

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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3rd December 2021

T&RT

Twickenham Green Christmas Tree

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

The Christmas trees and
 lights are paid for by local
 Twickenham businesses
 working together as
 Discover Twickenham BID

discover
twickenham

TickerTape - News in Brief

Apply for funding to help get Richmond upon Thames active

The Active Richmond Fund aims to support local groups and organisations to provide an extended range of activities that enriches the social prescribing or cultural offer, promoting an active lifestyle for borough residents.

The fund awards grants for activities which improve people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We particularly encourage applications from groups and organisations who are working with adults who are less active, 'hard to reach', in care or engaged with social prescribing.

Learn more about [how to apply](#).

If you think you might be eligible for funding or for more information and guidance on applying to the Active Richmond Fund, please contact Ben Smitton, Community Grants Officer, by emailing ActiveRichmondFund@richmond.gov.uk or calling 020 8831 6297.

Beauchamp Road to Cole Park Road footbridge to close for essential works

The public right of way footbridge from Beauchamp Road to Cole Park Road will close on Monday 6 December for one month.

The public footbridge that traverses Twickenham train station, will be closed from Monday 6 December to 7 January 2022 for essential maintenance works. These works are being carried out on behalf of Network Rail.

A local signed diversion route will be in place during this period of works. Please contact site manager Kyle Cummins if further information is required, by emailing

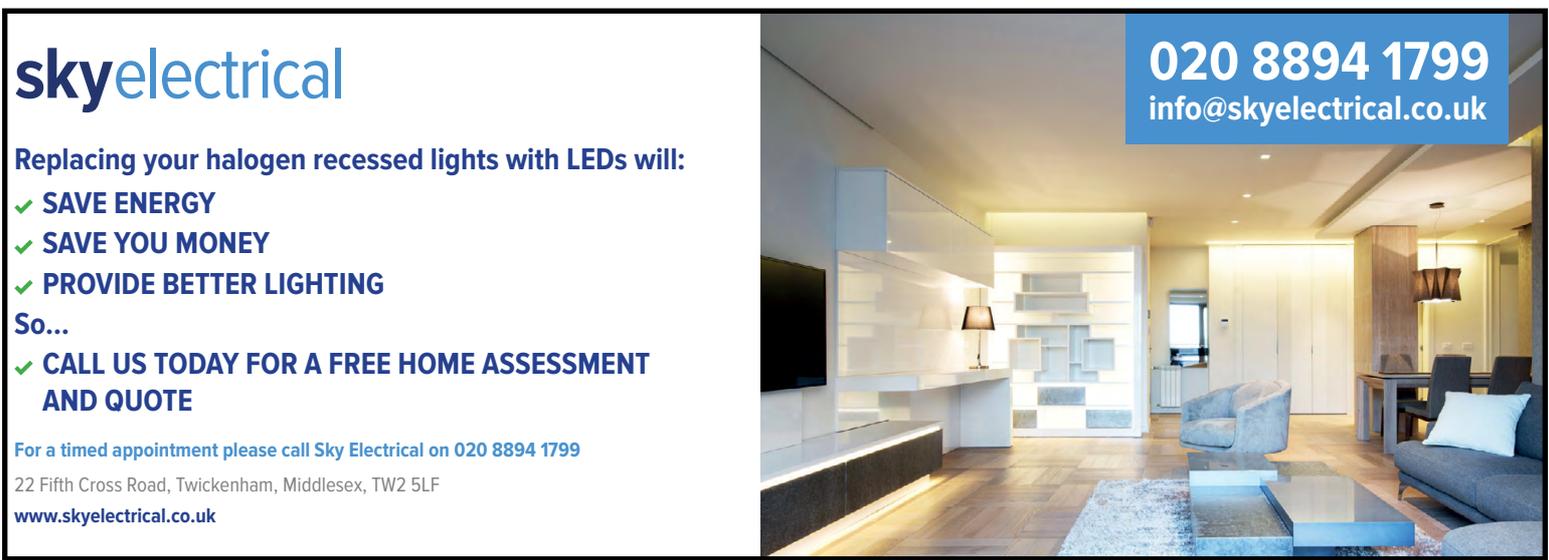
Kyle.Cummins@osborne.co.uk.

Richmond Council and Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused to residents by this closure.

Tube strikes

Strikes by Tube drivers are planned on the Victoria, Central, Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines. The current strikes are on Saturday 4 December (evening and overnight).

Find more info [HERE](#)



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TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal and some chums were enjoying an evening stroll by York House, when they heard a big meeting being held in one of the rooms. As it was a public meeting, they thought it was alright to listen in.

It turns out it was the monthly Full Council meeting where very important people tell us what is going to happen in our borough. TwickerDuck was a bit upset at the tone and language used by administration councillors when addressing their opposition counterparts. That's normal said TwickerSeal, actually this is quite tame compared to their behaviour at lots of other meetings I've heard.

They were intrigued when the issue of the council's inept and incompetent handling of the process for objecting to the Twickenham Riverside Compulsory Order was brought up. The council had published the incorrect address for objections to be sent to and had also failed to provide an email address although this was preferred by the relevant government department. Even when this 'error' was brought to light the council failed to notify the public. But lo, the council leader said that he had been in contact with officers "that day" and that there would be "an extension of a further three weeks to allow residents to make their concerns known through the correct address. It was an oversight on the part of, er, I ... I ... I ... I forget to say who the oversight is from ...".

TwickerMole piped up that it was strange that there was still no official public notice regarding the extension and the government department had stated that the end of the extension would be at least 21 days from the date of publication of the new notice. So, the three-week extension clock hasn't even started ticking yet!

To be incompetent once may be regarded as a misfortune, to be incompetent many times looks like carelessness.



Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update. 30 November 2021

Globally, weekly COVID-19 case incidence plateaued this week, with nearly 3.8 million confirmed new cases reported during the week of 22-28 November 2021, similar to the previous week's figures. However, new weekly cases increased in three of the six WHO regions. While global weekly deaths decreased by 10% in the past seven days as compared to the previous week, with over 47 500 new deaths reported, an increase in weekly deaths was reported in two of the six regions. As of 28 November, over 260 million confirmed cases and nearly 5.2 million deaths have been reported globally

World Health Organization, 30 November 2021

“The emergence of any new variant should capture our attention, especially one as highly mutated as Omicron.

The WHO Secretariat takes this development extremely seriously, and so should all Member States. But we should not be surprised. This is what viruses do.

And as I have said many times, the longer we allow the pandemic to drag on – by failing to address vaccine inequity, or to implement public health and social measures in a tailored and consistent way – the more opportunity we give this virus to mutate in ways we cannot predict or prevent.

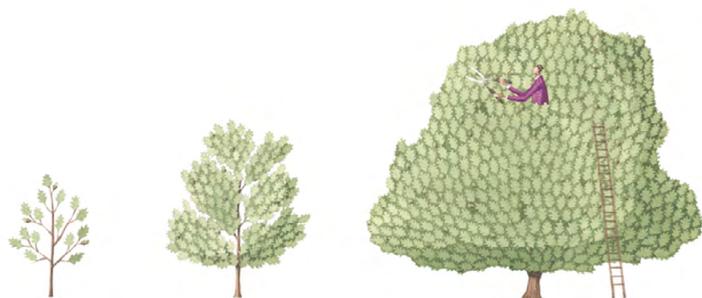
We still have more questions than answers about the effect of Omicron on transmission, severity of disease, and the effectiveness of tests, therapeutics and vaccines.”

World Health Organization, 29 November 2021

The overall risk related to Omicron is considered very high for a number of reasons. First, the global risk of COVID-19 remains very high overall, and second, there is concerning preliminary evidence on Omicron suggesting, in contrast to previous ViOCs, both potential immune escape and higher transmissibility that could lead to further surges with severe consequences. The evidence for this assessment contains considerable uncertainty and will be updated as more information becomes available.

Total cases to 3 December 2021

Richmond upon Thames	27,694 (26,352 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	25,982 (24,990 previous week)
Hounslow	45,868 (44,741 previous week)
Wandsworth	48,262 (46,633 previous week)



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
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info@thetreeagency.co.uk
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The Tree Agency

The last days of Eel Pie Hotel

By Simon Fowler

A newly uncovered file reveals the attempts of the police and the licensing bench to close down the Eel Pie Hotel over a nearly twenty-year period from 1954, when a Kingston antiques dealer Michael Snapper took over the premises. It finally closed in November 1970.

Thousands of local people have happy memories of enjoying the music and the unique atmosphere of the Hotel.

However, over the years police statements graphically describe the squalid nature of the building and how public safety and licencing regulations were regularly flouted by Snapper and his tenants.

On their last visit made by the police on Saturday 1 August 1970 Inspector Peter Francis and his colleagues PC Yates and WPC Cooper, from Twickenham Police Station. The police wanted to know whether it was properly run (it wasn't) and the emergency exits (very poor).



When the police entered the dance hall, they found: 'about 300 to 400 people listening to a group [Black Widow] to the left of the stairs...The majority were sitting on the floor listening but some were dancing and moving in time to the music around the edge of the floor. Whilst they were playing several people at the fringe were swaying in time to the music and, and one couple were standing with their arms around each other performing some sort of dance step.'

The inspector estimated that the hall measured just 50 feet by 30 and was 'in a poor state of repair, was dirty, had only a few seats, and the only lighting was consistently changing coloured spotlights.'

They then asked to be shown the emergency exits. The first set had a piece of wood across both doors 'which would have made the emergency use of the doors very difficult.' The doors were stiff to move and outside was a lot of rubbish. PC Yates 'who is 6ft 3in tall weighing 14 stones said "I used all my strength and I couldn't open them."

The second set of doors was boarded up permanently. According to Mark Newton, the manager, 'We had to do this because we had a £600 robbery the other day.'

As they were inspecting the doors a young woman then came out of the hall and collapsed on the floor. Her boyfriend said: 'the atmosphere is terrible there is no air. She has fainted' Newton had no reaction, as the girl was helped to her feet. Inspector Francis thought that the 'atmosphere in the hall, although not foul, was almost unbearable, as the only windows were those about the exits and they were closed.'

A visit to the Eel Pie Island Museum in Richmond Road, Twickenham is recommended if you want to know more. Details at www.eelpiemuseum.co.uk

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will have to re-advertise the Notice for the Compulsory Purchase Order for Diamond Jubilee Gardens and adjacent areas on Twickenham Riverside

At the meeting of full Council on 30 November 2021 Cllr Gareth Roberts, the Leader of the Council, said he was going to give three extra weeks for Objections to be made to the Compulsory Purchase Order mentioned above. At the time of writing there does not seem to be a press release or official notice about this from the Council.

The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune contacted the office of the Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities and have received the following two emails:

"I understand that the Council will be readvertising the CPO in the paper and the objection period will be extended on this basis. Until the publication is made I can't tell you the end objection date but it will be at least 21days from the date of publication."

Regards
Senior Planning Manager
pcu@communities.gov.uk

Planning Casework Unit
Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities
23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham
B2 4BH

"Those who have already sent an objection do not need to send one again."

Senior Planning Manager
pcu@communities.gov.uk

Planning Casework Unit
Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities
23 Stephenson Street
Birmingham
B2 4BH

It should be noted that on this occasion residents will be able to send their CPO objections by email to this address: pcu@communities.gov.uk

Councillor Geoffery Samuel, who has tried to get the Compulsory Purchase Order withdrawn, commented:

I see that the Government has rescued the Council after it misled the public by giving the wrong details of the address for comments on their Riverside scheme. Several more weeks in which to object! Let's make good use of it.



We explored beautiful Bushy Park and were rewarded with some amazing Flora and Fauna

If you missed *The Wild Gardener* on BBC 2 you can see it on [iPlayer now](#). “Wildlife cameraman **Colin Stafford-Johnson** returns home on a very personal project – to turn his old childhood garden into a haven for native wildlife. After 30 years of filming the world’s most iconic creatures, Colin heads back to Ireland, to a garden he spent his childhood summers spraying and mowing into a perfect lawn. But now he wants to transform his old playground into a sanctuary for the native plants and animals now struggling to survive on these islands, and inspire viewers to do the same.” This is an inspiring programme which asks us to be less tidy and controlling of our gardens and wild spaces and more aware of Nature’s intelligence. Indigenous people say it succinctly: “Mother Earth expects us to Respect her. Mother Earth does not expect us to save her and we as indigenous peoples expect the same.” **Nemonte Nenquimo**

[Website: River Crane Sanctuary](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Drink in the view from the White Swan!](#)



Have your say on Friars Lane car park improvements

Residents are invited to share their thoughts on an improvement scheme for Friars Lane car park in Richmond town centre.

Richmond Council has proposed to improve the popular car park with a series of changes to its design to help increase parking spaces for residents, increase security, reduce noise and pollution, and enhance the general look of the space.

Improvements include but are not limited to:

- Removing a section of damaged wall and constructing a new brick wall
- Installing a barrier or raised kerb to prevent vehicles from damaging the new wall
- Resurfacing the car park
- Installing CCTV next to the station for pay and display machines
- Removing unnecessary signage and clutter
- Installing electric vehicle charging bays
- Improving the provision of bins
- Installing a parking area for bicycles and motorcycles



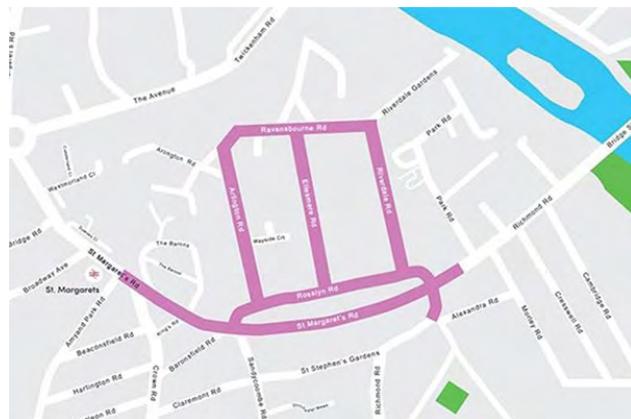
View the [intended design changes](#) and share your feedback **by Sunday 12 December 2021**.

If you require a paper copy, please contact 020 8891 1411 or email trafficandengineering@richmond.gov.uk

Richmond Council backs extension of PSPO around Rosslyn Road Clinic

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place in streets around the BPAS Clinic in Rosslyn Road is to be extended for three years, following approval from all parties at Tuesday night's Full Council Meeting (30 November 2021).

The decision comes following earlier approval by Richmond Council's Regulatory Committee on 12 October and on the back of a six-week long formal consultation held in the summer, which received over 1,300 responses with 94% of respondents agreeing with the proposal for extending the PSPO.



Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a PSPO can be implemented if activities carried out in the local area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the locality and that the effect is of a persistent and continuing nature so as to make activities unreasonable, provided the PSPO is reasonable and proportionate.

The Rosslyn Road PSPO originally came into force in April 2019, and since then, there have been no known breaches of the restrictions in the buffer zone area and there have been no further petitions, complaints or concerns raised with the Council. It will now be extended for three years, once the current PSPO expires on 31 March 2022.

Let Out the Rottweiler

By Lucilius

Clr Rutt is having his weekly audience with Ralph Gobbets, the Governor of The Democratic Republic of Transfluvia, when they hear loud noises coming from the gardens of the Katchwimen Palace. Looking out of the palace window, they see the Vice Governor, Axel Hammer remonstrating with an elderly man near the famous Katchwimen statues. Hammer's dog, Herman appears to have his teeth in the man's leg. A few minutes later, Hammer enters the room (without knocking).

Hammer: Ralph ... oh, Rutt, you're here!

Gobbets: Axel! What was all that about out in the garden.

Hammer: Some dodderly old git walking on a footpath. I told him footpaths are only for sustainable electric personal carriers, like electric skateboards or electric Segways. Then he pointed at his walking stick and said "lovely Gardens".

Rutt: Oh! How nasty.

Gobbets: Filthy language.

Hammer: I told him he couldn't use such offensive, inappropriate concreto-phobic language in our Democratic Republic. He began to cry. That was too much for Herman; went right in there, didn't you boy?

Herman: Grrr ... ruff, ruff.

Gobbets: Good for him! Actually Rutt has, co-incidentally, come over to report on the roll-out of our Tilia pavement electric motorcycles. What is the score now, Rutt?

Rutt: It's only the first week, but fourteen pedestrians injured.

Gobbets: Not good enough, Rutt, we'll have to set you some more exacting targets. But, on to more important things: we must talk about suppressing the opposition to the CPO for the Doubly Joyous Gardens, now it's officially a Brownfield Site.

Hammer: The Crappy People's Obliterator you mean.

Rutt: Oh, that's very good: rather like when you said we could use Covid Put-Off as our CPO to stop people finding the real address to send their useless objections to.

Gobbets: I think the time has come to set our Rottweiler on the opposition.

Rutt: Oh, yes! Herman will be really good at that.

Gobbets: I wasn't talking about Herman; I mean Vice Governor Hammer.

Hammer: Yessss. Let me get going on that witless, inept lot of grandstanders. And their cronies, the a-mat-eur trustees guarding their beloved thirty-seven trees! They are laughably talking about going to a higher court.

Gobbets: Higher court, pah! I would have made a better job in any of the higher courts I haven't been elected to. Always the same; democracy gets in the way of our truly liberal approach. We tolerate a token opposition, but I will take no lessons on democracy from them.

Hammer: We cannot get any worse than a bunch of absolute car-driving, tree-loving, heritage-obsessed, banana republic losers

Herman: Grrr ... losers

Vice-Governor Hammer and Herman, his dog, leave.

Rutt: If you don't mind me saying so, Governor Gobbets, I thought it rather rude the way Vice Governor Hammer came in without even knocking.

Gobbets: It's because his family used to own this Palace. He feels "entitled". But you're right. When they come into my presence, mortals should genuflect. I was thinking about it during my weekly teeth-whitening sessions. We could call it "taking the kneecap".



Dear Editors

Council Meeting, 30th November 2021

During the recent meeting of Council (30 November), Cllr Wilson remarked that the event space on Diamond Jubilee Gardens had drawbacks, was space-limited, poor and inaccessible. This totally subjective opinion can be refuted by the evidence (that he has chosen to ignore) provided by the series of highly successful and well-attended free events organised on the Gardens by Twickenham Riverside Trust during the years 2012 to 2019. I should like to draw his attention to a sample of such celebrations that have taken place (many over several years): Our Big Gig, Borough's Best Banger, 999 Emergency, Dog Show, Animal Magic, Richmond Brass Band, Gruffalo Fun Day and also the Christmas events featuring the eco-friendly Christmas Tree. Events were accompanied by side shows, refreshments and hot dogs. Other organisations have from time to time chosen the Gardens as an ideal venue for their own event.

Cllr Wilson also suggested that the proposed new event space would be much better. However, The Embankment, where events would take place, is an area that would be flooded regularly, so, as Cllr Pamela Fleming remarked later, Wellington boots would be necessary.

Cllr Wilson's description of the existing space on the Gardens is simply untrue, as are further assertions that the proposed new event space would be superior.

Those with long memories may recall that between 2006 and 2010 Cllr Wilson was a LibDem councillor for Riverside Ward, when the administration of which he was part supported a plan to sell and build luxury flats on the site.

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller
former Trustee of Twickenham Riverside Trust

Dear Sir

CPO Objections

Thank you for letting people know about the wrong address for the CPO on Diamond Jubilee Gardens. We would not have been aware of any of this if you had not published the information.

It would have been preferable if we had been given the email address in the first place, I am not sure why the Council did not do this. I sent my letter in the post as instructed by the Council and now I am not sure what has happened to it.

I will have to write again and this time will send my comments by email.

Will the Council apologise for their mistake and the problems it must be causing people? Have they sent out a correction to the incorrect Notice in the Richmond and Twickenham Times?

I look forward to hearing further information.

Name and Address Supplied
Twickenham

Dear Editor,

Twickenham Riverside Playground

At the Council meeting on Tuesday the LibDem Councillors once again put out misleading information in order to talk up their playground in the plans for Twickenham Riverside. They said the current playground is only 187sqm. No it's not. It is 350sqm. They have chosen to take their measurement from the ground actually under the playground equipment, not the playground in its entirety. As was pointed out in an earlier letter, the new playground will be alongside the Service Road, under trees that will shed "debris" (Council's own words) onto a sand floor that will bring maintenance problems, and adjacent to a turning circle for large lorries. Below are the playground sizes superimposed on a satellite image for people to judge for themselves.

The current playground on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens is in a securely fenced/gated area and there is ample space around the playground equipment where parents/grandparents can sit while keeping an eye on the children, maybe with other children alongside, often asleep in their buggies. There is also room for the tricycles and scooters that the children have brought with them to be kept safe within the site.

There doesn't seem to be room for much seating or areas where sleeping babies can be kept safe within the proposed playground in the Council's plans - surely not under the trees with "debris" falling on

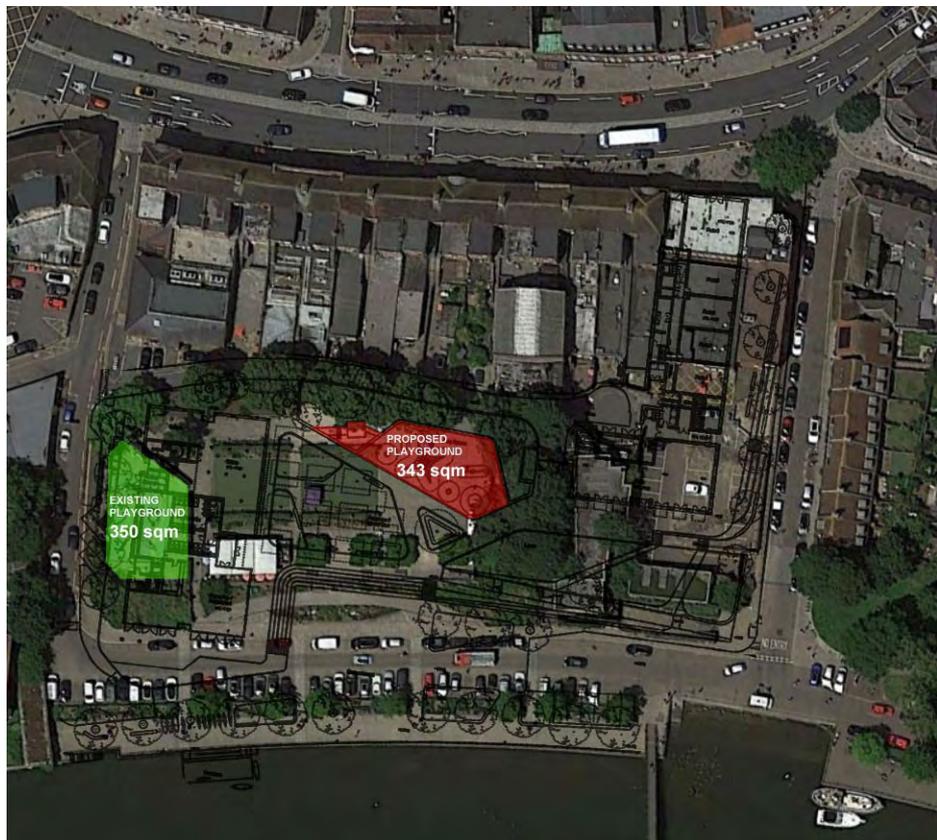
them? And will children be expected to abandon their cycles, scooters etc on the path adjacent to the playground causing trip hazards for pedestrians and those in wheelchairs or with mobility problems? There isn't even a fence to keep children in a place of safety - or dogs out!

Another area where children are expected to play is terraced and covered in what is rather dispiritingly described in the Council's plans as "species - poor regularly mown lawn". A long dry summer could see this "species - poor" grass totally disappear, and a wet winter could turn it into a mud bath.

In future please could we have a bit less spin from our elected Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

A disillusioned Twickenham resident
(Name and address supplied)



Dear Editor

WW1 Twickenham Resident

As you seem to be showing an interest in local residents involved in WW1, I wondered whether you might be interested in my great uncle William Edgar Branch. He was my paternal grandfather's older brother, born 1st August 1880. He was born in Fulham but by 1911 his address was 21 Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham. His widowed mother Alice lived there with 3 of her children.

William was underage on 27 August 1896 (giving his birth date as 14 February 1879) when he enlisted in the Royal Marines (1st RM battalion) at Portsmouth. Apparently he was 5' 6" tall, and described as having a fresh complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes!

He fought in the Boer war previous to WW1 and survived that until he was killed at the 3rd battle of Passchendaele by a shell. By this time he was a Lance Sergeant. A letter states that he would be buried south of Poelcappelle but in the event no trace of his body was found and his name appears on the 1st column in the Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium.



His name is also on the memorial found in Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham Green.

This photo of him (he is third from left) was taken aboard the "Prince of Wales" in 1912

Brenda Whittaker
Twickenham

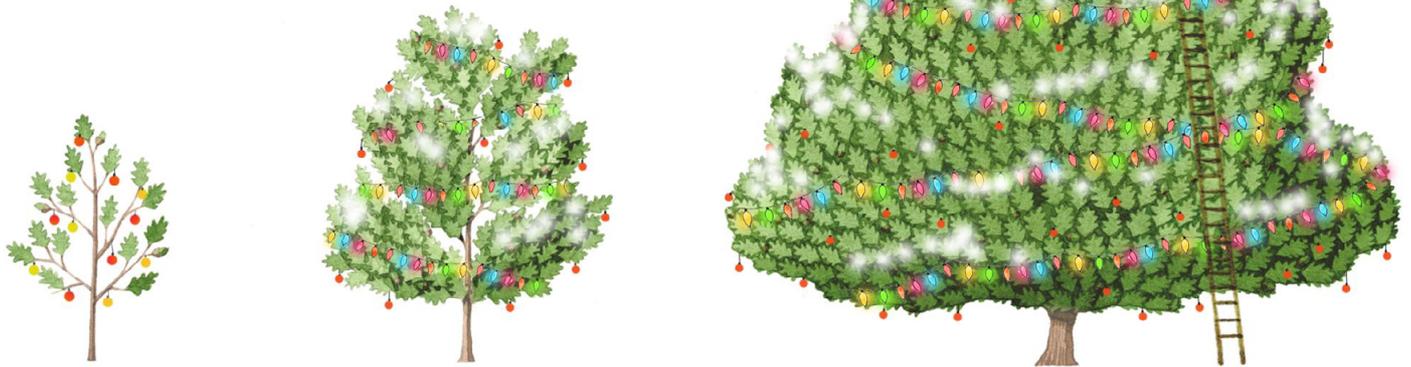
Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.

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.

*Happy Christmas to All
from The Agents
Of The Tree Agency*



The Tree Agency

Barnes Community Association announces details of this year's Christmas Festival

This year's Christmas Festival will begin with the Barnes Runners Turkey Run on Sunday 5 December 2021.

Runners sporting festive attire will be running 10 miles to raise funds for the BCA/FiSH Christmas Lunch which provides a festive feast for those locally who would otherwise go without.

White Hart Lane will be returning with their late night shopping event on Tuesday 7 December with jolly music, plenty of festive fare, a charity Christmas raffle and an appearance from Santa.

This year's festival will see Barnes Village transformed into a winter wonderland on Friday 10 December for the BCA Christmas Festival from 3 to 8pm. Expect local choirs and music groups performing throughout the village, late night shopping and a brand new BCA Christmas Fair at Tideway Yard.

Tickets for the Tideway Yard event (including a glass of fizz, a Santa visit and chocolate coins) are on sale now with under 16's going free.

Full details for [Barnes Christmas Festival](#)



Full Council Meeting, Tuesday, 30th November 2021 at 7:00pm

The item of interest at this Council meeting for many was the motion by Councillor Geoffrey Samuel to ask the Council to withdraw the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

Councillor Samuel has given notice to move the following Motion:

“This Council formally withdraws its CPO on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.”

Although the Compulsory Purchase Order was not withdrawn Cllr Roberts said at the end of the discussion that he had already decided to give a three-week extension for Objections to the CPO. Cllr Roberts may have made this decision following an article in the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune Page 10 [Edition 264](#) displaying emails from the Secretary of State office for Levelling Up Housing and Communities that stated that LBRUT had been given the “new” address - for the last three months - for any further Objections and also suggested use of an email address (which the Council chose to ignore).

However, it was distasteful to watch on the webcast the way some councillors were addressed, and described, by senior Liberal Democrat councillors. The derogatory name calling and facetious interpretation of councillors’ comments would lead to official complaints in many areas of life.

Perhaps the Council should get its house in order and catch up with what many of us would see as an acceptable way of interaction.

Watch the webcast: https://richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/619240

Documents: <https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=173&MId=5129>

A Conservative Group member stated

“During a debate on Twickenham Riverside the Conservative Group pointed out that the Government grant for affordable housing could well be cancelled out by the eventual costs of the CPO to remove land put in trust for the public for 125 years. They also expressed concern about the segregation of the affordable housing from the flats for private sale that it is proposed to build on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. When questioned during the planning committee on the Conservative application in 2018 about the response made by the police as statutory consultees Cllr Roberts said ‘I hope that we are going to have a public condemnation of the comments made by the police saying that any affordable housing should be given a poor door where they have to be separated from everyone else’.

It is disappointing he has changed his view now he is Council Leader.

The Conservative Group welcomes the Government grants for much needed affordable housing but it should not be separated from the private development.”

HAMPTON VILLAGE TRADERS ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS *Celebration*



**SUNDAY
5 DECEMBER**

From 4pm to 7pm

**PASSPORT TO SANTA'S WORKSHOP
LIVE MUSIC • LOCAL CRAFTERS MARQUEE**

Supported by your local independent businesses



Small Business Saturday 04 December

By Shona Lyons

This Saturday will see a celebration of small independent shops in a Campaign initiated by Small Business UK. To be honest we didn't know anything about this until Visit Richmond's Angela Ivey approached the Association to tell us that this Saturday there was going to be special promotions of the small independent businesses in Church Street and Twickenham as part of this campaign and that they were taking the representatives from Government, the council and from the organisation down Church Street to visit the shops, which are commendable for being part of such a vibrant trading street in the borough.



Personally, I thought it was interesting that they were spending all the time in Twickenham and Church Street, probably because Richmond is really in such a lamentable situation with all these shops in the high street closed and shuttered up. Even Richmond Hill and the Paved Courts which used to be lovely places to wander, the last time I was there were also in a pretty bad state with many of the shops closed.

When Visit Richmond came to ask us who we thought really excelled during the pandemic we had to tell her about Corto and Romina who when the directives came that all hospitality & retail had to close, it seemed that in a blink of the eye she brought in fridges and shelves and ordered fresh groceries from Italy and when all the supermarkets were being raided for their fresh vegetables and fruit & had nothing left except for huge queues she had shelves full of all kinds of Italian produce and boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, plus all types flour and fresh yeast, as well as keeping the café serving take away sandwiches & ice creams etc. many of the traders also did what they could and started deliveries, even on their own bikes like Phil and Kevin from Eel Pie Records! Pierre at Limpopo put a window hatch in so he could stay open and sell from there. Rosie Chai stayed open every day too and adapted to just selling take away wraps, coffee and cakes and Snax, although at first Elmaz and Vera went away for about a month they then came back and put all their energies into adapting their café by taking out their large windows during the day so they could have a big tables creaking under the weight of all kind of baked goods & refreshments for people to take out on their allowed constitutionals along Church Street and the river to the parks etc.



It does make me proud that our little association with Bruce my father at its helm, aided by me as much as I can have helped this little street get where it is now, a real jewel in the heart of Twickenham that all these people are taken to, to admire.

Of course it wouldn't be without the fantastic shop keepers but many of these very enterprising folk were attracted to come to the street as they could see its potential after years of diligent maintenance and promotions with beautiful huge hanging baskets all down the street in summer and all the pots & planters planted and watered all summer long and with winter plantings to, the Christmas Lights that we keep on all year now, thanks to the lovely Chris Tiernan at Grosvenor and his new tenants Hedson Rail that supply the electricity now and also the Christmas Trees that we have above all the shops that Sophie from the Bloomery puts up now, but this is a tradition that Bruce first organised many years ago and which he organised for the whole town as well. We had charts & big boards in the office charting where all the trees needed to be and where all the flag poles were to be able to do that, with Cousins actually getting the trees put up for one year and then several years Thames Landscaping did it, but it was here at Crusader Travel that we had the HQ, approaching all the traders in town, not just in Church Street and then getting the orders in and dealing with all the accounts etc. It was quite a job, but Bruce never does things in half measures. At the time we also organised on the same basis the huge, beautiful hanging baskets for all the town that we got supplied from Window Flowers. Again, a really massive job that we did all the time keeping our community travel agency alive with a roof above our heads by selling holidays.

We have also organised all the Twickenham Festivals since 1995 with most of the headline events happening Church Street. Now that we have the street pedestrianised and Al Fresco is much bigger these days, with the tables and chairs taking up all the available pavement space, this is something that we don't see ourselves able to organise now, as where would the stalls go? But Bruce is getting older now and we have to really focus on our little travel agency as the Pandemic hit us hard and there is just Bruce and me running the place now. The Festival was another huge thing with events going on and a vast programme which we produced & which went on for the whole of June. This also helped promote Twickenham and also this little street.

Now we have absolutely no empty shops and as soon as one becomes available it is snapped up!



Help bring new life to the Grimwood Road garden site

Residents and community organisations are being encouraged to share their ideas for the future use of Grimwood Road Garden as a community resources and how they might use the space.

Grimwood Road garden site includes a greenhouse and horticultural space in the grounds of the Twickenham Training Centre (also known as the Twining Centre) at 53 Grimwood Road, Twickenham TW1 1BY.

The site is owned by London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It has been out of use since 2018 but the garden site could now become a not-for-profit horticultural resource for learning and enjoyment of the community, benefiting people who live or work in the borough.



Local charity Habitats & Heritage is helping to engage with local people and organisations about future uses. Local people and community organisations are encouraged to give us your ideas and thoughts for the future use of the site.

View more information on [Grimwood Road garden site](#).

Complete the short survey [HERE](#)

12 Days of Kindness at Richmond upon Thames College

This December, Richmond upon Thames College is launching '12 Days of Kindness', mirroring the famous song '12 days of Christmas'.

Starting from Wednesday 1 December, there will be opportunities for students and staff to get involved with various activities promoting kindness.

There are 12 different activities taking place each day that students and staff will be getting involved with including the opportunity to volunteer at a local soup kitchen, donating food for a local food bank, getting involved in a befriending session, Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Fair and much, much more.

Check out the full list of activities to take part in [HERE](#)



Trust sets out further CPO objection detail

In recent weeks the Twickenham Riverside Trust confirmed its intention to lodge a strong objection against the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) made on 21 October by the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Council, which is targeted primarily at the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

The Twickenham Riverside Trust was set up in 2011 following an extensive campaign by local residents (including in a petition of over 8,500 signatures presented to Downing Street) explicitly to protect and preserve the public open space on Twickenham's riverside. A 125-year lease on a substantial part of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens (opened in 2012) was granted to the Trust in 2014. At that time, the then Leader of the Council stated that the lease was granted "in perpetuity for the people, so that never again can any other Council come forward with a plan to sell [the Gardens] off to a developer". In October 2021, however, the Council launched a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in order to enable development to take place on the Gardens. In November 2021, with 118 years still remaining on its lease, the Trust submitted its Objections to the CPO to the relevant Secretary of State's office.

The Trust has now published its CPO Objections and their appendices which you can find in full [here](#)

The full list of published documents include:

- The Trust's overarching objection to the Council's CPO
- The Trust's objection to the acquisition of public open space using Section 19 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 as proposed under the Council's CPO.
- There are then an additional seven appendices relating specifically to the Objection to the Acquisition of Public Open Space, but also to support the Objection to the Compulsory Purchase Order. These are: 1 Trust's demise within the Diamond Jubilee Gardens 2 Order Land Council Finance Committee 20.9.2021 3 Overlay of Order Land on Existing Gardens (plots 63 and 76) 4A Flood Zones Planning Application Design & Access Statements 4B Flood Zones Planning Application Design & Access Statements 6 Examples of events in existing Gardens (photos/posters) 7 Planning Application 'Daylight, Sunlight and Overshadowing Report' - External Amenity Areas The Trust has also published a summary and more information about all of this and other general information about what we do in our '[More Information](#)' section [here](#).

Twickenham Riverside Trust Chair, Luke Montgomery-Smith said: *"We have set out clearly via our submission that we were left with no choice but to contest the Council's regrettable CPO and this fulfils our duties to protect public open space. "Regardless of this ongoing legal process, our intention is to continue negotiating with the Council to try and reach an agreement for the disposal of the land which ensures that, at the very least, the overall amount and quality of public open space currently enjoyed by the public on Twickenham riverside will be available to all in the redevelopment.*

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 4.12.2021, 11 AM - 2 PM

QUEEN'S SCHOOL KEW



**SANTA'S GROTTO, TOY SALE,
CRAFTS, HANDMADE WREATHS,
TOMBOLA, TRAIN RIDE, BBQ, BAR,
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, SILENT
AUCTION, RAFFLE AND MORE!**



ADMISSION - ADULTS £2 - KIDS FREE
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED VIA CASH OR CARD
AT THE ENTRANCE



NUTTY ABOUT THE FAT BADGER

There's been a lot of excitement in the Richmond area surrounding the recent opening of Gladwin Brothers' latest Local & Wild restaurant – The Fat Badger. It's situated on Hill Street, close to the Odeon cinema and a minute's walk from Richmond Bridge. It's the fifth restaurant by the talented brothers behind the Notting Hill institution, The Shed, Rabbit on the Kings Road, Nutbourne in Battersea and Sussex in Soho. They also own Nutbourne Vineyards and farm in Sussex, so you can expect some great wines! The three brothers use their three unique skills: a farmer, the other a chef, and the third a restaurateur, and share their love for delicious food, foraging, and farming. Together, they have created this group of restaurants, extending their farm-to-fork way of life into London.



So what is The Fat Badger, you are probably thinking? Well, it's very much a neighbourhood venture, and offers an all-day British drinks and dining concept. There are brasserie-style dishes with twists from using wild and foraged ingredients, to unique takes on classics. Sustainability is at its heart and it's a kind of pub/restaurant/bar/café... and it's great! It's somewhere to meet a friend for coffee, a weekend brunch (there's kedgeree on the menu!) or a bite of lunch, a Sunday roast, enjoy a snifter on the way home or pre cinema, or go the whole hog and have a blow out meal there. The décor and atmosphere is relaxed, tables set well apart and it was busy, but surprisingly un-noisy, for a Wednesday evening when we went to check it out.



We began with a delicious glass of Nutty Wild, a 100 per cent Pinot Noir sparkling from the Nutbourne Vineyards (£9.50). The wine list isn't solely British; it's eclectic and well presented, with a good range of wines by the glass (from £5), the 375ml carafe (from £15) and the bottle from £24. While choosing our meal, we had a taste of some of the lovely charcuterie and some smoked, whipped cod's roe (£6), with autumn veg and leek ash. This was a highlight for me – not only was it delicious, but it was presented looking like a beautiful flower with chicory leaves to scoop up the roe.

We started with a portion of hand-dived scallops, turnip, blood pudding, crème fraiche and hibiscus (a classic combination at £12) and Portland crab, cucumber, mint & whey (£11.50). Both were beautifully presented and tasty, but my husband was disappointed only to have two small scallops. My crab starter had the addition of pieces of fried

Jerusalem artichoke, which not only added texture, but another flavour dimension.

Sticky Spatchcock Partridge, Barley, Sweetcorn, Ground Elder Pesto (£19) tempted my husband next, and I couldn't resist the Butterflied Pork Parma, with mustard & cheddar sauce, pickled walnut, fennel and sage (£20). The barley was in fact a pearl barley 'risotto' and the tiny taste I managed to steal was really good. My pork was a very generous, delicious, rich combination of classic porcine accompaniments.



The sides are worth checking out here – so delicious in fact, that you could make a complete meal of them! Crispy (and I mean crispy) baked potatoes (£4) and charred cabbage, chilli, burnt leek mayo and crispy onions were something very special indeed. We tried the Sussex Reserve White wine with our starter and the Douro with our mains both recommended by Peter, the assistant manager.

Needless to say, there was little room for a pudding, but my husband was determined to try the Salted Caramel Chocolate Torte, with brandy-soaked grapes and clotted cream (£6.50). I had a tiny taste of the torte and it was warm, dark, and very chocolaty... fab! It tasted almost as though it had Guinness in recipe.

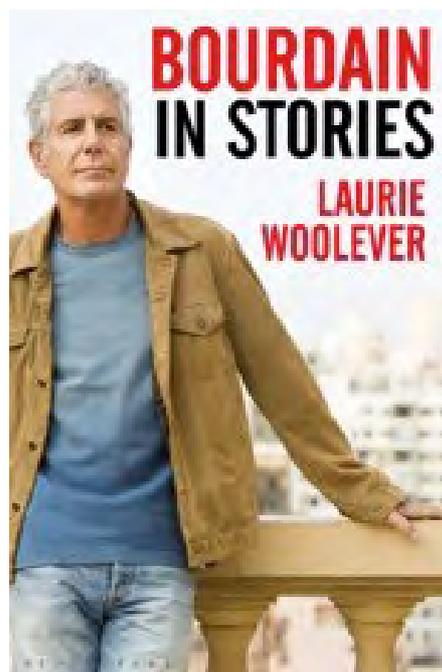
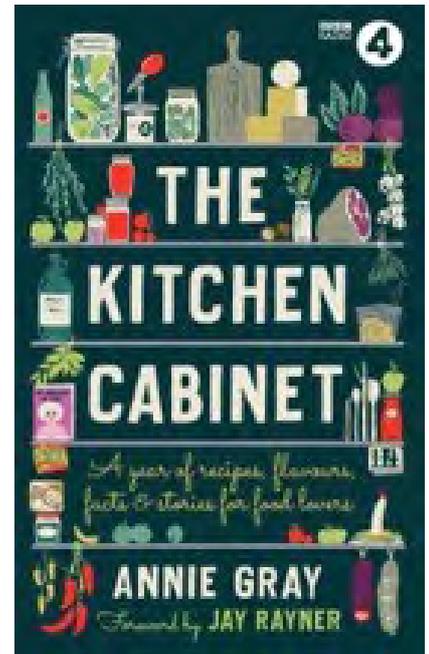
With friendly, professional service, great food and drink and a varied menu, I'm planning another visit very soon; The Fat Badger is a great new jewel in Richmond's culinary crown!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FOODIE BOOK LOVERS

Christmas is one of the times in the year when you feel you can indulge by burying yourself in a good book, especially if the weather is inclement, as it so often is here in the UK. As well as the fabulous variety of classic cookbooks published this year, there are also many other ‘foodie’ books that will make a great gift. Better still, you could put them on your own Christmas list to make life easier for folks choosing gifts for you!

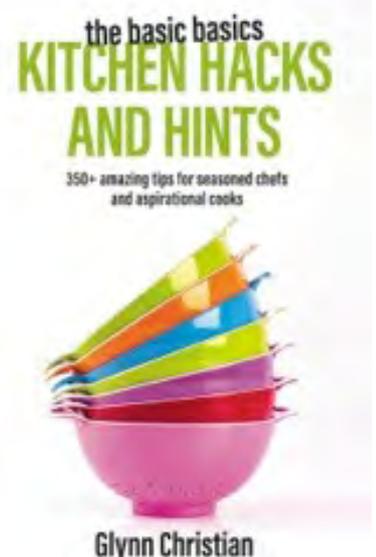
The Kitchen Cabinet is a year-round BBC Radio 4 favourite – not just of mine, but an additional 1.4 million listeners. In the first official book from the series, Annie Gray, the show’s resident food historian, has distilled over a 100 hours of dinner table talk into a handy almanac, with advice from The Kitchen Cabinet contributors. Broken down month by month and regionally, it’s packed with food tips and tricks, recipes, anecdotes and seasonal fun, all held together with tidbits of history, science and often rather lively debate, The Kitchen Cabinet is the perfect companion to help you fill your year with flavour. Published by BBC Books, hardback £16.99

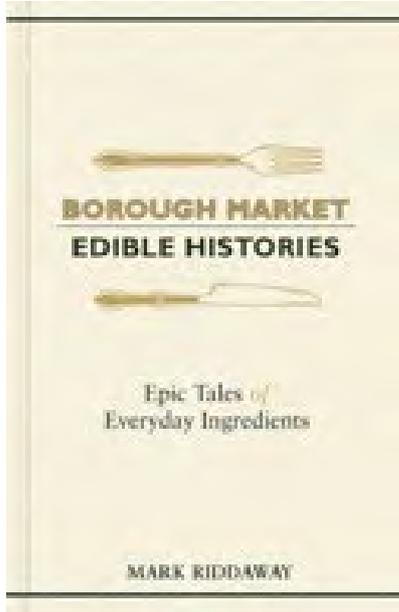


Bourdain: In Stories Any serious foodie will have heard of Anthony Bourdain, and probably has read his memoir Kitchen Confidential. Now, for the first time, we’ve been granted a look into Bourdain’s life through stories and recollections of his closest friends and colleagues. Laurie Woolever, Bourdain’s longtime assistant and confidante, interviewed nearly a hundred of the people who shared Bourdain’s orbit.

Unparalleled in scope and deeply intimate in its execution, including photos from Bourdain’s life, **Bourdain: In Stories** is a definitive testament to the life of a remarkable man in the words of the people who shared his world. Published by Bloomsbury, hardback £16.99

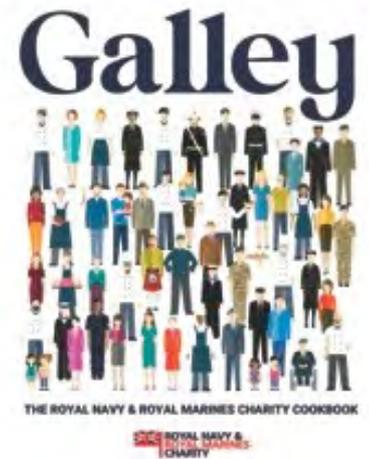
Glynn Christian has been a stalwart of food broadcasting for many years. His many food and cookery books include REAL FLAVOURS – the Handbook of Gourmet and Deli Ingredients, voted Best Food Guide in the World. Glynn co-founded iconic Mr Christian’s Provisions on Portobello Rd and is honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Guild of Fine Food. His latest book **Kitchen Hacks and Hints** is a handy paperback packed with over 350 amazing tips and techniques for seasoned chefs and aspirational home cooks. Tips include how best to handle garlic, how to judge a Pavlova, why it should be ‘thumbs up’ for kitchen knives and how to freeze olives to keep a straight-up martini ice cold. Being paperback, as well as a great stocking filler, it’s also a good gift to post. £8.99 Grub Street.





Borough Market: Edible Histories Epic Tales of Everyday Ingredients, is perfect for those moments when you find yourself wondering how a particular ingredient found its way into our lives. Borough has long been synonymous with food markets and as far back as 1014, possibly earlier, London Bridge attracted traders selling grain, fish, vegetables and livestock. In the 13th Century traders were relocated to what is now Borough High Street and a market has existed there ever since. Mark Riddaway takes the reader on a culinary journey including some surprising and bizarre stories behind Britain's most-liked ingredients. It's received rave review and tells you about the foods we eat, where they came from and provides a better idea of where our food is headed. Hardback, Hodder & Stoughton £16.99 There have also been a few charity cookbooks:

For anyone with links to or an interest in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, this book offers inspiration and information that supports a highly deserving cause: **Galley - The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity Cookbook**. As the principal charity of the Royal Navy, it has a single mission: to value and support every sailor, marine and Royal Navy family, for life. It features a foreword by The Princess Royal; Princess Anne holds the honorary title of Admiral in the Queen's Royal Navy and introduces readers to the recipes of Galley with a few personal recommendations for those who haven't found their sea legs yet! Galley shines a light on the skill and talent within this demanding industry, thanks to the contributions of 20 professional chefs with a connection to the Royal Navy. Each shared a starter, main and dessert, alongside their journey through active service and beyond. There's also a mouth-watering seven hour lamb recipe from Michel Roux Jr, who served in the French military and endorsed the book. Meze Publishing, £25 from Waterstones and the Royal Navy online shop.



And last, but by no means least, The Royal British Legion, in partnership with St James's House publishing, has launched a cookbook celebrating a centenary of service to the Armed Forces community and their families.

The book, **Cooking With Heroes**, represents 100 regions around the world in which the RBL has had a presence. With recipes from Antrim to Australia and Glasgow to the Gambia, each regional recipe is accompanied by the story of a local hero – a service man or woman or a civilian volunteer – whose contribution to others will be remembered forever.

The beautifully illustrated book includes contributions from celebrity chefs including Rick Stein, Jamie Oliver, The Hairy Bikers, Melissa Hemsley and Cyrus Todiwala. A passionate team of service and ex-service personnel, however, has written most of the recipes.

Hardback £19.95 online from [St James's House](https://www.stjamesshouse.com) or major book shops



Vendetta

by David Anstruther

CD Digipak from Eel Pie Records, Twickenham

Walking around Twickenham, it is possible that you may have bumped into singer-songwriter David Anstruther. Berkley Driscoll did and his interview with David was published in [a recent edition \(p. 15-16, Edition 263\) of The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune](#).

Vendetta is his first album of his own work. I have a genuine respect and admiration for those who have the bravery to put their original work out there. There is much to recommend David's music. He is an accomplished guitarist and he has a pleasing, "clean" tenor voice, too.

The tracks are well produced and mostly bounce along nicely. The opening track, *If You Can't Find Love*, has something of a post-Punk feel to it, plus a bit of Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound". *Snippets* and *Rain Maker* also show great potential. It would be interesting to hear *Rain Maker* with the addition of some brass and reeds.

However, the stand-out track is *The Draw-Off (A Twickenham Song)*. The title refers to the annual event around November, when the sluices are lifted between Teddington and Richmond locks, so that the Port of London Authority can carry out essential maintenance on the locks themselves and other areas. The song is written in a gentle 6/8 time, which gives it a dream-like quality and the chord choice complements this. I particularly liked the slightly "clashy" chord (perhaps Fmaj7#11?) and its resolution. Redolent with local references and imagery, a tasteful acoustic guitar illustrates blues being played on Eel Pie Island. But the whole thing is a metaphor for sorting-out one's mind. If this were *Strictly*, it would be a "10 from Len". I enjoyed hearing in song about The Three Kings, The Barmy (The Barmy Arms), The Pie (The Eel Pie), all of which I would have to confess I may have imbibed the odd tincture in and The Club (presumably the Twickenham Club), where I haven't drunk. Honest.



Read Vince Francis review at www.markaspen.com/2021/11/28/vendetta

Photography by Paul Harries and Michael Tamish

Mother Swan

by Tom Whalley, adapted by Andy Hale

Barnes Community Players at Kitson Hall, Barnes until 4th December

A cold winter's night is rife for a warm welcome at a pantomime, (*oh no, it isn't!*), and the introductory humorous couplets between good and evil did just that.

The curtain went up on *Mother Swan* to the strong coloured set of Barnesville, where boldly-robed evil Priti Snyder and good-hearted, ultra-pink Fair-Enough-Ski involved us their shenanigans. Their rapport was tangible and played with traditional gusto by Annie Collenette and Roger Hayward-Smith.



The tongue-in-cheek delivery by the eponymous Mother Swan and her son Silly Billy set the plot. The hard-working chorus developed the story, and its sheer presence was notably in the show-stopping *Swan Lake* sequence. This was led by the charismatic swan, Priscilla, the heart role of the story, excellently played by Nisha Kshetri, and tenderly enacted in what looked like a heavy, if perfectly charming, costume. Amanda Harker's choreography was engaging and detailed.



Robyn Bloomfield, a strong talent and highly watchable, played Silly Billy's banter effortlessly. However, James Goodden as Mother Swan was the real lead and carried the show with his wit, strong projection and poignancy.

On to the jazzier second half, when there was wholehearted interaction between the audience and Fair Enough-Ski and Silly Billy, as we sang along to *Baby Shark*, not because we were obliged to, but because we genuinely wanted to.

The direction by Andy Hale of *Mother Swan* was studied and intelligent. Although a strong moral tale of love and greed, we nevertheless knew we were back in panto season mode, and the audience did not merely sit through it; we were all a willing part of it. A proper spirit-lifting panto and a good night out to get into the seasonal spirit – *oh yes, it is!*



Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/12/02/mother-swan

Photography courtesy of Barnes Community Players



The Beano: The Art of Breaking the Rules

curated by Andy Holden

Embankment Gallery, Somerset House, London until 6th March 2022

Biff! Bang! Whizzz! Ouff! Ouch! Curator Andy Holden had been planning an exhibition about *The Beano* since March 2020 when the lights were switched off by Lockdown. Proving that careful planning really does pay off, he lays this infamous comic treasure trove bare before us.

At the ticket office I was greeted by Biffo the Bear, the character I mourn the most. Once having the status of Desperate Dan, he stopped appearing in 1986. Biffo was wholesome and neat in his red shorts, which could have been his downfall. Along the walls into this amazing

cave are images of the dubious Snitch and Snatch from Lord Snooty and His Pals. In fact, Lord Snooty's gang was very bizarre indeed. Residents of the working class Ash Can Alley came to live with him in the castle: the ultimate breaking down of the class barrier. Snooty now seems to have become an art dealer – a feasible role for today's aristocracy perhaps.



Despite flaunting the Beano's nostalgic glory, issues are brought to us head on; the first being its *History of Food*. These particularly concerned Little Plum's and The Three Bears' gluttony. Who can forget that huge pile of mash with tempting sausages sticking out?! What was once revered has now become a serious health issue. Then we walk into *Discipline and Punish*: a very big issue indeed. With caning banned in state schools in 1986, Teacher of the Bash Street Kids no longer has the significant implement by his desk, and clouds that the punishing slipper made disappeared.

Ending with the *Beano Home*, nostalgic visitors are sated and glowing from being back in that world of running round the sweet shop on a Thursday where the newsagent had put the comic aside, surname written in pencil on the back. Those days have gone forever but so lovely to revisit. See it if you dare!

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/11/25/beano



Images by David Sutherland, courtesy of Beano



To Have and to Hold

by Michelle Payne

Savi Creative Arts at Barons Court Theatre

To Have and To Hold, part of Savi Creative Arts' *Emerging Arts Festival*, is a cleverly crafted work-in-progress piece that, at its core, is about exploring issues in modern life. It offers a chance to see events and thoughts from different perspectives and how consequences for actions can have repercussions that change over time. The script is well constructed around some of the pitfalls and issues with modern dating.

The play achieves quite a journey by having its two actors, Iwona Marciniak and John Skerritt, playing not only multiple characters but also the same characters at different stages in their lives. At times there are very recognisable beats around dating and the problems of living in a pandemic, but the play also touches on more coming of sexual age issues that could be straight from popular shows such as *Sex Education*.



With a set of just four chairs, the clever directing from Eliza Beth Stevens allows the actors to get the most out of Michelle Payne's sharp and honest script. Marciniak offers well timed asides to the audience to keep them aware that she is taking them on the journey with her and Skerritt, at times, just by changing his voice and inflection does a great job at transporting the plain stage to places elsewhere. He has a very powerful scene, handled strongly by the actor, when the mental stability of his character is in a very precarious position. Each actor jumps between each of their characters very fluidly and it is a testament to their craft in multi-roleing that there is never confusion as to who they are portraying in any given moment.

The physicality of the actors is also very well handled. The changes in form from Marciniak when she's playing the same character, firstly as the conscious narrator – slightly nervous and unsure – but then as the object of John's character's desire – silent, alluring and mysterious – is a great subtle piece of physical acting.

Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/11/30/have-hold

Photography courtesy of Savi Creative Arts

MAD ABOUT COWARD at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

If you're mad about the plays of Noel Coward you would be crazy to miss the RSS production of HAY FEVER at the riverside Mary Wallace Theatre which opens on Saturday, December 11th. Coward's notoriously "clean" comedy about a chaotic weekend with the unconventional Bliss family and their bemused house-guests has been delighting audiences with its charm, style and wit since its first production in 1925. "The Master" wrote more than 65 plays of which, PRIVATE LIVES, TONIGHT AT 8.30, PRESENT LAUGHTER and BLITHE SPIRIT are regularly revived on both the professional and amateur stages - none more frequently than HAY FEVER with its incisive portrayal of overblown egos, romantic entanglements and acute social embarrassments.



HAY FEVER plays from Saturday, December 11th to Saturday 18th at 7.45 with 3pm matinees on the 12th and 18th at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment (next to the Barmy Arms and, yes, you'd be "barmy" to miss it).

Booking at

www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Rehearsal photograph by PETE MESSUM

Christmas Tree Festival and Carols in the Cloister at St Michaels & All Angels

St Michaels & All Angels in Barnes will be helping residents get into the festive spirit on Thursday 16 December with their Christmas Tree light up, carols and concert band.

The special Christmas Tree Festival and Carols in the Cloister event will run from 6 to 8.30pm with residents encouraged to join in on the festivities at St Michaels & All Angels in Barnes.

From 6pm there will be the lighting up of the Christmas trees along with a raffle, games and pop up stalls. At 7pm the Carols in the Cloister with the Barnes Concert Band and Barnes Primary School will begin, and then at 7.45pm the Barnes Concert Band will be performing in the church.



The Christmas Tree festival at St Michaels & All Angels in Barnes will run until Wednesday 22 December 2021.

Eel Pie Artists Winter Open Studios 2021

All being well this bi-annual event will take place in the Eel Pie Boatyard the weekend of the **4-5 December. 11am - 5pm**. Visitors are invited to view and purchase a wide selection of art and craft work direct from the artists. Refreshments available.

All welcome including dogs and children must be supervised at all times.

Numbers admitted to individual studios may be limited and face masks are requested.

High tides are at 2pm Sat and 3pm Sunday for about an hour - wellies advised.

Please check for updates regarding Covid restrictions

To contact individual artists please see our web site: www.eelpieislandartists.co.uk or Facebook Page: Eel Pie Artists



Travel for Twixmas – What’s New??

Travel News by Bruce Lyons

Well!!! For starters there is our new friend The Omicron Variant he has arrived on our doorsteps and definitely put the Cat amongst the Pigeons.

Ministers and Scientists have hurriedly dropped the Mistletoe and dreamt up all sorts of security measures that if we weren’t confused already, we are now.

As far as UK travellers are concerned it is across the board changes with the re-entry disciplines. PCR instead of Antigen and self-isolation for 2 days or till the result is confirmed negative.

That said quite a lot of Southern African Countries were put on the RED list and not only can’t you go if you are already there and coming home you will have to Quarantine according to the Governments requirements & there were other changes, but some countries also now require you to take a PCR on arrival – some counties have extended their embargo on new travellers for a while – Like Israel. Others have introduced quarantining, like Switzerland but they, many of them, are changing the rules by the day so you need to check!!!

But not withstanding this, we are getting some new enquiries and all our November clients have gone and our December clients are determined to go even though they have the option to postpone they are checking everything and going through all the hoops with our guidance – we are on speed dial for many!!! Such is their



desperation to have some fun for themselves and their families, in the sun!!!

So is there any good news – well yes – sort of! If you are desperate for a dash to the Sun, we discovered that early bookers on Cruises for Xmas with their families have had to cancel and the result! There is some amazing last minute Xmas cruises. Adults only need to be double jabbed, but as that also applies to children, there are now new availabilities. For example, MSC’s Seaview sailing the Caribbean Islands from Barbados on the 21st December for a week is available – including flights – from under £1000 in an inside cabin for 2 but there are other cabins available and other cruises too!



8 Days – 7 Nights				
	Day	Port	Arrival*	Departure*
TUESDAY	21/12/21	Bridgetown, Barbados	—:—	23:00
WEDNESDAY	22/12/21	Saint George, Grenada	09:00	20:00
THURSDAY	23/12/21	Roseau, Dominica	09:00	20:00
FRIDAY	24/12/21	AT SEA	—:—	—:—
SATURDAY	25/12/21	Basseterre, St Kitts & Nevis	08:00	19:00
SUNDAY	26/12/21	Philipsburg, St. Maarten	07:00	23:00
MONDAY	27/12/21	Castries, Saint Lucia	14:00	21:00
TUESDAY	28/12/21	Bridgetown, Barbados	07:00	—:—



Happy Travelling – call anytime! 020 8744 0474

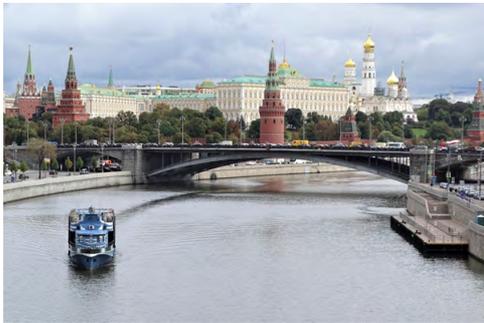
TRAVELLER'S TALES 111

CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER

Doug Goodman enjoys being aboard small boats



Several million of us enjoy ocean cruising every year - at least until the dreaded Covid caused all travel to be curtailed. However, until the end of 2019 it was the fastest growing sector in the travel business and now seems to be recovering well with bookings for next year booming. Let's hope that this trend continues for all types of foreign travel despite the arrival of the new Omicron strain. Let me say straightaway that big-ship cruising is not for me as the thought of being with thousands of cruise passengers, and not disembarking for days on end, is not my idea of a holiday. But I like little ships and enjoy being on the water so the options for me are short ferry rides and river cruises. Visiting numerous places in a short space of time and getting off the boat each day to explore a town or village is my favourite type of holiday. A maximum of 200 fellow passengers is ideal with plenty of time ashore individually or on excursions.



Moscow River



Volga Lock



Laos. The Mekong

THE VOLGA AND OTHER MIGHTY WATERWAYS

The most recent and most fascinating cruise was with Viking on a 12 day Moscow to St. Petersburg trip just two years ago. Four days on board Viking Rurik in Moscow gave me the chance to catch up with old friends and explore parts of the city. The Russian language I had learnt as a student over 50 years earlier came flooding back on this my 25th visit to Russia. From the starting point on The Moscow River to the end on The Neva in St. Petersburg was 1,300 kms through 17 locks with stops at historic cities and towns such as Yaroslavl, Uglich and the magnificent 14th century Kirillo Belozersky Monastery. Perhaps the best thing of all was the chance to meet Russian people and see the sights in an unhurried way: the free excursions were very well operated. Another great experience was on the Mekong when visits to shrines and a stay in a jungle camp in Laos involved four trips on long, narrow boats. In Cambodia the regular six hour trip from Siem Reap to Battambang across Lake Tonle Sap - more of an ocean than a lake - took nine hours due to very low water. On occasions passengers joined crew members to push the boat clear of sand banks. Although only a very short trip on The Cauvery River in India's State of Karnataka, it was memorable for the elephant encounters. A sanctuary for the animals had been established where visitors could learn about the creatures' habits and to assist at bath time in the muddy river. The elephants really appreciated having their skin scrubbed.

A Christmas holiday on a rice boat drifting slowly along Kerala's Backwaters in Southern India was without doubt the most scenic and relaxing time spent on the water. In Southern China at Guilin the Li River provided some remarkable sights. The pointed hills which lined the river banks and the captive, trained cormorants diving for fish, were a photographer's dream.



India Karnataka. Cauvery River



The Backwaters in Kerala



China Guilin. Li River



Egypt. Nile Cruise

TAKING A FERRY

A ferry is an excellent way to see parts of a city and to observe people hurrying to and from work. The Staten Island ferry takes you on a free crossing from Lower Manhattan to St. Georges on Staten Island. Avoid the rush hours as 70,000 commuters cross daily. Hong Kong's Star Ferry from Kowloon across Victoria Harbour to Hong Kong Island takes around 25 minutes and gives you a spectacular view of the city's skyscrapers. In Cairo a boat trip on The Nile is an essential part of a visitor's itinerary. I hired a Dhow and had a party on the great river. Cruising along the Bosphorus from Istanbul under the wide suspension bridge linking Europe with Asia was an enjoyable part of a short break in the chaotic Turkish city. Greek Island-hopping is great fun on the vast network of inter-island routes but I always had difficulty backing my vehicle up a steep and moving ramp onto the deck.



Paris The Seine



Avignon. The Rhone



Germany. The Rhine

FRANCE'S RIVERS

The 90 minute crossing from Dover to Calais with DFDS Ferries is the perfect way to start a holiday in France. Watching Paris float past aboard one of the large Bateaux Mouches, while trying to remember the names of the many graceful bridges, is my favourite pastime in the city. Likewise in Avignon on The Rhone passing the famous medieval Pont Saint-Benezet on the way north towards Lyon is a happy way to spend a day, especially as it was a wedding anniversary cruise for dear friends. I long to travel the length of the Rhine on one of the little boats that stop at every town. I once made the short trip from Boppard to Rudesheim and stopped off to admire some of the formidable castles towering over the river's gorges.

FATHER THAMES

The novelty of taking the Thames Clipper service has never worn off and joining the tourists on a cruise from Westminster to The Thames Barrier can be very entertaining as you past under Tower Bridge. I've been tempted to correct Americans when they mistake Tower Bridge for London Bridge. I expect that the error came about because Arizona bought the old London Bridge thinking it was Tower Bridge and erected it in a desert theme park, The Thames is my favourite river and when visitors stay in Twickenham I take them across to Ham House on Hammerton's little ferry. Whenever I'm on Richmond Hill I can never resist photographing the view of our very own stretch of a river protected by law.



The Thames

WIZ TALES: Jamaica - Climate Change

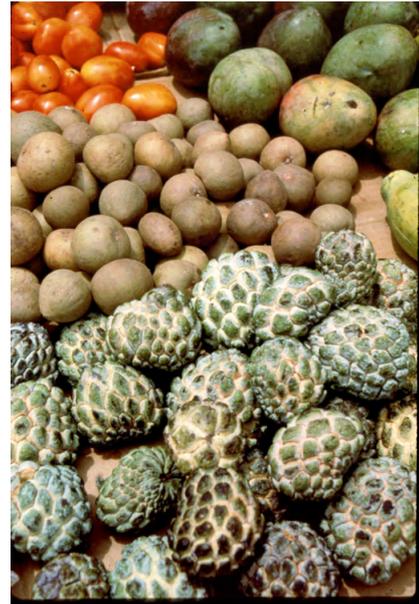
Teresa Read

Jamaica is one of a number islands in the Caribbean predicted to be most affected by climate change. Others are Haiti, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago.

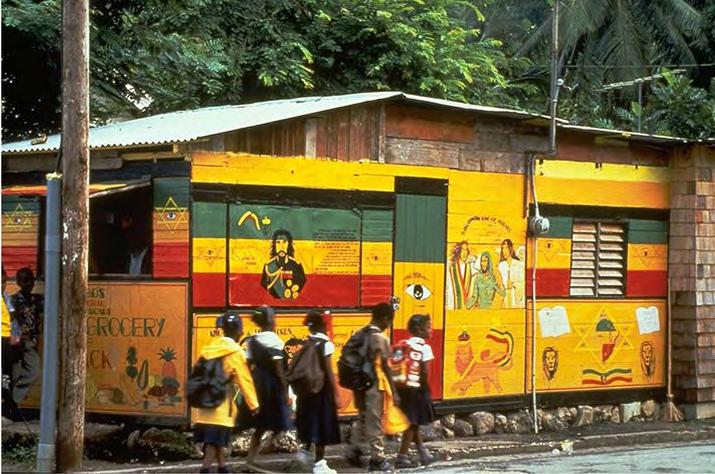
Fisheries, agriculture and tourism account for a significant proportion of Jamaica's gross domestic product; industries vulnerable to more frequent and severe weather events. Groundwater supplies are also affected by rising sea levels and longer periods of drought.

Jamaica's marine ecosystems and coastline will be adversely affected - over 80% of the population live along or near the coast.

It is estimated that there would be a significant impact on health, particularly in the young and elderly.



The Government of Jamaica produced a Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica in 2015 recognizing that although Small Island States (SIDS) are not the main contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions Jamaica is nonetheless playing its part in reducing its GHG emissions through 'no regrets' mitigation actions which can lead not only to reduced emissions but also cost savings and social and environmental benefits for the country.



More information on Jamaica

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



REMEMBER TO STOP!

By Doug Goodman

Much as we might fume during long waits in Twickenham for the traffic lights to go green, there would be chaos without them.

On December 10th 1868 the world's first traffic lights were erected in Parliament Square. There were two signs attached to arms which moved by a policeman using a lever. The lights had a gas-lit semaphore in order to be seen clearly. After two months the novelty proved a disaster when the lights exploded killing the operator.

It took 46 years for the first electric lights to appear in Cleveland in the USA. In the early 1920s Detroit and New York installed the first three- colour lights: until then drivers and presumably pedestrians had only red and green to contend with.

When I worked for Kefalonia, the sixth largest Greek Island with a population of 35,000, no traffic lights existed until the late 1990s. Many local people were opposed to this imposition but at least the cars could cross a narrow causeway without backing up and in one case toppling into the sea.

I noticed a sale of traffic lights on the internet for £255.99 which might appeal to impatient drivers who could set them at green permanently.



St Mary's University

St Mary's Alumnus Published Debut Children's Book about Global Warming

Alumnus Karim Vatvani who studied BA Primary Education at St Mary's University, Twickenham has published his first children's book *The Reluctant Eskimo*.



The book follows the day-to-day life of Pukak, an Eskimo who lives in an igloo in the Arctic. However, one day when a Government official arrives with

some alarming news and Pukak has no choice but to handle the consequences of the changing climate.

Karim is a primary school teacher who frequently creates stories on environmental issues for his pupils and this is the first in a series of three children's books that he is writing with an emphasis on the environment. All proceeds (except the publisher's commission) are being donated to charities to help combat climate change.

Speaking of his achievement, author Karim Vatvani said "It is truly an honour to see my story be brought to life. I have loved stories and storytelling for as long as I can remember and the thought of one of my stories being published for other children to read and enjoy fills me with happiness. I am hopeful that the message that I convey, and hope to convey in my next stories, will have a profound effect on my readers and will inspire them to be the catalyst of change in a world that is constantly being threatened by climate change."

Director of the Institute of Education at St Mary's, Anna Lise Gordon, said "We are thrilled to hear of Karim's publication based on stories that he has told to children in his primary class. Karim aims to inspire the younger generation to think about our impact on the world and to take immediate action for climate change mitigation. Karim credits his education tutors at St Mary's University with inspiring his storytelling and we look forward to many more children's stories from Karim in the future."

The book can be purchased on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

St Mary's Lecturer and Women's Football Fitness Expert Presented at 'Sports Tomorrow' Congress

Lecturer in Sport Rehabilitation at St Mary's University, Twickenham Dr Katrine (Kat) Okholm Kryger presented at two international academic events last month.

Between the 8th – 12th of November, Kat presented at the [FC Barcelona Sports Tomorrow Congress](#) at the Barcelona Innovation Hub. Across the four days, nine topics were explored: business, medicine, physiotherapy, technology, coaching, nutrition, performance, analytics and gastroport.

Kat's presentation was called *Football Boots – Implications on Performance and Injury* that discussed why we need to better sports technology focus in women's football.

Kat co-led [The Union of European Football Associations \(UEFA\)](#) at a Fitness for Football coach educator course in Israel as a UEFA women's football fitness expert.

Similar events are happening later in the academic year in Gibraltar and Denmark.



Speaking of the events, Kat Okholm Kryger said, "It is amazing to see and be a part of the shift in focus and respect we see around women's football. A 5-day conference solely focusing on elite women's football is a first and it was a great honour to share my research with the attendees. I am also very proud to take a small part of the implementation strategy set by UEFA to ensure an equal focus on men and women's football on coaching education in every national association."

Visit the University website to find out more about all the [sport, health and science courses](#) we offer.



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BRENTFORD FC



Toney pen gives Bees all three points

Brentford 1–0 Everton

A penalty midway through the first half from Ivan Toney proved to be the difference on the afternoon at the Brentford Community Stadium as the Bees returned to winning ways again in the Premier League.

In a game with limited chances for both sides the first key moment of the match was in fact the penalty that was awarded with just over 20 minutes played. It came when a corner from Sergi Canós was delivered into the box and was initially punched away by Jordan Pickford.

However, as Frank Onyeka went to go for the ball Andros Townsend kicked him in the head and a penalty was subsequently awarded by VAR. In classic Toney fashion the striker then calmly sent the ball past Pickford to give the Bees the lead.

Everton then nearly hit back straight away from kick off as they attacked and Salomon Rondon who got a low shot away but Álvaro Fernández denied the Everton attacker with his feet.

Then game then quietened down a bit but the home side could have made it two shortly before the interval when Toney played in Bryan Mbeumo but the Frenchman took a snap shot that was blocked by Pickford.

At the other end Townsend swung a ball into the box from the right hand side that Abdoulaye Doucouré got on the end of but he too was kept out, this time by a block at the back from Charlie Goode.

After the break Goode again made a key intervention as he tackled Anthony Gordon in the box and Fernández had to be alert after a shot from Demarai Gray took a deflection on its way.

With time ticking away Everton pushed in vain for an equaliser and Fernández was again involved as he saved once more, this time from Iwobi as the Bees dropped deeper to defend.

Late on they could have scored again when Shandon Baptise found teammate Yoane Wissa, whose shot was well held by Pickford but in the end, it proved immaterial as the Bees ground out the three points.

Bees lose away from home

Tottenham Hotspur 2–0 Brentford

An own goal from Sergi Canós and a goal from Son-Heung Min ensured that the Bees would travel back across London from the midweek fixtures without anything to show for the efforts.

Brentford made the worst possible start as they found themselves a goal behind with just 12 minutes on the clock. The goal came about in unfortunate circumstances as Canós inadvertently headed the

ball past his goalkeeper Álvaro Fernández as he tried to make a clearance.

Fernández was the busier of the keepers on the night and he did well to hold a free kick from Son as well as getting down to deny Lucas Moura too after the attacker had been found by Harry Kane.

The closest the Bees went was through Bryan Mbeumo who had a volley that went close following a corner kick.

Fernández also was alive to keep out Son once more as well as making a more unconventional save with his face after Pierre-Emile Højbjerg had a powerful shot at the near post.

In the second half it was a similar story and Fernández made a good save one v one in the box after Kane had gone through on goal.

Spurs scored a second on the counterattack to give them a cushion. Tottenham broke at pace as Kane combined with Sergio Reguilón who then crossed for Son to score from close range.

With the game entering the closing stages Brentford pushed to try and find a route back into the game. Mbeumo curled a shot over which proved to be the Bees' final chance as they battled but ultimately returned without a point.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Leeds United (A) Sunday 5th December 16:00 Elland Road

Nickname: The Whites, The Peacocks

Competition: Premier League – Matchday 15

Opponent record: P14 W3 D6 L5 GF13 GA20 (16th in Premier League)

Manager: Marcelo Bielsa

Interesting fact: In its very early days Elland Road was known as The Old Peacock Ground because of the pub which faced the stadium

Game 2

Opponent: Watford (H) Friday 10th December 20:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Hornets

Competition: Premier League – Matchday 16

Opponent record: P14 W4 D1 L9 GF19 GA26 (17th in Premier League)

Manager: Claudio Ranieri

Interesting fact: The Hornets won back to back promotions to reach the Premier League for the 1999-2000 season.

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers exit the Trophy

Plymouth Parkway 1 – 0 Hampton & Richmond Borough

Hampton & Richmond Borough's journey in the FA Trophy ended after a 1-0 defeat to lower league Plymouth Parkway. A goal from Jake Crago in the second half proved the difference



HRBFC

between the two sides as the Beavers suffered disappointment on their long travels.

In a game with few chances the Beavers had the ball in the back of the net with 20 minutes played when Jake Gray squeezed the ball in after Imran Uche had got a shot away but his celebrations were cut short by the linesman's flag.

Gray was then again involved minutes later when he got in behind the opposition's defence but his shot was saved by the home side Kyle Moore.

Crago had a brilliant chance to score before the interval when he went clean through on goal but in the moment, he put his shot fractionally wide as it drifted off target.

The only goal of the game then came just before the hour mark with Crago again involved. He pounced between Charlie Wassmer and Alan Julian to score what would ultimately prove to be the decisive goal in the cup tie.

Hampton & Richmond's best chance came for Sam Deadfield but he couldn't divert his shot on target and he blazed over from a promising position.

With the Beavers pushing for an equaliser they took risks and this nearly allowed Parkway to score a second at the death. Alan Julian was alive to keep out Crago but they still exited the cup in disappointing fashion.

Daniel moves on from Beveree

Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced that Kadell Daniel has moved on from the club and has completed a permanent switch to Hayes & Yeading United.

Speaking following the news Gary McCann said, "I really enjoyed working with Kads. "His move to Hayes & Yeading is the best for both parties although I'm disappointed to see him go. Kads would have liked to have had more impact on our season but admittedly his game time was limited.

"I wish him well in his new venture

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Game 1

Opponent: Hemel Hempstead (H) Saturday 4th December 15:00 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Tudors

Competition: National League South – Matchday 14

Opponent record: P14 W4 D3 L7 GF18 GA33 (17th in National League South)

Manager: Mark Jones

Interesting fact: In 1971 the club merged with Hemel Hempstead United from the South Midlands League to form Hemel Hempstead Football Club

Game 2

Opponent: Braintree Town (H) Tuesday 7th December 19:45 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Iron

Competition: National League South – Matchday 15

Opponent record: P14 W2 D4 L8 GF12 GA26 (20th in National League South)

Manager: Ryan Maxwell

Interesting fact: The 2017–18 season saw Braintree finish sixth in the National League South. In the play-offs they defeated Hemel Hempstead Town and Dartford to reach the final, in which they beat Hampton & Richmond Borough 4–3 on penalties to earn promotion back to the National League.

NHS backlogs and waiting times in England

Recovering elective and cancer care performance to the standards required will be a huge and lengthy challenge for the NHS, and there is a real risk that the waiting list for patients seeking elective care will be longer in 2025 than it is today, according to analysis from the National Audit Office (NAO).

The government is providing the NHS in England with an additional £8 billion between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to support the recovery of elective care. With the extra funding, it expects the NHS to increase elective care activity by 2024-25 by 10% more than its pre-pandemic plans.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the NHS was doing more work year-on-year, but demand for its services was increasing even faster. Between 2010 and 2019, NHS resources changed unevenly: the number of consultants grew at over 3% a year, but there was almost no change in nurse numbers, and there was an annual 1.1% reduction in the number of general and acute care (non-critical care) beds available for overnight use. To keep pace with the demand for its services, the NHS would have needed either more beds and more staff or a different way of working, or a combination of the two.

Performance against NHS waiting times standards had generally been deteriorating prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main standard for elective care is that 92% of patients on the waiting list should start their treatment within 18 weeks of being referred to a consultant.



In February 2020 - the last month before the impact of the pandemic was felt - 17% of elective care patients had been waiting for longer than 18 weeks. There are nine waiting time standards for cancer care, including a standard that 85% of patients should wait no more than 62 days to start treatment after an urgent referral by a GP. Between August 2018 and February 2020, 22% of people had to wait for more than 62 days.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NHS has had to redirect much of its resources to treat COVID-19 patients and to implement infection, prevention and control measures. In January 2021, an average of 24,100 general and acute care beds were being used by COVID-19 patients (31% of all those occupied). Between January and September 2021, an average of 35% of unoccupied general and acute care beds had to be set aside for COVID-19 patients.

COVID-19 disruption was inevitably going to cause a sharp increase in waiting times and backlogs in a healthcare system that had been operating at very close to its maximum capacity. By September 2021, there were 5.83 million patients on the waiting list for elective care, of whom 1.95 million patients had been waiting for more than 18 weeks, including 301,000

waiting for more than a year. By June 2021, NHS cancer services activity had recovered to pre-pandemic levels. However, since the start of the pandemic (up to September 2021), patients with an urgent GP referral for cancer were more likely to be delayed - 26% had to wait more than 62 days for treatment to start.

Millions of people have also avoided seeking or been unable to obtain referrals for healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NAO estimates that there were between 240,000 and 740,000 “missing” urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer during the pandemic. In addition, the NAO estimates that up to September 2021 between 35,000 and 60,000 fewer people started treatment for cancer than would have been expected. Over the same period - March 2020 to September 2021 - the NAO estimates there were between 7.6 million and 9.1 million fewer referrals for elective care. The NAO recognises that there is inherent uncertainty about these estimates.

It is also uncertain how many of the “missing” cases will return to the NHS to seek treatment and over what time period, though clearly many will. The NHS will need to increase its activity to meet this surge in demand. Even if it can adapt, the scale of the challenge it faces is daunting. If 50% of “missing” referrals for elective care return to the NHS and its activity grows only in line with pre-pandemic plans, the elective care waiting list will reach 12 million by March 2025. If 50% of “missing” referrals return and the NHS can increase activity by 10% more than was planned, the waiting list in March 2025 will still be 7 million.

Addressing backlogs and reducing waiting times will be a multi-faceted challenge for the NHS. Announcements about additional funding in September and October 2021 answer some questions but important uncertainties about the road to recovery remain. To increase the numbers of hospital beds, nurses and doctors beyond the levels already planned could take years because of the time required for capital projects and for training. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could also continue to affect bed and staff availability in unexpected ways and at short notice.

Today's NAO report highlights how tackling the difficulties ahead will require:

- extra beds and operating theatre capacity beyond the levels that were planned before the COVID-19 pandemic;
- managing the ongoing pressure on the NHS workforce, including long-standing staff shortages; and
- ensuring that existing health inequalities are not perpetuated or exacerbated.

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



National Audit Office

The Bounce Back Loan Scheme - an update

Counter-fraud activity for the Bounce Back Loan scheme was implemented too slowly to be effective and government's activity to limit taxpayers' exposure to fraudulent loans is inadequate, according to a report from the National Audit Office (NAO).

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the Department) launched the Bounce Back Loans scheme (the scheme) on 4 May 2020, offering Bounce Back Loans of up to £50,000, or a maximum of 25% of annual turnover, to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Banks, building societies and peer-to-peer lenders were accredited by the British Business Bank (the Bank) to pay Bounce Back Loans, which were guaranteed by government. The scheme had limited verification, and no credit checks on borrowers, which made it vulnerable to fraud and losses.

Around a quarter of all UK businesses have applied to the scheme, and 1.5 million Bounce Back Loans worth £47 billion have been made. Over 90% of these - or £39.7 billion - went to micro-businesses with a turnover below £632,000. When the scheme launched, the Department expected to support between 800,000 and 1.2 million businesses, with £18 billion to £26 billion of loans.

In March 2021, the Department estimated that 37% of Bounce Back Loans worth £17 billion will not be repaid, but these figures are highly uncertain. This represents both borrowers who would want to repay but are unable to, and borrowers who took out a loan fraudulently. As of 30 September 2021, the Bank's data shows £2 billion worth of loans had been repaid, and £1.3 billion of loans had been defaulted on. Around 100,000 loans, or 7% of all loans made under the scheme, are currently at least 1 month in arrears.



In March 2021, the Department estimated that 11% of Bounce Back Loans worth £4.9 billion were fraudulent, but these figures are highly uncertain. The estimate excluded some types of fraud, for example, where a borrower overstates their turnover and gets a larger Bounce Back Loan. It also likely overestimated some losses as it assumes that all fraudulent Bounce Back Loans are a loss when some of these funds should be recoverable.

As the scheme progressed 13 additional counter-fraud measures were introduced, but most came too late to prevent fraud and were focused instead on detection. The Department expects lenders to be the first line of defence against fraud, and from the start of the scheme in May 2020, lenders were obliged to conduct fraud and 'know your customer' checks. In December 2020, the Department advised HM Treasury that there was still a high level of fraud risk even after lenders had conducted these up-front checks. Measures to identify duplicate applications were introduced in June 2020, and checks on director changes were introduced in July 2020.

The duplicate application check was designed to prevent fraud, but was implemented after 61% of the loans by value had been made. All other counter-fraud activities began in, or after, September 2020.

Due to the scale of possible fraud, and limited resources, the Department is prioritising the pursuit of organised crime and decided not to focus its investigative resource on borrowers who overstated turnover by less than a certain percentage. This approach risks reducing the deterrent effect of counter-fraud activity.

Enforcement agencies have limited capacity to investigate, prosecute, and recover large-scale fraud in the scheme. The Department uses the National Investigation Service (NATIS) for fraud worth more than £100,000 with evidence of organised crime, and for other fraud of high value. NATIS received over 2,100 intelligence reports by October 2021, but only had capacity to pursue a maximum of 50 cases per year. The Department set NATIS a target of recovering at least £6 million of fraudulent loans over three years; the agency's work up to October 2021 resulted in 43 arrests across 33 investigations and over £3 million of recoveries.

The Department relies on lenders to investigate other fraud within the scheme, but their commercial incentives to do so are limited. Scheme rules and regulatory obligations required lenders to conduct counter-fraud checks with each application, and use recovery processes in line with their business-as-usual standards. Lenders can reclaim fraudulent Bounce Back Loans through the government guarantee, provided they followed the scheme's rules. This offers limited commercial incentive for the lender to go beyond the scheme's rules to seek a full recovery of overdue loans, fraudulent or otherwise.

The NAO recommends that by April 2022, the Department produces a formal strategy for managing Bounce Back Loan fraud, and measures the performance of each counter-fraud measure, adapting its approach as necessary.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO said:

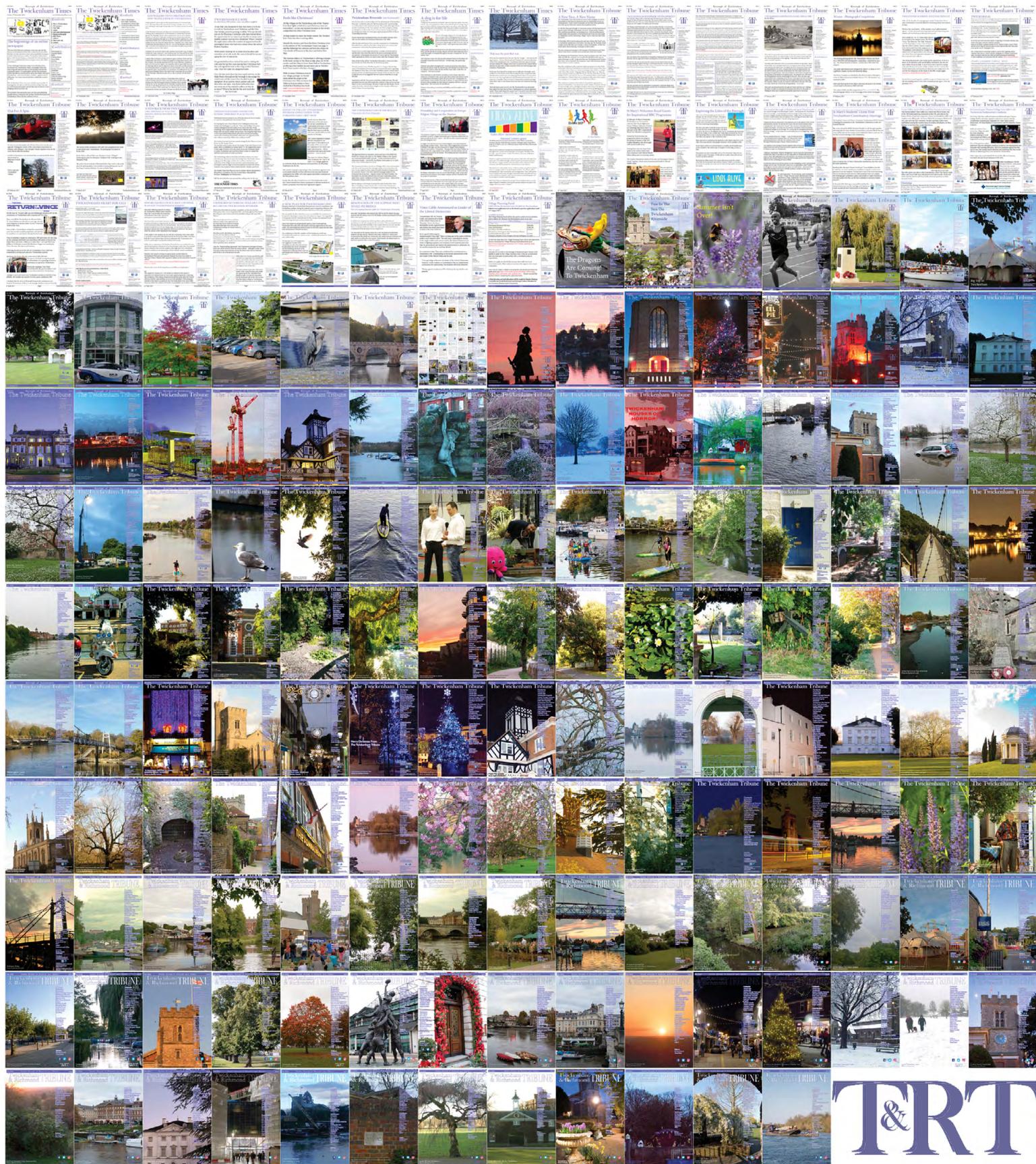
“Government prioritised getting Bounce Back Loans to small businesses quickly but failed to put adequate fraud prevention measures in place. One impact of these decisions is apparent in the high levels of estimated fraud. The true level of fraud will become clearer over time, but it is clear government needs to improve on its identification, quantification and recovery of fraudulent loans within the scheme.”

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



National Audit Office

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