

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



11th February 2022



Mandarin ducks, Kneller Gardens
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Bamber Gascoigne dies at 87

Richmond resident Bamber Gascoigne died, on Tuesday 8th February, at home after a short illness at the age of 87. The University Challenge host was a well-known figure in Richmond and was patron of The Richmond Society and the Richmond Museum.

Many residents will remember seeing Bamber and his wife Christina taking their daily swim across the Thames opposite their home at St Helena Terrace.

Timetable update from South Western Railway

From **Monday 21 February**, we will be introducing a timetable that will see train services return to pre-omicron levels. We are able to make this uplift following an improvement in staff availability, meaning we can increase service levels without compromising reliability. With an increasing number of people returning to the railway following the government's work from home instruction being lifted, this increase also ensures we can meet customer demand.

The timetable will be almost identical to the one that served customers in December 2021, meaning that a whole host of services – including through trains to and from Exeter St Davids and Weymouth and a more frequent service on the Shepperton line – will be reinstated.

You can find out more about this uplift via our [Timetables page](#). Don't forget to [check before you travel](#).

NatWest to close Twickenham branch

NatWest has announced that the Twickenham Branch will close on 19th May 2022, leaving Richmond as the nearest branch.



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TwickerSeal bumped into TwickerDuck as they were crossing Eel Pie Bridge.

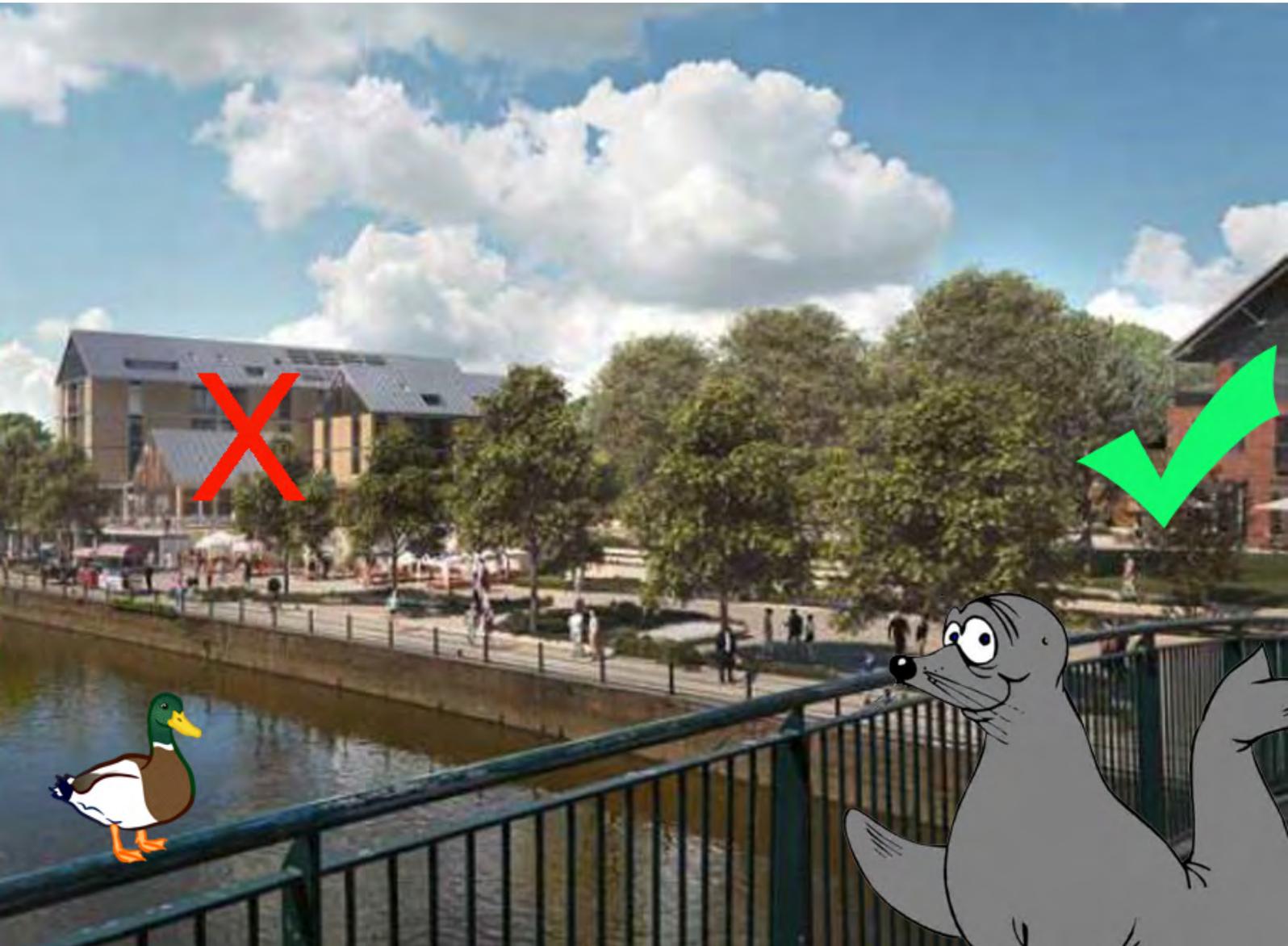
They gazed across Twickenham Riverside, once a centre of activity and fun for local residents, until the demise of the Lido and proposed axing of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

What's the latest on the council's housing development planning application, wondered TwickerDuck? Well, it's still under assessment by the planning officer said TwickerSeal. A decision and planning committee meeting should have happened by now, but I guess the flawed proposal is making it difficult to progress, particularly with the very pertinent objections put forward by the Twickenham Riverside Trust.

I doubt it is now possible for a committee hearing before the May elections, unless the council try and rush it through before purdah, suggested TwickerDuck.

Yes, and the council could still pull it out of the bag if they adapted their proposal; remove the Wharf Lane building and retain and improve the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

Or the Conservatives could come up with a similar proposal and maybe win the election? Who knows?



COVID 19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update 8 February 2022

Globally, during the week of 31 January to 6 February 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by 17% as compared to the number reported during the previous week, while the number of new deaths increased by 7%. Across the six WHO regions, over 19 million new cases and just under 68 000 new deaths were reported. As of 6 February 2022, over 392 million confirmed cases and over 5.7 million deaths have been reported globally

WHO COVID-19: Essential health services face continued disruption during the pandemic

Two years into the pandemic, health systems are still facing significant challenges in providing essential health services. Ongoing disruptions have been reported in over 90% of countries surveyed in the third round of WHO's Global pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total cases Locally to February 2022

Richmond upon Thames	54,360 (52,431 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	49,132 (47,693 previous week)
Hounslow	83,047 (81,037 previous week)
Wandsworth	97,727 (95,053 previous week)

COVID IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Guardian, 11 February 2022: Covid news: Spain drops mandatory use of face masks outdoors; UK reports another 66,638 daily cases.

Newslookup, 11 February 2022: Russia's daily COVID-19 cases exceeded 200,000 for 1st time

Reuters, 10 February 2022: UK's Prince Charles tests positive for COVID, had met Queen Elizabeth recently.

The Guardian morning briefing, 10 February 2022: End to COVID rules "way too soon".

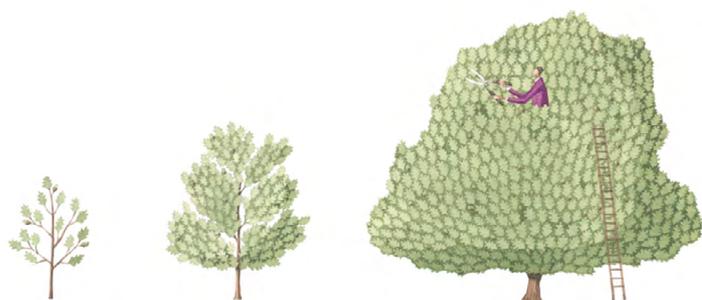
WHO Regional Office for Africa, 10 February 2022: Africa on track to control COVID-19 pandemic in 2022.

News24, 9 February 2022: COVID cases surpass 400 million as Omicron grips world.

The Jerusalem Post, 9 February 2022: COVID-19 infections, deaths on the rise in the Middle East - WHO

The Straits Times 8 February 2022: Hong Kong imposes toughest Covid-19 rules yet as cases soar.

Reuters, 7 February 2022: Easing curbs in 'Covid-zero regions' could cause 2 million deaths in a year: China study



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

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Was it a double?

By Simon Fowler

We have all been mistaken for other people. But would you use such confusion as a defence in a trial?

In January 1908, Ethel Bugby of Amyand Park Road, Twickenham appeared before magistrates accused of stealing a pendant valued at £150 from West End jewellers.

Jewellers were easy targets for respectable looking thieves as it was easy to slip an item into your pocket as you distracted the salesman. It was also easy to pawn stolen items.

Using the name Morfa Hughes, Mrs Bugby regularly sang in local mission halls. Two police detectives found her at the hall in Milford Road, St Margarets, where fifty other ladies were present.

She had been identified after she had taken one of the pendants to a pawnbroker in King Street, who had paid £10 for the pendant.

A salesman for Harrisons, a jeweller in Old Bond Street, told the court that she had visited his shop asking designs to be made up for broaches, supposedly for her brother's wedding. As he put the sketches in an envelope for her, he turned his back, later finding that when she had taken a diamond pendant.

Newspaper reporters described that she was well dressed and obviously 'of superior education...The accused carried a bottle of smelling salts of which she made frequent use.'

Her defence rested on the fact that there was another woman, who looked exactly like her. Mrs Bugby said: 'I've never stolen anything in my life. It must be the woman I have been mistaken for such a long time. A few months ago a man stopped me near Regents Park, and said "Why did you not come home last night?" ...after looking at her under a street lamp, he apologised for the mistake saying: "I took you for my wife."' However, the prosecution was not convinced. The prosecutor Archibald Bodkin drily said: 'that most husbands were reasonably certain.'

However, the defence claimed that she engaged in writing a play with Vernon Theed, a neighbour, on the day the offence took place. The jury found her Not Guilty.

She appeared before the court again a month later. This time she claimed that: 'Several people have mistaken me for another woman who lives in Richmond.' However, the defence no longer worked she was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment: 'Prisoner greatly agitated, gazed around the court and sat back half in a swoon...[and] fell back to be picked up by a warder and carried below.'

There was a sad coda. Shortly afterwards, her husband, Harold, a commercial traveller, appeared at Brentford Bankruptcy Court. He admitted that his insolvency was due to debts run up by his wife. 'Of course,' he added. 'You know where my wife is now.'

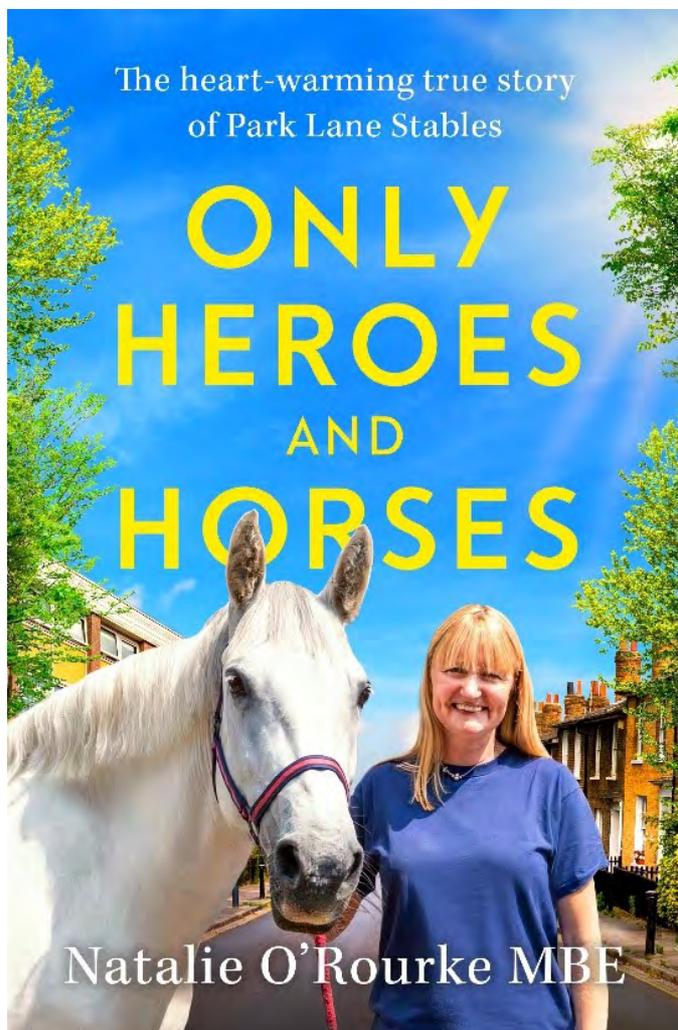


Only Heroes And Horses

The Heartwarming True Story Of Park Lane Stables

By Natalie O'Rourke MBE

The story of Park Lane Stables is about hope, about horses and about lots and lots of heroes.



Natalie O'Rourke was once an ordinary little girl from Birmingham in all respects save one: she was lonely. When she discovered how much she loved horses, she decided she wanted to grow up and run a riding stables. But this would not be your average stables: she wanted hers to cater for children and adults with disabilities, additional needs and anyone who needed a friend – people who you might not expect to find riding, but who she knew could find happiness through horses, because she had.

Full of guts and optimism, Natalie fought tooth and nail to achieve that dream in the face of some hefty tragedy, heartbreak and hardship. Even the Covid-19 crisis couldn't slow her or her league of fearless Park Lane colleagues down - despite barely surviving financially in lockdown, the stables' 'Pavement Ponies' paid visits to the community on a mission to cheer their neighbours up, and tirelessly supported the NHS.

But when the news came that the landlord was selling the stables, and that the Park Lane horses and their humans would be evicted unless they found a whopping £1,000,000 to buy the plot, it

seemed a mountain too high even for this plucky team to climb. Could they win the support of the nation and with it their fight to save the stables?

Only Heroes and Horses is a book infused with love, strength and hope on every page – a testament to human kindness that won't fail to leave its readers uplifted or with a tear in their eye.

NATALIE O'ROURKE has been the driving force behind Park Lane Stables since 2008. Her crusade to bring the magic of horses to all has been recognised by HRH Princess Anne (President of the Riding for the Disabled Association) who refers to them as 'the pavement ponies', and by HRH Queen Elizabeth, who invited the Park Lane team to the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace in 2021. Natalie is an RDA coach, on the national Pony Club committee, and a champion of the principles of Monty Roberts' Natural Horsemanship. She was awarded an MBE in 2022 in recognition of her work with the community in general and with the RDA in particular. Natalie lives with husband Dick and children Alice and Woody in Teddington in South West London.

Published 26th May 2022 - Hardback, eBook & Audio.

Dear Sir,

Richmond Council Defrauded.

A Richmond Council report of 3 February 2022 states that one of its finance officers has been jailed for a fraud involving 60 transactions in which £153,566.05 was stolen from Richmond and Wandsworth Councils' accounts for social care. For Richmond, 13 transactions relating to 10 service users and totalling £76,857.98 were highlighted. 'Service users' means people who depend on social care.

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/documents/s94089/Direct Payment Fraud Report.pdf>

Incredibly, the report states that his employment CV listed several previous employers but there were no employment references and knowledge of his current home address was not certain. According to a news report, none of the money has been recovered.

While it is good that another council officer spotted the fraud, none of this inspires confidence in these Councils' procedures so I am wondering how it was ever allowed to happen in the first place and whether anyone will take responsibility?

As another example of a local authority's lack of diligence, in 2018 I received a court order from Kingston Council threatening imprisonment for alleged non-payment of council tax. I received no prior notice of this. It was obvious that they had made a mistake as I have never owned a property in Kingston, nor ever lived there, nor ever defaulted on any bill. Most serious was the unwarranted smear on my good name.

I discovered they had carelessly sent the summons to completely the wrong person so, supported by my local councillor, I lodged a formal complaint with Kingston Council who, after investigating themselves, finally had to admit they were at fault.

Of course, this took much time and effort and even their own investigating officer told me he got nowhere and had to give up. My request for an independent investigation was refused.

That is against the basic principle of natural justice that no person can judge a case in which they have an interest – in this case, Kingston Council. (*Nemo iudex in sua causa*).

A complaint to Richmond Council about a different but equally serious matter received the same unacceptable response. Clearly, the matter of councils investigating themselves needs to be addressed.

All Councils and public servants are duty-bound to take proper care. That means treating decent residents with respect as well as preventing fraud within their own organizations.

Richmond Council has subsequently implemented safeguards but that should not have been necessary because such safeguards should have been in place already. Why weren't they?

The Council report included the statement: '*None of the service users have lost out as a result of this fraud*' – meaning the residents who needed this money for social care.

That is good but the lost funds they glibly mention have actually come out of all our pockets. In other words, it's your money which has been stolen.

Perhaps the Council leaders and their officers who are responsible for the lack of diligence would like to reimburse us all for that money?

Michael Jay
Hampton

Active Travel – the Legal Obligation of the Council

With recent changes in the Highway Code, and with the push for the use of e-scooters, it would not be surprising if some motorists decided that the roads are becoming too dangerous.

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames states that it is committed to improving and increasing walking and cycling in the borough - its Active Travel Strategy - but is the Council maintaining not only the roads but the pavements and footpaths?

The Council has a legal obligation for maintaining pavements which is enshrined in the Highways Act 1980. Thus, the Council should be actively replacing broken and dangerous pavements.

With a local election on 5th May this year we need to check the Council's record as we walk along the streets and ask prospective councillors if they will actively promote a programme to make our pavements fit for purpose.

The following information was published by the World Health Organization on 26 April 2021

“Falls are the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths worldwide.

Adults older than 60 years of age suffer the greatest number of fatal falls.

37.3 million falls that are severe enough to require medical attention occur each year.

*Prevention strategies should emphasize education, training, **creating safer environments**, prioritizing fall-related research and **establishing effective policies to reduce risk.**”*

Richmond Rugby take on Doncaster Knights at the Athletic Ground

Richmond Rugby are back in action this weekend in Richmond after last weekend's draw at home with the Cornish Pirates.

Get out and show your support for your local team this Saturday 12 February, as Richmond Rugby take to the field in the next round of the RFU Championship with a 3pm kick off at the Athletic Ground.



Tickets can be bought online and will be available on the day at the gate but only card payments will be accepted.

Buy your tickets for Richmond vs Doncaster Knights [HERE](#)

Feel the Love in Church Street

By Shona's Lyons



Spring and Valentine's Day has come to Church Street! If you look at the window boxes, planters & pots at the top of the street and in the square, you will see many green shoots about to shoot up and give us all an amazing Spring display of tulips, narcissus, alliums, snow drops, blue bells, you name it, all the spring bulbs we planted in the winter will be putting on a lovely show very soon!

The Valentine flags are up now, kindly put in the flag poles by Dan from Mint and Johnny Lapworth a local resident in Church Street. The plan is to leave them for the whole weekend and just take them down on Monday. They may need a little tweaking though as all the flags have a tendency to curl around the poles in the wind.

Many of the shops & restaurants have lovely Valentine displays, meals & offers & if you visit our little street this weekend you will be spoiled for choice.



Farewell to Neal Chapman

On Thursday 10th February at 3pm a hearse paused at Percy Chapman's in Colne Road, near Twickenham Green, "for local people to pay their respects" (Con O'Brien) to Neal Chapman the owner of the popular shop in Twickenham. Percy Chapman & Son, founded in 1886, was run by Neal Chapman for over fifty years.

Chapman's sell everything needed by pet owners as well as garden plants, Christmas trees and other garden necessities.

Neal Chapman died on 7th January and is understood to have contracted Covid.



Photo by [@julie_twickers](#)

Richmond Park

Escape to the great outdoors in Richmond Park with its wide-open spaces, grasslands and deer herds, just a stone's throw from central London.

The park is a top UK site for ancient [trees](#) and supports a range of rare species including [fungi](#), [birds](#), [beetles](#), [bats](#), [grasses](#) and [wildflowers](#).

Discover the [Isabella Plantation](#) woodland gardens, refuel at [Pembroke Lodge](#) tea rooms and enjoy distant views of St Paul's Cathedral from [King Henry's Mound](#).

Try your hand at power kiting, horse riding or golf, or hire a bike for some off-road cycling along the Tamsin Trail.



Richmond Council joins campaign to stop discrimination against renters in Richmond upon Thames

Richmond Council is joining forces with Citizens Advice Richmond to help stop discrimination against renters who receive benefits.

Every year large numbers of residents are unfairly locked out of the private rental market for homes simply because they receive some benefits to pay towards their housing costs.

Research by Citizens Advice Richmond shows that many landlords and letting agents refuse to consider tenants as soon as they discover that they receive benefits. Residents are often confronted with a blanket 'No DSS' (Department for Social Security), 'No Universal Credit', or 'No Benefits' policy even when they can demonstrate they can afford the monthly rent. This is unlawful.

The joint campaign to End Benefit Prejudice against renters launches today and aims to raise awareness that any policy that automatically outlaws benefit claimants discriminates and is unlawful.

More than four in ten Richmond residents who receive benefits are working.

'No Benefits' discrimination forces many residents to remain in unsuitable and unsafe accommodation and can lead to homelessness in the borough.

Lorna Reid, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Richmond said:

"We know that long-standing myths about tenants receiving benefits are standing in the way of Richmond residents accessing the homes they need and can afford. We are calling on landlords and their letting agents to keep an open mind and treat all prospective renters fairly,"

"Too many local people come to us unaware that the barriers they face finding a safe and suitable home are discriminatory and unlawful. This campaign will share stories of good tenants, with regular, reliable income who can afford the rent being asked and will pay on time and show landlords there is no reason to discriminate."

CLlr Jim Millard, Richmond Council's Spokesperson for Housing, said:

"All residents need fair and equal opportunities to rent local homes and should not be excluded simply because they receive some form of benefits. We are calling on landlords to assess tenants' ability to pay as fairly as possible and to avoid discriminating against them"

To find out more about Citizens Advice Richmond's campaign on private sector housing and for case studies, please contact the Citizens Advice campaigns team at campaigns@citizensadvicerichmond.org



ALL ABOARD FOR A TRIP ON THE THAMES!

Fancy a trip on the Thames? Better still, perhaps, one with a really nice meal and live music included? Or maybe a romantic evening meal, while also having the chance to enjoy the amazing lights that illuminate our capital's riverside? Well, look no further than a trip with **Bateaux London**; you'll be in for a memorable experience - one that if you're anything like us, you'll be telling your friends about for weeks afterwards...

Guests board the boat at Embankment Pier (opposite the underground station) and congregate in the rather swish bar for a cocktail, prior to embarking on the boat itself. On boarding the boat, we felt very spoiled indeed, as our table was right at the front with a giant window giving us a panoramic view of the river. The decor is very upmarket - and to be honest, it felt just as though we were in a smart restaurant - but this one floated along and showcased for us the River Thames in all her evening splendour!



We were offered a glass of prosecco - included in the price of our particular ticket. Now, I'm not normally a big fan of prosecco, but this one was really excellent. It was Vaporetto prosecco (£11 a glass or £40 a bottle) was nicely dry and crisp with excellent length. The package we were on also included house wines, beer and soft drinks, but on studying the well curated drinks menu, prices are in line with most London restaurants or gastro pubs. (Wines from £30 a bottle, spirits from £6 a serving.)

We were brought an amuse-bouche and some warmed bread rolls and butter to enjoy while we chose from the menu. The amuse-bouche was a shot glass of chilled gazpacho - similar to a vichyssoise. For our starters, my husband chose game terrine with Rubies in the Rubble chutney and

chargrilled artisanal bread but I opted for beetroot cured salmon with celeriac remoulade (two of my favourite things in a combination that was new to me - so irresistible!). Both starters were excellent and attractively presented.

We were gliding along the Thames, enjoying the wonderful scenery. The boat took us past the London Eye, Battersea Power Station, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament among other notable landmarks. This really brought home to us the beauty of London at night - something we tend to take for granted when we live alongside it!





We both chose the same main course; braised lamb shank, gratin dauphinoise, maple glazed parsnip and red wine jus. It was beautifully tender but I'd have loved a little more kale than the tiny piece decorating the lamb - a very minor niggle! Our chosen desserts were rhubarb crumble with custard and toffee pudding with caramel sauce. Again, very tasty and attractively presented. (There's a vegetarian/vegan option for all courses by the way)

By the time our final course of a sharing cheeseboard arrived, we were deep in conversation with the diners at our adjacent tables and thoroughly enjoying the live music from the very talented singer/guitarist who was entertaining us. There was a definite party atmosphere on board that evening and everyone was busy taking photos and videos of the ever changing scenery.

I really recommend trying the Bateaux London experience. There are a number of different packages available for dinner, some offering just a meal, and others including drinks. Prices are from £99 per head - not cheap, I know, but considering the quality and uniqueness of the whole experience, excellent value for money. There is also the option of Sunday lunch on the boat - a great one for families (children must be over the age of 12

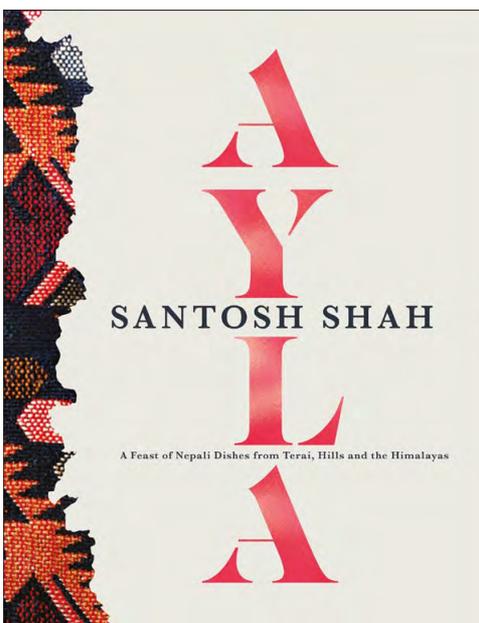


for the evening cruise). If you want to treat overseas visitors with a magical tour of the Thames, it's the perfect answer. And, of course, it's a very popular party and wedding venue when you can hire a whole boat.

There is a special Valentine's package that you'll need to move fast to book for this year - but definitely something to bear in mind for next year. And perhaps for Mother's Day you could consider the classic Sunday lunch cruise at £79 per head (£34 per child) when you can take in the sights of the city in daylight, listening to live jazz and enjoying a classic three course roast lunch. Vouchers are also available - what a great present and a really unusual wedding present!

AYLA - NEPALESE FEAST

If, like me, you're a fan of cookery programmes on TV - and MasterChef: The Professionals in particular - you will be familiar with the name **Santosh Shah**. You may have even seen one of his excellent demonstrations a few years ago at the Surrey and the Middlesex Food Festivals, when he was relatively unknown, (but very obviously destined for culinary stardom). Well, he's just published his first (of many to come, I'm sure) cook book - and it's fabulous! Santosh's love for his beloved home country shines through the whole book. The rich and diverse flavours of Nepal have often been overshadowed by cuisines of neighbouring countries such as India and China. ***Ayla: a feast of Nepali dishes from Terai, hills and the Himalayas*** is published by DK, is a hardback at £20, and it's a celebration of the country and its underexploited food.



With beautiful photos by Matt Russell, Ayla transports the reader from the Far Western states to Nepal's most Eastern points, as Santosh shares his culinary wisdom and recipes inspired by the produce of Nepal's rivers and mountains. Ideal for beginners or adventurous home cooks, there are over 60 easy to follow, flavourful recipes, including tasty snacks, street and festival foods, main, sweets and drinks.

On the meaning of 'Ayla'. Santosh says: 'Ayla has many meanings, but to me it means celebrations. It is technically a traditional Nepali spirit, made from fermented sugarcane molasses with malt or grains. Ayla is served as a sagoon (token of love) at joyous occasions like festivals, events and celebrations. I wanted to bring this feeling of sharing celebrations to this book!'

Here are a couple of chutney recipes that I thought might tickle your tastebuds and inspire you to buy the book!

Badam ko chutney - Coriander & peanut chutney (MAKES 4-6 SERVINGS)

To keep the colour a vibrant green, prepare it at the last minute.

- 150g (5½oz) fresh coriander
- 50g (⅓ cup) blanched peanuts
- 15g (½oz) fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 3 green chillies, tailed and chopped
- 75ml (⅓ cup) vegetable oil



1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon caster (superfine) sugar
1 teaspoon salt
An airtight container, for storing

Wash the coriander and pat dry with kitchen paper (paper towels). Chop roughly. Combine all the ingredients in a large pestle and mortar and crush to obtain a thick paste. Alternatively, blend all the ingredients in a small food processor. Taste and adjust the seasoning, adding more sugar, salt or lemon juice as needed. This should be eaten on the day it is made, and stored in an airtight container until ready to serve.

Hariyo aap ra nariyal ko achar - *Green mango & coconut chutney*

(MAKES 4–6 SERVINGS)

Green mangoes are perfect for chutneys as they add just the right level of sourness. You can get frozen grated coconut in Asian food stores. It is as good as a fresh coconut without the complication of cracking and grating

4 small green mangoes
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon Kashmiri chilli powder, or medium hot chilli powder
4 garlic cloves, chopped
15g (½oz) fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
50g (¾ cup) grated fresh or frozen coconut
1 tablespoon caster (superfine) sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon fresh coriander (cilantro) leaves
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
An airtight container, for storing

Peel and stone the mangoes and cut the flesh into small dice. Crush the mango pieces and salt in a large pestle and mortar to break them up. Add the rest of the ingredients and crush into a paste. Alternatively, place the mango pieces and salt in a food processor and pulse a few times, until slightly crushed.

Add the rest of the ingredients and process to a coarse paste.

Check and adjust the seasoning, adding more salt, sugar or lemon juice, to taste. Stored in an airtight container and refrigerated, this will keep for 3–4 days.





La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
Instant Opera at Normansfield Theatre, Teddington

La bohème in the free-thinking, free-wheeling, free-love world of Amsterdam in the 1970s?

Instant Opera cleverly fitted the opera into the history of that idiosyncratic Dutch city, shoehorned in perhaps, but the shoe (clog?) fits. Its louche setting rivals that of Puccini's 1830 Parisian; Amsterdam's dodgy, but just legalised, smokes for instance. The military tattoo at Café Momus becomes a World Cup parade, and the need for Mimi to be looking for a light for her candle is because of blackouts in the OPEC crisis. Moreover the freestanding backdrops, painted by illustrator Lyn Keay, are architecturally-accurate Amsterdam landmarks.



Musically *La Bohème* is a winner, with lovely voices all well-cast as actors, many of whom we saw in the [Grand Opera Gala](#), Instant Opera's emergent production after lockdown. This is the fourth attempt at bringing the revival to stage, the others being thwarted by the pandemic. The Instant Opera Orchestra, under the baton of Lewis Gaston is on top form, delivering a cracking performance.

From the moment we hear Rudolfo and Mimi when they meet in the dark and chill garret, we know we are in for a treat. Anando Mukerjee's tenor is a smooth-as-silk voice and Nicola Said's graceful lyrical soprano voice is clear as a bell. The relationship of Rodolfo and Mimi, ostensibly innocent, is mirrored in that of Marcello and Musetta. Baritone Nicholas George appropriately informs the prickly character of the very human Marcello. Dressed as the scarlet woman, Camilla Jeppeson's fiery feisty Musetta fizzles with energy.

By the end, we are soaking our handkerchiefs with Colline, one of the eponymous Bohemians, in a truly touching arietta by bass Conall O'Neill, as he goes to sell his well-worn overcoat, an "old friend", to pay for medicine to save the rapidly fading Mimi. Puccini does over-sentimentalise. But, my, does it pack a punch! Read Mark Aspen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/02/03/la-boheme-io



Photography by Keith Jenkins and Jonathan Lo



Red Door Poets II

Red Door Poets, Chelsea and On-Line

Knocking on and waiting outside that rather smart front door in Chelsea is rather unenviable when the temperature is knocking on zero. However, the vast majority of the sixty plus attendees opted for the comfort of home. There in spirit, they waited, looking forward to the Red Door opening.



Red Door Poets II opened with musician Chris Hardy from Roger McGough's *Little Machine*, making a slick introduction before the door quite literally opened. And what did we see? We saw a sea of talent from this accomplished group of prolific poets.

First to emerge was poet Katie Griffiths. Reading beautifully, she gave us the quirky insightful *God's View of Smoking*, amongst other clever pieces. Katie introduced her own guest, the prize winning Geraldine Clarkson, whose own collection *Crucifox* (sic) had been highly acclaimed.



Red Door poet, Gillie Robic, beamed in from Miami to give us the joy of *The Walk of Light* amongst other strong and detailed pieces. Reading from the heart and taking us on a wonderful journey. Come back soon, Gillie.

Gillie's own fascinating guest Chris Beckett shared his Ethiopian childhood with us and opened another door into a fascinating culture. A past winner of the London Poetry Competition, he read with atmosphere and passion from his collection *Tenderfoot*.

Mary Mulholland moved us with *Daisy Ring*. Bringing to life the ring from her late mother's jewellery box, and the insight and history that opened up with this treasured possession. Mary has collaborated in a pamphlet, called *All about Our Mothers*. Can't wait for the launch, Mary, it sounds fascinating.



Mary's absorbing guest was Vanessa Lampert, a prize winning and razor-sharp poet. Her superb *Elegy for Two Placentas*, and *Ileostomy Ode* were two personal accounts, each an intelligent and moving journey.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/01/25/red-door-2

Photography by Hayley Madden and Michael Laborde

HOLLOWAY JONES

By Evan Placey

Directed by: Laura-May Hassan & Chloe Waddilove

HOLLOWAY JONES, a one act play written for young people was commissioned by the Synergy Theatre Project and won the 2012 Brian Way Award for Best Play for Young People. Young Holloway Jones, despite facing a difficult start in life, is driven by her goal of becoming part of the BMX Olympic Talent Team. However, when she meets charming bad boy Avery she has new challenges to confront and her priorities inevitably change. An impressive chorus guides us through the development of this troubled but indomitable young woman in a play written with insight and compassion.



HOLLOWAY JONES by Evan Placey, performed by Richmond Shakespeare Society's talented Young Actors Company runs for four performances at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment from **Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th February** at 7.45pm and on Sunday 20th at 3pm. Booking now at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Surrey Sculpture Society to host annual Sculpture Showcase

Join the Surrey Sculpture Society for their annual Sculpture Showcase at the Landmark Arts Centre.

The Sculpture Showcase is an exhibition of 2D and 3D work with live sculpture demonstrations throughout the event from the talented artists.

Sculptor Kate Viner, commissioned for various public arts projects during her career, will be our signature artist for the event and will share with us insights into her life as a sculptor.



The exhibition will run from **Saturday 26 February to Sunday 6 March 2022**. The exhibition will be open from 10am to 5pm each day with free entry.

Find out more about the Sculpture Showcase exhibition [HERE](#)

Spring is in the Air & the sun beckons. At Last!!

Travel News by Bruce Lyons.



News this week is from Today (11th February) nobody needs to isolate on their return And countries around the world are finally opening – yes! there are still pockets still to open especially in Asia, parts of Africa and South America and this has caused some frustration as many Adventure Companies traverse through several countries and if one or more remain closed – then the trips have to be abandoned. Nevertheless, things are improving by leaps and bounds and by Easter I reckon we may truly be able to say “The World is Your Oyster”.



For now, though apparently February School break is 500 % up on last year but somehow I feel that it is a sort of empty boast as where could you go last year – scarce few places open for tourists BUT Easter only 6 weeks away will be a different story and prices are still looking good value but with so much demand I see prices going up, almost by the day.

If you want hot at Easter then the Red Sea is a good buy, Egypt or Jordan – and Israel and the Holy land will be open as well, a wonderful time to visit this extraordinary country. Morocco has excellent prices perhaps because it too has openly opened now – another country full of surprises – History – Mountains – Desert and the Sea – there are some great Adventure trips here – some for families as well as other small groups tours for Adults only.



On the other hand as a result of the Pandemic I notice that regions that were never really “open” at Easter are going to be – Like Greece and Sicily and why not – you may have to be a bit brave to swim in the sea but it’ll be bracing! & the landscape is really beautiful – The Levant Spring, the birds are on their migration paths flying overhead from Africa to the Steppes of Eastern Europe – maybe soon we will all be able to forget about Covid – Or maybe not and we’ll have to get used to it and live with it. But people are travelling – and it’s fun and every day you learn some of the local culture, experience the rich History and recharge the batteries.

Don’t forget to check the protocols but they are dropping away – it isn’t so difficult and worth the effort & we help everyone all the time and have had no mishaps so far! Yes, we have had some dramas but that is what we are here for – smooth the way – and we do – so give us a try.

And put a Spring in your step! Call us on 0208744 0474 or pop into 58 Church Street for a chat!

WIZ TALES - Moldova

Teresa Read

The Republic of Moldova is in Eastern Europe and is bordered by Romania and Ukraine.

Networks of fortifications have been constructed in Moldova at various times throughout its history. The first defences were built during the Roman occupation and known as “Trajan’s Waves”. Later examples of fortifications are from the medieval period. Sorocca Fortress, on the Nistru River, was one of nine stone fortresses built at this time.



From the nineteenth century until the end of the Second World War the historical principality of Moldova went through a number of boundary changes; sometimes it was within the borders of Romania and other times it was partly within the borders of Russian Ukraine.

In 1924 the USSR created an Autonomous Moldovan Republic on the east of the Dniester River within Ukraine.

At the end of 1991 the USSR was dissolved and Moldova became independent. However, Moldova’s Gagauz and Transnistria regions declared independence resulting in two ethnic conflicts and a civil war (Trans-Dniester 1992). Gagauz became an autonomous region of Moldova; Transnistria was given greater autonomy but Russian forces - the Operational Group of Russian Forces in Transnistria - remained in the region.



More photographs of Moldova:

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



TRAVELLER'S TALES 116

FRONTIERS AND FORMALITIES

Doug Goodman recalls border crossings and frustrating formalities



Back in the 1960s and 1970s, on arrival at a foreign destination, you would have to show your passport and receive a date stamp. Certain places required a visa for holiday or business travel for which you applied in advance and paid an extortionate fee. Looking through my old passports going back 60 years, the coloured stamps and full-page visas reminded me of happy and exciting trips – some to places that were regarded as exotic then but are now popular destinations. During the UK's time as part of The European Economic Community, from 1973 until just over two years ago, cross-border formalities between members were practically non-existent: this may soon change.



Old Passports



Travel Memories



French Belgian Border

In 1965 in Northern France I remember being told by my French friends to carry my passport as we were taking the short drive from Dunkirk to De Panne in Belgium for dinner. There was a customs post in the middle of the road on the Belgian/French border where vehicles were inspected. "Have you anything to declare", asked the officer as we returned to France, recognising my friend as a regular cross-border driver. Anticipating this question a box of Belgian chocolates – much superior to the French variety - was offered to the customs' staff before we were waved on our way. On another occasion on holiday in Menton we walked across the border between France and Italy just to get our passports stamped.



Into East Berlin



Berlin Border in 1964



Soviet Train

SOVIET RED TAPE

During two visits to Moscow and Leningrad, (now St. Petersburg), nearly 60 years ago the journeys by train were full of inspections at frontiers. Crossing from Germany into The German Democratic Republic was the first hurdle followed by transit in East Berlin for the onward

journey through Poland. I remember the Wall's fortifications and Check Point Charlie. Luggage was searched and documents scrutinised by the Vopos. One member of the party who swore at the guards and acted aggressively was arrested and we never saw him again. At the Russian border, where the western carriages were lifted off their bogies and placed on wheels for the Russian railway gauge, there were more searches and document stamping. By the time I returned nearly half the pages of my passport were filled. Russia in the Soviet-era was easier to enter than today. Once in the Soviet Union all its 15 'Autonomous' Republics were accessible to tourists as long as you held the requisite travel documents. To obtain a visa for Russia now you have to complete an extensive questionnaire with details of your parents' birth dates, their professions, the list of foreign trips made in the recent past and much more. Photos and finger prints are required and a fee of over £100. On a tour of Central Asia our guide asked if we wished to take pictures as we entered Tajikistan. There was little to see except a sign post which was eagerly photographed. On departure from the USSR during some 20 visits between 1974 and 1986 I was regularly searched with a close shoe inspection. A holiday rep had once been caught with Rouble notes stuffed in his shoes: currency restrictions were severe and Roubles could not be exported. On a trip into Leningrad I was locked up in an isolation hospital because I had visited Tunisia three days earlier where an isolated outbreak of cholera had occurred. Unfortunately my passport had a Tunisian date stamp and the health form distributed on the Aeroflot flight required details of all the places visited in the previous two weeks. A very unpleasant four days in isolation followed. Things have changed since my early visits with minimum entry and departure formalities for a Volga cruise in late 2019 – apart from the hassle of getting a visa in the UK. On arrival at Ulan Baator, Mongolia's capital, a press group I was accompanying was held up as they did not possess smallpox vaccination certificates. Apparently it had been decided that day that all UK arrivals required a certificate. By chance, a colleague from The Guardian had a very old out of date certificate which he produced and then passed to everyone in the queue behind him. This seemed to satisfy the border control as they were clearly unfamiliar with a certificate in English.



Welcome to Tajikistan



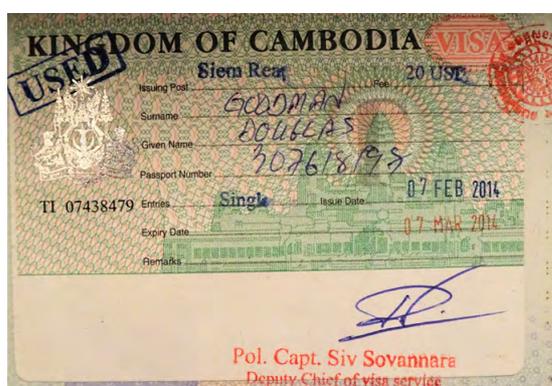
Somewhere in Tunisia

STRANGE REGULATIONS AND OCCURANCES

Strange rules can be encountered almost anywhere – some sensible health and security regulations and other quite daft. At Gatwick the scanner picked up a tiny cap pistol attached to my four year old daughter's keyring. A very officious person took her aside with a warning and confiscated the toy. Tears ensued. India has some of the strictest security checks I've experienced. Frequently you'll undergo two document and luggage inspections before check-in, more at check-in and at the departure gate and a final very thorough hand luggage and

body check before boarding the aircraft. All this is to be praised but I was a little miffed when a coconut I was carrying was removed as it was classed as 'an offensive weapon'. Carrying a hand grenade – even a totally safe one – is not advisable when travelling abroad. I was giving a talk on WW1 on a visit to The Somme and had displayed the grenade along with some medals as a prop in the UK. I had forgotten that luggage is put through scanners on departure from Dover and Calais. Amazingly the machines failed to recognise the 'pineapple' shape in my bag.

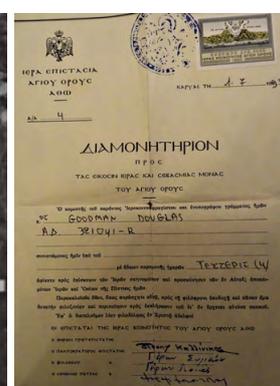
At the arrival desk at Cambodia's airport in Vientiane a long line of officials were assembled at five desks to check documents. At each desk my passport was scrutinised and stamps attached, each after a payment of dollars. In Eilat in Southern Israel the redrawing of the border with Egypt was taking place. We walked across the new border where an Israeli hotel was about to become an Egyptian one. Sucheava, a town in northern Romania near the border with Ukraine, was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire along with some Russian and Polish territory in 1914. We stopped in the town centre to view the line where the former empire ended and tiny Romania began; WW1 was responsible for so many changes in borders.



Cambodia Visa



Border Ahead



Permission to Visit The Holy Mountain

A Triumph Herald car must have seemed a suitable place for hiding forbidden goods as we crossed from Germany into The Czech Republic in 1971. My vehicle was almost pulled apart while we were obliged to change our Sterling into Czech Crowns. A strange explanation was given when I stood astride the Equator in Kenya. South of the line water flows away from your bath anti-clockwise while in the north it goes clockwise and directly on the Equator it goes straight down the plug hole. I never managed to try it! Perhaps the most difficult to enter is The Monastic Republic of Mt. Athos in Northern Greece. Women are prohibited along with female animals and it can take several weeks to obtain a visa, (diamoniterion), from the ecclesiastical authorities in Thessaloniki the countries second city. I stayed in some of the monasteries on three occasions and marvelled at the architecture of the ancient buildings, their treasures and the life-style of the 2,000 monks.

Today, due to the Pandemic, restrictions enforced by many countries are complicated and some destinations prohibit entry all together. But, despite these current difficulties, we'll keep travelling for business and pleasure.

Look in the front of your passport and you'll see the following instructions: 'Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State requests and requires in the name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary'. Next time you have a problem at a border show that to any officious official.

Richmond upon Thames College wins the Project of the Year award

In October 2021, Richmond upon Thames College won two independent awards, Project of the Year and Civic Building of the Year for The Richmond Building, which is part of the new college campus.

Project of the year was won by RuTC for being a college new build project that has made a significant difference to the educational or research experience of its students. The new building was completed in March 2020 on the existing site in Twickenham and students and staff moved in shortly after.



The new building was completed in March 2020, with students moved into the iconic Richmond Building on the existing Twickenham site.

The building includes learning space for up to 3,000 students, as well as an exhibition art gallery, which provides an opportunity for local artists and photographers to exhibit their work and business incubation spaces with a business lounge for employers.



Richmond upon
Thames College

Local ADHD Charity is searching for a Family Support Worker

Early intervention and support can change the direction of the lives of young people and ADHD Embrace provides the tools that enable and support intervention from parents and professionals.

ADHD Embrace are on the search for a Family Support Worker who can help families with children with ADHD in Richmond & Kingston.

This is a critical role within a small but impactful charity. If you feel like you are interested in the role and have the skills they are looking for, the team would love to hear from you!

Check out the full job description [HERE](#)



St Mary's University

St Mary's Sport Psychology Alumnus to Present Masters' Dissertation

Alumnus of the MSc Applied Sport Psychology at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Lloyd Emeka is presenting the research findings from his dissertation Lived Experiences of Pain Tolerance in Ultra-Running as part of an online panel discussion on the 10th March.



The online event will feature a discussion with a panel of ultra-running and endurance performance experts: Sport Physiotherapist Lucy Sacarello is a Chartered Physiotherapist who has worked with endurance athletes for several years. She has a passion for ultra-trail marathons and has recently completed the Val D'Aran 105km ultra, finishing fourth place.

Sarah Cameron is an ultra-endurance coach who has helped athletes achieve their goals in a range of events including marathons and 100 miles. She has also represented Team GB and NI as an athlete in the six-hour category and was selected to race over a 24-hour period in the European Championships.

Robbie Britton is an ultra-runner, coach and author who has raced over a number

of distances ranging from 3000m to 261km in one day. He has represented Team GB multiple times racing over 24-hours, which includes finishing third at the 2015 World and European Championships.

Dr Carla Meijen is a Chartered Sport and Exercise Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in Applied Sport Psychology at St Mary's. She specialises in endurance performance inspired by her work providing brief mental support at running events and has published a book on endurance performance.

Speaking of the event, alumnus Lloyd Emeka said, "Understanding how and why pain is tolerated within Ultra-Running has been an under-researched area so far. It will be a pleasure to share my research findings, and discuss some of the wider implications and practical solutions with the panel speakers"

Senior Lecturer in Applied Sport Psychology at St Mary's Dr Carla Meijen said, "Pain, and especially the willingness to expose oneself to pain is one of the key psychological demands of ultra-endurance. I am looking forward to discussing the impact the lived experiences of pain tolerance with Lloyd and the panel"

The event is free to attend and will be held on zoom from 8pm-9pm. If you would like to attend, please join online



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

HRH The Countess of Wessex takes part in Valentine's themed event on a visit to Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex enjoyed some Valentine's Day inspired arts and crafts made by children and families supported by Shooting Star Children's Hospices on Thursday 10th February.

The Countess, who is Patron of the charity, visited the charity's West London hospice - Shooting Star House in Hampton, which supports children, young people and their families with Outreach, Therapies and Family Support, and one of the two hospices run by Shooting Star Children's Hospices. The leading children's hospice charity supports around 700 families who have a baby, child, or young adult with a life-limiting condition or who have been bereaved across London and Surrey.

The Countess spent time talking to children and families supported by the charity and joined the children in the arts and craft activities to help create a 'wall of love' at the hospice.



The Countess was also entertained by children, families and staff who performed a special 'Friendly Hands' Makaton version of *All You Need is Love*. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people communicate, which many of the children at Shooting Star Children's Hospices and their families use.

Ruth, mum of 14-year-old Naomi who's supported by the charity said, "It's really lovely to meet The Countess and see her interacting with the children, she's so lovely with them and we had a really great afternoon with the other families too."

In 2020, The Countess supported the charity during the pandemic, volunteering her time, helping staff and volunteers at two of Shooting Star Children's Hospices' charity shops in Weybridge and Hampton Hill.

Photos by Simon Dopson



Claim £150 towards your energy bills

42% of households in Richmond upon Thames will be eligible for a £150 one-off payment towards their energy bills.

If you live in a property in Council Tax bands A-D you are due to receive this payment – setting up a direct debit is the best way to make sure you receive this payment quickly and easily from us.

[Check your Council Tax Band](#) to see if you are due to receive this payment.



If you set-up a direct debit to pay your Council Tax, we will already hold your bank details and can make the payment directly to you. You do not need to do anything.

If you do not currently pay your bill by direct debit you can [set up a direct debit](#).

We are currently waiting for guidance from the government on this scheme – once this is confirmed and we have received the necessary funding, we will process the payments as quickly as we can.

We do advise setting up a direct debit, but if you do not want to, we will release more information about how to claim in due course.

There are lots of other advantages to [paying your Council Tax via direct debit](#).

The Richmond Foodbank is looking for a new Foodbank Manager

The Vineyard Community Centre serves the local community by assisting rough sleepers, residents who feel lonely, isolated and socially excluded and residents who need emergency food supplies and emergency short-term support.

The Richmond Foodbank is now recruiting a new Foodbank Manager who will be responsible for ensuring the strategic development and operational management of the foodbank, ensuring all activities are in line with the overall mission and vision of The Trussell Trust.

The closing date for applications is Friday 25 February 2022.

View the full job description and application form [HERE](#)





BRENTFORD FC

Bees knocked out of the cup

Everton 4 – 1 Brentford

Brentford's run in this season's FA Cup came to end as they were convincingly beaten 4-1 by Everton. The home side opened the scoring through Yerry Mina before doubling their advantage with a goal from Richarlison. Brentford hit back through an Ivan Toney penalty but further goals from mason Holgate and Aaron Townsend ensured their focus will now turn to the Premier League for the rest of the season.



The first chance of the game fell the way of the home side when Vitalii Mykolenko fed the ball inside to André Gomes whose swerving shot from distance was tipped over the bar by David Raya on his return to the Brentford side. Unfortunately for the Bees they couldn't defend the resulting set pieces as Demarai Grey swung in a corner that was met by the head of Mina to head home from inside the six yard box.

Brentford looked to hit back in the first chance and had a promising chance of their own the fell to Sergi Canós. It was a case of a good exchange of passes between Mathias Jensen and Vitaly Janelt in the box that allowed them to break through the defensive line and then Canós curled an effort that Jordan Pickford did well to palm away to safety.

However, just three minutes into the second half Everton made it two through Richarlison. Fellow Brazilian Alan clipped a perfectly weighted through ball over the top for Richarlison to run onto and then then forward had the composure to finish well past Raya.

Brentford responded well through and could have equalised when Toney dribbled towards the by line and picked out a cross into the box. Desperately trying to get on the end of it was Jensen but he on the stretched he was unfortunate not to make contact and the ball raced away.

As it happens the Bees would equalise anyway and when it came it was from the spot. For the foul in the build-up Toney picked up an incisive pass from Christian Nørgaard and drew a foul from Pickford. He then stepped up to coolly convert from the spot as he sent the Everton goalkeeper the wrong way.

Brentford's hope of a comeback was extinguished eight minutes later however as the home side made it three. Once again, a corner proved to be their undoing as Holgate headed in from close range to give them daylight.

The scoring was then complete in injury time as Townsend added his name to the list of goal scorers. Some tired defending from Brentford allowed the Everton player to have time in the box and he took full advantage as curled past the unsuspected Raya to knock the Bees out of the

cup for this season.

Bees fall to defeat against Citizens

Brentford 0 – 2 Manchester City

Goals in each half from Riyadh Mahrez and Kevin De Bruyne helped to ensure league leaders Manchester City came away with all three points. Mahrez opened the scoring just before the interval via a penalty and then De Bruyne made it to when he scored from a rebound.

The home side dominated for large spells in the game and fashioned their first chance of note in the game. De Bruyne curled in a teasing cross that Phil Foden managed to make contact with but he headed wide of David Raya's post.

At the other end Mathias Jensen escaped from the City backline after he got on the end of a pass from Ethan Pinnock. Picking the ball up on the left hand side of the box the Dane drove inside and curled a strike that Ederson had to be alert to tip over the crossbar.

There was then a moment of panic at the back for Brentford. Mahrez picked up the ball on the wing and curled a cross low towards the far post which initially evaded Pinnock and with Raheem Sterling following in, Raya did very well to get down low and push the ball away. João Cancelo then blazed a shot over the crossbar.

With five minutes to go until half time the Brentford resistance was finally ended as they conceded a penalty. Sterling proved to be tricky for Mads Roerslev with the Dane sliding through the winger. Mahrez then put the ball into the back of the net from the resulting spot kick to strike a killer blow.

Their dominance continued in the second half and early on Cancelo had an effort from distance that had Raya scrambling across to cover although it went over the crossbar.

Brentford's best chance to get back into the game arrived via a Rico Henry cross that found Roerslev with time and space at the back post. Roerslev took a touch to set himself and then crossed low into the six yard box but Josh Dasilva couldn't mark his Premier League debut with a goal as his weak attempt was gathered easily by Ederson.

In the blink of an eye City then punished a mistake from Raya and the game was effectively sealed. Attempting to play out from the back the Spanish goalkeeper's pass was intercepted by Sterling who bore down on goal. Raya did well to make the one v one save against Sterling but the rebound then fell to De Bruyne who made no mistake to give them all three points on the night.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: Crystal Palace (H) Saturday 12th February 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Eagles

Competition: Brentford – Matchday 25

Opponent record: P23 W5 D10 L8 GF32 GA35 (13th in Premier League)

Manager: Patrick Vieira

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers swept aside by Hoops Hampton & Richmond Borough 0 – 3 Oxford City

Hampton & Richmond Borough's disappointingly indifferent season continued as they went down to yet another home defeat this time to Oxford City. Three second half goals proved to be their undoing for the Beavers as Elliot Benyon, Joe Iacofano and Harvey Bradbury punished the Beavers.

The Beavers made a good start to the game and recently arrival James Roberts was unfortunate to not score when a cross was delivered into the box with pace.

Soon after the away side hit the woodwork. A good passage of passing play saw the Beaver's defence unlocked and Benyon found himself alone in the area against Alan Julian but could only find the post and the ball deflected away to safety.

Midway through the first half Charlie Rowan volleyed over following a free kick and Sam Deadfield then curled an effort wide as both sides failed to break the deadlock.

Before the half time interval Zack Robinson had an individual striker that was saved by Ben Dudzinski out for a corner while Jack McKnight went even closer as his header hit the top of the crossbar.

The second half proved to be a one sided affair as the away side ran in three goals to emerge from the game with a comprehensive victory. Just seven minutes into it they scored when a free kick was delivered into the box that Benyon was most alive to as he provided the finish.

Things got even better for the away side when David Amate fouled George Harmon to concede a penalty. Iacofano then converted the spot kick to put the Hoops in a commanding position.

In response Zach Dronfield had a shot that was blocked and Shane Dunne up from the back had a shot that Dudzinski saved.

Late on there was hope for the Beavers as they were awarded a penalty with five minutes to play. Up stepped Deadfield but his penalty was weak and Dudzinski made the crucial save.

This miss was then compounded in injury time as a mistake from defender Dean Inman allowed Bradbury to capitalise with the Hoops' striker making no mistake with the finish to make it three and ensure they would be travelling back with all three points.



Squad update at Beveree

Hampton & Richmond Borough have confirmed three new pieces of transfer news with two new signings for the club and a loan extension.

Iffy Allen has arrived from Lewes FC having had experience with the likes of Yeovil Town, Aldershot Town, Maidstone United, and Braintree Town. He has joined on a permanent basis.

Also signing for the club but this time of a one month loan is Lucas Ness from Charlton Athletic. The 20 year old has made two first team appearances for the Addicks in the EFL Trophy and is available to play immediately.

In further good news for the club, it has also been confirmed that Zach Robinson has agreed to extend his loan until the end of the season. The striker has scored twice since arriving to the club.

Speaking to club media about the deal Gary McCann said “Zach is a player that I’ve tracked over the course of the past six to 12 months and was very pleased to get in the building.

“I’ve been even more impressed with his contribution and application since he’s arrived and I’m looking forward to working with him for the rest of the season as we look to remodel our squad and transition towards next season.”

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Opponent: Chelmsford City (H) Saturday 12th February 15:00 Melbourne Stadium

Nickname: The Clarets

Competition: National League South – Matchday 26

Opponent record: P24 W6 D10 L8 GF30 GA30 (14th in National League South)

Manager: Robbie Simpson

Welcome, Christian Eriksen

Our new man sees his new home
From Brentford FC

Christian Eriksen arrived in West London on Monday morning to begin his life as a Brentford player. After introductions and a training session at Jersey Road, Christian headed over to the Brentford Community Stadium for his first look at his new home.



Pundits looking forward to seeing Christian Eriksen

Reaction to Christian's arrival
From Brentford FC

Brentford confirmed the signing of Denmark international midfielder Christian Eriksen earlier this week. The 29-year-old signed until the end of the season and began training with The Bees yesterday, Monday 7 February. You can watch his first day [here](#).

The arrival of Christian has attracted attention from all over the world. Premier League pundits have been reflecting on the signing. And there has been plenty of excitement.



BBC pundit Pat Nevin "can't wait" to see Christian play for The Bees. He told the BBC website he was delighted to see Christian back in the Premier League. See the full piece [here](#).

"What a magnificent player," said Pat. "I can't wait to see him again. When he first walks onto the field, every person will be applauding, I think probably his first touch and when he scores his first fabulous goal for Brentford, it will be everyone who is delighted."

Former England international Michael Owen spoke to Premier League Productions about the signing. He highlighted the signing of Christian as one of the best of the Transfer Window. See more [here](#).

Photos copyright of obfcp.co.uk/Mark D Fuller



England team announcement

Italy v England, Guinness Six Nations

Eddie Jones has named his England team to face Italy in the Guinness Six Nations this weekend. England will travel to Rome to take on Italy at the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday 13 February (3pm GMT KO). Tom Curry (open-side flanker) will continue to captain the side.



Jamie George (hooker) and Will Stuart (tight-head prop) start in the front row alongside Ellis Genge at loose-head prop. Charlie Ewels and Nick Isiekwe are named at lock. Maro Itoje moves to blind-side flanker and Alex Dombrandt is at No. 8. Harry Randall will start at scrum half, Marcus Smith is at fly half with Jack Nowell (left) and Max Malins (right) on the wings. Joe Marchant is at outside centre, Henry Slade is at inside centre and Freddie Steward is full back.

Ben Youngs could become the joint most-capped England men's player of all time, alongside Jason Leonard, after being named as a finisher. Youngs made his debut against Scotland in March 2010 and is in line to add to his 113 caps on Sunday. Ollie Chessum could also make his England debut this weekend, and is joined by Luke Cowan-Dickie, Joe Marler, Kyle Sinckler, Sam Simmonds, George Ford and Elliot Daly on the bench.

Genge, Slade and Cowan-Dickie are also named as vice captains.

Head coach Jones said: *"We've set ourselves the target of playing really well and lighting up Rome. We've made some changes and this is the best side to face Italy. We want to start fast and take the game to them."*

"They can be a dangerous team and have some very good players in the likes of Garbisi, Negri and Lamaro."

"It's been a difficult week, but the players have bounced back well, trained hard and are ready to put on a good performance on Sunday."

In last year's fixture, England beat Italy 41-18 at Twickenham. Italy v England is live on ITV and BBC Radio 5 Live.

ENGLAND XV

15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 6 caps)
14. Max Malins (Saracens, 11 caps)
13. Joe Marchant (Harlequins, 8 caps)
12. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 44 caps) (VC)
11. Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 35 caps)
10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 6 caps)
9. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 2 caps)

1. Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 32 caps) (VC)
2. Jamie George (Saracens, 62 caps)
3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 16 caps)
4. Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 27 caps)
5. Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 4 caps)
6. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 52 caps)
7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 37 caps) (C)
8. Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 5 caps)

FINISHERS

16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 32 caps) (VC)
17. Joe Marler (Harlequins, 75 caps)
18. Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 48 caps)
19. Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)

20. Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 10 caps)
21. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 113 caps)
22. George Ford (Leicester Tigers, 78 caps)
23. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 53 caps)

WHO prequalifies first monoclonal antibody - tocilizumab – to treat COVID-19

Aiming to increase access to recommended treatments for COVID-19, WHO today added tocilizumab, a monoclonal antibody, to its list of prequalified treatments for COVID-19. To date, six COVID-19 treatments have been prequalified by WHO, including the three presentations (three vials, each with a different quantity) of the product prequalified today.

The three prequalified products are manufactured by the originator company, Roche, but the listings should pave the way for more companies coming forward to seek WHO prequalification, thereby increasing the number of quality-assured products and creating competition leading to potentially lower prices. The prequalification of these products will also facilitate low- and middle-income countries' authorization of them as COVID treatments.

Tocilizumab is a monoclonal antibody that inhibits the Interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor. Interleukin-6 induces an inflammatory response and is found in high levels in patients critically ill with COVID-19.

So far, the product has been authorized mostly for the treatment of arthritis in about 120 countries worldwide.

Tocilizumab given intravenously has been shown in clinical studies to reduce death in certain patients with COVID-19 who are severely ill, are rapidly deteriorating and have increasing oxygen needs, and who have a significant inflammatory response. In the largest clinical trial (RECOVERY), tocilizumab also reduced patients' time in hospital.

WHO recommends tocilizumab only for patients diagnosed with severe or critical COVID-19. It should be administered by a healthcare worker in a monitored clinical setting along with the current standard of care for COVID-19, which includes oxygen, corticosteroids, and other medications.

The patent for tocilizumab has expired for most of its uses, which means there should be no intellectual property barriers for this particular IL-6 blocker. However, there is low global availability of quality-assured biosimilars of the product.

Currently, tocilizumab is expensive and in short supply globally. Originator company prices paid in lower-income markets are high – reportedly around USD 500-600 per single dose. With demand surging, and more manufacturers entering the market, prices could come down.

WHO and partners are currently discussing lower prices and improved access in low- and middle-income countries with the producer, Roche.

Prequalification

WHO Prequalification was born of the need to ensure a supply of quality-assured health products in low- and middle-income countries. It does this by assessing the quality, safety and efficacy of a wide range of health products to prevent, diagnose and treat priority diseases.

Prequalification is a vital service provided for the United Nations and other large procurers of health commodities. For example, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, only purchase health commodities prequalified by WHO. Many countries use the list of WHO prequalified products for their own bulk purchasing of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other critical products.

For the complete product list please see: <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/medicines/prequalified-lists/finished-pharmaceutical-products>

For further information please visit the WHO Prequalification Unit website at <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb>



**World Health
Organization**

Investigation into the implementation of IR35 tax reforms

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) learned key lessons from the initial roll-out of IR35 tax reforms in the public sector, but faces new and challenging risks in implementing the regime more widely, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

Off-payroll working tax rules (known as IR35) were first introduced in 2000 to prevent tax avoidance by 'disguised employees' - people who do the same job in the same manner as an employee but avoid income tax and National Insurance contributions by providing services through an intermediary. In April 2017, the government introduced reforms which made public bodies responsible for determining the employment tax status of all those it hired through intermediaries. It did this to tackle high levels of non-compliance which HMRC estimated cost the Exchequer £440 million in 2016-17. The reforms were initially introduced in the public sector, and later extended to the private and third sectors in April 2021.

Public bodies had little time to consider HMRC's guidance and tools before IR35 reforms were rolled-out. HMRC published guidance in February 2017, just two months before the new rules came into effect. HMRC's key tool to help public bodies comply with the reforms, Check Employment Status for Tax (CEST), was launched in March 2017 with only one month to go. HMRC's 2018 research found that nearly half of all surveyed bodies found the reforms difficult to comply with, and one of the most common reasons given was difficulties using CEST.



In 2019, HMRC launched an updated CEST tool which changed some features that users said were causing difficulty. HMRC also made several updates to its technical guidance, and began to work more collaboratively with public bodies and other stakeholders.

HMRC estimates that between 2017 and 2019, at least 50,000 additional workers were on the payroll of public bodies because of IR35 reforms. These people previously provided services through intermediaries and paid less tax. The net increase in tax revenue between 2017 and 2018 was £250 million, more than HMRC previously expected (£150 million).

It is difficult to know the extent to which this is because of the reforms, or other factors. Public bodies the NAO spoke to said that difficulties finding contractors and rates increasing were partly due to the IR35 reforms, but that it was difficult to disentangle this effect from wider labour market trends affected by COVID-19 and EU Exit.

The 2020-21 financial statements of government departments and agencies include a total

of £263 million paid, owed, or expected to be owed for failing to administer IR35 reforms correctly. In all cases, HMRC found that the public body had not taken reasonable care to prevent errors, including when answering questions in CEST.

Lessons learned from the experience of implementing IR35 reforms in the public sector were applied to the wider roll-out in the private and third sectors in 2021. HMRC continued to improve its guidance and its work with stakeholders, and put more focus into educational activities to help raise awareness and understanding of the reforms. It also introduced further changes to address aspects of the reforms that were not working as intended.

According to the NAO, HMRC faces ongoing challenges implementing IR35 reforms:

- Labour markets in the private and third sectors are larger, which makes monitoring non-compliance a bigger challenge.
- Complex supply chains are more common in the private and third sectors. This creates a greater risk of companies making errors when determining tax status, and of the reforms resulting in workers changing careers, or business moving overseas.
- There is uncertainty over HMRC’s approach to non-compliance in the private sector. Its assessments and penalties have so far only been tested on central government bodies, none of which have been challenged in court.

The NAO recommends that HMRC further develops the CEST tool and accompanying guidance to make it as easy as possible to use accurately. HMRC should also build on its improved collaboration with stakeholders to pre-empt further challenges.

Gareth Davies, head of the NAO said:

“The 2017 reforms to IR35 tax rules have achieved their primary purpose of reducing non-compliance. However, HMRC did not give public bodies sufficient time to prepare for the roll-out, and it was highly likely that mistakes would be made.

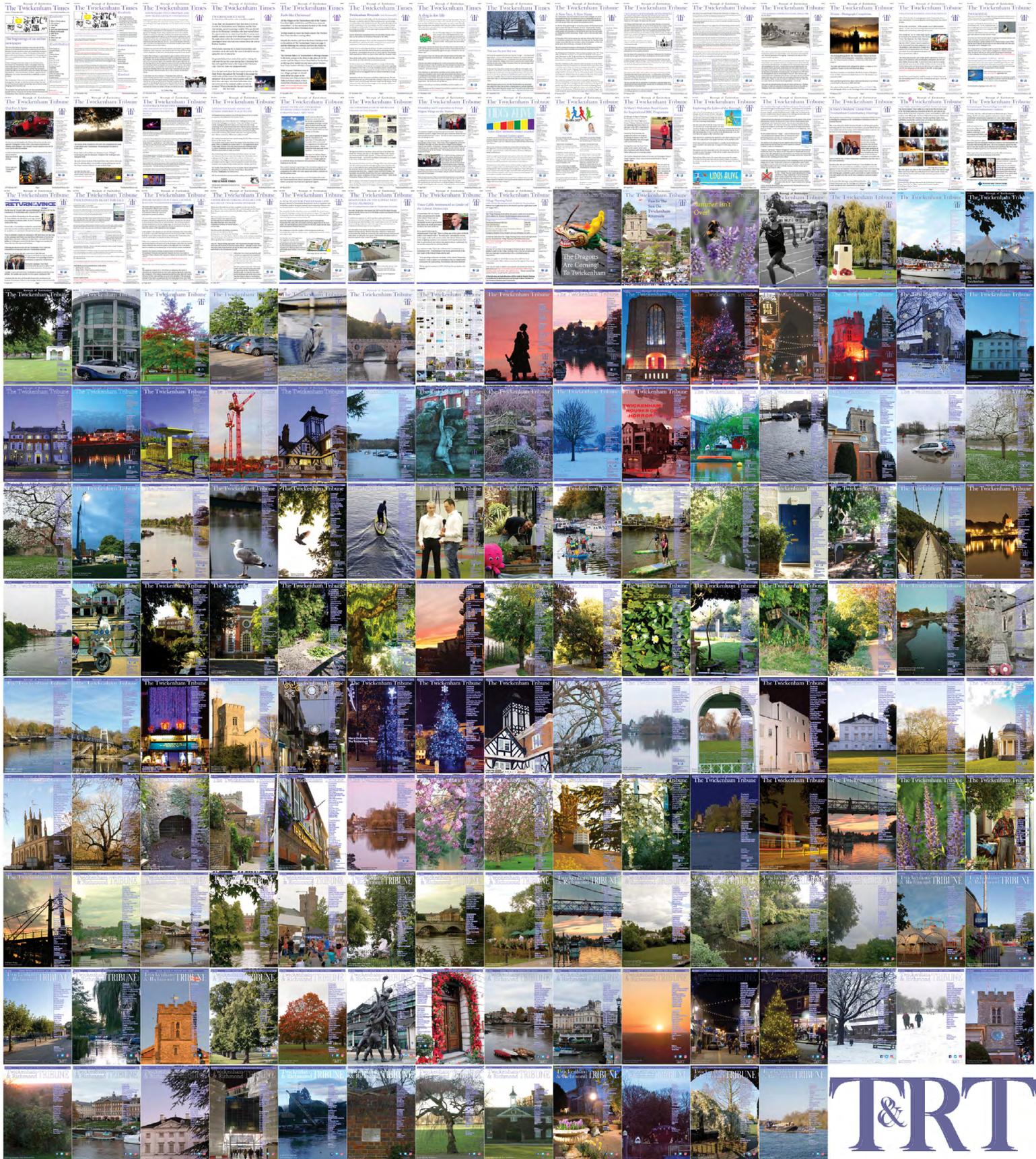
“While key lessons were applied during the wider roll-out in 2021, inherent differences in labour markets create new challenges that HMRC will need to manage for the reforms to be a success.”

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



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