

Twickenham & Richmond **TRIBUNE**

Contents

- TickerTape
- TwickerSeal
- COVID-19
- Borough View
- The Road Through The Fields
- Marble Hill Marvels
- CPZ For Kew North
- Church Street Pavement Licence
- Letters
- The Duke Of Edinburgh
- WIZ Tales - Vanuatu
- Twickers Foodie
- Review
- Fukushima Survives!
- Southern African Large Telescope
- Film Screenings
- Football Focus

Contributors

- TwickerSeal
- Graeme Stöten
- Simon Fowler
- Marble Hill House
- The Green Party
- (Councillor) Geoffrey Samuel
- Paul Leonard
- Kew Gardens
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- Doug Goodman
- World InfoZone
- Michael Jay
- Anna Driscoll
- Bruce Lyons
- Shona Lyons
- St Mary's University
- Richmond Film Society
- James Dowden
- RFU
- Woodland Trust
- Princess Alice Hospice
- LBRuT

Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



16th April 2021



Camellias, Strawberry Hill

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Symptom-free COVID-19 testing available across Richmond upon Thames

All residents across Richmond upon Thames can now access rapid lateral flow tests, enabling them to test themselves twice a week. To make it as easy as possible for local people to access these tests, there are several locations in Richmond upon Thames where tests can be conducted under supervision or collected and taken home.

More information and details of locations can be found [HERE](#)

Carlisle Park has a new outdoor gym and toddler play area

The toddler play area is now in the main playground and in its place is a new outdoor gym area for park users to enjoy.

The new toddler area has had new like for like replacement equipment installed.

The outdoor gym equipment is suitable for those with mobility issues as well as able-bodied users. Equipment installed includes a double air walker, a chest press, a seated leg press, cross trainers and a tai chi spinner.

COVID Symptom Study

Residents encouraged to use the COVID Symptom Study app to support vital research.

The COVID Symptom Study application is a not-for-profit initiative that launched in March 2020 to support vital COVID-19 research.

Download the app by searching for COVID Symptom Study on your phone's App Store. For more information visit [COVID Symptom Study](#).

Sign up for the Mayor's Wine Tasting evening in aid of The Mayor's charities

Funds raised from the event will go to supporting this years Mayor's charities; Habitats & Heritage and A Dose of Nature.

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Geoff Acton, invites residents to attend his [Wine Tasting evening](#) on Friday, April 30.

Tickets are priced at £35 with each pack serving 2 to 3 people. The event will begin at 7pm and will be held virtually.

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

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TwickerSeal wandered into Richmond recently and popped along to the riverside.

It wasn't a particularly warm day, but it was pleasant and quite a few people were out sitting on the sloping terraces enjoying a beverage or two. It was an altogether agreeable experience and even the long queues for the temporary toilets (which the council resisted putting in place) were orderly.

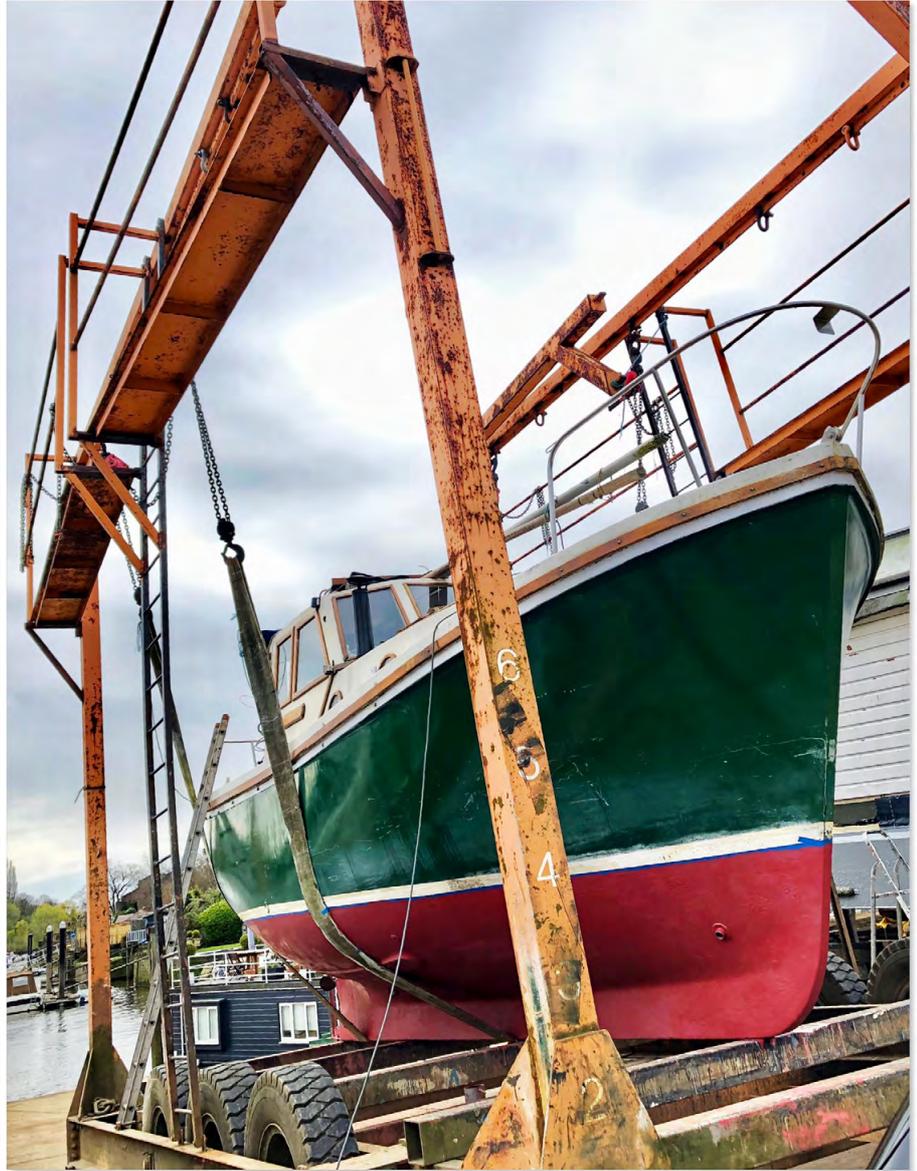
Unfortunately, it wasn't quite the same later in the evening when police had to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour and groups of intoxicated people gathering on the riverside and causing a disturbance.

Hmmm, terraced landscaping on the riverside ... sounds like the future of Twickenham Riverside thought TwickerSeal?



'Swan Island'

Owned by and home to the reputable Newmans (Shipyard), Swan Island is located in Strawberry Vale adjacent to Radnor Gardens. A Thames-side mooring to a host of houseboats, sole traders and family run businesses, the island captures the spirit and nostalgia of historical boat building.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization 16th April 2021:

Globally, the number of new cases per week has nearly doubled over the past two months. This is approaching the highest rate of infection that we have seen so far during the pandemic.

Until the beginning of this year, Papua New Guinea had reported less than 900 cases, and just 9 deaths. It has now reported more than 9300 cases, and 82 deaths. While these numbers are still smaller than other countries, the increase is sharp and WHO is very concerned about the potential for a much larger epidemic.



Photographs:Trevor Michie

Rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine started in late March, with 8 thousand

doses donated by Australia, and a further 132 thousand doses from COVAX arrived this week. Through WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, or GOARN, 13 experts have been deployed to support the government with case management, epidemiology, infection prevention and control, laboratory support and information management.

Papua New Guinea is a perfect example of why vaccine equity is so important. It has held COVID-19 at bay for so long, but with rising infections, understandable fatigue with social restrictions, low levels of immunity among the population, and a fragile health system, it's vital that it receives more vaccines as soon as possible. And I would like to use this opportunity to thank Australia for donating vaccines to Papua New Guinea, and my thanks to the Foreign Minister of Australia, who has expressed full support for Papua New Guinea.

At the global level, we are continuing to assess the evolution of the pandemic, and to adjust our advice accordingly. Under the International Health Regulations, the Emergency Committee held its 7th meeting yesterday, and I look forward to receiving its advice on Monday. Globally, our message to all people in all countries remains the same: we all have a role to play in ending the pandemic.

For information: Papua New Guinea

<https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=PapuaNewGuinea>

World Health Organization Interim guidance on reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild mammals in traditional food markets

World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have issued interim guidance on reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild mammals in traditional food markets around the world.

Among other measures, the guidance calls on countries to suspend the sale of captured live wild mammals in food markets as an emergency measure.

Animals, particularly wild animals, are the source of more than 70% of all emerging infectious diseases in humans, many of which are caused by novel viruses. Wild mammals, in particular, pose a risk for the emergence of new diseases. They come into markets without any way to check if they carry dangerous viruses.

There is a risk of direct transmission to humans from coming into contact with the saliva, blood, urine, mucus, faeces, or other body fluids of an infected animal, and an additional risk of picking up the infection from contact with areas where animals are housed in markets or objects or surfaces that could have been contaminated with such viruses.

Globally, traditional markets play a central role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations. Banning the sale of these animals can protect people’s health – both those working there and those shopping there.

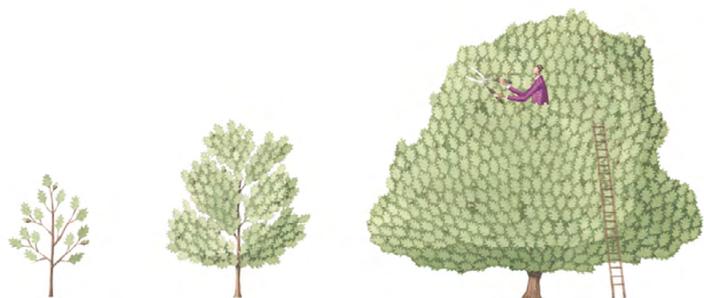
Total cases to 16th April 2021

10,786 Richmond upon Thames
 12,192 Kingston upon Thames
 24,684 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 2,974,642

USA	559,010	South Africa	53,498
Brazil	361,884	Indonesia	43,073
Mexico	210,812	Ukraine	38,658
India	174,308	Turkey	34,734
The United Kingdom	127,161	Czechia	28,229
Italy	115,557	Romania	25,605
Russian Federation	104,398	Chile	24,766
France	99,145	Hungary	24,521
Germany	79,381	Belgium	23,603
Spain	76,756	Canada	23,445
Colombia	66,819	Ecuador	17,489
Iran	65,680	Portugal	16,931
Poland	60,612	Netherlands	16,848
Argentina	58,542	Pakistan	15,872
Peru	55,812	Philippines	15,594



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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 Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
 Telephone 020 8274 0107
 Mobile 07960 123580
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The Tree Agency

The Road through the Fields

By Simon Fowler

The road that we know today as the A316 had its origins in plans drawn up before the First World War to provide roads suitable for motor traffic through and around London. One suggestion was a new road south-west -- from central London to Southampton, which would go through Richmond and Twickenham. The new highway was named the Great Chertsey Road, although it went nowhere near there.

In 1915 Middlesex and Surrey counties agreed that the road should be built. But it was not for another decade that a route was agreed across the Old Deer Park in Richmond cutting across the Thames to St Margaret's and going through market gardens to the north of Twickenham cutting off the Stadium from the town centre.

Special attention was taken over the design of Twickenham Bridge. The architect Maxwell Ayrton ensured that it had equally graceful proportions as the other bridges over the Thames.

Work on the bridge and the road itself did not begin until 1930. It was built as a dual carriageway, with the likely increase in traffic very much in mind. In part the construction was used to provide work for local unemployed men. The road initially ended at London Road, Twickenham but was extended to Hanworth four years later.



Twickenham Bridge

Photo by [ridescent](#)

The bridges at Chiswick and Twickenham were formally opened by the Prince of Wales in July 1933. Early traffic censuses showed the road was more heavily used by cyclists than by motorists.

The new road attracted a fair number of accidents. In part this was because it was built for speed for which motorists were unprepared. In the narrow streets and rural roads of the day most cars rarely travelled more than twenty miles an hour. And before driving tests were introduced in 1935 anybody could hop in a car and drive away.

In July 1939, a financier, Lord May of Weybridge, was fined ten shillings at Brentford Crown Court for driving at 65 miles an hour in a thirty-mile an hour section.

Until fairly recently there was an unofficial memorial of a sort to one fatal accident.

On the right before Twickenham Bridge near The Avenue and Heathcote Road there used to be a large tree with a huge scar at its base. The scar, actually a burn, was caused when a car containing five young people lost control, mounted the pavement and collided with the tree on the evening of Saturday 11 April 1936. One of the passengers, Queenie Warren, aged just twenty, and the driver, George Morgan, died as a result of the crash, and the others sustained very serious injuries. The cause of the accident was never determined. Tragically Queenie left an eight-month old daughter.

Catnip

One of the herbs that has been planted near the old coach house of Marble Hill Park is the *nepeta cataria*. The herb might also be known as catnip or the balm of the fields. Its leaves are no larger than those of the marjoram and its roots are of a blackish colour. The herb may often be found along waysides or in the vicinity of a stream.

Catnip might mostly be known for its relation to felines, on whom the herb is said to have an influence. When planted in a garden, cats can often be found to tear its leaves into pieces and to rub themselves against the herb. The stems and leaves of catnip contain a volatile oil which causes this behaviour. It is said that cats are especially fond of those of the leaves that have wilted and are bruised.

Not all cats, however, will be equally affected. Some might prefer the roots of the valerian or the silver vine or the Tartarian honeysuckle wood. I have read that leopards and lynxes are also attracted by the humble leaves of the catnip. They are eaten, too, by the goats and the cows, but will be refused by the sheep.



The flowers of catmint are highly attractive to bees and other pollinators and a great way to attract wildlife into the garden.



The leaves are irresistible to cats and can be cut back hard after the first flush of flowers to produce a second flush later in the summer.

The perennial roots of catnip can still thrive in a soil that is no longer balanced in its nutrients. The herb is also tolerant of both the deer and of the drought. Catnip can be harvested shortly after its flowering. This has mostly been done in days that are dry and filled with the sun.

The leaves of catmint can be dried and used in cooking. They have featured in soups and in teas. This year, they may be found in the kitchen of the Coach House Cafe. Its bluish flowers, not too dissimilar from those of the lavender, have long been a favourite amongst the bees.

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Green Party

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www.richmondandtwickenham.greenparty.org.uk  @RichTwickGreens  @RTGreenParty

Take part in some of Kew Garden's Wellbeing sessions

Kew Gardens have curated a summer package of wellbeing events for everyone to enjoy.

Disconnect from your everyday life and boost your mood and wellbeing with Kew Gardens'

special series of events this summer. The [Wellbeing sessions](#), ranging from sensory forest bathing and summer cycles to a heart-pumping fitness sessions, are the perfect way to relax and unwind.



Whether you're seeking mindful moments or looking to work up a sweat, the series of programmes are designed for individuals or the whole family.

Royal Botanic Gardens **Kew**

New CPZ scheme comes into effect in Kew North

A new Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) will come into effect in North Kew from 22 April 2021.

The decision was taken following a consultation among residents which saw significant support for the introduction of a new CPZ in the area. The new Zone KC will cover all roads in the North Kew area and will operate Monday to Sunday (including Bank Holidays), between 10am and 4.30pm and during certain major events in the area.

The parking review was commissioned in response to complaints and petitions received from residents of Gloucester Road and Kew Green concerning the difficulties experienced in finding a parking space close to their home, which were attributed primarily to the parking of vehicles by non-residents (all day commuters and long stay parking).

Additional pressures on parking space in the North Kew area has been experienced with the hosting of major events at Kew Gardens. The new Brentford Football Club stadium and flat development over Kew Bridge could also place considerable additional pressure on parking space in the area.

The consultation proposed that parking controls would be implemented across the whole of the North Kew area to provide priority parking for residents, businesses and visitors. Residents living in the area were written to asking them to take part in the consultation to share their views and opinions on the proposals. The consultation opened on Tuesday 28 July 2020 and closed on Wednesday 26 August 2020. The consultation found that 71% of respondents were in favour of implementing a CPZ in the North Kew Area, with 75% of respondents in favour of the CPZ being in place every day.



Businesses in the local area were also consulted on the proposed changes and following discussions with businesses who raised concerns on the possible effects the Parking Policy Manager attended a meeting with businesses to further discuss the proposals, to listen to their concerns and to outline alternatives and how the scheme could help businesses. The main aim of these changes is to ensure parking for both residents, their visitors, local businesses and short-term visitors who are likely to contribute to the local economy are prioritised while deterring cars to be parked in the area for longer periods of time.

The new parking arrangements will allow the Council to manage the limited parking and high traffic volumes in the area while helping to reduce air pollution and encourage a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport.

Following the publication of the results of the consultation Richmond Council took residents feedback on board and agreed to implement new parking controls. These provisions also include provision for a coach 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' area and a taxi rank in the area to facilitate local attractions such as Kew Gardens.

These changes will come into effect from Thursday, 22 April 2021. This is an amendment to the original scheduled date of 19 April 2021.

Those parking in any of the visitor spaces, while visiting Kew Gardens or other amenities in the area by car will be required to pay by mobile phone using RingGo cashless parking.

Find out more information about [Ringgo](#) including details of how to pay.

Read the full [North Kew parking study](#).

Read the full results of the [North Kew area parking consultation](#).

The Duke of Edinburgh - a memory

By (Councillor) Geoffrey Samuel

In 2007 I was delighted that the Duke of Edinburgh spent an afternoon with us at a Competitive Edge session which I had organised.

Let me tell you how it happened.

In 2003 he offered to come to Twickenham as part of his programme to meet young people undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He arrived, as he did in those days, driving himself in his taxi. Doug Orchard [the Mayor] and I watched in admiration as he spoke to every single group who were gathered in the Salon at York House. And we also watched as their eyes lit up and they laughed with pleasure as he chatted to them. Then, for him, off to Hounslow. Already into his 80s he made five such visits that day

So almost two years later I felt able to write to him personally to ask him to come to a session of Competitive Edge, the programme which I had devised for all our schools. A short correspondence ensued- then nothing.

Suddenly in mid-January I received a message: 'the Duke will visit you on 22nd February. 'But that was half term! Still an offer to be accepted. Arthur Naylor, the admirable Principal of St. Mary's College, instantly agreed to host the event and frantic contact with all the participating schools resulted in offers that led to a full programme of events, many out of doors.

Then came the planning with his staff, the College and those responsible for security. His staff – taking their lead from him – were a delight. When I pointed out the pitch where the rugby game would be played I asked cautiously "But what will happen if it is raining?" The instant reply from his staff "He will get wet".

He arrived driving the taxi with his Private Secretary beside him and a security officer in the back seat. A buffet lunch at St Mary's. 'He drinks Pale Ale at lunch' announced St. Mary's Head of Catering who had provided for him before. And then he visited every game, every event both outdoors and outside. And, of course, he chatted informally with all the many young people taking part. A ten-minute ceremony at the end at which he made the presentations. Then back to the taxi – and home.

WIZ Tales - Vanuatu

The Duke of Edinburgh Connection

Teresa Read



The Republic of Vanuatu consists of a group of volcanic islands in the South Pacific Ocean. The main islands include Ambrym, Aneityum, Banks and Torres, Efate, Epi, Erromango, Espiritu Santo, Maewo and Pentecost, Malekula, and Tanna.

In 1887 the French and the British formed a Joint Naval Commission on the islands and in 1906 the two countries set up an Anglo-French Condominium to administer Vanuatu; independence was achieved in 1980.

The island of Ambae, home to one of the seven active volcanoes in Vanuatu, became the magical island of Bali Hai in "South Pacific" based on James A. Michener's Pulitzer Prize book "Tales of the South Pacific". Michener was in military service in Vanuatu during the Second World War.

Indigenous religious beliefs in Vanuatu often exist alongside Christianity. The John Frum cargo cult, which emerged at the end of the 1930s, said that Ni-Vanuatu ancestors would return with "cargo". This derived from the belief that goods brought to the islands by Europeans and Americans really belonged to the indigenous islanders.

A visit to Vanuatu by the Duke of Edinburgh was believed by some to have fulfilled a prophecy of a tribesman who left the island to find a powerful wife overseas. Following the visit in 1974 Prince Philip became revered in Tanna in southern Vanuatu.



Information on Vanuatu

<https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Vanuatu>

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

By Doug Goodman

Many families will have a member who has taken part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards for young people. Doug Goodman recalls the bronze, silver and gold awards scheme undertaken by his daughter Emily. As a pupil at The Lady Eleanor Holles School she was given great encouragement to attempt the bronze and silver awards and later at Bristol University, at the age of 23, to go for the gold scheme.

In 1956 The Duke set up the scheme for young people between the ages of 14 and 24 to win bronze and silver under four sections: volunteering, attaining a skill, a physical achievement and an expedition. For the gold an additional section is a shared group activity in a residential and unfamiliar location. The objectives are to have fun, make friends, improve self-esteem and build confidence. Over 300,000 youngsters participate each year and some six million have undertaken the awards in the UK.

Doug acted as a helper on the bronze and silver expeditions for groups of ten girls and admired the strength, navigational skills and sheer determination of the participants. On the last night of the three day trek across the wilds of Hampshire he was rewarded with a collapsed tent at dawn. The schemes become more demanding in the gold section with a five day trek carrying food and tents and navigating in a wild region. Many groups go abroad but Emily and her team travelled across the Derbyshire Peaks being checked in at various locations. They completed the 'marathon' exhausted and grubby having covered around 35 miles in fog, gales and torrential rain. Being congratulated and shaking hands with Prince Phillip was a proud moment for Emily and her friends.



On a CV, when applying for a job, a mention of attaining the DofE Awards should always be taken into account by a potential employer.

Next time you see a group of youngsters trudging through the countryside heavily laden remember the legacy that has been left to us by The Duke of Edinburgh.

Green Party candidate says “We’re giving voters a chance to honour their choice” for Council seat in Hampton Wick

Following the resignation of Green Councillor Dylan Baxendale due to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on his health and business, Chas Warlow has been named as the Green Party candidate in the Council by-election in Hampton Wick on Thursday 6 May 2021.

Chas has lived in the borough for 13 years and his two daughters went to school at Grey Court School - where Chas was a school governor - and Richmond College. He is currently a senior account manager at a supplier and installer of electric vehicle chargepoints.

For many years Chas has also been a leading member of Ham United Group, a community organisation that promotes projects with an ecological and sustainable focus.

In 2018 he campaigned successfully with Green Councillor Andree Frieze on Ham Parade residents’ behalf to get their food waste collected by Richmond Council. Previously, residents of flats had been ineligible for food waste collections.



He has also been involved in several community-led projects, firstly as project leader of the Teddington & Ham Hydro project – a community-led renewable energy scheme – and then as coordinator of a group of Street Champions who helped to make Ham and Petersham a Low Carbon Zone.

Chas Warlow says:

“Our current Green councillors on Richmond Council have been incredibly effective, despite only being three in number. Hampton Wick residents elected a Green Party Councillor in 2018 and I want to give them a chance to honour that choice. We need to make sure that the borough builds back greener and fairer. I believe that my experience at the local community level and my insight into the political process makes me the right person to do that.”

Also on Thursday 6 May, Green Party Richmond Councillor Andree Frieze is standing for election to the London Assembly for South West London. The Assembly election is held under a fair voting system and every vote counts, which is how Greens have always been represented at City Hall. It is also open to EU residents, unlike General Elections.

The Assembly election is on the same day as the Mayoral election. Sian Berry, who has been a London Assembly Member since 2016, is the Green Party Mayoral candidate.



Dear Sir,

RICHMOND COUNCIL FAILS TO MEET OWN PLANNING GUIDELINES

Local Residents demand major Council rethink on proposals to close one of the North Lane car parks and overdevelop the Elleray Hall site. In response to a council engagement exercise, residents have submitted an objective assessment by a local Independent planning practice Alsop Verrill Ltd. This demonstrates that the Council does not meet its own planning policy guidelines, calls for the Council to scrap the proposed housing development and have a major rethink on the best way forward. The Council has spent over £400,000 to pay consultants and external advisors to prepare proposals. Residents support a new hall with improved facilities and recognise the need for affordable housing but the Council's proposals are an overdevelopment of the site which do not comply with its own planning policy guidelines.

The Council plans to close the NL(E) car park opposite Tesco on North Lane Teddington and rebuild a new community centre on it. The car park needs to remain, be part of a Council strategy to support Teddington shops and services post Covid, and provide an electric car charging and car club station. With the new Residents Only (CPZs) parking in adjacent roads being put in place, the NL(E) will be needed to help relieve demand for parking spaces. Elleray Hall can be rebuilt on its existing site on Elleray Road with affordable housing provided on North Lane helping to reduce the cost which has risen from £2m to £3m in less than a year.

Help save the North Lane (E) car park, and Elleray Hall, and Stop Overdevelopment **BY COMPLETING THE ON-LINE PETITION AT** <https://www.change.org/saveourcarpark>

Yours sincerely,
Roger Hackett, Teddington

Dear Sirs,

New Tesco store for Twickenham

I was horrified to learn that a planning application has been submitted for yet another Tesco store - this time in the site that was previously Cycle Republic in Twickenham.

There are already not one, not two, but THREE Tesco stores in walking distance of central Twickenham. If we are to maintain any type of individuality as a town, we must have a wide range of retail outlets, preferably supporting independents wherever possible.

A fourth Tesco for Twickenham is ridiculous! I would urge residents to object to this before our high street becomes totally faceless.

Yours sincerely
Name & Address supplied (Twickenham)

Photographs by Paul Leonard



*Flag at Half Mast at St Mary's Church Twickenham, 9th April 2021
In honour of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh*



*York House 9th April 2021
Painters and decorators put the final touches to the restoration at York House*

The Saga of the Pavement licence!

By Shona Lyons

This week has seen the arrival of the need for all of Church Street's restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars to have a pavement licence in order to continue serving Al Fresco meals and drinks. Apparently this brilliant piece of new legislation was brought into effect in July 2020 and was created in order to enable these kind of establishments to continue their businesses on al fresco basis during the pandemic. We all found about this just last Friday, as previously everyone had held 3 year "Al Fresco" licences tailor made I think by LBRuT just for Church Street (But I could be wrong)



But it seems that the council officers are making sure that the Church Street establishments adhere to this concept absolutely literally (which I am not at all sure is really the correct interpretation of this legislation, but I am not a lawyer, I am a travel agent so I don't really know and don't really have the time to find out either) and making sure that all the restaurant's tables do not go beyond the pavement which in almost every part of Church Street is just a meter wide. Some of the frontages of the restaurants are about 4 meters in length so the establishments are being asked to submit plans of where they plan to have their tables, as in previous years and these are all pretty

much being rejected as having too many tables (but how else are they going to survive)

The council officers are saying that they do want to help the businesses but adhering to this literal & rigid interpretation of this law I don't think helps at all, because a food and beverage business cannot survive on a serving just a very few tables a day. In previous years the bars and restaurants had many tables out (as many of the other retail shops made agreements with the adjacent restaurants so that they could also use their spaces in the evening – we all worked as a community to help our businesses stay open) & could also serve inside as well, so it doesn't make sense that this summer they should have less tables when they can't serve inside at all for now because the council officers are telling them that they need to stay on their tiny part of the pavement just in front of their premises.

Everyone has encouraged the hospitality businesses to open but if there isn't a feasible and understanding rationale from the council then they might as well stay closed and claim furlough, because this way their economy just won't work. The Eel Pie and the Twickenham Club have remained closed specifically because of this.

Apparently also the road needs to be kept free at all times for a fire engine to drive in and for pedestrians. I have not seen that in any of the pictures I have seen of other London Borough's Street's Al Fresco dining where the tables seem to be wall to wall. I do think that safety needs to be paramount but we have had no accidents in all the years Al fresco has existed in Church Street (since 2005) so why would we have one now? I think that such a ridiculous concern with health and safety above everything else will mean the death of the hospitality business in this street which is very narrow so this insistence that a fire engine needs to be able to drive through at any time is really ridiculous. It means that no bar or restaurant can really have any tables out at all (& no fairs could ever take place either) – I thought initially in 2014 when the road was repaved the curb was kept very close to carriageway in order to facilitate Al Fresco dining using part of the carriageway too. There is hardly any pavement

in Church Street anyway, so this adherence to everyone staying on their part of the pavement is just impossible.

But at least the firemen and the council officers will be able to keep their jobs even if no one else can and although Church Street has managed to fill every retail unit this year, it is not necessarily a given that it will be able to continue to do so in the future given these new rules. It has become a much loved community hub and the jewel in the crown of Twickenham because of the welcome it could offer the community in the way of events and hospitality but it looks worrying as if this will not be something that we will be allowed to continue.



Final call to register for a postal vote!

Elections for the Mayor of London and at the London Assembly elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021 and the Council is making a **final call** to all residents to make sure that if they are registered to vote and would like to request a postal vote – they do so **before Tuesday 20 April**.

We wrote to all households a few weeks ago to let residents know the work we are doing to ensure that we make the election process as safe as possible and that includes changes to our polling stations.

We need to make sure that all polling stations are COVID safe for voters which means your polling station may have changed from its normal venue. Your poll card will have all the information on advising you of where you can vote. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but we have chosen venues that we feel will work best for these elections.

We are putting in place sensible safety measures at the polling stations that will be open, including cleaning, socially distanced queuing systems, face coverings being worn and hand sanitiser on site. You don't need to show your polling card at the station, although we encourage you to do so.

Voting booths will be cleaned between each voter and voters are encouraged to bring their own pencil or pen. If not, those provided will be sanitised between uses.

Despite these additional measures we know some of our residents may not find it as easy to get to their designated polling stations, or may have concerns and would prefer to apply for a postal vote on this occasion. You can do this by [downloading a form](#) or you can contact us on 020 8891 7775.

Mike Gravatt, Borough Returning Officer for the GLA election, said:

“Keeping our residents and staff safe during these uncertain times, while delivering a successful election is vital and we need our residents to help us do this.

“If residents are planning to opt for a postal or proxy vote, please apply as soon as possible rather than wait until the deadline. This will help us to manage the process as efficiently as possible.”

To download a postal or proxy form please visit www.richmond.gov.uk/elections or for more information call our helpline on 020 8891 7775. Postal and proxy votes can be temporary, for these elections only.

There are some important dates to note for this election:

- Register to vote by **Monday 19 April** – if you have been included in the recent household notification letter then you don't need to register again
- Apply for a new or cancel a current postal or proxy vote by 5pm on **Tuesday 20 April**. Apply for a new proxy vote by 5pm on **Tuesday 27 April**



Greens launch plan to “Gold Plate London’s Green Belt”

Green Party candidate for Mayor of London Sian Berry has today pledged to make a new strategy for the Green Belt which surrounds London, aimed at making sure we value and support this vital part of the city and protect it from development.

Plans in Sian Berry’s manifesto include:

- Increasing food production, helping small farmers and green agriculture, and making sure they have access to sell their food within the city through markets and shops.
- Improving access and rights of way, supporting more visits to the Green Belt by Londoners for exercise and leisure via Transport for London.
- A comprehensive new plan for ecology, carbon and flood prevention, including rewilding and planting new woodland.
- New green bridges across the main roads and motorways that sever habitats, developing a wider plan to link up nature sites across the area.
- Investment and support for new green energy projects.



Sian Berry (right) in Bromley today
Also pictured, Caroline Russell (left) and Bexley and Bromley candidate for the Assembly Mary Ion (centre)

Established over 70 years ago, London’s Green Belt is under threat - eroded by development and neglected, not helped to flourish by our current Mayor’s policies.

Only seven per cent of the Metropolitan Green Belt is within the GLA’s area but Greens believe it is our duty to take a lead from City Hall to improve and protect it. These plans will be developed alongside the councils that surround London in a project that bridges party lines, and involves farmers, landowners, residents and green groups.

Sian Berry says:

“The green spaces enveloping our city are precious but neglected, which puts them under threat. We must use it or lose it and no Mayor has yet made a coherent plan to value and support the Green Belt. Green will turn our city limits into a treasure all Londoners can benefit from.”

“My plan to gold plate our Green Belt means working with surrounding councils to improve and protect it. As Green Mayor I’ll bring a new start, and the true leadership and vision to get this right.”

Work by Greens on the London Assembly has shown there is a huge potential for London’s Green Belt land to be used for the benefit of London’s people, nature, ecology, flood protection, energy and food production.

In February 2020, Green London Assembly Member Caroline Russell investigated the issues affecting the Green Belt, and found this precious asset is all too often taken for granted, neglected or at risk of being lost to development.

View the Gold plate our Green Belt report [HERE](#)



APRIL FOOD NEWS

South Korean brand **Yondu** is a plant-based seasoning sauce made from umami-rich vegetables, and now available here in the UK. It's great for adding that extra 'oomph' to savoury dishes or putting a few drops into hot water for a healthy, warming drink. It's made from a clever fermentation process of organic, protein-rich soybeans blended with an eight vegetable broth. Available from [Yondu](#) or Amazon at around £4 (150 ml) or £7 (275ml)



While on the subject of spicing up your repertoire of Asian food, do get your hands on a jar of **Tracklements Special Edition Pineapple Achar**. Sweet, zesty with a proper 'poke', this South Asian pickle has the power to liven up the simplest bowl of rice or noodles and add a fruity fanfare to fish. Handmade with pineapple, onions, carrot, chilli, ginger and mustard seed, it's vegan, gluten free and adds a peppery punch to a myriad of recipes. RRP £3.35 for 220g, from fine food delis and farm shops nationwide or online from [Tracklements](#)

Moving westwards to the Middle east now, and I've found a great range of kits to make a range of Levantine dishes. **Kookaloney** kits are easy, and a good cupboard standby, taking the faff from making falafels and hummus. GMO free, they contain no palm oil and many are vegan friendly. The Kookaloney range is available on [Amazon](#) from £ 4,62 per kit and £ 2,78 per dry mix.



There's salt, and then there's salt. And when you've tasted a top quality salt, you realise that it really is 'worth its salt'. There's a wonderful Scottish salt called **Blackthorn** that's produced by filtering 100% Scottish seawater through a giant wall of blackthorn twigs. (yes, really!) The resulting crystals each have a beautiful geometric structure, as unique as a snowflake. Every batch is carefully gathered and checked by hand, the minerals are retained and these crystals really enhance the flavours of food. For more information and to order, check [here](#) - prices from under £4.

I've had a 'Damascene' moment! I always thought that fizzy fruit drinks were highly fattening, full of sugar and other junk ingredients. But the folks at **Luscombe** Drinks are able to produce really delicious soft drinks, entirely free from concentrates, additives, preservatives, colourings, artificial flavourings or enhancers. As well as a range of excellent tonic waters, there's Damascene Rose Bubbly, ginger beer, Sicilian lemonade... they're fabulous, and mostly under 100 kcals for a 270ml bottle. Some are available in supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, but if you order directly [online](#), the full range is available, with free delivery.



A Negroni has long been one of my favourite cocktails, and the secret is decent vermouth. I've discovered vermouth that is so good, in fact, you almost don't need to add the other ingredients for your Negroni! Kaliro Spirits recently launched **9diDANTE Inferno** - Vermouth di Torino Superiore, red vermouth inspired by the nine circles of hell ("Inferno", in Italian) of Dante's Divine Comedy. This really is a stunning aperitif that's already won numerous awards. It's warming, spicy, with a soupçon of clove and cumin among the orange peel and soft oaky red wine richness. £23.95 a bottle from [Master of Malt](#).



Virtual Sixth

(Part One: *Spring Unwound*)

Poetry Performance, On-Line, 11th April

One of the important things that poetry can seek to achieve is to find new meaning. It could be argued that its job is to look more profoundly, or more askew and askance at the world of our perceptions and beyond. Among poetry's many themes, are there any, we may ask, that have been saturated with perception?



Poetry Performance, Teddington's procreators and propagators of poetry think not. Its current series of poetry readings usually has a theme, and for April "Spring" was chosen as its, er, springboard for poetic creativity. Haven't all of our poets, past and present, had a good crack at this subject, but why not, with its promise of new beginnings, flora and fauna being reborn, and with the Resurrection at Easter, here is a glorious source of hope, something desperately needed in our straightened times.

The writers of Poetry Performance have dug their pens into the rich mines of their inkpots, and with all the enthusiasm of children discovering a cache of chocolate eggs, have excavated more nuggets from their theme. (See how spring generates metaphors as richly mixed as the ingredients of a simnel cake!) So what did our vernal confection yield?

Pat Cammish takes us from winter solstice to vernal equinox with her neat and compactly written poetic trio, *And Spring Begins*, *Spring Sonnet* and then *Willow*, whose buds suffer in April's cruel month. This nod to TS Eliot is taken up by Heather Montford who continues this concept with a cleverly written paraphrasing of *Ode to Autumn*, answering Keats's question, "Where are the songs of Spring?" Connaire Kensit ups the ante with a translation of Alphonse Daudet's poem **À Tous Côtés**, reproducing the style, mood and register of the French.

It was Wordsworth who started poets' spring obsession with daffodils. In Terry Bedell's *A Spring Awakening*, daffodils are in thrall to the sun, personified as Apollo in the rich imagery of his poem. From "their dark winter prison" buds "enwrapped, in their foetal position" emerge "by the grace of Apollo".



So is the theme of spring saturated with perception? Ken Mason obviously thinks not. In his *The Spring* he agilely avoids the seasonal cliché, horologically. The OED has fourteen meanings for spring, so why stick with one? His spring turns, as the first person spring tells us, from his coiled up position sitting in clock. Ken Mason is clearly trying to wind us up!! Homonyms rule: Roget has his revenge.

So the theme of "Spring" and all its topical manifestations was indeed saturated by Poetry Performance. However, other themes are available

Virtual Sixth (Part Two: *Escapement checked*) follows next week

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/04/15/virtual-6th-spring

Photography by Ed Kimber and Basil Verne

Fukushima Survives!

By Michael Jay

Tribune editor Teresa Read's recent report about the Olympic flame in Japan prompted me to offer this short article about Fukushima.

Many people only know of Fukushima as the site of the terrible earthquake, tidal wave and nuclear accident in 2011.

But Fukushima is far more than that. Situated in the north-east of Japan, it is a beautiful area of luminous green rice fields and misty blue mountains, kind people, warm hearts, and the home of Japan's biggest spectacle, the Sōma Nōma Oi.

Having travelled the world since 1970 as a BOAC and British Airways pilot, I have seen many wonderful places but my heart is in Japan, particularly Fukushima where my wife Tokuko was born and where her family live although they were evacuated from their farm for some years after the disaster.

My love of Japan stems from childhood when I started jūdō. Since then, I have been fortunate to train under some of Japan's great masters. They have shaped my life.

Fukushima is mainly a farming area producing sparkling rice and beautiful fruit such as the most delicious peaches you can imagine. Since 2011, we have participated in many charity events to aid the recovery including at the Fukushima stand at the London Japan Matsuri (festival) every September, and with London's 'Green Chorus' Japanese Women's Choir.

DO come and see us there!



We were in Fukushima shortly after the disaster and saw some terrible sights. My brother-in-law, who runs the family farm but helps as a volunteer at a care home, was driving home when he saw the tidal wave coming across the fields. Accelerating his car, he outran it but saw the car behind him washed off the road.

Family and neighbours said it was the strongest earthquake they had ever experienced although they were spared the worst because they live in south Sōma.

Fortunately, their traditional farmhouse survived but I was shocked to see so many homes utterly destroyed and the massive concrete seawall smashed as if by the fist of God. Japanese houses consist of four huge wooden pillars and two storeys but I lost count of how many I saw with just the four pillars and roof left where the tidal wave had washed everything else away. All that remained were some flowers outside in remembrance of the occupants.

Many large fishing boats were left right in the middle of the rice fields surrounded by alien red plants which, apparently, had floated in by sea and taken root. Those fields were to be ruined for years by the salt water. No fields means no rice and therefore no income.

One of the strangest things was driving around our town, Odaka, of similar size to Richmond and where I have ridden my horse so many times during Nōma Oi, and seeing all the shops left exactly as they were when people had escaped – but with no one there. Not a living thing to be seen but with cheerful music playing from loudspeakers in the street. An eery sight from a science-fiction disaster film.

Other upsetting sights were red ribbons tied around wild fruit trees as a warning to children not to eat the fruit, and literally millions of numbered plastic sacks, many from school playgrounds, of contaminated soil which had been collected for safe disposal. I picked up a tiny snail which was travelling along the road and felt sad to think that he knew nothing of what had happened.

But Japanese people are extremely hardy so life is gradually returning. And everyone remembers the international help they received, particularly from the United Kingdom.

Sōma, a particularly traditional area, is home to the spectacular Sōma Nōma Oi Wild Horse Chase. This incredible equestrian event dates from the 10th century and is probably the biggest such event in the world. As a traditional martial and religious event, this is no sport as most participants are from old samurai families and take it more seriously than you can imagine – a truly mediaeval world. When the BBC came to film it, they said they thought they had seen everything but had never seen anything like this!

Through our family, I have taken part in NōmaOi for many years, rising to the rank of Group Commander with mounted samurai under my command, a unique honour for which permission had to be obtained from the Sōma horse associations and from the Japanese government which supports it as an *'Intangible Cultural Treasure of Japan'*.



Originally cavalry training for battle, Nōma Oi includes horse racing in full armour, Shintō ceremonies, a round-up of wild horses, and a battle chase in which up to 1,000 riders compete to catch shrine flags fired over 1,000 feet into the air. It's incredibly exciting and dangerous but we love it and we love our horses. Both men and women take part with the youngest rider aged four and the oldest aged 86. A little known fact which surprises my lecture audiences is that many fierce Japanese samurai women rode out with their men to battle. Far more exciting than the Olympics!

Sōma is a horse breeding area and this wonderful event keeps alive the best traditions and spirit of ancient Japan. So strong is this feeling that it even continued after many of the horses died in the 2011 disaster.

Although you may feel Japanese culture to be rather alien, Japan's traditional spirit is much like our own. If you come to Fukushima you will find a warm welcome and see that even the disaster of 2011 has not dimmed the spirit of its wonderful people.

If you would like me to come and talk to your group or school, I would be very happy to do so.

But please come to Japan and see for yourself – you will not be disappointed!

How We Survived:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqYXKLvFq9s

Sōma Nōma Oi:

www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/movie-now-english/ch-e-samurai-nomaoui.html

Fukushima Revitalization:

www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/

Michael Jay is the only non-Japanese person in more than 1,000 years to participate fully in *Sōma Nōma Oi*, and is a senior member of Japan's premier martial tradition, *Tenshin Shōden Katori Shintō Ryū*. Dating from the 10th and 15th centuries respectively, both are classified by the Japanese government as *'Intangible Cultural Treasures of Japan'* because of their high cultural and ethical values.

As an acknowledged expert of the Japan Society, he regularly lectures and instructs at such institutions as the Royal Armouries, Oxford University, Eton College, and on Cunard's MS Queen Elizabeth cruising Japan. After 17 years as a Metropolitan Police special constable, and holder of black belt grades in various Japanese martial arts, he uses his experience and qualifications to teach personal safety to interested groups.

Sailaway in the UK this Summer!!!!

By Bruce Lyons

When I wrote this column last week I really thought that the sea-cation calendar was complete, not so - a big surprise was in store as just yesterday TUI (was Thomson- remember) just announced that were positioning their Explorer and Explorer 2 to sail our shores this Summer. Actually it is excellent news as these are medium sized vessels which allows them to dock alongside most quays in the British Isles and therefore they don't have to bring people ashore by tender for excursions. The Marella Explorer will sail 7 cruises from Southampton and Explorer 2 will sail from Newcastle for another 7 cruises. Though only confirmed yesterday the Cruises are already on sale already and as the Marella boats has a regular clientele will sure to be popular for these UK sailings.

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Among Explorer's UK offerings will be a three night Sail the South Coast itinerary visiting Dover and Portland. Cruisers looking for a longer break can choose Marella's Sail the Irish Sea Voyage - departing in August and visiting Liverpool, Dublin and the Irish Town of Cobh (Cork). Scotland is also on offer with Marella's British Sights and Seas Cruise which includes visits to Invergordon, Kirkwall and Leith. A Taste of the West Coast voyage sees Explorer sail to Greenock, Belfast and Holyhead before finishing in Portland. These are just samples do contact us for further information.

Just to keep you abreast of the Seacation "invasion" this week brought news that P & O had to make more cabins available on Britannia. Saga has nearly sold out on some of its cruises in the UK but I am sure there is more news to come. Disney Magic is going "On Sale" on the 30th of April. Readers have been asking about a UK cruise directory but with all the news coming in the only one so far available is good but not the full

complement of offerings but you are welcome to pick up a hard copy along with notes about additional companies sailing - and of course make enquiries as to cost and availability.

More Holiday news! Explore's excellent Discovery Tours has a second itinerary now, after the great success of its 5 nt "Northumberland Castles and Lindisfarne" and this is a North Wales Adventure (7Days) They have also added several new walking itineraries of 3 and 4 nt durations - escorted and using base hotels with transport where needed. Intrepid and Exodus have come in with new UK soft adventure programmes so there is more to look at.

Boating on the Thames and More. One good thing that the Pandemic has brought along with the warmer summers is the greater interest we have in UK Boating - on the Thames - in the Broads and Canal Boats all over. You can row the Thames a la "Three men in a Boat" and a dog - Sail in a flotilla on the South Coast so whilst nothing is clear yet as to what you have to do to get overseas - Take time to find more about your heritage - England has a lot to offer. Call us for itineraries and options on 020 8744 0474 / info@crusadertravel.com

Southern African Large Telescope near Sutherland, Western Cape

By Anna Driscoll (Tribune's special South Africa correspondent)

For many years we have been wanting to go to Sutherland to see the Telescopes. Sutherland is in the Northern Cape, Great Karoo with a population of 2,500 inhabitants & known as the coldest Town in South Africa. One year the temperature went down to minus 20C & they had deep snow. In March the temperature was warm during the day & cool at night.

So, with the Coronavirus Lockdown at Level 1, we decided to drive to Sutherland & spend two nights there at a B&B & book a two-hour tour of the Southern African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). The Observatory is the National Centre for Optical & Infrared Astronomy in South Africa.

On Thursday 18th March we drove via Sir Lowry's Pass, on the N2 to Grabow & then across to Worcester & on to the N1 to Matjiesfontein where we stopped for coffee at The Lord Milner Hotel, before taking the road to Sutherland, which is opposite the Hotel. The road runs through kilometre after kilometre of the Great Karoo desert scrub & a couple of mountain passes. The last 50kms was rather a hairy drive in the dark passing an awful lot of traffic coming in the opposite direction. We



learnt later that the many mini buses & lorries were from an organisation building Wind Farms in the Karoo. After driving 362.6kms, we booked into our B&B & the temperature was 17C.

Next morning up early & drove 14kms to the SAAO for the 2hr tour. The Telescope stands on a hilltop 1,800m above sea level surrounded by Karoo desert & the large domed structure houses the biggest optical telescope in the Southern Hemisphere. The site was chosen for its good weather & absence of light & pollution.

There were only seven of us plus the tour guide. First, we saw videos & many highlighted pictures & diagrams covering the technical workings of the Telescope. We then visited the interior of the first Telescope built on the site in 1964, the Princess Elizabeth Telescope. A vast Telescope

measuring 10m. There are also several other smaller sophisticated telescopes.

We then moved on to the large Astronomical Observatory Telescope. We were supplied with hard hats & went inside. The tour operator was given permission for the Telescope to be operated & the vast Telescope whirred around inside the dome. It has a 11m wide hexagonal primary array comprising 91 individual 1m hexagonal mirrors which gives a large field of view & effective collecting area. It can detect faint or distant objects in the universe, a billion times too faint to be seen with the unaided eye. The Telescope brings astronomers from around the World to spend time in the Karoo. The Telescope is funded & operated by the SALT Foundation. A collection of academics & government institutions throughout the World with headquarters in Observatory, Cape Town. The tour lasted two hours. It was all so amazing.



Next morning, we departed our B&B to drive the 110kms to Matjiesfontein. Prior to booking in, we had lunch outside at The Laird's Arms. We had been lucky enough to reserve a room for the night at The Lord Milner Hotel (built in the early 1880s), which had previously said they were fully booked. We had a wonderful large room just up the very steep red carpeted ornate wooden stairs. That evening we had a very good meal of Springbok Carpaccio, followed by Karoo Lamb Shank & finished off with a Karoo Don Pedro. Just wonderful! The last time we stayed at The Lord Milner was in December 1993 & the room cost us R199 bed & breakfast. This time it cost R1,500 bed & breakfast!

The following morning, Sunday, we had a leisurely breakfast before departing for home. Back on to the N1 to Worcester via the Hex Pass & Valley where mostly table grapes are grown. At Worcester we turned left & back to Villiersdorp where we branched off on to the R45 & through the mountains to Franschhoek. Franschhoek was first settled by the Huguenots in 1688 & has many large well-known vineyards. We drove through the town which was crammed with traffic & tourists to Monneaux Restaurant at the Franschhoek Country House & Villas & sat outside for a shared charcuterie platter. A glass of bubbles for Anna & a glass of wine at R120 for Kevin! Then back on the R45 to Stellenbosch & onwards to Somerset West & home. The drive almost 5hrs after leaving Matjiesfontein & a total of 793.3kms.

It was a wonderful & very interesting three nights away from Somerset West

St Mary's University

St Mary's Launches the Race Equality Charter

St Mary's University, Twickenham is pleased to announce its commitment to addressing racial inequalities through the [Race Equality Charter](#) (REC), a framework provided by Advance HE through which institutions work to identify and address internal barriers faced by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff and students.

To formally initiate the University's engagement with the REC, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran [released a letter](#) in which he committed to the Charter and its [guiding principles](#). Following the letter's publication a self-assessment team (SAT) was assembled to lead the University's Race Equality Charter efforts, in consultation with St Mary's BAME & Allies Staff Network and BAME Student Network.



The SAT is co-chaired by Deputy Provost Prof Symeon Dagkas, Head of Organisational Development Tally Kandola, and Chief Information Officer Samuel Massiah. The SAT membership is comprised of staff and students from across the institution, representing a wide range of experiences, skills, and knowledge that will be instrumental in driving forward required changes at the University. It is also comprised of a majority of individuals from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, recognising that those with lived experience of racial inequality must be central in driving the University's REC efforts.

Over the next two years, the SAT will conduct the

University's self-assessment process and draft a three-year action plan, which will comprise the submission for a REC Bronze Award in early 2023.

Speaking of the launch of the REC, co-chair Prof Symeon Dagkas said, "I am honoured to be part of this journey as a co-chair of the REC with my other co-chair colleagues in putting together an action plan on addressing systemic change on issues of racial inequalities in HEIs. As an academic with experience in working with BAME groups I have a strong commitment to issues of social justice and I am excited to embark on this journey working collaboratively with St Mary's staff members."

Co-chair Tally Kandola added, "The REC brings a fantastic opportunity for St Mary's to make improvements in the representation, progression and success of black and minority ethnic staff. As a minority ethnic member of the St Mary's community I am pleased that the University has taken this significant step forward to bring cultural and systemic change. I am looking forward to working with our fantastic SAT members on this challenging and hugely important project."

Co-chair Samuel Massiah shared, "Having lived, studied and worked in the UK for over 50 years I can say that much progress has been made in the path towards a more equal society. However, recent events have starkly highlighted that there is still much, much more to do. So, I am honoured to be a part of the St Mary's effort to identify and address the inequality faced by our staff and students. I am confident that, together with this committed and talented group of staff and students, we can help the University become a more equal place to work and study, today, and for generations to come."



St Mary's
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HIDDEN FIGURES

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: **HIDDEN FIGURES** was the 800th film screened by RFS, on 12th March 2019. **Hidden Figures** was one of the four equal top ranked films of Season 56 (equal with **The Fencer, Truman** and **Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years**), it got an approval mark of 95% from those attending; from season 56 we have also already featured the companion three equal top films as **Issues 44, 47** and **51** and a fifth equal ranked film **I Got Life (Aurore)** as **Issue 49**. **Hidden Figures** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others. It's also been on TV quite a bit recently.

HIDDEN FIGURES

Country: USA 2016
 Director: Theodore Melfi
 Writing: Allison Schroeder & Theodore Melfi
 Editor: Peter Teschner
 Cinematography: Mandy Walker
 Running Time: 127 min, Colour
 Language: English

Leading Players:

Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Goble Johnson, mathematician
 Octavia Spencer as Dorothy Vaughan, mathematician and supervisor
 Janelle Monáe as Mary Jackson, mathematician and engineer
 Kevin Costner as Al Harrison, director of the Space Task Group
 Kirsten Dunst as Vivian Mitchell, supervisor
 Jim Parsons as Paul Stafford, head engineer in STG



To mark Science Week at The Exchange, we are delighted to screen **Hidden Figures**.

The Figure of the title can be seen as referring on the one hand to the central theme of mathematics in the film, and on the other hand to the gender - female - of the mathematicians. The Hidden might be interpreted as an engagement with the race of these female mathematicians - African Americans.

Hidden Figures is a 2016 American biographical drama film directed by Theodore Melfi and

written by Melfi and Allison Schroeder. It is loosely based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly about black female mathematicians who worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Space Race.

The film stars Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated flight trajectories for Project Mercury and other missions. The film also features Octavia Spencer as NASA supervisor and mathematician Dorothy Vaughan and Janelle Monáe as NASA engineer Mary Jackson, with Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst, Jim Parsons, Glen Powell and Mahershala Ali in supporting roles.

The film received positive reviews from critics and grossed \$236 million worldwide. It was chosen by National Board of Review as one of the top ten films of 2016 and was nominated for numerous awards, including three Oscar nominations (Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress for Spencer), and two Golden Globes (Best Supporting Actress for Spencer and Best Original Score). It also won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture.

Sara Steinke, with help from Wikipedia

A welcome return for the Arts – Landmark Arts Centre

The blossoms are out and the clocks have gone forward so we know that summer is on its way. This summer will be like no other with everybody looking forward to doing things we all took for granted 12 months ago and which now seem like moments to be cherished.

The Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington is looking forward to get back to doing what we are here for – a place where people can come to learn, listen, create and sing.



For us the past year has, like every other organisation, been one of enormous worry, particularly over money, and whether we would be able to continue at all. Thanks to the local community, support from Arts Council England and the Council we have been able to survive – our switch to socially distanced classrooms and digital helped enormously.

We had to react to whatever the latest rules and guidelines were and that's been good and bad; it's kept us on our toes and made us think laterally but it's made planning anything other than a few weeks ahead very difficult or impossible.

The lead time to arrange anything in the arts, be it concerts, theatre or educational activities is quite long; you can't just flick a switch and expect it to be there. So it's been very frustrating having to book activities, start marketing them and then have to shut down again and cancel.

That's been hard for us, but it's also been immensely difficult for artists themselves in any genre, but particularly in the performing arts. We know just how frustrated people have been by not being able to express themselves in front of an audience as well as the huge financial challenges they faced.

Research we did a few months ago told us that local people would be far more comfortable going out to local venues such as ours, than go up to central London. We're really looking forward to welcoming them back with a programme that will appeal to many very parts of the community. [So come on down to us!](#)





BRENTFORD FC

Five star performance sees Bees return to winning ways

Preston North End 0 - 5 Brentford

Brentford bounced back in emphatic style from a series of four consecutive draws with a dominant 5-0 victory at Deepdale against Preston North End.



First-half goals from Bryan Mbeumo and Marcus Forss had put the Bees in a commanding position and then a flurry late on, aided by strikes from Ivan Toney, Sergi Canós and Emiliano Marcondes ensured the Bees' hopes of automatic promotion live on.

The game was just nine minutes old when the away side took the lead courtesy of Mbeumo. Playing out from the back the ball was fed into Tariqe Fosu who turned and from just inside the Brentford half clipped a ball down the line for the advancing Mads Roerslev. The Dane escaped the Preston backline and passed across the face of goal to the back post for Mbeumo to curl in the opener past Daniel Iversen.

Roerslev then showed the defensive side of his game at the other end of the pitch as he diverted an attempt on the half-volley from Emil Jakobsen over the crossbar.

Forss then added a second for the Bees to ensure there was further daylight between the teams before the interval. Some determined dribbling from Mathias Jensen in the centre of the pitch allowed him to evade a challenge from Ryan Ledson and slip a pass through to the wing. Roerslev then once again claimed the assist as he pulled the ball back to the edge of the six-yard area for Forss to score.

In the second-half Brentford had a massive chance to add to their lead early on when Vitaly Janelt exchanged passes with Fosu on the edge of the area, but the German then lost his footing at the vital moment and his shot drifted wide.

Preston's first major chance came when a deep cross from Tom Barkhuizen found Sepp van den Berg at the back post, but under pressure from Mbeumo his header was tame and David Raya gathered easily.

With just under 15 minutes left to play Brentford ensure they would be taking all three points home with them after a third goal, this time from Toney. Fosu, who was industrious and energetic all afternoon, breezed past Van den Berg and then teed up the cross for the division's top scorer to head home at the back post.

Toney then turned provider as he set up Canós for a fourth. Racing onto a quickly taken free-kick from Christian Nørgaard, he dribbled to the by-line before pulling the ball across the six-

yard box for Canós to finish.

In injury time substitute Emiliano Marcondes completed the thrashing after a well worked team goal. A corner from Mbeumo had initially been cleared but the Bees recycle the ball well and Nørgaard passed to Canós inside the box. The Spaniard then played a delicately weighted through ball for Marcondes who squeezed the ball past Iversen for the fifth and to cap a perfect Brentford afternoon.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Millwall (H) Saturday 17th April 12:30 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Lions

Competition: Championship - Matchday 41

Manager: Gary Rowett

Opponent record: P41 W14 D16 L11 GF41 GA40 (9th in Championship)

Interesting fact: The Lions hold the record for the biggest single fanbase present for a domestic fixture at the new Wembley. 49,661 Millwall fans were in attendance for their League One play-off final defeat to Scunthorpe United in 2009.

Thomas Frank pre-match quotes:

'I believe in not changing game to game. So I believe we find something that has worked and we try to adjust that and make that even better going forward but I think I've showed that I'm not afraid of changing the system if it isn't working 100%. When you've found something I try always to optimize it under the certain stage but of course when we have Rico out that I think was a big blow.

Mads Bech deserves a huge amount of praise for his season in general. I think he's been performing very well at centre-back this season and I think he held up the team and gave his life out there but of course he is a different type [of player] compared to Rico. So I would say that was actually the biggest reason why we changed the system to what we have done.

Also I think Marcus is I would say maybe the player in our squad who hasn't got the real chance this season because he played behind the best striker in the league, maybe the best player. So he never really got the chance he deserved with his pre-season, his cup run, with his minutes coming off the bench. Even when I play him to the side he still scores goals. So I was pleased to see him in his preferred role.'

Game 2

Opponent: Cardiff City (H) Tuesday 20th April 18:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Bluebirds

Competition: Championship - Matchday 42

Manager: Mick McCarthy

Opponent record: P42 W16 D12 L14 GF57 GA45 (8th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Cardiff City are the only team from outside of England to have won the FA Cup following their 1-0 victory at Wembley in the final against Arsenal in 1927.

Come on you Bees!

Red Roses through to Six Nations final after Italy win

The Red Roses booked a place in the Women's Six Nations final after registering a bonus-point 67-3 win over Italy in Parma.

Simon Middleton's side crossed nine times at Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi to top Pool A, having already defeated Scotland 52-10 last weekend. Italy started positively, showing early attacking promise by spreading the ball wide and probing threatening kicks deep into English territory. The hosts were disruptive in defence too, scuppering multiple meaningful Red Roses plays inside the opening quarter.

Though Italy had a greater share of possession, England scored first. On the 22-minute mark, Emily Scarratt scooped up a wayward Italian pass on the halfway line and sprinted unopposed under the sticks, before converting her own effort.

Eight minutes later and England's second score mimicked their first. Against the run of play, Meg Jones intercepted an inaccurate pass before cantering toward the Italian line. She was brought down short, but calmly lifted an offload into the path of Vicky Fleetwood, who duly dotted down. Scarratt's extras giving her side a 14-point cushion. Moments after that conversion Scarratt was shown a yellow card for a high tackle, which allowed Italy to claim their first points of the Test via the boot of outside centre Michela Sillari.

But fly half Helena Rowland kept the scoreboard ticking over and answered the Italian effort with a penalty of her own to make it 3-17 at the break. Italy started the second half with the same ferocity they did in the first, and looked sure to score early on, only for a smart Ellie Kildunne intercept to thwart their expansive play.

Back on the field, and seven minutes into the resumption, Scarratt nailed a straightforward penalty in front of the sticks to see England hit the 20-point mark. Italy scrum half Sara Barattin was sin binned for a cynical infringement at a promising England rolling maul, and the visitors took immediate advantage, breaking blind off the back of another rolling maul and sending Abby Dow over in the corner. Scarratt's conversion made 3-27.

Harriet Millar-Mills banked England's bonus-point try, finishing off the neat run of Alex Matthews, before Rowland crossed on the hour mark for her second try in as many games. Scarratt converted both. England opened Italy up in the final quarter, rounding off a comprehensive victory with further tries from Dow, Bryony Cleall, Claudia MacDonald and Lark Davies.

The performance marked England's 22nd consecutive win against Italy, and stretched their winning run in the Six Nations to 13 matches.

Reaction

Head coach Simon Middleton said: *"I was really, really pleased with the performance in the second half. We talked about what we needed to do at half time and I thought the team came out and delivered it in spade loads. What we've been working towards, and what we'll continue to work towards, is how high we can sustain the energy in the game and we did that right to the end, and got stronger and stronger. We wanted to play with more possession for a start, back ourselves a bit more and play in areas where we tend to kick more often than not. Looking ahead to the final, we're going to have to pick the bones out of both games as a lot of people have put their hand up. It is a great position to be in as we've got some fantastic depth and players who are playing well. Some of the cameo performances at the end were fantastic. We've got some good choices."*

Player of the Match Megan Jones said: *"It was a tough ride first half, they came at us pretty hard, but I think we turned it around pretty well in the second half. Credit to the girls, we were just trying to be clinical."*

Captain Sarah Hunter added: *"We had to bide our time, and that's credit to Italy who put us under pressure. I think the second half performance probably reflects more of what we've been doing over the last few months in training."*

Fixtures and results

Red Roses 52 - 10 Scotland

Italy 3 - 67 Red Roses

Saturday 24 April: Finals weekend (Red Roses v Winner B, Second place A v Second place B, Third place A v Third place B) - Venue TBC.

Friday 30 April: France v Red Roses (2000 BST) - Villeneuve d'Ascq, Lille.



New report from Woodland Trust provides evidence of compounding threats that pose catastrophic consequences for UK woods and trees

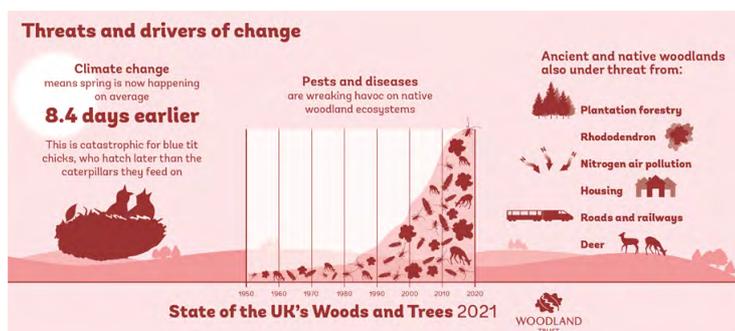
A new report published by the Woodland Trust brings together evidence which highlights a barrage of compounding threats which could have catastrophic consequences for the UK's woods, trees and the flora and fauna within them.

The **State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021** examines the data and evidence behind the health of the nation's woods and trees. It is the first of its kind to focus on native woods and trees, which are such an important part of our natural and semi-natural habitats in this country. It shows that 5 major threats are compounding to result in negative impacts that could spell disaster for wildlife including plants, birds, butterflies and insects.

Abi Bunker, Director of Conservation and External Affairs, Woodland Trust said:

"The warning signs in this report are loud and clear. If we don't tackle the threats facing our woods and trees, we will severely damage the UK's ability to address the climate and nature crises. Our wildlife havens are suffering, and we are storing up problems for future generations.

"The first step is setting legally binding targets for the recovery of nature, including our precious and irreplaceable ancient woodlands and trees. The Government's new Environment Bill must provide the foundation for ambitious, effective and well-funded woodland policies and grants so that landowners and communities can protect, restore and create wildlife-rich, healthy wooded and treed landscapes, in towns, cities and the wider countryside. There is no success in hitting creation targets if our existing woods and trees are struggling and in decline."



The major threats include:

1. Poor woodland condition
2. Climate change affecting woodland lifecycles
3. Direct loss and resulting fragmentation
4. Pests, diseases and pollution
5. Slow rate of woodland expansion

Declining woodland condition

- Only 7% of native woodland is in good condition.
- Lack of dead wood, veteran trees and open space are causing declining habitat variety.
- 50% of ancient woodland is damaged by commercial forestry plantations or rhododendron invasion.
- A large proportion of woodland SSSIs are in "unfavourable condition".
- Woodland butterflies such as white admiral, heath and pearl-bordered fritillaries are in steep decline.
- Dead wood beetles such as bee, noble and rose chafer beetles are in steep decline – a key food source for bats.
 - Woodland specialist birds have declined by over 80% since 1970: including willow tit (declined 94% since 1970 – Britain's fastest declining resident bird), lesser spotted woodpecker, lesser redpoll, spotted flycatcher, and capercaillie.
- Flowering plants like spreading bellflower, and lily of the valley are in decline.

Climate change affecting woodland lifecycles

- Changing phenology (the timing of nature's seasonal events) caused by climate change is impacting food supply and synchrony leading to reduced breeding success and species decline.
- Trees are leafing earlier in warmer years - birds such as blue tit are struggling to adjust breeding times accordingly to benefit from leaf caterpillars.
- Migratory birds like pied flycatcher cannot adjust behaviour to take account of early leafing in UK Spring, resulting in reduced breeding success and survival rates (down 43% since 1970 baseline).

Loss and fragmentation of woods and trees

- Only 2.5% of UK land area is ancient woodland, many ancient woods are now isolated.
- At least 1225 ancient woodlands are currently under threat from destruction by new built development.
 - 85% of individual field trees have been lost over last 150 years, shown in a study of the 'Eastern claylands' of Norfolk and Suffolk likely to be replicated across the UK.
- Habitat fragmentation causing declines in species abundance
 - Marsh tit - one of the UK's fastest declining birds – 70% decline in numbers since 1970, depends on well-connected woods for breeding success;
- Hazel pot beetle, once widespread is now one of UK's rarest insects due to loss of scrubby woodland edge habitats.

Pests, diseases and pollution

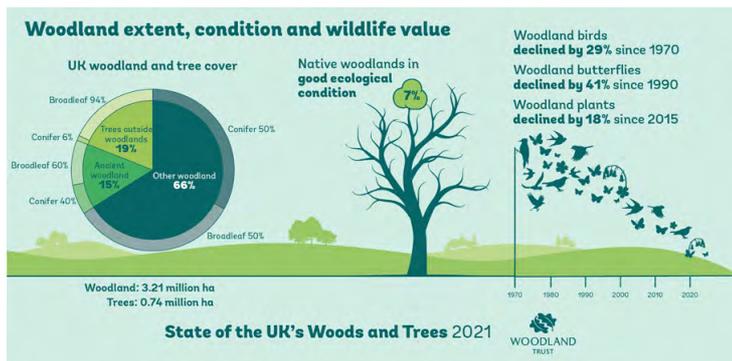
- 19 new damaging **tree pests and diseases** have established in UK since 1990, and only 4 in the previous 40 years.
- A ten-fold increase in imported live plant value since 1990 is likely fueling the increase in new tree disease and pests.
- For every £1 earned from importing plants, it costs £50 to manage the resultant pests and disease.
 - Tree disease and pests causing local extinctions of wildlife species across the UK; 120 million ash trees alone to be lost to ADB meaning at least 106 ash-dependent species could see dramatic declines.
 - Nearly all UK woods **exceed thresholds for nitrogen pollution** which is wiping out lichens and other species leading to disruption and decline of ecosystems and causing micro-extinctions.
- Clean air lichens (e.g. beard and horsehair lichens) are disappearing from tree trunks and branches.
 - Nitrogen-tolerant grasses and plants are wiping out woodland flowers such as violets, bugle, heather and bilberry. Fears that Bluebells might be decreasing in some woods as other woodland plants like wild garlic dominate.

Slow rate of expansion

- Only 290,000ha of new woodland created over last 20 years – next 20 years need to create at least 600,000ha. Speed of expansion not fast enough.
- Over last 5 years only 45% of new woodland comprised broadleaf trees – need to increase proportion of new *native* trees to tackle nature crisis.
- Trees outside of woods not being replaced, yet the two most common species - oak and ash - are threatened.

Compounding effects

- Most woods and trees impacted by more than one of the above threats *at the same time*.
 - e.g. **Scotland's rare rainforest habitat** is under threat from overgrazing by deer, plantation forestry, invasive rhododendron, tree disease (especially ash dieback), nitrogen air pollution, and climate change. This results in increased rates of wildlife decline and loss.
- Groups of **indicator species** for all UK woods are showing steep declines. Average 47% decline in woodland specialist birds, 41% decline in butterflies 18% decline in woodland flowering plants.
- The willow tit is the fastest declining woodland bird because of poor woodland condition, climate impacts, and habitat fragmentation.
- Even our iconic oak is under threat from climate change, disease and pests and pollution.



To reverse these threats and avoid catastrophic consequences for wildlife and plants the below key recommendations need to be implemented.

1. Native woodland must be a major part of woodland expansion, to help nature recover. We need more native woodland connecting and expanding existing woods and replacing lost trees outside woods.*
2. Enhance existing woods and trees. Existing native woods and trees must be protected and enhanced to become a source of widespread nature recovery and improve people's lives.
3. Improve evidence and monitoring.
4. Invest in the future.

A healthy society needs healthy woods and green spaces, not only to help tackle climate change, but also greatly benefits people's health and wellbeing. View the full report [HERE](#)



WOODLAND TRUST

'Championing' Dementia Care in Care Homes

Princess Alice Hospice Education & Research department is working with Signature Senior Lifestyle to embark on a five-month programme to train 'End of Life Care Dementia Champions' across its network of 13 luxury care homes.

Signature Senior Lifestyle was looking for a way to increase its expertise in dementia care - they approached the Hospice for help in bringing together and educating the champions to increase their knowledge, skills, and confidence which will then allow them to be a valuable resource to support all care home staff and residents with dementia. A spokesperson for Signature said: "This programme is a wonderful step in ensuring that our residents are getting all the very best care that can be provided, as well as giving family members, friends, and loved ones all the support they could need."

Using a mix of teaching and interactive learning carried out via Zoom, the Dementia Champions have been encouraged to bring examples from practice which are then used as a basis for discussion and learning.

The role of the champion is to implement organisational change and support mechanisms to facilitate best practice in end of life care for residents with dementia.

Signature went on to say, "We are extremely pleased with the progress with End of Life Care Dementia Champions. As ever, peace of mind, security and reassurance for our residents and their loved ones is of the utmost importance and never has it been more apparent than during the difficulties of the last year.

"It has naturally been a very difficult period for everyone but we are greatly looking forward to implementing this programme, seeing its effects and standing proud behind what can be accomplished in care."

This has been echoed by Anne Reed, Community Outreach Practitioner from Princess Alice Hospice who has been impressed with the commitment that staff have made. She said: "Seeing the commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by the staff caring for residents with dementia to this programme is a real testament to Signature Senior Lifestyle, especially considering the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This can only serve to enhance the care given to residents with dementia in these environments."

Princess Alice Education & Research department can offer the programme to other care home groups or tailor-make a programme to meet different training requirements.



Princess Alice
Hospice

For Compassion. For People.

From science to reality: Climeworks direct air capture technology is part of new Science Museum exhibition *Our Future Planet* in London

Climeworks' role in the exhibition:

Climeworks gets one step closer to its vision of inspiring 1 billion people to remove carbon dioxide from the air by becoming part of the Science Museum's exhibition *Our Future Planet* in London.

Climeworks is lending one of its first CO₂ collectors to the Science Museum – one of the key objects in the exhibition. Thus, visitors can see closely the technology that Climeworks is already operating in 14 facilities across Europe, with [Orca](#) (currently under construction) being its 15th and the largest.

By being part of *Our Future Planet*, Climeworks wants to highlight the importance of technological solutions to remove CO₂, which are needed in addition to natural removal solutions and emission reduction if the world wants to get to net-zero emissions.

While planting trees comes with added benefits such as increased biodiversity, it cannot be easily scaled due to its water and surface area requirements and competition with other land uses. Also, since trees store CO₂ in their biomass while growing, it cannot always be guaranteed that the CO₂ is removed permanently: wildfires or deforestation can destroy forests and release CO₂ back into the atmosphere.

Direct air capture is a complementary approach to planting trees: it is highly scalable due to its small physical footprint and removing CO₂ via direct air capture is permanent and fully measurable.

By being part of *Our Future Planet*, Climeworks wants to demonstrate that anyone can play a role in scaling solutions like direct air capture. The company strives to make our solution accessible to everyone by allowing people to [join our mission](#) and remove CO₂ with their technology, which is showcased in the museum.

Climeworks is grateful for the opportunity to be part of *Our Future Planet*, as this creates more awareness around technological solutions to climate change.

About the exhibition:

The exhibition showcases different carbon capture solutions and runs from 19 May 2021 (UK Government guidelines permitting) to 4 September 2022 in time for the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference COP26, taking place in Glasgow in November.

With its exhibition, the Science Museum creates awareness around the need to actively remove CO₂ from the air in addition to reducing current emissions. Both are required to get to net-zero emissions globally.

Our Future Planet features nature-based methods to remove carbon dioxide from the air, such as trees, as well as technological solutions like direct air capture. The exhibition also highlights CO₂ storage options, such as the underground mineralization of CO₂ or storage beneath the seabed (something the UK and Norway are exploring for the North Sea) as well as possible uses of air-captured CO₂. Additionally, systems that capture CO₂ directly at the point of emission are discussed. In the final section, visitors will learn how these technologies could impact their lives, from captured carbon being used in toothpaste, yoga mats and even vodka, and inspire them with the ways carbon capture technology can help mitigate climate change.



Half Page

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