

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



20th May 2022

T&RT

Marble Hill House reopening launch

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

HSBC London 7s 2022 [Finals Day] – Residents' Discount

The RFU is offering local residents a 50% discount on tickets for the HSBC London 7s final on Sunday 29th May at Twickenham Stadium. Use the code **RESIDENTS7S** when booking tickets [HERE](#)

Twickenham Stadium Rugby - Saturday 21st May

Big Summer Kick-Off! The Gallagher Premiership tie between Harlequins and Gloucester Rugby on Saturday 21 May will see both sides battling for their place in the play-offs in the London Club's final home round of the season.

HARLEQUINS v GLOUCESTER

Saturday 21st May 2022

KO 15:00

Exp. attendance 50,000

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads are expected to close from 13:00-15:00 and 16:30-19:00, although will reopen earlier if possible.

Full CPZ in operation 10:00-22:00.

Barnes Platinum Jubilee Street Party Cancelled

A street party planned on Barnes High Street, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, has been cancelled following concerns raised by residents over the closure of the High Street and a proposed bus diversion down Nassau Road.

Launch of the Elizabeth line

The Elizabeth line will open on Tuesday 24 May. The line will operate in London as three separate railways, in the east, west and through central London. When the final stage is complete, customers will be able to travel seamlessly from Abbey Wood to Heathrow and Reading, and from Shenfield to Heathrow.

London Overground - Sunday 22 May

No service between Richmond and Willesden Junction. Use alternative Tube or rail replacement bus services.

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Report

18 May 2022

Globally, after the continued decline observed since the end of March 2022, new weekly COVID-19 cases have stabilized during the reporting period (9 May to 15 May 2022), with over 3.6 million cases reported, a 1% increase as compared to the previous week. The number of new weekly deaths continues to decline, with over 9000 new deaths reported during the same period, representing a 21% decrease as compared to the previous week.

As of 15 May 2022, over 518 million confirmed cases and over six million deaths have been reported globally

Total cases Locally recorded 19 May 22

Richmond upon Thames	66,760 (66,486 10th May)
Kingston upon Thames	60,079 (59,862 10th May)
Hounslow	94,933 (94,638 10th May)
Wandsworth	117,143 (116,711 10th May)

COVID IN THE NEWS

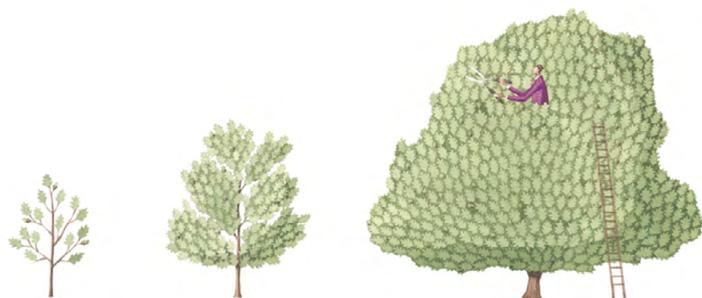
Reuters, 20 May 2022: Locked-down Shanghai finds new cases breaking *zero-COVID” streak

World Health Organization, 19 May 2022: Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an emergency use listing (EUL) for CONVIDECIA™, a vaccine manufactured by CanSino Biologics, China, adding to a growing portfolio of vaccines validated by WHO for the prevention of COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2.

New Scientist, 18 May 2022: Covid-19 vaccines may ward off long covid even if given post-infection

Washington D.C. PAHO, 18 May 2022: As COVID cases continue to rise in the Americas, Pan American Health Organization Director urges countries to “take stock of the numbers and act”

- As cases of COVID-19 rise sharply throughout the region – by 27.2% over the past week – the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director, Carissa F. Etienne, has called on countries to take action to increase surveillance, public health measures and vaccination, and to make sure that health systems are prepared to cope with a potential influx of COVID-19 patients.



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



The Tree Agency

How things have changed

By Simon Fowler

Somers T Gascoyne was a local builder and councillor. As an old man, in the 1890s, he wrote a memoir of growing up in Richmond.

It was on February 7th, 1825 at 2 Hill Street opposite the original Maids of Honour Shop that I first saw light. The land at the back of my father's house was then a kind of orchard garden. There were no houses, except Mount Ararat House between Spring Terrace and Paradise Road and the Queen's Road. Mount Ararat Road being a mere rough, narrow, occupation road to the fields, and running as far as the site of the present St Matthias' Church, past the Rose Cottage (now the Marlborough Hotel) with its gardens to the back and open fields and extensive views in front of it.

The Queen's Road, then known as Muddy Lane, had only four houses in it. This road was always in a deplorable condition, till Mr Joseph Ellis, the then enterprising proprietor of the Old Star and Garter hotel, put it into condition, as a principal entrance from London, thereby increasing the carriage trade to the hotel which soon became a favourite resort for the elite of society.

Grove Road, the hedges always neatly kept by men from the neighbouring workhouse, was a very favourite summer walk through Salter's Fields, where Onslow and Marlborough roads now are.

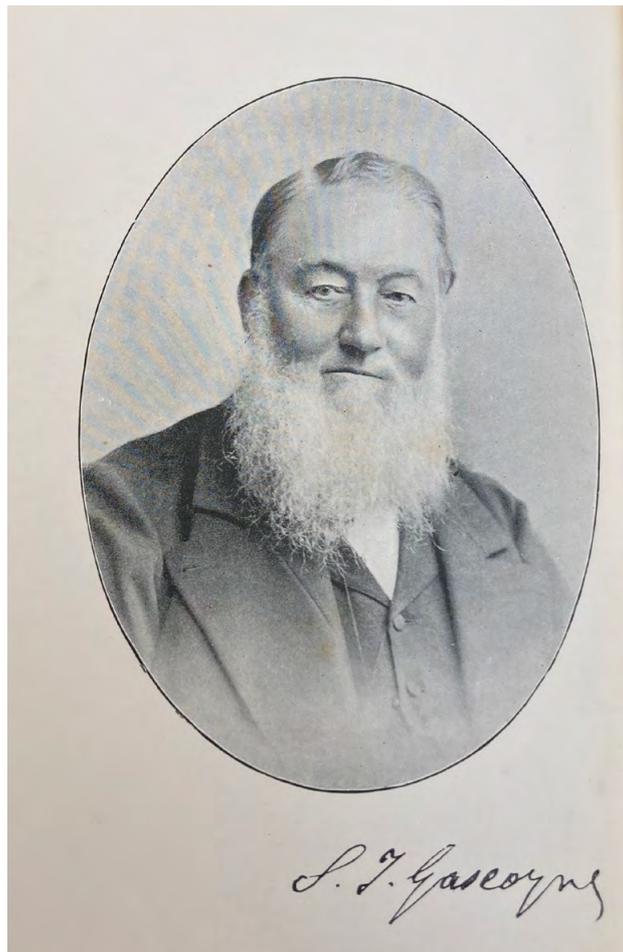
The Green was enclosed by a heavy unsightly old five-rail fence, about five foot high, and the promenade walk, then called the high walk, was parted off from the Green, and at times was much used to watch the sports, and the cricket matches, which were generally very good and largely attended, five or six large booths being erected on such occasions. Richmond always well patronised its sports.

It was said that that William IV, in recognition of the loyal welcome he always received when changing horses at the Castle or Talbot hotels, induced the authorities to remove the unsightly fence around the Green and erect the present one in 1836 at a cost of £872 – apparently a very reasonable amount.

For years the thoroughfares were only partially lighted with oil lamps here and there. The watchman patrolled the streets calling the hours of the night.

Football was played through the town on Shrove Tuesdays, the opposing parties coming from Water Lane and Night and Morning Row (now Mitchell's Row) – very notorious quarters at the time. Woe to those who were able but who did not subscribe liberally! They might barricade every window, but even other parts of their premises would be defaced and damaged by any filth that could be obtained. There being no police force to protect citizens, it was quite a time of mob law.

Taken from *Recollections of Richmond* (F W Dimbleby, 1898)



Church Street Celebrates



Sun 5 June 12 until 6pm



CRAFT STALLS  FACE PAINTING  AL FRESCO DINING

PUNCH & JUDY  STREETFOOD  GIANT CHESS

LIVE MUSIC  BALLOON MODELLING 

From Marble Hill to Strawberry Hill

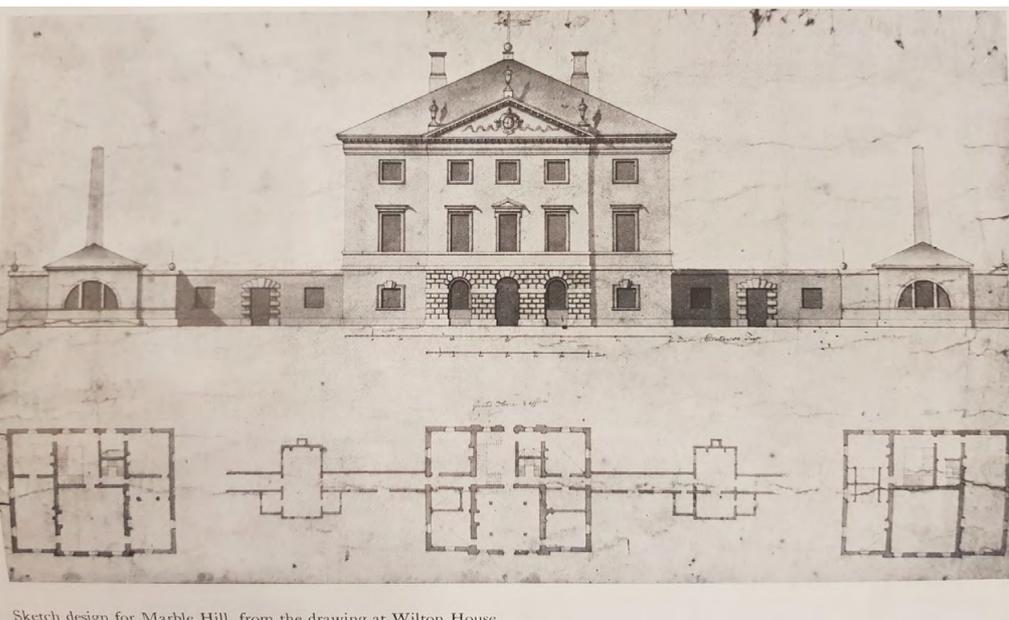
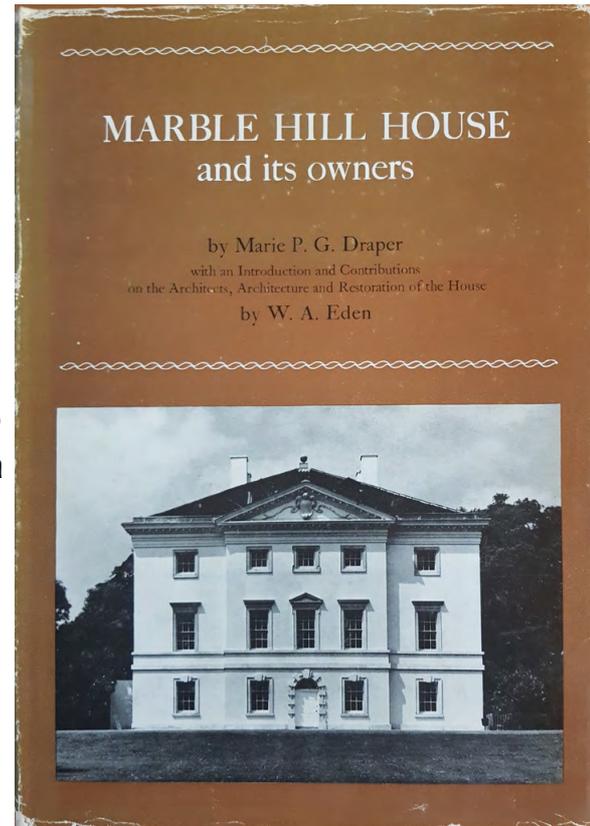
Teresa Read

As the newly refurbished Marble Hill House is finally open to the public this weekend, I reopened the pages of *Marble Hill House and its Owners* which has been in my bookcase for some years.

The hardback book, by Marie P.G. Draper and W.A Eden was published by the Greater London Council in 1970 and sold for £1.60 (32s.).

The authors tell the story of the Palladian villa built on the bank of the Thames at Twickenham in 1724-9 for Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk; Palladian architecture is explored as well as why the house was built and Henrietta's association with George II as Prince of Wales and as King. It also records Alexander Pope's and Horace Walpole's influence on the gardens.

The book is extremely well referenced and indexed with lots of illustrations. Acknowledgements include Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Argyll, the curator of the Drawings Collection, the Royal Institute of British Architecture, the Duke of Northumberland, the National Library of Scotland, the Henry Huntington Library (San Marino, California), Earl Spencer and the Archives Department of the Westminster City Libraries.



Sketch design for Marble Hill, from the drawing at Wilton House

My interest in Marble Hill was as a local resident for a number of years before moving further along the river to Strawberry Hill with Radnor Gardens (near Pope's Villa) as my local park. I later discovered that my garden, on land which was originally part of Willow Grange, may have been visited by Alexander Pope, hence my personal connection from Marble Hill to Strawberry Hill.

Pope and Marble Hill

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StrawberryHillPope&page=2>

Reference *Marble Hill House and its Owners*

COVID-19 vaccine pop-up returns to Twickenham after previous success!

It is never too late to get your COVID-19 vaccine and residents in and around Twickenham can get theirs on Monday 23 May 2022 at a local pop-up vaccine clinic.

Whilst over 120,000 people in Richmond upon Thames have now had their booster vaccines, there are still people who have yet to have one or all of their COVID-19 jabs.

As such, the NHS and Richmond Council are hosting a series of walk-in, pop-up vaccine clinics across the borough to make it easier for people to get vaccinated in their local community.

On Monday, the pop-up vaccine clinic will visit York House in Twickenham from midday to 6pm.



The address is:

The Salon, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA.

Previously vaccine pop-ups in Twickenham have been very popular and have seen 317 people aged 12 and over receive either their first, second, or booster vaccine.

No appointments are required, and people can just walk in. If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, you need to wait before getting any dose of the vaccine and the number of weeks depends on how old you are.

Find out more about who is eligible via the [NHS website](#).

If anyone is hesitant about the vaccine or has any questions, the pop-up clinics are an opportunity to speak to experts from the NHS in a private and confidential environment.

York House is a short walk from Twickenham train station and bus stops with links to all parts of the borough.

Things we really don't want to say, but: Don't wee in bins

Lack of public toilets is putting public health at risk

In a public service announcement, we never thought we'd have to make, the public is urged not to use litter bins as toilets.

But it's something a waste collection and recycling company is tackling head-on because of the public health risks involved – especially to put-upon refuse collectors.

Divert.co.uk puts the majority of the blame on drunken late-night revellers, but also partially on the lack of public toilets in town and city centres all over the country.

“Public urination is a scourge that ruins many a Friday and Saturday night out, but also the Saturday and Sunday mornings of the people who have to clear it up,” says Divert.co.uk spokesperson Mark Hall.

“We estimate that 1 in 4 bins has pee on or in it come Sunday morning”

“This needs a two-way fix – more public loos for nights out, and a change in people's behaviour.”

The Pee Problem

On any given weekend night, town centres are filled with well-lubricated revellers, looking for any one of three or more things: something to eat, a taxi or bus home, and a toilet.

We've no opinion on the taxi or the food (except, of course, to recycle your food waste correctly), but it's the toilets that crank our gears.

Stuck for somewhere to empty their bladders, the average drunk will instead use anything or anywhere they deem appropriate.

This, unfortunately, means, shop doorways, alleyways, or – increasingly – bins.

And somebody's got to clean it all up in the morning.

Doorways and alleyways can be hosed down of urine, vomit and faeces, but have you ever had to deal with a bin that is swishing about with human urine? You can trust us – it's not pleasant.

It's a hazard to public health, and most of all it is a genuine hazard for refuse collection whose job is unpleasant enough as it is. And that's before we mention the unbagged nappies and dog mess...

The Pee Solution

That's why Divert wants easy, cost effective solutions, such as those used in European cities known to be party locations.

With far fewer public toilets available due to budget squeezes, and the impracticality of keeping them open late at night where they might be misused by undesirable elements,

Amsterdam, for example (and we can now list a recent visit as a work fact-finding mission) drops portable urinals at key locations in the city centre on weekend evenings, and collects them again first thing the next morning. It's cheap, effective, and there's a far lower chance of earning yourself a charge of outraging public decency and a trip to see the local magistrate.

Portable urinals in town centres are a rare sight in the UK – they were tried in some locations but were largely withdrawn for various reasons. You're more likely to see TARDIS-like portaloos instead, which are unsightly and very unpopular with people who take pride in how their town centre looks.

And with the invention of an effective pop-up female urinal this year*, it's possible there may be “peequality” in town centres after closing time.

But before that all happens, we need a big change in people's behaviour on nights out. And that's the tricky task of stopping public urination at source.

Divert.co.uk's Mark Hall has this appeal for late night revellers: “Please don't pee in rubbish bins, in the street, or shop doorways. You're grown-ups, at least try to behave like one.

“As my mum used to say before a long car journey: Tie a knot in it if you have to.”

Council provides update on ongoing disruption to Sport and Leisure services

Richmond Council has provided an update to residents on some of the current issues being faced by the Council's Sport and Leisure team that has resulted in some facilities being closed.

The Council operates seven centres across the borough serving just under 2,000 members. The Council's Sport and Leisure team has experienced significant difficulty in recruitment to key posts, including those of lifeguards, following the re-opening of facilities post-COVID-19. This unfortunately means that the Council is unable to offer the full range of services it would want to for residents while these staffing difficulties are being resolved.

The safety of pool users is of paramount importance and the Council's Sport and Leisure team is working to deliver a timetable across the pools to ensure minimal disruption to regular users.

We are especially aware that this is impacting upon users of Pools on the Park in Richmond. There are understandably a number of demands

for pool time and there is therefore a need to prioritise pools sessions. One such example is junior and school swim lessons to meet curriculum requirements, where these lessons take place in the indoor pool and has resulted in the closure of the outdoor pool at certain times due to unavailability of lifeguards.

Staffing issues of this nature are also being experienced across the wider leisure sector. There is a national shortage of qualified lifeguards as a result of restrictions on new lifeguards being trained during the pandemic, in addition to existing lifeguards leaving the profession. The Council has been working hard to recruit new lifeguards, providing additional training for existing staff as well as offering free National Pool Lifeguard Qualifications (NPLQ) to residents and swim clubs on the condition of future work with the Council.

We very much appreciate the understanding and patience of our residents and pool users while we respond to these particular staffing shortages. We encourage anyone interested in a full or part time role in Sports and Leisure team to [check out our current vacancies](#).



MARBLE HILL

OPENING WEEKEND

SATURDAY 21 MAY

**Mayor of Richmond
opens Marble Hill**
10am, House

**Immersive Theatre
with Richmond
Shakespeare Society**
10am – 4pm, every hour,
Woodland Quarters

Free Yoga Session
10am – 11am, Oval Lawn

Café Community Games
All day from 10am, Café

**Ninepin Bowling with
U3A Petanque Team**
All day from 10am,
Ninepin Alley

Meet Henrietta Howard
All day from 10am,
Across the café, house
and landscape

Landscape Tours
10am, 12pm, 2pm and
3pm, Meet at the café

Horse Carriage Rides
All day from 10am,
Meet at the car park

Plant a Salad
All day from 10am,
Kitchen Garden

**Accessible Sports:
Walking rugby**
10am – 12.30pm,
Tennis Court

Richmond Brass Band
10.20am – 11.30am,
Sound Stage

**Teddy Bears Picnic with
Ham Children's Centre**
11am, Picnic Area

Strawberry Hill Choir
11.30am – 12pm,
Sound Stage

**VIVA Combination
Dance**
12pm – 1pm,
Sound Stage

Tug of War
12pm, Café

**Richmond
Community Choir**
1.30pm – 2.15pm,
Sound Stage

Jazz Perrin Collective
2.30 – 4pm, Sound Stage



Step into England's story

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140351, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.

Watersport Camps & More at The Lensbury This Half term

Details of the half term activity programme at The Lensbury – Teddington's Thameside resort and hotel with 25 acres of leafy grounds and extensive leisure facilities.

There are a range of clubs and courses on offer over the half-term break (30th May – 5th June) for all ages, including kayaking, sailing, tennis, arts & crafts and gardening to name a few. See below for more information.



The activities are open to hotel guests and local visitors, so whether it's a day visit or a week-long stay, there is something for everyone. All camps and courses are led by qualified and experienced instructors and childcare professionals, meaning parents can relax and enjoy the resort knowing their children are in safe hands.

- **Mini Gardeners** – 30th May
 - ◇ Perfect for budding gardeners aged 4 - 10, this course will inspire little ones to enjoy nature, learning more about what's growing at The Lensbury grounds and how to plant their own at home
- **Tennis Camps** – 30th May – 1st June
 - ◇ Introductory tennis sessions are offered for the 2.5 – 4 and 5 – 6-year-olds, a relaxed and fun environment to work on agility, co-ordination, and ball-skills
 - ◇ A half-day camp is available daily for those aged 7 and up, with options to join for just a day or for the whole course
 - ◇ Similarly, a full day camp is offered for the 9+'s and is more suited for tennis enthusiasts looking to improve their skills, also available as a full week course
- **Kayaking** – 30th May – 2nd June
 - ◇ Kids aged 8+ can take to the Thames this half term and learn how to kayak under the guidance of an expert instructor. Whether a beginner or improver, expect a session packed with skill-learning and lots of fun games
- **Watersports fun day** – 30th May – 2nd June
 - ◇ This day is geared around getting out on the water and having lots of half term fun! Get to grips with sailing, kayaking, canoeing, raft building and even motor boating. Available for those aged 8+
- **Sailing** - 30th May – 2nd June
 - ◇ With a range of courses (RYA sailing stage 1,2 and 3) designed to suit sailors of all abilities aged 8+, The Lensbury's sailing courses are a great option for a day of outdoor fun
- **Art activities** – 1st June
 - ◇ For younger ones, aged 3 - 8, the arts and crafts classes are a fantastic way to get creative and messy. These fun-packed sessions are focused on a range of crafts, games, and activities to keep their hands busy
- **Munchkin movie morning** - 4th June
 - ◇ For some quiet time, Munchkins Movie Morning offers the chance to escape with favourite children's characters and some delicious snacks



THE LENSURY

MARBLE HILL

OPENING WEEKEND

SUNDAY 22 MAY

House opens

10am

Meet the Volunteers in the Woodland

Quarters

All day from 10am,
Woodland Quarters

Free Yoga Session

10am – 11am,
Oval Lawn

Café Community Games

All day from 10am, Café

Ninepin Bowling with U3A Petanque Team

All day from 10am,
Ninepin Alley

Henrietta Howard at Home

All day from 10am,
Across the café, house
and landscape

Landscape Tours

10am, 12pm, 2pm and
3pm, Meet at the café

Horse Carriage Rides

All day from 10am,
Meet at the car park

Plant a Salad

All day from 10am,
Kitchen Garden

Free Boot Camp Session with Jack Green

12pm – 1pm,
Oval Lawn

Tug of War

12pm, Café



Step into England's story

The English Heritage Trust is a charity, no. 1140351, and a company, no. 07447221, registered in England.

Are ANTS creating havoc in your home...?

By Deep Patel

The sun is shining... people are smiling more and... ANTS ARE EVERYWHERE!!!

It's that time of year again, we all know it well...oh so well... you put down your empty plate after enjoying Jam on toast and within minutes...there's an ant right there? How on earth do they know so fast?! Do they have some form of super-sonic broadband?!



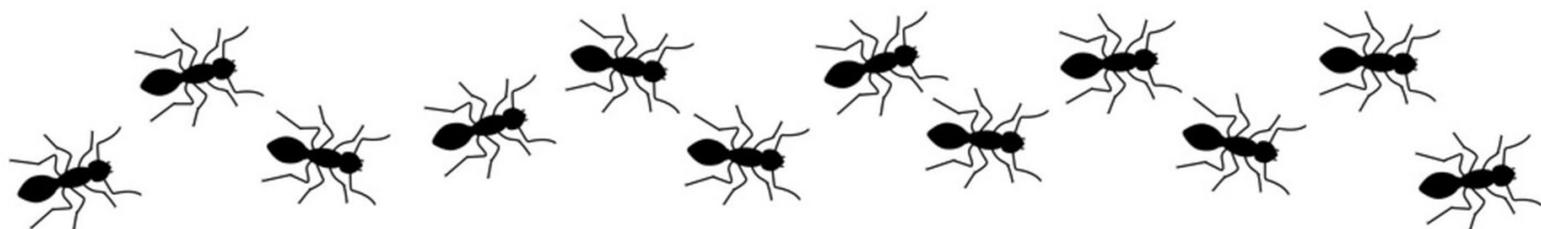
Well, as annoying as they may be, they have been on this planet for over 160 million years, from the Jurassic period when dinosaurs roamed the land...so as the saying goes...perhaps we as humans should learn to respect our elders?... That said, I still don't want them in my kitchen, but I don't think we should reach for the ant killer powder either as did you know; that actually makes their tiny stomachs cruelly explode and diatomaceous earth cuts up their little bodies until they die... is there really any need? I mean they are only looking for food for their babies...They are not intentionally trying to harm us, they are only trying to live, like we all are on this planet?

What can we use to stop them instead of using poison then...?

Well sprinkle baby powder, FINE black pepper powder, or white vinegar where they come...and they will STOP without us needing to hurt their little souls...and best of all...we will have good karma for choosing a kind way...win-win! Olbas or essential peppermint oil also works great, but keep it away from pets as they may find this irritates them! If you have many in the house to start with, use a wet kitchen towel to gently dab on them (so they stick to it) and quickly place it outside and then immediately seal the areas they were coming from with baby powder, fine black pepper powder, white vinegar, Olbas or peppermint oil and reapply if needed and... hey presto.... ant problem GONE! Like all good things in life... the enjoyment is doubled when shared... so don't keep these tips to yourself...share them far and wide, screen shot or share the poster below this article and you will have good karma for caring x

Look out for my next article here soon... it will have tips on how to stop the much DREADED slugs and snails kindly using copper mesh fences around pots and plants in beds, sawdust and cheap coffee powder or grounds piled around bases of plant stems (following the slug pellet ban from April 1st 2022). For more tips or specific questions, please email me on thedeepatel@gmail.com or through my Facebook page "Kindness Guy" ...

You will surely have good karma for caring x



Film screening at Grove Gardens Chapel

Join Habitats & Heritage at the atmospheric Grove Gardens Chapel on Saturday 28th May for our first film evening!

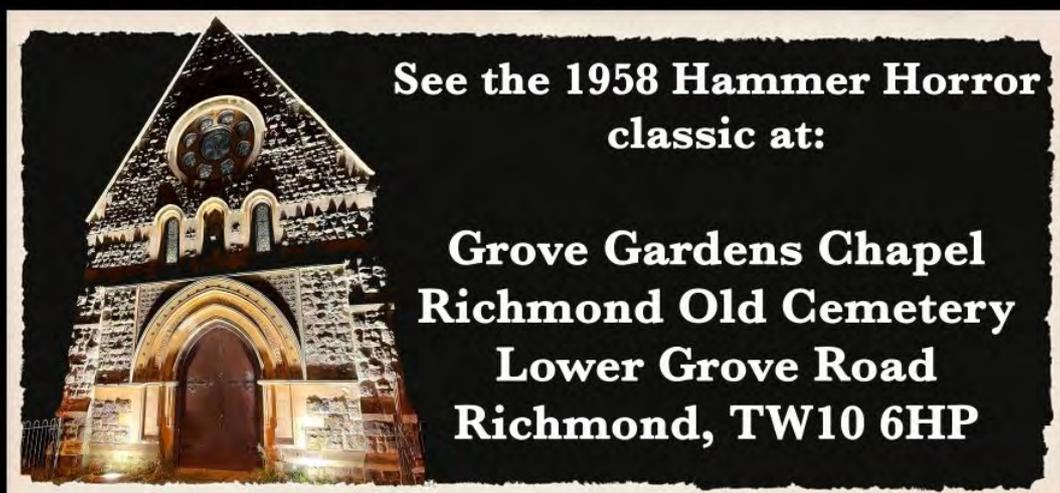
2022 marks 125 years since the release of Bram Stoker's tantalising novel Dracula! We will be showing the 1958 Hammer Horror classic starring Christopher Lee to mark this occasion. Entrance to the Chapel for the event will cost £15 and all proceeds will help to support Habitats & Heritage. The admission fee covers access to the chapel, popcorn and light drinks.

The nearest bus stop to the chapel can be found on Queens Road (Park Road stop) which is served by the 371 bus from Kingston or Richmond. Alternatively, the chapel is a 20 minute walk up Richmond Hill from Richmond Railway Station.

An Eventbrite booking fee applies. Book [HERE](#)

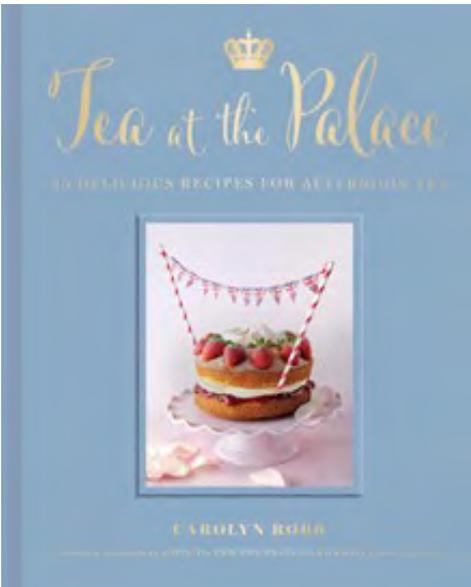
Cinema at the Chapel

Popcorn & light drinks included
£15



TEA AT THE PALACE - A JOYFUL JUBILEE COOKBOOK

Not long now 'till the much-anticipated Platinum Jubilee weekend and the celebrations that this will entail. Perfectly timed to coincide with Her Majesty's (and the nation's) celebrations is a fabulous cookbook: **Tea at the Palace**, by Carolyn Robb, former personal chef to TRH the Prince and Princess of Wales. It has loads of inspiration for a street party, garden fete or any afternoon tea occasion, with recipes suitable for all ages. Set against a backdrop of 12 of Britain's most stunning palaces and residences, the recipes are a mix of traditional, contemporary and whimsical; each with a unique twist.



With each chapter telling a tale, inspiration is drawn from sources as diverse as a 200 year old royal banqueting menu, and Queen Victoria's highland retreat! The book is published by White Lion Publishing (an imprint of The Quarto Group) at £14.99 for a truly delightful hardback souvenir of this important royal year.

I've chosen a couple of recipes from the book that you might like to try - especially if you're organising or taking part in a street party.

'Bunch of Flowers' Biscuits

Makes 36 biscuits

"These delicious flower-shaped biscuits make a lovely centrepiece for a floral-themed afternoon tea. Present them in a jug or a vase, with or without some fresh green foliage, such as stems of rosemary, mint, sage or thyme. The biscuit dough contains golden syrup (or honey), which makes it pliable enough for you to insert wooden skewers before baking without the dough crumbling. Decorating the biscuits is a great activity for children, especially when you have icing in a range of bright colours and plenty of sprinkles and sparkles!"

- 85g caster sugar
- 85g butter, at room temperature
- 85g golden syrup
- 1 free-range egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 300g plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- Long, thin wooden skewers

FOR THE DECORATION

- Selection of premade coloured icings
- Selection of sprinkles



In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat together the sugar, butter, golden syrup, egg yolk and vanilla on low speed for about 3 minutes until well mixed and no lumps of butter remain. Sift together the flour and baking powder directly into the bowl. Continue to beat until the flour mixture is fully incorporated and a dough forms that clings together and has pulled away from the sides of the bowl. Gather up the dough into a ball, flatten into a disk, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for about 20 minutes.

Line 2 baking tray with nonstick baking paper or silicone mats. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and roll out 6mm thick.

Using a 7.5-cm round or flower-shaped cutter, cut out as many biscuits as possible and transfer them to the prepared trays. Carefully insert a thin wooden skewer into each biscuit to create the 'stem' of the flower, pushing it all the way to the centre. Arrange the 'flowers' well spaced on the baking trays to allow for the skewers and for slight spreading during baking.

Gather up the scraps, press together, reroll, cut out more biscuits and add them to the trays. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 150°C (Gas mark 2)

Bake the biscuits for 15–18 minutes, rotating the trays back to front halfway through baking, until golden. Leave to cool on the trays on wire racks for 10 minutes, then transfer to the racks to cool completely.

Using the icings and sprinkles, decorate the cooled biscuits as desired.

Asparagus Spears Wrapped in Prosciutto with Chive Cream Cheese

"The traditional season for asparagus in England runs from St. George's Day (23 April) to Midsummer's Eve (21 June). It's not surprising that English asparagus wrapped in dry-cured Cumbrian ham, a speciality of far northwestern England, was served at Harry and Meghan's May wedding; there is nothing to beat British asparagus, and it is a favourite of the royal family. In this recipe, prosciutto – a stand-in for the Cumbrian ham – wraps neatly around the asparagus spears, and the concealed chive cream cheese is a delicious surprise."

Makes 12 'bunches'

- 36 small asparagus spears
- 90g cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh chives
- Pinch of paprika
- 6 slices prosciutto
- Fresh chives and chive flowers, for garnish



Snap off the slightly tough, woody bottom of each asparagus spear. Then, using a vegetable peeler, peel the bottom 5cm or so of each stalk.

Have ready a large bowl of ice-cold water. Fill a saucepan with salted water, bring to the boil and add the asparagus. Cook for 1–2 minutes until just tender, depending on the size of the spears. Drain and immediately refresh in the iced water. Then drain again and pat dry with paper towels.

In a small bowl, mix together the cream cheese, chives and paprika. Cut each slice of prosciutto in half crossways, then fold each half lengthways to a width of about 4 cm. Spread 1½ teaspoons of the seasoned cream cheese onto the folded ham, then gather together 3 asparagus spears and wrap the ham, cheese side in, around them, securing them in a small 'bunch'. Repeat with the remaining asparagus, prosciutto and cheese mixture to create 12 'bunches' in all.

Arrange on a platter, garnish with chives and flowers and serve right away.

A FRESH LOOK AT AMAZON FRESH

Okay, I have a confession to make: even though I'm a long-term subscriber to Amazon Prime, I'd never even as much as ventured inside one of the new-fangled **Amazon Fresh** stores. I had held a rather strange view that there was something alien about a shop that didn't take your cash or have tills to serve you. The idea of just walking out with my shopping felt totally bizarre. Until now... when I have to confess that I have completely changed my mind!



I think one of the reasons so many folk don't venture in, is the appearance of 'security guards' on duty at the entrance, who can appear a tad intimidating. In fact, they are there to assist you, and show you how to use your Amazon app to go shopping there (NB: you don't have to be an Amazon Prime customer to shop there). I visited the Amazon Fresh in Richmond recently - it's right beside the station and I was intrigued to discover that there is a brilliant facility there whereby you can arrange to have your Amazon deliveries sent for safe storage and collected at a time to suit you. Even better folks, you can take any returns along and just drop them in - no need even to repackage, label and arrange a collection. This is brilliant, and such a boon for commuters... remember them? They're the people who take the tube and train to work each day!



The food offering at Amazon Fresh is quite amazing - and great value too. The Amazon Fresh stores offer a wide selection of products, including its private food brand 'by Amazon' which offers hundreds of delicious items, hot food throughout the day, and tasty on-the-go meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There are lots of meal deals, such as a dinner for two 'Night in' for just £5 and a fabulous selection of Asian food (at £4 for a meal for one or £6 for two) The Lamb Rogan Josh that tempted me was fabulous; and not every meal only had chicken as the meat option - like some other supermarkets.

If you want to grab a packed lunch deal or buy an impromptu picnic, then here again common sense prevails: sensibly, you choose your main item at the price marked, then can add a drink AND snack for just £1 more (and the selection of these was top-notch with lots of really healthy options).

There's also a really impressive selection of baked goods, delivered fresh each day. The drinks section was also competitively priced.

I can't even start to get my head around the technology that Amazon uses, but I asked quite a few questions: apparently one can pick up and put down umpteen items, but only the ones that stay in your basket will be charged to your account. And then you are charged when you walk out.

Negatives? There were just a few: no pet food or flowers on sale in the Richmond store (but apparently they do in other stores). Oh, they sell newspapers and magazines, but don't take those paper vouchers that many newspaper subscriptions involve. Lucky Richmond! I wish they would open a branch at Twickenham station...





Dido and Aeneas

by Henry Purcell, libretto by Nahum Tate

Richmond Opera at the Normansfield Theatre, Teddington and OSO Arts Centre, Barnes

Some eighty years before Purcell composed his Baroque opera *Dido and Aeneas*, Queen Elizabeth I had died leaving no heir to the throne. There was still a concern about the restoration of a Catholic monarch. In the opera, the Catholics are represented by brilliantly portrayed sorceresses and witches. (Their dark, magical costumes and those long finger nails were enviable!)



This concise, tragic opera is packed with emotion, yet lasts for only an hour. It brings to light the important choices we are all forced to make. Dido, a queen in her own right, is a widow. She falls in love with a brilliant, handsome and successful general who is returning from war. What a suitable consort he would have made for Carthage. Big but ... his responsibility is to establish Rome, a state that later destroys Carthage. He is beguiled by sorcery, read the Catholics, who send Mercury, here danced by a delightful young lady from the Richmond Academy of Dance.

Purcell is very demanding, but conductor Lindsay Bramley guides the performance with precision, making certain that the orchestral contribution does not drown the melodious offerings of the cast.



Claire Doran, a beautiful soprano, sings Dido.

Rousing sympathy for Dido's difficult choice,

Claire explores mental darkness with *Dido's Lament*. We search for tissues. Her last, dark aria is, 'When I am laid to rest remember me ... Forget my fate.'

One reason this opera is so relevant to today's issues is, does enlightenment mean broadmindedness, civilisation and understanding? The fundamental questions in life remain, despite 'enlightenment'. Dido loses her lover, he leaves her. In Purcell's time we imported a monarch from Holland, William of Orange, whose legacy is still our contemporary problem. Today the Protocol remains unresolved.

Read Vicki and Chris Naylor's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/16/dido

Photography by Stefano Bolognini and Bruce Zinger



Dead Boy Café

by Grant Corr

Questors at The Studio, Ealing until 21st May

Currently in première, *Dead Boy Café*, a gripping new play by the award-winning Grant Corr, and worthy winner of 2019's National Playwriting Competition, gives 100 minutes of strong writing and sharp dialogue.

Sensitively directed by John Davey, and moodily lit by John Green, both do the brooding piece justice. The painstakingly authentic set, a run-down chip shop café, is designed by Ray Dunningwith, while James Connor's sound design skilfully set the mood.



Set in a Northern Irish border town, *Dead Boy Café* features raw emotions and drastic changes. We encounter a bereaved and disturbed widow and her bitter and scarred mother-in-law. Then a young man turns up soaked, and the connotations of what he says hint at knowing the deceased Kevin.

There is a lot to unravel with bitterness, mental illness; and with awakening emotions and lust. With things unsaid, the writer takes us through four character's flaws and sadness and frustrations ... but the unsaid are eventually said.

The Northern Irish accents are strong, and convincing. A special mention must be made to David Erdos as Martin, and to Wendy Megeney, who played Ruby, for their tangible edginess. The other two cast members, Sam Ebner-Landy and Carol Fullilove were no less convincing, and the sexual chemistry between them is believable indeed. Janet's sadness and sense of a life wasted is deeply touching. The suffering and loss of the overbearing, and physically scarred, mother-in-law is awe inspiring.

Did these people deserve their fate? It is a question we asked ourselves as we left the theatre. I know that we all wanted them to outgrow the small lives they led.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/18/dead-boy-cafe

Photography by Robert Vass and Evelina Plonyte





A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare, adapted by Paul Stacey

Reading Rep at Reading Rep Theatre until 5th June

The final play in the *Reading Rep: Reborn* season pays homage to the Bard. Based with some apologies (and a few generous cuts) on Shakespeare's text, Artistic Director, Paul Stacey's adaption of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has a touring troupe arrive in Reading intent on performing in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The plot follows a set of rehearsals for a play called *Bottom's Dream* (as conceived by Bottom). The result turns out to be what critics call "memorable".



David Fishley cuts an imposing figure as the domineering playwright-director, who casts himself in all the aristocratic roles ... because it is his play, and the text has been cobbled together by him on the fly – he has never heard of Shakespeare!



When Theseus reminds Hermia of the grisly fate that awaits if she should go against her father's wishes and betray her arranged fiancé, Beth Eyre's feisty yet pragmatic Helena interrupts the rehearsal to make an apposite comment on the way *Bottom's Dream* treats women. However, Shakespeare tells us "Cupid is a knavish lad, thus to make poor females mad".

This is a fun and energetically acted performance, and although nowadays the incompetent fairies might be referred to some higher office for the distress they cause, the scene where Titania, played with great versatility by Amy

Ambrose, falls in love with a donkey in the form of Bottom is well executed and still makes us laugh.

Beware though, do not try this at home. A few jugs and more drugs, even Titania's natural herbal ones, are not recommended for your local celebrations of our own Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Or else, the last word will go to Bottom, "I had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was..."



Read Nick Swyft's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/18/dream-rdng-rep

Photography by Harry Elletson



When We Are Married

by J.B. Priestley

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Theatre until 21st May

In 1908, when this play was set, imagine discovering, after 25 years, that your church marriage had been conducted by someone unauthorised to do so and it would seem your marriage was null and void! You have been 'living in sin'! This is what happens to three couples upstanding in their small Yorkshire community. The consequences are devastating and shocking to them and to their standing in the community. Add to this a small community where gossip travels fast, especially when you have a less than honest and most indiscrete housekeeper to spread it!



This is the premise of Priestley's play. It starts with the silver wedding anniversary celebration of the three couples. The gentlemen have risen to become an Alderman, a Councillor and a respected professional, and their marriages settled into varying degrees of tolerance for each other. Into this mix comes Gerald (Jacob Taylor), the new young organist of the Chapel, where the couples were supposed to have been married. He is having a clandestine affair with the young niece of Alderman Helliwell (Geraint Thompson), and the men are keen to admonish him for being seen out late 'with girls'!

But instead he drops this bombshell! And to add to the comedy, all seeing all hearing housekeeper, Mrs Northrop (Jenny Hobson), and drunken local newspaper photographer Henry Ormonroyd (Daniel Wain).

The set and the costumes, designed by Priya Virdee and Mags Wrightson respectively set things up beautifully. The period detail in the set and the dressing was faultless and costumes were cleverly colour coordinated to give a great sense of the whole.



When We Are Married is a play of its time – it could be regarded as dated now, as many of the morals and mores it portrays are unfamiliar. But director Michelle Hood understands her period and her drama, and really skilfully transports us back to Edwardian ideas and expectations.

Read Alex Tustain's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/18/when-married

Photography by Sarah J Carter

TRAVELLER'S TALES 123

IN THE GARDEN

Doug Goodman visits some spectacular gardens



Last time I wrote about two Cotswold gardens I visited at Easter: Kiftsgate Court and Hidcote. This week The Tribune features some of my favourite gardens closer to Twickenham. During the past two years gardens, parks and open spaces have never been so important for health and leisure activities. In the long, hot summer of 2020 I devoted a lot of effort into cultivating my own garden and will continue throughout the summer with this very therapeutic activity. Those of us with gardens are indeed fortunate but those without have a vast choice of places to enjoy. Within walking distance of Twickenham we have York House and Orleans House gardens, Marble Hill and on the other side of the river, easily reached by ferry, is Ham House. Sion Park, Osterley, Chiswick House, Kew, Bushy and Richmond parks and Hampton Court are close. Heading south on the A3 you'll come to Claremont, Painshill Park near Cobham and the RHS Gardens at Wisley. Perched on the North Downs near Dorking is Polesden Lacey an Edwardian estate covering 1400 acres. With its rose garden, woodlands and great walks the place is one of the National Trust's most popular. The furnished house displays mementoes of the royalty who were entertained between the wars by the owner Margaret Greville. She gave the estate to the NT in 1942. South of Guildford there's the delightful Ramster gardens and within an hour's drive past Gatwick there are more gardens to visit: Nymans, Wakefield Place, Borde Hill and Leonardslee.



Brilliant Colours at
Leonardslee



The Dell at
Leonardslee



Dolls' House Museum



Ham House

BRILLIANT BLOSSOM

I was invited to Leonardslee at the beginning of May to experience the spring colours. Colourful it certainly was! Although the sky was overcast I regretted not having sun glasses as the brilliance of the rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, magnolias and blue bells was overpowering. Long avenues of colour hit you as you explore the hill-side paths above the seven lakes. Walking routes are well signed to provide the best vistas: paths of 3.4 and 5 kms will take you around the estate and there's a buggy service too. Built over 200 years ago Leonardslee in the Sussex High Weald is a very special English Country House in the 19th century Italianate-style and estate at Lower Beeding near Horsham. The grade one listed garden rightly deserves its title of the UK's most impressive collection of rhododendrons. The Dell with a 35ft Cornish Red Rhododendron planted in the 1800s offers an outstanding view across the valley. Nearby some giant Californian Redwoods dominate a hill-side.



Isabella Plantation



Bushy Park



Kew



Painshill Park

In 1889 the Victorian plant collector Sir Edmund Loder purchased the estate and introduced large numbers of exotic plants as well as a home for kangaroos, gazelles, wallabies and beavers. In 2010 Leonardslee was sold and closed to the public. From then until 2017, when the Benguela Group acquired the land, little maintenance took place. Three years ago the estate was open once again to the public with many added attractions.

For children there's the wallaby enclosure and a dolls' house exhibition with 1:12 scale models portraying rural scenes from around 1900. Dotted around the grounds are sculptures by Anton Smit. A Michelin Star restaurant offers visitors fine dining in the house, which has ten guest bedrooms, as well as a seasonally-inspired tea. Picnics can be ordered for a party in the vineyard where the first commercial vines of the Pinotage variety have been planted.

A tasting session can be arranged to sample the wines from the Benguela Cove Lagoon estate in South Africa.



Wisley



Wakehurst Place



Polesden Lacey

From 28-31 July and 4-7 August a summer festival will take place with theatrical performances, craft and circus workshops and plenty to keep the children happy.

More information from www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk . Tel.08718733 389.

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN COUPLES at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE? OR NOT!

The atmosphere at the Mary Wallace is far from relaxed as the two couples in **GOD OF CARNAGE** meet to discuss a playground incident between their respective children when one child has injured the other.



Both sets of parents suggest settling the matter over a friendly meal but the evening, which starts civilly enough, is soon in danger of becoming confrontational as drinks are consumed and alliances waver.

What was meant to be “oil on troubled waters” may well turn out to be “more fuel for the fire”. Jasmina Reza’s multi-award-winning comedy deserves to be seen - from the safety of the stalls.

GOD OF CARNAGE opens at the Mary Wallace on Saturday, May 28th and plays till June 4th. Curtain up at 7.45 - except for a 3pm matinee on Sunday the 29th.

For bookings and further information see www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham’s Embankment, between St Mary’s Church and The Barmy Arms.

Richmond Shakespeare Society
RSS
at the Mary Wallace Theatre

WIZ Tales - Austria

Teresa Read

The Republic of Austria joined the European Union in January 1995 at the same time as Finland and Sweden.

As Sweden plans to end two hundred years of neutrality by applying to join NATO Austria is bound to neutrality by the 1955 Austrian State Treaty, following the Second World War.

Austria is known for winter sports and the World Heritage cities of Graz, Salzburg and Vienna.

Other World Heritage sites are the Ferto/Neusiedler Lake area, the Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape and the Wachau stretch of the Danube Valley.



The Semmering Railway, between Gloggnitz in the State of Lower Austria and Simmering in the State of Styria, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998. The railway built over mountains in the mid nineteenth century was one of the greatest civil engineering works of its time.



Information about Austria:

<https://www.worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Austria&page=2>

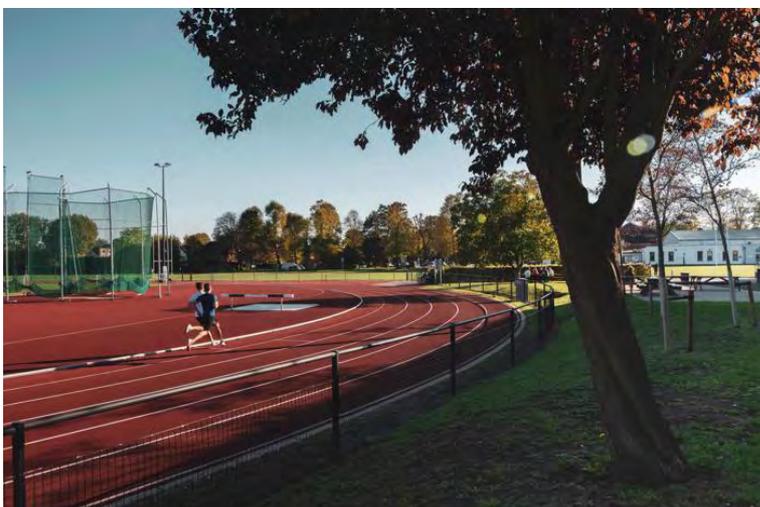


St Mary's University

St Mary's Athletes Selected for International Competitions

A number of Athletes and Alumni from the Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) at St Mary's University, Twickenham have been selected for international competitions taking place this weekend.

At the Loughborough International, taking place on Sunday 22nd May, four Simmies have been selected to represent Team England. Current students Shaun Gee, Men's 800m, Cameron Allan, Men's 3000m, and Elena Carey, Women's 3000m steeplechase, have all been selected. Rio 2016 Olympian and Alumna of St Mary's Jade Lally has also been selected in the Women's Discus.



The competition is widely seen as the curtain-raiser for the outdoor athletics season, and sees athletes from England, Wales, Scotland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland Juniors, and the National Athletics League amongst others take part.

In the Birmingham Diamond League, taking place on Saturday 21st May, Tokyo 2020 Olympic Finalist and EPC Associate Jake Wightman will compete in the Men's 800m A Race. Current student Rocco Zaman-Brown will also compete in the Men's 800m B Race and will be joined by alumnus Thomas Randolph. EPC Alumna Georgie Hartigan will also be competing in the women's 800m B Race.

The Birmingham Diamond League will be broadcast live on BBC One from 1.15pm on Saturday 21st May.

Athletics Success for St Mary's Students and Alumni

Athletes and Alumni of the Endurance Performance

Programme at St Mary's University, Twickenham have seen success in athletics competitions in recent months.

St Mary's Student Becky Briggs won the women's race in the recent Manchester Marathon. Becky took five minutes off her personal best (PB) to complete the race in a time of 2:29:04, giving her a qualification time for the Commonwealth Games later in the year in Birmingham.

The result follows Becky's performance at the 2021 London Marathon, in which she finished as the fifth-place British athlete in the women's Elite Race, setting her previous PB of 02:34:34. Becky was joined in this race by fellow St Mary's Alumna Charlie Purdue who finished as the first placed British woman, and tenth place overall in the elite women's race. Charlie has since also competed in the Boston Marathon, finishing ninth in the women's Elite race, in a time of 2:25:26.

In the Vitality London 10k, alumnus and former Sports Scholar Ellis Cross made headlines around the world as he defeated fellow alumnus and multiple global champion Sir Mo Farah to win the race. Ellis completed the 10km course, which takes in landmarks around the centre of London, in 28:40, with Sir Mo just four seconds behind.

After the race Sir Mo said of Ellis's performance, "I wanted to test myself and see where I was. I would have loved to have come out here and win but Ellis did really well and deserved it."

Speaking of Becky and Ellis's achievements, St Mary's Head of Sport Andrew Reid-Smith said, "It's great to see St Mary's students past and present developing into these longer track and road races and performing well. Charlie is a talented performer having run some of the fastest marathon times by any GB athlete, and Becky is clearly learning quickly and her run in Manchester shows the talent that she has.

"Mo's record in these events is unparalleled and It was wonderful to see him competing again after being out for so long with injury. Ellis should be proud of his run and Mo was gracious in acknowledging the confidence and quality of the run that Ellis produced."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

The Sunday Times Rich List 2022

The Sunday Times has published its annual list of the wealthiest people in the UK.

You can see the full list [HERE](#)



THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE 10 WEALTHIEST IN LONDON

Rank	Name	Source of Wealth	2022 Wealth	Rise/Fall
1	Sri and Gopi Hinduja and family	Industry and finance	£28.472bn	Up £11.472bn
2	David and Simon Reuben and family	Property and internet	£22.265bn	Up £800m
3	Sir Leonard Blavatnik	Investment, music and media	£20bn	Down £3bn
4	Guillaume Pousaz	Online payments: CheckOut.com	£19.259bn	Up £13.716bn
5	Lakshmi Mittal and family	Steel: ArcelorMittal	£17bn	Up £2.32bn
6	Christoph Henkel and family	Chemicals	£15bn	Up £13.6bn
7	Guy, George, Alannah and Galen Weston and family	Retailing	£13.5bn	Up £2.5bn
8	Charlene de Carvalho-Heineken and Michel de Carvalho	Inheritance, brewing and banking	£11.421bn	Down £592m
9	Michael Platt	Hedge fund	£10bn	Up £2bn
10	The Duke of Westminster and the Grosvenor family	Property	£9.726bn	Down £328m

Rich List 2022 top 10

Rank	Name	Worth
1	Sri and Gopi Hinduja and family	£28.472bn
2	Sir James Dyson and family	£23bn
3	David and Simon Reuben and family	£22.265bn
4	Sir Leonard Blavatnik	£20bn
5	Guillaume Pousaz	£19.259bn
6	Lakshmi Mittal and family	£17bn
7	Christoph Henkel and family	£15bn
8	Guy, George, Alannah and Galen Weston and family	£13.5bn
9	Kirsten and Jorn Rausing	£12bn
10	Charlene de Carvalho-Heineken and Michel de Carvalho	£11.421bn

London Libraries with Spread the Word publish new City of Stories Home anthology featuring over 70 writers from across London

- 33 London Library Services celebrate libraries as the place to make and share stories
- Publication of new short story anthology features over 70 Londoners exploring the theme of 'home' alongside specially commissioned short stories by prominent London authors including Caleb Azumah Nelson and Natasha Brown
- Londoners are invited to attend free anthology launch events at local libraries to pick up a free anthology, take part in a creative writing taster workshop and hear local authors read their stories

London Libraries, in partnership with Spread the Word, is pleased to announce the publication of City of Stories Home, a unique anthology featuring short stories on the theme of home written by over 70 London writers.

The anthology is the culmination of a pan-London project celebrating London's libraries as places to make and share stories in our local communities.

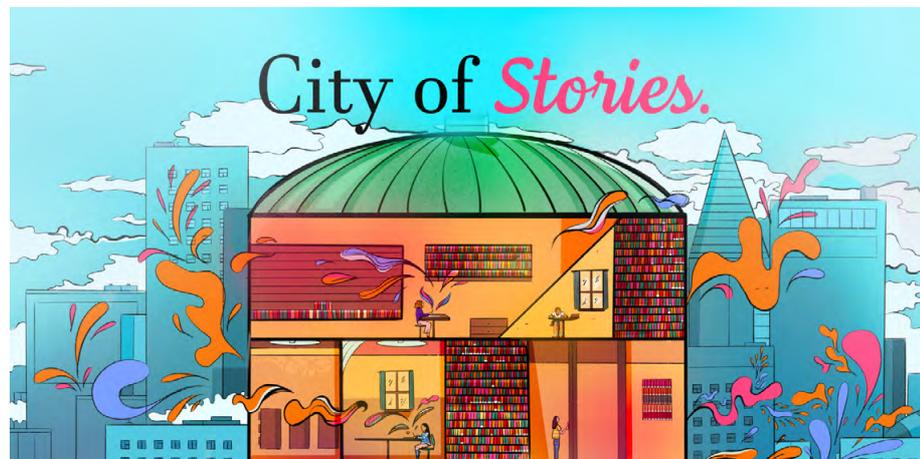
During February 2022, Londoners were invited to take part in 33 free online creative writing workshops run by talented professional writers from London hosted by each London library service. Over 1400 participants signed up to take part in the workshops, and 300 workshop participants went on to submit stories on the theme of home to the City of Stories Home writing competition.

The anthology features the winning and highly commended authors from the competition representing each London borough. The competition was judged by the project's lead authors Natasha Brown, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Jarred McGinnis and Amer Anwar.

The 33 winners are invited to attend a Writers Lab – a day of specially curated masterclasses run by authors and publishing professionals – in May 2022.

Ruth Harrison, Director, Spread the Word, says:

“Spread the Word is delighted to be launching, with London Libraries, the City of Stories Home Anthology in libraries across London. Readers will be able to pick up their own copy of the Anthology and discover new and original stories on the theme of home from local and commissioned writers. City of Stories Home celebrates the essential role libraries have in our lives, particularly during the pandemic, supporting communities and as places of creativity



where local writers and readers can make and share stories.”

Caroline Rae, outgoing President of London Libraries, says:

“London Libraries are delighted, in partnership with Spread the Word, to celebrate City of Stories Home. With the largest network of public libraries of any city in the world, this project is a celebration of placing creative writing opportunities into the heart of neighbourhoods across London. Libraries are both venues for Londoners to discover culture on their doorstep and hubs of creativity where many artists and writers begin their journey. We look forward to celebrating the creativity and talent displayed in the City of Stories Home anthology and encourage people to attend one of the 33 events taking place across London throughout June and pick up a free copy to take home.”

Jarred McGinnis, City of Stories Home competition judge and lead author, says:

“The entries for the City of Stories competition always makes me love London a little bit more. As ever there was a variety of stories, voices and worlds I get to visit all within one town. There’s no city like it in the world.”

Amer Anwar, City of Stories Home competition judge and lead author, says:

“It was great that so many people got involved with their local library and took part in the City of Stories Home competition. There was real talent on display and everyone who entered should be really proud of themselves. I hope the experience will spur them all on to continue writing.”

City of Stories Home anthology contains original commissioned short stories on the theme of home from Writers-in-Residence Natasha Brown, Amer Anwar, Jarred McGinnis and Caleb Azumah Nelson and short stories from emerging writers, Lizzie Damilola Blackburn, Ruth Goldsmith, Iqbal Hussain and S. Niroshini.

Londoners are being invited to celebrate stories at their local library by taking part in any of the free 33 City of Stories Home anthology launch events led by writers, including Tice Cin, Maame Blue, Amita Murray, Arun Das, Charlotte Heather and Lorraine Brown amongst others.

They will be able to pick up a free copy of the anthology, take part in a free creative writing taster workshop, hear winning and highly commended writers read their work and discover more about how libraries can nurture their writing.

The Anthology is available for readers and reading groups in every London library service alongside an accessible collection of short story titles from London’s independent presses curated by librarians.

City of Stories Home’s partners include Libraries Connected and RNIB Library and is supported by Arts Council England and Cockayne Grants for the Arts.



<https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/projects/cityofstorieshome/>

Brentford v Leeds United to be shown live by Sky Sports

Bees end season with live match

From [Brentford FC](#)

Brentford's final match of the 2021/22 Premier League season will be shown live by Sky Sports. The Bees will face Leeds United on Sunday, 22 May. The match will be played at our new stadium at 4pm on Sunday and will now be shown live in the UK.

The match is one of three that will be shown live on Sky Sports on Sunday. Liverpool v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Manchester City v Aston Villa will also be shown. All games will be played at 4pm on Sunday.

Brentford will be looking to end their first Premier League season with a top half finish. The Bees are currently 11th in the table, two points behind Brighton and Hove Albion and three behind Leicester City. It would take a large goal difference swing for The Bees to catch Leicester but overtaking Brighton would ensure a top half finish.



Leeds need to pick up at least a point in West London to give themselves any chance of avoiding relegation from the Premier League. They are 18th, level on points with Burnley but with a significantly worse goal difference. Burnley face Newcastle United on the final day of the season. If Burnley win, Leeds will be relegated. If Leeds lose, Leeds will be relegated. Leeds need to better Burnley's result to stay in the top tier.

Leeds come to West London without a win in five matches. They needed a stoppage time equaliser to take a point against Brighton last Sunday. They also drew with Crystal Palace at the end of April and lost the three games in between. Leeds had taken 11 points from five matches before three straight defeats to Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea in an 11-day spell.

The game between the teams in Yorkshire earlier this season ended in a 2-2 draw. Brentford fell behind in the first half but came back to take the lead. Patrick Bamford equalised in stoppage time for the hosts but injured himself celebrating and has only played 100 minutes for Leeds in six-and-a-half months since.

The teams last met in the 2019/20 season, which was interrupted and extended by the Covid-19 outbreak. Leeds won the Sky Bet Championship title that season with Brentford finishing third and losing the Play-Off Final. Leeds won 1-0 at Elland Road that season and the teams drew 1-1 in West London.

The teams had met in six straight seasons before last term. Brentford won five of the 12 games between the teams with Leeds winning three. All three of those wins did come at Elland Road and Leeds have not won away at Brentford since an old Division Two game in 1950.



England men's squad for training camp named

Eddie Jones has named a 36-player England men's squad who will meet on Sunday for a three-day training camp.



The squad will train in London as they begin preparations for next month's home game against Barbarians [Sunday 19 June] and ahead of their tour to Australia in July. Joe Cokanasiga, Owen Farrell, Manu Tuilagi, Anthony Watson and Jack Willis return to the squad following injury.

Elsewhere there are first-time involvements in a senior squad for London Irish duo Henry Arundell and Will Joseph, along with Leicester Tigers' Jack van Poortvliet. There are 10 uncapped players and seven with more than 50 caps, including a return for Mako Vunipola.

As the Gallagher Premiership season reaches its climax, Jones has chosen to rest some players for the training camp. He said: *"We're going to use this camp as an opportunity to prepare a base game for the Barbarians fixture and for a really important Australia tour.*

"We'll focus on how we want to play, how we want to be as a team off the field and continue to develop the squad cohesiveness and behaviours.

"It is also 16 months to the World Cup and every minute counts. We want a hard-working and enjoyable environment for the players and to make sure we are all on the same page.

"We are allowed a squad of 36 players, so it has been a balancing act.

"We want to take a look at some younger players and prepare a base camp for the Barbarians game, particularly as we will be without the Premiership finalists, and also give some senior players a rest as we get to a crucial part of the season.

"These players will still be in contention for the Australia tour."

England will host Barbarians at Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 19 June (3pm KO). Tickets are available for the game from £25 for adults and £12 for under 16s. The match is live on Amazon Prime Sport.

They will then travel to Australia to face the Wallabies in Perth (Saturday 2 July, 11.05am BST KO), Brisbane (Saturday 9 July, 11.05am BST KO) and Sydney (Saturday 16 July, 11.05am BST KO). All matches will be live on Sky Sports.

Full Squad

Forwards

Alfie Barbeary (Wasps, uncapped)

Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, 6 caps)

Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)

Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 40 caps)

Nic Dolly (Leicester Tigers, 1 cap)

Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 9 caps)

Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 30 caps)

Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 36 caps)

Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)

Maro Itoje (Saracens, 56 caps)

Joe Launchbury (Wasps, 70 caps)

Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 93 caps)

Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 11 caps)

George McGuigan (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped)

Tom Pearson (London Irish, uncapped)

Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)

Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 20 caps)

Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 28 caps)

Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 67 caps)

Jack Willis (Wasps, 3 caps)

Backs

Henry Arundell (London Irish, uncapped)

Orlando Bailey (Bath Rugby, uncapped)

Joe Cokanasiga (Bath Rugby, 11 caps)

Fraser Dingwall (Northampton Saints, uncapped)

Owen Farrell (Saracens, 94 caps)

Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, uncapped)

George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 6 caps)

Will Joseph (London Irish, uncapped)

Louis Lynagh (Harlequins, uncapped)

Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)

Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 6 caps)

Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 10 caps)

Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 10 caps)

Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 46 caps)

Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)

Anthony Watson (Bath Rugby, 51 caps)

WHO working closely with countries responding to monkeypox

WHO and partners are working to better understand the extent and cause of an outbreak of monkeypox.

The virus is endemic in some animal populations in a number of countries, leading to occasional outbreaks among local people and travellers.

The recent outbreaks reported across 11 countries so far are atypical, as they are occurring in non-endemic countries.

There are about 80 confirmed cases so far, and 50 pending investigations. More cases are likely to be reported as surveillance expands.

WHO is working with the affected countries and others to expand disease surveillance to find and support people who may be affected, and to provide guidance on how to manage the disease.

We continue to convene meetings of experts and technical advisory groups (such as the meeting today of the Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards with Pandemic and Epidemic Potential [STAG-IH]) to share information on the disease and response strategies.

WHO continues to receive updates on the status of ongoing outbreaks in endemic countries.

Monkeypox spreads differently from COVID-19. WHO encourages people to stay informed from reliable sources, such as national health authorities, on the extent of the outbreak in their community (if any), symptoms and prevention.

As monkeypox spreads through close contact, the response should focus on the people affected and their close contacts. People who closely interact with someone who is infectious are at greater risk for infection: this includes health workers, household members and sexual partners.

Stigmatizing groups of people because of a disease is never acceptable. It can be a barrier to ending an outbreak as it may prevent people from seeking care, and lead to undetected spread.

As the situation is evolving, WHO will continue to provide updates we learn more.



Regulating after EU Exit

Some UK regulators have taken on significant new roles following EU Exit. However, the work they are doing now to build their capability and manage operational challenges may not align with long-term ambitions or responsibilities, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

The government uses regulation to deliver a wide range of policies, such as to ensure food safety, protect the environment, and promote competition in the economy. Following EU Exit, many UK regulators have taken on functions previously carried out by the EU. Today's NAO report assesses how regulators have managed this transition, focusing on three regulators whose work has been significantly affected by EU Exit - the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) role in chemicals regulation.

All three regulators have expanded roles following EU Exit. HSE is now the main regulator for chemicals in the UK and the FSA has more responsibility for assessing food and animal feed safety risks. The CMA has established the Office for the Internal Market and is setting up a unit to provide advice to public bodies on state subsidies. The regulators have received funding for their new responsibilities.

The regulators implemented measures aimed at ensuring continuity after the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020. In some cases this involved delaying new regulatory requirements or extending deadlines. For example, the government extended the deadlines for companies to meet the full data requirements for chemicals registrations. The three regulators' plans to move from interim arrangements to fully functional regulatory regimes are still in progress.

All three regulators are finding it challenging to recruit the specialist skills they need in some key areas, and there is a risk that capacity constraints may delay regulatory decisions. Several factors have also made it difficult for regulators to plan their workloads and plan their capacity to meet it. For example, the CMA has seen fewer merger cases than it planned for in 2020-21 because of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All three regulators have lost access to data and information sharing arrangements with EU regulators, which they say has negatively impacted their ability to assess risks and carry out their work. For example, the FSA has lost full access to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, which it used to exchange information about food safety risks and responses across the EU. The regulators are seeking to mitigate the impact on their work by using other international systems, publicly available data, or by setting up data sharing arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

There has been limited progress on regulatory co-operation with the EU following EU Exit, despite the willingness of the regulators and policy makers that the NAO spoke to. The UK has stated that it is ready to progress co-operation on both chemicals regulation and competition enforcement, but discussions have not yet begun with the EU.

Policy makers and the three regulators are at an early stage in setting the strategic direction for their areas following EU Exit. For example, the FSA has recently published a long-term strategy which set out broad ambitions but has not yet made public detail on how regulation may change in practice.

All three regulators have taken steps to strengthen their international relationships to improve the effectiveness of their work and increase their influence outside the UK. In September 2020, the CMA signed the Multilateral Mutual Assistance and Cooperation Framework with its counterparts in four countries to strengthen co-operation. The FSA is increasing its engagement with the International Food Safety Authorities Network and sits on its advisory group.

The NAO recommends that regulators should review the plans they developed before EU Exit now that there is greater clarity about their capacity and their workload. They should test the realism of their plans and assess if they can increase the effectiveness of their work and find efficiencies. Regulators should also ensure that as soon as they are able, they provide clarity to stakeholders on their direction of travel and timelines for any planned changes.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“EU Exit has had a major impact on many UK regulators. They need to overcome many challenges if they are to manage the transition successfully, including recruiting the right specialist skills. It is essential that regulators and policy-makers develop their future strategies as soon as possible to avoid wasting effort on short-term work and to ensure the decisions they make now meet their longer-term goals.”



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

The UK Government ‘failed in its duty of care’ to doctors and the healthcare workforce in London in its handling of the pandemic, says BMA

“I’m used to seeing people die, I’m a palliative care doctor, but how do I talk about caring for people with COVID-19 who were watching patients in beds opposite them literally dying before their eyes from exactly the same thing as they had?” (Consultant, England)

A major review into the UK Government’s handling of the pandemic and its impact on the NHS, the health of the population, and doctors, has been undertaken by the BMA. The first two reports conclude that the UK Government failed in its duty of care to protect doctors and the wider healthcare workforce from avoidable harm and suffering in its management of the COVID-19 pandemic. This failure is evidenced in detail and published today by the BMA.

The reports, part of a series of five, are the most comprehensive accounts of the lived experiences of doctors throughout the pandemic, collated from thousands of doctors across the UK and in London, including those who were on the frontline during COVID-19. They also draw upon real-time surveys over the past two years, as well as formal testimonies, data and evidence sessions from stakeholders. Page after page details the devastating impact of the pandemic on medical professionals as individuals, and on the NHS, showing mistake after mistake – errors of judgement and policy made by the UK Government - which amount to a failure of a duty of care to the workforce.

In what is believed to be the first documented account of its kind, doctors from across the UK have spoken out about their own experiences during the pandemic, recounting their fears and anxieties as well as laying bare the shortages of PPE, a lack of timely and adequate risk assessments, and the huge impact on their mental and physical health.

The reports, which will also form part of the BMA’s submission to the UK COVID-19 Public Inquiry, make a series of recommendations about lessons which must be learned as well as presenting evidence of where things went wrong.

BMA London regional council chair, Dr Kevin O’Kane said:

“Given the enormous efforts that doctors and health care workers in London have gone to throughout the pandemic and the enormous toll it has taken, the findings of these reports are hugely significant.

“In gathering this information, the BMA has committed to ensuring there is vital evidence of perhaps one of the most traumatic chapters in NHS history, with a view to ensuring that the Government does not make the same grave mistakes again.

“We know that doctors in London were working tirelessly, in very challenging circumstances, at times without the appropriate PPE. Working as a consultant myself, I was able to see first-hand the tremendous efforts that staff went to having to adapt the delivery of care to ensure patients received treatment in the face of enormous demand. Yet despite the best efforts of staff, as these reports show, this Government failed doctors and healthcare workers in London as it did across England.

“As a result of COVID-19, many doctors in this region have or continue to suffer with anxiety, burnout and ongoing stress as they worked through unbelievably harrowing times.

“The BMA is determined that the voices of doctors in the region and across the country are heard and will be presenting these findings as evidence in the public covid inquiry so that doctors and healthcare staff do not have to endure the same failings again.”

Key recommendations for governments from the reports include:

1. UK and devolved governments should continue to carry out pandemic preparedness exercises for the most likely types of infections and must act on the lessons learned from these exercises and the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying key themes such as PPE stockpiling, testing, and public health capacity.
2. Public health systems should be resourced and funded to have adequate contact tracing capacity and be able to rapidly scale up testing for future variants or pandemics.
3. The UK Government needs to maintain an adequate rotating stockpile of suitable PPE and have plans to quickly scale up procurement and manufacturing if required.
4. General wellbeing support including timely and accessible occupational health assessments and support to access psychological support services must be made available for staff at all levels across all health services, with specific support also offered to ensure staff can recover from the pressure of delivering care during a pandemic.
5. The need for a continuous and transparent assessment of workforce shortages and future staffing requirement to ensure health services and public health systems are better prepared to deal with crises.
6. Improve capital investment, modernise physical infrastructure and improve ventilation of the NHS estate.
7. To mitigate inequity in the future, mechanisms must be introduced to make the experience of working in the NHS less variable by background or protected characteristic.

Today’s reports also contain new qualitative and quantitative research conducted by the BMA asking doctors about their experiences in several areas.

Some of the headline findings include:

- 81% of doctors did not feel fully protected during the first wave of the pandemic¹

Several of us were told not to wear facemasks on rehab wards for fear of frightening the patients. This was true in many hospitals, and I believe it was a top-down policy. (Consultant, England)

No PPE availability. Failure to acknowledge that speaking singing coughing etc [sic] are all aerosol generating procedures, that healthcare staff cannot assess patients without getting close. Therefore, ALL categories of staff should be provided with PPE. (GP trainee, England)

We made our own, and bought our own when we could find any, we depended on friends sourcing FFP3 masks, my son's school 3D printing visors. (SAS doctor, England)

We were sent six pairs of gloves and six aprons in an envelope approximately three weeks after the start of lockdown. (GP contractor/principal, Northern Ireland)

- Some doctors felt that their own protection (PPE) was not taken seriously or adequately considered:

I was put under pressure to carry on regardless and 'support my colleagues'. (Consultant, England)

Many of my senior doctors were not wearing PPE in meetings, I was clinically extremely vulnerable and had shielded and this made me very anxious. However, I was new and did not feel I could speak up. (Junior doctor, England)

Using FFP3 with black hair is easier with a hair cover. The elastic snags. PPE posters do not routinely show or normalise the reasonable adjustments necessary for non-religious and religious reasons for covered hair. (Consultant, Scotland, Black/Black British)

- 11% of doctors who had developed long COVID-19 had at some point been unable to work full-time or at all, and 51%, while still able to work, nevertheless saw a reduction in their quality of life.¹

I caught COVID-19 in March 2020 from a colleague at work. I have been mostly bedbound since. My life as I knew it had ended. These are supposed to be the best years of my life but I'm spending them alone, in bed, feeling like I'm dying almost all the time. (Junior doctor, Scotland)

I have long Covid and have been off work for 12 months, not well enough to fulfil my role as mother to my 2 young children. (Consultant, England)

My second COVID-19 infection (both infections occupationally acquired) has left me with damage to my spinal cord. I now walk with crutches and cannot walk more than about 200m without them. I also have bladder and bowel problems and have to intermittently catheterise. There is not a day that goes by where I don't have some form of pain (Medical academic trainee, England)

- [95%](#) of doctors and dentists who died from coronavirus in April 2020 were from ethnic minority backgrounds, even though this group makes up 44% of NHS medical staff.²

Risk assessment was not carried out. I think this was because high BAME staff numbers which would have led to more staff being off isolating. Option for working from home wasn't explored so we still don't know if this would be doable (Salaried GP, England, African)

[Risk assessment] was just an arbitrary piece of paper to be filled in to make people feel they were doing something when in all honesty ethnic minorities were dying more. But if we told all ethnic minorities to shield there would not be many left to do the job in the NHS. So it was more 'hey you are ethnic and at higher risk but carry on' [sic.] (Consultant, England, Arab)

Often the most vulnerable are at most risk of exposure due to economic and other pressures not allowing them the privilege of asking for protection. I am very aware of the large number of Filipino nursing staff who died from COVID-19 and there is anecdotal evidence that they did not feel they could say no to working in hazardous situations because of a lack of understanding of their employment rights and fears of their immigration status. (GP contractor / principal, England, Pakistani)

- Doctors with a disability felt less protected than other respondents (41% of those with a disability of long-term condition felt 'not at all' protected during the first wave, compared to 36% of those without a disability/long-term condition).¹

My line manager told me I had to work in the office even though I could do my job as effectively from home. This put my health at risk (Public Health Consultant, Scotland, Has a disability/LTC)

[Risk assessment] was not automatically initiated, when pushed to get assessed, was initially taken as trying to get out of work. As an Indian doctor, aged over 45 with Asthma, I was expected to continue doing home visits (Salaried GP, England, Has a Disability/LTC, Indian)

- Between February 2021 and January 2022, the BMA's counselling service saw a 173% increase in calls compared to the period between February 2019 and January 2020, rising from an average of 200 a month to up to 800 a month at the peak of the pandemic.³

Psychologically it was one of the worst periods of my life. I received private therapy throughout the pandemic and that helped tremendously but I have felt suicidal at times. (SAS doctor, England)

It has taken me basically 18 months to adapt to the "new normal" with a significant flare of chronic anxiety/depression symptoms the whole time (Consultant, Scotland)

I found the experience to be most disturbing of my career because of the stress of the unknown, the frustration around slow national response, the overwhelming pressure we were under and the emotional toll on almost everyone I was working with. I didn't sleep, often felt angry and suffered post-traumatic stress for a period. (Consultant, Scotland)

I had to stop working as my mental health was so impacted. I have now resigned and feel I am unlikely to return (Salaried GP, Wales)

I'm used to seeing people die, I'm a palliative care doctor, but how do I talk about caring for people with COVID-19 who were watching patients in beds opposite them literally dying before their eyes from exactly the same thing as they had? (Consultant, England)

And we were expected to mentor, support and teach the junior doctors who were utterly unprepared for death and suffering on this scale. I was unprepared, never mind them. (Consultant, England)



Interim statement on the use of additional booster doses of Emergency Use Listed mRNA vaccines against COVID-19

The World Health Organization, with the support of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and its COVID-19 Vaccines Working Group, continues to review the emerging evidence on the need for and timing of additional booster doses for the currently available COVID-19 vaccines which have received Emergency Use Listing (EUL). The statements and conclusions in this document will be updated as new data become available.

The objective of this statement is to review the evidence on additional booster doses. In considering additional booster doses, there are two main scenarios to assess: the use of additional booster doses in those who are not able to mount and sustain adequate immune responses and considerations for additional booster doses to be administered in order to protect high risk populations and health workers in order to maintain the health system during periodic waves of disease surges.

WHO's current Recommendations: (1) initial booster doses:

Booster doses should be offered based on evidence that doing so would have substantial impact on reducing hospitalization, severe disease and death, and to protect health systems. The order of implementing booster doses to different population groups should follow that which has been laid out for the primary vaccination series – i.e., booster doses should be prioritized for higher priority-use groups before lower priority-use groups, unless there is adequate justification not to do so. Such justification may include programmatic constraints or acceptability obstacles to uptake in higher priority-use groups that would result in vaccine wastage. In such cases, strategies should be prioritized to improve vaccine delivery, community engagement, and social mobilization efforts to reach higher priority-use groups.

Within a given priority-use group, primary series vaccination will have greater impact per dose than additional doses. Across priority-use groups, the benefits of additional doses for higher priority-use groups versus primary series doses for lower priority-use groups depends on country conditions, including supply and roll-out timelines, past epidemic dynamics and infection-induced immunity, vaccine product, vaccine effectiveness, and waning of protection. When high primary series coverage rates have been achieved among subgroups at higher risk of severe disease and death (e.g., older adults), additional doses for these subgroups may yield greater reductions in severe disease and death than use of equivalent vaccine supply for primary series vaccination of lower priority-use groups.

The optimal interval between completion of a primary series and administration of additional doses has yet to be determined, and depends on epidemiological setting, vaccine product, targeted age groups, background seroprevalence, and circulation and frequency of specific variant of concerns (VoC). As a general principle, an interval of 4–6 months since completion of the primary series could be considered, especially in the context of Omicron.

Booster doses should be considered for all COVID-19 vaccines having received EUL as per WHO's product specific interim recommendations.

WHO's current Recommendations: Additional Doses in Immunocompromised persons

Available data for WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccine products suggest that vaccine effectiveness and immunogenicity are lower in immunocompromised persons (ICPs), compared to persons without immunocompromising conditions. An additional dose included in an extended primary series enhances immune responses in some ICPs. Given the significant risk of severe COVID-19 for ICPs, if infected, WHO has already issued a recommendation for an extended primary series (i.e. third dose) as well as a booster dose (i.e. fourth dose) for ICPs, for all COVID-19 vaccines. Homologous (same vaccine platform) and heterologous (different vaccine platform) vaccines can be used for such booster doses.

Considerations for additional booster doses beyond the first booster (< 6 months since first booster)

Additional booster doses beyond the first booster dose are currently being offered by some countries (i.e. fourth dose to older adults and a fifth dose for immunocompromised persons). Data on the usefulness of these additional booster doses is sparse and especially limited on the duration of further protection. Data on additional booster doses as of May 2022 only exists for the mRNA vaccines, and not for other vaccine platforms. Hence, in the following we only focus on the evidence with regards to additional booster for mRNA vaccines, while encouraging more data to be accrued for all vaccine platforms.

Seven studies were available for review, six of which were from Israel and one from Canada. All were conducted during a time when Omicron has been the predominant circulating strain globally. While the studies vary in their design and population investigated, most evaluated the relative effectiveness of a fourth dose 4 months after a 3rd dose of mRNA vaccine compared to those who received 3 doses. This relative vaccine effectiveness only provides evidence on the value of a fourth dose compared to individuals who already have some vaccine induced protection (3 dose recipients). The relative vaccine effectiveness depends upon the initial VE provided by 3 doses and how much subsequent waning has occurred. In contrast, earlier studies provide an absolute vaccine effectiveness comparing vaccinated versus unvaccinated individuals. The Canadian study is the only available study that provides data on absolute vaccine effectiveness (i.e., compares 4th dose schedule to those who are unvaccinated). Additionally, the maximum follow up in the available studies was short and ranged from two weeks to ten weeks after the fourth dose.

Of the seven studies that investigated the use of a 4th dose of mRNA COVID vaccine, two reported specifically on outcomes of infection and any symptomatic disease. Both studies were conducted in Israel and included health workers (HWs) as their population of interest. One study showed an increased IgG antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 receptor-binding domain and neutralizing antibody titers by a factor of 9-10 measured after fourth dose of vaccine. This corresponded to antibody titers that were slightly higher than

those achieved after the third dose, with no significant difference between the two mRNA vaccines. The second study investigated breakthrough infections in HWs who received 3 doses of BNT162b2 vaccine and provided a comparison to those who received a fourth dose of BNT162b2. In fourth dose recipients, there was a reduction in breakthrough infection rates compared to that observed after only a 3rd dose of mRNA vaccine.

Of the remaining five studies, all were conducted in individuals older than 60 years of age, excluding individuals who had previous SARS-Co-2 infection and specifically evaluated mRNA vaccines. Two of the studies were retrospective cohort studies using administrative data. The first study found that the relative vaccine effectiveness against severe disease to be 66% (95% CI, 57-72) 15 to 21 days after a fourth dose and 77% (95% CI, 62-86) 36-42 days after a fourth dose (6). The second retrospective cohort study reported on death as the outcome measure and found a relative vaccine effectiveness of 78% (95% CI 72-83) 7 or more days post fourth dose. The absolute risk reduction conferred by the fourth dose was 0.07% in the study. The third study used a test negative design and reported on severe disease. They found a relative vaccine effectiveness of 87% (95% CI 0-98) 49-69 days post fourth booster. This study reported that severe disease was a relatively rare event, occurring among <1% of both fourth dose and third dose only recipients. The fourth study reviewed was a target trial (application of trial design principles from RCTs to the analysis of observational data) that provided outcome data for hospitalization, severe disease and death. They found a relative vaccine effectiveness of 62% (95% CI, 50 to 74) against severe COVID-19, and 74% (95% CI, 50 to 90) against COVID-19 related death comparing 3 dose recipients to 4 dose recipients. A further analysis of the risk of severe COVID-19 from 7 days to 30 days post fourth dose was 42.1 events per 100,000 persons, as compared with 110.8 events per 100,000 persons in the 3 dose recipient control group. This corresponds to a difference in risk of 68.8 cases per 100,000 persons (95% CI, 48.5 to 91.9).

The final study, conducted in Canada, investigated not only the relative vaccine effectiveness but also the absolute vaccine effectiveness when compared to unvaccinated individuals, two dose recipients as well as three dose recipients. This study found that with each additional dose, VE increased for severe disease. Absolute VE was 82% (95%CI 75-88%) as measured more than 84 days after third dose, and 92% (95%CI 87-95%) for fourth dose recipients at greater than 7 days after the fourth dose.

Taken together, these studies show some short-term benefit of an additional booster dose of mRNA vaccine in health workers, those over 60 years of age or with immunocompromising conditions. Data to support an additional dose for healthy younger populations are limited; preliminary data suggest that in younger people, the benefit is minimal. Moreover, follow-up time after the additional booster dose was limited, thereby precluding conclusions about duration of protection after this dose. Therefore, there is a lack of data to guide some important questions for making policy decisions. The limited available data suggest that for highest risk groups there is a benefit that supports the administration of an additional booster dose.

Administering an additional booster dose likely comes with considerable programmatic challenges in terms of vaccine delivery in many settings. The financial and opportunity cost of such programmes must also be carefully weighed against the limited incremental benefit of an additional booster dose. In those most at risk for severe disease or death (i.e. adults above the age of 60 years, or those who are not able to mount a full immune response), the additional benefit of an additional booster dose of mRNA vaccine might be warranted.

Considerations for future additional doses:

For longer-term considerations, there are significant uncertainties related to the evolution of the virus and the characteristics of future variants. Given widespread transmission of Omicron globally, continued viral evolution with the emergence of new variants or sub lineages as is already being seen. Development of a pan-SARS-CoV-2 or pan-sarbecovirus vaccines are needed, but the timeframe for their development is uncertain. Meanwhile, the composition of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines may need to be updated to offer better protection against new VOCs which may be antigenically distinct. Current vaccines based on the index virus appear to maintain high VE against severe disease also in the context of current variants of concerns, but VE estimates against infection and symptomatic diseases are lower against Omicron. Any update to vaccine composition would aim to elicit greater breadth in the immune response against circulating and emerging variants, in addition to retaining protection against severe disease and death. The performance of any updated vaccine(s) may vary depending on the nature and magnitude of previously acquired immunity, recognizing that this immunity will be dependent upon different VOCs, different types of vaccines and their timing of administration.

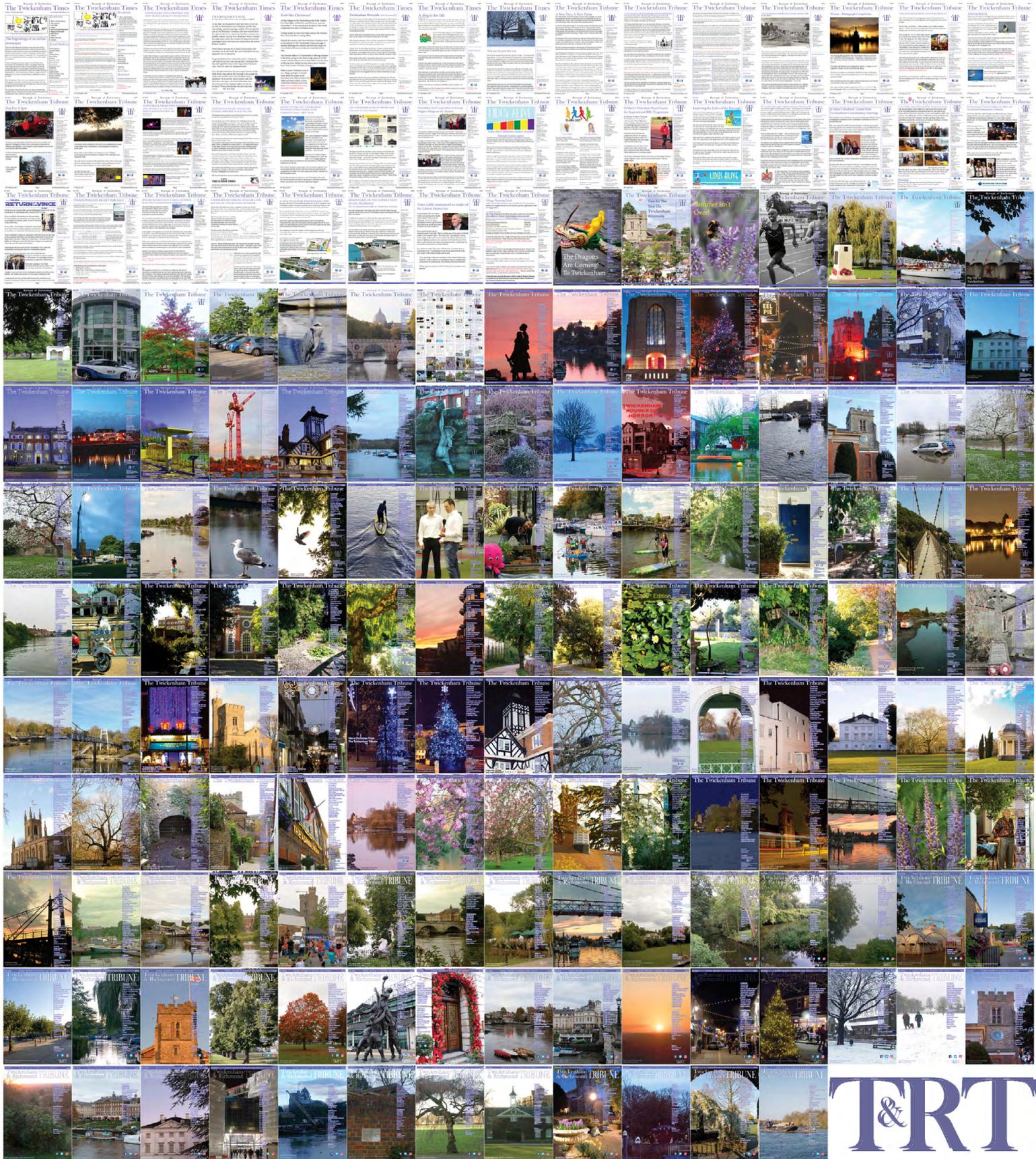
While seasonality is not yet fully established for SARS-COV-2, evidence from the past two years support the notion of more substantial transmission during the winter season. Therefore, for countries with either a Northern or Southern Hemisphere winter season, plans for catch-up to improve primary series coverage and boosting for those at highest risk, campaigns should take seasonality into account. In addition, in view of the uncertainty of the characteristics of new VOC, which may emerge rapidly, there may be value in establishing vaccine induced immunity using existing vaccines (i.e. index virus) complemented by a booster dose of variant vaccine to broaden the immunological response. The Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition will provide advice on updated vaccine composition when data is available.

To that end, in order to make sound policy decisions, data will need to be generated on the performance of current and variant-specific candidate COVID-19 vaccines, including the VE, immunogenicity and safety of an additional booster dose over time and by disease outcome and priority use groups. More research is needed on the breadth, magnitude, and durability of humoral and cell-mediated immune responses to variants. Also needed is evidence to address other gaps in the evidence regarding the need for additional booster doses, which includes the duration of VE of inactivated, subunit and viral vectored vaccines over time and by disease outcome. Finally, an understanding of the vaccine correlates of protection and correlates of durability of protection in persons with and without previous COVID-19 infection would assist policy makers in creating sound programmatic decisions.

SAGE as well as the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition continue to monitor the situation carefully and the WHO position will be updated accordingly.



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Published by:

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

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