

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



23rd September 2022

First day of Autumn, 23rd September

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

York House Covid drop-in clinic runs out of vaccine

A drop-in Covid Vaccine Clinic at York House on Thursday 22nd, opening hours 10:30 to 4pm, closed just after 2pm – two hours before the advertised time; they had run out of vaccine. A disappointed queue was sent home – with no information of when the next Clinic would be available. A number of bookings for the flu jab were cancelled this week, as vaccine deliveries had been delayed by Monday's Bank Holiday.

Barclays Bank Twickenham Branch to close

The Barclays Bank York Street branch is to close on 14th December. Sitting at the end of King Street, and bordered by York Street and Church Street, the curved building is a well-known landmark.

Come and have a chat about your health

The 'Come and have a chat about your health' bus will visit **Tesco in Teddington on Wednesday 28 September** to answer your health questions.

The bus will be parked at Tesco 20-28 Broad St, Teddington, TW11 8RF from **10am to 3pm**. If you have a question about your health, or on behalf of your family or friends, visit the health bus to get it answered. A local pharmacist will be available to offer advice on a range of different areas. NHS staff will be on hand to give you the COVID-19 vaccination if you haven't yet had it, as well as the booster dose. And if you have any questions or concerns about the vaccine, you can come along and have a chat about it, with no pressure to get the vaccine.

Autumn Art Fair at the Landmark Arts Centre

There will be over 60 artists to discover at the biannual contemporary arts fair at the Landmark Arts Centre.

From prints to paintings, sculpture to sketches, and with prices ranging from £50 prints to £4,000 originals, there is something to suit all tastes and every budget.

The fair takes place on Friday 14 October 1pm to 8pm, Saturday 15 October from 10am to 4pm and Sunday 16 October from 10am to 4pm.

Admission is only £5, concessions £4 and Under 16's and Landmark Friends going for free.

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update

Data as of 18 September 2022

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (605,919 new cases; +13%), the United States of America (395,117 new cases; -11%), the Republic of Korea (389,579 new cases; -11%), the Russian Federation (372,485 new cases; +10%) and China (297,693 new cases; 13%).

The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,601 new deaths; +5%), Japan (1,162 new deaths; -31%), the Russian Federation (697 new deaths; +9%), Spain (595 new deaths; +83%) and Brazil (487 new deaths; -12%).

Variants of Concern

The current variant circulation is characterized by Omicron descendent lineages and by a large genetic diversification. More than 230 descendent lineages of Omicron, and more than 30 recombinants have emerged. These variants are being monitored and assessed by WHO based on criteria of genetic constellations of mutations, and/or indications of a rise in prevalence in a geographic location, as well as any evidence of phenotypic changes.

European Region

In the European Region, the number of new weekly cases remained stable this week as compared to the previous week, with over 1.1 million new cases reported. Nine (15%) countries reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Monaco (62 vs 33 new cases; +88%) and Lithuania (8,809 vs 5,754 new cases; +53%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (372,485 new cases; 255.2 new cases per 100,000; +10%), Germany (206,617 new cases; 248.4 new cases per 100,000; similar to the previous week) and France (183,271 new cases; 281.8 new cases per 100,000; +62%).

Over 2,700 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 22% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (697 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +9%), Spain (595 new deaths; 1.3 new deaths per 100,000; +83%) and Italy (371 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; similar to the previous week).

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Guardian: Covid hospitalisations rise by nearly 20% in a week in England

The Telegraph: Covid hospital admissions in England up 17pc in a week, sparking fears of a new wave: It is the first time there has been a significant rise in admissions since numbers began to fall at the beginning of July.

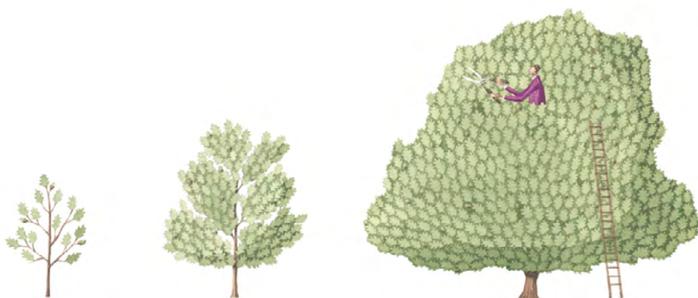
World Health Organization: No time for COVID-19 complacency, say key countries responsible for tracking global rollout of COVID vaccines, tests and treatments

The New York Times: Major Covid Holdouts in Asia Drop Border Restrictions

Reuters: Hong Kong will scrap COVID hotel quarantine from September 26

Fortune: New COVID variants may evade current treatments

TIME: Scientists Find a New Coronavirus in Bats That Is Resistant to Current Vaccines.



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The Tree Agency

Had the enemy come

By Simon Fowler

By 1943 victory was increasingly likely for the Allies. But there was still a nagging worry about what might happen had the Nazis invaded. Recently uncovered 'very secret' 'Notes on Invasion Defence' show how Twickenham planned to deal with such an invasion. The Notes are impressive in their completeness, listing the location of loudspeaker cars, addresses of local doctors and describes how to chlorinate water.

It was expected that there would be some very nasty fighting in the area. In particular several anti-tank lines crossed the borough, where the Army hoped to destroy advancing German tanks.

The plan stressed the need to drive out or destroy the enemy as quickly as possible: 'The primary object of invasion preparations, therefore, is to meet military requirements; the well-being of the civilian population must necessarily be a secondary consideration.'



The civilian population was expected 'to give active assistance to the armed forces and the civil executive authorities.' 'All persons should stand firm and to keep off the roads.' This was to stop the floods of refugees struggling to flee the fighting which had held up the allies during the Battle for France in 1940.

The plan baldly stated that 'in any case [people] will be in less danger and suffer less hardship by remaining in their own neighbourhood.' The public was expected to act as normally as possible, unless Twickenham was under direct enemy attack.

But if there were stray enemy marauders or small groups of enemy troops: 'The Government expects that every stout-hearted citizen will use all his powers to overcome them.' But the citizenry was not expected to attack formations of enemy troops and tanks, because this would be counter-productive and 'worse still might actually impede the operations of our own forces.'

Apart from leaving the roads free, how might the stout-hearted help the fight against the invader. Several ways were suggested, delivering messages by bicycle, by cooking and distributing food to the defenders, filling craters and shell holes so that military vehicles could pass, providing billets for troops and providing accommodation for bombed-out neighbours. But most importantly, the authorities believed that activities of this kind would increase morale if every resident felt that they were contributing to the defence of the town.

Fortunately, we can't know how effective these Notes would have been had there been an invasion. The arrival of squadrons of the feared German Tiger tanks would certainly have caused panic among soldiers and civilian alike.

The Notes were revised and reissued in the 1950s at the height of the Cold War. And, for all we know, they may still form the basis of invasion planning today.

Sources Borough of Twickenham, Notes on Invasion Defence (March 1943) LMA

Boatyard for Sale on Eel Pie Island

Teresa Read

One of the boatyards on Twickenham's Eel Pie Island is up for sale with Savills, an estate agent currently working with the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames on a highly unpopular planning application for a block of luxury flats on land which is currently public open space.

Boatbuilding has taken place on Eel Pie Island for hundreds of years: tugs, work boats, passenger boats, landing craft and house barges have all been built in the Slipways.

Eel Pie Slipways is one of the last of the traditional boatyards left on the Thames; the owner of the boatyard has expressed the concern in an earlier interview that passing on skills will soon be lost forever.

Buildings on Eel Pie Island are an eclectic collection of buildings; highly individualised homes vie with contemporary architecture. Aquarius, a modern housing development, has been named in an attempt to recapture something of the island's past.

Approached from the mainland by a footbridge, Eel Pie Island is the stuff of legend - rock legend. Brian Jones, the ill-fated member of the Rolling Stones, played in the garden of Sunrise and, earlier, the Eel Pie Island Hotel, which burned to the ground in 1971, was the scene of traditional jazz.

The following musicians are among those who played on the island: The Rolling Stones, The Who, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page, Rod Stewart, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath, The Edgar Broughton Band, Hawkwind, Cyril Davies, Alexis Korner, Long John Baldry, Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, Elmore James, Ken Colyer, Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball and George Melly.

It is reported that The Eel Pie Island Association aims to apply for a grant from Historic England to save the Island's heritage.



<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=EelPieIsland>

Photographs copyright World InfoZone Ltd

The insightful phenomenon of the Queue

Julia Woodham-Smith

The Queue. It's captured the media's attention across the world. It has its own YouTube live stream. It has its own Wikipedia page. The Queue even has its own weather forecast on the BBC Weather app

Being in the business of observing and understanding people, I've been fascinated by the Queue. It's become more than just a physical queue with an end goal. It has provided real insight into human behaviour and who we are as a society



*The Queue along the Albert Embankment and crossing Lambeth Bridge on the afternoon of 14 September 2022
Photo by [Andrew Davidson](#)*

It encapsulates who we are as a nation

“The queue is a triumph of Britishness” as one person called out on Twitter. As another social media post highlighted “only a British person will quietly join the back of a five mile queue, without even bothering to attempt to look how far ahead it stretches, maybe a small bottle of water in their hand, showing the rest of the world how queuing is done”.

When the Queue closed for 7 hours on Friday due to it reaching full capacity, a queue for the Queue formed. It had the wonderful nickname of ‘The Queue 2’. But it was one that held as much importance and significance as the main Queue. There was no hesitation in standing in this second line. People knew what was expected of them. They would wait patiently to upgrade to the line which would ultimately take them to where they were wanting to be.

When the UK set up its first citizenship test in 2010, ‘How to form a good queue’ was one of the areas it covered. As one MP said, “The simple act of taking one’s turn is one of the things that holds our country together”. We know how queueing is done. It’s our national super power. We know the rules and woe betide you if you break them

In essence, the Queue has taken on symbolic meaning - an embodiment of us as a nation. As

Brits, we've trained our whole life for this moment. And we are proudly showing the world how it's done.

It's brought people together like never before

People in the Queue have come from all walks of life. Celebrities have put their fame to one side and become one of us. Dame Kelly Holmes joined the back of the queue on Saturday afternoon. David Beckham mingled with the public for over 13 hours on Friday and became known in the Queue as 'Doughnut Dave' as he bought doughnuts for those around him.

Everyone is equal in the Queue, regardless of their job, their background, their fame. It's become a symbol of democracy. It's allowed the nation to be united in sharing their grief and showing their respect at this historical moment.

They came as strangers and left as friends. Many have exchanged numbers and a desire to stay in contact with those they have met in the Queue – bonded by their time together - there's a lot to talk about in 14 hours. This is rarely seen in London, where eye contact and talking to strangers is considered very peculiar.

Things would have been very different had those in charge given out timed tickets for people just to turn up at their allotted time. This has been, whether intentional or not, a wonderfully orchestrated approach to bring people together, whoever they are. To become a collective with a single purpose, to share experiences.

And let's not forget FOMO

There's been a frenzy whipped up about the Queue. It's all over social media, it's creating global headlines.

The first person in the Queue was a lady called Vanessa – waiting over 50 hours to see the Queen lying in state because she 'really wanted to be part of it'. One man even queued twice, going home in between 'shifts' to get his car serviced and 2 hours sleep. A US family from Florida has flown over specifically to get in the Queue. There's been a display of real commitment, and passion, for being involved in this historical moment.

And of course, the opportunity to queue is a limited time offer. From a behavioural economics standpoint, this has made the desire to not miss out even more palpable.

There's one person I feel for in this respect ... there is a designated person at the end of the Queue, standing with a big sign that reads "Lying-In-State, Queue Starts Here". This person is destined to move further away, unlike the other advancing queuers - never to reach that ultimate destination - the front.

To conclude, someone pointed out that the word 'queue' is beautiful – the actual important letter, and then four more silently waiting behind it in a line. And the Queue has indeed been beautiful too.

Long Live the Queue

LONDON LUMINARIES

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

Fourteen historic places celebrate the heritage of food and drink across West London. Hosted via zoom at 7pm by broadcaster and literary critic Prof. Judith Hawley.

FULL MEAL

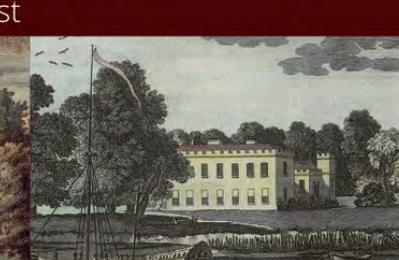
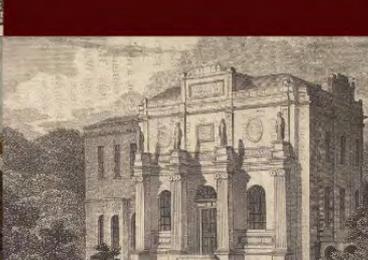
- 5TH OCT Hogarth's House - Drunk for a Penny
- 6TH OCT Ham House - Aphrodisiac Pies and Taffety Tarts: 17th Century Food and Drink
- 12TH OCT Strawberry Hill House - Food In Gothic Literature
- 13TH OCT A Return to the Fluorescent Banquet: Feasting at Orleans House through the eyes of an artist
- 19TH OCT Garrick's Temple - After you with the salt, Dr Johnson!
- 20TH OCT The Material Culture of Tea at Marble Hill House
- 26TH OCT Turner's House - Eels, Pies, Picnics and Banquets

- 27TH OCT Pope's Grotto: Wining and Dining with Alexander Pope
- 2ND NOV Kew Palace: The Royal Kitchens at Kew
- 3RD NOV Medieval Estate to Community Garden: Centuries of Food Production at Gunnersbury House
- 9TH NOV Fulham Palace: Posh Nosh
- 10TH NOV Boston Manor - In the Fields and on the Table
- 16TH NOV Chiswick House - A Kitchen Garden for the next 100 Years
- 17TH NOV The Committee of Taste: Soane at Pitzhanger Manor

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WWW.LONDONLUMINARIES.COM

 @LuminariesTrust



Reminder:

Polio booster for children aged 1 to 9

Children aged 1 to 9 in South West London, including Richmond borough, are now being offered a dose of polio vaccine.

There are signs that polio may be spreading in London and the number of children vaccinated in London is lower than it should be.

As such, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that a targeted inactivated polio vaccine booster dose should be offered to all children between the ages of 1 and 9.

GPs and the NHS have been contacting parents of 1 to 9 year olds in South West London to invite them to book a vaccination appointment.

- Parents with children aged between 1 and 4 are being offered an appointment at their GP practice
- Parents with children aged between 5 and 9 can [book an appointment at a local vaccination clinic](#)

Polio is a serious infection that is now very rare because of the vaccination programme. It is a highly infectious disease that can cause total paralysis for any age – but mainly affects children aged three and under.

For more information on Polio, please visit the [NHS website](#).

Cllr Piers Allen, Lead member for Adult Social Care and Health and Chair of the Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board, said:

“It’s important parents/guardians of all children aged 1 to 9, even if their children are up to date with their vaccinations, accept this vaccine when offered to boost their children’s immunity, both to help protect them and reduce the risk of the virus continuing to spread.”



Further funding opportunity available to help residents get active

Local groups and organisations are invited to apply for funding through the Active Richmond Fund to help enhance the borough's offer of lifestyle activities that improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

The Active Richmond Fund supports local groups and organisations to provide both social and physical activities that help to support an active and healthy lifestyle for residents. Activities include sports, fitness, arts as well as social groups.

The fund also supports projects that enable healthy eating choices, improve people's nutrition, increasing awareness of how to cook affordably and healthily and provides advice and support in community groups and settings. These project proposals should promote healthy and nutritious diets, whereby people eat a wide range of foods to ensure a good intake of nutrients.

Applications are particularly encouraged from organisations and groups who work with adults who may be less physically active, at risk of obesity, from underserved communities, in care or who support local Social Prescribing and community offers. Social Prescribing connects people with activities and provides support in their local community to enable them to take control of their health and wellbeing.

The Active Richmond fund offers two grant levels to apply for:

- **Micro Grants** – up to £1,000
- **Main Grants** – up to £5,000

A Micro Grant provides short-term and quick funding, for example if an organisation needed extra gym equipment or to provide additional places where demand is high for an activity. A Main Grant is for those looking for funding for long-term projects, for example if an organisation wanted to introduce a new activity or expand existing activities to other parts of the borough.



Any project that encourages people to be active and look after their wellbeing could be awarded funding. For more information and to apply go to the [Active Richmond Fund](#).

For guidance on applying to the Active Richmond Fund or to discuss your project please contact the Grants Team:

- Telephone: 020 8831 6297 or 020 8487 5259
- Email: activerichmondfund@richmond.gov.uk

FREE

@Hampton4thePlanet

PRESENTS

**A GREAT BIG GREEN
WEEK POP UP**

Interested in nature, wildlife or sustainability? Worried about environmental issues? Pop along for a chat and cuppa.

Get involved in habitat creation, take part in nature trail or complete a mini bioblitz with the chance to win a prize!

25th September 2022
10-1pm
The Beveree Wildlife Site, Hampton,
TW12 2BZ

@Hampton4thePlanet



YMCA Hampton Preschool celebrates opening

On Friday 2 September, YMCA Hampton Preschool – part of YMCA St Paul’s Group – celebrated its official opening with a teddy bears picnic and a host of activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, crafts and family Zumba.

YMCA St Paul’s Group CEO Richard James was joined by Head of Children, Youth & Family, Kristina Lastowecky, to welcome the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Julia Cambridge, as well as local families and invited guests.



The preschool, located in the YMCA White House, is situated in the heart of Nurserylands, Hampton. Its location offers large open spaces for nature walks and exploring. It also benefits from a large, enclosed garden, including play equipment perfect for adventure, risk taking and problem solving.

The team at YMCA Hampton Preschool offer children a wide range of creative and engaging activities, enabling them to learn and develop through play. They focus on being child-led with a free flow indoors and outdoors learning and play programme and enjoy close ties with local primary schools to ensure a smooth transition.

Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) Twickenham Green

Twickenham Cricket Club
The Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Twickenham, TW2 5TU
020 8894 3110

Opening hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 10am to 5pm

Saturday 11am to 10pm

Sunday when cricket is being played

(Also open when there is a cricket match and the pavilion is in use)

The Cricket Pavilion does not seem to display the obligatory CTS LBRUT sign. A permanent, visible TOILET notice is needed in the central area of Twickenham Green.

Public Toilets in London, Age UK - [London Loos](https://www.londonloos.com)

My Bank Holiday Weekend

Teresa Read

Whilst the majority of the nation watched the Queen's Funeral during the Bank Holiday there were those who needed medical support who were looking for a pharmacy that was actually open, despite misleading information on some websites.

The NHS 111 service was available but for those in Twickenham it did not give information about the Teddington Memorial Hospital Walk-In service.

I was one of the unfortunate who needed urgent medical attention.

I live next to land owned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and have very large trees overhanging my garden. This year there has been an abundance of leaves and conkers for a number of weeks which needed collecting for the green bin - however, the bin is not fit for purpose for this job.

Previously, in the past, the Council has been a good neighbour acknowledging the problem and carrying out works. However, this has not been the case for a few years.

On the eve of the Queen's funeral, filling additional bins with debris from the Council tree which was shedding diseased leaves, I slipped whilst pulling one of the additional bins into a shelter sustaining a deep cut to my hand.

So, I return to the need for medical attention.



One week's worth of leaves

Luckily, the wonderful Teddington Memorial Hospital was open the following day and within half an hour I had six stitches in my left hand.

I have now had a meeting with Cllr Richard Bennett of the Green Party, and the Leader of the Opposition, who is pursuing the matter.

What's on in Hampton event takes place this weekend

Come along this weekend to find out what's available all over Hampton with clubs, societies and associations all on show.

The What's on in Hampton event takes place this Sunday 25 September from 1 to 4pm. The event will be hosted by Linden Hall Community Centre and The Hampton Inspired Hub with free entry for everyone.

There'll be music and drama, children's activities, wellness, sports and fitness, tradespeople and much much more with something for all tastes.

For further details or to have a stall contact Linden Hall or The Hampton Inspired Hub or email hamptoncommunitynews@gmail.com



Strawberry Hill Flower Festival returns this weekend

The Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival returns to Twickenham for a fourth successive year this weekend running from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 September 2022.

The festival will be a spectacular showcase of the very best of British-grown flowers, foam-free sustainable floristry, and the design creativity of the UK's leading floral designers.

Curated by Leigh Chappell and Janne Ford, the Flower Festival is produced for the first time this year in association with Flowers from the Farm, the award-winning membership organisation championing artisan growers of local, seasonal British cut flowers.



Find out more about this year's [Flower Festival](#) at Strawberry Hill House.

NEW LOOK FOR CÔTE RICHMOND

You might have noticed that Côte Richmond was closed for a while this summer, much to the annoyance of its 'coterie' of regulars. Well, if you haven't been to Richmond for a while, I can give you the good news: it's reopened after a total refurbishment. The refurb is part of the French restaurant group's 'brand evolution programme' and alongside an reinvigorated menu created by the new executive head chef Steve Allen, is the biggest change to its food offering in the company's 15 year history. But fear not, I went to check it out the other day, and I can report that Côte Richmond is as good as ever, and still offers excellent food at great prices!



According to the company: "Guests at Côte Richmond will find an elegant and modernised restaurant design inspired by classic French interiors. Normandy artist Claire de Quénétain has worked to deliver the spirit of France with a series of bespoke mural artworks throughout the restaurant, showcasing the brand's move towards a stylish and informal space that is perfect for both

daytime and relaxed evening dining."

The overall impression of the refurbished restaurant is that it is light and airy. My only observation is that where we were seated, in the front part of the restaurant, near to the bar, the lighting was very poor indeed. The addition of some table lamps would make quite a difference to the comfort and the general ambience. I also was rather baffled by the waitress informing us on arrival that the restaurant is now cashless...why?



But onto the food: Starting with an excellent Negroni (£8.75) and a beer, my husband (who was feeling particularly hungry that evening) opted to try the fougasse at £5.50, a Provencal style garlic bread to share). Wow! The small taste I had was superb, but it is meant for two to share and I wasn't wanting to overload with carbs. The company has introduced monthly seasonal specials as an adjunct to the main menu, and I chose Fig & Bayonne Ham Salad (£7.95). My



husband can never resist Whitebait, in fact on the Prix Fixe menu. Talking of the Prix Fixe menu, I can reassure you that it is still there, and just as good value. Two courses for £16.95 and three for £20.95 - amazing that they can still do this in the current climate.



My salad was divine; I loved the fact that it was atop a bed of creamy Roquefort, giving it an extra flavour dimension. The whitebait were proclaimed excellent too - piping hot, and very lightly battered and served with garlic and lemon aioli.

For our mains, I succumbed to the lure of the Fillet Noir (7oz). This was two fillet medallions, served pink, truffle potato dauphines, mushroom marmalade, black garlic jus and charred baby gem. At £29.95 it was perhaps rather an indulgent choice, but my word, it's worth it! On first examination, the steak

looked overcooked, but on cutting, it was as promised, pink and so tasty. My husband's burger at £14.95 was to the same standard. Served with Reblochon cheese, truffle mayo, caramelised red onion, brioche bun and frites.



Drinks prices are, as always, good value. I had a glass of Corbieres, and when we next return we will definitely be ordering a bottle of it as at £25.95 it was full of ripe, black, fruits and went beautifully with the steak. With house wines at £20.50 a bottle, again the company has stuck to its original ethos of offering authentic French cuisine at reasonable prices.

The menus, in accordance with new legislation, show the calorie count of each dish. I'm hoping that this rule is dismissed soon, as the last thing one wants when going out for an enjoyable evening, is to be reminded of how fattening your meal is! That said, my superbly rich and delectable steak was actually only 667 calories, compared with the burger at 1,456.

It's reassuring to know, in these inflationary times, that good old Côte, even with its new look, can still be relied upon to provide great food at a reasonable price... we'll be back soon.

TWO'S COMPANY: SIMPLE

Cooking for two should be simple, but it often isn't! And of course, one can always cook for four and pop half of the finished dish in the freezer to enjoy on another occasion. But halving a recipe for



four isn't always as straightforward as it should be, so the latest book from Orlando Murrin is a godsend for couples, friends and roommates. **Two's Company: Simple** follows his successful *Two's Company*, and this time Orlando turns his attention to super simple food, designed for two people to share. There are 75 new recipes, encompassing everything from week-night quick fixes and easy-yet-impressive mains, to indulgent desserts. These speedy, often all in one, recipes have been carefully created by Orlando to leave minimal leftovers (or those irritating half-finished packs that languish in the fridge or cupboard till they go off)! This great book makes cooking for two easier and more cost effective (much needed at the moment) than ever before. As well as great recipes, Orlando gives additional information as to from where/whom the inspiration is derived and some fabulous hacks to make life even more simple and like the one below, save expensive energy used

to cook it.

Orlando, a semi finalist in MasterChef in 1992, is former editor of the hugely successful BBC Good Food magazine, and now writes a column for Waitrose Weekend, presents BBC Good Food Podcast with Tom Kerridge. Since 2019, he's been President of the Guild of Food Writers.

Two's Company: Simple has just been published by Ryland Peters & Small at £20 for a lovely hardback with photography by Clare Winfield © Ryland Peters & Small - it's an early entry in a superb line up of cookbooks published for the Christmas market and these recipes here will encourage you to add it to your gift list.



PENNE ALLA VODKA

*"This comforting recipe is from my friend Kristen Frederickson's book *Second Helpings*, a charming collection of her Anglo-American family's favourite recipes, photographed by her daughter Avery; this is a sequel to her much loved first volume, *Tonight at 7.30*. Kristen's version uses Italian seasoning and garlic granules, which are not found in every kitchen, so I have with her permission adapted it. If you do have them, use 2 teaspoons of Italian seasoning, and 1½ teaspoons of garlic granules."*

- 250 g dried penne rigate
- 400-g can chopped or whole plum tomatoes
- ½ a 75-g garlic and herb rindless soft cheese (such as Boursin)
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- ½ – 1 tsp crushed chillies flakes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- a good pinch of sugar
- 3 tbsp vodka or gin, plus a little extra if you wish
- freshly grated Parmesan, to serve



1. Bring a pan of well-salted water to the boil and cook the pasta till al dente (or see below).
2. Meanwhile, blitz the tomatoes, herbed soft cheese, garlic, oregano, crushed chillies, oil, sugar and ½ teaspoon of salt in a small food processor till smooth (not the vodka just yet). Bring the mixture to a simmer in a pan large enough to hold both sauce and pasta and cover with a lid to keep warm.
3. When the pasta is cooked, drain it and stir it into the sauce, along with the vodka. Heat through for 3–4 minutes. By all means splash a little extra vodka on top before serving with a generous amount of grated Parmesan.

AN EASIER WAY TO COOK PASTA (YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST)

If you wish to streamline your life, may I recommend a simplified pasta cooking method. Bring about 1 litre/1 quart of salted water to a rolling boil (you don't need more), add the pasta and stir well. Turn off the heat, clap on the lid and leave for 20 minutes, stirring just once, about 5 minutes in. This will cook spaghetti and most other pastas to perfection (with the exception of orzo, which cooks very fast), but if you are looking for a perfect al dente, start checking from the time recommended on the pack, and leave it till it's how you want it.

This method was pioneered by none other than Elizabeth David, who found it on the back of a pack of pasta. Aggie MacKenzie – star of the television show 'How Clean Is Your House?' – reminded me of it, having learnt it from a Russian friend. It is evidently one of those 'hacks' that deserves to go viral, along with how to eat a banana (start at the bottom end – far easier than trying to snap the stem).

ST CLEMENT'S CREAM

"A tangy, no-cook treat that you can whip up in under 10 minutes, including the washing up. If you wish, you can make one batch of lemon cream and use it to make four desserts for two separate nights, putting a thick layer of sliced strawberries, raspberries or other fruit of your choice at the bottom of each glass."

- 100 g lemon curd
- finely grated zest of ¼ an orange
- 100 ml double cream
- 2 tsp orange liqueur (such as Cointreau), orange flower water, or brandy (optional)
- a few thin slices of fresh orange, chopped into small pieces
- 1 digestive biscuit, bashed into crumbs in a bag with a rolling pin

1. Take 2 glass tumblers, each at least 150-ml capacity.
2. Put about three-quarters of the lemon curd, the orange zest, cream and liqueur (if using) in a bowl and whisk to soft peaks. Use your electric whisk if you wish, but if you'd like some exercise it takes about 2 minutes beating vigorously by hand.
3. Dribble over the remaining lemon curd but don't mix in. Divide half the mixture between the 2 glasses, marbling as you go. Place the sliced orange on top, then continue with the rest of the mixture. You can make this up to a day ahead, or if you are making it to eat within an hour or so, place in the freezer to super-chill the dessert.
4. Just before serving, sprinkle with the cookie crumbs.



Our House

by Tim Firth, music and lyrics by Madness

TOPS Musical Theatre Company at Hampton Hill Theatre until 24th September

Our House, with its vibrant choreography and strong singing, is a treat! My companion commented that the TOPS show of this London love story is as good as the West End version he saw some years back.

So where to start? The *Sliding Doors* plot gives a choice of destiny, with break ups, heartbreaks, relevant issues, an unforgettable Las Vegas number ... and a car wheeled onstage.

As the flexible cast plays a colourful array of sassy receptionists, earnest solicitors, opportunist property developers, and absent dads, we follow Joe all the way through his quest to find love and



justice. Surprisingly relevant issues are woven thoughtfully in through all the songs that Madness performed through the years, and if one doesn't realise how many songs this iconic group actually produced, one soon learns. It is a pleasurable lesson.

I like the two-storey stage where band members sit on the top level backlit in silhouette, and if they are a little too loud sometimes, the bonhomie of the cast's voices and attitudes still make it all enjoyable. Musical director, Daniel Looseley and his talented musicians

clearly have fun in producing such skilled sounds, doing great justice to Madness' pieces.

Against the grim relevance of property developer's greed and of saving childhood homes, there is the contrast of colourful numbers. In particular the Las Vegas number set to *Wings of a Dove* stands out in a crowd of many good numbers. The slick choreography by Becky Silverstein is held to a high standard by Dance Captain Laura Dulwich.

TJ Lloyd, the director, handles a complex and many layered musical, which is fraught with moral dilemmas, with sensitivity and skill. He can be proud of this colourful show. It unfortunately has all too short a run ... don't let this one get away.



Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/22/our-hse-tops

Photography by Chris Lemon and TMD

Miss Julie

by August Strindberg, adapted by Howard Brenton

Richmond Shakespeare Society at Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 24th September

First performed privately in Copenhagen in 1889, August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* was, on its first publication in English translation, deemed to be "a play so revolting that even the plot is impossible to describe". Strindberg was an exponent of naturalism and what he described as *forsøksteater* (experimental theatre). This new production by Richmond Shakespeare Society respects Strindberg's precepts, and he would have welcomed the natural way that lines were addressed. However, while Strindberg was originally seen as challenging orthodoxy, after more than a century what was once shocking and novel feels old-fashioned even when re-presented in Howard Brenton's modern language adaptation. The once startling conclusion of *Miss Julie* is today as predictable as it is unconvincing.



Miss Julie is set in Sweden at the Summer solstice, the time to welcome the changing of the seasons and to celebrate fertility. The principals are very strong, with Beckis Cooper in the title role; an actress of great power, by turns teasing and dominant, Cooper gives a compelling performance as a woman in control of everything but herself. Jack Lumb is more than her equal as the scheming Jean, Miss Julie's father's valet, while Danielle Thompson, as Kristen, brings a cold dignity to her role as Jean's partner in deceit. The other servants - a group of crude *Midsommar*

mechanicals led by a wolfish Terry Bedell – appear in only one scene but it is certainly memorable.

By contrast with the strength of the cast, the production itself feels slightly inchoate and the succession of events like a succession of scenes. In addition, something is lacking in the shifting interplay between the characters: some of this flows from the naturalistic script - in which much is unspoken or unseen and left for the audience to determine – but on the strength of this production *Miss Julie* remains a theatrical time capsule rather than a play with startling contemporary relevance.

Read Louis Mazzini's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/18/ms-julie

Photography by Pete Messum

Poems for Ukraine

Poetry Performance at The Willoughby Arms, Kingston

When Russia invaded Ukraine poets tried to make sense of lives lost. One is the Teddington group, Poetry Performance. Its anthology, *Poems for Ukraine*, recently launched in a crowded upstairs room in a Kingston pub, is packed with honest, angry and compassionate thoughts about the deaths and damage wreaked on Ukraine and on his own people by Russia's leader Vladimir Putin.



It is difficult to grasp the horrors that have been taking place in Ukraine and Heather Moulson's wry and self-aware poem, *The Trouble with War*, captures that sense of incomprehension: "It distracts me from vital things / like my phone charger and blusher. / I don't know about this strange country / that sits vulnerably next to Russia".



Fran Thurling's poem, *Kramatorsk Station*, focused on one of the most horrific moments of the war, when missiles hit a railway station as refugees tried to flee by train. Margaret May read German poet Reiner Kunze's poem *Diebeslied (Song of the Thieves)*, "who steal without any qualms, / and then all jubilant proclaim / what was your duty to reclaim / cannot be considered stolen." The final poem of the evening, *Blue on Yellow* by Keith Wait, must have been chosen for its power. After invoking the sunflowers and wheat-fields of Ukraine, now "stunted" or reduced to "shattered stubble", it ends: "Fly blue for bravery / and yellow now for love."

The launch evening was rounded off by a couple of Sixties-style protest songs aimed at Putin by Ian Lee-Dolphin.

A special guest at Friday's launch was Maria Emelianova, a young photojournalist and highly rated chess player from Russia. She was in Croatia when the war began. Appalled by what she was hearing and seeing, she started raising money for Ukrainian refugees on her internet channel. She faces a jail sentence of at least fifteen years if she should return to Russia.

Read Greg Freeman's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/21/poems-ukraine. It was first published on the poetry website Write Out Loud, and is reproduced with permission.

Photography by Heather Moulson and Ann Lee-Dolphin

Poems for Ukraine may be purchased from Amazon, Waterstones or by email at poetryperformancetw11@gmail.com. All profits from its sale are going to British-Ukrainian Aid, a charity providing humanitarian and medical aid to Ukraine.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare, abridged by Roger Warren
Putney Theatre Company at the Putney Arts Theatre

As much part of an English summer as cricket on the village, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is part of traditional open-air activities of balmy days. This year's Hurlingham Arts Festival featured Putney Theatre Company's abridged version of Shakespeare's magical summer show in a successful open-air run. However, those record hot summer days have given way to thunderstorms and heavy rain, and the show has now transferred into the company's own Putney Arts Theatre just across the river from Fulham's Hurlingham Club, better known for polo, tennis and croquet.



A Midsummer Night's Dream is more barmy than balmy, however, in its interwoven sub-plots and especially the knockabout comedy of the mechanicals. However, although a favourite amongst children, the drift of these sub-plots may not at first be easy to unravel. Roger Warren, the author of *Staging Shakespeare's Late Plays*, has skilfully adapted the Bard's best loved comedy and has cleared up some of the confusions in the plot. The delightful nonsense of the four groups, the court, the lovers, the mechanicals and the fairies are clearly demonstrated through the poetic verse, the prose and the clowning in this cut-back version.

Evoking a fairy bower, the set is a clever mixture of greenery and colourful flowers, and an apt setting for an adaptive distillation of the bucolic setting. A well-integrated cast have brought out all the play's humour in a successfully entertaining production.

The clever production directed by Barney Hart Dyke shows that he is able to make it possible for one actor successfully to take on two or three different parts. It is very impressive and admirable how remarkable well the cast keep the energy in the story going to create a memorable evening's entertainment.

Read Vicki and Chris Naylor's review at [www.http://markaspen.com/2022/09/16/midsummer-dream-ptc](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/09/16/midsummer-dream-ptc)

Photography courtesy of PTC



WIZ TALES - Cambodia

Teresa Read



The Kingdom of Cambodia is in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and the Gulf of Thailand; Phnom Penh is the capital city.

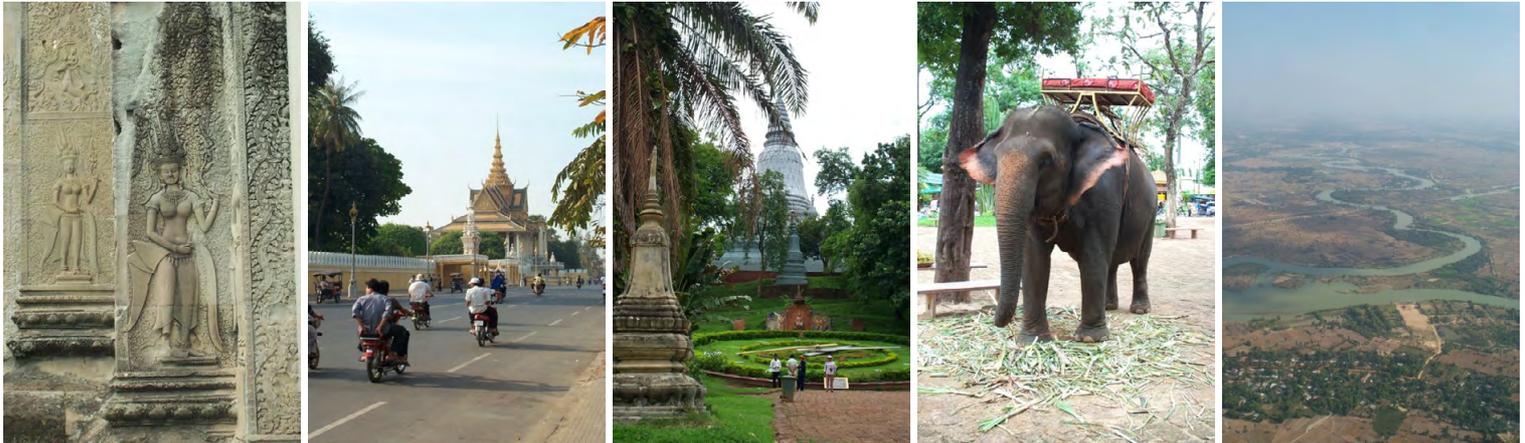
The Mekong River, the largest river in Southeast Asia, flows across Cambodia, from the north of the country to the south. The Tonle Sap, a river and lake system, is formed by the Mekong River.

Cambodia's wooden architecture has perished with time, but the country has one of the most important Archaeological Parks in Southeast Asia, Angkor Wat, known as the Eighth Wonder of the World and other temples of Angkor date from the Khmer Empire.



Like all countries, Cambodia is affected by climate change with coastal towns and villages particularly at risk. Storms and flooding from higher sea levels will affect clean water supply and create mudslides in this mainly low-lying country. There will also be a major impact on the Tonle Sap, a river and lake system - reversing its direction twice a year - supporting fishing communities living on floating villages.

The government of Cambodia is working with the United Nations Development Programme on the issue of climate change and will provide an early warning system for those working in the agriculture and water sectors.



More photographs of Cambodia: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Cambodia>

Sustainability Festival on 24 September

St Mary with St Alban, Parish Church of Teddington

Our first Parish Sustainability Festival will be taking place at St Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington. TW11 9HF, on Saturday 24th September. All are invited to come along, with entry free throughout the day.

Come and explore a range of exhibits about different aspects of our daily lives, from transport to housing, to food and other activities; including toys, games and entertainment for all ages, families and children.

Supported by many local businesses and groups, with a range of food products from local businesses and residents available to buy throughout the day.

7:00-7:45am: MORNING YOGA A free meditative class, led by Jo Price, an experienced local instructor. Suitable for all levels and offering us a relaxing start to the day. **Please click [here](#) to book your free place(s).**

10:00am: OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL by Munira Wilson our VIP guest and our local MP.

Followed by a 15-minute talk by Rev Derek Winterburn on making sustainability part of our everyday lives.

And Exhibits open:

- Plain & Pearl stall: handcrafted, unique eco-friendly goods, lovingly repurposed/upcycled using a range of techniques.
- Traidcraft stall: highlighting a range of Fair-Trade items.
- Free Children's Art classes by Sidonie of ARTVenturers, running throughout the morning. 2-6yr olds who are welcome to come along at any time to join the fun.
- Students from the Eco-Warriors club at St Mary's and St Peter's school exhibiting one of their sustainability projects.
- Free book swap: bring a sustainability focused book to exchange for another. Adult and children's books.
- Mum 2 Mum Market: Baby, Maternity, and Children Nearly New Sale.
- Twickenham Repair Café: learn how you can get your broken items repaired.
- Displays from local businesses, attendees, groups, and partners with ideas to encourage sustainable living, and items to purchase. Amongst them: Green Sparrow Foods, The Refill Larder, Monkey Sox
- Info on the Parish's *Building Anew* project and new sensory garden.
- Green Wall: a space to share ideas, wishes, and inspiration for the community.

Also, Richmond Council: Community Engagement Officer will be with us to discuss council initiatives. And there will be a range of food products available to buy throughout the day, including Margaret's jams & preserves.

4:00pm: EXHIBIT HALL CLOSES

7:30-10:30pm: WINE TASTING AND SUSTAINABLE SUPPER TALK

Taste sustainably grown wine and learn about what wine producers and other local businesses are doing. Come along for good food, good wine, good stories and good company.

Click [here](#) for your ticket(s): £15, 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Hall: including a special wine tasting class from The Good Wine Shop, with 4 sustainable wines, followed by a delicious sustainable home-made supper.

For more information please message James at sustainability@teddingtonparish.org or call the Parish Office: 020 8943 2262.

We look forward to seeing you, to share a range of sessions and activities to learn more about how we can all continue to make small teaks on our own sustainable journey.



StMARYwithStALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON

St Mary's University

St Mary's climbs 16 places to 51st nationally in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023

St Mary's University, Twickenham has climbed 16 places to sit in its highest ever position in [The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023](#), ranking 51st nationally, out of 135 institutions.

"We are delighted that the efforts of our university community have been recognised. It is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students that St Mary's has risen in the rankings of the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

In creating an academic institution where everyone is welcomed and valued, and maintaining a keen focus on delivering an enriching and fulfilling experience for our students, we are developing individuals with the confidence to make a positive impact in society."



St Mary's Provost Prof Symeon Dagkas added:

"We were founded as a teaching institution; teaching remains in our DNA. Our students learn from experts who are passionate about their subjects, and those experts in turn offer the support needed to help students flourish.

The guide also recognises the University's efforts to provide a great experience for its students, and inspiring and supportive teaching, as St Mary's is placed within the top ten universities nationally, and in the top two universities in London, for both teaching quality and the wider student experience.

St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran welcomed the news:

We are pleased this has been recognised by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, with St Mary's sitting fifth in the entire country for teaching quality."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

St Mary's University

St Mary's Extends Partnership with The FA as a Women's High Performance Football Centre

St Mary's University, Twickenham has extended its partnership with the FA to deliver a [Women's High Performance Football Centre \(WHPFC\)](#) until 2024, having been one of the original Universities starting the project in 2017.



St Mary's is one of ten universities partnering with the FA, including Northumbria University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Nottingham Trent University and University of Nottingham consortium, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Gloucestershire, Plymouth Marjon University and University of Chichester. The University of Essex and Birmingham City University will also join the partnership until 2024.

The centres provide an educational and community-based programme to recruit and develop coaches within the women's and girl's' game. They will help develop talented coaches and players, who will benefit from a range of high-quality, bespoke opportunities.

This partnership will enable universities to provide a wide range of student placements

from strength and conditioning, sport therapy, performance analysis, marketing, media and business management which will benefit clubs from across the football pyramid and women's football academies as they will be able to recruit coaches, and other members of the workforce.

Sport Development Manager at St Mary's, Gareth Crewe said "Working with The FA has significantly increased the work that we have been able to facilitate in developing coaches within female football, helped us secure additional funding for academic research that has improved the practice of students on our degree programmes, and increased the University's outreach through our Goalkeeper Centre that has supported talented players onto the England pathway. Through these benefits and more, being part of the WHPFC programme has helped enhance St Mary's' reputation as a leading hub for coach development in the female game."

Head of Sport St Mary's, Andrew Reid-Smith said "St Mary's is delighted to extend our partnership with the FA, and to continue to support women's and girls' football to keep progressing. With the incredible performances and success at the Euros by the Lionesses, this offers our students and others, great opportunities to develop as coaches and as part of the wider football workforce."

To find out more about the WHPFC at St Mary's, please visit the [University website](#).



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Thomas on Arsenal defeat

By [Brentford FC](#)

Thomas Frank said that there are some positives to take after our defeat to an Arsenal side that are top of the Premier League.

Despite the [3-0 loss at the Gtech Community Stadium](#) on Sunday, the boss was pleased with elements of his side's performance, as well as their resilience after conceding the third goal just after half-time.

"I always hate losing, but it was a well-deserved defeat, I can't argue with that," Thomas said.

"We lost to first in the table and they also performed like the No.1. I think they've been brilliant.

"I think that we actually performed quite well. I know the result will always overshadow it a little bit, but I think it was still quite a good performance that will cause a lot of teams trouble here at the Gtech Community Stadium, no doubt about that.

"If we want to play and beat a team like Arsenal in their current form, a title contender from my perspective, then we need to hit a 10/10.

"The big plus is that they scored two goals on what I would say is their only two chances in the first half, other than the something after one minute.

"With every set-piece we concede, I know we can do better. It was a good delivery but, as a principle, I'd like to avoid that if we want to do something special.

"Then a little bit on the second goal, I think we could have avoided that. But it was a brilliant ball from [Granit] Xhaka.

"But we stayed in the game, coming out in the second half, one goal could change the momentum, and then Arsenal showed why they are a big club.

"Their captain [Martin] Odegaard, a key man for them, was out and they replaced him with [Fabio] Vieira, a 22-year-old that they bought for £35m or something, and that's just the difference.

"So they showed that quality in glimpses and moments, but I think we performed and kept our discipline throughout the game - we're not a team that was falling apart.

"It would have been easy, after 47 minutes and 3-0 down [to let our heads drop], but no, no, we kept going and consistency is what will get us good performances and hopefully a lot of points."



Red Roses squad named for Rugby World Cup 2021

The England Women's squad for the Rugby World Cup 2021 in New Zealand has been named.



Sarah Hunter captains the 32-player group, which comprises of 19 forwards and 13 backs.

The squad includes six who were part of the 2014 World Cup winning squad, while 19 members of the group are set to make their maiden World Cup appearances in New Zealand.

The Red Roses face Fiji in their opening pool C game (Saturday 8 October, Eden Park, Auckland, KO 1645 local time/0445 UK time). They then take on France (Saturday 15 October, Northland Events Centre, Whangarei, KO 2000 local time/ 0800 UK time) before returning to Auckland for their final pool fixture against South Africa (Sunday 23 October, Waitakere Stadium, KO 1745 local time/0545 UK time).

All fixtures are available to watch on ITV.

Head coach Simon Middleton said: *"First and foremost I would like to start by acknowledging those who have missed out on selection. There is not one single player in the wider squad who hasn't given their all. Nobody has given less than their absolute best, they should be proud of their efforts throughout the team's campaign to date.*

"If between now and the tournament, or during the World Cup, we have to call anyone up, we can do it with 100% confidence that we are bringing a top player in.

"I would like to say a huge congratulations to those who have made the squad. To earn selection means you have done some special things and you have been outstanding in your application to training and performances.

"We are really confident with the balance of the squad. I am pleased with the way the team is gelling and how our game is coming together. There is still plenty to work on, we expect to improve game-on-game.

"While this is a squad announcement and not about singling out individuals, it would be remiss not to reference our captain, Sarah Hunter. Sarah is a better captain now than she has ever been. She has owned the captaincy and how she represents the squad on and off the field is absolutely brilliant. When you work with someone for so long you sometimes need to remind yourself of her outstanding attributes, she is unbelievable in how she conducts herself. Her pride in and love of representing her country is as strong as ever. She is a class act and we are very fortunate to have her leading the side at this tournament."

Forwards

Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 32 caps)
Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 46 caps)
Hannah Botterman (Saracens, 30 caps)
Shaunagh Brown (Harlequins, 27 caps)
Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 57 caps)
Amy Cokayne (Harlequins, 64 caps)
Vickii Cornborough (Harlequins, 70 caps)
Lark Davies (Bristol Bears, 41 caps)
Rosie Galligan (Harlequins, 7 caps)
Sarah Hunter (C; Loughborough Lightning, 135 caps)

Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 4 caps)
Laura Keates (University of Worcester Warriors, 62 caps)
Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 51 caps)
Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 11 caps)
Cath O'Donnell (Loughborough Lightning, 20 caps)
Marlie Packer (Saracens, 84 caps)
Connie Powell (Gloucester-Hartpury, 5 caps)
Morwenna Talling (Loughborough Lightning, 4 caps)
Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 56 caps)

Backs

Holly Aitchison (Saracens, 10 caps)
Jess Breach (Saracens, 23 caps)
Abby Dow (Wasps, 24 caps)
Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 40 caps)
Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 5 caps)
Leanne Infante (Saracens, 52 caps)

Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 25 caps)
Claudia MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 20 caps)
Sarah McKenna (Saracens, 42 caps)
Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 5 caps)
Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 5 caps)
Emily Scarratt (VC; Loughborough Lightning, 103 caps)
Lydia Thompson (University of Worcester Warriors, 54 caps)

STAKEHOLDER REACTION: THE GROWTH PLAN – OVERALL PACKAGE

Martin McTague, National Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses said:

“The Truss Government is off to a flying start. The Chancellor has delivered pro-small business measures today and has rightly recognised that removing taxes on jobs, investment and entrepreneurs is essential for our economy.

“Ministers need to be relentless in removing barriers to small business success – especially with the current headwinds. The Government has today signalled its determination to back small firms and we look forward to working with Ministers and departments to put in place measures to help small businesses grow and succeed.”

Amanda Tickel, Head of Tax and Trade Policy, Deloitte said:

“This Budget will undoubtedly attract international attention. With the UK now retaining the lowest corporate profits tax rate in the G20, a maximum income tax rate of 40%, and extra incentives available in investment zones, the UK is on a stronger footing to compete for international investment.

Emma Jones CBE, Founder, Enterprise Nation said:

“It’s bold, it’s agile and it’s speedy. Economists will be arguing for months to come, but small businesses will be waiting for the impact of this budget trickling down into their sales tonight.

“The new administration clearly set out its stall today and that it is firmly on the side of entrepreneurs and wealth creators. The tax cuts, both business and personal, will deliver confidence and unleash the entrepreneurial spirit that we know exists across the UK and to which the Chancellor referred so often.

“The UK’s small businesses have wanted growth acceleration but have had to be content with stagnation because of barriers to growth such as access to finance, business rates and employment complexity.

“The extension of EIS and SEIS and the pension charge cap reforms will be welcomed with open arms by the small business community, and we expect more start-ups to follow with an emphasis on supporting those who are 50+ to move from unemployment into self-employment. Thanks to the removal of IR35, many experienced individuals that left the employment market will now return.

“Our view for more than a decade has been that one of the most important things a government can do is to champion entrepreneurs and this morning’s statement and announcements most seriously deliver on that.”

Kate Nicholls, CEO of UKHospitality said:

“The stated objectives of boosting growth and tackling inflation are a positive statement of intent to rightly put business at the heart of the Government’s agenda. We support the ambition for a globally competitive tax regime, to unleash entrepreneurship, growth and investment, and we look forward to working with the Chancellor to deliver that.

“Energy support and NIC measures will allow our businesses to better plan for a tough winter ahead. Today’s announcement included many positive measures that will bear fruit in due course, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the Government on our immediate challenges.”

Tony Danker, CBI Director-General, said:

“This is a turning point for our economy. Like Covid, the energy crisis has meant Government has had to spend massively to protect people and businesses. That means we have no choice but to go for growth to afford it.

“Today is day one of a new UK growth approach. We must now use this opportunity to make it count and bring growth to every corner of the UK. Fifteen years of anaemic growth cannot be repeated.

“Taking action to get Britain’s economy moving again by beginning construction on transport and

green infrastructure projects shows immediate delivery. Planning reform is long overdue.

“A simpler, smarter approach to tax can pay dividends, and firms will be keen to make the most of the investment incentives on offer.

“It’s not perfect - it’s just the beginning - but there’s plenty business can work with. The Chancellor signalled more proposals to come this Autumn and these will be vital to sustain momentum on growth.”

Michelle Ovens CBE, Founder, Small Business Britain said:

“The focus on entrepreneurship in today’s Growth Plan statement is good news for small businesses, and a hugely encouraging step towards supporting this key part of the economy in a tough financial climate.

“The energy plan already announced, cutting prices for small businesses and addressing some of the astronomical rises we have seen this summer, will give businesses some reassurance over the winter months, even if there are still questions over the long term plans.

“There is no doubt that rolling back national insurance rises, IR35 regulations and the planned corporation tax rise next year will be welcomed by small businesses and the business community more widely. In the medium to long term, this will support and encourage entrepreneurial growth, which is very welcome.

“However there remain serious challenges in the short term as entrepreneurs battle with rising costs across all areas of the business, not just in energy and tax. Finance, input prices, export and staffing all remain challenging and we continue to see businesses failing at a high rate with little to fall back on after a very difficult few years. More will need to be done at all levels of society and government to ensure the 5.6 million small businesses in the UK can weather this winter and make the most of the supportive policies announced today.

“The direction of travel is absolutely right for small businesses. This now needs to be delivered by us all.”

Nicolas Burquier, Managing Director of Pizza Hut Europe said:

“It’s great to see Government has acknowledged and is acting on the significant pressures facing the UK hospitality sector as a result of the rise in global inflation. Combined with the recently announced support on energy bills, the tax changes and Investment Zones unveiled today, all will offer some respite for many hard-pressed restaurants and takeaway owners like our franchisees. We look forward to continuing to work with the Government to ensure that hospitality receives the sustained support it requires as the sector looks to recover from current setbacks.”

Dr Liz Cameron CBE, Director & Chief Executive, Scottish Chambers of Commerce said:

“The Chancellor’s commitment to pro-growth and pro-enterprise policies will be eagerly welcomed by businesses. The specifics on reducing business costs, cutting red tape and boosting infrastructure development are exactly the levers the UK Government should be pulling to support economic growth.

“The plans for Investment Zones strike an ambitious tone but these plans must provide equitable benefits to the UK nations ensuring new economic activity is generated, not simply displaced from one location to another. Similarly, fixing the complex and burdensome planning system must be a joint priority for both the Scottish and UK Government if we are to attract investors.

“As we look ahead to the Scottish Government’s emergency budget, businesses and households now play the waiting game to see if the Scottish Government opts to take similar moves. With control of powers such as income tax and land & buildings transaction tax devolved to Scotland, the expectation will be for Scottish Government to deliver parity with the rest of the UK. Divergence between the nations risks dampening business and investor confidence.

“The string of policy announcements from the Chancellor signal a bold start. As firms continue to navigate unprecedented challenges in the economy, consistent collaboration and partnership will be essential between both governments and the business community if we are to move from survival to growth.”

Stephen Phipson, Chief Executive, Make UK said:

“The Chancellor has clearly recognised that we are heading for very stormy waters in the face of eye-watering increases in energy and other costs, together with a difficult international environment. Industry will welcome today’s statement which, coming on the back of the support for energy, contains a number of positive measures to help shield viable companies from the worst impact of escalating costs and help protect jobs. The focus on prioritising growth with plans to speed up planning reforms, boost infrastructure and investment is especially welcome.

“However, this is the sixth growth plan in little over a decade which has seen ever increasing political uncertainty. This has resulted in zero certainty for business, the most important thing it needs. Government must try and reverse this process by working with industry to develop a long-term economic strategy together with a National Manufacturing Plan.

“At its heart must be a properly designed tax system and a certainty of policy that aims to transform the low level of business investment, develops the workforce of the future and equips people with the digital skills they will need in the new industries and technologies which are rapidly emerging.

“Given the tools and, the right economic environment, industry can help itself and, at the same time, help the Government meet its growth target. Now is the time to end to put in place the right building blocks for the long-term.”

Emma McClarkin, Chief Executive of the British Beer and Pub Association, said:

“We welcome the steps taken by the Government in the Chancellor’s fiscal statement. The measures announced today will mean a boost of £500m for our sector, enabling growth following successive crises and allowing us to thrive in the future. Coupled with this week’s intervention on energy bills, these commitments will make a significant difference to our pubs and brewers at an acutely difficult time.

“The Chancellor’s plans show that the Government recognises how extreme the cost of doing business has become and the enormous investment our sector makes, not only in the economy, but to the social fabric of communities across the breadth of the UK and why it must be protected. We look forward to the continued reduction of taxation on the sector at the next Budget - the need for a reduced VAT rate for hospitality and business rates reliefs remain as strong as ever.

“We will continue to work with the Government to ensure that reforms to the draft beer duty rates are brought forward as soon as possible, meaning that our pubs and brewers can contribute to, and be at the heart of villages, towns and cities for many years to come.”

Shevaun Havilland, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce said:

“Businesses will welcome many of the measures announced today that should boost economic growth, relieve cost pressures and encourage investment.

“The announcement to reverse the increase to National Insurance Contributions (NIC) is a big win for the British Chambers of Commerce and the business community. This is much needed support for companies during these difficult times.

“Firms will also be glad to see the Annual Investment Allowance made permanent. It is a crucial tool which gives them the confidence to push ahead with investment, and will add greater certainty to their plans, now we know it is guaranteed to remain.

“Business wants to create the wealth that funds Government spending, and plans for Investment Zones, and steps to encourage new funding in our growth industries have the potential to do just that.

“Investment Zones could also finally deliver on the Government’s long-standing promise to level up, if the scheme is truly UK-wide. But lessons must be learned from the past, otherwise they can simply displace growth and investment from one area to another without creating new economic activity.

“This is a bold start, and we now await further detail on the further reforms the Treasury announced, to see if this will develop into a comprehensive long-term economic strategy.

“All eyes will also now turn to the forecasts by the Office of Budget Responsibility in the autumn for reassurance on public finances.”



HM Treasury

What's next for self-driving vehicles?

Join NPL at the latest lecture hosted by The Turing Institute

With the advent of 'Automated' or 'Self-Driving' Vehicles, a new paradigm is being created requiring entirely new types of tests for the systems which are replacing the human driver. One key challenge arising from this is the reliance on a range of sensors for safety critical applications in CAV.

At The Turing Lecture *Where next for self-driving vehicles?*, on **27 September**, NPL will be demonstrating the work we are undertaking, in collaboration with Met Office and on behalf of Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles, to design a usable and reliable framework for understanding how well sensors perform in different weather-related conditions, including when the sensors cannot be relied upon.



[Find out more and register today.](#)

NPL has successfully piloted an international comparison to underpin climate critical sea surface temperature measurements.

The international comparison ensures satellite measurements of the ocean's temperature are validated through internationally consistent measurements.

Changes in the temperature of the ocean have a major impact on the planet and society. They are a key indicator of climate change as well as providing near term inputs into weather forecasting. Warmer water leads to the increased melting of sea ice, the expansion of water volume and ultimately in land loss. Increases in sea temperature also impacts ocean biology, with coral bleaching and killing one of the early consequences.

NPL's Optical Radiometric Metrology and Climate and Earth Observation groups, in collaboration with the Temperature and Humidity group hosted participants at NPL to undertake laboratory-based comparisons, with subsequent activity conducted on Boscombe pier in Bournemouth. This international comparison project was undertaken to ensure harmonisation in validation of satellite measurements of climate critical sea surface temperature. The comparison was organised under the auspices of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group for Calibration and Validation (WGCV), through a project sponsored by the European Space Agency (ESA).

In the laboratory stage the participants* compared each other's radiometers with the NPL radiance source serving as the reference. Participants own radiance sources (blackbodies) used to calibrate their radiometers were also measured and compared with a transfer radiometer traceable to NPL's standard radiometer, Absolute Measurements of Blackbody Emitted Radiance (AMBER). Both the reference blackbody and the AMBER are traceable to the International Temperature Scale of 1990 (ITS-90) through linkage to the scale realised by NPL's temperature and humidity group.

Ocean temperature has been routinely measured for more than a century and over the last three or four decades from space, providing the necessary global coverage. The most direct validation of satellite derived water temperature is to compare the remote observation with surface measurements using similar instrumentation, i.e. infrared radiometers. It is essential that the surface radiometers, usually deployed on ships, make consistent measurements across the globe, no matter the manufacturer or the user.

Comparisons are critical to ensuring that measurements made using one instrument can be accurately compared with measurements made using another. However, no such comparisons of primary radiometry have been conducted on a global scale in the thermal infrared. As such, the team brought together their skills and knowledge in radiometry, thermometry, and climate science, to deliver the measurement campaign of instruments measuring radiometric temperature in the infrared specific to climate science. For the climate we are looking to detect change of a few tenths of a degree per decade and therefore robust SI traceability is essential to ensure trust in the satellite observations and conclusions. The team's work in infrared will continue as they support the pre-flight calibration of the satellites.

With increasing interest in measuring changes in land surface temperature at relatively high spatial resolution, it is anticipated that there will be further comparison activities in this domain. In addition, the group are also currently active in running comparisons of satellite measured surface reflectance, as well as more general studies to improve the linkage of surface-based observations to those at the satellite level i.e. how to optimally account for differences in the satellite view and the comparatively small sample size made with ground instrumentation.

Yoshiro Yamada, Principal Research Scientist said: "Measurement requirements for climate science are extremely challenging for metrologists. How well we are managing to meet the level of accuracy can only be verified by such comparisons, and what we find will indicate to us where our next effort needs to be focussed"

Subrena Harris, Higher Research Scientist said: "It has been a great experience to be a part of this comparison and to see directly how measurements from the laboratory support measurements of instruments that will be deployed to further our knowledge of the environment and our climate. The collaboration and cooperation among the scientist who came from across the world to participate in the comparison was key to the success of the campaign."

Nigel Fox, NPL Fellow said: "Satellite-based sea surface temperature is one of the more mature remote sensing measurements hence this being the fifth formal comparison. However, the demanding uncertainty and practical challenges, waves, ambient temperature, impact of the sky and sun make it critical to undertake and evolve the comparison methodologies. Over the last two comparison cycles it is notable how practitioners/participants have significantly improved their understanding and assessment of uncertainty which consequently provides policy makers with greater confidence in the results allowing evidence-based action"

*The comparison participants, in addition to NPL, comprised the University of Southampton, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, the Danish Meteorological Institute, CSIRO / Australian Bureau of Meteorology, IMK-ASF / Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and the University of Valencia, unfortunately on this occasion COVID limited participation from some countries.

[Find out more about the research here](#)

LGA responds to ONS figures on excess deaths

Responding to the latest Office for National Statistics figures on excess deaths, Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, said:

"These figures act as a truly tragic reminder of how many people, including those who are older and vulnerable, have lost their lives during the pandemic, leaving behind family and friends in mourning.

"Although the highest numbers of excess deaths were recorded at the peaks of the pandemic, this data reveals that non covid related deaths remain above the five-year average across eight age groups.

"As well as an increase number of excess deaths, it is clear that millions of people are still suffering from the impact of COVID-19. The Government needs to undertake further work to understand the consequences of long Covid and support those in our communities living with the effects of it."



RCEM responds to Secretary of State's 'Our Plan for Patients'

Responding to the [announcement by the Health and Social Care Secretary](#) and Deputy Prime Minister **Thérèse Coffey**, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, **Dr Katherine Henderson** said:

"We welcome the new Health Secretary, and we welcome this first step in her efforts to put the NHS and social care on a resilient footing. It is right to put patients first, healthcare staff do this every day, and we look forward to tracking the progress of *Our Plan for Patients* and seeing the detail of subsequent steps.

"However, the Health and Social Care Secretary's *ABCD* approach overlooks two crucial letters: EM. The whole system is in crisis and Emergency Medicine is at the heart of it. The first step to tackling the crisis is to be transparent about the scale of the problem. NHS England must publish the 12-hour length of stay data from time of arrival in Emergency Departments as part of their monthly performance statistics.

"All health care staff want to deliver for patients. But, as the Health Secretary will know, there is currently a significant shortfall of senior decision makers across all specialties in the NHS, including in both Emergency Medicine and General Practice, along with shortfalls of junior doctors, essential nurses and supporting staff.

"To truly tackle this crisis and make patient care a priority, the Health Secretary should bolster the social care workforce; publish the fully-funded long-term NHS workforce plan that this government pledged to deliver; and create 13,000 beds in the system."



No time for COVID-19 complacency, say key countries responsible for tracking global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments

Tracking and accelerating progress to reach everyone, everywhere

As the third UNGA of the COVID-19 pandemic reaches its conclusion, many countries are far from meeting global targets on vaccination coverage, testing rates, and access to treatments and PPE. The co-chairs of the ACT-Accelerator's Council Tracking and Accelerating Progress working group warn that coordinated action, sustained political will and funding commitments are still needed, to save lives and combat the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

The group – co-chaired by Indonesia and the United States - is responsible for tracking progress toward the global COVID-19 targets for access to vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, and PPE, under the umbrella of the ACT-Accelerator equitable access partnership.

Ahead of several high-level events at the UNGA to take stock of progress, Indonesia's Tri Tharyat and the United States' Loyce Pace highlight that while progress is being made, the global threat of COVID-19 is far from over, particularly for high-risk groups in lower-income countries. According to the most recent [Global COVID Access Tracker](#) data, around a quarter of those most vulnerable globally still need a primary COVID-19 vaccination series (24% of elderly persons and 26% of health workers).

Indonesian Ambassador Tri Tharyat, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said *“Critical funding and political leadership is needed for the roll-out of tests, treatments and vaccines. Funding the ACT-Accelerator will support its work to expand access to life-saving tools, from new oral antivirals to booster vaccine doses, to ensure healthcare workers and those who are most at-risk are protected wherever they live in the world. We must quickly translate vaccines into vaccination. No-one is safe until everyone is safe.”*

The Working Group notes with concern:

- COVID-19 vaccination rates in low-income countries stand at 19%, compared to almost 75% in high-income countries.
- Low income and lower-middle income countries are still far from the 100 tests per 100k population per day target; low-income countries are testing at a rate of just 2/100k population, while lower-middle income countries are at 22/100k population.
- The roll-out of new lifesaving COVID-19 treatments including oral antivirals in low and lower-middle income countries remains limited or non-existent.
- Equitable access to these COVID-19 countermeasures and preparation for the delivery is critical for countries to integrate the management of the virus into their primary health systems, as part of a longer-term strategy.

Loyce Pace, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said: *“Support for vaccine readiness and uptake are making an important difference to increase COVID-19 vaccine coverage and significantly reduce the number of countries with very low COVID-19 vaccination rates. Primary series coverage in the COVAX AMC 92 countries increased from 28% in January of 2022 to 51% in September. There is still progress to be made in global vaccination rates and lessons for how successful efforts might apply to testing or treatment initiatives at the country level.”*

Access to tests and treatments key for those at highest risk

As a [report](#) on access to COVID-19 tests and treatments is published today, the co-chairs of the council's Therapeutics and Diagnostics Working Group, Mustaqeem de Gama of South Africa and Ian Dalton of the United Kingdom, highlight the decline in testing rates and the lack of equitable access to new antiviral treatments for COVID-19.

The Working Group report emphasizes that diagnostics and therapeutics, and associated test-to-treat strategies, are fundamental components of pandemic response, both for COVID-19 and future health threats. The report makes sixteen recommendations for action for medium and long-term COVID-19 control, as well as the strengthening of prevention, preparedness and response (PPR).

Mustaqeem De Gama, Director of Legal International Trade at South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition said: *"The swift, equitable roll-out of vaccines, tests, and treatments is crucial to help countries combat COVID-19. Without adequate testing and sequencing, the world is blind to the evolution of the virus and potential new variants. People in low and middle-income countries continue to die due to a lack of access to antiviral treatments and oxygen. We must push on for equitable access to COVID-19 tools, despite multiple competing priorities."*

Ian Dalton, Senior Head of Pharmaceuticals and Diagnostics at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said: *"As the report shows, investments in diagnostics and therapeutics capacity for COVID-19 pays dividends for future pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. There are action points to be taken forward from the analysis undertaken by the working group, and I hope partners will see it as a springboard for action."*

Redoubling efforts and political momentum

In the context of these calls to action, a series of high-level events at the UNGA will shine a spotlight on the rollout of COVID-19 tools and the urgent need for action and continued political support to achieve equitable access.

An event hosted by the UN Secretary General on September 23rd will take stock of the global roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and treatments, identify priority areas to accelerate equitable access, and seek to mobilize additional political support to effectively end the pandemic this year, by accelerating vaccination rates and implementing test-to-treat strategies everywhere.

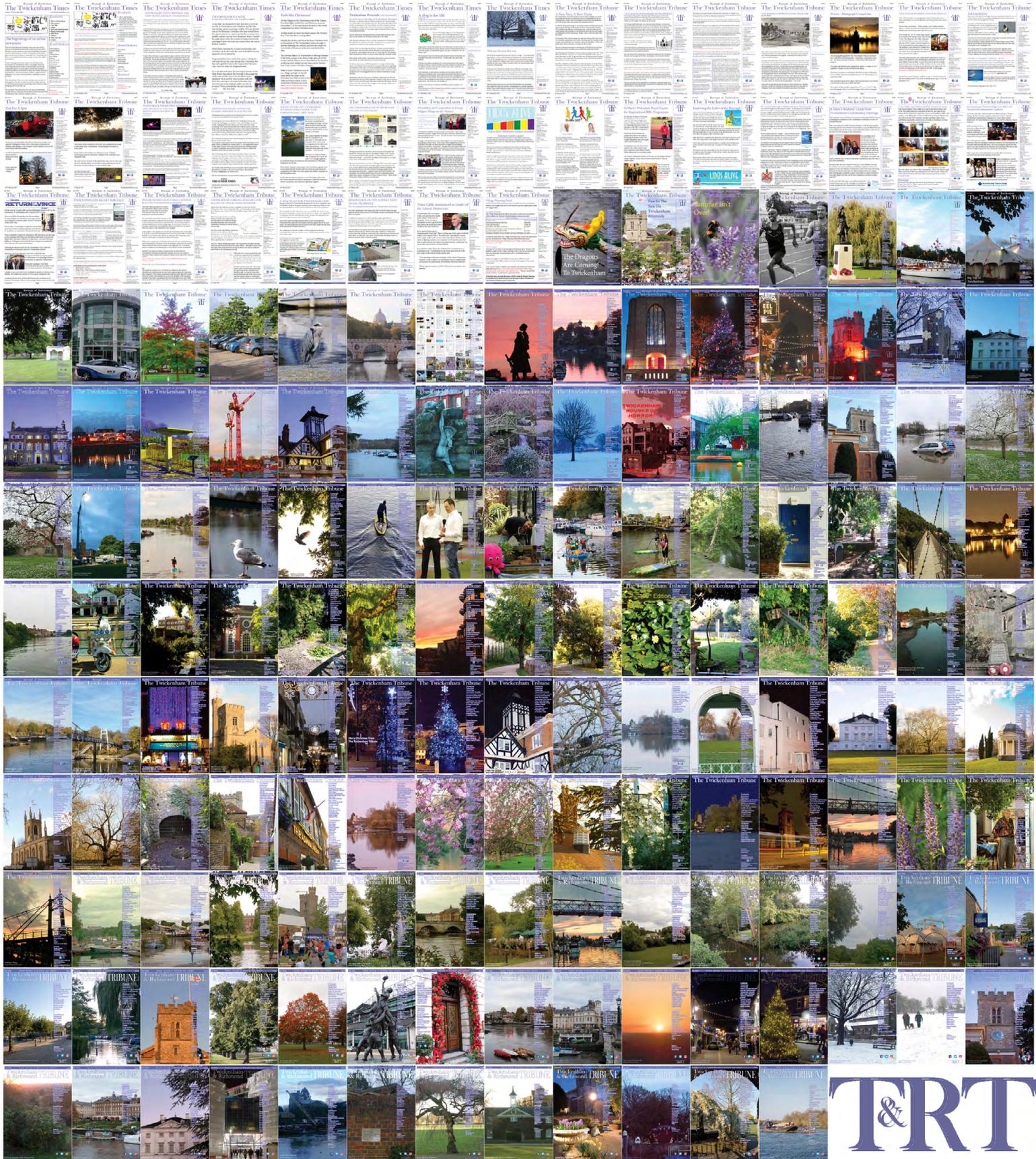
A Foreign Ministerial meeting co-chaired by Bangladesh, Botswana, Spain and the USA, as part of the COVID-19 [Global Action Plan](#) (GAP) initiative, will take place on the margins of the UNGA. It will focus on maintaining continued political engagement, coordination, and action to end the acute phase of the pandemic, including on vaccine delivery, closing information gaps, supply chain strengthening, support for health workers, access to diagnostics and treatments, and future global health security architecture.

John-Arne Røttingen, Norway's Ambassador for Global Health, said: *"We have made huge collective progress, thanks to the work of countries, ACT-A agencies, financial contributors, civil society and other partners. We call on countries to support meeting the vaccine coverage targets in all countries, as well as rolling out test and treat programs. There is still a funding gap to get this job done and all countries should make fair share contributions to ACT-Accelerator."*

Professor Olive Shisana, President's Special Advisor on Social Policy, South Africa, said: *"The pandemic continues to pose a threat to lives and livelihoods, especially in Africa, where millions of people are still unvaccinated and do not have access to new antiviral treatments. Now is not the time for complacency, but instead time to act together in solidarity, to ensure access for everyone, everywhere."*



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