

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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23rd April 2021

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Ten places available to support The Mayor's Charities at this year's AIR:RUN 10K in Kew Gardens
The Mayor's charities will be represented by ten runners at next month's Richmond RUNFEST AIR:RUN 10K. Residents can take part for free in the event by running and raising funds on behalf of the Mayor's charities.

The Richmond RUNFEST AIR:RUN 10K will take place inside Kew Gardens on Saturday, 15 May 2021 as well as Saturday, 11 September 2021.

If you would like to run on behalf of the Mayor's charities please email mayors.office@richmond.gov.uk to register.

New partnership to drive efforts to make Richmond Dementia Friendly

Age UK Richmond has been commissioned by Richmond Council to support the borough's efforts to become Dementia Friendly and is encouraging anyone affected by dementia, or organisations and businesses who are keen to become more dementia friendly, to sign up to the Dementia Friendly initiative.

Contact Sara Wilcox on sara.wilcox@ageukrichmond.org.uk or 0203 816 0020 to sign up or to find out more about Dementia Friendly Communities.

Arts Richmond announce first ever radio play writing competition

Arts Richmond is looking for aspiring radio dramatists to take part in this exciting project. Have you or your group been looking for a new, Covid secure way to express yourself? Then enter Arts Richmond's first ever radio play writing competition.

Plays should be 15 minutes long, have four characters and must never have been produced previously. The competition is open only to those who live or study in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

After being read by an experienced panel, four playwrights will then be invited to submit their recorded work for final judging by an industry professional. The winner will receive an Arts Richmond Radio Drama cup and £100.

[Read the full contest description](#). Submit your work to:info@artsrichmond.org.uk

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



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TwickerSeal was enjoying some of our recent sunshine in the Diamond Jubilee Gardens when he bumped into TwickerDuck, also a fan of the DJG.

TwickerSeal remarked that little has been heard about the council's Twickenham Riverside Development plans recently. TwickerDuck quipped that the council was busy quietly preparing its planning application and probably wanted as little said as possible while they ... ahem ... got their ducks in a row.

But how can they get their ducks in a row when there are so many unresolved issues, not least the DJG? The council has to reprovise the DJG in a manner at least as good as, though ideally better, than the existing **public open space**.

TwickerSeal remembered past wonderful events on the DJG, but couldn't imagine how these could happen in the future on the proposed new DJG, which is nothing more than a collection of terraced landscaping. As it stands the council is failing in its obligation to the Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT) regarding the DJG and the TRT cannot meet its obligation to the people of Twickenham. If the council resorts to proceeding with its Compulsory Purchase Order, then it will find itself in a lengthy and acrimonious battle, not just with the TRT, but also with Twickenham residents.

TwickerSeal wonders how the council intends on squaring this particular circle.

Photo courtesy Twickenham Alive

Diamond Jubilee Gardens Christmas event



'Terrace Gardens - Richmond'

The Gardens, which have in the last decade undergone extensive refurbishment, were originally formed from three separate eighteenth century estates and opened as a public park in 1887. The steep elevation which permits a view over the river Thames, nevertheless provides for a perfect afternoons walking, picnicking and enjoying the formal and informal planting and seasonal herbaceous borders.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization Overview 20 April 2021

“Globally, new COVID-19 cases rose for the eighth consecutive week, with over 5.2 million new cases reported in the last week. The number of new deaths increased for the fifth consecutive week, increasing by 8% compared to last week, with over 83 000 new deaths reported. While all regions except the European Region reported an increase in incident cases in the last week, the largest increase continues to be reported by the South-East Asia Region, largely driven by India, followed by the Western Pacific Region.”

India Added to the UK Red List Travel Ban Countries

As cases in India rise, with reports of oxygen shortages and hospitals overwhelmed, India has been added to the UK travel ban red list.

Total cases to 23 April 2021

10,825 Richmond upon Thames

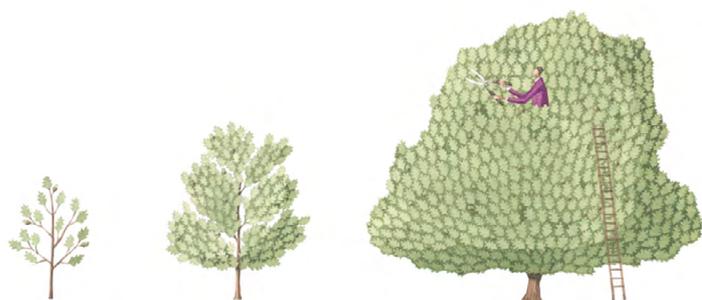
12,234 Kingston upon Thames

24,807 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,051,736

USA	563,224	South Africa	53,940
Brazil	378,003	Indonesia	44,007
Mexico	213,048	Ukraine	41,266
India	184,567	Turkey	36,975
The United Kingdom	127,327	Czechia	28,787
Italy	117,997	Romania	26,793
Russian Federation	107,103	Hungary	26,001
France	101,230	Chile	25,353
Germany	80,893	Belgium	23,867
Spain	77,364	Canada	23,713
Colombia	69,177	Ecuador	17,804
Iran	67,913	Netherlands	16,983
Poland	64,168	Portugal	16,952
Argentina	59,792	Pakistan	16,600
Peru	57,954	Philippines	16,265



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

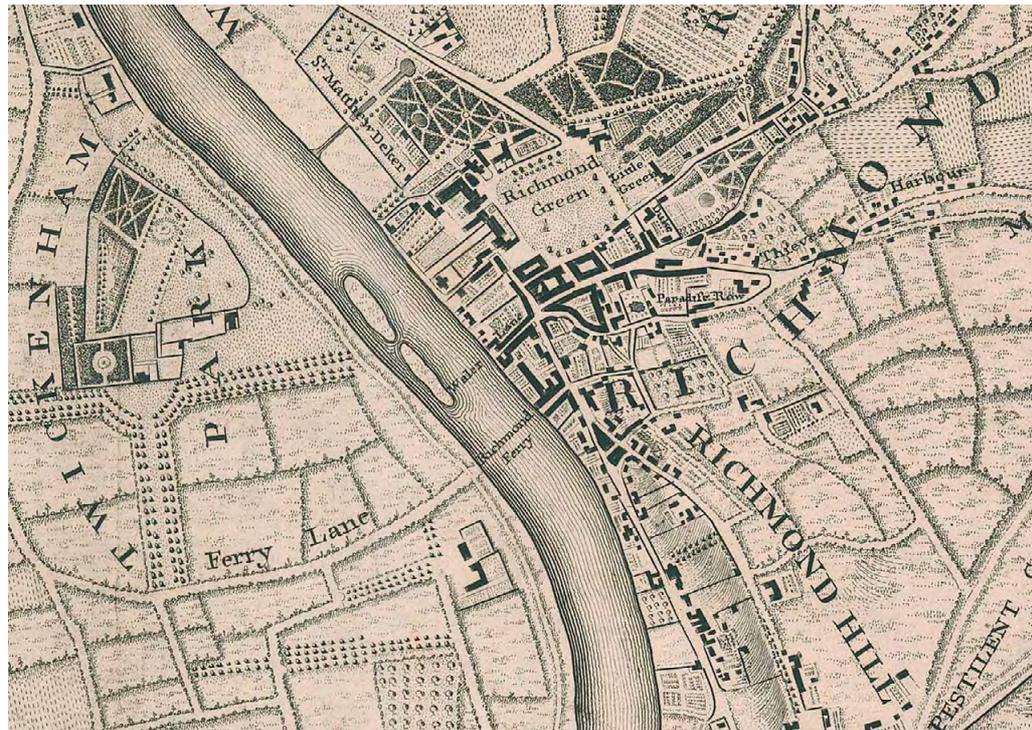
Near Ten Miles around

By Simon Fowler

How did Richmond and Twickenham look 270 years ago? There was no Richmond Bridge (opened 1776) of course nor Strawberry Hill (built 1749 and extended in 1760). Instead of roads, railways and houses there were small fields: market gardens for the most part supplying fruit and vegetables to London. Together with large areas of common land which was used for grazing animals.

Some answers can be found in a detailed map drawn by John Rocque, titled 'An Exact Survey of the Citys of London, Westminster, ye Borough of Southwark, and the Country near Ten Miles round' which covers much of what is now Greater London. The first edition was published in 1746.

The village of Twickenham hides behind Eel Pie Island, while Richmond itself lies around the Green and is beginning to advance up the Hill and towards London. Teddington, Barnes and Petersham are little more than riverside hamlets. What remains largely unchanged is the roads network, even, if in the 1740s, they largely unpaved and often impassable in poor weather.



The detail is extraordinary. Individual houses and even cottages are shown. The map shows features that were once familiar, but have long been lost, such as Twickenham Park, covering much of present-day St Margarets. The 'Queen's Private Road' was a lane between trees that went roughly between where the Pagoda in Kew Gardens is now and Sheen Common. Just south of Teddington was Mr Goodchild's 'Bleech Field for Scotch and Irish Linnens' perhaps a sign of an important local business.

Inevitably there were some omissions and errors. Perhaps the greatest omission is Marble Hill House, which was built between 1722 and 1729 for Henrietta Hawkes, the mistress of George II. On the site is just shown an unnamed cottage.

There was some fluidity in street names; perhaps people weren't sure what they were, or the mapmakers misheard. Several examples appear on the map for Richmond, for example, such as, Pestilent Common for Pesthouse Common and Horse Lane for Kew Horse Lane (now Kew Road).

Other names either never existed or perhaps did so for only a few years. In Richmond a row of houses – romantically called Thieves' Harbour - on what is now Sheen Road appears on the 1746 edition. The name had vanished by the 1768 edition. Was it just a trap road, a fictitious street added by cartographers to protect their rights, or was a local rookery or row of slum dwellings?

We may never know.

A high-resolution copy of the 1746 edition is at <https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/15826791>

Ferns

By Kas Rasenberg

Some plants may retire in the winter, whereas others will hold on to the leaves that have grown in past seasons. The grounds of Marble Hill Park are covered in a diversity of such plants. One of the vascular varieties, which will retain its colour throughout the seasons, is the humble fern or the *polypodiopsida*. Much like the Ginkgo, the fern has been named a living fossil, as it is amongst the oldest of our plants.

We might be inclined to think of a fern as a feather-like leaf, but the plant has many different shades and contours. The leaves of a Siebold's wood may resemble a triangle, whereas those of the Mayi are crested and forked. One of the older specimens was the Marattialean tree, which had a dense mantle of roots and was widely distributed during the late Paleozoic period. The tree, however, no longer grows and all that is left are some petrified fragments of its wood.



The first fronds of the 'Lady fern' (Athyrium filix-femina) appearing in the restored woodland quarters at Marble Hill Park.



The Ice House planted up with the 'Male fern' (Dryopteris filix-mas).

I have read that a few of these fragments have been found near the east-German city of Chemnitz. A few silicified stems and some large pectopteris leaves are said to have remained largely intact. The trees had once been a part of a circular forest, which, some 290 million years ago, had been destroyed by a volcanic eruption. Only the stems that had stood in the outer-ring have been preserved by the following rain.

The distribution of ferns remains, as most things, something of a mystery. Their papery leaves have acclimatised to a large array of regions. They might occur in the crevices of rocks, such as the quartzite or the dolomites, and have grown in the vicinity of streams. Some ferns have ravaged rice fields, whereas others might spring up in abandoned pastures. Even in the Arctic, a few of their species have occurred.

Fossilised ferns may be of a particular beauty, but their usage throughout history has not been without consequences. Ancient writers were the first to describe the discovery of black stones, which later came to be known as coal. Ferns have been used to light funeral pyres, and have been burned in the factories of the Victorians. It is the remnants of these plants that may partially be responsible for London's renowned black mists and fog.

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Green Party

Promoted by Caroline Wren on behalf of the Richmond & Twickenham Green Party, 80 Fulwell Road, Teddington TW11 0RA
web - www.richmondandtwickenham.greenparty.org.uk  @RichTwickGreens and  @RTGreenParty

Sian Berry responds to being backed by current Mayor

Reacting to the current Mayor of London encouraging his supporters to give their second vote to the Green Party in the upcoming London election Sian Berry said:

“The current Mayor backing the Greens reflects the constructive challenge Greens have been in City Hall for five years, putting forward new ideas he sometimes takes up, and continuing to challenge when he gets things wrong, like the polluting Silvertown Road Tunnel.



“The strongest green vote in London is to put the Green Party as your first choice. Your second vote is for second best. That’s your insurance and there is no risk of another mayor like Boris Johnson if you put a real green recovery first.

“Londoners have the choice to vote for something hugely positive in this election. More and more people are choosing real change and backing the Greens. If you want Green, you can vote Green.”



Removal of Mature Trees in Orleans Gardens, Twickenham

Information sent to the Tribune by Strawberry Hill residents Henry Boxer and Lula Brockway

We have recently discovered the council's plans to cut down at least 10 mature trees in Orleans Gardens. It is claimed that these trees will become dangerous within 10 years.

We understand that this is a conservation area and therefore the largest trees in question are subject to TPO's (Tree Preservation Orders).



From inquiries it seems the council is intent on this course of action and have pencilled in May 10th as the date to proceed.



Job Number and other pertinent information regarding the Council's plan to fell these mature trees within a 3 week period.

If one walks in Richmond Park I would estimate there are 500 plus similar trees which the Council have no plans to remove.

The removal of these beautiful mature specimens, especially the three very large Oaks on the river bank, will destroy the beauty of the park for years to come.

None of the smaller trees seem to pose any risk whatsoever, and if there was concern about the three large oaks on the riverbank these could easily have their boughs lopped/trimmed by a specialist team to avoid their removal, which would of course be disastrous, destroying this loved Arcadian vista for generations.

We really feel another solution is possible. If you go to look at these trees you will see that at the very least this needs to be appealed.

Following the receipt of emails, the Tribune contacted the Parks Department at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames who passed the query to the press office:

“A recent survey of all trees in Orleans Gardens has taken place; this was conducted by an Arboriculturist as part of the scheduled 4 yearly detailed inspection regimes that has been devised for all Council highway and parks trees. This cycle of inspection is in place to ensure that the Council is able to assess the condition of the Borough’s trees and if there are any that are in poor structural condition and at risk of collapse or failure.

All 103 of Orleans Gardens trees have been assessed. Unfortunately, and as to be expected with such an extensive asset survey of trees of varying age and condition, we have identified 12 trees that can no longer be safely retained and will therefore be carrying our complete removal, this is necessary to ensure the safety of people visiting the park.

As with any tree removal replacement will be taking place and we will be conducting this during the next planting season, which runs from November through to March “.



A guide to voting in the Greater London Authority (GLA) Elections, Thursday 6th May

By Richard Bennett,

Councillor, South Twickenham Ward, and Leader of the Green Party Group. Richmond Council

Delayed for a year due to the pandemic, the elections for the Mayor and Members of the London Assembly are on May 6th.

Unusual for England, but common around the world, these elections are mostly run under a system of Proportional Representation (PR) rather than the “First Past the Post” or “Winner Takes All” method.

The Green Party has long campaigned for PR elections as fairer and more “grown up”, encouraging a healthier, more collaborative form of politics with greater voter engagement and participation.

People voting for smaller parties get representation. Their votes are not a wasted vote. In 2016 the Green Party vote of 8% gave us two Assembly Members in the 25-member Assembly, and very effective they have been. We hope to do even better this time around, aiming for four members.



Sian Berry (left) with Andree Frieze (right)

The Assembly is important. It is responsible for examining the Mayor’s strategies and decisions, and approving the Mayor’s budget.

I encourage you to vote and support a sensible democratic system, regardless of which party you want to win. This guide aims to make it easier for you whether you’re voting by post or at a Polling Station on Election Day.

For the latter it will be a rather different voting experience to normal. Expect a one-way system, to have to sanitise your hands and wear a face covering. Take your own pen or pencil. A Perspex screen will separate polling station staff and electors.

Greater London Elections have three components with three separate ballot papers. These are:

***Mayor (pink ballot paper)**

Voters have a first and second preference vote for the Mayor. Be careful to put the 'X' in Column A (1st choice) and Column B (2nd). If no candidate has an overall majority then all but two candidates are eliminated. The second preference votes for these two candidates are then added in to produce a winner. The Green Party's candidate for Mayor is Sian Berry.

***Constituency Members on Assembly (yellow) - 14**

The 32 Boroughs + the City of London are grouped into 14 constituencies. Richmond, Hounslow and Kingston form the South West Constituency. This is a first past the post ballot and you vote for one candidate only. The winner is the one with most votes. The Green Party candidate is Richmond Councillor, Andree Frieze.

***Assembly List Members (orange) - 11**

Each Party has a list (or "slate") of candidates ranked in order of precedence. Electors just vote for the Party they support. A formula allocates the 11 seats proportionally between the parties which received at least 5% of the vote.

Simple!

Do remember that postal voters who miss the deadline can submit their ballot papers at any polling station in their borough on 6th May.

EU Citizens who are registered to vote in the UK can take part in these elections.

The votes will be counted at London Olympia on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th May with the Mayor and London-wide Assembly Members declared on Saturday evening. Just one more thing.... if you live in Hampton Wick there is a by-election for a local ward Councillor so another ballot paper to fill in. Chas Warlow is our candidate. He hopes to work alongside 2 Liberal Democrat Councillors as his Green predecessor did.

Do take part and, whoever you support, Good Luck!



Andree Frieze (left) and Richard Bennett (right)

St George's Day

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

23 April is traditionally celebrated as St George's Day, and his flag, a red cross on a white background, is flown. I always fly it on this day.

For some reason, there is markedly less enthusiasm in England to celebrate our national day than that found in Scotland, Wales and Ireland when their respective patron's day comes round.

George was a soldier in the Roman army, a member of the Praetorian Guard, an elite unit whose job was to protect the Emperor. His father was Greek, his mother from Palestine. He was martyred in 303 AD for refusing to renounce his Christian faith. He has been adopted in many countries as an exemplar of chivalry and knighthood. Thus, the Crusaders wore his badge, and Edward III on this day in 1348 founded the Order of the



Garter and put it under the banner of St George. St George's chapel in Windsor, the site of the funeral of Prince Philip, was named for him, as protector and patron of the Royal Family.

The story of George killing a dragon to save a fair maiden is a universal and popular myth, which depicts the triumph of good over evil, or light over darkness. It has been the subject over the years of many striking artistic works.

April 23 is the birthday of William Shakespeare (also, among others, Shirley Temple and Roy Orbison).

Suggestions over recent years that there should be a Bank Holiday on St George's Day have so far fallen on deaf ears. But well remembered are Shakespeare's words put into the mouth of Henry V at the battle of Agincourt: "Cry God for Harry, England and St George"

Greener regime for highway grass verges

Richmond Council is trialling a new approach to managing its highway grass verges, by significantly reducing how often they are cut to enhance the borough's biodiversity and reduce its carbon footprint.

The current maintenance regime means all highway grass verges are cut approximately every two to three weeks during the growing season.

The new cutting regime will split the borough's grass verges into three categories: urban highways, rural highways and conservation highways. These categories will determine how often the verges will be maintained. Urban highways will be maintained monthly during the growing season, rural highways will be cut around three times per year and conservation highways will be cut once a year at the end of the growing season. You can check which highways fall into which category by using [this map](#).

By leaving grass verges to grow, biodiversity will increase, habitats will improve for native flora and fauna, the borough's air quality will improve and the Council's carbon footprint will reduce.

Find more details on the [benefits of the new maintenance regime](#).

Ishbel Murray, Assistant Director for Environment and Community Services, Richmond Council, said:



“There is approximately 171,364 square metres of highway grass verge in the borough. By letting our verges grow, we are working towards our cleaner and greener borough.

“The Council's Parks Team has worked closely with our grounds maintenance contractor to assign appropriate maintenance regimes for each highway grass verge. Decision making has been based on the size and location of grass verges, safety and visibility considerations, nearby facilities, and previous feedback from residents.

“The new maintenance regime will be monitored, and feedback will be collated and used to make any revisions going forward.”

In support of the plan for Elleray Hall

The Trustees of Elleray Community Association

Many readers will be aware of the debate on the future of Elleray Hall - a social lifeline for many of Teddington's older people. Briefly, the council proposes to build a new centre on the small North Lane car park and fund this via an affordable housing development on the site of the existing hall.

The Elleray Community Association trustees favour this plan which provides everything our members need. It is the result of over 15 years of discussion about a replacement for the current dilapidated building which is something of an eyesore, is incredibly expensive to heat and maintain and can no longer provide the facilities that members need. Rebuilding the Centre on the current site would pose huge problems – it would be difficult and expensive to secure suitable temporary accommodation with the necessary access, facilities and storage while a rebuild takes place. We could even have to operate out of multiple sites, creating many practical problems. Remember, our members have just endured a very difficult and lonely year; we have been closed for months on end and many have also been shielding. They really do not deserve another 18 months of confusion, delay and disruption. We want to see this plan move forward.



A widely circulated leaflet has been encouraging people to sign an online petition objecting to the council's proposal. Of course, everyone is entitled to raise objections, but the leaflet contains a number of false and misleading statements. These are not all repeated in the text accompanying the online petition, but many people will have simply signed the petition on the basis of the highly questionable text in the leaflet. Some will have even signed thinking that we agree with it!

For instance, the leaflet claims we will lose our garden and car park. This is untrue. The new plan includes both garden and parking space for our accessible minibus, cars and a car club vehicle. The leaflet also states that the North Lane site is unsafe for pedestrians and children. This is contrived nonsense. Were we concerned about the site's safety we would have been the first to raise objections! Many of our members already use this road to get to KC Pharmacy and Tesco and in any case, the site can easily be accessed from the top of Elleray Road – its entrance is barely 100 yards from the entrance to the current hall.

We make no comment on the housing development as this has nothing to do with us.

So in conclusion, the trustees of Elleray Community Association favour the proposal for the new centre. It will be good for our members, the community and the high street, will further enhance the local area and will become one more reason why Teddington is such a great place to live.

A video giving details of our services and our reactions to the new plan can be seen at https://www.richmond.gov.uk/elleray_hall_reprovision

Dear Sir,

Re Simon Fowler's article "The Road through the Fields"

I would very much like to hear from any relatives of the five people who were involved in the car accident that occurred at Twickenham Bridge in 1936, (see Simon Fowler's article on p.7 [Edition 232](#)), please, as I am the daughter of Queen Warren, the 21-yr. old woman who died.

Those in the car were George Morgan, aged 29, of 418 Kingston Road, Raynes Park; Frank Jackson-Willis, aged 28, of Chestnut Road, Raynes Park; Miss Olive Thomas, aged 27, of 70 Windsor Road, Richmond; and Mr. Reginald Bell, aged 24, of 85 Chestnut Road, Raynes Park.

Many many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Young (Poole, Dorset)

(Editor's note: If you have any information for Shirley please contact us at contact@TwickenhamTribune.com and we will pass on your details. Shirley also asks if anyone has any old photos of The Waterman's Arms in The Square, Isleworth, as back in the early 1900's it had been owned and run by her great grandparents, Francis Emanuel de la Haye and his wife Elizabeth)

Singchronised!

Primary schools will be brought together to celebrate the return of singing to the Borough between 24 and 28 May.

Singchronised is an opportunity for all the primary schools in the Borough to join as one voice across Richmond.

During the **w/c 24th May 2021** schools are invited to perform a medley of the 4 big songs that they had learnt for the 2020 Primary Singing Festival which was cancelled at the very start of the first lockdown.

Singchronised enables pupils to enjoy singing the songs knowing that thousands of children from the local area are also singing with them.

Over the course of the week each school will perform the big songs, creating a sequence of performances that will celebrate the return of singing across the Borough. More info [HERE](#)



RICHMOND

 TRUST

The Pavement Licence Saga resolved!!

By Shona Lyons

Well this week has been a very busy one, juggling travel work and Church Street issues, particularly the saga of the pavement licence. It did get very heated with lots of emails going back and forth and finally a small troop of council officers came to see what all the indignation was all about and Bruce spent a few hours visiting each premises in Church Street and finally a compromise was reached!

So now the hospitality businesses can stretch beyond the yellow lines and the curb in cases like Corto, where the curb is literally a few centimetres outside her doorway as long as a chicane is kept and the Eel Pie has agreed that when they re-open and have tables outside again they will leave the top bit clear opposite Corto so to keep a chicane.

And another agreement was reached, in that the licensing officers and Highways agreed that as long as the carriageway is generally maintained for emergency vehicles (and it always has been throughout all the years of Al Fresco, which started in 2005) then if there is cooperation between the shops and hospitality businesses in that they agree as tenants / landlords to allow the hospitality businesses to use & spread into their pavement space, then that will be ok with the council as well. So the restaurants, cafes & pubs can in fact have all the tables that they need.

So peace reigns supreme on Church Street again and it is going to be the Al Fresco Mecca of South West London. In a few weeks our huge hanging baskets will be in place outside all the businesses and the street will really look a picture.

Pedestrianisation was definitely right for the street and it is so lovely to see all the home workers with their lap tops sitting outside the cafes by day and all the tables of the restaurants and pubs full of revellers at night. It is just so nice to see the street busy but not too busy! It is all a lot more civilised that what is going on in some places like Soho for example. It really is the heart of Twickenham.



Twickenham begins collecting blood plasma for medicines

People in and around Twickenham have begun donating blood plasma for medicines for the first time in more than 20 years.



This plasma will be used to make antibody-based medicines – called immunoglobulins - for people with rare immune diseases.

Twickenham plasma donor centre is one of the 14 NHS Blood and Transplant donor centres around England now taking donations, for an initial three month period. (1)

Thousands of patients rely on immunoglobulin medicines for short-term or lifelong diseases and genetic disorders.

Around 950 of these patients are on the West London patient panels.(2)

With rising demand across the world for these medicines there is a global supply shortage (3). These donations will bolster the supply chain and improve the self-sufficiency of the UK in producing its own treatments.

They will be taken at repurposed former convalescent plasma donor centres, originally created for coronavirus research.

Henry Jarvis, Twickenham Plasma Donor Centre Manager, said, “Like blood donation, plasma donation will be altruistic, for the benefit of the NHS and we’re here ready to collect it. We’re asking people, if contacted by us, please donate plasma for medicines – you will save and transform lives.”

More than 500 people have donated in the two weeks since collection started, and nearly 250 people are booked in to donate this week at Twickenham plasma donor centre, which is in **Regal House on London Road.**

The antibody medicines are used to treat people with weak immune systems and a variety of other rare disorders. Illnesses include:

- Immune disorders such as Common Variable Immune Deficiency.
- Neurological disorders such as Guillain–Barre syndrome and myasthenia gravis.
- Haematological disorders such as cytopenia - a low mature red blood cell count, which can occur following radiotherapy and chemotherapy for cancer treatment.
- Dermatological disorders such as Kawasaki syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

When people donate, the plasma is filtered out of circulating blood by an apheresis machine and the red blood cells are returned to the donor.

Several thousand donors will initially be recruited from the existing NHSBT blood donor base, rather than the general public. Open recruitment will be introduced in the future. To find out more about blood plasma donation you can visit

www.blood.co.uk or call on 0300 123 23 23.



Blood and Transplant

Discover the rich history on our doorsteps with Habitats & Heritage

Emily Lunn, Heritage Project Manager

For many of us, international travel still seems like a long way off. But that doesn't mean you can't go on an adventure and discover something new closer to home!

There are many wonderful historic buildings and hidden monuments to uncover across Richmond, but perhaps one of the most eccentric is the ornate tent in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church in Mortlake.

Incongruously set among trees and Victorian tomb stones, the large stone tent marks the final resting place of one of Britain's most colourful Victorians, Sir Richard Burton, and his equally daring wife Lady Isabel Burton.

Like a real-life Indiana Jones, 'Ruffian Dick' was known as much for his flamboyant lifestyle and wild social life as for his daring expeditions around the world. He could speak over 27 languages, travelled everywhere from the tropics of Brazil to the Syrian desert and cold climes of Iceland, and perhaps most famously translated the Kama Sutra.

Their eccentric mausoleum, carved to look like is it billowing in the breeze, is believed to be based on a tent the Burtons had specially designed for expeditions into the Syrian desert. It is decorated with a gold star-and-crescent motif and inside is a collection of lanterns.

Camel bells hang from the ceiling which would have jingled when the central door (now blocked up) opened. Although it is no longer possible to go inside, today visitors can glimpse the curious and rather magical interior through a window at the back accessed by a short and sturdy ladder when the churchyard is open.

Habitats & Heritage, a local nature and heritage conservation charity, is raising funds to carry out essential repairs to the mausoleum, and as 2021 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir Richard Burton, we're also encouraging everyone to become an explorer and discover something new on their doorstep. While we might not be able to travel as far as Sir Richard Burton at the moment, a visit to his mausoleum will certainly feel like an adventure!



Find out more about [Burton: Exploring Without Boundaries](#) on the Habits & Heritage website.

A MITRE FINE PLACE!

It seems strange to be writing this review now, when in fact our visit was pre Christmas, and, of course, pre the most recent lockdown (which of course, still isn't fully over!) We visited the recently (as in last summer) refurbished Mitre Hotel at Hampton Court, and now that it's partially open again, I think it appropriate to let you know what a fabulous job they've done. Nestling beside Hampton Court Bridge it has, arguably, one of the finest locations on the River Thames. In December with Hampton Court Palace floodlit, its ice rink open and the hotel terrace twinkling with fairy lights and a fire pit – it was truly magical!



The Mitre has been beautifully restored by a new hotel brand - The Signet Collection – that's recently joined the marketing group Small Luxury Hotels. It's upmarket (not cheap, but worth it for the experience and setting) and the whole place is quirky, yet very stylish. There is a library for residents to relax in, play the vintage jukebox and indulge in the honesty bar, (stocked with malt whisky and Kings Ginger liqueur). The interior design is a riot of tasteful velvets, stunning wallpapers,

nooks and crannies...and gorgeous objets d'art. There are (in 'normal times' when indoor eating is 'permitted') two restaurants and its lovely open terrace. The 1665 Terrace is open now, serving the brasserie menu and has live jazz on Thursday to Sunday evenings (plus afternoons at weekends). The hotel has joined forces for seasonal partnerships with Whispering Angel rosé wine and The Kings Ginger, with a special bar on the terrace. Afternoon teas will be available from June onwards but you will need to book (48 hours notice required). The food is excellent; modern British, and well curated by head chef/culinary and operations director Ronnie Kimbugwe, (who honed his skills at the stoves of some of our top restaurants). Locally sourced produce is used where possible, and they plan to house their own beehives on the main roof where they will also be smoking their own salmon.



The hotel has its own boat, and plans are in hand for weekend trips from its private jetty for a two-hour tour of the Thames, with prices from £120. Picnics can be added to the trip, including seasonal dishes from the menu and other treats (£80 for two). There are plans afoot too, for bike picnics, with a bicycle partnership being announced soon.

And breakfast or brunch at The Mitre is something else to consider – now or when fully open. With its stunning setting, views of the river and a really eclectic menu (with loads of vegetarian options too) it's a great place to meet friends for a delicious repast prior to visiting Hampton Court Palace or Bushy Park. Our breakfast at The Mitre was excellent – with some of the best bacon I have ever eaten.



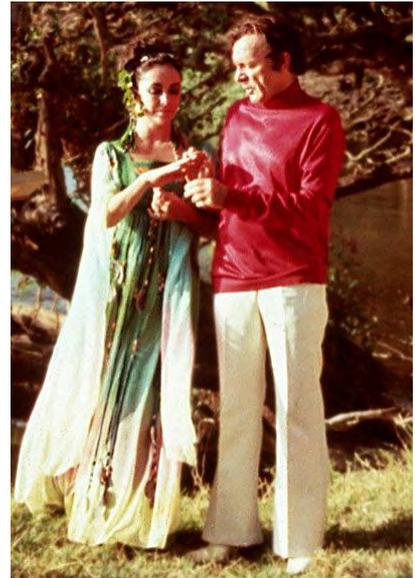
We're lucky here, with our riparian location, that The Mitre has been transformed from that rather sad old lady who languished beside Hampton Court Bridge. She's now a buzzy, trendy, location that can be enjoyed by locals, as well as tourists and other visitors to our area.



Virtual Sixth

Poetry Performance, On-Line, 11th April
(Part Two) *Escapement Checked*

Taking to the aether for its seleno-cyclic sharing of poetry, Poetry Performance's April theme was "Spring". When opening [Part One of this review](#), I wondered whether our poets would still have spring in their steps along such a well-trodden path of poesy, but most went keenly to the subject, turning all the stones and looking into nooks and crannies on this path. Nevertheless, other themes were available ...



Heather Moulson has quite a knack in combining humour and nostalgia in her poems. Her first handbag aged eleven creates the foil for her metaphor on life, in *Handbag*. Trisha Broomfield's *Sizzling Fillets* is full-on comedy, as Mum's dinner party to impress Mrs Hyphen-Jones veers towards disaster. Bob Kimmerling's *The Room Where We Sit* is a crumbling old timber conservatory, full of curios, including a Zulu spear. It is a repository of the elderly man's life, but one day, "My memories will be consigned/ And taken to the nearest tip". Kimmerling is a consummate writer of reflective poetry. (v, his [Centurio Romanus Sum.](#))

The featured poet for April was Dr Matthew Griffiths, a respected academic poet, commended for the prestigious Troubadour International Prize. His *The New Poetics of Climate Change* is a novel treatise on the influence of modernist poets in addressing global warming. A one-time University Challenge contestant, he is also a Sci-Fi writer. Griffiths read from his short poem, *Burton Going*, a tongue-in-cheek look at the famous actor's rather fluid approach to marriage. The poem presents Shakespeare's Sonnet 116 backwards, dexterously slotting into every other line pithy slivers of wit on Richard Burton's marital philosophy. *Burton Going* is a strong defence of marriage at a time when family values seem under attack from all sides.



One of Poetry Performance's April guests was from Chicago. Clearly its fame is spreading, as are its themes. Next month's Poetry Performance has as its theme, "May". Now there's plenty of opportunities for the sport of thesaurus diving. I'm sure they will make quite a splash!

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/04/21/virtual-6th-escap

Photography by Gene Jetter, Liam Davenport and John Bolter

TRAVELLER'S TALES 95

FINE RHINE WINE

Doug Goodman discovers the Rheingau region



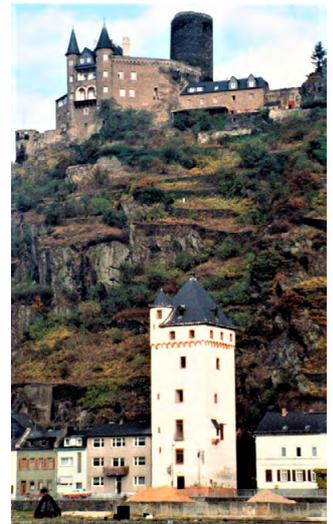
The very first wine I tried in the early sixties was Blue Nunn or maybe it was Liebfraumilch. I rather enjoyed the popular sweet white wine from Germany which cost six shillings and three pence a bottle from a Soho wine store. It was some years before I visited the Mosel and Rhine wine producing areas and discovered something infinitely better. A good time to visit the Rhineland is in October when the crowds of tourists have departed, towns and villages are quiet and the trees have a beautiful brown and golden glow. Local people have time to talk to you and the grape harvest celebrations are in full swing. The variety of German wines is huge and one of the great pleasures is to drink the region's wine where it has been produced. The steep-sided valleys along the Mosel and Rhine are the perfect spot for the vines; the sun is reflected from the river below and from the slate in the soil. Picking is often done by hand as the steep slopes make it difficult to use mechanised methods. A walk through the more accessible vineyards or a cable-car ride above them followed by a climb to one of the many look-out points above the river provides a really pleasant day out.



Wine from the Rheingau



The Rhine



Castles on the Rhine

CASTLES ON THE RHINE

The most picturesque stretch of the Rhine is between Mainz and Koblenz and the best way to see the sights is by steamer. A three hour cruise from the pretty town of Rudesheim to Boppard passes close to dozens of castles: some are ruins, many have been restored and look down from a hill-top perch while other are built on tiny islands. On a sunny autumn day the scenery is magical. You'll see the Lorelei Rock where the siren lured sailors into danger and then stop at Bacharach and Boppard. Koblenz with its restored Ehrenbreitstein Castle, modern shopping centre, excellent bars and restaurants and the Deutscheseck – where the Rhine meets the Mosel - is a nice holiday town. For a quieter village stay Rudesheim makes a good base. The town is at the foot of the Niederwald in the Rheingau region and famous for its Riesling wine. Trips to the medieval city of Heidelberg and to Frankfurt are easy to arrange but don't miss the delights of Rudesheim itself. The Rhineland's most famous street is found here. Drosselgasse is a traffic-free area with narrow streets filled with wine bars and restaurants. It comes alive from

late afternoon when tea dances begin with brass bands setting the pace. Hot chocolate with brandy is consumed by visitors before dinner. The bars liven up around 9.00pm and offer live music, folk dancing and the chance to set the world to rights over a bottle of wine or two.



Cruise Captain



Rhine Steamer



Bacharach

The wine museum in Rudesheim, set in a castle, takes you through the methods of production, grape varieties and the region's 1000 year history of wine making. Next to it is the Ansbach Distillery open to visitors. There's a museum of mechanical musical instruments and another devoted to medieval torture. A long walk through the vineyards will take you to the Niederwalddenkmal, a spectacular memorial overlooking the river, built in 1871 to commemorate the unification of Germany. Wandering through the town's narrow streets and admiring the centuries-old timbered houses and sitting by the riverside with a cool beer watching the ferries darting between long barges was my most relaxing activity. Hotels are small and tend to be family-run offering good value accommodation. If it's situated by the Rhine ask for a room with a river view and expect delicious home cooking. You can book extended river cruises and your home is on the vessel but for me the charm is visiting different places on the passenger ferries and stopping to spend a day visiting a famous castle or historic site.



Rudesheim Drosselgasse



Ancient Houses



Vineyards above the Rhine

Are we nearly there yet?? Not yet!!

Travel News by Bruce Lyons



May 17th, not so far away now but till then nothing is clear. PCR tests, swabs, quarantining Traffic Lights – there are a lot of mixed messages. For the cautious and apprehensive they need to understand the problem for the government.

England, like some other places (e.g., New Zealand, Taiwan, Malta, Gibraltar and more) can be isolated and when you can couple the limited entry discipline with the Vaccine programme and our own lockdowns it is clear to see that Covid can be controlled. Today, we are told, the UK is no longer in a Pandemic!

So whilst all the new guidelines are evolving for many the wise choice would be to discover our Sceptred Isle. Our beautiful Island is just waiting to be re-discovered, blessed by our “cool temperate climate coupled with the new hotter temperatures in Summer from Global Warming.

You can expect reasonable weather and with our diverse countryside, wonderful coastlines you

will be amazed by the adventurous experiences your family can enjoy. If there is one benefit we can all enjoy from the Pandemic it is the opening up of our countryside- all Winter and Spring we have been regaled with TV programmes about the Lakes, The Peak District, walking with Robson Green along Hadrian’s Wall, & all manner of TV programmes about Farming – If you don’t know how to deliver a Lamb by now you will never learn!

But there has been more - Coastal Paths, Scottish Isles – Touring Northern Ireland – cycling the lanes of Cornwall, rowing the length of the Thames, canoeing the Wye. Learn to sail in the Solent. There are even Wildlife Safaris in Britain now!

We have seen the most extraordinary boost to the repertoire we can call on for the widest diversity of UK Holidays and it strikes me that many of our readers are just too anxious to book overseas trips just now but do want to be sure of a break. But those that leave it till the last minute will definitely

Have to take the “left overs” and why do that. There is just so much to discover.

There are Canal Holidays, Railway journeys in Wales – Scotland and many old lines throughout England with Steam trains, boating in the Broads.

This week we saw two more of the activity companies bring our new trips for 15yr olds and adults and several family breaks with a minimum age of 5yrs!

Small group coach trips far away from the motorways and big cities have expanded their collections. Back a year or two booking Hotels in the UK through a travel agent was not very inspiring – neither for you, the reader nor us but that has all changed. We use all sorts of resources but before the pandemic just one of them had 200 odd UK hotels on offer – now that source has a directory of over 6000 hotels – no they didn’t build them all from last year – it is just the Pandemic has focussed so many of us of what we have “Closer to Home” so to speak. Add to all this the new spate of Sea- Cations and you have a wide choice of safe holidays to take at home and discover your heritage.

More – people often say they don’t want to holiday here – it is all Beer and Fish n Chips – Well, probably thanks to Master Chef – you can find local cuisine with freshly grown produce all over these Isles now and we even have British Wine to compete with the French! And British Fish is the best – anywhere. Come on down to 58 and we will show you more, but hurry they are selling fast.



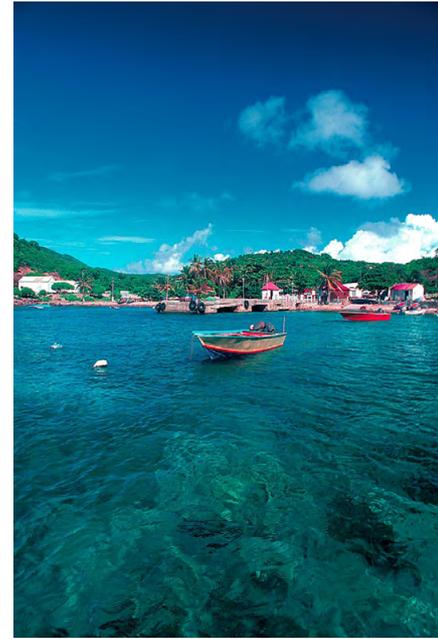
WIZ TALES - Guadeloupe

Teresa Read



The department of Guadeloupe, an overseas region of France, is a group of islands in the Caribbean including Basse-Terre, La Desirade, Grande-Terre, Iles de la Petite Terre, Iles des Saintes, Marie-Galante and Saint-Barthelemy.

The volcanic island of Basse-Terre is the site of Le Parc National De Guadeloupe established in 1989. Soufriere, an active volcano on the island of Basse-Terre, is the highest point in the archipelago; the eruption between 1996 and 1997 lasted for eight months.



Examples of Colonial architecture can still be found in Guadeloupe; these include the military fort, churches and the old cathedral.

Guadeloupe may be best known to some as the location for the television series “*Death in Paradise*”.

More photographs of Guadeloupe:

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

St Mary's University

St Mary's University to Welcome Students to New Campus in Edinburgh this September

St Mary's University will start teaching its master's courses in Theology and Catholic Education this autumn in the Gillis Centre, Edinburgh.

St Mary's is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, teaching will begin in the Gillis Centre this September, following a delay caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Students at the Centre will be able to study a taught postgraduate programme in Catholic Education, School Leadership or Theology. St Mary's, established in 1850, has a long history of academic excellence, and students at the Gillis Centre will be able to access the same expertise throughout their studies.

The University and the Archdiocese have agreed arrangements for St Mary's to occupy part of the Gillis Centre. The Centre, located in central Edinburgh, was formerly St Margaret's Convent and School.

The announcement has been welcomed by the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, the Most Reverend Leo Cushley. He said, "St Mary's is the UK's leading Catholic university, so we're delighted it has agreed to offer courses here. It's an ideal location and is

consistent with our Archdiocesan aim for the advancement of Catholic education. It will help support the Roman Catholic community and give people the opportunity to study a fascinating range of subjects."

Speaking of the announcement, Chair of St Mary's University Board of Governors, Bishop Richard Moth, said, "St Mary's is very pleased to be working with the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. Opening a postgraduate campus in Edinburgh is consistent with the mission of the University to promote higher education and to grow our postgraduate offering."

Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University, Anthony McClaran, said, "After the unavoidable delay caused by Covid-19, we are pleased that we will be teaching our Theology and Education postgraduate courses in Edinburgh from September. Our courses are open to students of all faiths and none, and our flexible programmes at the Gillis Centre will create new opportunities for mature students, teachers and others across central Scotland."

The postgraduate part-time MA courses will begin at the Strathearn Road campus from Autumn 2021 and information is available via the St Mary's University website.

St Mary's University hosts the only faculties in the UK with the ability to offer ecclesiastical degrees, the Mater Ecclesiae College (with awards dating back to 1614). Its long-standing and nationally recognised Education programmes were recently re-confirmed as Ofsted 'Outstanding', a rating they have held since 2011.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 57

23rd April 2021

FACES PLACES

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: FACES PLACES was the 802nd film screened by RFS, on 2nd April 2019. **Faces Places** was one of the three fifth ranked film of Season 56 (equal fifth with **I Got Life (Aurore)** and **In The Fade (Aus dem Nichts)**), it got an approval mark of 92% from those attending; from season 56 we have also already featured the top four equal ranked films, in order: **The Fencer (Miekkailija)**, **Hidden Figures**, **Truman** and **Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years** as **Issues 44, 56, 47** and **51** respectively and also one of its two companions in fifth place **I Got Life (Aurore)** as **Issue 49**. **Faces Places** can be streamed from Curzon and Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

Sadly, the world learnt of Varda's death a few days before this screening (29th March 2019). At that time the editor of these notes was reminded that she directed the 1977 film, one he saw at university, **One Sings, the Other Doesn't (L'une Chante, L'autre Pas)** a film that was instrumental in him becoming an international film fan and hence joining RFS in 1981 ... check it out.

FACES, PLACES (Visages, Villages)

Country: France 2017
Director: JR & Agnes Varda
Writing: JR & Agnes Varda
Editor: Maxime Pozzi-Garcia & Agnes Varda
Cinematography: many
Running Time: 94 min, Colour
Language: French

Featuring:

Agnès Varda JR Jeannine Carpentier
Clemens Van Dungern Marie Douvet Jean-Paul Beaujon
and many others



This charming and quirky documentary takes us into rural France, into the lives of ordinary people, whatever that is meant to mean!

The original French title is 'Visages Villages'= 'Village Faces', which more precisely reflects the film's essence and the directorial duo's intentions.

It's an unusual working partnership Agnes Varda, renowned photographer and filmmaker, commonly described as 'the godmother of the French New Wave'. The late great film critic Roger Ebert said that the only reason she is not routinely included along with Godard, Truffaut and Rohmer, et al, is quite simply 'because she is a woman'. She is now 90 and a decade ago made an autobiographical film '**The Beaches of Agnes**', in which she describes herself as 'a little old lady, pleasantly plump' that still holds true, with a surprise or two! Meanwhile her co-director JR is 35, identity still unknown, photographer & muralist who began his career as a teenage graffiti artist who by his own admission has no interest in changing the world but on making his mark on public spaces & society... and cannot be parted from his dark glasses!

They travel in JR's van equipped with photo booth and a large format printer to small communities which are as infused with nostalgia, and possibly to us a sense of going nowhere, as are many of our small towns, similarly threatened by the economic and social mores of modern living.... but there is much warmth and humour in the film as the villagers marvel when having had their photos taken they see their portraits massively blown up onto outside walls. Varda & JR poke about in people's lives, you feel they are really interested because every life is interesting.

Varda's relationship with JR is playful and affectionate, He teases her about her old toes, which he then photographs and turns into billboards; she teases him about the sunglasses, Godard always wore sunglasses, it drove her mad...

'I like to see a face' towards the end of the film they make their way to Switzerland as Varda wants JR to meet Godard...

There is an element of sadness, Varda's eyesight is failing, she finds it difficult to climb stairs but there is no denying the elation of Varda & JR as they leap "into the art of making art"... "the clash of their generations harmonize here into an exhilarating gift ... to us the viewers."

It was screened at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival where it won the L'OEil d'or award and was nominated for the Academy Award for best Documentary Feature at the 90th Academy Awards 2017.

Annie Cartland

with acknowledgements to **Wikipedia**, Richard Brody **New York Times** & Deborah Ross **The Spectator**

Council supports local football teams to extend season

Local football teams wanting to extend the use of recreational grounds in the borough into May are being asked to contact Richmond Council.

Groups who use the Council's sports pitches to facilitate team sports have been asking the Council to extend the availability into next month to allow teams, particularly young people and children, to catch-up on time missed during the national lockdown.

Restrictions on amateur team sports were lifted on 29 March 2021, leaving many teams around just one month of play before public grounds that are used for other sports, such as cricket, or those that require maintenance over the summer period are closed.

Groups wanting to continue to use sports pitches beyond the end of May are being asked to make an enquiry to the Council at richmondsports@continental-landscapes.co.uk or on 0344 324 6277. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Ishbel Murray,
Assistant Director
for Environment and
Community Services,
said:

“We understand that many teams will be wanting to continue their team sports into the summer months, to make up for lost time earlier this year. Where possible we will accommodate this, but we will be unable to do so in all cases.



“In some instances, the grounds must be given over to other sports but it will also be necessary for us to carry out essential maintenance on some of the grass pitches. Our parks and open spaces have seen a huge increase in footfall and use during the pandemic and as we head into summer, they need some care and attention to ensure they are in as good enough a condition for everyone to use during the next sports season.

“As not all sports pitches will be available, it may not be possible to accommodate every request and so would encourage teams to enquire as soon as possible.”



BRENTFORD FC

Bees held again in frustrating stalemate

Brentford 0 - 0 Millwall

Brentford were held to a frustrating draw and missed out on the chance to close the gap to Watford in second in the Championship after a 0-0 draw at the Brentford Community Stadium. Although the Bees had the best chance of the game through Marcus Forss in the second-half after the Finn had broken through one on one, they failed to make the most of their greater possession.



In a first-half of few genuine openings it was the away side who went closest to breaking the deadlock. Inside the opening five minutes Danny McNamara found space to make a run from wingback and picked up a reverse ball inside the area. He then crossed first time towards the back post but coming in Scott Malone could not test David Raya and volleyed over from a promising position.

Malone then escaped down the left wing after a good ball from former Brentford player Ryan Woods to release him, but Ethan Pinnock got back to divert the ball out for a corner.

Crosses from out wide were proving to be Millwall's most effective attacking option and another ball into the box nearly allowed them to score. Murray Wallace arrived at the back post but under pressure from Pinnock once again he headed wide.

The best chance for Brentford came on the counterattack when Forss broke down the right hand channel and drove at the Millwall defence. The Finn eventually broke into the box and a cross-cum-shot fell just behind Ivan Toney lurking in the six-yard box.

Raya had to make his first key save of the afternoon when he denied Malone, who was the most dangerous attacking player on either side, who had latched onto a headed knockdown inside the box but Raya was alert to come off his line and block the shot from close range.

As the first-half drew to a close the Bees had a series of corners that led to some promising chances. Toney had a deflected shot from the edge of the box and Vitaly Janelt had a couple of chances stretching on the volley which cleared the crossbar.

Brentford were much improved in the second-half and went close early at the start of the second-half. Marcus Forss latched onto a long ball over the and then dribbled forward and cut in between Maikel Kieftenbeld and George Evans but fired into the side netting at the near post.

Pinnock, who had a couple of opportunities from set pieces during the course of the afternoon, crashed a header into the ground inside the six-yard box after a corner had been worked short between Jensen and Mbeumo and Bartosz Białkowski could gather easily.

A cross from Jed Wallace nearly looped in but the pattern of the game was one in which Brentford were enjoying the greater share of possession, with the away side looking to play on the break.

Thomas Frank introduced Sergi Canós, Saman Ghoddos and Emiliano Marcondes in a late bid to try a claim all three points and Ghoddos has a free-kick that Białkowski held and Toney nearly latched onto a through ball that the Polish keeper had to be brave to come out and dive on the ball.

Late on Millwall nearly grabbed all three points on the counterattack but a deflection behind for a corner which came to nothing consigned both teams to a point.

Bees promotion hopes dented

Brentford 1 - 1 Cardiff City

Despite coming from a goal down to drawn against Cardiff Brentford's hopes of an automatic promotion to the Premier League took a significant dent. Marlon Pack had opened the scoring for the away side from the penalty spot but Tariqe Fosu hit back with a strike from distance but with other results not going their way it looks as though they will have to go through the playoffs this season.

Despite the away side appearing to be out of the playoff picture and with little incentive they started on the front foot at the Brentford Community Stadium. A long free-kick was knocked down by Kieffer Moore and ran for Harry Wilson who had a shot blocked behind for a corner from which Brentford managed to scramble their lines clear.

The first shot on target of the game also came from Cardiff when a shot from Marlon Pack was initially blocked inside the area but it came to Perry Ng on the edge of the area, but from the edge of the area he curled a shot tamely along the ground which David Raya saved easily.

Brentford fought back to and could have taken the lead through Marcus Forss. Fosu, who made a bright and enterprising start to the game, found Mads Roerslev in space and he pulled the ball back from the by line. Waiting in the box was the Finn but he couldn't make a fruitful contact and his attempt was straight at Alex Smithies.

A couple of excellent recovery challenges from Cardiff also kept Brentford at bay in the first-half. First Ng managed to get back to prevent Ivan Toney from breaking and a reverse ball from Mathias Jensen was also intercepted at the back.

Forss had a second chance to open the scoring when an overhit cross from Jensen was picked up by Fosu at the back post. He then crossed deep to the back post and Toney climbed highest to knock the ball down invitingly into the six-yard box, but with Smithies stranded Forss couldn't convert on the stretch and he fired over from close range.

Smithies was then called into action to deny Brentford once more before the end of the first-half went he kept out Toney. A lapse in concentration from Pack led to a back pass straight into the path of the Championship's top scorer but Smithies was alert to get out quick a get a hand out to make the save.

Late in the first-half Wilson nearly popped up with a goal after a shot from Pack had broken to him but he couldn't apply the finish with the interval looming.

Nine minutes after the restart Brentford were left cursing their luck after falling behind through a penalty. Ethan Pinnock initially conceded a free-kick between the corner flag and goal 7kline for a foul on Wilson. From the resulting set piece after the ball broke to Will Vaulks he diverted the ball goalwards and then Pinnock compounded his error by handling the ball on the line. Moore then stepped up to send Raya the wrong way and give Cardiff the lead.

Thomas Frank immediately sent of Sergi Canós and Saman Ghoddos to try and change the game and the two substitutions nearly paid dividends. Canós picked the ball up on the edge of the area and curled a cross into Ghoddos, but the Iranian's header lacked power and was straight at Smithies.

The Bees did soon however equalise through Fosu. A speculative shot from the midfielder from distance swerved in the air and Smithies couldn't hold it and the ball trickled in to once again level up the scores.

In a lively second-half at the other end Cardiff went close to retaking the lead. A long throw in caused trouble at the back for Brentford and Raya missed the ball went attempting to clear with the punch. The ball dropped for Wilson but on the swivel he couldn't convert from close range.

In the latter stages Brentford pushed everything forward to try and get a winner. Canós had a swerving shot from a central position that this time Smithies did very well to get his body behind and a shot from Toney was blocked at the last moment from Aden Flint.

Central defender Charlie Goode was introduced for goal scorer Fosu in a late bid to try a salvage a victory but after a corner was cleared as the clocked ticked into the 97th minute the Bees to a deeply frustrating draw.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: AFC Bournemouth (A) Saturday 24th April 12:30 Dean Court

Nickname: The Cherries

Competition: Championship - Matchday 43

Manager: Jonathan Woodgate

Opponent record: P43 W22 D11 L10 GF73 GA42 (3rd in Championship)

Interesting fact: In 2013 AFC Bournemouth welcomed Real Madrid for a pre-season friendly. Los Blancos under the management of Carlo Ancelotti selected a full strength side for the encounter on the south coast in which Cristiano Ronaldo, Angel Di Maria and Mesut Özil all featured as the Spanish side ran out 6-0 winners.

Game 2

Opponent: Rotherham United (H) Tuesday 27th April 19:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Millers

Competition: Championship - Matchday 44

Manager: Paul Warne

Opponent record: P41 W11 D6 L24 GF42 GA56 (22nd in Championship)

Interesting fact: In the TV series ChuckleVision there are often references made to the club, whom the brothers Barry and Paul support in real life

Come on you Bees!

Red Roses name team for Women's Six Nations final

England Women head coach Simon Middleton has named his team to play France in the Women's Six Nations final. The match takes place at Twickenham Stoop on Saturday 24 April, kick-off 2pm live on BBC Two.

Emily Scarratt captains the side with regular skipper Sarah Hunter among the finishers. Abbie Ward (lock) and Marlie Packer (openside flanker) return to the starting XV while Zoe Harrison makes her first start of the 2021 tournament at inside centre.

Fresh from scoring two tries in as many matches, Helena Rowland retains her place at fly half with Leanne Riley at scrum half. Zoe Aldcroft and Poppy Cleall are named at six and eight respectively – the same starting positions they occupied in the team's opening pool victory over Scotland.

Cath O'Donnell makes her third consecutive appearance in the second row. Sarah McKenna starts at full back with Abby Dow and Jess Breach making up the back three. Vickii Cornborough, Lark Davies and Shaunagh Brown form the front row. Loughborough Lightning prop Detysha Harper is named among the finishers, alongside Lagi Tuima.

Middleton said: *"We've had a fantastic three-and-a-half weeks training and a fully fit squad training all week which has been great. I'm really pleased with our development, fitness levels and robustness we are starting to develop. We have strength across the team and it was a tough selection. It was great to have Sarah Hunter back against Italy. She's not quite at the level she would want to be and we need for this game at the moment which is to be expected and anticipated after 13 months out. Sarah respects there are a lot of players in the back row and back five in great form at this point and that in games like this you need to be able to go for 80 minutes as a starter. She's not quite there yet but it's a challenge she's more than up for. We've brought Marlie back in this week. Physicality at the breakdown will be imperative against France and amongst other things that's what Marlie gives you. Marlie's one of the best in the world in that area.*

Zoe and Helena together give us options we know will be important against France.

Now we've got to go out and deliver a good performance in both halves of the game.

That's what it will take. France are a confident side and previous results are irrelevant.

France play on confidence with a dangerous high tempo game with the ball in play so we've got to be on the metal and switched on. Of course, the best way of defending is to have the ball so our ability to retain possession in the right areas of the field will be imperative. Our discipline will be essential, especially with the pace they have with their tap-and-gos.

It will be a great final and we're all really excited.

We've seen a different format in the Six Nations which brings excitement as everything and everyone works towards that one big game and Saturday is that game. This is a big test to translate what we're doing on the training field and one we will relish as a group."

England team to play France

15. Sarah McKenna (Saracens Women, 34 caps)
14. Jess Breach (Harlequins Women, 17 caps)
13. Emily Scarratt (C; Loughborough Lightning, 94 caps)
12. Zoe Harrison (Saracens Women, 28 caps)
11. Abby Dow (Wasps FC Ladies, 16 caps)
10. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 5 caps)
9. Leanne Riley (Harlequins Women, 41 caps)

Finishers

16. Amy Cokayne (Harlequins Women, 55 caps)
17. Detysha Harper (Loughborough Lightning, 4 caps)
18. Bryony Cleall (Saracens Women, 3 caps)
19. Harriet Millar-Mills (Wasps FC Ladies, 60 caps)

1. Vickii Cornborough (Harlequins Women, 58 caps)
2. Lark Davies (Loughborough Lightning, 30 caps)
3. Shaunagh Brown (Harlequins Women, 22 caps)
4. Abbie Ward (Harlequins Women, 46 caps)
5. Cath O'Donnell (Loughborough Lightning, 17 caps)
6. Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury Women, 22 caps)
7. Marlie Packer (Saracens Women, 75 caps)
8. Poppy Cleall (Saracens Women, 45 caps)

20. Sarah Hunter (Loughborough Lightning, 124 caps)
21. Claudia MacDonald (Wasps FC Ladies, 14 caps)
22. Lagi Tuima (Harlequins Women, 7 caps)
23. Ellie Kildunne (Wasps FC Ladies, 13 caps)

NPR: Maud Muir (Wasps FC Ladies, 0 caps)



RFU concludes Guinness Six Nations debrief

- **Eddie Jones maintains the full support of the RFU Board**
- **Strong squad and depth of talent in the English Game**
- **New support structures and review processes to be put in place**
- **RFU plans to evolve a long term strategic approach to the changing game**

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has concluded a debrief of the England men's Guinness Six Nations 2021 campaign confirming its full support and backing of Eddie Jones as Head Coach, while recognising a sub-optimal campaign and the factors that contributed to it.

The debrief panel and input included RFU board members, executives and independent experts. The review was informed by feedback from players, coaches (past and present) and support staff as well as detailed presentations from Eddie Jones.

Several recommendations will be implemented ahead of the July Test matches, which the RFU is working on with USA Rugby and Rugby Canada, with a view to staging the games in England, these include;

- Introduction of additional support structures for coaches and players including enhanced sports psychology and programmatic leadership development starting in the pathway.
- Additional refereeing input to provide technique improvement and awareness during player preparation and development.
- The use of data and analytics in high performance and campaign management is increasing and to support this approach, England Rugby will continue to work with Premiership Rugby with the objective of identifying and introducing one common data system across the pathway and elite performance game, this will be vital to monitoring and developing emerging talent in the pathway as well as being an additional tool to manage player welfare.
- The RFU will ensure external rugby experts inform all future debriefs to provide additional insight and support for the Head Coach. These external advisors will also be utilised after each campaign to provide regular reviews and support for the coaching strategy for future Six Nations campaigns and in the build up to Rugby World Cup 2023.
- To evolve its strategic approach to the game, the RFU aims to deepen its alignment between England Rugby performance and professional clubs. This will start with a proposed summer conference for England Rugby, professional clubs, referees and medics to find common ground and goals for the English game moving forward. Discussion points will include the increasing speed of the game, decision making, data and analytics, refereeing, player development and welfare.

The panel recognised the overall feedback from the playing squad was positive and supportive and while the results of the tournament were incredibly disappointing there were lessons to build on as well as moments of positivity.

Bill Sweeney, RFU CEO said; “We were all disappointed to finish fifth in the Guinness Six Nations. Our track record and results under Eddie meant that we, the players and our fans had much higher expectations. Sport is all about fine margins which is why every campaign debrief is invaluable in helping us to learn and improve. Eddie approached this review with a great deal of self-awareness and humility, allowing us to look at every aspect of the tournament to identify every small change we can make in order to improve.”

Eddie Jones, England Head Coach said; “During the Guinness Six Nations we were not up to our usual high standards and we recognise that. The debrief was a valuable process, we all learned a lot from the experience and most importantly we have identified actions to enable the team to move forward positively towards 2023. I’m looking forward to the summer tour which will provide a great opportunity to see more of our emerging talent and I’m confident our next team will come back stronger this autumn building up to a winning performance in the next Six Nations.”

The panel concluded that while there were a number of contributing factors that led to England’s disappointing fifth place ranking in the Guinness Six Nations and the focus will be on addressing these systemic challenges, there were some specific factors that had an influence on the 2021 Guinness Six Nations tournament as follows:

- Coaching – the absence of Jason Ryles and Neil Craig were a significant loss in coaching expertise and team support, this had a significant impact on the wider coaching team. The initial unavailability of Matt Proudfoot and isolation of Eddie Jones also had an effect on the effectiveness of the coaching team.
- Player preparation and availability – several players did not have enough game time going into the Six Nations. Conversely a wider group were fatigued as a result of being the only country to have back-to-back seasons; resulting in players having no mental break from one season to the next. In addition, a handful of notable players were unavailable.
- Breakdown indiscipline – improvements required including lower body strength and appropriate skill modifications.
- Covid – the necessary stringent protocols, in some cases greater than other Unions, had a significant impact on coaching and support staff as well as the playing squad cohesion.
- Squad transition – the agreed protocols, which the RFU and Eddie were fully supportive of due to Covid challenges, meant fixed squads prevented players coming in and out during the campaign as they would normally.



COVID-19 continues to disrupt essential health services in 90% of countries

Some signs of recovery emerging but major efforts required to restore and strengthen health services

The second round of a World Health Organization “pulse survey” reveals that over one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, substantial disruptions persist, with about 90% of countries still reporting one or more disruptions to essential health services, marking no substantial global change since the first survey conducted in the summer of 2020.

Within countries, however, the magnitude and extent of disruptions has generally decreased. In 2020, countries reported that, on average, about half of essential health services were disrupted. In the first 3 months of 2021, however, they reported progress, with just over one third of services now being disrupted.

Overcoming disruptions

Countries have been working to mitigate disruptions. Many have now stepped up communications efforts to inform the public about changes to service delivery and provide advice about ways to safely seek health care. They are also triaging to identify and better meet the most urgent patient needs.

More than half the countries consulted say they have recruited additional staff to boost the health workforce; redirected patients to other care facilities; and switched to alternative methods to delivering care, such as providing more home-based services, multi-month prescriptions for treatments, and increasing the use of telemedicine.

In addition, WHO and its partners have been helping countries to adapt their processes so they can better respond to the challenges being placed on their health systems; strengthen primary health care, and advance universal health coverage.

“It is encouraging to see that countries are beginning to build back their essential health services, but much remains to be done,” says Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO. “The survey highlights the need to intensify efforts and take additional steps to close gaps and strengthen services. It will be especially important to monitor the situation in countries that were struggling to provide health services before the pandemic.”

Persisting causes of disruptions

Countries are still having to make important decisions when responding to COVID-19 that may negatively affect access to care for other health issues. Redeployment of staff to provide COVID-19 relief and temporary closures of health facilities and services continue.

Although they may have taken on new staff, 66% of countries continue to report health workforce-related reasons as the most common causes of service disruptions. Supply chains are also still disrupted in nearly one third of countries, affecting the availability of essential medicines, diagnostics, and the PPE needed to safely and effectively provide care.

Communications efforts need to be further scaled up: more than half of countries report service disruptions due to patients not seeking care and because of community mistrust and fears of becoming infected.

Meanwhile, 43% of countries cite financial challenges as major causes for disruptions in service utilization.

As a result, millions of people are still missing out on vital health care. In terms of services, the biggest impact reported by nearly half of countries is on provision of day-to-day primary care to prevent and manage some of the most common health problems. Long-term care for chronic conditions, rehabilitation, and palliative end-of-life care, is also still badly disrupted - severely affecting older people and people living with disabilities.

Potentially life-saving emergency, critical and surgical care interventions are still disrupted in about 20% of countries, reflecting the most immediate indirect consequences of the pandemic. Two thirds of countries also report disruptions in elective surgeries, with accumulating consequences as the pandemic is prolonged.

Among the most extensively affected health services (i.e. those for which more than 40% of countries are reporting disruptions) are those for mental, neurological and substance use disorders; neglected tropical diseases; tuberculosis; HIV and hepatitis B and C; cancer screening, and services for other noncommunicable diseases including hypertension and diabetes; family planning and contraception; urgent dental care; and malnutrition.

Issued ahead of World Immunization Week (which starts 24 April) and World Malaria Day (25 April) the survey reveals that serious gaps also remain in addressing disruptions to services in both these areas. More than one third of countries are still reporting disruptions to immunization services, despite progress in countries reducing disruptions to immunization services in health facilities and “outreach” immunization services by about 20% and 30% respectively compared to 2020. This highlights the need for new and sustained approaches to improving immunization coverage and uptake.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose serious challenges to global health beyond the impact of the disease itself,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. “For children, disruptions to immunization services have serious consequences. As we scale up delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, we have to ensure that this does not come at the cost of essential childhood vaccinations. We cannot allow today’s fight against COVID-19 to undermine our fight against measles, polio or other vaccine preventable illnesses. Prolonged immunization disruptions will have long-term consequences for children’s health. The time to catch up is now.”

Meanwhile, nearly 40% of countries are also reporting disruptions to one or more malaria services. While progress compared to 2020 – with about 10% fewer countries reporting disruptions to malaria diagnosis and treatment and 25-33% fewer countries reporting disruptions to malaria prevention campaigns (including distribution of long-lasting insecticide impregnated bed nets, indoor spraying and seasonal malaria chemoprevention), the reported level of disruption is still significant and needs to be urgently addressed.

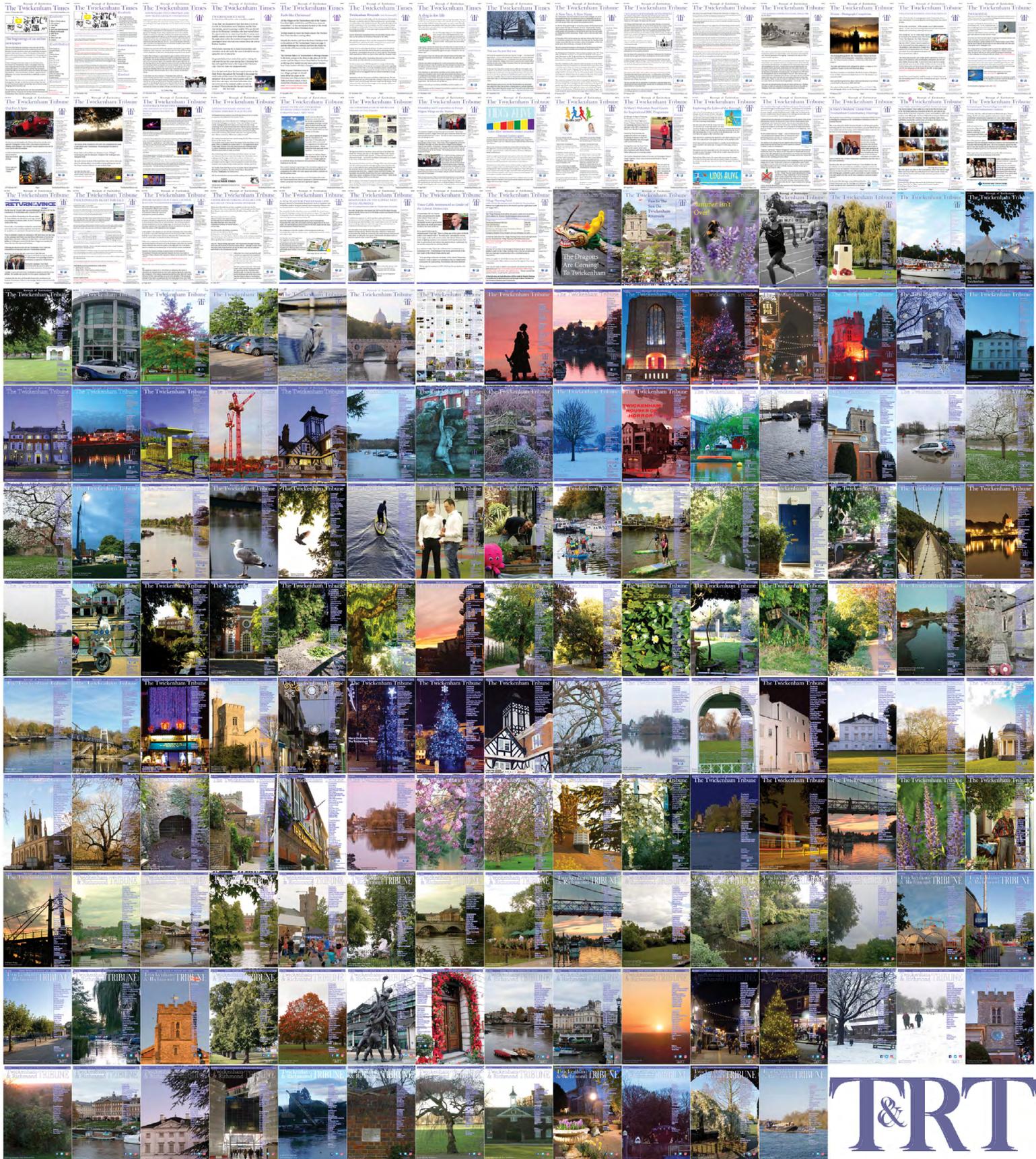
WHO will continue to support countries so they can respond to increased strains on health systems and rapidly evolving priorities and needs throughout the course of the pandemic, and to ensure that COVID-19 control strategies are in balance strategies to tackle other health priorities and secure continued access to comprehensive care for everyone, including the most vulnerable.

Key support mechanisms include the ACT-Accelerator, which works to speed up equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments, and the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which guides actions taken at national, regional, and global levels to tackle COVID-19.

The Organization also remains focused on the delivery of the work it has committed to before the COVID-19 pandemic started. Internally, through the “Boost initiative” and the UHC Partnership, which covers 115 countries, WHO has strengthened its capacity to provide additional support to countries so they can maintain essential health services during the pandemic, and advance progress towards universal health coverage.



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