

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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NAO

LBRuT

## Editors

Berkley Driscoll

Teresa Read



10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Twickenham Rail Line Closures

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September will see continued work at Twickenham Junction:

- Buses replace trains between Richmond or Barnes and Feltham and between Twickenham and Teddington.
- Reading and Windsor & Eton Riverside services will be diverted via Hounslow.
- Twickenham via Kingston services will be diverted to Shepperton.
- A rail shuttle service will operate between Richmond and London Waterloo on Saturday only.

## Emergency Services Day

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames led Richmond Council's marking of Emergency Services Day (or #999 Day) today, with the flying of a new flag above the Civic Centre in Twickenham.

The Mayor, Cllr Geoff Acton, was joined by Deputy Mayor Cllr Suzette Nicholson, Rob Davies, Borough Commander of the London Fire Brigade in Richmond, Richmond & Twickenham Neighbourhoods Inspector Jon McLoughlin, Cllr John Coombs, Reverend Jeff Hopkins Williams and the Council's Director of Environment and Community Services, Paul Chadwick.

Emergency Services Day promotes the work of the emergency services, promotes using the emergency services responsibly, educates the public about basic lifesaving skills, and promotes the many career and volunteering opportunities available.

Find out more about [Emergency Services Day](#).

## Council announces new Development Delivery Agreement for affordable housing

A Development Delivery Agreement between Richmond Council and housing provider Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) is to be implemented aimed at increasing affordable housing in the borough over the next 5 years.

The Development Delivery Agreement will use shared resources to enhance and increase affordable housing delivery on identified sites in the borough and to provide a fund to acquire new sites for affordable housing developments.

The Council has committed to supporting the Development Delivery Agreement with up to £5 million worth of funding over the next five years. This funding will come from both the Richmond Council Housing Capital Grant and funds held jointly by RHP and the Council intended to support development of affordable housing. The agreement has now been finalised and signed by both parties.



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# TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal wanted to talk about the council's Riverside planning application. Unfortunately, their proposed ugly luxury flats, which are being plonked on top of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, are so large and domineering there isn't much room for anything to be said.

Just as there won't be room for proper public gardens or a town square!

**PRIVATE  
Residents  
ONLY**



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

### Weekly Epidemiological Update 7 September 2021

The global incidence of COVID-19 cases has remained stable over the month with over 4.4 million new cases reported this week (30 August-5 September). During this period, all regions reported either a decline (Regions of Africa, South-East Asia, and the Eastern Mediterranean) or a similar trend (Regions of Europe and the Western Pacific) in new weekly cases, except for the Region of the Americas which reported a 19% increase as compared to previous week. The number of deaths reported globally this week also remained similar to the previous week, with just under 68 000 new deaths reported. The incidence of new deaths declined in all regions apart from the Region of the Americas and Europe where deaths increased by 17% and 20% respectively

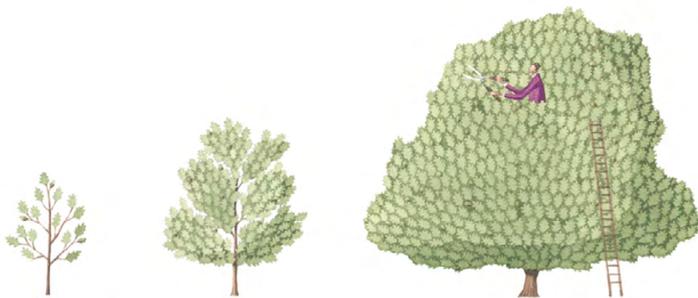
The cumulative number of cases reported globally is now just over 220 million and the cumulative number of deaths is over 4.5 million

### Total cases to 10th September 2021

Richmond upon Thames	17,624
Kingston upon Thames	17,989
Hounslow	34,176

## World Health Organization: Countries with High Numbers of Deaths. Deaths Worldwide 4,602,882.

USA	649,292	Czechia	30,413
Brazil	584,421	Hungary	30,086
India	442,009	Canada	27,106
Mexico	265,420	Bangladesh	26,794
Peru	198,595	Pakistan	26,497
Russian Federation	191,165	Belgium	25,447
Indonesia	138,431	Tunisia	24,041
The United Kingdom	133,841	Iraq	21,333
Italy	129,766	Malaysia	19,486
Colombia	125,427	Bulgaria	19,387
France	113,441	Bolivia	18,541
Argentina	112,962	Netherlands	18,058
Iran	112,935	Portugal	17,836
Germany	92,553	Egypt	16,842
Spain	85,218	Japan	16,603
South Africa	84,327	Myanmar	16,353
Poland	75,417	Paraguay	16,020
Turkey	59,170	Sweden	14,702
Ukraine	54,251	Viet Nam	14,470
Chile	37,159	Kazakhstan	14,423
Romania	34,914	Greece	14,060
Philippines	34,733	Morocco	13,296
Ecuador	32,365	Slovakia	12,558



### The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
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Mobile 07960 123580  
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info@thetreeagency.co.uk  
www.thetreeagency.co.uk



*The Tree Agency*

# Open the doors

By Simon Fowler

This weekend is Open House Weekend across London, where buildings that are traditionally closed to the public, such as 10 Downing Street throw open their doors. It is a worldwide initiative.

Over the past thirty years hundreds of public bodies, companies and even home-owners have welcomed people inside their buildings. Over the years I've been to semi-derelict air raid shelters, the splendid Foreign Office in Whitehall, and intimate almost forgotten chapels.

This year, unfortunately for obvious reasons, the range is much more limited. Even so there are some treats to be found locally. The highlights are probably Pope's Grotto and Bushy House.

Pope's Grotto is open on Saturday morning. It was constructed by the poet Alexander Pope in the 1720s and 1730s, initially as a tunnel linking his villa with land he owned by the Thames. Pope later redesigned the grotto as a museum of mineralogy and mining. A stalagmite from Wookey Hole in Somerset sent by a Mr Bruce and two small "joints" of basalt from the Giants' Causeway in Ireland, given by Sir Hans Sloane, joined over 140 other mineral and geological contributions. Inevitably over the decades the grotto became neglected, but is now being sensitively restored



The South Chamber of Pope's Grotto  
*Credit: Donald Insall Associates*

Bushy House is just open on Sunday. The original Bushy House was built in 1663 and consisted of the present main block, but with only two main floors above the basement and an attic. It is best remembered as being the home of the Duke of Clarence (later William IV) and his mistress Dorothea Jordan. The House and its extensive gardens were given to the National Physical Laboratory in 1900. Continuous alterations have made over the years, for example in the Ducal library, all ferrous metal was removed to enable it to become a non-magnetic room. The basement of Bushy House has proven to be ideal; in terms of temperature and vibrations. In 1932 the most accurate balance in the world was housed in one of these rooms.

Several churches are also offering tours – in Richmond St Mary Magdalene, St Matthias and St Johns. On the Middlesex side All Hallows is also open. The church, which can be seen from the A316, was built by Sir Christopher Wren and was removed to its present site in 1939 because of subsidence. Many original features survive.

More about Open House is at <https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk>. The venues offer timed entry and limit numbers, so it is important to check before you travel.

In addition, Open House, has published an excellent book on London's inns and taverns: *Public House: A cultural and social history of the London pub* with essays on 200 such establishment. Among them are the White Swan in Twickenham and Teddington's Mason's Arms.

# Opportunity to help revitalise garden for community use following funding award

Local environmental and heritage charity Habitats & Heritage has been awarded funding to help support the revitalisation of a vacant garden site for community use in the heart of Twickenham.

The Twickenham Training Centre, also known as the Twining Centre, in Grimwood Road, Twickenham was originally built as a day centre for adults with mental health issues and is Council owned with Achieving for Children (the Council's Children's Services provider) using the site to provide training and conference facilities for schools and other local groups.

Alongside the building is a garden site, including a greenhouse and raised beds that were previously used to provide horticultural workshops and courses for people with learning disabilities but is currently vacant.

Following the awarding of funding from the Council's Local Area Fund, Habitats & Heritage is looking to support a programme of engagement with local groups and organisations to better understand how the site could be used to benefit the local community.

It is anticipated that the garden site will be let to a voluntary sector or not for profit organisation who will maintain and manage the garden to deliver services which reflect the local need. This could include gardening activity to support people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, those who are suffering from loneliness and isolation or other vulnerabilities.

During the autumn Habitats & Heritage will be working with interested groups and residents to explore how the garden site can be brought back into use. Working in partnership with local organisations, the project will include helping to generate ideas, assessing their suitability, and working with pre-screened parties to submit a formal expression of interest.

Local groups and residents are encouraged to register their interest in the project by contacting Edward Stannard at Habitats & Heritage: [grimwood@habitatsandheritage.org.uk](mailto:grimwood@habitatsandheritage.org.uk)

Cllr Michael Wilson, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector, said:

*"The garden site on Grimwood Road presents an invaluable opportunity for a local group or organisation to provide a community focused service for the benefit of their service users and the local community.*

*"Such opportunities rarely present themselves and could be utilised to great effect by a local group. I encourage any groups or organisations who work with residents with learning disabilities, mental health issues, or residents suffering from loneliness and isolation or other vulnerabilities to contact Habitats & Heritage and to tell them how the site and garden could benefit your local group and the residents your group works with."*

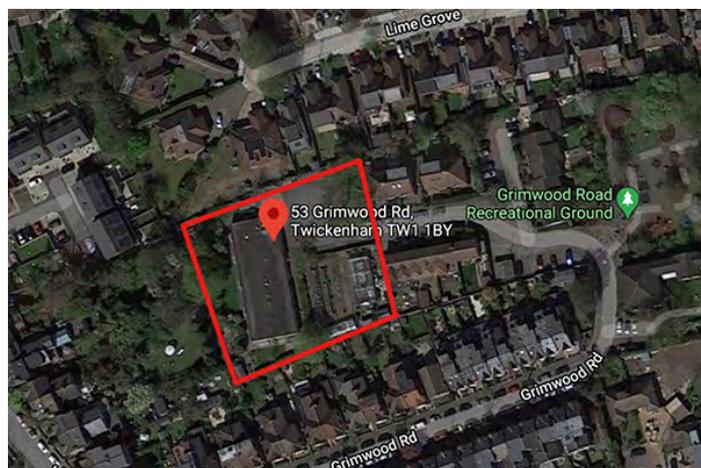
Colin Cooper, CEO of Habitats & Heritage, said:

*"We are looking forward to working with voluntary organisations, the community, other interested parties, Richmond Council and Achieving for Children, to find and support the creation of ideas and plans for future uses for this wonderful space."*

Gill Goouch, Associate Director for Workforce of Achieving for Children (AfC), said:

*'Twickenham Training Centre is a fabulous facility for our children's workforce and the outside garden offers numerous possibilities to the new provider(s), enabling them to meet the multiple needs of our local community. We are really looking forward to the opportunities to work with our partners in the Council, Charity and Community sector to make the whole site a welcoming, usable and enriching space for everyone to enjoy.'*

Visit Habitats & Heritage's [website](#)



Dear Editors,

## Twickenham Riverside Trees

Your readers will be aware of the recently published plans for the re-development of Twickenham Riverside (reference 21/2758 on the Council's Planning website). I wish to draw attention to the proposals regarding trees (Reports numbered 20 and 21, "Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Methods" and "Arboricultural Survey"). These reports, by a firm of Specialist Environmental Consultants, set out in detail what is to happen to the various trees within the Diamond Jubilee Gardens (DJG).

**The following trees are to be "removed to facilitate development"** (although many of them are recommended in the expert's Report to be "retained if possible"):

- Three silver birch trees, of moderate size but attractive appearance, in the area below the Playground
- The two Catalpa (Indian Bean Tree) framing the Wharf Lane entrance to DJG. These are mature trees with spectacular white flowers in the summer, followed by long bean pod seeds (see illustration).
- Two of the four mature hornbeams that serve to screen the DJG from the flats at rear of King St and from traffic on the Service Rd. These native species make a magnificent backdrop to DJG, and the expert's Report states their "loss would affect the local landscape"
- The seven pin oaks on the River side of The Embankment
- The group of four pleached London plane trees, which, together with the two other similar groups, act to shelter the pétanque court. Also, one of these trees from a separate group of eight.



**The following trees are being "relocated" by a "specialist sub-contractor"**

- The black poplar that was planted by Princess Alexandra to celebrate the opening of DJG in 2012 (it is mistakenly stated in a Report that it was planted by Sir David Attenborough!)
- Eleven of the remaining pleached planes.
- There are no details about how, where and when such relocation will occur

**The following trees are spared**

- Two hornbeams from the existing row of four.

In common with many other residents I am very fond of trees; as in the opening words of the song made famous by Paul Robeson "I think that I shall never see/ a poem lovely as a tree". It makes me sad to see to think of all these specimens being destroyed. Readers might note that, according to the Council, "loss of trees" is a "material planning consideration", and hence legitimate grounds for a valid objection to the plans.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller, Twickenham

Dear Sir,

**Twickenham Riverside £40 Million**

If I want to borrow money to set up say a shop or a cafe I have to produce a workable business plan in order to obtain the loan. The Council is intending to spend in the region of £40million of our money on yet another Twickenham Riverside redevelopment plan yet there has been no viability study to show that we are getting proper value for money. Why not? Transparent? I think not.

Yours sincerely,

Mike, a Twickenham Council Tax payer. (Name and address supplied)

Dear Editors,

**Twickenham Riverside Planning Consultation**

Please could someone on the Council clear up the discrepancies regarding dates by which representations to the Twickenham Riverside planning application can be made. The notice first appeared in the Richmond and Twickenham Times on August 27th, stating that people had 3 weeks in which to reply, therefore taking us to September 17th. Now there are notices on Twickenham Embankment dated 3rd September and stating that the closing date is 24th September. Which date is it?

Best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller, Twickenham

Dear Sir,

**Leaf Blowers**

Am I the only one completely fed up with the disturbance and noise pollution from leaf blowers?

I am sure that that they are not environmentally friendly and yet their use seems to be increasing.

They don't seem very efficient either and half the time leaves are simply blown into the street or someone else's property.

Can't the council take a stand on this and ban them, or at least insist that electric blowers are used?

Claire, Hampton (Name and address supplied)

*Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.*

*Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will publish as a single page.*

*All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.*

*The Tribune prefers letters to include the writer's name, but will publish anonymously provided details are supplied.*

# 22nd Town Twinning Sign Unveiled

Sunday 5th September 2021. The Deputy Mayor of Richmond, councillor Suzette Nicholson, & local councillor, Avril Coelho, unveiled another magnificent new town twinning sign which welcomes visitors to Richmond & highlights the borough's international partnerships.

The weather was absolutely glorious as the Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band entertained up to 100 REA members & local residents who picnicked in the park prior to the unveiling ceremony.

The programme of English, French & German music included the Can-Can, songs from Cabaret & works by Vaughan-Williams & Beethoven.

REA members distributed information about our twin towns to picnickers, passers-by & even passing motorists, who stopped to see what on earth was going on!



*l-r. Deputy Mayor's Consort, John Nicholson, Deputy Mayor, cllr. Suzette Nicholson, cllr. Avril Coelho & the Middlesex Yeomanry director of music, Mike Robinson*

Throughout the performance the huge new sign was draped with the flag of Konstanz.

At 4 p.m. REA chairman, Alan Mockford, introduced the deputy mayor, who addressed the assembled throng before unveiling the impressive cast iron sign while the band played "Ode to Joy."



*L-R. REA Chairman, Alan Mockford, the Deputy Mayor, Suzette Nicholson, her consort, John Nicholson & local councillor & REA member, Avril Coelho.*

In the autumn a service tree of Fontainebleau will be planted on the common by the sign. As the name suggests, these trees originate from the world famous forêt de Fontainebleau, with whom Richmond has been twinned since 1977.

It was a splendid occasion with lovely music & blessed by marvellous late English summer weather. Awareness of our twin towns in Hampton has certainly been raised significantly as a result of the ceremony & the new sign.

Es war ausgezeichnet!

Particular thanks are due to the Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band for their wonderful performance.

Their next two performances are on Sunday 17th October at 3 p.m. in St. James' Church, Hampton Hill & The Mayor's Christmas Concert on Friday 17th December at 7.30 p.m. in York House, Twickenham.

For further information about the band please click [HERE](#)



**S E P T E M B E R 1 1 , 2 0 2 1**

Subject to review closer to date  
based on Covid restrictions



## St Margarets Fair 2021

SAVE THE DATE

### Pick up your free copy of this month's What's On in Richmond brochure

The September edition of Visit Richmond's What's On magazine is now available from Richmond Libraries and Richmond Station Info Kiosk.

This month's magazine features events at Strawberry Hill House, Orleans House Gallery, Eel Pie Museum, The Richmond museum, Marble Hill House and much much more.

Make sure you get out and explore some of this month's wonderful events taking place across the borough.

Read September What's on [HERE](#)

### 'The Children' set to open at the Mary Wallace Theatre

The latest production at Twickenham's riverside theatre is Lucy Kirkwood's post-apocalyptic drama 'The Children' which opens on Saturday, 18 September and plays for a week.

A retired couple of nuclear scientists, living under the consequences of a radiation leak, are visited by a colleague from their past and are forced to confront their guilt and responsibilities.

This tense drama with contemporary resonances will run until Saturday, 25 September. The last remaining tickets are still available on 07484 927622 or via

[www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

# The “NEW NORMAL” in Church Street

By Shona Lyons

At Last, slowly, life is returning to some sort of normality. Of course our little street has changed too, for many it is for the better as for now it has been permanently pedestrianised – all day & every day. And so for now we have a “Café Society” from Dawn to Dusk – as they say and beyond!

What’s more the boutique shops, weather permitting, display their wares in the street – ideal for browsing & there’s a real community buzz. Naturally it’s a developing story and we have to adapt the new disciplines as we go along.

Events are coming soon too. First up in the return of the immensely successful High Tide Festival last run in 2019 ( actually that was the first time too) But this time it is spread around the town – Make a note of the date – September 26th 2021 and check the details <https://www.eelpierecords.com/high-tide-2021.html?direct=true> & join in the fun.

31st October – a Sunday – will see the return of our ever popular Halloween Event details to be announced on Church Street of Twickenham Facebook – all the fun for the little ones- so put that in the Diary, as it is the last day of the October School Break. Let’s celebrate the return of this event much loved by all and not seen since 2019!



And – in the dark days of November Church Street is complimenting the King Street Christmas Lights ON with a Christmas Fair the perfect opportunity to search for Christmas Presents, Stocking Fillers and more. Watch this space! More will be announced soon!



And to round off the year – yes, you’ve guessed it – the beloved FRENCH MARKET returns to Church Street. Saturday and Sunday December 18th and 19th the perfect opportunity to add a little “a la Francais” to your Christmas Fayre.



No exactly “The Windmill” but Church Street never stops & we must move forward with a little sparkle in our toes.

# Local boys scull to victory at the Henley Royal Regatta

After a year without major competition due to the pandemic, a junior crew from Tideway Scullers School achieved an historic win in the Fawley Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in August.

The Fawley is an event for quadruple sculls open to junior boys. This is the first time in the history of the event that a crew from Tideway has won this prestigious title. The crew members were local boys, Finnegan Regan (Waldegrave School), Gabriel Obholzer (Emmanuel School), Albie Oliver (Charter School) and Matthew Hansen (American School in London).

The crew were coached by experienced father and son team, Chris and Jonathan Williams.

Commenting on their win, Chris said:

“These boys have trained incredibly hard for the last two years, not just physically but in the way they have applied themselves to learn the skills needed to become some of the best junior scullers in the country. For a Community Amateur Sports club like us to be winning at the top level at Henley alongside the very best private schools with their depth of resources and superior funding, is just a fantastic achievement. I’m so proud of what they’ve achieved. I wish them all well at the top US universities they are now going on to to further their education.”

Tideway Scullers School runs rowing programmes for junior and senior men and women from its clubhouse on the River Thames near Chiswick Bridge. These are ideal for any junior athletes aged 14 and over who are keen to row competitively but may not have access to rowing through their school’s sports curriculum.



To find out how to get involved in this exciting sport contact the Membership Secretary via email at [membership@tidewayscullers.com](mailto:membership@tidewayscullers.com).

# The Hampton Wick Village Fete takes place this weekend

Businesses in Hampton Wick are organising a special event on Saturday 18 September to welcome people back to the High Street. There will be music, stalls, family entertainment to keep visitors entertained on the day.

The event will be focused on the areas around St John's Place – which means that the junction with the High Street will be closed off, as will the adjoining ends of St John's Road and Park Road. The closure is expected to be in effect for most of the day on Saturday 18 September.

The [Hampton Wick Village Fete](#) will run from 11am to 6pm with something for all tastes with great food and drink stalls.



## HAMPTON WICK VILLAGE FÊTE

# Arts Richmond launches Young Writers Festival

Arts Richmond have launched their annual writing competition for all young people in the borough. The competition runs from Wednesday 1 September until Friday 3 December 2021.

Arts Richmond Young Writers' Festival is open to all young people who either live or attend school/clubs in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It is a chance to demonstrate writing skills of any form: stories, descriptive writing, poems, playlets, lyrics for songs - whatever the imagination can devise.

Entries are judged in four age groups with prizes for all winning entries. In addition, Arts Richmond appoints a Junior and Senior Laureate who will be given opportunities during the following year to write about events taking place in the borough, for possible publication.

All shortlisted entrants will be invited to a gala awards event in a prestigious venue in spring 2022.



Entry rules are simple. Entrants may write about any subject of their choice, in any format (e.g. a poem, story, play script, news item etc.) not exceeding 500 words or 25 lines for a poem. Entries must be typed (hand written entries will be disqualified).

Extracts from longer pieces will be accepted. All entries must be exclusively the entrant's own work.

Entries will be judged in the following categories:

- School years 4 and under
- School years 5 and 6
- School years 7 to 9
- School years 10 and over

Find out full competition details and how to apply [HERE](#)



## Orleans House Gallery

Join the new Play:Make:Art workshops for 2-5 year olds

Have fun with your small children exploring art skills and techniques at Orleans House Gallery's new workshops for 2-5-year-olds.

Join artist Abigail Hunt to explore playful and creative environments and work with your child to make and experience images, sculptures, textures, sounds and light.

The workshops will nurture creativity and curiosity, and are designed to support early years skill development in communication, co-ordination and social interaction.

Sessions take place fortnightly on Friday mornings at from 10.30am with autumn sessions beginning on Friday 17 September.

Visit the [website](#) for full details and to book your ticket.

## Richmond

### Richmond Fire Station open day

Visit the Richmond Fire Station open day on Sunday 19 September 2021 from 12 noon to 4.30pm.

Your chance to:

- Meet local firefighters
- Get fire safety advice and arrange a free smoke alarm fitting
- See the latest fire service equipment and watch rescue demonstrations

Location: 323 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, TW9 4PN

### Marble Hill Park

### #RichmondLive continues this weekend with Celebration of Dance at Marble Hill Park

Join the Visit Richmond team for an afternoon of free dance in the fresh air with the Rambert Dance Company, Marble Hill School of Dance, Boundless Dance and RISE accessible Dance team.

Come and see this Celebration of Dance this Sunday 12 September as part of #RichmondLive at Marble Hill. Cllr John Coombs and Cllr Nancy Baldwin will open the event at 2pm.

Celebrate the wonderful dancing talent in the borough from amateurs and professionals alike and the return of live performances.

View [Visit Richmond website](#) for more information.

# “Twickenham Riverside” – Selling the Family Silver

Teresa Read

**Agent:** Savills [Estate Agents] Margaret Street London, W1G 0JD

**Architects:** Hopkins Architects

**Ownership of the Land:** Title Absolute the Mayor and the Burgesses of the Borough: bought by the Council in 1924 for the purpose of providing “public walks and pleasure grounds”.

**Planning application number:** [21/2758/FUL](#)

The planning application for the Hopkins luxury flats on Twickenham Riverside will be decided by a planning committee composed of a majority of the political party which has submitted the application. What hope do the residents of Twickenham have of saving their public open space which is currently “protected” by a Trust with a 125-year lease?

The answer is very little, but we will remember. As the Council administration they have the money – our money – and the lawyers - and believe they can even overcome a Charities Commission Trust by threatening a Compulsory Purchase Order.

In the past the residents have made it clear that they do not want housing provision on this land – our land registered in the name of the residents of the Borough; Public Open Space in a Conservation Area, currently protected by a Trust with a 125-year lease.

The problem is that this highly desirable spot for residents is also highly desirable to property developers and the Council; although the residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames have fought to save the land, the thought of “more funds” is paramount to those we elected to serve the community.

There is little consideration of the importance to residents of our designated public open space, an idyllic spot on the Thames. No thought, especially in this ghastly pandemic, that we, and our children, need this area on our riverside to relax and play. Not forgetting, the riverside environment, the mature trees and wildlife habitats which will be destroyed.

We have heard about the need for “affordable housing” but this will NOT be built on the desirable area, now Diamond Jubilee Gardens – no, it will be segregated, away to the side, on land bought by the Council in more recent years, and next to a road. Building this “affordable housing” is not dependent on building the Hopkins luxury flats overlooking a unique view of the Thames.

Hopkins architects have designed their luxury flats on our Gardens and our Council, which is supposed to represent the electorate, has engaged a high flying “salesman” from Savills Estate Agents in the West End of London to oversee sales. So, what about all the talk of “affordable housing”? - a red herring, of course.

A number of residents have made comments on the planning application and restoring the “lido” has been mentioned. Perhaps you remember the open-air Twickenham Baths on the much-disputed site? A place for children, young people and families where they could enjoy outdoor sport and socialise – something many need today.

So, the present administration of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will go ahead and build their luxury flats – what of the vast sums of money they will accrue? Will it improve our Borough?

All I can say is remember the ice rink, and remember the date of the next Council election, 5 May 2022. Perhaps if the housing has been built on our riverside by then it will be a good reminder of what they have done in their term of office.

And remember, it was a Council administration of this hue which dealt with the planning for the East Twickenham Ice Rink – despite promises it was never replaced but the luxury flats stand on the site.

Further reading: The history of Twickenham Riverside and links to Heritage Lottery projects about Twickenham Baths and the Ice Rink in East Twickenham: <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=SavingTwickenhamRiverside>

# Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

## TAKE THE 267 TO PIZZA HEAVEN!

Pizza: A really good pizza is something very special, and it doesn't always need to have lots of expensive toppings. In fact, one of the best ones I ever tasted was in a back street café in Naples and it just had tomato, some herbs and mozzarella. It's all about the dough and the heat of the oven, of course. Lots of pop-up pizza places have sprung up in the last few years, and recently I kept hearing about a fabulous new place in Hammersmith (the Chiswick High Road end). It's called **Base Face Pizza** and was born during lockdown as a charitable fundraiser. It created such a loyal cult following across Chiswick and Hammersmith that it now has its own, bricks and mortar, premises at 300 King Street. And reader, it is worth the journey; and another bonus is that it is on the 267 bus route!



Why is it called Base Face Pizza you must be thinking? Well, founder Tim Thornton a trained jazz musician, like so many others, lost his income due to Covid. Having one of those Ooni ovens in the garden, time on his hands, and unable to find a pizza he liked locally, he created a dough that's lighter than a classic sourdough, and even more delicious. Having created his own Slow Dough (fermented for a minimum of 48 hours) he started making pizzas for friends and family under the watchful eye of his Italian wife. Tim's Slow Dough uses an original new flour blend, part 00 flour and part Triticum flour, grain bred from Wild Barley and Durum Wheat, to create a base with a very low GI. To that he adds loads of local ingredients ranging from Acton's La Latteria Burrata and Cobble Lane charcuterie to Chiswick Chillies oil. He was giving his pizzas away initially, but asked for a donation of £5 per pizza to NHS Charities.

Well, the result is one of those classic, uplifting, success stories. So we decided to head over to check it out. And am I glad we did! My husband enjoyed a beer from Jefferson's Brewery in Barnes, while I sipped a Negroni and we chose our pizzas. It wasn't easy, as they were all so tempting, but I chose Truffle Shuffle (mushroom and truffle crema, mixed wild mushrooms, mozzarella and olive oil - £12). Our other choice was Sausage & Chilli (fennel sausage, Chiswick Chillies Chilli jam, Cornish Kern cheese, pickled red onion, tomato, basil and olive oil -£13)



They were both sensational, and one of the other clever things is a choice of home made dips to help you enjoy every last bit of your pizza crust. We had balsamic aioli and it was an inspired choice – they should bottle it and market it separately!

Sensibly the dessert menu is very concise: Tiramisu, Cannoli or Bears ice creams. I chose an ice cream with tomato, basil and strawberry jam: yes, you read that correctly – OMG it was stupendous! My husband enjoyed a pistachio tiramisu that was also declared exemplary. We'll be back soon, but put Base Face on your radar if visiting Hammersmith or Chiswick. It does takeaway too, for collection or delivery. It's well placed for the tube or buses and the delivery area is gradually expanding from the current Chiswick and surrounds, so keep an eye on the website [basefacepizza.com](http://basefacepizza.com)



## Escaped Alone

by Caryl Churchill

Teddington Theatre Club, streamed on-line from Hampton Hill Theatre

Don't old women seem to witter on about nothing! This is a common prejudice however 'unwoke' it is to say so. And yet if you listen carefully, who knows what you might learn?

*Escaped Alone* starts with Mrs Jarrett, peering through a window at Vi, Sally and Lena. They are enjoying tea together and invite her in when they see her. Mrs Jarrett is thus placed as an outsider, but as the play progresses it becomes apparent that, in their way, each of them is an outsider. Indeed, so are we all.



After she joins them, the conversation might seem banal. The women are talking but not really listening to each other. But listen carefully. Some of those hanging comments mean much more later on. In fact there is probably more to glean from this play than one performance can deliver. See it twice if you can!

our phobias, our insecurities or a disturbed imagination. The conversation between the four merely touches on these to begin with, leaving the audience asking more about these ladies. As the play develops, we find out more, although our questions are never fully answered. The charm of this play is that it doesn't make any judgements. That is left to the audience.

Read Nick Swyft's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/09/04/escaped](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/09/04/escaped)

Photography by Sarah Carter





## Acis and Galatea

by George Frideric Handel, libretto by John Gay  
The Vache Baroque Festival, Chalfont St. Giles

In *Metamorphoses*, Ovid tells of the idyllically passionate romance between the shepherd Acis and the water nymph, Galatea (think Twickenham's Naked Ladies). Ovid kindled the brilliance of Handel to transform the myth into his pastoral opera, *Acis and Galatea*. It would be hard to find a more pastoral setting than The Vache estate, with its rolling parkland, nicely adorned with cut-outs of winged sheep and putti. Thence the transformation by VBF of Handel's "little opera" into a bijou delight of bubbly baroque.



Act One describes a joyful idyll of carefree living. The nymphs and swains who inhabit this blissful world extol "the pleasure of the plains" in ecstatic song and exuberantly energetic dance. All this playful wooing and courting, pursuing and winning proves too much for the pining Galatea, searching for her beloved Acis. For Galatea even the birds, origami birds in this open-air production, fire her passion and she tells them to "hush, ye pretty warbling quire!" [Rowan Pierce's](#) soprano lirico aria is a treat. When

the two lovers finally meet, Acis' siciliano serenade, "Love in her eyes sits playing" is beautifully sung by honeyed tenor James Way.

Their meeting though is set against the sensually charged background of the Arcadian pleasure-seekers, played with relish by the chorus. The boys and girls are having fun. Swains, sheepskins at the ready, pursue nymphs clad in hooped stockings, who playfully rebuff their advances: the mood is of veiled eroticism. They attend on Galatea and Acis, bringing a bath which they fill with coloured bath-foam. The couple leap in, singing the light-hearted duet, "Happy we ... what charms I see!" until they become lost in a plethora of soap bubbles of all shapes and sizes!



However, Act Two opens with the chorus warning of the approach of a giant cyclops, "no joy shall last", and the pastoral idyll of the first Act is shattered. Polyphemus (bass-baritone Tristan Hambleton) is a jealousy-ridden ogre, crashing his way with a heavy staff and crushing blood with a heavy hand. And so to the metamorphosis ...

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/09/06/acis-galatea](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/09/06/acis-galatea)

Photography by The Photography Shed

# There`s always a Silver Lining

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



Not too much news this week but Canada has gone wild as Canada goes Green & whilst it is too late to run the ever popular Inside Passage Cruises there are trips on the Rock Mountaineer, though you can't really take advantage of their new route; Denver to Moab as that is in the USA (yes it is running in 2021 – so if Mr Biden changes his mind and lets us in – you could be in for a treat) However now is the perfect moment to book a Winter Ski trip to Whistler whilst prices are still low - and before too many wake up to this new opportunity.

Just now we are seeing “last minute” Sun offers in GREECE at really excellent prices, perhaps because they now have to compete with Italy who until last week were quarantining visitors from the UK for 5 days on arrival.



The Disciplines and Protocols are still a bit of a minefield but slowly -one by one they are being relaxed and there is talk that the Traffic Lights will be abandoned soon and double jabbers can roam free – but NOT YET dear reader please, please check first!!!



Over the years it is always too late by now September to book good Skiing trips for The February Half Term but the Pandemic has left so much uncertainty that you can this late Summer still find affordable trips and some major companies have extended their “Early Booking” offers as have the many Cruise Companies desperate to get back on track.

My advice if you are looking for an adventure at good prices now is a great time to book as all companies offer “Book with Confidence” Conditions which protect against Covid-19 regulations changing and as long as the publics anxieties continue there will be offers – too good to believe sometimes – but there nothing like a low price to get people off their feet.

It's time to check the passport (be sure you have 3 months validity – that is a Brexit need) dust off the suitcase and stop by your local travel agent (that's us!!) to check the protocols and don't worry if they change you are protected. [www.crusadertravel.com](http://www.crusadertravel.com) / 020 8744 0474

# TRAVELLER'S TALES 105

## SEDAN AND THE MAGINOT LINE

Doug Goodman visits an historical part of France



I knew very little about the history and geography of North-Eastern France – the region of the Ardennes and bordering Germany. But I had heard about a series of defences called the Maginot Line so I jumped at the chance to see the area as a guest of the Champagne Ardennes Tourist Board. First stop, after a drive of three and a half hours from the DFDS ferry from Dover to Calais, was the Chateau Fort de Sedan. This huge building, constructed in 1424, dominates the town and is situated on a peninsula formed by a curve in the River Meuse. The fortress is now a four star hotel and restaurant with 52 rooms in what is claimed to be Europe's biggest castle.



Entrance to Sedan



Hotel Within Sedan  
Fortress



Castle Exhibition



Fort de Villy La Ferté

From the 17th to the 19th centuries Sedan enjoyed a golden period when it was the centre of the textile industry. Warfare and occupation form a great part of its history with three wars in the 19th and 20th centuries. First The Franco-Prussian war of 1870, then four years of occupation in WW1 and more recently during WW2 when the enemy took France by surprise by invading from the difficult terrain of the Ardennes Forest. For a fascinating insight into the region's history the War and Peace museum at Novion-Porcien situated between Reims and Charleville-Mezieres has a collection of 14,000 objects devoted to the conflicts. The castle could once accommodate 4000 people during troubled times and there's a fascinating exhibition covering the region's 1000 year history. Rooms with views over the countryside are superbly comfortable while the restaurant in the banqueting hall has local dishes and fine wines. In May a medieval festival offers jousting, acrobats and colourful parades.



Guided Tour



Well Preserved Fortifications



Generator

### DEFENCE OF THE REGION

After the fall of Sedan in 1870 the French Government decided it needed to build a line of forts along its North- Eastern borders. In 1877 work began on the fort of Les Ayvelles. The stronghold contained 21 cannon and 880 men and now its two miles of tunnels are open to visitors. After WW1 Henri Maginot was tasked with the design of a line of forts to protect France from future German invasion. During the 1930s dozens of forts, bunkers, gun batteries, mine fields and anti-tank obstacles were built along 280 miles of Northern and North-Eastern France. A total of 500 buildings were designed to withstand heavy bombardment and gas attacks and were embedded deep underground. Modern weapons were installed; accommodation and catering facilities were provided for the hundreds of defenders with light railways to cover the great distances between some of the forts. France considered its frontiers to be secure.

The fort at La Ferte was the most Northerly defensive position with heavy protection for its steel gun turrets which could be lowered below ground. Unfortunately the Maginot Line was designed with static WW1 conflict in mind: the invading Germans in 1940 simply went around the end of the line and attacked from the rear. In May 1940 La Ferte resisted for four days until the Germans used explosives to destroy the steel domes. On 19th May 105 French troops perished in their steel and concrete fort.

## GUIDED TOURS

Situated 25 kms from Sedan on the D52 La Ferte controlled the Chiers Valley. A visit with a local guide begins at the memorial and tiny graveyard to the defenders. Close by are the huge steel domes showing signs of shelling. Some have been uprooted and tank traps and fields of barbed wire remain amongst the craters. The tour takes you inside the turrets to provide the same view through narrow slits that the gunners had as the enemy approached. Much remains intact: the generator still works, the machine gun and heavy gun emplacements can be examined and in some forts the light rail network is still in use. It's cold and damp when you descend underground: water drips into puddles and the whole experience is a sombre one when you consider the huge expense which went into the forts' construction and the vast number of French killed and captured.



Machine Gun Post



Gun Turret



Silent Sentinel

With 1.4 million French soldiers' deaths in WW1, Marshall Joffre in command at that time favoured a future defensive line to protect key areas while allowing the defenders to hold back the enemy and then emerge to drive them out of France. Building large-scale static defences seemed a sensible course of action in the 1930s. The huge toll of troops in 1914 to 1918 meant that France faced a shortage of man-power to defend itself. But based on WW1 military thinking the Maginot Line failed as it had not taken into account the ability of a modern army to use its tanks and infantry to move fast across difficult terrain. The attack through the Ardennes Forest by the Nazi Blitzkrieg came as a complete surprise and was followed by the advances through Belgium causing British and French troops to retreat to Dunkirk.

## A FAILURE?

Today The Maginot Line is considered, at best, to have been a good idea but built in the wrong place: at worst a terrible waste of resources and man-power that gave France a false sense of security. As judgement mellows, the belief is that the defences did work as they forced the Germans to use Belgium as their main attack route thus giving the allies time to form defensive positions before the retreat to the coast began.

There's much to see in the Ardennes and not just military museums and battlefields. Sporting activities are plentiful including the 180 kms. of the Trans-Ardennes cycle paths and a thrilling zip-wire trip across the river valley. Great food, wine and delicious local beers await visitors and very comfortable accommodation, from cosy b&bs to luxury rooms in Sedan Fortress, can be had at very reasonable prices.

More information from [www.sedan.fr](http://www.sedan.fr) and [www.ouvrageslaferte.fr](http://www.ouvrageslaferte.fr)

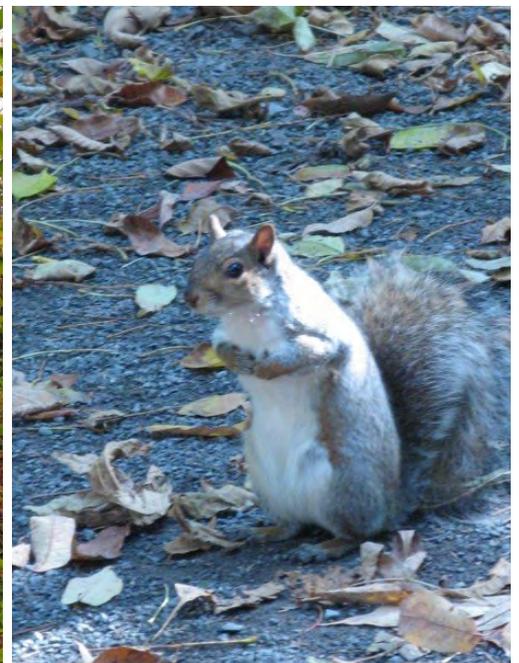
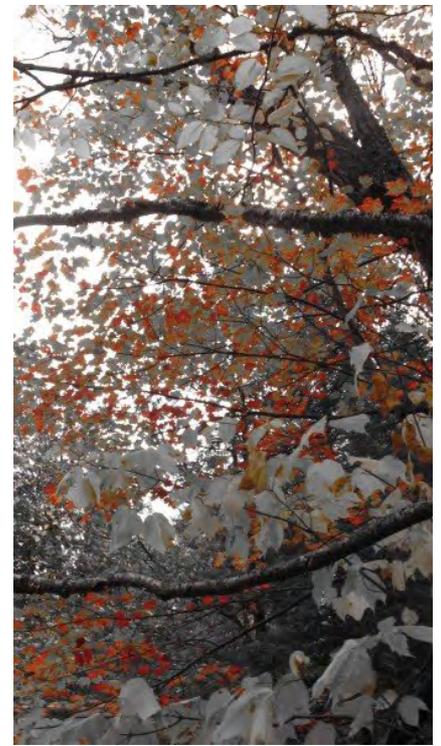
# WIZ TALES - CANADA

Teresa Read

Canada's protected areas are the responsibility of the Parks Canada Agency. A number of the National Parks are World Heritage sites: the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Banff National Park, Jasper National Park, Kootenay National Park, Yoho National Park), Gros Morne National Park, Kluane National Park, Nahanni National Park and Wood Buffalo National Park.

Tremblant National Park is Quebec's largest park. The photographs were taken in Tremblant during Fall (mid-September to late October).

Canada moved to the UK's green list on 30th August.



More photographs and information:

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



# REMEMBER! SEPTEMBER 15th

Three significant historical events occurred on September 15th

On September 15th 1916, as part of the Battle of the Somme, the last cavalry charge and the first use of tanks took place. One of the key points, which had to be captured from the Germans, was High Wood. Heavy casualties occurred during the attack on the one square kilometre wood especially to the 47th London Division. Private Alec Reader of the 15th battalion Civil Service Rifles was one of those killed as he approached the German Switch Trench. He died instantly from a sniper's shot to the head, according to the diary of a comrade fighting alongside. An estimated 10,000 British and German soldiers died during the fighting for the strategic spot. Many bodies still remain in the wood: one of which is Alec's – my uncle. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial commemorating over 73,000 men with no known grave. Today the private wood is peaceful but still retains the scars of a fierce battle. After 100 years the trees have grown and dense undergrowth covers the ground but a deep silence prevailed devoid of bird song. On 15th September 2016 Alec was remembered as my family assembled in High Wood exactly 100 years after his death.



Alec Reader in 1915

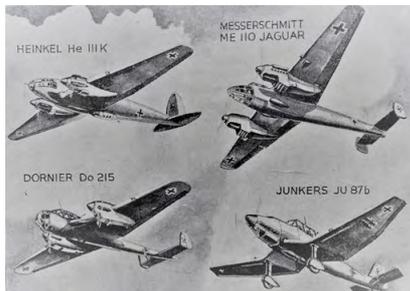


Thiepval Memorial on The Somme



High Wood on The Somme

On 15th September 1938 Neville Chamberlain visited Adolph Hitler in Berchtesgaden for peace talks. He made two more trips to Germany in September and returned on 30th from Munich with the letter 'peace for our time' signed by both men. We all know what followed that!



German Aircraft



Battle of Britain Fighters



Spitfire Cockpit



Battle of Britain Memorial

On 15th September Battle of Britain Day is commemorated. It was on that day in 1940 that the biggest air battle of the Second World War took place over South-East England. The first attacks by the Luftwaffe began on September 7th when German aircraft bombed London for 57 nights. The 24 RAF squadrons involved claimed 176 enemy aircraft destroyed on September 15th – a slight overestimate. In fact the numbers, which were revealed much later, showed that 60 bombers and fighters were shot down with 24 losses by the RAF. This proved to be the end of Goering's boast of annihilating the RAF and the turning point in The Battle of Britain.



## BRENTFORD FC

### Brentford announce signing of Mathias Jørgensen

Brentford have announced the signing of experience Danish international Mathias Jørgensen on a one year contract. The 31-year-old, commonly known as Zanka, arrives as a free agent and is included in the Bees' Premier League squad list.



The defender arrives as cover following the long-term injury to fellow Dane Mads Bech Sørensen who is set to be out for a period of time. Jørgensen began his career at FC Copenhagen where he spent five years before moving to the Netherlands to play for PSV Eindhoven. After a two year spell there he made a returned to FC Copenhagen. Jørgensen then experienced Premier League football for the first time with a transfer to Huddersfield Town before spells with Fenerbahçe, Fortuna Düsseldorf and another return to Copenhagen last season.

Jørgensen has represented Denmark at both youth and senior international level, winning 35 caps for the latter, and was included in Denmark's preliminary squads for both the 2018 World Cup and the 2020 European Championship.

Speaking to club media about the move Head Coach Thomas Frank said, "We are pleased that we could strengthen our squad and bring in a top quality experienced player to the group. This was especially important after Mads Bech picked up an injury.

"Zanka brings a wealth of experience from different leagues and a lot of international games, he has also played in the Premier League before. That experience and leadership is especially important, and it is great to get him in. Zanka is player that is defensively strong, he is aware of how we like to defend, has very good positioning and has quality on the ball. We think he can play in any of the three central defensive positions."

### UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: Brighton & Hove Albion (H) Saturday 11th September 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Seagulls

Competition: Premier League – Matchday 4

Head Coach: Graham Potter

Interesting fact: In order to raise funds for the cost of the public inquiry into planning permission for a new stadium a fund-raising appeal known as the Alive and Kicking Fund was started, with everything from nude Christmas Cards featuring the players to a CD single being released to raise cash. On 9 January 2005 this fund-raising single 'Tom Hark' went straight in at number 17 in the UK chart, gaining it national airplay on BBC Radio 1.

### Thomas Frank pre match quotes:

On how analysis and stats work:

"I think it's important to use the stats to prove a point. So now the expected goals (EG) but we also use

the stats from the GPS and how much they've been running (accelerations/decelerations). These HDML ratings and I use that but I always use my eyes first. That's the most important tool I use. So if I could at a player and they don't looking like they are sprint or they are coming back enough then I double check with the numbers and most of the times I'm right. That means I can use that stat because I can go to a player and say, 'You know what I don't think you ran enough there.' 'Yes I did.' 'No you didn't.' 'Yes I did.' But then you can see the number and you can use the video as well plus the expected goals. We use that in terms of shot location. So we can see where they actually shot from with video and with graphics. So if we are shooting from 30 yards out the chance of scoring a goal is 0.01 so maybe you should pass it next time or create a bigger chance. So that's some of ways we try to use the stats."

On Bryan Mbeumo completing 100 games for Brentford:

"I think Bryan is a very talented footballer and his two seasons now going into the third one has been remarkable, especially the first one. You know to come into a new league, a new country and scored something like 16 goals and seven/eight assists as a 20 year old is crazy. That is high, high numbers. For various reasons he couldn't keep those numbers as high and it was a strange season but he was still one of our most important players and he still did well. And then this season I think he's started very well in the Premier League. I think he's a threat with his pace going in behind, his one v one skills and he's a good pressing player. So he's a really good example of a modern player and I think his potential is huge. There's bits he needs to do. Be more consistent. Mentally more strong but good potential."

## Hampton & Richmond Borough

### Beavers denied thee points at the death

### Tonbridge Angels 1 – 1 Hampton & Richmond Borough

Hampton & Richmond were agonizingly denied their second win of the season as Ibrahim Olutade equalised for Tonbridge Angels deep into stoppage time after David Fisher had given the Beavers the lead with just over ten minutes to play with a superb free-kick.

The away side started on the front foot and created the first chance of the game when Jake Gray had a strike from distance that Jonathan Henly did well to acrobatically dive for a keep the scores level.

Midfielder Imran Uche on his first appearance for the Beavers this season then nearly made it the perfect start for him and the team when a set piece dropped to his but, but his toe poked effort was smartly kept out by the alert Henly.

At the other end Alan Julian had to be strong on a couple of occasions at corner kicks with the delivery hanging underneath the crossbar, but the Beavers goalkeeper did well both times to get a strong fist on the ball as both sides headed into the interval on level terms.

After the restart Fisher, on as a substitute, looked lively and very nearly opened the scoring from a promising counterattack when he had a shot from outside the box that Henly tipped over.

Henly was proving to be in inspired form and was once again called upon to keep out Hampton & Richmond soon after. Kadell Daniel picked up the ball on the edged of the box after the Angels goalkeeper had punched the ball out from a free-kick and he then showed remarkable speed to get back and dive at full stretch to keep out the follow up from Daniel.



The breakthrough came via a set piece when Ryan Gondoh was fouled just outside the area as he looked to dribble through the Tonbridge defence. Fisher then promptly stepped up to deliver a moment of magic as he curled an unstoppable free-kick into the top corner.

In a frenetic final ten minutes Gondoh was then sent off for two bookings following his substitution. Initially the winger was booked for timewasting as he took his time coming off the pitch and then minutes later he received a second needless caution after throwing the ball over the advertising hoarding while on the bench.

The pressure built and eventually in the 97th minute the Hampton & Richmond resistance was broken as Olutade popped up to smash a deflected ball in the Beavers area into the back of the net to deny them all three points.

## **Beavers drawn against Casuals in FA Cup**

Hampton & Richmond Borough will make the short journey to face Walton Casuals in the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Cup. The tie is due to place on Saturday 18th September with Hampton & Richmond set to make the trip to the Elmbridge Sports Hubs where they will place the side from the Southern League Premier Division South.

Both sides equalled their best cup runs last season with the Casuals making into to the Third Qualifying Round whilst the Beavers made it to the First Round Proper for the second time in three seasons where they faced League Two side Oldham Athletic.

## **Beavers sign Charles Hagan on loan from Sheffield Wednesday**

Hampton & Richmond Borough have added to their attacking options with the signing of Charles Hagan on loan from Sheffield Wednesday until January.

The striker originally joined the Owls from Chelsea and during his time with Sheffield Wednesday he was part of the U18 side that won a league double.

Speaking to club media following his move south Hagan said, "I think I'm hard working. I'm always wanting to do the best for the team. I think my qualities are that I'm direct, my pace. I always want to get on the front foot. Anywhere to help the team really but I'm always happy to run back in the gaffer needs me and defend. Other than my debut and pre-season it's mainly been U23s football so I'm delighted to be here and get some senior football under my belt. Even though it's a lower league you can still see the quality in the lads. There are players that have played football at a higher level so it's good to get that experience and that physicality and learn from the older boys."

## **UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON**

Opponent: Ebbsfleet United (H) Saturday 11th September 15:00 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Fleet

Competition: National League South – Matchday 6

Manager: Dennis Kutrieb

Interesting fact: Between 2008 and 2013, the club was owned by the web-based venture MyFootballClub, whose members voted on player transfers, budgets and ticket prices among other things instead of those decisions being made exclusively by the club's management and staff as at most other clubs

# Richmond to host inaugural 'Frontline Services vs Veterans' charity match this Sunday

Richmond will play host to the inaugural 'Frontline Services vs Veterans' charity match between London Ambulance Service XV and Pals Battalion XV this Sunday, 12 September at the Athletic Ground.

The teams will be captained by former England players Paul Sampson (former Wasps) and Tim Stimpson (former Leicester Tigers).

The game was established by Veterans organisation Pals Battalion and is dedicated to the memory of Grenadier Guard Elliot Hennell who sadly took his own life in 2020. Elliot was a stalwart member of Battersea Ironsides Rugby club for many years and as a soldier served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq completing three tours of Afghanistan.

Suicide is the single biggest killer of men under 45 in the UK accounting for 18 deaths per day. Elliot was just one of the 186,000 Veterans in the UK who developed PTSD through serving their country. Conversely, ambulance staff are five times more likely to develop PTSD than soldiers returning from duty whilst nearly half of all intensive care staff report PTSD symptoms, anxiety and depression.

The match will be raising funds for the NHS, LAS, Looseheadz and PALS and is an opportunity to thank those that selflessly keep our communities safe.

Kick-off at the Richmond Athletic Ground is 2.30pm with adult tickets priced at £10 and children under 16 going free. Tickets include entrance to the curtain-raiser between Berkshire Brigands and Surrey Chargers which kicks off at 1.30pm. Get your [tickets](#) now

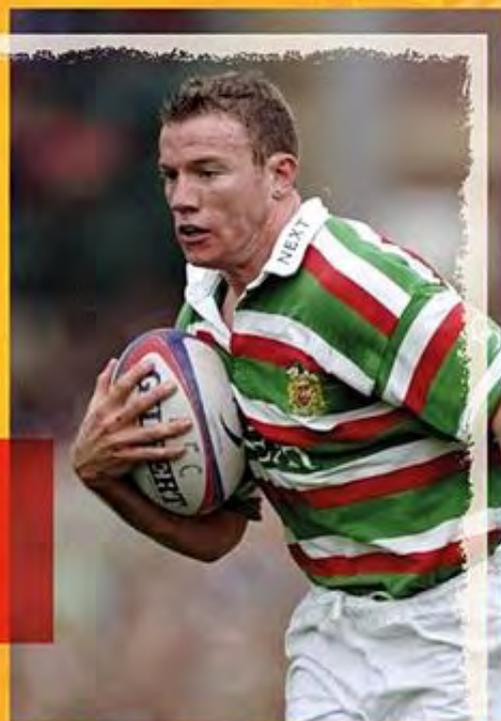
## CHARITY FIXTURE



**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

**KO 2:30PM / ATHLETIC GROUND**

**£10 TICKETS / U16 FREE**



# Red Roses autumn internationals: Dates, kick-off times, venues and ticket details confirmed

The RFU can confirm the dates, venues and ticket details for the Red Roses' autumn international matches.

Simon Middleton's outfit take on New Zealand, firstly at Sandy Park, Exeter (Sunday 31 October, kick-off 2.30pm) before a second meeting with the Black Ferns at Franklin's Gardens, Northampton (Sunday 7 November, kick-off 2.45pm).

England then return to Twickenham Stoop to host third-ranked in the world Canada (Sunday 14 November, kick-off 2.30pm).

Their final Test is a meeting with USA at Worcester Warriors' Sixways home ground (Sunday 21 November, kick-off 2.45pm).

Priority Tickets will be available exclusively for O2 customers via Priority for 48 hours on Wednesday 8 September (10am) from [englandrugby.com/tickets](https://englandrugby.com/tickets) and available via general sale from Friday 10 September (11am) from [englandrugby.com/tickets](https://englandrugby.com/tickets) and club ticket websites (details below).

Broadcast details will be confirmed in due course.

Sandy Park and Twickenham Stoop are familiar territories for the Red Roses, attracting bumper crowds in recent years. As well as hosting England's behind-closed-doors Six Nations final victory over France earlier this year, a record home Women's Six Nations ticketed crowd of 10,974 watched the Red Roses defeat Wales in the same competition at the Stoop in 2020.

The second meeting with Glenn Moore's Black Ferns will be England Women's fourth time at Franklin's Gardens (the last match in the East Midlands town a 50-6 Five Nations victory over France in 2001). Meanwhile, the visit of the Eagles will be the Red Roses' first match at Sixways in over a decade, the last meeting a Six Nations win against Les Bleues in 2011.

**Red Roses head coach Middleton** said: "Going to Exeter has proven to be a huge success in the Test matches we've had there to date. The atmosphere in the ground and the way they promote the games is second to none. The buzz we get from just arriving at the stadium on a matchday, it makes the hairs stand up on the back of your neck. It's brilliant to be going back there.

"The inclusion of Northampton and Worcester are great moves. My impression of Northampton during my time at Leeds in the Premiership was they were always the trendsetters of what a world-class stadium should look like. You went there, it was immaculate, it was always sold out and the fans and atmosphere were always incredible so to take an international game there is unbelievably exciting and it'll be brilliant and fantastic to play an international game there. Likewise, I love Worcester as a club, always see them as a strong community club and it's great to take a game there in the way we've taken it to other hotbeds. It's another fantastic stadium which has a great feel and a great vibe.

"Quins have embraced the women's game and the last time we played there in front of fans during the Six Nations in March 2020 in front of a record crowd was brilliant. We're pleased to be going back there, especially given they're the home of both the men's and women's Premiership and Allianz Premier 15s champions."

**Tony Rowe OBE, Chairman & Chief Executive, Exeter Rugby Club** said: "As a club we are delighted to be welcoming the Red Roses back to Devon again this season. As we have seen over the years, including creating a record-breaking crowd here at Sandy Park back in 2019, plus the creation of our own women's team into the Premier 15s, there is a real hunger and passion for the women's game here in the region.

“Sandy Park has proven over the years that it’s a venue fit for hosting international fixtures, so we’re fully expecting another capacity crowd and the people of the area to come out in force and support England Women.”

**Mark Darbon, Northampton Saints Chief Executive** said: “We are absolutely delighted and very proud to be welcoming the Red Roses to Franklin’s Gardens for the first time since 2001.

“After hosting the Allianz Premier 15s Final in Northampton back in 2019, we hope we can make the match against the Black Ferns another memorable occasion for fans of English rugby.

“Our commitment to supporting and developing the women’s and girls game in our region is stronger than ever – by hosting this showpiece fixture, I hope we can continue to help drive participation in playing, coaching or volunteering across Northamptonshire and the East-Midlands.

“Everyone at the Club is relishing the thought of seeing thousands of supporters flooding through our gates to cheer on England Women.”

**Laurie Dalrymple, Harlequins CEO** said: “We are honoured that The Stoop has been chosen to host another Red Roses match. This continues a strong tradition of England’s Women playing blockbuster matches at Harlequins’ home ground.

“We are lucky enough to have a strong contingent of England players within the Harlequins Women’s squad, and I know our fans will be thrilled to have another opportunity to watch their players on international duty at their home ground.”

**Peter Kelly, Managing Director at Worcester Warriors** said: “We are delighted that the RFU has chosen Sixways to host the Red Roses against USA this autumn, an occasion that will certainly capture the imagination of the local community and wider region. Warriors Women have made significant progress both on and off the pitch in recent seasons, and this announcement will further boost interest and participation in women’s rugby in the lead up to next year’s World Cup in New Zealand.”

## Red Roses 2021 autumn schedule

### England v New Zealand

Sunday 31 October, KO 2.30pm

Sandy Park, Exeter

Tickets: [tickethub.exeterchiefs.co.uk](https://www.tickethub.co.uk/exeterchiefs)

### England v New Zealand

Sunday 7 November, KO 2.45pm

Franklin’s Gardens, Northampton

Tickets: [northamptonssaints.co.uk/buytickets](https://www.northamptonssaints.co.uk/buytickets)

### England v Canada

Sunday 14 November, KO 2.30pm

Twickenham Stoop, London

Tickets: On general sale via [englandrugby.com/tickets](https://www.englandrugby.com/tickets) from 11am on Friday 10 September. On sale via the club later this month (date TBC): <https://www.eticketing.co.uk/harlequins>

### England v USA

Sunday 21 November, KO 2.45pm

Sixways Stadium, Worcester

Tickets: [warriors.co.uk/tickets](https://www.warriors.co.uk/tickets)



# Winter is a looming crisis; effective action must be taken before it's too late, RCEM says

[The latest Emergency Department performance figures](#) for August 2021 published today by NHS England show the worst four-hour performance since records began, the worst performance for an August, and the fourth highest number of 12-hour stays ever.

The data show there were 1,342,250 attendances to Type 1 Emergency Departments in England in August 2021, a decrease of 6% compared to the previous month. Despite the decrease in attendances, four-hour performance deteriorated for the fifth consecutive month while the number of 12-hour stays increased for the fourth consecutive month.

In Type 1 Emergency Departments, 66.2% of patients were seen in four-hours or less, the worst four-hour performance on record and equal to over one-third of patients staying in a Type 1 Emergency Departments for over four-hours.

2,794 patients stayed in an Emergency Department for 12-hours or more, this is a 26% increase on the previous month and is the highest ever for August, it is also the fourth highest figure on record.

Data also show there were a total of 71,894 booked appointment attendances, with 34,787 of these booked at Type 1 Emergency Departments. Four-hour performance was at its lowest since records began, with 91.6% of all attendances seen within four-hours, and 82.5% of Type 1 attendances seen within four-hours.

Dr Katherine Henderson, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said:

“These figures come as no surprise, but they are no less appalling. The health service has been severely struggling in recent months and the College has been vocal in its warnings about this trajectory. We are now in autumn and the workforce is seriously apprehensive about this winter and what it might bring.

“The pandemic has highlighted stark inequalities; different parts of the country have been affected to different degrees of severity – and the continued impact and recovery has been harder in more deprived areas. In particular, the urgent and emergency care systems in the North East and North West are facing particularly extreme pressures. Average four-hour performance in the both the North East and North West is 63% while in the South East it is 73%. As part of levelling up, it is vital that these inequalities are properly addressed and not overlooked, and that support is given to those areas and to those patients that need it most.

“Departments also need clarity of focus in terms of priorities, and the priority must be

long stays – this month’s fourth worst ever number of 12-hour stays shows the desperate need to improve the flow of patients through hospitals. But England continues to only publish 12-hour data measuring from decision to admit. Good statistics that accurately measure performance are essential in improving systems and publishing 12-hour data from time of arrival would show the true scale of the problem of long stays.

“The data also show that performance against booked appointments has sharply deteriorated. We must properly evaluate the efficacy of NHS 111 ‘talk first’ approach, so we can begin to improve it.

There must be an adequate range of services available that NHS 111 to which call handlers are able to direct patients. Patients must be able to be directed to the right place for their care, and any patient booking an appointment at A&E through 111 must not be left waiting for a long period of time.

“At the same time there must be a renewed focus on the workforce. [Our survey](#) from July 2021 showed that half of all respondents said they were considering reducing their hours, while a large proportion are thinking of taking a career break or even changing specialty.

The workforce cannot afford to lose any Emergency Department staff, we must do all we can to retain existing workers. To tackle this there must be a recruitment drive for Emergency Departments, in England 2,500 more consultants are needed – alongside sufficient numbers of nurses, trainees, allied health professionals and SAS doctors.

“To reduce crowding in hospitals, there must be investment in alternative care pathways including same day emergency care and discharge to assess, these will help prevent unnecessary admission.

“The vision for urgent and emergency care must be implemented and Emergency Medicine staff need to be assured that progress is being made. The College has laid out what needs to be done in [RCEM CARES](#), and reports including; [Summer to Recover](#); and [Retain, Recruit, Recover](#). Patient safety is at risk and on this trajectory, winter will be far worse than previously forecast - it is a looming crisis - and the health service is on the brink. The cost will be huge.

Funding is welcome, but a comprehensive, joined-up plan, that must include short-term actions for the winter ahead together with a long-term strategy is vital. We are at a crucial point; Emergency Department performance continues to deteriorate while elective care waiting lists continue to rise steeply. The government must see the iceberg ahead and steer the health and social care service to safety.”



**The Royal College of  
Emergency Medicine**

# Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme

The Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme was delivered to an over-ambitious timetable and was not executed to an acceptable standard, significantly limiting its impact on job creation and carbon reduction.

The Government has identified decarbonising home heating as a key part of its plan to deliver net zero by 2050. Between September 2020 and March 2021, as part of government's 'green recovery' from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (the Department) ran the Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme (the scheme). The scheme offered homeowners up to £5,000 funding, or £10,000 for low-income households, for the installation of energy efficient improvements.

The Department originally expected the scheme to support up to 82,500 jobs over six months, and enable up to 600,000 households to save up to £600 on their energy bills. The scheme did not deliver the expected number of energy efficiency home installations, or support the expected number of jobs.

In total, the Department estimates that it will spend £314 million of the £1.5 billion funding available, of which £50.5 million (more than £1,000 per home upgraded) is on administration.



It forecasts that the scheme will eventually support efficiency measures in 47,500 homes, and create up to 5,600 jobs over 12 months.

Many homeowners and installers had a poor experience using the scheme. There were delays issuing vouchers to homeowners and paying installers, causing frustration. Homeowners also found it challenging completing applications, and were often asked for more information, which took time. From October 2020 to April 2021, over 3,000 complaints were made to the Department and the scheme administrator.

HM Treasury gave the Department an over-ambitious 12-week timescale to design the scheme, consult with stakeholders and procure an administrator. This came at a time when the Department was supporting vaccine procurement, and undertaking activities related to EU Exit. The Department accepted that delivering the scheme within this timescale posed a high risk, but judged it was justified by the need to support businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department did not sufficiently understand the challenges facing installers, failing to learn from its own previous energy schemes. Other energy schemes have shown the need for

a robust evaluation of stakeholders' views. The Department only consulted with installers after the scheme was announced, which limited the opportunities to include installer views in the scheme design. The costs of installer accreditation and the short duration of the scheme when it was first announced (six months) deterred some installers from participating.

The Department did not fully manage the tension between maximising long-term reductions in carbon emissions, and creating jobs in the short-term. The scheme focused on measures that would provide the biggest impact on reducing carbon, such as insulation and low-carbon heat installations.

These require specialist skills to install, which meant it took some time for employers to take-on and train staff. Jobs might have been created more quickly in areas that require less specialist skills, such as window and door installation. The initial plan for a two-year scheme would have allowed more time for jobs to be created, but this was rejected by HM Treasury.

The Department chose to proceed to its timetable, even though none of the firms that bid for the grant administration contract thought it was possible to fully implement the required digital voucher application system in the time available.

By March 2021, the required system was still not in place, and much more manual processing was required for applications than expected, contributing to a growing backlog. The Department decided to close the scheme in March 2021, reasoning that insufficient improvement had been made, and that existing voucher applications would fully use the £320m provided by HM Treasury for the next financial year.

The NAO recommends the Department should engage properly with the supplier market for future decarbonisation schemes, and base its planning on a realistic assessment of how long it will take the market to mobilise. The requirements placed on homeowners and installers for such schemes should be tested from the start, with the aim of simplifying administration.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO said:

“The aim to achieve immediate economic stimulus through the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme meant that it was rushed. As a result, its benefits for carbon reduction were significantly reduced and ultimately, it did not create the number of jobs government had hoped for.

“Decarbonising our homes is a key element of the government’s net zero strategy. It is vital that future schemes learn from this experience”

**Click here for the [full report](#) and here for the [PAC Chairs statement](#).**



National Audit Office

# The National Law Enforcement Data Programme

The Home Office's delay in introducing the National Law Enforcement Data Service (NLEDS) is putting police access to vital information at risk, according to a new report by the National Audit Office (NAO).

The programme to develop the NLEDS was launched by the Home Office in 2016 to replace two police IT systems: the Police National Computer (PNC) and the Police National Database (PND). These systems are heavily relied on by the police and are considered part of the UK's critical infrastructure, but they are reaching the end of their lives, with their technology becoming obsolete.

With an original planned delivery date of 2020, the NLEDS programme has yet to deliver the expected services, and the total costs to the Home Office have increased by 68% to £1.1 billion.

An independent programme review commissioned by the Home Office found that if the programme continued as it was, it would be late, difficult and costly to roll out and maintain, and would not meet the needs of the police. Following this review, in December 2020 the Home Office reset the programme for the second time and removed the replacement of the PND from its scope.



Under the new plans, the programme is not expected to deliver a service equivalent to the current PNC until 2025-26. The PNC's current technology for its database will no longer be supported after December 2024, but the Department told the NAO it had decided to accept the risk of running the PNC without supplier support for the database after this point.

This would leave the PNC at higher risk of disruption for at least a year, although the Department's view is that the actual risk profile is low due to the mitigation actions put in place. In April 2021, the Home Office had only 'moderate confidence' in its new plans and did not have a programme plan assuring delivery by 2025-26. In June 2021, the Home Office told the NAO that it had increased confidence in the deliverability of the programme.

Delays to the NLEDS programme bring greater risks for police operations and require the police to bear more cost. The Home Office must continue to run existing systems at a cost of £21 million per year for the PNC and £13 million for the PND. The Home Office's March 2021 estimate shows that NLEDS, when complete, is expected to cost £17 million per year. If there are further delays to the NLEDS programme, the Home Office may also need to migrate the PNC to a new operating system, which could take three years and cost at least £30 million. In

January 2021 the PNC experienced a data loss affecting 112,697 person records. The Home Office's efforts to recover the data lost were made more difficult by the ageing technology on which the PNC is based. By 24 May 2021 all the records affected by the incident had been recovered.

The Home Office and the police have not had a consistent shared understanding of what NLEDS will deliver, and since 2016 the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) has repeatedly reported a lack of consistency in stakeholders' understanding of the programme scope, approach and benefits.

The focus of the programme has changed several times, and it has not been clear if the programme aims to replace the functions of current ageing systems or to introduce enhanced capabilities for police and other users. The NAO also found that the Home Office and police only documented the 'vision' for the programme in September 2018, almost two years into its development.

In autumn 2020 the police lost confidence in the programme, formally raising their concerns with the Home Office's Permanent Secretary. Whilst the Home Office has recognised the importance of regaining the confidence of the police, and the programme team is now seeking to work more collaboratively with stakeholders, it is too early to assess the results of this new approach. The programme's senior police stakeholders have expressed increasing confidence in the programme's developing delivery plans.

The NAO recommends that the Home Office should immediately clarify its role and that of the police in the delivery of the new service and agree a revised business case for the programme. The Home Office should set out clear plans on how NLEDS will replace PNC capabilities by the time required and how it can guarantee that the PNC can be relied on by police until NLEDS is ready.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

"After a succession of delays, resets, and changes in scope, the cost of the NLEDS programme has increased significantly, and it is still not clear whether the Home Office will be able to deliver the programme before the existing infrastructure becomes obsolete.

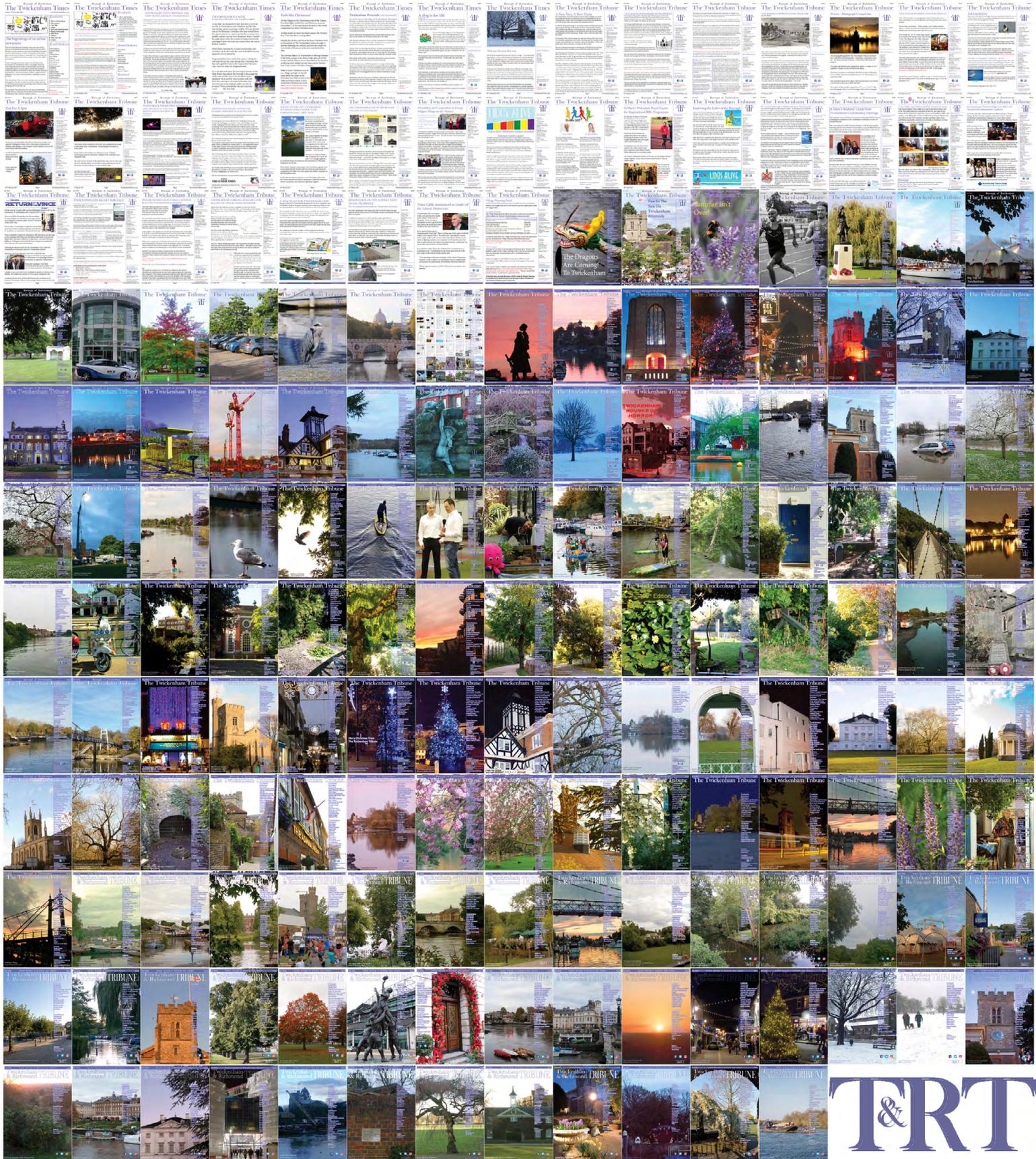
"Fragile technology is limiting the ability of the police and other organisations to carry out their job effectively and ultimately putting the security and safety of the public at risk. The Home Office must urgently work with the police to guarantee a clear timeline for the programme, avoiding any further delays."

Click here for the [full report](#) and click here for the [PAC Chair's statement](#).



National Audit Office

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