at the top of the rock scene fifty years later! They also share many links with our Borough of course and I covered them in an earlier edition in Part 169 which was published in the Tribune in March of this year. You can find it as well as the rest of my columns in the Tribunes archives.

This wasn't the end of the Beatles in Twickenham however. There was also a never to be forgotten night in the early seventies when Richard Harris, David Hemmings and

Ringo Starr wandered into the public bar of The St. Margarets Hotel for a game of darts with us locals. They had been filming at the studios opposite and popped over for a pint and a game of darts. You couldn't make it up could you?

So, great memories of great times in Twickenham and the larger area some fifty and sixty years ago. I suspect that many of you reading this will remember some of the times that the Beatles were on our patch! Did you meet them? Were you at the TV recordings? Did you work at the studios? Best of all, were you at the party at the Houseman residence in Montpelier Row? Why not write in with your own memories and we will feature them next week. Just send to my email address below.

All previous articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting [www.twickenhamtribune.com](http://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](mailto: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.

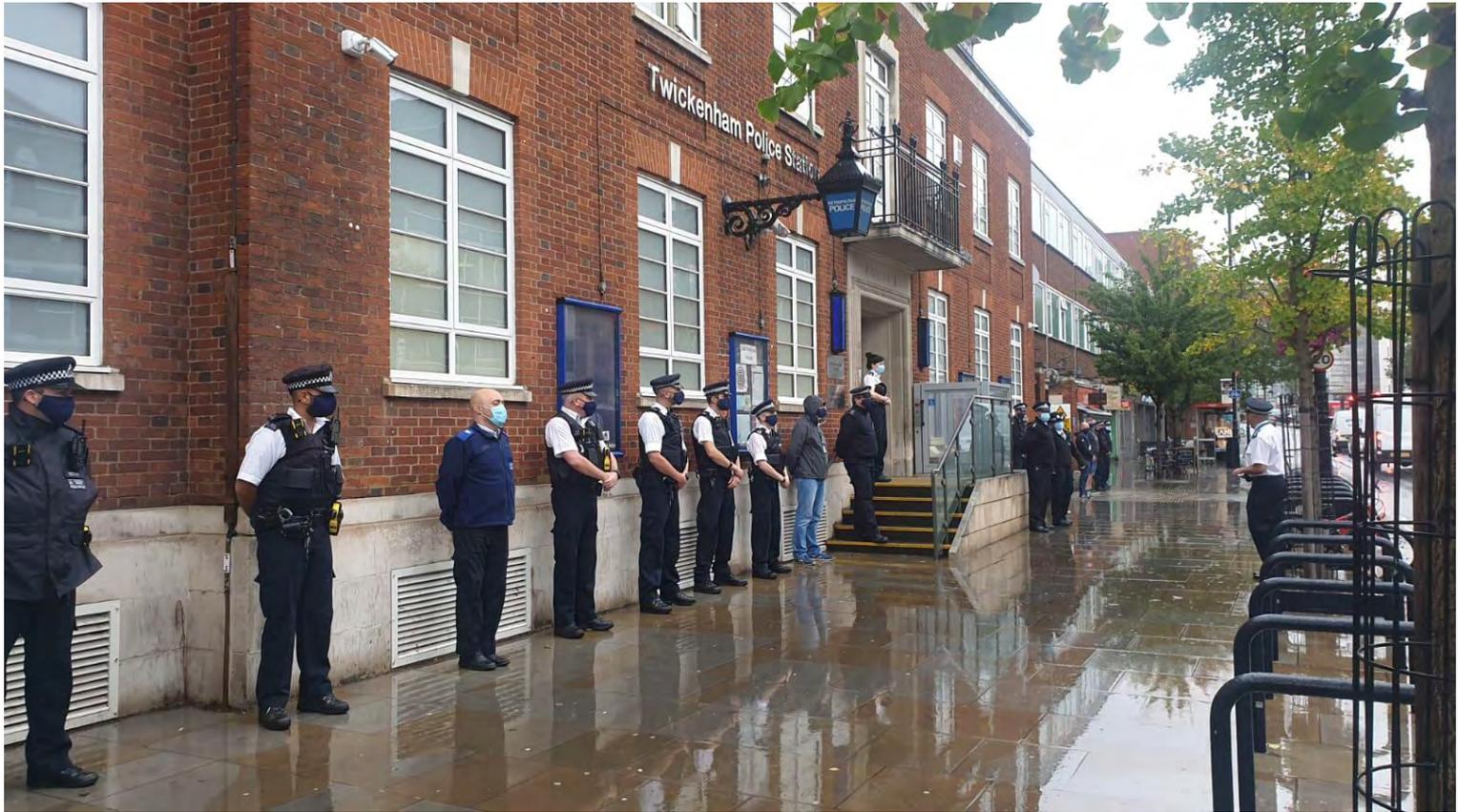


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## Twickenham Police Officers and Police staff pay their respects to Sgt Matt Ratana at 11 am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October



*Photo from MPS South Twickenham*

## Council trials traffic reduction in Hampton Hill

Following a [consultation](#) with residents in the area, a trial scheme aimed at addressing traffic levels in the Burtons Road area of Hampton Hill has gone live.

The scheme involves timed restrictions on vehicle movements and will be in place for a trial period. Residents are invited to comment on the scheme's operation during an initial six-month trial period; after which a decision will be made by the council about whether to move ahead with a temporary or more permanent continuation of measures.

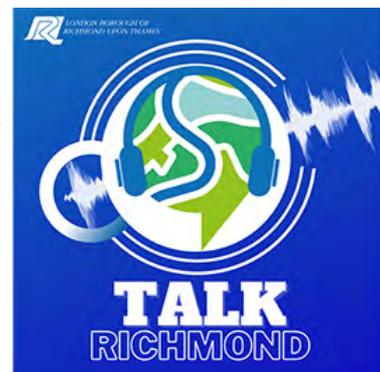
From 21 September, from 7am to 10am (Eastbound only) and 4 to 7pm (Westbound only) Monday to Friday there will be restricted movement for vehicles preventing through access along Burtons Road, Albert Road and Links View Road, with changes to the lane widths and current parking arrangements at the High Street/Park Road junction to help to mitigate some of the effects of displaced traffic. The restrictions will be enforced through ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) technology after the first few weeks.

The Council will monitor the impact of the scheme and if necessary, will make adjustments throughout the trial period.

# New podcast episode on young people's mental health

Listen to the 13-minute-long episode by searching Talk Richmond on your podcast app to hear an honest account of what it feels like to be a teenager living through the coronavirus pandemic and the help that is available locally through services such as Off the Record Twickenham.

The episode's guests are Deborah Kerpner, Counsellor and Manager at [Off the Record Twickenham](#), a charity providing young people with drop-in counselling information and sexual health services, and Lydia, a 14-year-old student at a local school and Vice Chair of the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council.



Lydia shares her thoughts and feelings on having to stop going to school when lockdown hit and her concerns for the future. Deborah explains the value of Off the Record's services, including what to do as a parent or carer if you are concerned for a young person in your life.

Listen to 'Coronavirus: Impact on Young People's Mental Health' [HERE](#)

Find out more about [mental health services](#).

CLlr Jim Millard, Tenants' Champion and Host of Talk Richmond, said:

*"It's so important to talk about what young people are going through during the pandemic and it's great to hear about the service Off the Record Twickenham offers to young people who might be struggling or simply in need of a chat. A huge thank you to both guests for joining me on Talk Richmond and speaking so honestly and openly."*

## Volunteer in Kenya



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# Recycling Our Cardboard Packaging

By Teresa Read

Most of us are aware of the large quantities of cardboard packaging which are seen at recycling sites, more than ever before, a result of people staying at home, and, ordering online, during the pandemic.

The foremost point to be remembered before leaving packaging at a recycling site, or leaving it out for collection, was made in a statement to the Tribune this week from the officer in charge of the London Borough of Richmond Waste and Street Cleansing.

“The advice from the waste industry and Central Government is that the virus can generally survive for three days on surfaces/materials, so individuals who are displaying symptoms should double bag and store any waste items for three days before presenting it for collection.”

So, before discarding cardboard it should be “quarantined” - preferably in a dry place - for three days to prevent any transmission of the virus.

The LBRUT officer added “Clearly our teams will have no way of knowing if someone’s waste is potentially contaminated or not, or if they have bagged and stored it correctly so they will be following best practice all the time to minimise potential exposure. Our teams are trained and issued with PPE and cleansing wipes/gel. They wear gloves and masks and should not directly touch the waste or recycling materials; residents have always been advised to rinse food items and this would include items they have may have directly drunk or eaten out of. It is normal practice for collection team members to stand to the side when the materials are being compacted as viruses, germs, dust etc can be released.”

But what happens to the cardboard once it is collected?

Currently, there is a huge demand for paper goods such as disposable towels, toilet paper and packaging for home delivery, so card is recycled and goes back into the global supply chain.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major event in our history, and like all major events it has brought about changes which are here to stay.



The Black Walnut at Marble Hill Park  
Kate Slack- Head gardener



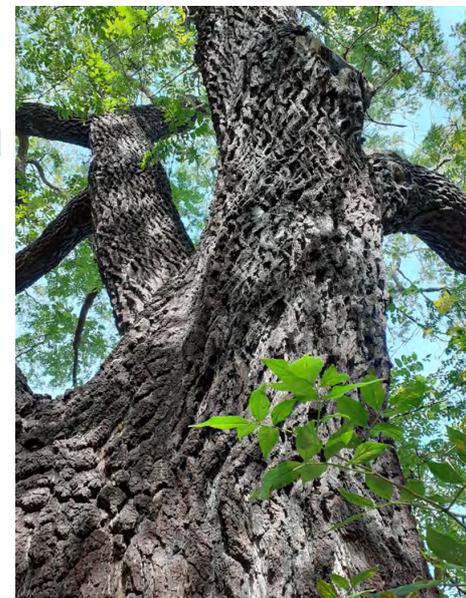
At Marble Hill Park we have a collection of wonderful trees, not least of which is the Black walnut tree which is at the entrance to the Park as you enter from River gate. The Black walnut is the oldest and largest tree in the park and most probably dates back to Henrietta Howard's time although the exact date the tree was planted is unclear. The tree however is over 250 years old and is thought to be the oldest and largest Black walnut tree in the country.



Black Walnuts are fascinating trees and are sometimes referred to as the 'Handsome Healer' because of the medicinal qualities the tree possess and due to the majestic appearance of the tree, particularly as they age. Most recently research has been carried out into using walnuts as a cancer treatment and the walnuts from our tree at Marble Hill were collected for several years to use in this research.

The Botanical Latin name for Black walnut is *Juglans nigra*, *Juglans* refers to the chemical compound Juglone which is produced by all species of Walnut trees ( although the black walnut produces the highest concentration of Juglone). The chemical Juglone is a deterrent against other plants species from growing beneath the canopy of the tree and hence reducing competition for water, food and light, ( however as you will see it is not a deterrent for the brambles at Marble Hill! ). The word *nigra* meaning black refers to the trees dark trunk and branches which from a distance look to be black and also to the fact that the fruit surrounding the nuts produce a dark black dye. It is claimed that this dye was used by early American settlers to dye their hair however it will also stain cars, patios' pavements and hands so be careful where you plant a Black walnut tree!

Our Black walnut tree at Marble Hill is a wonderful specimen of the species, so next time you visit the park be sure to come and look at the black walnut tree which is both a living link to the past and also a magnificently beautiful tree with its dark fissured bark and elegant leaves turning a golden yellow in the autumn.



# Flight from the East End

By Simon Fowler

Even if Richmond and Twickenham were being knocked about a bit during the Blitz, the real damage was happening in the East End. Tens of thousands of Eastenders fled their homes for Epping Forest, while others made it as far as Reading and Oxford.

And some came to Richmond. On 12 September 1940 the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* reported that:

*1000 men, women and children... arrive[d], after a four-hour journey down river by barge or in pleasure launches. The first relay arrived at about 12 o'clock; a later party were landing just as an air raid warning sounded and so had to take shelter under the arches by the riverside immediately, and the last 600 arrived so late that they could be not be billeted on Thursday, but had to spend the night at the cinema sleeping on the chairs or the floor.*

Finding accommodation for them was not easy. Homeowners were reluctant to take in strangers, particularly those from a different social class. Responding to the appeal, a local teacher Margaret Scudamore played host to a little girl: 'who looked with disfavour on the bathing facilities provided and such innocuous foodstuffs as we could muster, and longed only for the joys of her companionable cul-de-sac and piquant pickles.'



*A group of boys set to work with forks and spades amidst the rubble of a bomb site in the East End of London. They are creating an allotment on this small patch of wasteland, where a house once stood.  
Credit: Imperial War Museum (D.8956)*

Not everybody was so hospitable. Writing after the war, the *Richmond Herald* remembered:

*Some householders accepted evacuees reluctantly and did nothing to make these people comfortable, with the result that a large number of East Enders left their billets at night and slept in public shelters and walked the streets by day. Families became separated and the big problem was to find accommodation for large families. Often families had to be billeted in different houses and the fact that they wanted to meet each other during the day led to further trouble. Gradually these were smoothed out... considering the large numbers of persons dealt with there were few cases of dirty conditions.*

Most East Enders soon returned home because they were homesick or just worried about what had happened to their homes and possessions. Those that remained were absorbed into the local population and many made their lives in Richmond.

When I moved to Kew in the early 1980s several people told me about the colony of Eastenders who still lived on Bushwood Road, as if they had come from Planet Mars.

# Trees in “Ancell’s Lane”

After years of neighbours’ concerns, trees overhanging the road in Pope’s Avenue (previously known as Ancell’s Lane) have finally been pruned.

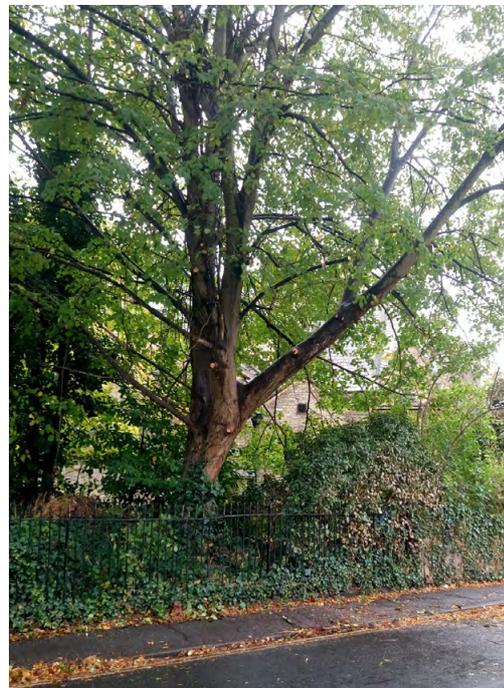
Councillors were informed about the problem with the overhanging branches some time ago but were not concerned.

High-sided vehicles and recycling lorries had difficulty driving through the “woodland” area and sometimes branches were pulled off; not the best way to prune a tree.

Eventually a visiting Council officer decided that the trees needed pruning and it is believed that an Enforcement Order was served on the owners of the property, run by a housing management company. It seems that the organization did not carry out the pruning in the allotted time and negotiations took place with the Council.

Residents are very pleased that our Council officers are so vigilant and proactive and thanks to them broken branches will no longer obstruct the path and road.

A great enhancement to this part of Strawberry Hill and one of a number of Street Scene improvements by LBRuT in the area over the past few years.



# Light Up At Night!!



**Stay Safe**  
When cycling at night  
always use a light

A Twickenham Tribune Campaign  
[www.TwickenhamTribune.com](http://www.TwickenhamTribune.com)

# Network Rail Vegetation Management on the Railway at Strawberry Hill

Work to manage vegetation growing beside the railway will be carried out in Strawberry Hill from October and completed by 30 November. This work is said to prevent problems associated with leaves falling during autumn which can disrupt the safe operation of the signalling system.

The work will be carried out on sycamore and ash trees which have heavy leaf fall.

Ecological surveys identify any protected species and habitats; daily bird nesting surveys are planned.

Work will take place during the day and neighbours will be notified of any work which may need to be done at night.

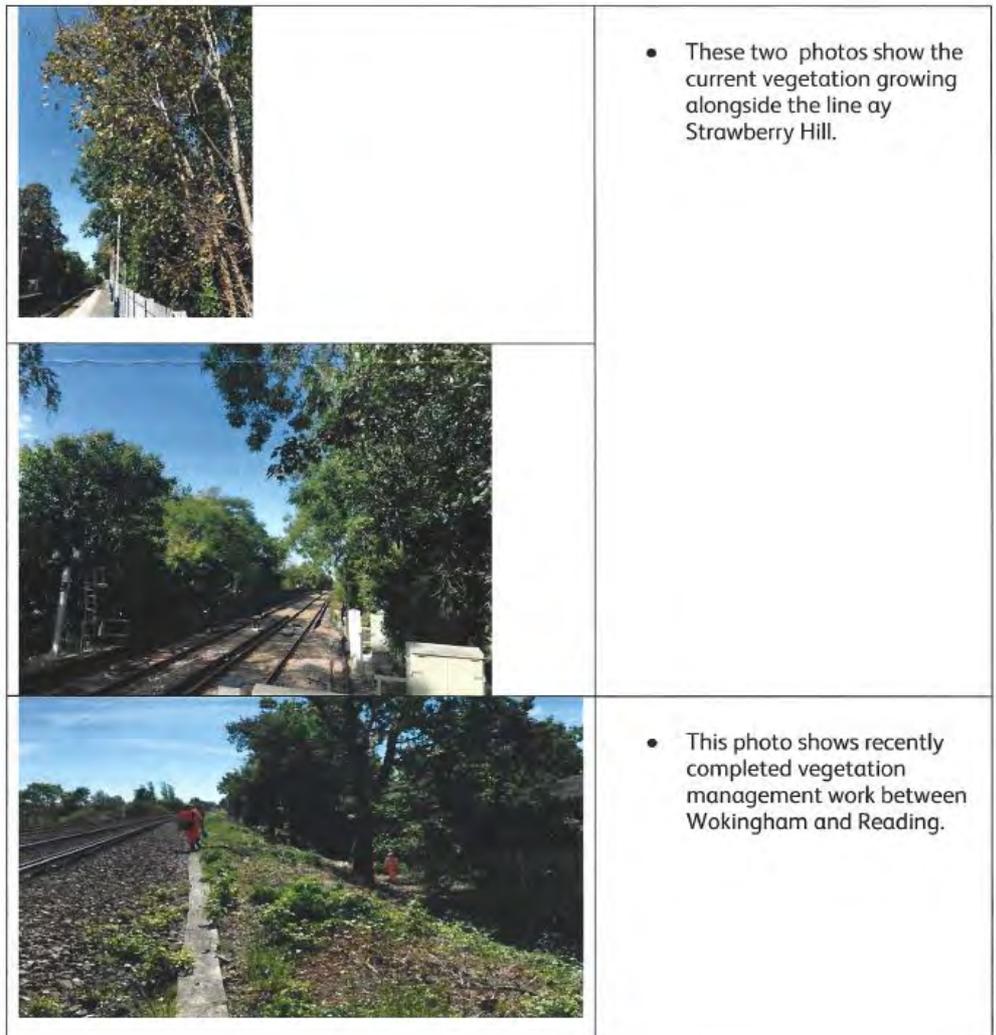
Network Rail's website states:

*We receive many enquiries about our vegetation work and know that the decisions we take are important, especially for our lineside neighbours – anyone who lives, or runs a business, within 500 metres of the railway.*

*More than 10 million trees growing next to the railway have been catalogued as part of a sophisticated aerial survey covering 20,000 miles of Britain's track. The database provides engineers with a heat map indicating higher priority "problem trees" or overhanging tree canopies that need attention before they fall onto the railway and cause delays to train journeys. It will revolutionise the way lineside engineers target their work, and save the company time and money.*

*We understand that cutting back vegetation can be unsettling for those who live nearby and have grown used to the trees or hedges in the local area.*

*That's why our vegetation management process involves a lot of planning and thought. Our approach can be different across each of our 14 routes, as we work to address the unique local geographic and natural considerations, but wherever we are, our focus is the best way of cultivating a respectful balance between Britain's lineside biodiversity and ensuring a safe, efficient railway.*



Example of what the work will look like - before and immediately after vegetation management

# Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce meeting

## 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

### Joint statement on progress made by the taskforce at their meeting on Thursday 1 October 2020.

The third meeting of the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce was held today, Thursday 1 October. It was chaired by Transport Minister, Baroness Vere and attendees included the Project Director Dana Skelley plus representatives from the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Richmond upon Thames, the Greater London Authority, TfL, and the Port of London Authority.



Dana Skelley, speaking on behalf of the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce group, said:

- The taskforce has made significant progress on the next steps for the Hammersmith Bridge. In particular, the taskforce agreed a ferry service across the river would be the preferred transport solution to deliver a crossing for residents in the short-term and we are working quickly to have a service in place by early next year.
- All other potential solutions, including a temporary bridge, remain under consideration to ensure the fastest possible resolution for those impacted by the closure of the bridge. TfL also continues to keep the enhanced local bus services under review to respond to changing demands. The taskforce fully understands the complexity of the issues surrounding the pathway to a long-term solution.
- To add to the team of leading experts providing advice to the group, Cambridge Professor and mechanics and materials expert, Norman Fleck, has also been engaged to support the work. Norman will join next week's taskforce meeting.
- Work will now continue to urgently progress the temporary transport plans, and other work related to the bridge and river closure, with the taskforce due to reconvene next week where funding options will be discussed.

The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce was set up by the Department for Transport in September 2020 to work towards safely reopening the Hammersmith Bridge. The taskforce is chaired by Baroness Vere and includes representatives from TfL, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Network Rail, the Greater London Authority and the Port of London Authority.



Department  
for Transport

Sir,

## Richmond Council's traffic management

It is now a year or so since the introduction of blanket speed limits across the borough, one of the first acts of a new Council. It was justified on dubious claims, a manipulated consultation that involved a very small minority of inhabitants and intensively pursued because it figured in the Lib Dem candidates' manifesto. At the time it left a sour taste and was resented by the large number of people that had not been consulted or had had their views ignored and felt they had been railroaded by the Council. The Council merely hunkered down and refused to further discuss the subject.

I asked a number of questions regarding the processes that had been followed in reaching the decision, suggesting it may garner support if explained. I was very politely told *'Thank you for your email. I am afraid that as this matter has been discussed at great length during a consultation process encompassing many public events and 3 months of correspondence and engagement, I do not feel it is appropriate to go over the same material again.'* They managed to avoid answering the questions I had raised. My reply to that email received an even more curt response!

Speaking only about Hampton, it is very obvious that few drivers actually abide by the new speed limit, they probably drive at comparable speeds to pre restriction, which I believe were on average well within existing limits. This is particularly noticeable on the A308/A311/A312 route through Hampton. It is a primary through route from Hampton Court bridge to Feltham, Hounslow, Twickenham and other places on the way to Heathrow. It is a busy route for both local and transiting vehicles. The point being that these are A roads and an important through route not a residential backstreet. The 20 mph limit on this route is almost universally ignored by drivers of every type of vehicle from road sweeper to buses. No doubt there are other roads within the borough similarly blighted.

My objective in raising this is not because I believe the limit needs enforcement but that the Council should reconsider their decision in the light of the very high level of non compliance. I don't believe it to be a case of cooperative civil disobedience but a very public statement by motorists that the Council's decision was neither warranted nor wanted. It lacks the public support required to make it an acceptable regulation. Without draconian enforcement, it is unlikely to change. I fear this Council will opt for that in the near future.

The council by its political makeup is not a supporter of motorists and have shown they are happy to ignore them. Currently in Hampton we have the fiasco in Burton Road created by the Council's attempt to enforce their dogma. I suspect there are members of the Council that would die on the ramparts in support of the policy.

Attached files are some thoughts with some of my correspondence on the matter. I'm considering how to raise the subject yet again with the Council but I can only presume the level of support in the community still exists. I have no wish to blunt my teeth on old bones and I am far too old to be a social media activist. My attempt in the past to get some discussion about it on Next Door led to me being banned! I presume there had been a complaint registered by a Council supporter?

You have the ear of a good portion of the borough and a sense of how it thinks. Is it a subject you would consider supporting? Or is it a dead dog?

Yours sincerely  
Brian Shepherd, Hampton

# Have your say on a football pitch in Hatherop Park, Hampton

An additional football pitch in Hatherop Park is being proposed to support and grow women's football, whilst continuing to improve the borough's parks and open spaces.

The new pitch would allow for additional teams to train in Hatherop Park and would protect the existing football pitches from overuse.

The football pitches are used on Sunday mornings from August to April. The new pitch would be situated next to where the current pitches are – away from Hatherop Road to minimise any effects on local residents.

We would like to hear from as many people as possible on the proposal. Letters have been sent to residents living near to the park and your views can be shared online.

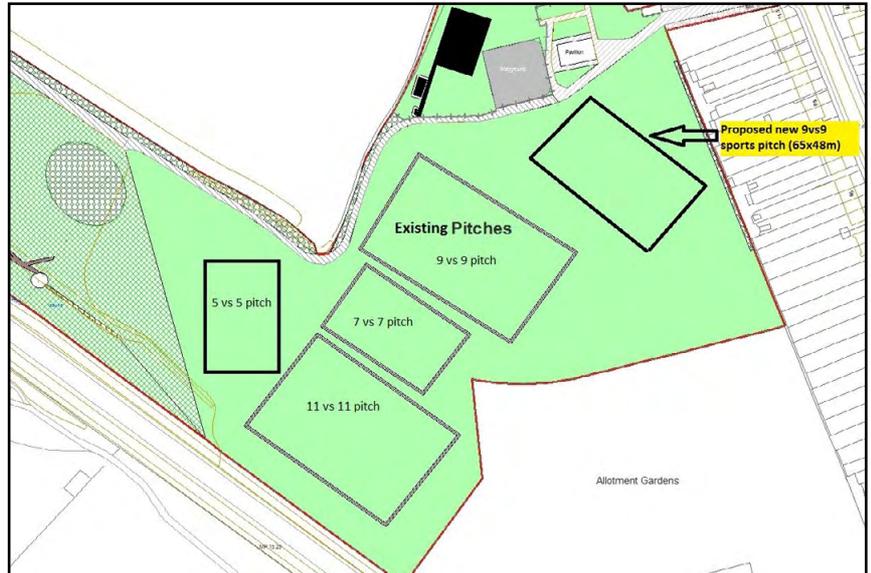
Have your say [HERE](#)

To require a paper copy of the online survey, email [consultation@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@richmond.gov.uk).

The consultation ends on Friday 16 October 2020.

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

*"We want our parks and open spaces to benefit local people so please take the time to express your views."*



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# Hampton North Ward News

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

## **THE WHITE HOUSE – AT LAST !**

HOTCA finally surrendered the Lease to the Council at the beginning of September. Council staff have been working to prepare the building with all the standard safety checks together with new Covid-19 ready preparations. The caretakers are back from furlough and the building is now open for pre-school. Citizens Advice, Off the Record and the Vineyard Foodbank have been making arrangements to ensure that all activity is “Covid-secure”. But the key to the issue is the selection of a Management organisation to run the Centre and bring back the large number of activities, classes etc which have been so popular with local people. It has always been our view that the YMCA made an excellent job of running the White House and, if this could be integrated with the YMCA-run Youth Centre, the ward would have the makings of a viable Community Centre for all. We are still anxious to discover whether there were any conditions for surrendering the Lease and how much public money has been spent in these difficult last few months.

## **OPEN SPACE – RECTORY GROVE/BISHOPS GROVE**

This large open space has been a local issue for many years. We presume that it was designed to be a ‘lung’ for people living in the populated area on all four sides. Owned by RHP it has been disused for many years. There have been suggestions that it could be attached to the Extra Care facility in Dean Road, converted into allotments –or even built upon. At present it is simply an idle piece of land that could be of real benefit to the community. Recently we passed on to RHP complaints that it was accumulating litter and had overgrown trees impacting on local gardens. We want to raise the future of this land with RHP in the coming months: have you any ideas?

## **BUCKINGHAM ROAD TREES**

Large, overhanging trees have for many years been a problem for residents from about 96 to 108. Action continues to stall as there is a dispute over ownership – a disagreement between the Council and the local school. We are pressing for this to be resolved as soon as possible.

## **BURTONS ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

We are monitoring the situation as –theoretically – it is subject to review in six months. Residents have sent us photos of the traffic jams it has caused. Do please tell us of your experiences and suggestions.

## **WASTE, REFUSE, RECYCLING ETC**

We continue to receive – and act on – so many complaints particularly of missed collections. Fly-tipping continues to be a problem but this is partly due to the difficulty in accessing the booking ‘system’ for the Townmead Dump. One resident told us that the phone system for Green waste takes only recorded messages – she found it impossible to speak to anyone. Another resident told us that the Council would charge £80 for removing the debris from a bathroom replacement whilst she could get the work done for half the cost. We follow up all these issues

# WORKS SET TO BEGIN AS HOUSE OF FRASER VACATE 80 GEORGE STREET

House of Fraser (Frasers Group) has now vacated 75-81 George Street in Richmond town centre and the property has been returned to owners Canadian and Arcadia.

Earlier this year, the planning application for the proposed mixed-use redevelopment and multi-million-pound investment in the property was approved by members of Richmond Council's Development Control Committee.

Vinyl window displays will be installed around the building to ensure the appearance is improved. Meanwhile, internal works will commence to strip-out non-structural parts of the building and enable surveys to take place.

The window displays will include signage to direct people to the businesses on Paved Court, and Golden Court, as part of Canadian and Arcadia's ongoing commitment to supporting the town centre.



## **A spokesperson for Canadian and Arcadia commented:**

*“Now that House of Fraser has vacated 80 George Street, we believe the long-term future of the building must be realised as quickly as possible.”*

*“We were delighted that Richmond Council’s Development Control Committee resolved to grant planning permission in March and despite the changing market, we remain committed to investing in 80 George Street and Richmond town centre.”*

*“With the building now vacant, our contractors will shortly begin internal strip-out works so we can fully understand the condition of the property. We will ensure that residents, business owners and local groups in Richmond are kept updated as we move forward with the next stage of this landmark building’s future.”*

If you have any questions about the future development or would like to find out more, please contact Cascade Communications by calling 020 7871 3565.

# The Royal Parks is urging visitors to Bushy and Richmond Parks to be extra vigilant and keep a minimum distance of 50 metres away during the annual deer rut

This plea comes as more photos emerge of visitors feeding, crowding, and petting wild deer pumped full of testosterone.

The rutting season (breeding season) is underway, in which male deer compete for breeding rights from now until November. Red stags and fallow bucks, flooded with testosterone and adrenaline, roar and clash antlers in a bid to fight off rivals and attract as many hinds (female deer) as possible.

“Stags can have harems of up to 40 hinds, and they spend most of their day and night chasing challengers away and preventing hinds from straying, leaving little time for sleeping or eating,” explains Simon Richards, Park Manager.



Richmond Park stag being photographed at close range. Credit Steve Fenton

He adds: “This exhaustion and hunger, coupled with testosterone surging through their bodies, means they are in no mood for dogs spooking their hinds or humans getting in their face for a selfie.”

During the rut, The Royal Parks is urging people to take responsibility for their own safety by:

- Keeping a minimum distance of 50 metres away. The more space the better. If visitors want a better view, they should bring binoculars
- Keeping dogs on leads or walking them elsewhere
- Not feeding or touching deer
- Not taking photos of deer at close range
- Never getting in between two rutting male deer

Over the years, there have been incidents where visitors have suffered injuries from rutting deer that could have been avoided. In 2018, a young girl who was being photographed next to a rutting stag was injured in Bushy Park, and the previous year a visitor was hospitalised after suffering injuries from a male deer in Richmond Park. All incidents almost exclusively happen when people get closer than the recommended 50 metres.

Richards concludes: “Deer rutting is one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in the UK. If people say they love nature, then they must leave wild animals alone. By getting too close, and invading their space, visitors are not only risking serious injury, they are also disrupting the natural behaviour of the rut.”



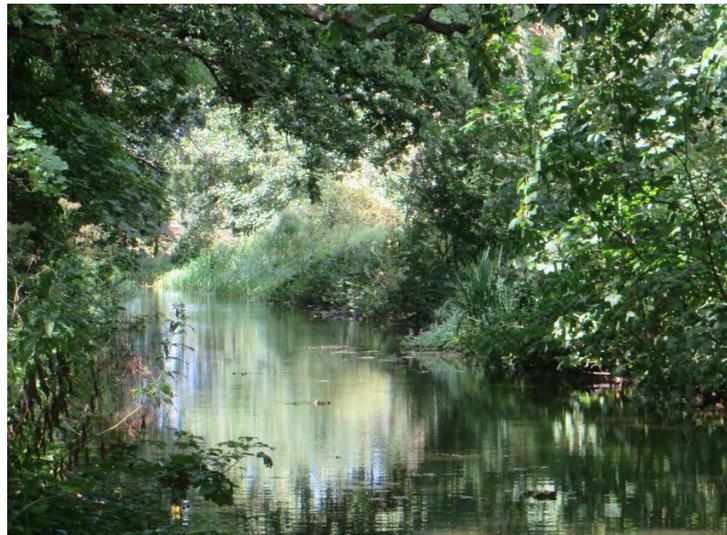


*Goldfinches Galore, Blue Tits and Bumblebees still about enjoying the water we take for granted at our peril. Heron reflects by the Pond and the River Crane recovers from low water as the beautiful rain fell.*

We have been encouraged by neighbours and supporters letting us know that they have put in a water-bowl pond and composting which is the way forward if more of us decide to do our little bit. See our Ecology page on the website for links to practical ways to achieve these simple installations and where to get more advice. Water is a major conservation issue and it is more far



reaching than many of us realise in the fight to save our planet from further destruction. Our increasing demands for Water cause many of the problems facing Nature but we can change our behaviour and have a big effect. We learnt a lot looking at articles on this subject and admit we were ignorant of the magnitude of this issue. Did you know? *“All of those flushes can add up to nearly 20 gallons a day down the toilet. If you still have a standard toilet, which uses close to 3.5 gallons a flush, you can save by retrofitting or filling your tank with something that will displace some of that water, such as a brick.”* **Friends of the Earth** have suggestions we can adopt



to save water and these may include options and arguments that readers have not considered: Click Link below:

[13 Best Ways to Save Water](#)

**Poem: Rain Sizes by J. Ciardi**

*Rain comes in various sizes.  
Some rain is as small as a mist.  
It tickles your face with surprises,  
And tingles as if you'd been kissed.*

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

## Sober October? Your choice!

As we move into the colder months of the year I personally think we all need something nice to cheer ourselves up, but if you have decided to be ultra good, I might have a couple of products to spice up your life ...

### Get Smashed!

**DRYNKS**, the British alcohol-free craft brewer that focuses on producing great 0% drinks, has launched the UK's first full range of alcohol-free (0%) beers and ciders.



They are very tasty and refreshing

– my favourites are the citrus beer and the apple cider.

Available in 330ml bottles and 300ml cans, at around £2, they're available online at [www.drynks.co.uk](http://www.drynks.co.uk), [Zeroholic.co.uk](http://Zeroholic.co.uk), [Drydrinker.com](http://Drydrinker.com) and a range of independent retailers.

### That's the Spirit

I've not been a fan of 'de-alcoholised' spirits, but at last a new one from gin producer Warners is more than acceptable!



The **Warners 0% Garden Spirits** range took two years to develop and they do, indeed, actually taste like gin (but still not as good as the real thing!). Two variants – Pink Berry and Juniper Double Dry – are handcrafted using **all-natural botanicals**, with 90% of the ingredients sourced at the farm distillery in Northamptonshire. **Warners 0% Juniper Double Dry Botanic Garden Spirit** is herbal, aromatic and zesty, with flavours of cinnamon, rose, cardamom, lavender, juniper, wormwood, lemon verbena and lemon thyme. What's more, it's sensibly priced at £18 for a 50cl

bottle, from [warnersdistillery.com](http://warnersdistillery.com)

### Apothic Cab – A very smooth bottle

Colder evenings are the perfect time to indulge in a good, hefty red wine.

This lovely new Cabernet Sauvignon from **Apothic** is a particularly smooth example with notes of blackcurrant, dark plum, chocolate and vanilla and intense, soft tannins.

It's just the thing to accompany a hearty beef casserole, or steak and chips, Apothic Cab has an ABV of 13,5% and is available now from supermarkets at around £9.50 a bottle.





### Pick up a Picpoul

If white wine is more to your liking, this will interest you. According to the Financial Times, Picpoul, the once-ragged urchin, is now a Languedoc princess: the region's greatest recent success story. It produces well over half of AOC Languedoc's white wine and accounts for 80 per cent of Languedoc-Roussillon's exported white wine – and it is particularly adored in Britain, which takes 57 per cent of those exports. This example from Tesco has aromatic power, richness on the palate and complexity. It is zesty and fragrant with plenty of fresh citrus, green apple and mineral flavours. At £10 a bottle it is a fabulous accompaniment to shellfish charcuterie and rich cheeses.

### Spicy Oatcakes

**Nairns** has to be the most famous name associated with oatcakes, and the latest introductions are a welcome addition to its range: Peri-Peri flavour or Cheese & Smoky Chipotle Spicy Oatcakes (at £1.40 they're widely available). Packed full of flavour, these oatcakes are delicious enough to enjoy on their own, or with any toppings of your choice.



### Irish Indian Spices – yes, really!



Green Saffron, an award-winning family business based in Cork, produces spice blends, sauces and chutneys from Morabad, India. But I'm glad to report Waitrose stocks them! The spice sachets, at just £1 each, include: **Indian Red Lentil Dahl; Indian Bombay Potatoes and**

**Indian Madras.** They're 100% natural, plant-based and gluten free blends of spices and herbs that deliver an easy to cook, full-flavoured Indian style street food experience.

### Be a Mindful Chef

For busy folk, there are a number of different recipe box services available and **Mindful Chef** boasts the largest healthy food focused family menu. Pre-portioned ingredients are delivered straight to the door, nutritionally balanced, free from refined carbs, gluten and dairy, and containing no additives. What's more, for every meal sold, Mindful Chef donates one school meal to a child living in poverty through One Feeds Two charity (and amazingly have donated nearly 5 million meals to date!).

The company has just announced a partnership with The British Heart Foundation, with a new range of interesting sounding recipes appearing on its weekly menu, specially devised to keep your heart healthy – that's pretty mindful! Persian squash, pomegranate & pistachios, or perhaps Spanish cod, chickpeas and roasted peppers – are just two of them and they sound fabulous. Flexible subscriptions available via [mindfulchef.com](http://mindfulchef.com)



# REMEMBER! THE SPACE RACE

## Doug Goodman remembers when space travel was just beginning

A recent report in The Times about the repositioning of the International Space Station to avoid Japanese space 'junk', made me realise how far we've travelled in the space race during the past 63 years. On October 4th 1957 the first satellite was launched by The Soviet Union – much to the anguish of the Americans. Russia, with its Sputnik 1 had beaten the USA and would maintain its lead for some time. Luna 2, the first space vehicle to land on the moon, touched down on 12th September 1959. The Soviet Airforce pilot Yuri Gagarin achieved another record when he became the first man in space on April 12th 1961. His huge Vostok rocket took him 190 miles above the earth for a 90 minute orbit. Three months later Major Gagarin had lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Alan Shepherd followed in May 1961 when he became America's first astronaut.



Soviet Cosmonauts with Khrushchev



Image of Yuri Gagarin on Match Boxes



Space Pioneers Gagarin and Tereshkova



Soviet Rocket

America took the lead in July 1969 when Neil Armstrong commander of the Apollo 11 mission set foot on the moon. The landing capsule also carried Colonel Edwin Aldrin who joined Armstrong for that historic walk. After announcing that 'The Eagle has landed' he said the memorable words "that's one small step for man but one giant leap for mankind". On July 22nd, just two hours before Eagle returned to the mother ship, Russia's Lunar 15 landed 500 miles away. The USSR was determined to close the space gap. As a visitor to Russia in the 60s and 70s I was very aware of how proud the entire nation was of its achievements. Posters, pictures, books, souvenirs, films and a space exhibition all praised Soviet technology.

### INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

It's several years since America launched its astronauts on an American-built space craft after it retired its shuttles in 2011. Now it has to rely on co-operation from Russia to use Russian space craft to reach the station built in 1998 on a joint programme between the USA, Russia, Canada, Japan and European countries. On a visit to Huntsville in Alabama I was taken to see the space station under construction and toured the training centre for future astronauts as well as the magnificent museum. The International Space Station received its first inhabitants in 2000 and has been in operation ever since: it's believed that by 2030 it will be past its use by date. Already Russia has announced plans to launch an orbiting station to enable men to be put on the moon. China was a late starter but is catching up with the recent launch of its 'Long March 5b'. It hopes to build a space station and to launch its own manned mission to the moon in 2030.



Sputnik Souvenir



American and Soviet stamps



Space Camp in Alabama



Huntsville Alabama Museum

America remains in the lead with the landing on Mars of 8 missions. Since the first attempt to reach Mars by Russia there have been 56 missions with only 20 succeeding. Now the race to conquer the planet is really hotting up. The UAE has launched 'Hope', China has launched 'Tianwen-1' while the USA's 'Mars 2020' is on its way. The 34 million miles will take six months to cover so by next February we can expect some congestion on Mars.

As a further example of the amazing progress made in space technology there's the project to provide a space-walk from an American company and the Russian Government. In 2023 two fare-paying passengers will visit the space station on a Soyuz rocket. The Russian agency Roscosmos charges the USA \$8 million for a flight so it will not be cheap. I wonder if air-miles are offered.

# WIZ Tales - Cuba

By Teresa Read



Some years ago, the World InfoZone project was reviewed for the Merlin John website Agent4Change.

Although the project had featured in The Guardian and the Daily Mail, as well as in the early "Click" programmes - all introducing the internet - it was a great honour to be reviewed in the website of the former editor of the Times Educational Supplement.

Photographs of Cuba were used to illustrate the Agent4Change article and this week's photographs are additional photographs which were provided by the Cuba Tourist office.



More photographs of Cuba

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

# Review in Agent4Change, June 2009

"Twelve years ago, World InfoZone (WIZ) was a school project designed to explore the UK's history and its links to other cultures. Now, with its international perspective for education, it is an invaluable, interactive resource schools and colleges can use to show students how, for worse or better, all the world is connected.

World InfoZone was a finalist in the lifelong and informal learning category of the 2008 Stockholm Challenge Award for the best European ICT projects for social and economic development, and is the brainchild of former London ICT teacher Teresa Read.

"The WIZ information emphasises the value of cultural diversity," she says. "Knowing about our own history and culture, and how it links with other countries and groups within countries, is more and more essential as our world shrinks with the use of modern transport and communications".

Information sharing is a key factor in the project. And with assistance and contributions from local people, teachers, students and government organisations, most of it collected using email and via video conferencing, it is a worthy introduction to the 200+ countries and islands that are featured.

Sifting through its wide range of information and photographs about topics that include the geography, environment, history, health, citizenship, and languages of each country, teachers and students will find it difficult to run out of project ideas.

For example, they can check out Cuba's native reptiles (crocodiles, chameleons and iguanas) & trace the UK's links (and those of France Spain and Portugal) to the African slave trade and colonisation.

The feature on "African Origins", which explores our common ancestry, provides food for thought that, according to Teresa Read, is yet another reason for looking beyond our islands"



Stockholm Challenge

<http://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Stockholm3>

African Origins

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



## Sleepless, A Musical Romance

by Robert Scott and Brendan Cull

WPT at Troubadour Theatre, Wembley Park, until 27<sup>th</sup> September

It was with sense of curiosity and some trepidation that I set out on my first trip back to the theatre since everything closed in March (including my own Dramacube production of [Annie Jr](#), which as producer I had nurtured right through to the dress rehearsal).

*Sleepless*, new musical based on the 1993 movie, *Sleepless in Seattle*, had been due to open almost at the same time as [our own show](#), but was put on hold when the UK went into lockdown. Now, I was part of a socially-distanced audience at the Troubadour Theatre, a shiny new venue on the site of the former Fountain television studios in Wembley Park.



The new rules around social distancing, sanitising and 'bubble groups' are confusing at best, but all were swiftly 'processed' before following the brightly coloured arrows to the vast auditorium, where I was immediately struck by the scale of this production with an impressive set, boasting a large houseboat structure, artistically lit with appropriately themed projections.

The production starred pop sensations Jay McGuinness from boy band The Wanted and Kimberly Walsh from Girls Aloud, but the real star of the show, I'm immensely proud to say, was former Dramacube student Jack Reynolds who played the role of Jonah. His natural charm, warmth and all-round talent was a joy to watch as he flitted from emotional trauma to extreme joy, lighting up the stage with the best musical number in the show.

For those of you who've seen the film, you'll be familiar with what happens next but, in a nutshell, Jonah, who has just lost his mother, takes it upon himself to contact a radio station on Christmas Eve and Sam, his dad, is "coerced" into sharing his story on air which leads to a torrent of letters from women declaring their interest.

We are taken on roller coaster ride of highs and lows ... right to the happiest of happy endings.



Read Stephen Leslie's review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/09/28/sleepless](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/09/28/sleepless)

Photography courtesy of Wembley Park Theatres Ltd

## Ignite Me

Ignite Me Workshop Theatre at Marble Hill Park, 27<sup>th</sup> September

Notwithstanding the grey afternoon with the first signs of leaves turning golden brown, the Ignite Me Theatre enthusiastically presented its latest workshop against the backdrop of Marble Hill House. Sadly neglected since the 1980s, but with the help of part of a £4 million grant from the Heritage and Community Fund, restoration is now underway and [Marble Hill is on its way to being revived](#), its story brought to life and investment in its long term future secured. Against this backdrop of the now scaffold-bedecked house, socially distanced groups gathered with their deckchairs, under the grey skies with a distinct autumnal chill in the air, to watch a group of dedicated actors of the Ignite Me Theatre present its drama.



The elegant Palladian villa and gardens were constructed by Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk (1689-1767), perhaps best known as the mistress to the Prince of Wales, later George II. She was, however, right at the centre of a dynamic circle of writers, poets and politicians. Similar to the way in which Henrietta Howard sparked off discussion about the arts, so the Ignite Me Workshop Theatre, set up by Bryony

Meteyard in 2017, is a vehicle for social discussion through drama. The diverse range of the actors and artists include disabled and homeless people, who involve the audience. As one participant Diana puts it, “drama is a way of bringing certain issues to people’s attention”.

All of the scenes were Covid related and how it impacts on people who may be mentally or physically challenged, who now have to cope with an impairment of some kind, but also in a restricted world because of a virus that has become pandemic. The actors showed the way things really are for them, such as having to cope with a cash machine not working; wearing a mask on a bus when the wearer suffers a panic attack; or asking directions of a person with impaired hearing whilst wearing a mask ...

Read Celia Bard’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/09/29/ignite-me](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/09/29/ignite-me)

Photography by Charles Jervas and Penny Touchwood

## Claire Lees in Concert

★Opera Live At Home★, On-line, 29<sup>th</sup> September

An exciting first for Britain's opera-hungry music lovers, a monthly interactive on-line programme presented by local former opera singer Helen Astrid was launched at the end of September.

The first of the series showcased the talents of rising opera star Claire Lees with her accompanist Dylan Perez. Online listeners were treated to six outstanding arias ranging from Purcell to Verdi all chosen to display Claire's vocal and expressive range. Her voice was ravishing. Opening the concert with *Semele's* gorgeous *endless pleasure* by Handel, the audience were thrilled with her beguiling intoxication, effortlessly rendered.



In a soft silver-grey gown and singing in a spacious and well-lit room, Claire seemed very much at ease with her repertoire. Her voice soared with breathtaking ease in *prende* from Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore* and sparkled as Oscar, the breeches role in Verdi's *saper vorreste* from *Un Ballo in Maschera* - a top D reached with ease. The evening's encore *Somewhere over the Rainbow*, a poignant choice under the circumstances, was delivered with warmth and style.

One of the treats about ★Opera Live At Home★ is that the singer can engage with the audience in a number of ways and a zoomed performance allows the audience to ask questions. A natural and charming persona, Claire handled this with infectious enthusiasm, while Helen introduced each aria with conversational banter, anecdotes and historical background.



This engaging concept prompted a Parisian audience member to comment that his whole building was tuned in to his large speaker system, enjoying the musical delights. Here we have all the excitement of a real live concert, but none of the hassle of a long journey home!

Read Kate Cleeland's review at [www.markaspen.com/2020/09/30/claire-lees](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/09/30/claire-lees)

Photography by Jay Price and Frances Marshall

# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's University Enters into Historic Partnership with The University of Notre Dame Australia

St Mary's University, Twickenham has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The University of Notre Dame Australia which will provide joint opportunities for both staff and students.



The agreement supports a new, deep partnership between the two Universities. The partnership sets the stage for collaboration in a range of areas to deliver an enriched experience for students and staff at both institutions. The agreement will create opportunities for staff mobility and exchanges, joint research centres, joint staff appointments and for students to participate in study abroad programmes between the Universities.

The agreement also creates the opportunity for the two Universities to pursue joint academic programmes. Such programmes could eventually see students study at both Universities as part of their degree, benefiting from the best that each university has to offer and experiencing student life in each country.

Established in 1989, The University of Notre Dame Australia is a national Catholic university with campuses in

Sydney, Freemantle and Broome. The Good Universities Guide recently rated it No. 1 in Australia for overall student experience, and it achieved a five-star rating for skills development and teaching quality.

St Mary's, founded in 1850, was recently rated amongst the top universities in London for Student Experience by the Sunday Times Good University Guide. The Times and The i newspapers also recently praised St Mary's for having high employment rates among graduates, with 98% of graduates from St Mary's in employment, vocation or further study within 15 months (HESA 2020).

Speaking of the partnership, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "I am delighted that we have been able to sign this MOU with Notre Dame. The two universities share a distinct Catholic identity and I am confident that this new partnership will deliver a range of exciting teaching and research developments for students and staff at both Universities."

University of Notre Dame Australia Vice-Chancellor Prof Francis Campbell said, "It is great to see Notre Dame work with St Mary's, an institution which is a natural partner for us. Staff and students alike at both institutions will benefit from this new partnership."

Prof Campbell added, "Along with my colleagues, I very much look forward to welcoming St Mary's students to our campuses in Fremantle and Sydney in due course."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London



# RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

## Issue 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

### FLAME AND CITRON

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:** **FLAME AND CITRON** was 657th film screened by RFS on 2nd February 2010. **Flame & Citron** was the fourth ranked film of Season 47, it got an approval mark of 85% from those attending; from season 47 we have also already featured its top three ranked films **I've Loved You so Long**, and **Man on Wire** and **The Wave**, as **Issues 14, 18 & 21** respectively). It stars Denmark's most internationally successful actor and RFS favourite Mads Mikkelsen. **Flame & Citron** is sadly one of those films that at present is not available through streaming services nor are the DVDs available buy from the usual channels but can be found on eBay.

#### FLAME AND CITRON (Flammen & Citronen)

Country: Denmark, Czech Republic & Germany, 2008  
Music: Karsten Fundal  
Director: Ole Christian Madsen  
Editing: Søren B. Ebbe  
Cinematography: Jørgen Johansson  
Running Time: 130 min., colour  
Language: Danish & German  
Screenplay: Lars Andersen & Ole Christian Madsen

#### Leading Players:

Thure Lindhardt	(Flammen)
Mads Mikkelsen	(Citron)
Stine Stengade	(Ketty Selmer)
Peter Mygind	(Aksel Winther)
Mille Lehfeldt	(Bodil)
Christian Berkel	(Hoffmann - Gestapo)
Hanns Zischler	(Gilbert - German colonel)
Claus Riis Østergaard	(Bananen)



Two comrades in the Danish resistance during WWII begin to question their work as loyalties become increasingly murky. Bent, codename Flame, and Jørgen, codename Citron, are comrades in Holger Danske, an arm of the Danish resistance during the German occupation. Denmark has been occupied since 1940 and Bent reminisces in voiceover about how the Germans established themselves in the country, working with Danish Nazis and collaborators.

Jørgen, we learn, has been nauseous since the invasion and can only counteract the sickness by working around the clock. Bent, meanwhile, had been sent to Germany by his hotelier father in 1940 for training in the catering business and speaks German fluently. He has no love for the German people though and methodically carries out hits ordered by the boss of their cell, Aksel Winther, who says he receives his orders direct from London.

Bent is desperate to take out the local Gestapo leader Hoffman, but Winther refuses to give the order, instead having them focus on seemingly inconsequential targets. Bent is a devout fighter and a hero to loyal Danes, but his certainty begins to crumble after he meets Ketty, whom he falls for but can't work out. Is she loyal to the same cause? Who does she work for?

Further anxieties creep in when Bent converses with the charismatic German Colonel Gilbert, whom he fails to take out. The sweaty, disheveled Jørgen is also struggling with the work, and desperately trying to retain some semblance of affection with his estranged wife Bodil. As their circle of trust shrinks, Bent and Jørgen resolve to take out Hoffman themselves. But will they be able to put a plan into action when there are potentially moles and double-agents among their colleagues? Alongside films about the activities of the conventional military during the Second World War, there's always been a genre about the work of resistance operatives. On film, we're familiar with the situation in Holland, from **The Silver Fleet** to **Black Book**, and in France, from **Jericho** and **Les Portes De La Nuit** to **Charlotte Gray** and **Female Agents**, by way of **Paris Is Burning** and **The Army In The Shadows**. Denmark, and the Danish resistance, however, hasn't been so well served in cinema. **Flame & Citron** directed and co-written by Ole Christian Madsen rectifies that.

The film is not, however, a straight saga of wartime heroism. It's more a thriller with a good dose of noir as the operatives find themselves lost in the murk and mire of morality and loyalty in an occupied country where, at least in the earlier stages of the war, the public opposed violent resistance, and the government had a policy of cooperation with their conquerors who were themselves relatively lenient. The Germans, after all, had very little in the way of strategic need for Denmark and there was even an active policy of promoting fellowship among ethnic brethren.

All of which is odious to Bent who doesn't believe in sabotage. He simply believes in killing Nazis. "Kill them all, one by one. Until there are none left," he says to Ketty. He's a cold man, frankly, and played as such by Lindhardt. Indeed, the entire movie has a cold tone: there are no soft emotions here, no reprieves in humour or true love or Hollywood-style action set-pieces, just a mounting sense of desperation as the heroes struggle to maintain their ideologies amid the bloodshed, mystery and mistrust.

It's a dour tale and our confusion mounts with theirs - we're not party to any clear-cut facts about who can be trusted either, or whether Flame and Citron's targets were justified enemies. This gives the film a certain power, setting the audience in the mire alongside the heroes. Verdict: A heady take on the wartime resistance tale that drags you right into the dismay felt by its heroes.

*after Film4.com*

# Second New Town Twinning Information Board Unveiled

## The Richmond in Europe Association

1st October 2020. Richmond Council leader, Gareth Roberts, unveiled the second of the fabulous, new information boards about our twin towns of Fontainebleau & Konstanz in the garden of Orleans House. The weather once again was beautiful, but sadly, because of the coronavirus, the number of guests was limited to five plus the cameraman. However the ceremony was filmed & this will be available to view shortly.



Marina Tuffier from the REA committee welcomed & introduced everyone in French. She explained that the duc d'Orleans lived at Orleans House before he became the last king of France. Marina also said that a service tree of Fontainebleau will be planted in the garden to commemorate the occasion. She then invited the council leader, Gareth Roberts, to say a few words.

Gareth stressed the importance of Richmond's bonds of friendship with our fellow European towns & praised the work of REA in strengthening these bonds. This was even

more important, he said, at a time when others were trying to pull us apart. Again, because of the coronavirus restrictions, it was not possible for one of our partnered musical groups to perform, but a powerful CD player boomed out Beethoven's 9th Symphony as Gareth & REA vice chairman, Clare Head, unveiled the information board. Before & after the ceremony a selection of English, French & German music by Grainger, Vaughan-Williams, Bizet & Händel was played.

It is hoped that the new information boards will raise awareness of our twin towns for decades to come.

[www.richmondineurope.com](http://www.richmondineurope.com)

### Richmond's Twinned Towns in France and Germany

**Fontainebleau** lies 60 km south-east of Paris, close to the left bank of the river Seine. It is centred on a magnificent chateau on a site which was inhabited by every French king and emperor over more than 800 years and is now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The first royal residence was a hunting lodge built in the 12th century. In the 16th century François I, contemporary and rival of Henry VIII, replaced the earlier building with a Renaissance-style palace which, in its turn, was modified and enlarged by later monarchs. The chateau was beloved by Napoleon Bonaparte, who restored and completely refurbished it after the French Revolution. It was here that Napoleon bid a tearful farewell to officers of his Old Guard when he abdicated in 1814. With more than 1500 rooms, Fontainebleau remains the most richly furnished of all the French royal chateaux. It also contains one of only two active Real Tennis courts in France.

*Fontainebleau: The Departure of Napoleon by J.M.W. Turner*

*Château de Fontainebleau* Photo: Fontainebleau Tourisme / Châteaunet

Surrounding the town is the Forêt de Fontainebleau, much of which was a royal hunting estate from the 10th century. It is the second largest national forest in France and is recognised for the rich diversity of its flora and fauna. With a vast network of paths for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders, it is a popular weekend getaway for Parisians. It is also known for its remarkable rock formations, which attract rock-climbers from around the world.

*Forêt de Fontainebleau* Photo: Photos: Mitchell

**Konstanz** enjoys an idyllic setting on the shores of Lake Constance (Bodensee in German) at the point where the River Rhine leaves the lake, with the Swiss Alps providing a stunning backdrop. Although most of the modern town lies north of the Rhine, the Old Town lies on the south side of the river, surrounded by Swiss territory. Because of this, the historic centre escaped bombing by the Allies during World War II.

The area around Konstanz was inhabited from prehistoric times. The Romans settled the site in the first century AD and it is from the name of a Roman emperor that the name of the town is derived. In the Middle Ages, Konstanz became an important religious and commercial centre, with the only bridge in the region across the Rhine.

*Aerial view of Konstanz, showing the Old Town on the left and the island of Mainau on the far right* Photo: Aerial: Google

Konstanz is known particularly for the Council which was convened there from 1414 to 1418 to resolve the schism of the Catholic Church between rival claimants to the Papacy. The Council led to the election of a new pope, Martin V, the only time that the election of a pope has taken place north of the Alps. During the course of the Council, the Czech religious reformer Jan Hus was called to Konstanz where he was condemned and burned at the stake. The Council is commemorated satirically by the statue of Imperia, erected in 1993 at the entrance to the harbour.

*Statue of Imperia* Photo: Ash: Moogf

Today, Konstanz is a lively regional centre with a broad economic base and a thriving university. It has become a popular resort for tourists, and for visitors to neighbouring Switzerland. Amongst its many attractions are the cathedral, dating back partly to the 10th century, the Konzell building, where the Council of Constance was held, and the oldest continuously used theatre in Germany. The town also encompasses the 'flower islands' of Mainau with its renowned arboretum and gardens.

*Konzell building* Photo: MKV: Dagnas: Schwab

The town twinning movement started after World War II as part of the process of reconciliation and to contribute to the peaceful development of Europe. Richmond has been twinned with Fontainebleau in France since 1977 and with Konstanz in Germany since 1983.

The twinning is reaffirmed every five years, with celebrations held in each of the three towns in turn. This information board has been installed to commemorate the reaffirmation which had been due to take place in Richmond in the pandemic year of 2020.

Sporting, cultural and educational links between Richmond and its twinned towns are promoted by the Richmond in Europe Association, which has provided the board under a Civic Pride grant. For further information please go to [www.richmondineurope.com](http://www.richmondineurope.com)

Reported: Structure: News

# Council 'deeply troubled' by proposed changes to the planning system

Proposed changes to the planning system announced by the Government are very troubling and overly focused on unachievable housing targets, says Richmond Council.

Earlier this year the Government published two key consultations: one on proposed changes to the current planning system, and the other on a much more radical reform of the way the planning system works in England.

In its response to the consultation on the proposed changes to the existing system, the Council has raised concerns that the plans are overly focused on housing matters at the expense of other pressing issues such as the climate emergency, sustainable economic growth, the natural environment and the future of our town centres.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee at Richmond Council, set out some of the issues:

*"These deeply troubling proposals would have a severe impact on our borough and its residents.*

*"The Government's 'housing algorithm' worryingly suggests that Richmond must deliver 2,000-odd new homes per year – against a current target of 441 homes. But where and how exactly are these homes to be built?"*

*"Delivery of affordable housing is a priority locally, but the Government has already made this difficult under the current planning system, and the proposed changes will exacerbate the problem. Much of Richmond's housing supply comes from smaller sites – proposals to scrap affordable housing contributions from smaller developments will therefore further reduce our ability to deliver homes people can afford.*

*"We have a duty to deliver the housing that our borough needs. The pandemic has very starkly emphasised the contrast between those living in flats with limited access to outside space and those living in more roomy accommodation with gardens and the ability to adapt to home working. But, with a weaker system of control, we could end up with poorly designed and too densely developed areas and still fail to address the significant need for low-cost rental housing in our communities.*

*"This is a missed opportunity to improve matters, and I call on the Government to reconsider these proposals in the light of widespread concern – and work with local Councils to unlock delivery of the affordable homes we need."*

The proposed method of calculating Richmond's target housing figure takes the borough from 441 new homes per year currently to 2,247 per year under the new algorithm. 441 is a broadly attainable figure – but increasing that fivefold could only be done at the expense of land presently used for employment, and/or protected green space or sports pitches.

It is also proposed to raise the threshold at which developers must contribute payments towards affordable housing delivery. The current rule nationally is that this threshold is ten units – developments below this size do not generally attract affordable housing payments from developers. But due to the particular nature of housing and land supply in Richmond, our inspector-approved adopted Local Plan allows Richmond to seek affordable housing contributions from even the smallest housing developments. Since small sites make up the majority of our housing supply, the proposal to lift the threshold to 40-50 units is deeply concerning and puts in jeopardy our ambitions to deliver affordable housing to meet our borough's needs.





## BRENTFORD FC

### Toney grabs first goal from the spot in Bees draw

#### Millwall 1 – 1 Brentford

New signing Ivan Toney scored his first goal for the club in a competitive draw against fellow London side Millwall as the Bees made it a win, loss and a draw in their opening three Championship fixtures.

The Bees got off to the worst possible start as they found themselves a goal down inside the opening four minutes. Mason Bennett found himself close to the left hand touchline for the hosts and skipped past the challenge of Pontus Jansson, before dribbling towards the by-line and crossing into the box. Ghosting in between the Bees' backline was Jed Wallace who headed past Luke Daniels from close range.



Brentford fought back though and equalised through Toney with just over 20 minutes played. Toney looked initially to be in on goal following neat passing play in the final third but Millwall managed to scramble the ball away from goal. However, in the next phase of play the ball was recycled and the ball reached Henrik Dalsgaard with time and space to pick out a cross. The Dane's delivery was stood up where Toney was fouled by Shaun Hutchinson for a penalty to the visitors. Toney picked himself off the ground to claim ownership of the spot kick and the forward nonchalantly rolled the ball past Bartosz Białkowski for his maiden goal for the club.

The rest of the first half proved a tighter affair than that of the opening twenty minutes although the host had a good chance to retake the lead. Mahlon Romeo fired a shot that crashed off the post with Daniels flying across his goal and Jansson subsequently clearing up field after the rebound had dropped inside the six yard box.

At the start of the second half the Bees had a great chance when Sergi Canos escaped down the left hand flank and cut the ball back across goal. Waiting inside the area was Josh Dasilva but Scott Malone managed to get to the ball first and divert it over his own crossbar. From the resulting corner the Bees went close once again when Emiliano Marcondes' in swinging delivery was met by the head of Christian Norgaard whose glancing header went right across the face of goal. With no Bees player able to get on the end of it the ball went agonisingly past the far post.

With both teams producing chances Millwall nearly snatched all three points when an intricate back heel from Wallace teed up Tom Bradshaw in a promising position. Bradshaw shot with Daniels well beaten but his shot drifted wide as the Bees survived.

Late on Jansson headed over from a Bryan Mbeumo free-kick and Ethan Pinnock had to be alert to head the ball away from Malone at the back post but neither side could be separated in the course of the afternoon as the points were shared at the Den.

# Bees make history with revenge over Fulham

## Brentford 3 – 0 Fulham

Brentford enacted revenge with a crushing victory over Fulham just 58 days after their Championship play-off final defeat to send them into the quarter finals of the League Cup for the very first time in their history. An inspired performance from Said Benrahma was the catalyst for a three victory in succession against Premier League opposition in the tournament with Marcus Forss also continuing his goalscoring start to the season.

It was in fact the Cottagers who came closest initially to scoring first via a set piece. Neeskens Kebano curled a right footed free-kick from 25 yards out that clipped the post and when the ball was recycled and crossed in from the left hand touchline David Raya claimed the ball confidently.

The Bees, playing against higher division opposition, looked the better on the two sides and took the lead through Marcus Forss on 37 minutes. A lovely flowing team move was started by the goal scorer with a combative challenge on halfway to disposes Jean Michael Seri. The ball broke to Josh Dasilva who quickly fed Benrahma who in turn laid the ball into the path of Saman Ghoddos. Ghoddos, making his debut for the club following his arrival from Amiens, claimed a debut assist as he picked out the late run of Forss, who curled the ball past Marek Rodák.

The visitors having made a winless start to their own campaign looked hesitant against a much-changed Bees starting XI and went closest in the first 45 minutes when Aboubakar Kamara curled over from distance.

Raya was called upon in the opening minutes after the interval when Stefan Johansen pulled the ball back to Kebano who toe poked the ball towards goal. The Spaniard showed excellent reflexes to divert the ball away one-handed.

This period after half-time was Fulham's best spell of the game and could have clawed their back into the cup time when Seri had the whole goal to aim after being picked out by Ademola Lookman.

The Bees doubled their advantage through Benrahma, making just his second appearance of the season, with transfer speculation still rife about the forward. His goal came after Ethan Pinnock knocked down a free-kick from deep and the Algerian ghosted in at the back post to stab the ball home.

His second of the evening sealed Brentford's passage into the next round and lite up the evening. Receiving the ball from a Norgaard pass the Algerian proceed to backheel nutmeg Michael Hector before bending the ball in from 25 yards. It was a sublime goal and one that underlined his undoubted class, Bees fans will just hope it hasn't once again perked the interest of a Premier League suitor.

Fulham, consigned to a demoralising defeat, wilted and despite the introduction of Aleksander Mitrovic didn't ever look like pulling off a miraculous comeback. Marcondes nearly added a fourth late on when he was first to a Pinnock header but Marek Rodák produced a decent save down low.

The Bees will once again host Premier League opposition in the form of Newcastle United whom they will play in the week commencing the 21st December.

## UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

### Game 1

Opponent: Preston North End (H) Sunday 4h October 14:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Lillywhites

Competition: Championship

Manager: Alex Neil

2019/20: 9th Championship

Interesting fact: Originally a cricket club, the club first took up football in 1878 as a winter fitness activity and decided to focus on it in May 1880, when the football club was officially founded.

***Come on you Bees!***

## Hampton & Richmond Borough



### **Beavers round off pre-season with victory over Woking**

Hampton rounded off a successful pre-season with an impressive victory over National League side Woking FC. Woking featured a number of former Hampton players in their ranks as well as manager Alan Dowson who was Gary McCann's predecessor at the Bevere.

The Beavers made a dream start against higher division opposition and were one goal up inside four minutes. Niko Muir showed great determination to get to the ball before it reached Sam Deadfield. Deadfield then managed to pick out Ryan Hill to score past Craig Ross in goal for the visitors. Things got even better for Hampton on 17 minutes when Hill curled home a lovely free-kick into the top corner to further extended their lead and to continue the forward's prolific pre-season which has seen score nine times.

After the interval Hampton put the game out of sight when a long ball from Charlie Wassmer found Nathan Minhas who outpaced the Woking backline and finished easily. Late on in injury time Woking pulled a goal back through one of the trialist but it proved inconsequential as the Beavers performed well once again against a National League side.

### **UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON**

#### **Game 1**

Opponent: Corinthian FC (A) Saturday 3h October 15:00 Gay Dawn Farm

Nickname: The Hoops

Competition: FA Cup Second Qualifying Round

Manager: Michael Golding

2019/20: Southern Counties East League (season abandoned)

Interesting fact: Following the formation in 1972 they initially played only friendly matches, although they played over 60 games a season and attracted visits from Charlton Athletic, Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur.

#### **Game 2**

Opponent: St Albans City (A) Tuesday 6h October 19:45 Clarence Park

Nickname: The Saints

Competition: National League South

Manager: Ian Allinson

2019/20: 20th National League South

Interesting fact: St Albans hold the record for the most goals scored by one player on a losing side in a FA Cup tie. Wilfred Minter scored seven goals against Dulwich Hamlet on the 22nd November 1922 but it proved in vain as Dulwich scored eight goals themselves to progress 8-7.

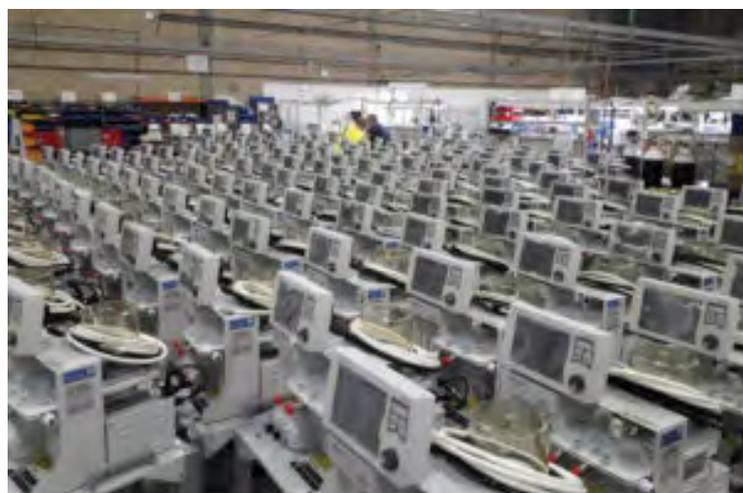
***Come on you Beavers!***

# Investigation into how government increased the number of ventilators available to the NHS in response to COVID-19

Today's report by the National Audit Office finds that the government acted with urgency to increase the number of ventilators available to the NHS.<sup>1</sup> It prioritised speed over cost and spent a total of £569 million.<sup>2</sup> So far, most of these ventilators have not been needed.

In the early stages of the pandemic, based on information available at the time, the NHS believed it could need far more mechanical ventilators than were available. From 13 March, the government decided to pursue all available options to acquire as many ventilators as possible, as quickly as possible. Its two-pronged strategy was firstly to buy ventilators from existing UK and global suppliers – led by the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) – and secondly to encourage UK manufacturers to design and scale-up production of ventilators (the 'Ventilator Challenge', led by the Cabinet Office).

The government acquired an extra 1,800 ventilators by the mid-April peak of COVID-19 hospital admissions, so that around 10,900 were available to the NHS across the whole of the UK. However, demand was not as high as worst-case scenarios had indicated and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) is not aware of any point when a patient who needed a ventilator was unable to get one. On 15 April, the government formally adopted targets on the number of ventilators to provide additional resilience and prepare for a potential second wave. It missed its 18,000 target for the end of April<sup>3</sup> but had made substantial progress toward its 30,000 target by the end of June, acquiring around 24,000 ventilators. The 30,000 target was met in early August.



Both DHSC's and Cabinet Office's approach maximised their chances of acquiring ventilators for the NHS and prioritised speed over cost.

DHSC had purchased all the ventilators available from established NHS suppliers by 13 March. They received many offers from intermediary bodies who said they had access to ventilators built overseas. However, they found that few of these resulted in credible offers and decided to deal directly with overseas manufacturers, mainly purchasing ventilators from China.

DHSC experienced growing competition when buying ventilators on the world market and usually had to pay up-front, accepting the risk that products may not be suitable. It is only aware of one case where this risk materialised, with 750 ventilators purchased at a cost of around £2.2 million withdrawn from use following feedback from clinicians. The increased competition meant that in some cases they had to pay more than typical market rates. The 2,200 new intensive care unit mechanical ventilators they purchased from established NHS suppliers cost an average of £20,000. The average cost of the 5,900 intensive care unit

mechanical ventilators purchased from new suppliers was around £30,100.

The Cabinet Office's priority for the Ventilator Challenge was to find designs that both worked and could be produced at scale. Following the Prime Minister's 'call to arms' to UK manufacturers and a sift of over 5,000 initial responses, the Cabinet Office convened a 'technical design authority' (TDA) to assess ventilators and inform decisions on which to support. The Cabinet Office assessed a range of different designs and supported 18 devices from 17 participants, gradually reducing this number as devices proceeded through the regulatory testing process and as the demand for ventilators became clearer.

The Ventilator Challenge was not a traditional procurement competition on 'most economically advantageous tender' grounds. It was a way of continuously assessing multiple options and eliminating devices only after the Cabinet Office decided they were not likely to meet the regulatory standard in time or would not be needed. As such, the Cabinet Office accepted higher levels of risk than normal. It estimates it will spend £113 million excluding VAT on design costs, components and factory capacity for ventilators it did not buy because they were not viable, or not needed.

Given its overall approach, the Cabinet Office took reasonable steps to control the programme's costs where it could. It sought assurance over suppliers' costs, cancelled unnecessary orders early and, where possible, is recovering costs of components by selling them back into the wider supply chain.<sup>4</sup> The final cost of the programme may be lower if it is able to recover further costs but could also be higher as the Cabinet Office committed to cover participants against the risk of product failure and infringement of intellectual property rights.

In total, DHSC spent around £292 million excluding VAT on their ventilator programme, including on buying ventilators and other oxygen therapy devices and on programme administration, storage and logistics costs. This included £244 million for around 11,100 mechanical ventilators of all types at an average cost of around £22,300 per ventilator.<sup>5</sup> The Cabinet Office has spent around £277 million excluding VAT on around 15,200 ventilators acquired through the Ventilator Challenge at an average cost of around £18,300 per ventilator. This includes programme administration costs and the cost of designs that did not proceed to manufacture.<sup>6</sup> All the designs were certified as meeting standards for use in the COVID-19 emergency, but they vary widely in their type, functionality and clinical utility with some being more basic models than others.

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

"The government acted quickly to secure the thousands of ventilators it thought it may need to safeguard public health. In the event far fewer ventilators were required than was anticipated during the first phase of the pandemic, resulting in a stockpile that may be needed for future peaks in clinical need.

"As with all aspects of its pandemic response, the government should ensure that the learning from this experience is used to enhance its contingency planning for future public health emergencies."



National Audit Office

# Epic SUP

*Eel Pie Island Club SUP*

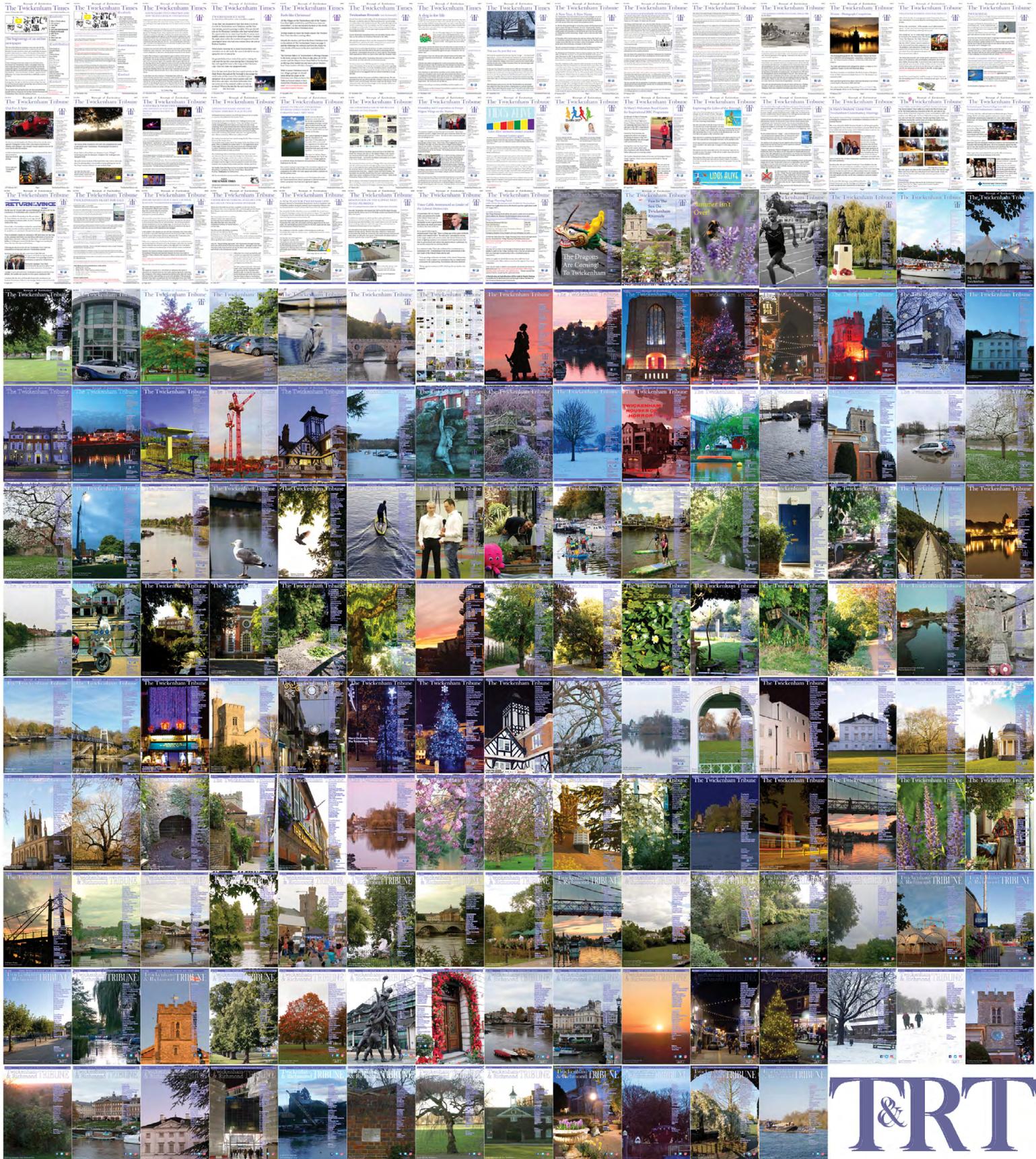


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