

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
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4th March 2022

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

London Overground

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 March

No service between Willesden Junction and **Richmond** after 22:30 on Saturday and until 09:30 on Sunday

Use alternative Tube services and rail replacement buses.

Beware! Toads crossing

Richmond Council is reminding residents on Church Road in Ham to keep an eye out for breeding toads as they begin their annual carriageway cross.

The toads, which live on Ham Common are currently breeding and will make the 100-metre journey from their habitat to pools on the other side of the road to spawn for approximately three weeks. To ensure the safety of the toads, a small section of Church Road (between Ham Gate Avenue and Latchmere Lane) will be closed from Monday 7 March until Friday 1 April 2022. Residents in the area have been notified by post of the migration and road closure.

New training opportunities with Richmond Workmatch for residents looking to upskill

Richmond Workmatch supports residents to access local jobs and skills training opportunities across Richmond, Wandsworth, and Kingston.

Since launching in 2013, Richmond Workmatch has helped to fill over 2,000 jobs and apprenticeships for local employers by listening to what businesses need and helping local jobseekers to get their CV in shape and become interview ready.

Richmond Workmatch have a number of upcoming digital employability training workshops taking place from Monday 7 March to Friday 11 March 2022.

Workshops include getting the best from your LinkedIn profile, speaking skills for employment, understanding the application process, building a standout CV, and preparation for your next interview.

If you live in Richmond upon Thames, Richmond Workmatch can help prepare you for your next job with employment focused training.

For more information and to register your place at a local training workshop visit the [Richmond Workmatch website](#).

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It seems that the council has just submitted a shedload (a technical planning term) of new documentation to support their planning application. Well, we say submitted by the council, but its been submitted by Savills as this is obviously a commercial housing development rather than a council plan focussed on its residents.

It seems that no less than 26 documents consisting of more than 400 pages have been uploaded to the planning site! They have also taken the opportunity to 'answer' some questions in their covering letter.

What is particularly interesting, according to the applicant's cover letter, is that the apparently useless (but flood free, secure and level) "*Existing artificial lawn in Diamond Jubilee Gardens*" is supposedly adequately reprovisioned by the flood zone on the Embankment, which would have a road going through it! And yes, the new 'event space' will have water connections ... er, the river!

You can see the applicant's letter [HERE](#) and the full planning application [HERE](#)



COVID 19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization Weekly Epidemiological Report

Globally, during the week of 21 through 27 February 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decline by 16% and 10% respectively, as compared to the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, over 10 million new cases and over 60 000 new deaths were reported. As of 27 February 2022, over 433 million confirmed cases and over 5.9 million deaths have been reported globally

At the regional level, the Western Pacific Region reported a 32% increase in the number of new weekly cases while all other regions reported decreases. The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Western Pacific (+22%) and the Eastern Mediterranean (+4%) Regions, whilst a decreasing trend have been reported by the Regions of Africa (-59%), South-East Asia (-18%), Europe (-13%) and Americas (-8%)

Total cases Locally

Richmond upon Thames	57,409 (56,553 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	51,526 (50,825 previous week)
Hounslow	85,893 (85,178 previous week)
Wandsworth	102,737 (101,383 previous week)

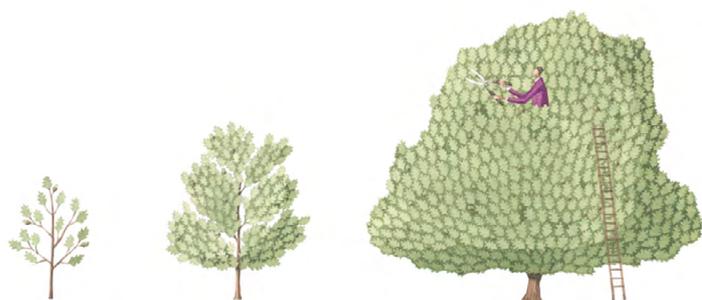
COVID IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

National Post – Seoul - South Korea, 4 March 2022: reports record daily COVID-19 cases amid Omicron surge

Financial Express, 3 March 2022: Coronavirus Omicron: Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram account for 50% of active Covid-19 cases, says Health Ministry

XinhuaNet, 3 March 2022: Hong Kong reports 56,827 new COVID-19 cases

Aljazeera, 2 March 2022: COVID and the Russian invasion: Ukraine's dual crisis



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The Tree Agency



The Queen of Richmond Green

By Simon Fowler

Richmond and Twickenham have long had Jewish residents, although Richmond's synagogue only opened in 1915.

Not the least eminent was Judith Levy, the daughter of Moses Hart, a prominent City merchant who lived in what is now Old Palace Lane. She was born in Richmond in 1707. Growing up Judith developed a passion for learning which remained throughout her life.

Judith married a cousin Elias Levy in 1728, a highly cultured man, and one of the few people to have profited from the South Sea Bubble. Elias died in 1750 leaving her his fortune. Judith now had an income of £6,000 a year – perhaps the equivalent of £3m today. They had had six children, only Isabella reached maturity. Tragically Isabella died on her wedding day in 1753.

Soon after, Levy moved from Whitechapel to Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, a district where few Jews lived at the time. She spent most of her time, however, at 4 Maids-of-Honour Row on Richmond Green. The house had formerly belonged to the celebrated opera manager John James Heidegger, Master of Revels to George II, and supposedly the ugliest man in London.

In a break with her earlier habits of industry and frugality, she became a devotee of fashionable society, with which she had had some acquaintance from her youth. She entertained lavishly, set an extensive table, maintained a splendid equipage, frequented the best watering places, made the rounds of balls and masquerades, and played high-stakes card games with members of the nobility.

Judith's self-indulgence, however, did not diminish her benevolence. She was reputed to distribute £1000 a year to less fortunate relatives and was known for her kindness to her servants, allowing them, tea and coffee (then regarded as luxuries). Indeed, she is supposed to have treated them so well, that they could be recognised by the girth around their waists.

In 1798, she subscribed £1000 as a voluntary contribution to the British war effort against the French.

Judith's most notable charitable act was a gift of £4000 in 1787 to the Ashkenazi synagogue in Duke's Place (now the Great Synagogue) to reconstruct and enlarge the building to accommodate a growing membership. Although no longer observant, Levy felt bound to the congregation by strong family ties.

In her later years she became a recluse unknown even to her neighbours. Even so a horse and carriage with the appropriately dressed footmen appeared at her door every morning, even though it was rarely used.

Judith died in 1803, aged 97 – a remarkable age for the period - and is buried in the Jewish cemetery in the Mile End Road. She died intestate, her fortune upwards of £125,000 passed to her nephew John Franks, whose family had long lived in the area.





Black Walnut Tree in Marble Hill

We have loved this tree which has been here for so many years and weathered many storms. Trees and ancient habitats have secrets yet to be discovered and have helped us survive illnesses in the past which had 'no cure'.

Nature's Medicine Cabinet is being destroyed as the ancient forests and habitats are logged and burned for mainly profit and short-sighted needs. Indigenous peoples' voices are still not being heard even as more voices are raised and awareness grows.

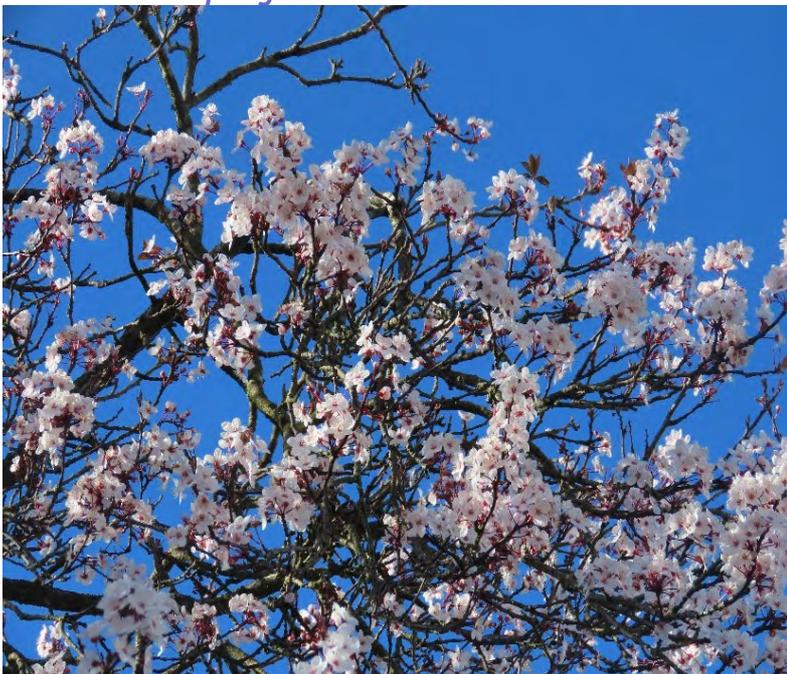
I read an illuminating article by **Ed Hutchings** in **Bird Watching-January Edition** which highlighted Edward Lear's fantastic Bird Artistry for which he did not receive enough recognition in his lifetime. His nonsense poetry is better known and still gives so much pleasure and encourages a love of nature. [The Bodleian Library](#) offers a book readers may like to consider purchasing: *"Edward Lear loved birds. Of all the animals that sprang from his quirky imagination, birds held a special place, serving as the animal of choice for his zoomorphosis in self-portraiture. Not only did he draw more birds than any other animal, but he endowed them with particularly human characteristics."*



Peace: Collared Dove in The Sanctuary and Friendly Robin Joy

Web: [River Crane Sanctuary Instagram](#)

Spring Blossoms and Blue Skies



Hyper-local COVID vaccination pop-up coming to Twickenham!

As part of the Council and NHS programme of pop-up vaccination centres, residents in central Twickenham will be able to walk-in to get their jab next week at York House next week.

Nearly 119,000 people have now had the first two jabs and their booster vaccination in the borough. However, there are still some people who are yet to have their first jab. In the central Twickenham area, there are hundreds of residents aged 16-39 who have not yet been vaccinated. We want to make it as easy as possible to access the vaccine, therefore a local walk-in clinic has been organised.

In addition, we know that some people have been hesitant to have the vaccination because they have questions or concerns. To ensure that people have the opportunity to discuss their worries and get the facts, the NHS will also have a private and confidential area for individuals to meet with a health expert. There will be no pressure to have the vaccine on that day, but the facility will be there if people want it.

The information and vaccination event will be at York House, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ on Thursday 10 March from 2 to 6pm.

CLLr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“Our hyper local pop-ups are proving to be very popular. This week, around 40 people came forward at our Richmond event to have their first jab. This is great and proves it is never too late to have your vaccination.

“Having the vaccine is an easy step for each of us to take to protect ourselves and those around us. If you haven’t had your vaccine yet and have questions, NHS health experts (including GPs and family clinicians) will be at York House next week to help. And if you are due jabs two or three, please use this opportunity to have your next dose locally.”

Anyone aged 12+ who is due their first, second or booster vaccination will be able to have their jab throughout the day. No appointments are required, and people can just walk in.

Please remember that second doses and boosters are only given to those who received their first dose 8 weeks’ ago or more. And if you have had COVID-19 recently, you need to wait 28 days before you can have another jab.

For more information about the vaccine and other walk-ins available visit [NHS South West London Clinical Commissioning Group \(CCG\)](#)



Skip Lorry dips into Twickenham water

Firefighters were called to a skip lorry that had slipped from the roadway into Twickenham riverside yesterday afternoon (Thursday).



The driver was trapped inside the vehicle due to the water.

Borough Commander John Snelgrove, who was at the scene, said:

“The tide was at its highest point and the water was up to the driver’s side window and prevented him from leaving the vehicle. Firefighters secured the skip lorry to stop it from moving further into the water. Thankfully the local RNLI crews arrived and using a hammer from the fire engine broke the passenger’s side window and helped the man into the boat.

“Thankfully the man was uninjured. This usual incident shows the breath of work fire crews deal with and good partnership working with key partner agencies.”

The Brigade was called at 1517 and the incident was over for firefighters by 1556. Fire crews from Heston, Wimbledon and Twickenham fire stations.



Dear Editor,

Playful sloped terraces

The Council has now added a further 400+ pages of consultation to the Twickenham Riverside planning application and there are still more changes to come.

Plodding through some of the documents I note that:

- Wharf Lane podium edge is subject to change'
- Landscape design and levels are subject to change following further design development'
- Further meetings have been requested with highways and trees services'
- Black poplar (the tree donated to the Diamond Jubilee Gardens by the Queen and planted by Princess Alexandra) – ongoing discussions taking place with LBRUT to find out if a more suitable location can be found elsewhere.
- A road safety audit has not yet been finalised.

It is noted that *the loading bay on Water Lane is “particularly useful” for Church Street as this road is now pedestrianised 10a.m. - midnight each day.* Let us hope that the same consideration will be given to Eel Pie Island's boatyards, businesses and residents whose articulated lorries may not be able to service or finish servicing Eel Pie Island before the Embankment is closed from 10a.m. until 7 a.m. the next day.

The traffic consultants accept that there are still *several safety concerns* to the new development but believe that less traffic travelling at low speed reduces the risks to “acceptable levels”! However, they are continuing to review the turning movement of refuse lorries to improve safety for pedestrians. What about the turning movements of lorries of equal size and articulated lorries? Are they at “acceptable levels” of safety?

There is a section about the grassed area with steep terraces in front of the cafe. As the Royal Horticultural Society points out *it is neither usually realistic nor safe to maintain close-mown grass on a slope.* Presumably that is when it hasn't turned to mud in the winter and a dust bath in periods of drought in the summer months when under constant use. Nothing daunted the Council has described this area as “Flexible lawn space with **playful sloped terraces**”.

Chambers Dictionary.

Playful.adj

1. *full of fun; frolicsome; frisky.*
2. *humorous.*

I know which definition I prefer.

With best wishes,
Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Tribune,

Richmond 'In-Action' - ?

As a Richmond resident living beside one of the most polluted and high volume traffic roads leading to the Mortlake station rail crossing, I couldn't agree more with your reader's letter last week about the Council's much vaunted, but useless, 'Idling Action' events.

I know, because I have volunteered for several and have found that, when faced with a volunteer with a tabard and clip board, a few drivers do switch off, but only after the usual excuses: "*I didn't know - I didn't see the signs - I need the heater/cooler - I'm afraid I won't be able to re-start, etc*". And when you tell them the pollution is worse *inside* their cars and their children in the back are most at risk, it's usually met with total disbelief. Mostly, however, one is ignored or forgotten and then it's all repeated the next time the level crossing closes a few minutes later.

The very day after the last anti-idling event, traffic was backed up from Mortlake crossing to Upper Richmond Road, and in the Vernon Road rat run. Almost all were idling and pumping out fumes with the gates closed for well over 15 minutes. One irate driver drove right across the pavement to get into Sheen Lane because he just wouldn't wait - then roared off well in excess of 20mph.

So the Council's '*Idling Action*' plan worked out well, didn't it? Looks good on paper but actually no effect. Last week's campaign was hijacked by Council workers brandishing huge orange 'Vote Liberal Democrat' signs - a bit of virtue-signalling for their next election leaflet.

This happens all day, every day. Anti-idling signs are completely ignored because they are too small, badly designed, and usually in the wrong place. The same at White Hart Lane crossing et al.

There are no such signs in Vernon Rd or St Leonards Rd which are the rat runs from the South Circular through Mortlake to the A316 - so the pollution spreads far and wide for us and our children to enjoy. We need proper enforcement - NOW!

Hammersmith Bridge won't be taking traffic for years so we are all doomed in this respect.

Numerous pleas to the Council to rectify all this have fallen on deaf ears in spite of their 'Green' promises. No wonder there was an item in last week's Tribune about the appalling attitude of some councillors!

Why doesn't Richmond Council actually help the residents instead of constantly ignoring them?

S. Weaver
SW14

Dear Tribune,

E-scooter follies.

E-scooters are touted as one of the cures for our traffic problems. Apart from their inherently dangerous design, the pollution and human costs in producing their metals, and the number of accidents and deaths caused to riders of them all over Europe, official organisation of them seems to be sadly lacking in intelligence.

At one of Richmond Council's 'trial' scooter parks, badly placed by the junction of Vernon Road and Sheen Lane and adjacent to a resident parking bay, scooters are regularly abandoned across that precious bay, for which we are all paying £80, rendering it unusable. And they are often dumped in the road, or on double yellow lines, and constantly misused by adults and youngsters riding at speed on our footways.

I have regularly suggested to the councillor responsible for Roads and Transportation that he gets some paint and writes 'Resident Parking Only' in that bay. He couldn't even be bothered to respond. No wonder there was an item in last week's Tribune about the appalling attitude of some councillors!

Better still, why didn't they put the e-scooter parking bay in the obvious place outside Mortlake Station and away from the main road – why do they prefer to inconvenience the very people who pay their salaries?

And why don't the almost non-existent parking wardens fine the perpetrators? The Council would certainly fine the rest of us if we did the same thing - last year I was fined for having one wheel just outside the white line in a Resident Parking Bay. But scooters and cyclists can do no wrong.

Much has been written in previous editions of the Tribune about both legal and illegal scooters on roads and pavements, accidents, etc..

On 25 February there was another serious incident on Staines Road with a cyclist injured by a 'hit-and-run' teenager on a scooter. Imagine my horror when I read the latest Tube Strike information from TfL actually encouraging use of Santander Cycles or E-Scooters (with a link to scooter trial details). In Central London...? On Tuesday a cyclist was killed in Holborn following a collision with a truck. Great recommendations, TfL - thank you!

Yours sincerely
(Name and address supplied)

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

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

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

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



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SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT COVID-19 GUIDELINES



Mayor of Richmond upon Thames to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Green Canopy, the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Geoff Acton, will host a tree planting event at Moormead Recreation Ground on Friday 11 March 2022.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates are being encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season. The tree planting season runs from October to the end of March.

Friday 11 March 2022, will mark the 70th day of the year in which The Queen marks the 70th anniversary of her accession. The date has been dedicated as a special day by the National Association of Civic Officers for Civic Heads to plant trees donated to them and to mark this significant milestone. The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames will plant an English Oak tree at Moormead Recreation Ground on Friday 11 March at 11am.

Trees will also be planted in every ward of the borough to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee trees by the end of the current tree planting season.

Tree planting is also an essential action set out within the Richmond Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. The Council is committed to increasing the number of trees across the borough and in doing so increasing the many ecosystem services that trees can deliver, such as carbon sequestration, providing habitat for wildlife, and making living conditions during periods of climate extremes more bearable.

Cllr Geoff Acton, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, said:

"2022 is a significant milestone marking Her Majesty's 70 years on the throne. The Green Canopy is a wonderful initiative from The Queen which will leave a lasting beneficial impact for future generations to enjoy.

"We will be marking the Jubilee throughout the year with a number of events and initiatives including the Green Canopy and Platinum Jubilee Street Parties. Please join me at Moormead Recreation Ground on 11 March for this special tree planting ceremony. I look forward to seeing you there."

Find out more about [The Queen's Green Canopy](#) and how to get involved.

Find out more about [Jubilee Street Parties](#).



Kew Village Market

The next Market takes place on **Sunday, 6th March** in the streets around Kew Gardens Station. There will over 45 stalls full of the finest food and the sort of original quality hand-made crafts you won't find on the high street.

With Mother's Day rapidly approaching, it'll be a fine place to forage for the perfect present. Something in the jewellery line maybe – with freshwater pearls (very now) from Gallery 66, semi-precious gemstones from Atelier Chokerbali, or subtle silver or gold from Gabrielle Sellors? How about a beautiful basket from Wood/Wool/Willow or a (very) loving spoon? The nicest natural skincare from Beeinspired perhaps – or why not stop at Distillers of Surrey for a special bottle of Mother's Ruin?

There'll be live music of course to make market day go with an extra swing: first the sassy sounds of Richmond Youth Jazz Band, followed by flute, guitar and sweet singing from Gone Burgundy.

<https://kewvillagemarket.org/>



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Exciting opportunities to join the team at Richmond CVS

If you are looking for a rewarding new job, Richmond CVS is recruiting for two new part-time posts.

A [Project Officer](#) is needed to support the team, particularly around digital services, as they continue to adapt and strengthen their offer to voluntary and community groups in Richmond.

They are also looking for a temporary [Volunteer Service Coordinator](#) to help promote and maintain their vibrant local Volunteer Service.

Find out more about each role on the

[Richmond CVS website](#)

and if you think you fit, submit your application now!



TWICKENHAM SUPPORTS UKRAINE

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman

The flags of Ukraine fly proudly in Church Street to show Twickenham's solidarity with the country's people as they face such hardship and terror. Let's hope that next time we see the flags it will be to celebrate the expulsion of the invaders and a return to freedom.

The collection point for donations to Ukraine is Prosperity Restaurant in Twickenham where there was much activity packing items for the drive across Europe.



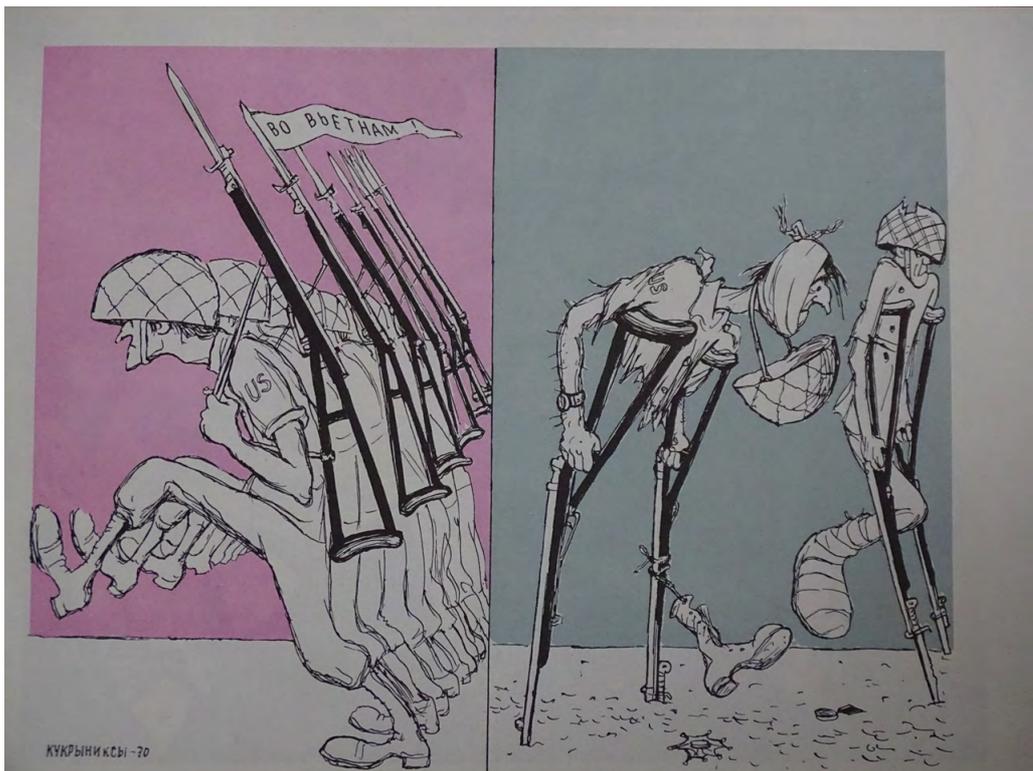
Kiev Friendship Memorial



Church Street Twickenham



Donations for The People of Ukraine



Doug Goodman spotted this anti-American poster and wonders when the tables will be turned.

The Soviet propaganda cartoon appeared in a Russian satirical magazine in 1970.

It depicts US soldiers invading Vietnam and returning in defeat.

Documentary series 'Secrets of the Royal Gardens' reveals a peek behind the scenes of the Royal Parks

The Royal Parks, including Richmond Park and Bushy Park, will feature in an episode of a new More 4 documentary series, 'Secrets of the Royal Gardens', revealing 'behind the scenes' insights and stories of some of the capital's most iconic green spaces.

The four-part weekly series, which features Royal palaces, castles, houses and parks, will be broadcast at 9pm on More 4 from Wednesday 2 March. Episode 2, which is specifically dedicated to The Royal Parks, will be broadcast on 9 March.



Narrated by Hugh Bonneville, the episode will take viewers on a journey to a number of the lesser-known locations within London's eight Royal Parks, such as the hidden Hyde Park super nursery. This is the site at which 450,000 flowers and shrubs are grown to supply all the flower beds across The Royal Parks, including the scarlet pelargoniums which are grown to match the tunics of The Queen's Guard, and are planted in the famous flower beds in front of Buckingham Palace.



Revealing the stories of these iconic spaces are Royal Parks' staff alongside historians, garden designers, wildlife experts and royal gardeners.

Other stories include a behind-the-scenes look at the shire horses stabled at Richmond Park which deliver crucial conservation works across The Royal Parks, and a look at the work going into an important four-year £8m restoration project at Greenwich Park, called Greenwich Park Revealed, which will restore the park to its original 17th century baroque landscape that has been eroded over the centuries.

Andrew Scattergood, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks, said: "We're delighted to be featuring in episode 2 of this fascinating series and to be sharing some of the Royal Parks' best-kept secrets. The parks comprise 5,000 acres of beautiful, natural and historic royal parkland across London and although many people will have visited them numerous times before, there are still some amazing stories and little-known facts about the parks that people won't be aware of. We hope everyone enjoys watching the documentary as much as we enjoyed making it".



Church Street Stands with Ukraine

By Shona Lyons

Last Friday we decided we must put the Ukrainian Flags up in Church Street to show our solidarity and support. We only had a few in stock, so I rang my regular contact and he said he just had 30 left and would get them delivered the next day, but for lots of reasons we actually only got them on Tuesday. But they are up now and hopefully so many people have taken pictures of them, hopefully even Ukrainians both in Ukraine and throughout the world might see them as well as all the other many symbols of solidarity and support they have throughout the Western World.



I don't know how much this really helps the poor terrified people cowering without electricity, food, water or medicine in basements, but it is what we can do. I know many people amongst our clients and friends have told us that they have also been donating lots of essential items & even money to the Prosperity Ukrainian Café in York Street. The Ukrainians are incredibly brave & courageous. They would rather die than give up their freedom. I think everyone in safe prosperous democracies feels the same way. The Ukrainians are determined to resist, and we all admire them and want to help and support them in any way we can.

On a more positive note, Spring is coming to Church Street. I hope the many visitors coming to the street see the new shoots coming up, laden with flowers still encased in their sheaths, just about to be revealed. They are everywhere now, at the planters at the top, and all the pots in the square and around the trees. Soon it will be a very beautiful display. We have put so many exotic bulbs in, even we don't know all the varieties and species, some we brought and some we were given. It will be a big surprise for us all. It seems harsh and cruel in a way that this fragile beauty will be blooming here in the street whilst Ukraine is being destroyed and the cities are reduced to rubble. It feels wrong to enjoy the beauty of nature whilst they are enveloped in so much pain, death and destruction. We don't know now what the future will hold for the Ukrainians and even the rest of eastern Europe and maybe even Europe as a whole. Will there be an end of Putin's Blood lust? He does have a lot of similarly bloodthirsty friends as well. But as Dylan Thomas writes in my favourite poem, through the green fuse drives the flower. There will be hope, there will be life, nature will find a way through.



Local heritage railway and Woodland Trust working together for the environment!

Under the Woodland Trust's 'free trees for schools and communities' initiative, Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway qualified for free plants and shrubs for their new woodland walk.

The heritage narrow gauge railway is situated in a densely populated area of West London, and offers steam train rides and picnics in a countryside setting to the local communities from March to October.

Operated entirely by volunteers with a wide range of skills, including an enthusiastic gardening team, the railway has a picnic field and a children's play area. Other plans for the area include a new hedge of mixed native shrubs and trees, including silver birch, crab apples, and rowan.

The railway is always looking for volunteers to help with their operations, such as train drivers, firemen, station staff, admin, woodworkers, electricians, and gardeners.

Visit the [Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway website](#) to find out more.



To volunteer to help with planting the new woodland walk, contact Janet Hales on janet@enterpriseno1.co.uk or call 07958 130513.

New art trail heads to independent shops in Teddington this April

Local charity Arts Richmond has spearheaded a collaboration between independent shops in Teddington and artists from across Richmond upon Thames to create a free art trail launching this Spring.

'Teddington Art Trail' brings together a vibrant selection of local artists and independent retailers to present a broad variety of artworks on a public trail throughout the month of April. The trail is available for free, however all works will be available for sale to support both artists and independent shops.

A total of 19 artists will be displaying their work in 23 locations across Teddington High Street, The Causeway, and Broad Street. A map of the Trail will be available from local libraries and the Landmark Arts Centre, and each participating store will also have details in their window.

The Trail will be officially launched by Mayor of the Borough, Councillor Geoff Acton, at the Landmark Arts Centre on Friday 1 April, from 5 to 8pm.

[Register for a free ticket](#) to the launch.



At the end of the Trail, all works displayed as part of the Trail will also be shown in an online gallery through the Arts Richmond website.

For more information, visit [Arts Richmond](#).

PC entry routes (New Pathway, Open for a limited time period,) initial Police Learning & Development Programme (IPLDP)

Open for a limited time period, our two year IPLDP route for non-degree holders provides new recruits with a blend of practical “on-the-job” experience and classroom based learning at one of our internal Met training sites.

You will be employed as an officer from day one, making a difference to London’s communities, fully supported in applying your classroom learning practically on the job.

Whilst this training programme won’t provide an accredited qualification – like our Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship Programme (PCDA) does - it follows a similar structure to all our training routes. Whichever route you choose to join us, you’ll receive the best possible training to be the best that you can be to keep London safe



If you have not applied please scan the QR code click onto – Careers (top left) – Police Officers roles – Police Constable – 4 PC entry routes and apply for initial Police Learning & Development Programme (IPLDP)



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Friends of the River Crane Environment to host Hounslow Powder Mills lecture

The Friends of the River Crane Environment will present a special virtual presentation on the history and explosions of the Hounslow Powder Mills with a Q&A session.

From 1766 until 1927 there were gunpowder mills on the River Crane in Twickenham. It was a major source of black powder for military and sporting purposes and employed as many as three hundred men and boys at a time.

There were numerous explosions at the mills over the years and many workers were killed. The mills were in the parish of Twickenham but were located close to Hounslow Heath so were known as Hounslow Powder Mills.



The talk will cover the history of the mills, the impact they had on the local environment and their lasting legacy including the mysterious mounds and the Shot Tower. The talk will be presented by Tim Harness.

The event takes place on Wednesday 16 March at 7.30 pm.
Book your place for The Hounslow Powder Mills event [HERE](#)

ST PATRICK'S DAY - A TOUCH OF IRELAND

The focus will be on Ireland later this month: there's the England v Ireland match at Twickers on 12 March, the weekend before St Patrick's Day, of course. So I thought it appropriate to bring a touch of the Emerald Isle to this week's column. But who was St Patrick? Well, he lived in the 5th Century and is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave when a teenager, he later escaped. But he later returned to Ireland and is credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

While not personally being a fan of beer or bitter stout, (and one of Ireland's most iconic drinks), I do enjoy it as an ingredient in a Guinness and Beef Stew. There's something rather special about the richness the Guinness imparts to the beef, and I've asked the team at **delicious** magazine to share a couple of easy to prepare, but nonetheless very delicious, recipes for you to celebrate Ireland's national day or host a rugby party. There's a special offer to subscribe, as well, for you.



And if you are wanting a good Irish drink, as well as Guinness, you could enjoy a glass or two of the very smooth **Bushmills Irish Whiskey**. The oldest licensed distillery in Ireland has plenty of experience; it's been pioneering blended and single malt Irish whiskeys for over 400 years! Bushmills Irish whiskeys are triple distilled from 100% malted barley in copper pot stills for a smooth and authentic Irish flavour - perfect for celebrating St. Patrick's Day. If you're new to a drop of the Irish, as opposed to Scotch, I'd suggest **Bushmills 10 Year Old** as an ideal starting point. Matured for a minimum of 10 years in bourbon-seasoned barrels, this whiskey is fresh and zesty with aromas of honey, vanilla and milk chocolate. It's delicious served neat, over ice, or mixed into a range of classic and modern cocktails. And it's available in Waitrose at £35 for a 70cl bottle.

Beef and Guinness stew

- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 150g streaky bacon, finely chopped
- 1.6kg shin of beef, cut into 5cm chunks
- 3 tbsp plain flour, seasoned
- 600ml Guinness
- 500ml good-quality beef stock (we like [Knorr](#))
- 1 bouquet garni (we used fresh thyme and fresh flat leaf parsley tied together with 3 bay leaves)

1. Heat 1 tbsp of the oil in a large casserole over a medium heat and fry the onion for 2-3 minutes until soft. Add the bacon



- and fry for a further 4-5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove and set aside.
2. Dust the beef in the seasoned flour. Heat the remaining oil in the casserole over a high heat and fry the beef, in batches, for 3-4 minutes, until browned all over.
 3. Reduce the heat to medium, return the onion and bacon and all the beef to the casserole and add the Guinness, stock and herbs. Season well and bring to the boil.
 4. Reduce to a simmer and cook, partially covered, for 2½ hours until the meat is meltingly tender. Season before serving half the stew with creamy mashed potato.

delicious. Tips

Defrost fully before reheating in a pan until piping hot throughout.

Baileys tiramisu

- 350ml espresso coffee (made with 9 tsp instant espresso), cooled
- 250ml Baileys
- 300g packet savoiardi biscuits or sponge fingers
- 2 medium free-range eggs
- 75g caster sugar
- 500g mascarpone
- 2½ tsp cocoa powder

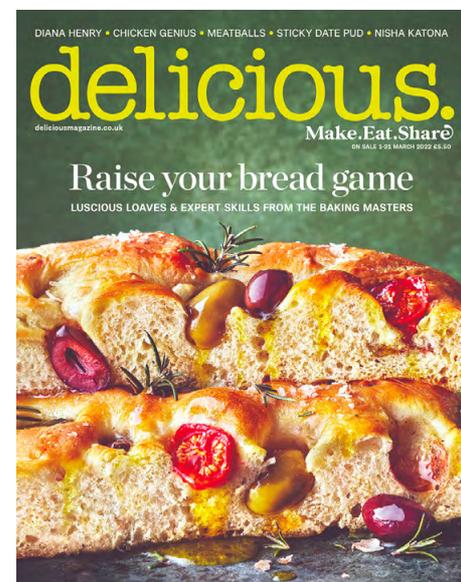
1. Mix the coffee with 175ml of the Baileys in a shallow bowl. Dip the biscuits into this liquid; let them soak on each side, enough to become damp but not soggy. Line the bottom of a 23cm square glass dish with half the soaked biscuits. Reserve the rest of the soaked biscuits on a plate.
2. Separate the eggs, but keep only 1 of the whites. Whisk the 2 yolks and the sugar together until thick and pale yellow, then fold in the remaining Baileys and the mascarpone.
3. Whisk the egg white until thick and frothy. Fold the egg white into the yolky mascarpone, then spread half of this on top of the biscuit layer.
4. Repeat with a layer of soaked savoiardi, then top with the remaining mascarpone mixture. Cover the dish with cling film and chill overnight.
5. When you are ready to serve, push the cocoa powder through a small tea strainer to dust over the tiramisu.



delicious Magazine Special Offer!

The lovely folk at **delicious magazine** are offering you a special introductory offer. You can have the first three issues for just £3 (saving 82%) followed by £22.49 every 6 months thereafter (saving 32%). To [subscribe](#) use the Code **XDLCLP22**.

T&Cs: Offer open to new subscribers, UK residents only. Closing date: 30 April 2022. This is a Direct Debit only offer: £3 for your first 3 issues followed by £22.49 every 6 months (still saving 32% on the shop price) until cancelled.





King Lear

by William Shakespeare

The Rhinoceros Theatre Company at the Hampton Hill Theatre

Storm Dudley, Storm Eunice, Storm Franklin. The week leading up to the opening night of Rhinoceros Theatre Company's new production of *King Lear* left most open land in the country as a blasted heath. This tempestuous triumvirate was an appropriate herald to announce the arrival of a remarkably insightful production that captures both the elemental and visceral nature of what is arguably Shakespeare's greatest tragedy.



The atmospheric set of hessian drapes, swagged from the flies, creates the oppressed mood of the play. The effective simplicity of the set with its solitary centrepiece rock is the foil for subtle lighting and sound, such that everything is hidden yet everything is in full view. There is an omnipresent mist, but the air moves the drapes, be it in draughts or tempests. The design tour de force though is in conception of the costumes by a skilled quartet of designers.

This production by-passes the usual attempts at a mythical or historic interpretation of *King Lear*, in order to get to the guts of what the play is about, the overarching might of love and loyalty, over power-seeking and its concomitant cruelty and cupidity.

Greatest or not, *King Lear* is certainly the Bard's most profoundly intense plays, and as such demands quality acting. To which end, its director Fiona Smith has gathered a cast of award-winning actors. Her production spotlights the elemental indifference of nature to human frailty, not so much in Lear's battering in the storm, as in the disintegration of his mind in his pitiful dementia.



In the title role is Nigel Andrews, former film critic for the Financial Times and twice Critic of the Year, whose balanced portrayal demonstrates the humanity of Lear, as he struggles to rescue his own dignity.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/02/25/lear-rhino

Photography by Nigel Cole

An Hour and a Half Late

by Gerald Sibleyras with Jean Dell, adapted by Belinda Lang

PW Productions and Theatre Royal Bath at Richmond Theatre until 5th March, then on tour until 9th April

If you are looking for a pleasant way to spend an evening without committing to anything running into the night, *An Hour and a Half Late* might just be the play for you.

This English-language revival of this “sitcom-on-stage” is neatly directed and adapted by Belina Lang, who herself played the female lead in 2006.



In a beautiful, generously sized and spotless sitting room, a middle-aged man sits in a chair with his coat and shoes on, present under arm, clearly waiting for someone to get ready. With that simple opening *mise en scene*, together with the title, we already know all we need to



know about who these people are and what the main plot is.

Peter, a tax consultant in his early 60s, who has been invited with his wife, Laura to a nice dinner at his business partner’s home to celebrate Peter’s retirement. The only issue is that right before they are due to leave, Laura is struck with a sudden burst of existential ennui and refuses to go. In an effort to get her out the door, what was meant to be a five minute window to talk about Laura’s sudden emotional anxiety, devolves into

an hour and a half of revelations, opinions and accusations accumulated through thirty years of marriage.

The strength of this production is easily the chemistry and charm of its two leads, Griff Rhys Jones and Janie Dee. There is a warmth and a playfulness between them that is lovely to watch. This is a play you see for the two highly talented, engaging and funny actors, not for the material at hand.

Will *An Hour and a Half Late* take your mind off of all the current world crises for ninety minutes, with the occasional belly laugh or two? Absolutely, and sometimes that is exactly what you need.

Read Melissa Syversen’s review at www.markaspen.com/2022/03/01/hour-half-late
Photography by Marc Brenner



Persuasion

by Jane Austen, adapted by Jeff James, with **James Yeatman**

Rose Original and Oxford Playhouse, at the Rose Theatre, Kingston until 19th March

Spoiler alert: if you are expecting crinoline, ringlets and Regency ballrooms when Jane Austen reaches the stage hold onto your bonnets. It's more bikinis, blonde manes and disco action in this adaptation of *Persuasion*. The Austen classic gets a modern twist to appeal to an audience yet to discover her crisp wit and her analysis of attitudes to women.

The romantic comedy has taken a leap from the 19th Century's measured society to a riotous reimagining fit for the 21st. The script is witty and clever, brought briskly up to date. There's even a reference to a party - dismissed as "not a party. It's a gathering".



Persuasion is delightfully exuberant and exhilarating, jollied along against a soundtrack featuring Frank Ocean, Dua Lipa and Cardi B. Not quite [Dirty Dancing](#) but a nod to twerking and hip to hip action. Penned in more rigid times of the early 1800s, polite society would have been reaching for the smelling salts to see this reimagining.

Costume supervisor Jemima Penny creates a colourful line-up of outfits from sequinned onesie - which would not look out of place in RuPaul's Drag Race - to skimpy shimmering bikinis for the beach scene set in Lyme Regis. An inventive stage doubles as a neon-lit disco dance floor and a foaming sea spume of soapsuds for bathers' frolics.

Director Jeff James sees Austen as relevant today as in her time: "More than any writer before or since, Austen skewered the word 'love' like a collector pinning up a butterfly, and showed how the word serves as a cover for a multitude of very difficult choices".

The Rose Theatre's artistic director Christopher Haydon says of the adaptation of *Persuasion*, "It's funny. It's sexy. It's gorgeous." He's right on at least two counts.



Read Gill Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/03/04/persuasion

Photography by The Other Richard



Pay the Piper

by Anna Appleby, Ninfea Cruttwell-Reade, Cecilia Livingston and Ailie Robertson, libretto by Hazel Gould

Glyndebourne Youth Opera at Glyndebourne Festival Theatre

“Recollections may vary”. This diplomatic phrase of is now well established in our collective memory. It is a truism that frames the approach to a retelling of the Pied Piper of Hamelin story in the premiere of an innovative new opera, *Pay the Piper*. Each of four protagonists, The Piper, The Mayor, A Mother and The Lonely Child Tam, tell us, “This is what I remember ... This is what I know is true...” Thus we have a multi-faceted view of the narrative that reflects the nature of the musical score, which, unique to opera, has four collaborating composers.



The set itself is a fairly simple affair. However, there is a figurative element, hundreds of translucent balls, like fortune tellers’ crystals, symbols of the hopes and aspirations of the children, who roll them down the stage.

Then, there are puppets, another Glyndebourne first. Of course, there are rats, lots and lots, from glove puppets, to a writhing wriggling mat of massed rats, enough to send even a mild musophobic into paroxysms of horror. However, the star is a 25 foot high rod-puppet of

Tam, The Lonely Child, brought to life by eight puppeteers as a human child, having its own giant crystal ball of aspirations to bounce in hope.

Central to the story is the enigma of the eponymous piper. Soprano, Maya Kherani imbues the music with an ethereal otherworldliness, with an athletic coloratura right to the top of her range. Dressed in a multi-coloured tunic, her portrayal is of a phlegmatic character, dangerously pragmatic. She says, “You have to let them go some day”. But we know they are not just off to fresher’s week at uni ...



Read Mark Aspen’s review at www.markaspen.com/2022/02/26/pay-piper

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith ©Glyndebourne Productions Ltd.

“Love Letter” – The History of the Epoch!

By Bruce Lyons



I was sitting watching with my wife, Hedda, on TV the terrible stories (as I am sure we all were) and the plight of the Ukrainians. We were amazed by the sheer resilience of these remarkable people. Hedda reached for the book “Love Letters” A book published by her 3 sisters about their parents and she re – read the chapter on her mother’s journey. Her Mother, Zipporah, had decided in 1939 to visit her parents in Belarus and travelled, heavily pregnant, from the Israel British Mandate

Thru the Summer of `39. As there was so much unrest Zippora (with a visa to go home via Romania) with her sister travelled to Warsaw but for a week queuing at the Station, she could not get a seat and then she went into labour. Her sister, still with her, found a man with a horse and cart and gave him her engagement ring and a fur coat to get her to a Jewish Clinic where Hedda embraced the World (06/09/1939)!! Next morning as the Germans had been bombing Warsaw (sound’s familiar

– the locals didn’t believe Warsaw would fall) they got Zippora up – she was a qualified nurse from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, to help with the injured.

Days later the Germans ordered all foreign passport holders to report to the Bristol Hotel which she did and there, her small group of 12 women and children from The British Mandate were made prisoners of war. The group set off mostly by foot in heavy mud for Berlin – some parts by train and some by boat and they stayed overnight in forced labour camps. Once in Berlin the other women were sent away but Zippora and Hedda and the other babies stayed in Berlin – Zippora looking after the children. Eventually the other women were re-united with Zippora and their children, but they stayed in Berlin till the end of 1941 when the British and Germans arranged an “exchange of this Group for a group of Germans living in Templars – Tel

Aviv and the group had to undertake a rail and boat journey which followed the route of the Orient Express (but not in the Orient Express style – probably cattle trucks) and when they reached Turkey they were taken by boat to Haifa , here the British met and transferred them to a camp at Atlit till their documents has been verified – this was nearly 2 ½ years from the time Zippora had set off - but what a miraculous epic journey !



Our thoughts are with all these poor families in Ukraine in this terrible time.

WIZ TALES: CZECHIA - CZECH REPUBLIC

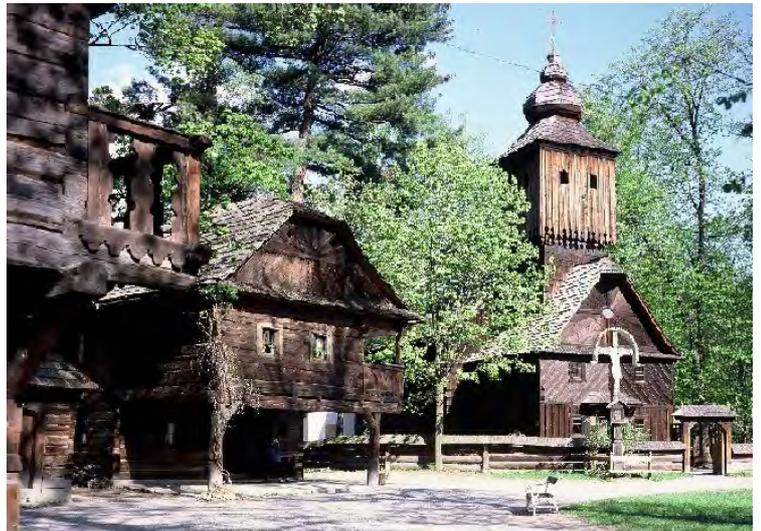
Teresa Read



The Czech Republic is bordered by the Slovak Republic, Poland, Austria and Germany.

In 1948 Czechoslovakia became a communist state, a part of Eastern Europe under the influence of the USSR. Communism collapsed in Czechoslovakia in 1989 followed by the election of Vaclav Havel. In 1993 the Czechs and Slovaks decided to separate, known as the Velvet Divorce, forming the countries of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the end of last month this headline appeared in Al Jazeera: "The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia all say they are preparing for the possibility that war will send Ukrainians flooding their way. Some estimate that as many as five million people could flee the country in the worst-case scenario."



Information about the Czech Republic - WorldInfoZone Project:
<https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=CzechRepublic>



Emails from a school in Ukraine: <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=PartnersUkraine>

HENRY IV Parts 1 and 2

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Simon Bartlett and Debbie Campbel

for the Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre

April 9th-23rd 2022 in repertoire

“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.”

Shakespeare’s captivating pair of plays portray the entire panorama of English life in Henry’s reign and contain his most dramatic moments, iconic characters and rich, exuberant humour.

Alternating between low comedy and high drama, an ensemble of twenty-two actors playing 60 roles brings this exhilarating exploration of familial ties, national division, treachery and war to life in two epic dramas.

HENRY IV Part 1 - THE BRINK of WAR

Henry IV is a troubled king, beset by guilt, having deposed Richard II, his predecessor. Now, rebel lords, led by the charismatic Hotspur, are rallying against him, while the young Prince Hal frequents taverns across London in the company of the merry, dissolute Sir John Falstaff. As the country heads for civil war, will young Hal put his riotous behaviours behind him?



HENRY IV Part 2 - THE CHIMES at MIDNIGHT

Now King Henry’s health is declining, the rebels are turning against each other and further violence threatens the war-torn nation. In the idyllic countryside Falstaff indulges in reminiscence while longing for the fighting to be over. But will his “sweet Prince Hal” return to join him in the taverns of Eastcheap? Or will he return to face his duty as future king.

RSS Website - www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

Tickets Link - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing?eid=25845&>

Address - the Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre,
The Embankment,
TWICKENHAM,
Middlesex, TW1 3DU



Apply for your Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Richmond Council has announced that it has waived the administration fee for street party road closures this summer, to help residents celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This year the United Kingdom (UK) will mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with a four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Buckingham Palace has announced details of the Jubilee celebrations which include a pudding competition, a Service of Thanksgiving, a concert and the lighting of Platinum Jubilee beacons across the UK.

Richmond Council's decision to waive standard street closure fees for May and June will allow residents to close their streets to through-traffic and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with neighbours, friends and family. The waiving of street party fees applies to residents of residential streets only. The waiving of fees does not apply to traders seeking to close high streets.

Residents will need to plan in plenty of time, applications are now open and will close on 30 April 2022 for anyone wishing to hold a street party over the bank holiday weekend of Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Residents should allow between four- and six-weeks' notice for any street party to be approved.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"I am delighted that the Council is taking the opportunity to turn the streets outside our homes into fun and safe spaces. Jubilee street parties will help to bring communities together to celebrate the Queen's incredible 70-year reign.

"Roads can often feel like busy places so I encourage everyone who can to take the chance to replace the usual hustle and bustle of vehicles with the buzz of community spirit!

"Street parties are just the start of the exciting things that will be happening in Richmond upon Thames to celebrate the Jubilee – watch this space! We will be sharing more details in the coming months."

Find out more information about [hosting a street party](#).

[Apply to host a Jubilee street party](#).



St Mary's University

St Mary's Academic Wins Prestigious Award

Dr Jacob Johanssen, Course Lead for BA Communications and Marketing and Doctoral programme Co-Lead at St Mary's University, Twickenham has won the Lotte Köhler Prize for Psychoanalytic Developmental, Cultural and Social Psychology in the junior category.

in the junior category as a recognition of his work on digital media and psychoanalysis.”

Speaking of the award, [Jacob Johanssen](#) said, “I am delighted to be receiving the award and very honoured that my work is acknowledged in this way. I am keen to institutionalise the field of psychoanalytic media studies



The prize is awarded by the [Sigmund Freud Institute \(University of Frankfurt\)](#) and the [Kilian Köhler Centre \(Ruhr University Bochum\)](#). It “recognizes excellent scholars who have contributed to the profile and dissemination of psychoanalytic, cultural, and social psychological developmental research through their research.”

[Professor Vera King](#), Director of the Sigmund Freud Institute and member of the jury, commented: “I congratulate Jacob Johanssen for being awarded the Lotte Köhler Prize 2021

and the award is a testament to my efforts, collaborations and research.”

The Lotte Köhler Prize 2021 in the main category will be awarded to Prof. em. Dr. Sudhir Kakar (Goa University, India). The award ceremony will take place online on 10 March.

If you are interested in participating, please register by sending an e-mail to: kkc@rub.de



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Southampton B 0 Brentford B 1

Young Bees claim late win on south coast

From [Brentford FC](#)

Brentford B made it back-to-back wins with a 1-0 victory over Southampton B on Friday evening away from home.

Nathan Young-Coombes grabbed the game's only goal in the 82nd minute with a close range finish as he notched his 27th of the season.



With a quick turnaround following Tuesday's win at Dartford in the London Senior Cup, Neil MacFarlane shuffled his starting XI with Young-Coombes beginning the match on the bench which allowed Hans Mpongo to make his first start for the B Team since his arrival from Needham Market. Paris Maghoma and Jaakko Oksanen also came into the side, as did Lewis Gordon as left wing back, and Alex Gilbert who was a constant threat going forwards.

The Bees started the match brightly as they saw lots of possession with the likes of Gilbert and Myles Peart-Harris getting on the ball and turning well after receiving the ball from the back three who quickly looked to progress the play. On four minutes Gilbert played a lovely switched pass out to Gordon who played a cross into the box which was headed away into the path of Maghoma, who shot over from the edge of the box.

A couple of minutes later Maghoma was creating from deep, and he chipped a ball into the box which Mpongo tried to get onto the end of but for the Saints keeper who blocked well.

It took until the 17th minute for Southampton to threaten the Brentford goal, and it came with an effort from distance for Benni Smales-Braithwaite but his effort sailed over. On 25 minutes The Bees were caught in possession in their own half when Ethan Burnett won the ball before testing Ben Winterbottom and forcing him into a smart save. Oksanen then blocked a follow-up attempt well.

Brentford's best chance of the first period then arrived five minutes before the break when Mpongo received the ball to his feet in the area. It looked as though his opportunity to shoot had passed him by as the Southampton bodies crowded around him, but credit to the forward who worked some space, before his powerful effort was saved well by Ollie Wright. A Tristan Crama header at the far post was the last action of the half as the sides went in level.

10 minutes after the restart, Peart-Harris had the chance to try his luck when great feet from Maghoma saw him beat his man before teeing up his teammate who shot over from distance.

As the half wore on, Neil MacFarlane's side took more and more control of the game and continued to look the more likely. Daniel Oyegoke had a good chance when he drove inside but his left-footed effort went over, and that preceded the introduction of Young-Coombes who had 25 minutes to make an impact.

He almost did just that just a few moments after coming on when he got on the end of a cross to knock the ball home, but for the linesman's flag, as the youngster was denied having been offside. The forward had another opportunity on 79 minutes when he headed straight at Wright following a good cross from Roy Syla.

The all-important goal then came with eight minutes to play when good work down the left saw Dom Jefferies get in on goal. The midfielder floated an effort from a tight angle against the crossbar, but it fell kindly for Young-Coombes to shoot, and despite the keeper's best efforts, the ball found its way over the line to give Brentford B another victory on the road.

The side will now prepare for a Middlesex Senior Cup Semi-Final with Hampton & Richmond on Tuesday next week.

Southampton B: Wright, Otseh-Taiwo, Ross-Lang, Olufunwa, Tizzard, Tshaka, Woods, Burnett, Smith, Smales-Braithwaite, Olaugbe

Subs: Pearce, Trialist, Lawrence, Chauke, Trialist

Brentford B: Winterbottom (Cox, 45) Oyegoke (Trialist, 82) Gordon, Hockenhull, Jones (Sotona, 76), Gilbert (Jefferies, 76) Mpongo (Young-Coombes, 65) Oksanen (Syla, 58), Maghoma (Adedokun, 76) Crama, Peart-Harris (Trevitt, 58)

Subs not used: Hercules



England squad update

Eddie Jones has named a 25-player squad for a three-day training camp in Bristol.

The squad has met up today and will train at Clifton College as they begin preparations for next weekend's Guinness Six Nations game against Ireland.

London Irish's Will Goodrick-Clarke and Gloucester's Lewis Ludlow have been called-up.

Jonny Hill will continue his rehab in camp and Tom Curry will also be with the squad working through his graduated return to play protocols.

England v Ireland, at Twickenham Stadium, is live on ITV 1 on BBC Radio 5 Live on **Saturday 12 March (4.45pm KO)**.

FORWARDS

Alfie Barbeary (Wasps, uncapped)
Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, 5 caps)
Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 7 caps)
Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 29 caps)
Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 34 caps)
Jamie George (Saracens, 64 caps)
Will Goodrick-Clarke (London Irish, uncapped)
Maro Itoje (Saracens, 54 caps)
Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 6 caps)
Joe Launchbury (Wasps, 69 caps)
Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 91 caps)
Lewis Ludlow (Gloucester Rugby, 2 caps)
Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 12 caps)
Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 50 caps)
Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 18 caps)

BACKS

George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 5 caps)
Ollie Hassell-Collins (London Irish, uncapped)
Max Malins (Saracens, 13 caps)
Joe Marchant (Harlequins, 10 caps)
Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 37 caps)
Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 4 caps)
Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 46 caps)
Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 8 caps)
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 8 caps)
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 115 caps)



RFU Championship Clubs Minimum Standards Criteria Findings

- Doncaster Knights and Ealing Trailfinders have not met the Minimum Standards Criteria for promotion
- RFU and PRL will work with clubs to support the development of their plans to meet the necessary criteria for future promotion

The Covid recovery measures agreed by the RFU Council in June last year allowed for the Gallagher Premiership to be expanded to 14 clubs at the end of the 2021/22 season enabling the winner of the Championship to be promoted subject to meeting the required Minimum Standards Criteria.

Minimum Standards Criteria are in place to ensure Premiership Rugby clubs and promoted clubs have suitable facilities to protect player safety and welfare and to provide a good quality, safe environment for spectators. Each club and its nominated ground undergo an annual independent audit to assess compliance with the Minimum Standards Criteria.

All Championship clubs know the Minimum Standards Criteria required for eligibility for promotion into the Gallagher Premiership Rugby league. Standards have been in place for over 20 years and were refined last year to make the application of them simpler. The standards are agreed by the Professional Game Board (PGB) which has Championship Clubs representation on it.

This year two Championship clubs – Doncaster Knights and Ealing Trailfinders - nominated their home grounds to be eligible for promotion and to be independently audited under the Minimum Standards Criteria.

One of the minimum standards criteria is that the stadium must hold a minimum of 10,001 fans; this is to ensure the ground falls under the remit of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA), regulated by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and the Green Guide, as well as to be of a standard suitable for the top league of one of the nation's major sports. This has been in place for many years but was considered again when the standards were reviewed last season.

Ealing Trailfinders does not currently have a licensed capacity, but the ground holds approximately 5,000 with 2,115 seats.

Doncaster Knights currently has a capacity of around 5,183 with 1,926 seats.

As a result, the independent audit has found that neither club has successfully met the Minimum Standards Criteria based on capacity (as well as other factors). The PGB therefore made a recommendation to RFU Board that neither club could be promoted to the Premiership for the 22/23 season. The RFU Board has ratified this decision.

Both clubs have suggested they could seek to expand their facilities however no formal planning permissions are in place for this to happen. Neither Doncaster Knights nor Ealing Trailfinders proposed ground-share arrangements in their applications.

Bill Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer of the RFU said;

“The RFU and PRL would welcome a Championship club being promoted to create a 14-team Gallagher Premiership league.

In the past, clubs with home grounds which would not meet the Minimum Standards Criteria have nominated other grounds, under a ground-share agreement to provide a bridge between a club developing its own facilities to provide safe, compliant participation in the Premiership.

The RFU and PRL would like to support and encourage all Championship clubs to continue to develop their proposals for the expansion and development of their grounds including the submission of formal planning applications.”

Both clubs are entitled to appeal the decision through an independent arbitration process.

This decision leaves 11 teams in the league and therefore only the winner of National One will be promoted to the Championship for the 22/23 season.



Running a hospital while your country is under attack – a story from western Ukraine

For patients at Novovolynsk Hospital in western Ukraine, the sound of air raid sirens has suddenly become a common reality amid the military offensive in the country. Patients must move from a modern facility above ground to a 1950s-era underground bomb shelter with a rudimentary set-up that can fit up to 300 people.

“In one day, the air raid sirens went off at 5 separate times. Our patients are mostly the elderly and some are on crutches and facing acute health needs. They cannot keep travelling down to the bunker,” says Mr Oleh Shypelyk, Head of the Hospital.

The Hospital is equipped with 3 operating rooms. An emergency department provides regular medical care and 6 teams tend to the wounded. Each hospital building is equipped with a generator to ensure a continuous supply of electricity.

Health workers are preparing for a range of scenarios should the Hospital become a target in the military offensive. “The main needs are additional generators to ensure electricity supply to the ward with COVID-19 patients – they should stay separate from others – and to the maternity hospital, as women have to give birth regardless of whether there is a war or COVID-19,” explains Mr Shypelyk.



Elderly patients shelter in the basement of Novovolynsk Hospital, western Ukraine
Photo © WHO

“We also need to provide at least 2 generators to the shelter, because in case of bombing, we will not be able to transfer all equipment to the shelter. We also need additional surgical equipment. If hospitals are to be shelled, we must be prepared for that.”

“Health workers must be protected in order to continue to save lives,” says Dr Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative to Ukraine. “Similarly, health facilities must be protected and remain functional, safe and accessible to all who need essential medical services.”

The oxygen supply situation, meanwhile, is also at a very dangerous point in Ukraine. Trucks are unable to transport oxygen shipments from plants to hospitals across the country, including in the capital Kyiv.

Despite the challenges posed by the current situation, WHO is actively looking at solutions to increase supplies. This will likely include the importation of oxygen (liquid and cylinders) from regional networks. These supplies will need safe transit, including via a logistics corridor through Poland. WHO is also working to ensure a supply of oxygen-related medical devices and trauma treatment supplies.

The WHO Director-General has announced the release of a further US\$ 3.5 million from WHO’s Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) to purchase and deliver urgent medical supplies. WHO’s humanitarian health support is expected to increase following further needs assessments. This assistance complements the trauma care and medical supplies which WHO helped to pre-position in health facilities.

“We will continue to deliver care and support people across Ukraine affected by this military offensive,” concludes Dr Habicht. “Health for all, in all circumstances, lies at the heart of our mission and mandate.”



Planting trees in England

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has worked fast and in difficult circumstances to launch new tree-planting schemes, but did not give enough consideration to whether its planting target is realistic, and looks set to fall short of what it set out to achieve in 2021-22. It will need to overcome significant challenges if it is to increase tree-planting to the levels required for government's Net Zero strategy.

Nature-based solutions, including woodland creation and management, form part of the government's Net Zero strategy.

Defra aims to achieve at least 7,500 hectares of annual tree-planting by March 2025 to be on the trajectory required by the Net Zero strategy. To achieve this target, Defra has established the Nature for Climate Fund Tree Programme (the Programme).

When setting the 7,500 hectare per year target, Defra did not sufficiently consider whether it is realistic. Defra told the NAO that it determined it was realistic based on available evidence, including historic planting rates and the availability of land, but it did not undertake a detailed assessment of this evidence. At no point in the last 50 years has the annual rate of tree-planting in England reached 7,500 hectares and it has only risen above 6,000 hectares in three of the last 50 years. As well as achieving its headline targets, Defra also has a wide range of environmental, social and economic objectives, which add to the complexity of increasing tree-planting rates quickly.

Defra and the Forestry Commission have worked fast and in difficult circumstances to launch the Programme's schemes in time for the 2021-22 planting season, despite staff shortages and challenging working conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But it has launched the Programme with some of its key components still in development.

This includes establishing a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating the Programme, limiting the lessons Defra can draw from the Programme's early stages. Defra did not consider the potential benefits of taking more time to develop its schemes before launch.

Defra forecasts that fewer trees will be planted through the Programme in 2021-22 than the amount needed to be on a trajectory towards its 2025 target. In January 2022, Defra estimated that between 1,400 and 1,900 hectares of new trees would be planted in 2021-22 as part of the Programme. To be on a trajectory towards 7,500 hectares per year in 2024-25, its ambition was to plant 2,577 hectares in 2021-22.

Some of the challenges that Defra and its partners will need to manage if they are to achieve the Programme's tree-planting target include:

- Private landowners being discouraged from planting trees due to uncertainty about future government funding.
- The need to secure stronger support from other government departments so that they plant more trees on the land they manage.

- Risks to the availability of seeds and saplings due to tree nurseries either closing or reducing production levels.
- A shortfall in the staff needed to deliver the Programme, including sufficient experts such as qualified foresters.

Defra expects tree-planting rates to continue to grow after 2025, but there are few details about the government's longer-term approach to tree-planting.

This means Defra lacks a clear picture of what the Programme needs to achieve in areas such as increasing the supply of seeds and saplings and increasing the capacity of the forestry sector, that will be key to long-term expansion of tree-planting.

After 2024-25, government will mainly fund tree-planting through the Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM). However, uncertainty over the design of ELM means Defra has been unable to develop detailed plans for this transition.

Once within ELM, tree-planting will be competing for funding with a wide range of other government environmental priorities, and farmers will be able to choose between tree-planting and other environmental activities that may be more attractive to them or better suited to their business.

The NAO recommends that Defra and the Forestry Commission should urgently establish what is required for the transition of tree-planting into ELM.

They should also ensure that the monitoring and evaluation framework they are developing for the Programme will be able to robustly measure progress against all its targets.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“Defra has done well to launch new schemes to support landowners to plant trees. Yet despite its efforts, it is not expecting to achieve the amount of new tree-planting in 2021-22 that it set out to, and should have done more to make sure its targets were realistic.

“There are significant challenges Defra will need to address if it is to achieve its ambitious targets and support government's wider Net Zero agenda. These include sustaining the interest of landowners, ensuring there are sufficient skills on the ground and securing the active support of other parts of government.”

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



National Audit Office

Child maintenance

Reforms to government's child maintenance services have delivered improvements and reduced costs, but the number of families in the UK with successful child maintenance arrangements has not increased, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

In 2012, the government reformed child maintenance to encourage separated families to create private family-based arrangements, and to decrease the use of the government's statutory services. Following these reforms, the Department for Work & Pensions (the Department) retains responsibility for child maintenance policy, which it sees as confined primarily to the operation of the Child Maintenance Service (CMS). CMS offers Direct Pay - where a fee is charged for the calculation of child maintenance payments, but parents arrange the transfer of funds between themselves - and Collect & Pay, where the Department charges more to calculate the payments, collect the money and transfer the money to the receiving parents.

Since 2012, the number of parents reaching a family-based child maintenance arrangement has increased as intended:

- The Department assumed that take-up of family-based arrangements would rise from 29% in 2011-12 to 35% by 2019. It estimates that by 2019-20 it had risen more than expected to 38%.
- The Department expected a fall in the take up statutory arrangements from 46% in 2011-12 to 33% by 2019. The actual proportion reduced by much more - just 18% of separated families used the CMS in 2019-20.

There has been no clear change in the overall number of effective child maintenance arrangements, and there has been an increase in the number of parents with no child maintenance arrangement in place at all:

- Half of separated families have a child maintenance arrangement where at least some maintenance is received. This is broadly unchanged since 2011-12.
- Around a third of separated families have an arrangement that is satisfied in full.
- The estimated proportion of separated families without any child maintenance arrangement increased from 25% in 2011-12 to 44% in 2019-20.

The 2012 child maintenance reforms depended on a wider cross-government set of policy agendas on separated families, set out in a 2011 Green Paper. The Department told the NAO that this broader set of cross-government actions are yet to emerge as envisioned.

The Department has reduced the cost to the taxpayer of administering child maintenance in line with its smaller caseload, and because it now charges families to use the CMS. It cost the taxpayer £322 million to run CMS in 2020-21. The gross cost to the taxpayer has reduced by £242 million (40%) in real terms since 2011-12 and its net costs by a further £40 million from now charging parents to use Collect & Pay.

The Department has reduced errors in assessing child maintenance due, from 2.17% of the monetary value of assessed payments in 2015-16, to a record low of 0.65% in 2020-21. It achieved this by automating processes and through a targeted quality-checking regime. CMS is designed in such a way that it limits customer fraud and error, with 91% of cases relying on the paying parents' tax and benefit records, but the Department has not estimated how many

parents misstate their income or circumstances.

Direct Pay is meant as a light touch approach compared to Collect & Pay, but many Direct Pay arrangements are not effective or do not last in the long-term. Only 58% of respondents to a Department survey were still on Direct Pay after 13 months; 16% were on or were moving to Collect & Pay, and 19% had left the CMS with no form of maintenance arrangement in place at all. 16% of those still on Direct Pay after 13 months said that they do not receive the full amount and 20% said their payment is not usually on time.

The Department has improved Collect & Pay compliance, but at least half of paying parents on Collect & Pay still do not pay, pay less than they should, or pay late. The proportion of parents paying more than 90% of maintenance due through Collect & Pay increased from under one-third (31%) in March 2016, to slightly under half (49%) in September 2021. However, between July and September 2021, 39% of children under Collect & Pay arrangements did not receive any payments.

The Department has improved enforcement activity through activities such as Deductions from Earnings orders, but it can still take years before child maintenance arrears are paid if the paying parent does not comply. Meanwhile maintenance arrears can build up, so on average parents owed £2,200 before civil enforcement action was taken and £2,600 afterwards.

Affordability considerations limit the Department's ability to collect payments from parents on low incomes and on benefits. Low-income paying parents are more likely to build up arrears than the higher paid: 46% of paying parents using the CMS do not earn enough to pay income tax (£12,570 in 2021-22), but these parents represented 62% of those with arrears as at March 2021. Child maintenance calculation rules also do not align with the Department's broader aims on employment and in-work progression and can mean some paying parents being no better off if they got a job.

The Department has reduced the legacy of debt relating to old Child Support Agency arrangements by £2.6 billion since December 2018, largely by writing it off. Unless the Department writes off more debt on the new scheme, outstanding Collect & Pay arrears are forecast to reach £1 billion by March 2031 at current rates.

The NAO recommends that the Department should: increase its understanding of why fewer than expected people are using the Child Maintenance Service; assess the affordability and interaction of child maintenance with the welfare system; improve the effectiveness of Direct Pay and Collect & Pay arrangements as it digitalises its systems, and review its write-off strategy for unpaid maintenance payments. Achieving these improvements may require the Department to go back to Parliament to update legislation.

Gareth Davies, head of the NAO said:

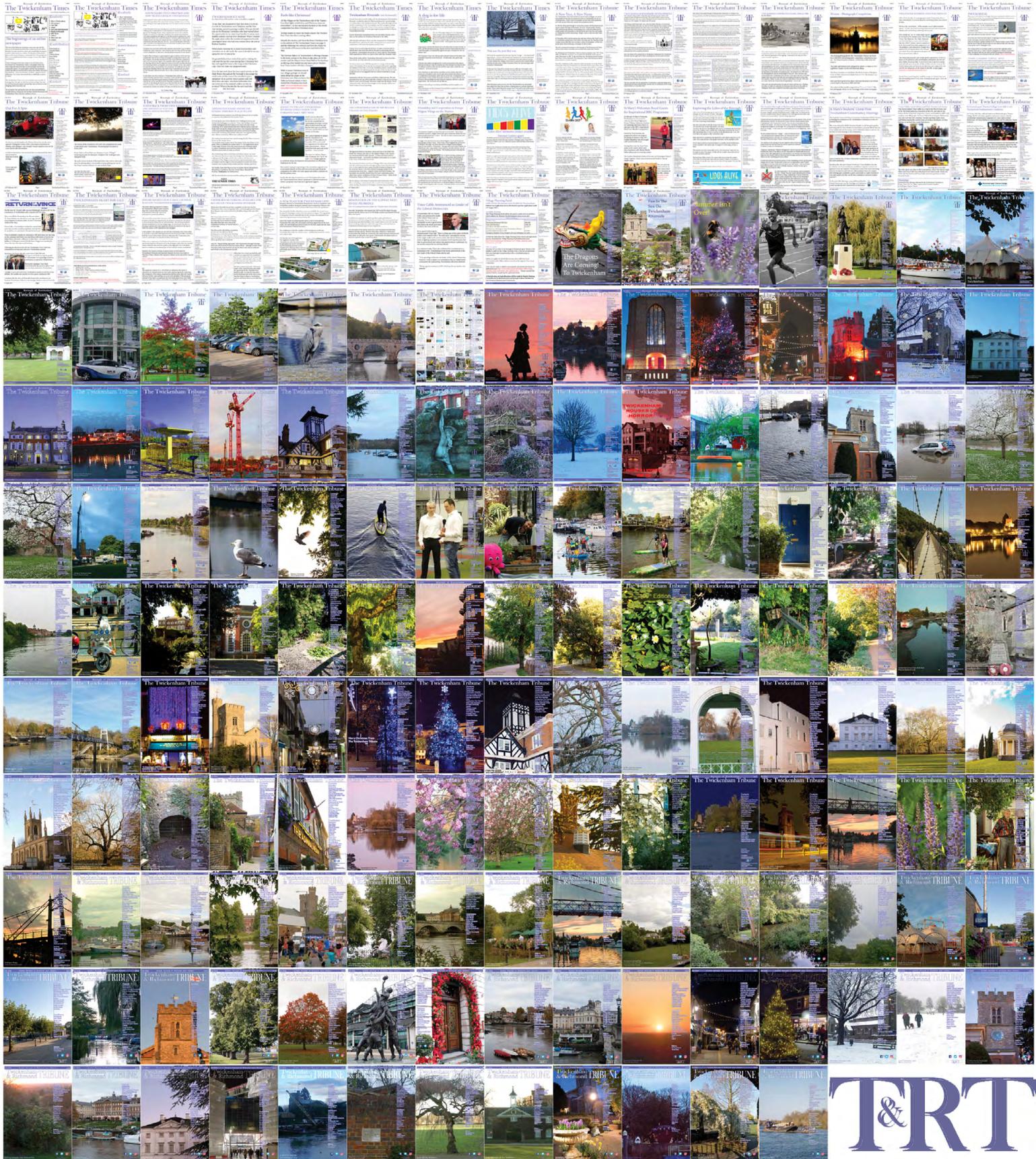
“Government has succeeded in its goal of reducing both its involvement in child maintenance and the cost to the taxpayer, but its reforms have not increased the number of effective maintenance arrangements across society. Many separated parents are still left without the maintenance payments they are due. “Welfare and child maintenance rules need to align much better to support government’s wider objectives of addressing poverty and helping people into work.”

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



National Audit Office

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