

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

T&RT

Queen Elizabeth's Black Poplar, Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Twickenham

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Richmond Borough Mind community survey

Complete the survey before it closes on Thursday 3 November 2022.

[Richmond Borough Mind](#) is gathering feedback from people and organisations based in Richmond, on their perceptions of RB Mind. Please complete this short survey by Thursday 3 November 2022.

Your views are really valuable to them and this information will help plan their future focus. Take the survey [HERE](#)

## Crossroads Care is recruiting care support workers!

Join our Crossroads family! Crossroads Care Richmond and Kingston upon Thames is recruiting full time care support workers.

If you can provide exceptional care to children with medical and/or behavioural needs, apply now! Relevant experience is preferred, but full training will be available to the right applicants.

As a local Care Quality Commission registered charity, Crossroads Care is an equal opportunities employer. To apply and/or for further information, please email your CV to [info@crossroadscarerkerk.org.uk](mailto:info@crossroadscarerkerk.org.uk) or call 020 8943 9421.

To find out more visit Crossroads Care website [HERE](#)

## Richmond Hearing Voices Friendship Group

The Hearing Voices Friendship Group supports residents who hear voices and those who support them.

The group is free and confidential. All are welcome to attend the group meetings, which happen on the last Thursday of each month at Richmond Library Annexe (TW9 1DH) from 11am to 1pm, to offer information, support and understanding.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 27 October.

For further information please contact Wendy Micklewright on [wmicklewright@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wmicklewright@yahoo.co.uk).

Find out more information about the Hearing Voices Friendship Group [HERE](#)



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TwickerSeal and his chums gathered at their favourite meeting place, under the special Black Poplar in the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

TwickerDuck said that, according to the Woodland Trust, the Black Poplar is the most endangered native timber tree in Britain and is a declining species in the UK, becoming increasingly rare.

Yes, but there's more than that said TwickerSwan. Did you know that this tree was a gift from the late Queen Elizabeth, a rare honour bestowed on Twickenham to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee? And it was planted by HRH Princess Alexandra to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

How lucky we are to have this tree in Twickenham on this safe public space said TwickerSquirrel.

Oh, so you haven't heard asked TwickerMole? The Queen's Black Poplar was to be "retained through relocation" under the council's original plans, but the new amendments just published on 17th October say "Existing Black Poplar to be removed from scheme".

What!?, spluttered TwickerSeal. So less than a month following our Queen's funeral, the council is quietly sneaking in a report to say that they will be chopping down this significant tree, contrary to what they said before? Disgraceful and disrespectful!!!



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

published 19 October 2022

At the regional level, the number of newly reported weekly cases decreased or remained stable across five of the six WHO regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-17%), the African Region (-15%), the Region of the Americas (-12%), the European Region (-11%) and the South-East Asia Region (-3%); while case numbers increased in the Western Pacific Region (+11%). The number of new weekly deaths decreased or remained stable across five regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-35%), the Region of the Americas (-20%), the European Region (-18%), the Western Pacific Region (-14%) and the South-East Asia Region (similar to the previous week); while the number of deaths increased in the African Region (61 versus 18; +144%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Germany (583,232 new cases; similar to the previous week), France (337,253 new cases; -12%), China (328,910 new cases; -1%), Italy (288,452 new cases; +3%) and the United States of America (251,280 new cases; -10%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,274 new deaths; -11%), the Russian Federation (702 new deaths; -4%), Italy (478 new deaths; +37%), China (431 new deaths; +5%) and Japan (409 new deaths; -28%).

## European Region

In the European Region, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 11% as compared to the previous week, with over 1.7 million new cases reported. Three (5%) countries reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Kosovo (30 vs 14 new cases; +114%), Andorra (91 vs 48 new cases; +90%) and Guernsey (291 vs 236 new cases; +23%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (583,232 new cases; 701.3 new cases per 100,000; similar to the previous week), France (337,253 new cases; 518.5 new cases per 100,000; -12%) and Italy (288,452 new cases; 483.6 new cases per 100,000; +3%).

Over 3,300 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, an 18% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (702 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -4%), Italy (478 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +37%) and France (366 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +15%).

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

USA Today: Move aside, BA.5: These new COVID variants are gaining ground in the US

BBC: Respiratory illness may take up half of NHS beds this winter

Sky News: NHS England setting up 'war rooms' to prepare for 'toughest winter on record'

South China Morning Post: WHO says Covid-19 still an international emergency, too early to lift alert



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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# Calling it in

By Simon Fowler

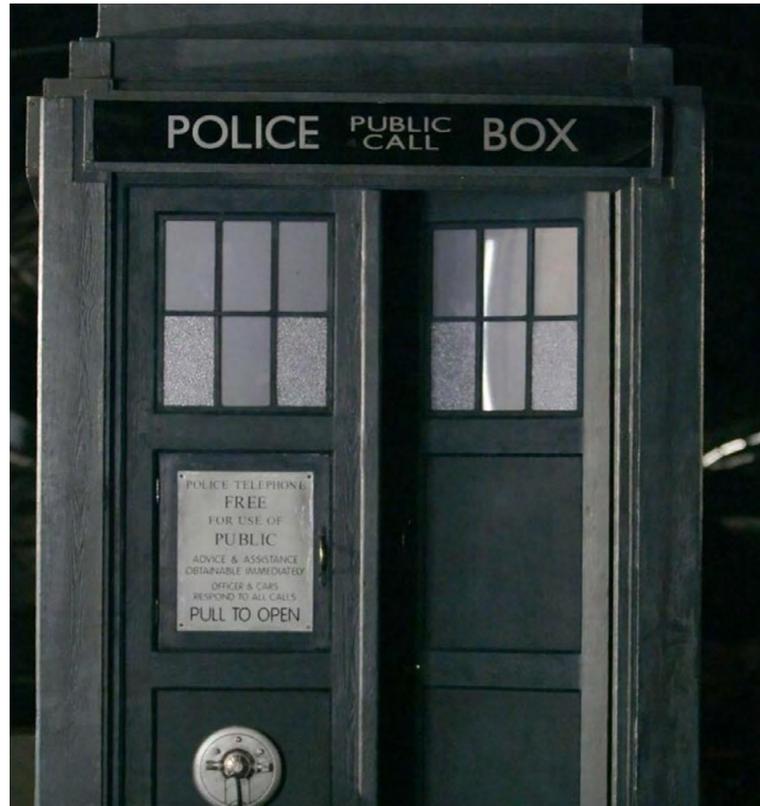
Readers may be excused for thinking that police telephone call boxes, once common on our streets, were only used for interplanetary time travel.

Their actual use was rather more prosaic. They allowed officers on the beat to keep in touch with Scotland Yard, and enabled members of the public to call for police help and to report crimes. The *Daily News* found that in Richmond, people reported: ‘Suspicious motoring parties of doubtful appearance. Lost dogs. Quarrelsome husbands. Straying children, and persistent beggars.’

They were a familiar piece of street furniture until the 1970s, by which time the police had been issued with personal radios.

They were initially installed as part of a pilot project by the Metropolitan Police. Twenty-two boxes were built between Hammersmith and Richmond Bridges, in order to tackle the problem of ‘motor bandits’, that is robbers who ransacked shops escaping by car, as well as speeding motorists.

The *Richmond Herald* described the boxes as being: ‘miniature road-side police stations, each containing a cell, writing desk, direct telephone, and emergency telephone for public use...They are blue in colour, with the word “Police” on the side, and a red signal lamp on the top. will indicate to a policeman patrolling that his station officer wishes to communicate with him. A telephone instrument, accessible to the public from outside the box - is placed in a small cupboard and can be seen through a pass door.



A *Daily News* reporter in January 1930 found that. ‘When I asked the Richmond police if the boxes had proved a success, they told me “ Success! Why, they’ve frightened all the crooks out of the division.”’

The efficiency of the new system was demonstrated to reporters: ‘One of the boxes tested was at Castelnau, Barnes, over three miles away, and in less than 60 seconds the call was answered by the officer on duty. The operator at Richmond plugs in the bell of the telephone, and the corresponding box in the outer area rings and the red lamp at the top of the box flashes.’

The success of the call boxes depended on the public using them to report criminal activity. However, as there were many appeals asking people to use the phones, the take up was not great.

Probably the greatest beneficiaries were the bobbies on the beat. Constable Hampton, from Barnes, was interviewed on his retirement from the force in 1935. He was full of praise for the boxes: “the policeman on duty has somewhere to spend the hill-hour allowed for a meal, in comfort. “In the old days a policeman was expected to do eight hours’ duty straight off.”’

And, let us not forget, the timelords and their companions.

*Hat tip to Robert Smith*

Dear Editors,

### **Twickenham Riverside planning**

It seems that only a very limited number of people have received notification from Richmond Council saying that they have made amendments to the Twickenham Riverside planning application. In fact more than 1000 pages have been added to the Planning Document!

The principal changes are as follows:

*Revised and additional information primarily concerning trees, ecology, openspace (sic), highways, flooding, hard and soft landscaping, fire statement, lighting, public realm.*

These documents were added on 17th and 18th October. You need to send in your comments by 31st October so you don't have much time if you want to respond.

Best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller  
Twickenham

Dear Sir

### **Pavements**

Whatever happened to the Nominate a Pavement scheme run by the Council some years ago?

Some of the pavements are a disgrace especially for a borough with a high Council Tax.

In some roads you can see the pavement areas replaced in the old Nominate a Pavement scheme, they are safe to walk on. But, there are many pavements that are cracked and broken and have been neglected for years and there are holes that have been badly filled with tarmac by the Council.

This Council should be considering the safety of pedestrians, that would be a good use of OUR money.

Mrs J.S. Clarke  
St Margarets

# New Twickenham Riverside planning consultation

By Berkley Driscoll

The council has submitted a plethora of new documentation to the planning department regarding its proposed plans for the redevelopment of Twickenham Riverside. The documents were posted to the planning site on Monday 17th October.

There appear to be more than 1,000 pages of documentation submitted and interested parties have only until 31st October to submit “any comments on the amended scheme”.

However, there is some consternation among many of the residents who submitted 324 objections to the council’s overdevelopment scheme, as they have not received any notification of the ‘amendments’ and have not been invited to submit their comments.

At the time of writing the editor of the Tribune, who submitted objections to the planning proposal, have still not received any notification of the amendments and new ‘consultation period’. It is only thanks to some readers contacting the Tribune that we are aware of this development.

To ensure proper procedure and full transparency, the planning department should make sure that everyone who submitted a comment is notified of the amendments and that a full consultation period is put in place, and not a paltry 14 days (coinciding with half-term).

This is a significant planning proposal (subject to a public enquiry) affecting a unique riverside environment, which will impact residents for generations, and the planning department has a duty to ensure that the public are granted a full and proper consultation.



# Winner!! SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FAIR

Last week's competition from Twickers Foodie was for a pair of tickets to the Spirit of Christmas Fair at Olympia London.

We are pleased to announce that the winner is **Sue Weaver**, who correctly identified that Louis Roederer has Champagne bars at the Spirit of Christmas Fair!



## Volunteers invited to take part in wood burning research project

Imperial College are looking for people who burn solid-fuel in their homes, who would be willing to take part in an innovative research project.

The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames won a joint DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) bid alongside thirteen other London boroughs to investigate the health effects of wood burning inside and outside the home.

The London Wood Burning Project is looking for volunteers to take part in a research project focused on fuel-burning, air quality and health. The investigation will be undertaken by Imperial College London to provide a more detailed exploration into the health impact of different types of burning as well as the effects on household members and neighbours nearby. The research group would like to take measurements in volunteers homes where solid fuel is burned in an open fireplace or wood burning stove.



The project aims to improve scientific understanding about how different types of solid fuel burning appliances and fuels can affect air quality and provide insights on the safest ways to use fuel burning appliances.

The measurements will be taken between November 2022 to January 2023 and no personal details will be included in the study reporting will refer to an approximate location only.

If you would like to take part, please email [londonwoodburning@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:londonwoodburning@imperial.ac.uk).

Please include in your email which type of solid-fuel burning appliance you use, including the manufacturer and make/model, if available, and which borough you live in.

Find out [more information about the project](#).

# The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Apply to “Remove” a Rare Black Poplar, a Gift from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Just a week or so after the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames put together an amendment to a planning application for Twickenham Riverside to “Remove from the Site” the Queen’s gift of a rare Black Poplar that has been flourishing since the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Gardens were opened by Princess Alexandra in 2012 during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Council’s planning application, submitted some time ago, is currently under the scrutiny of various Public Enquiries but the Council has now submitted a further 1,000 pages giving residents only 2 weeks to comment; it seems that not everyone originally commenting on the plans has received notification of the new consultation so far.

The Black Poplar is a rare tree and as such was selected as a suitable gift for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

At the time of writing there are 342 Objections to the original scheme and 234 for. However, a political group in the area previously sent out a number of emails with details of a derelict Council car park, seemingly the Twickenham Riverside site, - when the site in question is further away, the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, designated Public Open Space and overseen by a Charitable Trust.

This is a very historic site, at one time the home of a very popular Art Deco lido and previously the home of many titled families including the Middleton family, some of whom went to America becoming signatories of the American Declaration of Independence.

[https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning\\_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=21/2758/FUL](https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=21/2758/FUL)



# S35 Dispersal Order Authorised by Police this weekend

A Section 35 dispersal has been authorised to begin at 1600 hrs on 21/10/2022 and finishes at 0700 hrs on 23/10/2022.

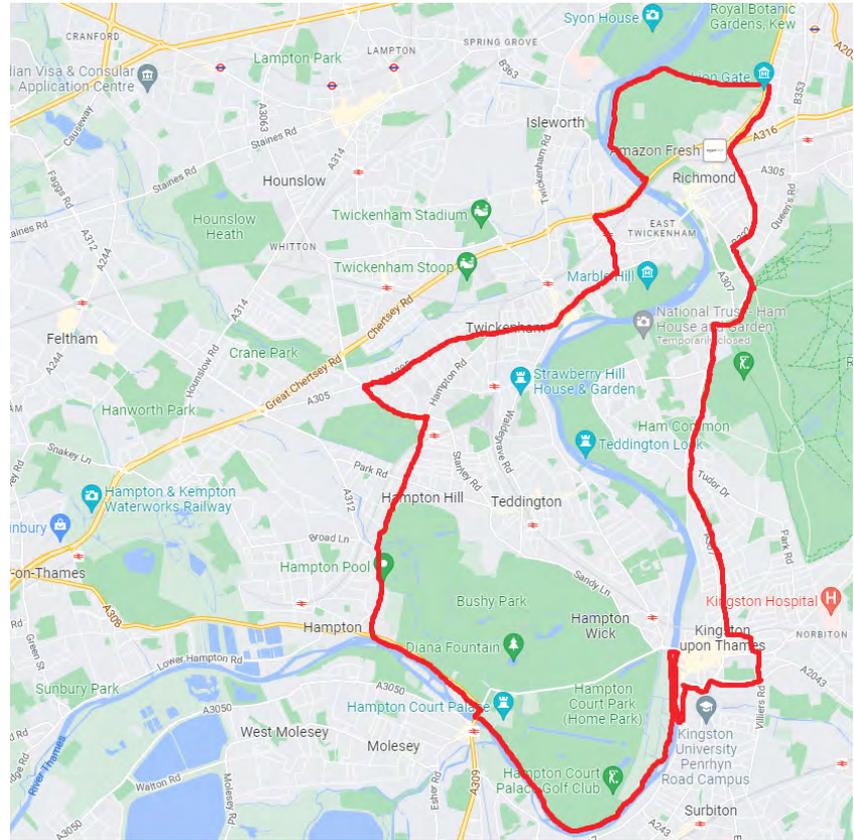
This is due to the issues that have been experienced at Richmond Green and surrounding areas over the last few months.

Last Friday 14th Oct the gathering culminated in multiple arrests, assault on a police officer, damage to property at Richmond McDonalds and Anti-Social Behaviour.

A S.35 Dispersal Order is a power police have to prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB) in a certain area. It's authorised by a police Inspector and is done if there's information to suggest there will be ASB in the area.

Officers will be out to tackle this behaviour in Richmond and in our neighbouring areas in Kingston.

This dispersal zone covers the following roads and open spaces and all spaces within the red line pictured in the map:



- Richmond Green
- Old Deer Park
- Richmond Hill (Terrace Gdns)
- Star & Garter Hill
- Hamlands
- Petersham Road
- Richmond Road (Kingston)
- Albert Road (Kingston)
- Fairfield South
- Kingston Hill Road
- A307 (Turk Launches)

- Kingston Bridge
- Barge Walk
- Hampton Court Road
- Wellington Road
- Sixth Cross Road
- Staines Road
- Heath Road
- Richmond Road
- Twickenham Green
- Bushy Park
- Kingston Town Centre

If you do witness anti-social behaviour, report it online here: <https://www.met.police.uk/.../as.../report-antisocial-behaviour/>, or call 101.



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

# The Council Says NO to Spending A Penny

By Teresa Read

Policy and Performance Review Board – Community Toilet Scheme - Tuesday 18 October 2022  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=807&MId=5394>

If you were concerned about public toilets in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, you would find the abovementioned meeting extremely depressing.

It seems that this Committee has not taken on board the problem of public urination and associated anti-social behaviour in areas where people gather outside to socialise; where there may only be small shops nearby and a closed Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) toilet, if one at all.

If, with a great deal of luck there is an open CTS toilet in the area there will no doubt be no visible signage – you need to check the Council website.

The meeting focussed on the Age UK Report – published frequently by the Tribune – the Committee had not spoken to the local Age UK organization.

It seemed that the Committee was not aware of the locations of businesses in the CTS but mentioned the problem of businesses where toilets were “connected” to stock rooms.

People with medical conditions where toilets would be needed, children and those pregnant, as well as people who work outside were considered; presumably, everyone else does not need access to public toilets.

Cllr Mansfield brought up the need for signage, although when representing Twickenham Green she did nothing about requested permanent visible signage - needed to direct the public to the sometimes open Cricket Pavilion CTS. Cllr Chard suggested signs on pavements although he said that these wear off.

Apparently, it is all a work in progress although some residents have been asking councillors about public toilets for over four years.

There was a suggestion that the CTS could be linked to the Licensing process. Cllr Khosa said there were problems with documentation.

It was surprisingly suggested that cameras could be used for virtual inspection of toilets in the CTS.

The question of building public toilets in some areas where residents said they were needed produced an emphatic NO.

The Tribune has been informed that the LBRUT has a huge financial reserve. Surely, our Council can afford a few public toilets in areas where the need exists? Afterall, we pay the Council for public services so perhaps they could provide facilities for basic human needs.

# Richmond CVS Online Trustee Recruitment Event

Thursday 10 November 2022, 6.30pm – 8pm

Richmond's special annual volunteering event, focused on trustees, is back.



Being a trustee is a specialised form of volunteering and fulfils a vital role in any charity. This informal online event is one of the best ways to learn more about it, as well as hear directly from a range of local charities who are looking for new trustees right now.

Diversity is always important and charities are no exception. Individuals from different backgrounds and with varied skills, experience and interests can make for an amazing team when working towards shared goals. Fresh ideas and knowledge, alongside proven pathways, can be a winning combination for an organisation's continued success and development.

Trustee roles are strategic and can often fit around regular commitments or employment. They can also be a great means of personal development and playing a part in steering an organisation and cause close to your heart can be really rewarding.

This event is free to register and open to anyone aged over 18 years. So whether you're at the fact-finding stage or you're looking for a new role, sign up for your free place [HERE](#).

## RCVS Online Trustee Recruitment Event

Thursday 10 November 2022, 6.30pm - 8pm

Hear from amazing local community groups about



how you can make a difference as a local trustee



Register for your free place now at  
[www.richmondcv.org.uk](http://www.richmondcv.org.uk)

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# EVER FELT THAT AWFUL CRACK UNDER YOUR FOOT...?

By Deep Patel (Certified Entomologist and Good Karma Gardening enthusiast)



Autumn is here...Leaves are falling...

Slugs and snails are...blooming EVERYWHERE!!!

**WE HAVE ALL HEARD THAT AWFUL "CRACK" SOUND WHEN WE HAVE ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ON A POOR SNAIL ON OUR WAY HOME ON A RAINY NIGHT...**

I mean sure they are as annoying as heck, but at the end of the day, what's their crime? Being slimey and ugly? Well, to be fair, I know many humans we could say the same for if you know what I mean...! So, I am saying let us try and appreciate these little beauties and throw some kindness their way...

Slugs and snails have been sliming this planet for over 150 million years, since the Cretaceous period...that's one hell of a lot of sliming... and who knew that slugs are actually hermaphrodites, meaning they have both male and female reproductive organs...they can technically mate with themselves then I guess (lucky buggers!). New research at the University of Belfast has suggested that slugs and snails DO feel pain (although they have different nervous systems to us) and they also feel EMOTIONS!!! So, if we step on them, they may be left writhing in pain for several hours before passing away (although snails CAN heal smaller cracks on shells too if placed in damp leafy areas away from birds to recover).

**SO NEXT TIME YOU ARE WALKING HOME IN THE RAIN AND DARK, WHY NOT USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE TORCH TO CHECK WHERE YOU ARE WALKING TO AVOID SQUISHING SLUGS AND SNAILS...GRAB A NEARBY LEAF AND PICK THE SLUG OR SNAIL UP AND POP IT OVER A NEARBY WALL (OFF THE BUSY PAVEMENT) ...YOU'LL HAVE GOOD KARMA... FOLLOW THIS RULE:**

**"SEE A SLUG...PICK IT UP...  
THEN ALL DAY YOU'LL HAVE GOOD LUCK, SHARE THIS TIP WITH A FRIEND...THEN YOUR  
LUCK WILL NEVER END"**

For anyone who may have missed my previous articles on the perils of Ants...the main recap is to sprinkle talcum powder, FINE black pepper powder, or white vinegar where they come (but NOT directly on them) and they will STOP without you needing to hurt their itty bitty little souls...and best of all...YOU will have good karma for choosing a kind way...win-win!!

For mice or rats, foxes, rabbits and squirrels, simply leave a jam jar lid filled with white vinegar in places they come to stop them without harming them!

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!

Look out for my next Good Karma article here soon...

Meanwhile, for more free tips or specific questions, please email me on [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com) and follow my Facebook page "KIND WORLD".

You will surely have good karma for caring x

# New specialist provision at Teddington School

A new specialist resource provision has been officially opened at Teddington School. The bespoke accommodation, which caters for children and young people who have social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, has been funded by Richmond Council.

Teddington School, which is run by the Bourne Education Trust, is Ofsted rated 'Good'. The new provision opened in September with a first cohort of three pupils and will grow in time to a maximum of ten.

Pupils will be able to use the provision in a variety of ways; some will access the majority of their learning in the new space, others will mainly learn within the mainstream school and will access occasional lessons and/or therapy in the space. The new facility includes two classrooms, three therapy rooms and an enclosed outdoor games area.



Cllr Penny Frost, Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee, said:

*"This is fantastic news, as it will enable another ten children with special educational needs to be educated locally, within their home borough, rather than having to travel much further afield."*

*"Last autumn, Ofsted inspected the school and judged that the standard of education offered at the school is 'good'. This investment builds on that, because it is a sign of the Council's confidence in the ability of the school to provide excellent inclusive education as it improves further towards 'outstanding'."*

*"I would like to thank the school and the Bourne Education Trust for wholeheartedly embracing the proposal to accommodate a specialist resource provision. I am sure that it will quickly become a highly successful and popular part of the borough's local offer for children and young people with SEND, and SEMH in particular."*

Paul Grills, Headteacher of Teddington School, said:

*"I am immensely proud to be Headteacher of an inclusive school which houses such a fantastic facility. Over the coming years our aim is to work closely with the SRP staff to ensure the students within the unit receive an excellent education; we look forward to giving them access to not only mainstream lessons but also the wider curriculum offer that will support their learning and development."*

This new provision will supplement the additional SEND places established in the last few years at Windham Nursery, East Sheen Primary, Hampton Hill Junior, Heathfield Infant and Heathfield Junior, Hampton High and Orleans Park secondary school.

# A home from Kew for Moshchun Ukraine

Moshchun is one of many destroyed villages near to Kyiv, which has impressed The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens.

It was there that Ukrainian forces prevented the advance to the capital. It was occupied for a week. It's a small place with 1,000 inhabitants. Most survived but 80% of the village was destroyed.



The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens are so impressed by the spirit of the people of Moshchun who want to stay and rebuild it, and you can join the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens, Kew TW9 and the Kew Society in helping the people of Moshchun.

Your donation would help them reach £10,000 which buys a temporary home for a family of four while they rebuild their house. The need is now urgent as they are facing a bleak winter with snow expected shortly.

[Donate for A Home from Kew for Moshchun Ukraine](#)



# Help us plan future pharmacy services

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is used to make sure pharmacy services meet the needs of the residents of Richmond upon Thames, including the location of pharmacies and the services they provide.

The Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board would like to hear your views and experiences about the pharmacy services in your area. This will enable them to understand the needs of the population and help shape future services.



Patients and members of the public who use pharmacies in Richmond upon Thames will be asked questions about services offered, location, opening times and whether services are provided fairly and to those who need them.

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of Richmond of the Health and Board, said: "We want to ensure that pharmacy services are accessible to everyone and provide the services that local people need. Please share your views so we can plan the future services for local people."

This survey closes on Thursday 17 November 2022.

[Take the survey now](#)

# Hampton Choral Society



## *Brahms German Requiem*

## *Strauss Four Last Songs*

Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 7.30pm  
St Mary's University Chapel, Strawberry  
Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX

With professional orchestra and soloists  
Christine Cunnold  
Stephen Gadd

Richard Harker Musical Director



Tickets: £15 adults; £7 - under 16's

Box office - 0208 941 5394

AT THE DOOR - CONTACTLESS/CARD/CHEQUE/CASH

Charity Number 261788

# Come and have a chat about your health

The 'Come and have a chat about your health' bus will visit various locations in Ham, Richmond, Whitton and Hampton to answer your health questions.

The bus will be parked at the following addresses and times:

- Monday 24 October – Sainsbury's, Lower Richmond Road, Richmond, TW9 4LT from 9.45am to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 25 October – Whitton Sports & Fitness Centre, Percy Road, Twickenham, TW2 6JW from 10.30am to 4.30pm
- Wednesday 26 October – Sainsbury's, 30 Tangle Park Road, Hampton, TW12 3YH 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 including:

- Tips to stay healthy and active
- Accessing free NHS health checks for 40 to 74 year olds
- Help to stop smoking
- Preventing and reducing your risk for several diseases, including diabetes, cancer, and heart disease
- Immunisations for you and your family
- Information about the COVID-19 vaccines

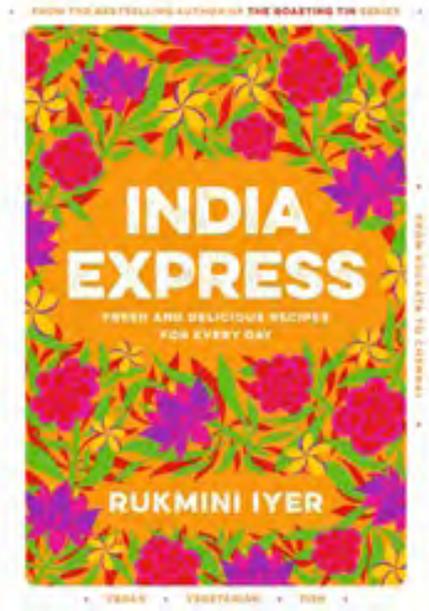
NHS staff will be on hand to give you the COVID-19 booster, and if you have any questions or concerns about the vaccine, you can come along and have a chat about it, with no pressure to get the vaccine.



## INDIA EXPRESS - FRESH & DELICIOUS RECIPES FOR EVERY DAY

As any regular reader will know, I'm a great fan of **Rukmini Iyer** and her fabulous Roasting Tin series of cookbooks. (apparently, in just five years, she's sold over 1,500,000 copies globally - I'm not surprised!) She's just published her most personal book to date: **India Express - Fresh and Delicious Recipes for Every Day**. It's published by Square Peg at £22, hardback - perfectly timed for people to add to their festive gift lists.

Inspired by a conversation with her parents, who used to take mega train journeys when courting in India, talking about the amazing food they'd eaten on these trips, Rukmini went to India with them, recreating the journey from her mother's home town Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) to her father's native Chennai (formerly Madras). Eating almost everything in sight and learning family recipes from east to south, the 'Express' in the title reflects the original train journey inspiration for the book (as well, of course as the speed and ease of the recipes). In keeping with her ethos of 'minimum effort - maximum flavour' Rukmini has created an amazing variety of Indian weeknight meals and weekend projects that need just a few store cupboard spices. The book contains one-pan curries, snack and brunch ideas, and a weekend project section for more ambitious cooks. The recipes are largely vegetarian and vegan, but that shouldn't dissuade meat eaters from buying the book - and there are some authentic Bengali recipes including prawn and fish dishes, all woven through with family stories, adding a lovely personal note to this gorgeous book.



Here's a really tasty and easy recipe for cheese straws with an added flavour dimension, from the Snacks section of the book, followed by an all-in-one curry from the One-Tin Dishes section. Do try them; I'm sure it will inspire you to buy the book!

### CHEDDAR, CUMIN & NIGELLA SEED STRAWS

**Makes:** lots **Prep:** 15 minutes **Cook:** 15 minutes

*"If you keep puff pastry in the fridge or freezer, you're never more than 30 minutes away from a trayful of these excellent cheese straws. The shape is reminiscent of my favourite South Indian snack, murukku, which my grandmother could hand-twist and shape perfectly from scratch. But the flavouring reflects my all-time favourite Bengali snack, nimki – addictive little puff pastry-ish diamonds flavoured with nigella seeds. These cheese straws include nigella seeds, cheddar and cumin seeds for an even more addictive snack – try to ignore plaintive looks from any resident canines."*

#### MAIN

1 x 400g sheet of ready-rolled puff pastry  
75g grated mature cheddar  
1 medium free-range egg, beaten



## STORECUPBOARD

1 heaped teaspoon cumin seeds

1 heaped teaspoon nigella seeds, plus a few extra for scattering

Preheat the oven to 200°C fan/220°C/gas 7 and line a baking tray with baking paper.

Place the puff pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface. For the flakiest cheese straws, you want the pastry to be a little thinner than how it comes pre-rolled from the packet, so use a rolling pin to roll it out evenly so it's about 5cm larger on each side, and just under 2mm thick.

Scatter half of the pastry rectangle with the cheddar, cumin and nigella seeds, then gently fold the other half over the top and press down at the edges. Roll the pastry briefly so it's flat, then cut it into 1cm strips. Gently twist each strip several times before pressing the edges together in a bangle shape, and transfer to the lined baking tray.

Continue with the remaining pastry strips, and once they're all on the baking tray, gently brush with the beaten egg wash. Scatter with a few more nigella seeds, then transfer to the oven to cook for 15 minutes until golden brown and crisp.

Cool for a few minutes on a wire rack and serve warm. Let any leftovers cool completely before storing in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

## ALL-IN-ONE AUBERGINE, TOMATO & NIGELLA SEED CURRY

**Serves:** 4 **Prep:** 15 minutes **Cook:** 45 minutes

*"This is my version of a spectacular Madhur Jaffrey dish that my mother makes: 'aubergine in a pickling spice'. The original calls for the aubergines to be deep-fried before making the spiced tomato sauce – my mother has long since roasted off the aubergine pieces in the oven, but in this version I go one step further, cooking down cherry tomatoes under the aubergine. I was delighted to find that this makes for an extremely low-hassle, but no less beautifully balanced dish."*

### MAIN

300g vine cherry tomatoes, halved

2 inches ginger, grated

3 cloves garlic, grated

6 baby aubergines, halved (or 2 large aubergines, thickly sliced)

### STORECUPBOARD

2 teaspoons nigella or black onion seeds

1 teaspoon fennel seeds

1 teaspoon coriander seeds, lightly crushed

1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric

1/2 teaspoon mild chilli powder

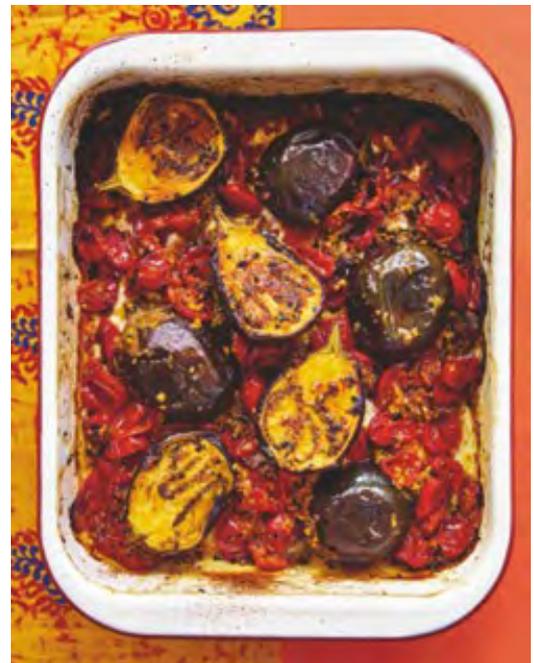
2 teaspoons sea salt flakes

3 tablespoons neutral or olive oil

Preheat the oven to 180°C fan/200°C/gas 6.

Tip the cherry tomatoes, ginger, garlic, spices, salt and oil into a roasting tin or oven dish just large enough to hold the tomatoes in one layer, then add the aubergine pieces.

Mix everything really well, then arrange the aubergine pieces on top of the tomatoes. If you like, use a sharp knife to gently score a cross-hatch pattern into the cut side of the aubergine pieces and then gently rub in some more of the spice mixture. Transfer the tin to the oven and roast for 40–45 minutes until the aubergine is cooked through. Serve hot.





## The Inn of the Dawn Horse

by Joanna Foster

Chats Palace Arts Centre, Homerton

After a two hour car journey from Twickenham to Homerton, a sudden downpour and fine dining under a bus shelter (pastrami sandwich – Co-Op’s own brand, recommended) things were beginning to feel a little surreal. So I was ready to gain an insight into the surrealist artist and adventurer, Leonora Carrington, in the charming venue Chats Palace, grand yet bohemian. *The Inn of the Dawn Horse* references Carrington’s self portrait of the same name, featuring horses and hyenas, recurring motifs in her work.



This story of Leonora’s life opens in 1931, with a social climbing, disillusioned mother and a very cold father. Despite her privileged and debutante upbringing, Leonora already showed traits of being a trailblazer. Young Leonora, played by Flora Spencer Longhurst, conveyed with conviction Leonora’s rebelliousness in a suppressed society. The older Leonora was played with sensitivity and intelligence by Catalina Botello.



Skilfully directed by writer Joanna Foster, the play took us to on Leonora’s journey starting pre-war in Provence. The wonderful James Clyde depicted the artist Max Ernst, charming, needy ... and married. Ernst and Leonora were strongly attracted to each other and ran off together to Paris. Frau Ernst, Marie-Berthe, played beautifully by Rebecca Crankshaw, was both sympathetic and determined, leading to a frank confrontation between wife and mistress.

We had a long way to go until Leonora settled in Mexico City in 1947, an insightful and varied journey. There was a nice montage of her hyena short story *La Debutante*, her fascinating relationship with the Surrealist movement and flight from the Nazis in France.

With its brutal rape scene, this is a play that does not pretend to be comfortable. Leonora’s tipping into madness and despair, followed by the cold clinical sanatorium, never lost its tinge of bleak humour. This one woman’s resilience, survival skills and wit was impressively depicted. Memorable tableaux, skilled choreography and haunting backdrop images continue to stay with me.

Read Heather Moulson’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/10/09/dawn-horse](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/10/09/dawn-horse)

Photography by Joshua Kovak and Museo San Luis Potosí



## La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Glyndebourne Festival Theatre until 29<sup>th</sup> October, then on tour until 26<sup>th</sup> November

The street is a metaphor in director Floris Visser's semi-figurative production of *La Bohème*, a cobbled Parisian street, damp, receding into the distance. Set just before the Second World War, with all that is to mean for Paris, it adds to the ominous atmosphere.



"A meeting in an attic between a seamstress and a journalist, they fall in love; they quarrel, then the seamstress dies". This was co-librettist Luigi Illica's summary of its plot. But *La Bohème* is much more than that. The opera brilliantly captures the spirit of youth, its spontaneity and its vivacity, but also its anxiety and its tragedy. Both libretto and music have ironically prescient *memento mori*. In Visser's production death is personified as a gaunt silent omnipresent figure, always and only seen by Mimi.



Penurious poet and sickly seamstress meet in the freezing garret where he has just burnt his precious manuscript in a vain attempt to get warm, and she has no light for her candle. This really is fuel poverty! Bekhzod Davronov captures Rodolfo's youthful enthusiasm and hopefulness with true emotional depth, his singing stylish and effortless. Gabriella Reyes has an enchanting warmth of expression in a lyrical soprano voice that presses all the buttons.

Mariam Battistelli, is superb as Musetta, and brings out her provocative coquettishness. She has fire in her voice and feline sensuality in her movement. Rodolfo's other companions, the bohemian boys of the garret, are a wonderfully animated bunch. They defy the realities of the harshness of their existence with humour and horseplay. Eventually, though, they realise the fragility of life as best as each in Mimi's dying hours.



What is ultimately left is irony. In a few moments Mimi dies ... unnoticed. For, in this symbol-laden production, Mimi's soul has already walked away ... with Death.

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/10/12/la-boheme-glynd](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/10/12/la-boheme-glynd)

Photography by Bill Cooper ©Glyndebourne Productions Ltd.



## Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby

by Benoit Swan Pouffer and Stephen Knight

Rambert at the Troubadour Wembley Park until 6<sup>th</sup> November, then on tour until 27<sup>th</sup> May

From the bleaker-than-bleak tail-end of World War One, Rambert's *Peaky Blinders* follows the trials and tribulations of antihero Tommy Shelby, played by the beautifully broody Guillaume Quéau, on his redemptive journey from a physically and mentally war-torn shell of a man, to gangster, lover, addict and back to gangster again. It is a spectacle of dance, music and spoken word



After we meet Tommy and his band of brothers

– frenetic livewires hardened by trench warfare – the scene changes to an exploitative metalwork factory. Rambert's lithe dancers come out to play here, swooping and swinging across Moi Tran's set. The choreography is commercial and jazzy; teeming with sky-high front and back kicks, nimble Fosse-inspired forward-facing sequences and a standout performance by amputee dancer Musa Motha.



From the exploitation of factory workers, we descend into the Peaky microcosm of shootouts, gang violence and manipulation, as Tommy and his gang swagger about the place. Cleverly planting dancers in the auditorium makes the innocent audience feel complicit in the gang's robbery. Rambert's ambition with this show is clear and unapologetically so. There are many big moments, a day at the races and numerous glamorous club scenes.

Tommy meets Grace, performed by Naya Lovell, knowingly sultry and transforming the cool, unperturbed Tommy into a puppy-eyed lover. But, after Grace is suddenly killed by a rival gang wife (Aishwarya Raut) action moves to a clandestine opium den. Things seem to blur into one, while lingering on Tommy's opium-induced downward spiral, but the choreography, thumping live music by Roman GianArthur and Benjamin Zephaniah's pithy spoken word keep you compelled.

Tommy's redemption appears on the horizon, but Tommy returns to his chilling gangster ways after a member of his clan is killed. Aunt Polly (Simone Damberg Würtz), turns to vengeful violence and Rambert's devilish gang, fiercely loyal to family, go steaming ahead for the show's final hurrah.

Read Katie Hagan's review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/10/15/peaky-blinders](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/10/15/peaky-blinders)

Photography by Johan Persson



## Lucia di Lammermoor

by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Salvatore Cammarano, after Sir Walter Scott  
Instant Opera at Normansfield Theatre, Teddington

*Quale trionfo!* Instant Opera has brought together such an artistic, talented ensemble of international performers in an absorbing *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Based on Scott's historical novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*, it tells of two feuding ancient families in the late 1600s. This production is set in Victorian times, and concentrates more on the hypocrisies and rigid behaviours of Victorian time in its darkly chilling interpretation.



Edgardo, Count of Ravenswood, performed by Ananda Mukerjee, possesses the most glorious tenor voice; he is also a gifted actor. He has a tremendous stage presence, and is completely absorbed in the character, conveying Edgardo's conflict between a desire to avenge his father and his love for Lucia, the sister of Lord Enrico Ashton, his sworn enemy.



Nicola Said is flawless in the role of Lucia Ashton. She takes us on a rollercoaster of emotions ranging from joy and happiness to the depths of pain, sorrow and despair. Her exquisite voice has a silvery purity of tone and line. Said is breathtaking in the famous "mad scene", giving a performance that will stay long in the memory.

Nicholas George, who gives a fine performance as Lucia's brother, Enrico. He is able to portray the cruelty of a man desperate to persuade Lucia to wed Lord Arturo Bucklow. In many ways Arturo is the innocent scapegoat and his genuine affection for Lucia leads to his downfall. Joshua Baxter, with his fine tenor voice, is most believable in this interesting role.

Musically, this opera is exceptionally strong, and the characterful choral singing is tremendous. Lewis Gaston conducts with great skill, communicating sensitively with all members of the orchestra and singers.

Valeria Perboni's direction is well considered and fluent. The final tableau is extremely effective and communicates the thought that the responsibility for Lucia's death is communal ... all have blood on their hands.



Read Celia Bard's review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/10/17/lucia-lam-io](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/10/17/lucia-lam-io)

Photography by Jon Lo Photography

# THE HYPOCHONDRIAC at the MARY WALLACE

Moliere's 1673 play THE HYPOCHONDRIAC is a biting satire on self-obsession and medical quackery.

The eponymous Argan's only illness is his paranoid obsession with his health. No potion, balm, tincture, salve or ointment can cure him, although there are enough charlatans at hand who will promise to do so - at a price. Love, lust, avarice and deceit are all woven into this, Moliere's best loved and most scathing comedy.



THE HYPOCHONDRIAC opens on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and plays till the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Booking available at [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

Find the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment, between St Mary's Church and the Barmy Arms.



Richmond Shakespeare Society  
**RSS**  
at the Mary Wallace Theatre

## Sparkle Festive Fair at the Landmark Arts Centre

Get all your festive shopping done in one place from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 November 2022.

The Landmark Arts Centre's annual festive fair is returning, complete with gorgeous craft, seasonal gifts, homewares, accessories and jewellery from over 65 exhibitors.

Discover who is exhibiting by following the fair on Instagram ([@sparklecraftfair](https://www.instagram.com/sparklecraftfair)) or by downloading the Sparkle catalogue in early November.

Event details:

**Dates and time:**

Friday 18 November from 1 to 8pm

Saturday 19 November from 10am to 4pm

Sunday 20 November from 10am to 4pm

**Location:** Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Rd, Teddington TW11 9NN

**Price:** £5, concessions £4 and under 16s and Landmark Friends free



# EXECUTIONS

An exhibition on the history of public punishment has opened at the Museum of London Docklands

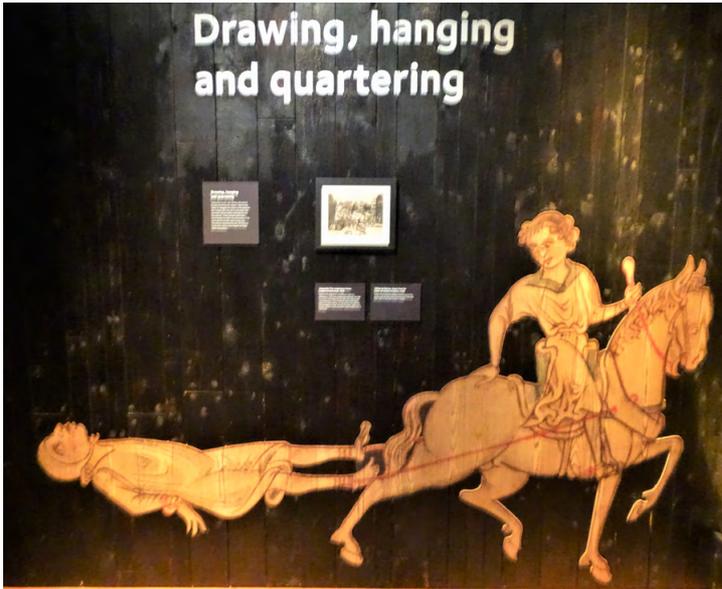
Report by Doug Goodman

Whenever I visit Canary Wharf I try to spend a little time at the Museum of London Docklands. The story of trade, shipping, history of the East End, the Blitz and the development of the area into one of the world's leading financial centres is superbly portrayed. A recent preview of an exhibition entitled Executions provided

a chance to discover something new: the brutality and cruelty which criminals suffered for centuries.



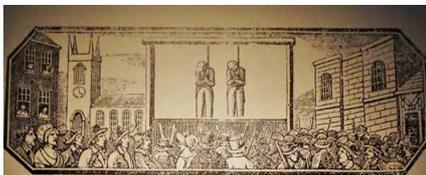
## Drawing, hanging and quartering



Today we rely on TV, cinema, theatre and other events for our entertainment but until 1868 the many public executions drew huge crowds. In 1196 the first public execution was recorded and by the end of the 18th century over 200 crimes carried the death penalty. London became known as the City of Gallows for its public displays of hanging, boiling, burning and beheading. This practice of extreme cruelty at public executions was to deter crime and to demonstrate the power of the Crown, church and state over its citizens. The nature and severity of a crime was reflected in the manner of death. The most horrific punishments were reserved for traitors, while common criminals had a quick death by hanging.

Visitors can learn about the 200 offences which carried the death penalty, see the Newgate Prison door, examine the silk vest said to have been worn by King Charles 1 at his execution, understand what motivated people to attend the executions and listen to letters pleading for clemency. There's a list with the names of over 5,000 people who were executed during a 700 year period. This dark side of London life is shown with sensitivity but the exhibition is not recommended for children under 12.

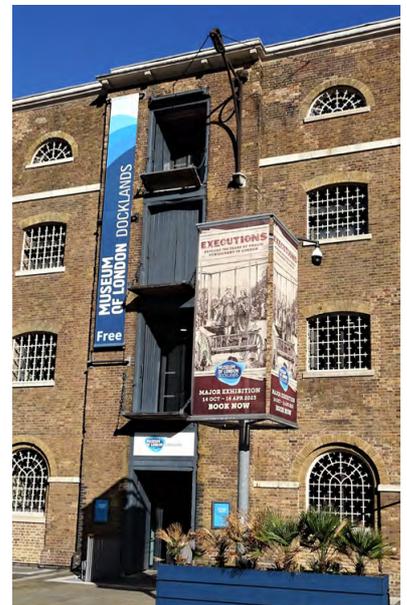
An illustrated book, 'Explore 700 years of public punishment in London' is available and the exhibition runs until 16 April 2023. Tickets are from £12. The Museum of London Docklands is at West India Quay, London, E14 4AL. [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)



## CITY OF GALLOWES

London had several public execution sites in regular use for centuries. Executions were also held in other significant public spaces. For particularly heinous or high-profile offences, criminals could be executed close to the site of their crime.

The public could encounter the decaying bodies of executed criminals hanging in gibbet cages, traitors' heads on spikes over London Bridge and Temple Bar, and body parts attached to the city gates. Gibbets suspended from high posts were placed by the main roads into the city and along the River Thames so no one entering the capital could escape witnessing the fatal consequences of crime.



# WIZ TALES - Saudi Arabia

Teresa Read



Last weekend Al Arabiya reported that SPA news, the Saudi official press agency, had stated that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had pledged \$400 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

This followed a phone call between the Crown Prince and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when the two leaders agreed to work for the release of Ukrainian prisoners of war held by Russian forces.

Saudi Arabia's economy, prior to the discovery of oil, depended on trade, the export of local produce such as dates and the revenues brought in by pilgrims to Mecca and Medina.

The oil resources of Saudi Arabia are estimated to represent around seventeen percent of the world's proven reserves; Saudi Arabia is the second largest OPEC Member Country. The resources of natural gas are equally huge: some of the gas is used as an energy source, the remainder for petrochemical products. The country's other mineral resources include gold, copper and iron ore.

The oil revenues are used to diversify the country's industrial base, with industrial centres such as Jubail and Yenbu leading the way in the establishment of the manufacturing ventures. Similar investment has been made in the transport system and other infrastructure projects.



Information about Saudi Arabia <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=SaudiArabia>

# Frank: We deserved win

By Brentford FC

Thomas Frank has said that he was delighted with his side's performance against Chelsea and believed they deserved to win the game on Wednesday night.

Despite securing a draw against 'one of the best teams in the world', the Bees boss insisted that they could have come away with three points.

Frank said:

"I wanted to win the game, especially with this performance, I think we deserved the three points, if

there was going to be a winner, I think it should have been us, no doubt about that.

"The performance was... wow - brave, cool, aggressive. I really, really enjoyed the performance from the boys. I really love the team, honestly, what they give out there, the energy between the fans and them.

"First half, we were so aggressive, really going high on the pressure, really forcing them backwards, really creating opportunities.

"Second half, we had to defend a bit more, which is expected against one of the best teams in the league and in the world!"

He added: "It was a big shift - love it. We had to. No team in the world can win football matches consistently without working unbelievably hard, not one team in the world.

"We need to work hard and we do that. I was pleased with that."

And Frank praised another fantastic turnout from our supporters, as they sold out the Gtech Community Stadium on Wednesday night.

Frank said: "They were amazing. It's an absolute pleasure to play here at the stadium in front of the fans every game.

"But, under the lights, that gives us that extra edge."



# Red Roses name team to play South Africa in final Pool C match

England Women head coach Simon Middleton has named his matchday squad to play South Africa in their final Rugby World Cup Pool C match at Waitakere Stadium, Auckland (Sunday 23 October, kick-off 5.45pm local time/5.45am UK time and live on ITV).



Marlie Packer captains her country at senior level for the first time at open-side flanker with fly half Zoe Harrison vice-captain.

Hannah Botterman (loose-head prop), Connie Powell (hooker), Maud Muir (tight-head prop) make up a new look starting front row. Poppy Cleall starts at number eight while Morwenna Talling is at blind-side flanker. Rosie Galligan and Cath O'Donnell are the lock pairing.

Harlequins' Lucy Packer starts at scrum half with Sarah McKenna (full back), Abby Dow (right wing) and Jess Breach (left wing) forming the back three. Tatyana Heard (inside centre) and Holly Aitchison (outside centre) are also selected. Emily Scarratt is named among the finishers alongside Amy Cokayne, Vickii Cornborough, Sarah Bern, Zoe Aldcroft, Sadia Kabeya, Helena Rowland and Leanne Infante.

Middleton said: *"We're really looking forward to our final pool match at a new stadium on Sunday. I was really pleased with the performance against France. We dominated large parts of the contest and I felt the scoreline didn't reflect the game overall. We know we will need to be more clinical going forward but our game management was world class, we hardly gave France a look in and the way we closed out the game showed all the composure we've come to expect from the squad."*

*"The game against South Africa is an extremely important fixture as it dictates our passage and route in the quarter-finals."*

*"It's also the first time the majority of our starting XV start a World Cup match which is something to be celebrated for each individual and collectively. We're all really excited to see how they go."*

*"South Africa have shown they're a strong side in their first two matches against France and Fiji and we expect this weekend's fixture to be no different. They're developing well and that's testament to their programme and the work of Lynne Cantwell (high performance manager), Stanley Raubenheimer (head coach) and their staff."*

*"Last but certainly not least I'd like to give a mention to our captain for this game, Marlie Packer. Marlie is a world class player, an extremely popular member of the group, supportive on and off the field and plays a huge role in driving the team. I know the whole player and staff group are delighted she's leading the side this week and she is immensely proud too."*

## England matchday 23 to play South Africa

15. Sarah McKenna (Saracens, 42 caps)
14. Abby Dow (Wasps, 26 caps)
13. Holly Aitchison (Saracens, 11 caps)
12. Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 5 caps)
11. Jess Breach (Saracens, 23 caps)
10. Zoe Harrison (VC; Saracens, 42 caps)
9. Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 6 caps)

## Finishers

16. Amy Cokayne (Harlequins, 66 caps)
17. Vickii Cornborough (Harlequins, 72 caps)
18. Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 48 caps)
19. Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 34 caps)

1. Hannah Botterman (Saracens, 32 caps)
2. Connie Powell (Gloucester-Hartpury, 6 caps)
3. Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 13 caps)
4. Rosie Galligan (Harlequins, 7 caps)
5. Cath O'Donnell (Loughborough Lightning, 22 caps)
6. Morwenna Talling (Loughborough Lightning, 4 caps)
7. Marlie Packer (C; Saracens, 85 caps)
8. Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 59 caps)

20. Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 5 caps)
21. Leanne Infante (Saracens, 54 caps)
22. Emily Scarratt (Loughborough Lightning, 105 caps)
23. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 19 caps)

# England squad announcement - Autumn Nations Series



Eddie Jones has named the England squad who will continue their preparations for their four home Autumn Nations Series matches.

The 36-player squad will meet on Monday for a five-day training camp in Jersey. They will then return to the Honda England Rugby Performance Centre at Pennyhill Park, Bagshot ahead of their first game against Argentina (Sunday 6 November, 2.15pm KO).

There is a first call-up for Harlequins' Cadan Murley, with the wing having previously represented England at U18 and U20s level. Elsewhere Max Malins, Raffi Quirke, Val Rapava Ruskin and Kyle Sinckler return to the squad.

Owen Farrell (97) and Courtney Lawes (96) could both reach a century of caps for England during the Autumn Nations Series. After their Argentina opener, England will then host Japan on Saturday 12 November (3.15pm KO) – the fixtures mirror England's opening two games at next year's Rugby World Cup. They will then take on New Zealand on Saturday 19 November (5.30pm KO) and lastly world champions South Africa on Saturday 26 November (5.30pm KO).

Jones said: *"This is a very strong, vibrant squad and a number of good players have been left out. We are pleased with the depth and the strength of the squad.*

*"The autumn internationals will be like a mini Rugby World Cup for us, starting with two tough games against Argentina and Japan which mirrors our Pool fixtures at next year's tournament.*

*"Then we'll have knock out type games against New Zealand and South Africa – all four games will be great tests for us.*

*"In Jersey we'll start the week with Misogi activity where the players will find out about themselves and each other. Then we'll rip into training for the rest of the week, so the team can come together on and off the pitch.*

*"We're very pleased to be going back to Jersey and to a good Championship club in Jersey Reds who are very supportive of us and of the local rugby community. We've been made to feel very welcome there and look forward to our return."*

Elsewhere, Danny Kerry MBE has joined the England staff as training coordinator. Kerry previously spent 17 years at Great Britain Hockey, where he was the most successful coach in their history – including leading Team GB's women's field hockey to a gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Joe Lewis will move to a full-time senior analyst role, working closely with forwards coaches Richard Cockerill and Matt Proudfoot.

Jones said: *"I've known Danny for a long time and his depth and breadth of coaching knowledge will be a real asset to us as staff as we work towards becoming the best coaching team in the world. "Joe will move back to an analyst role where he has a real impact and suits his strengths and skills."*

Limited tickets are available for the Argentina match via [EnglandRugby.com/Tickets](https://EnglandRugby.com/Tickets).

## FORWARDS

Alex Coles (Northampton Saints, uncapped)  
Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 37 caps)  
Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 41 caps)  
Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 39 caps)  
Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 5 caps)  
Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 15 caps)  
Maro Itoje (Saracens, 58 caps)  
Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 96 caps)  
Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 14 caps)  
George McGuigan (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped)

Val Rapava Ruskin (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)  
David Ribbans (Northampton Saints, uncapped)  
Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)  
Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 14 caps)  
Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 52 caps)  
Jack Singleton (Gloucester Rugby, 3 caps)  
Hugh Tizard (Saracens, uncapped)  
Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 64 caps)  
Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 70 caps)  
Jack Willis (Wasps, 4 caps)

## BACKS

Henry Arundell (London Irish, 3 caps)  
Joe Cokanasiga (Bath Rugby, 12 caps)  
Owen Farrell (Saracens, 97 caps)  
George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 6 caps)  
Will Joseph (London Irish, 1 cap)  
Max Malins (Saracens, 14 caps)  
Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 69 caps)  
Cadan Murley (Harlequins, uncapped)

Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 42 caps)  
Guy Porter (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)  
Raffi Quirke (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)  
Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 13 caps)  
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 13 caps)  
Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 46 caps)  
Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 3 caps)  
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 117 caps)

Unavailable for selection due to injury: Alfie Barbeary, Ollie Chessum, Nic Dolly, Alex Dombrandt, Charlie Ewels, Tommy Freeman, George Ford, Jamie George, Sam Jeffries, Nick Isiekwe, Harry Randall, Will Stuart, Sam Underhill, Jack Walker.

# RFU Statement



Following confirmation that Wasps Holdings Limited has entered administration, the RFU is speaking daily to the administrators and will be working with them and Premiership Rugby in the coming days to understand whether there is any possibility of a buyer taking over the club.

The RFU is also working with the administrators, the management of the Wasps women's team and with Wasps FC to find the best way for the women's team to continue to play in the Allianz Premier 15s. The RFU is also fully committed to ensuring local academy opportunities are provided for pathway players.

Tom Ilube RFU Chair said:

"The news Wasps are now in administration is desperately sad. We believe it is right to keep working with all parties to give the club the best chance of long-term survival if at all possible. We all feel for the fans, players, volunteers and everyone with a connection to the club.

"The importance of financially robust and transparent professional leagues has never been more apparent, and we will continue our work with Premiership Rugby to improve the structure, governance and business model of rugby union in England."

Bill Sweeney, RFU CEO said:

"This is a very sad time for everyone at Wasps and a challenging time for the sport. The RFU and Premiership Rugby have been working for some time to develop a sustainable model for rugby to deliver long term prosperity for the sport. Wasps and Worcester entering administration has accelerated these plans and reinforced their importance."

## Background

Wasps' suspension from the Gallagher Premiership remains in place. A decision to extend the suspension for the season will be taken in due course to allow time to establish if a buyer could be in place in the near future.

# The Digital Strategy for Defence: A review of early implementation

Government has developed a strong strategy for adapting to the rapid digitisation of warfare but does not have a complete plan or a clear way to determine if it is on track to deliver the necessary data, technology and skills, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

To meet the needs of modern warfare, and enhance its effectiveness and efficiency, the Ministry of Defence (the MoD) must transform a large and complex organisation with an extensive legacy IT estate, using scarce specialist skills. In 2021, the MoD launched the Digital Strategy for Defence (the strategy) to transform its use of technology, people, processes and cyber so it can seamlessly share and exploit data. Defence Digital is the organisation within the MoD responsible for leading the implementation of the strategy.

Implementation of the strategy will let the MoD operate more effectively in an era of disruptive technology and evolving security threats. The MoD aims to join up military operations across land, air, sea, space and cyber and work closely with the rest of government, academia, industry, and international partners. To do this, it recognises that it needs to transform its digital capabilities to share information seamlessly and make decisions based on data. The MoD has strengthened its digital function and is starting to develop common approaches to data and technology.

The strategy is consistent with good practice the NAO has identified across government. Government hasn't always understood the quality of its data, has not prioritised its use, and has tolerated data that is not fit for purpose. The strategy recognises that data are a strategic asset, and that people and processes are as vital as technology to successful digital change. There is strong support for the strategy from the most senior leaders of the MoD.

The MoD's diagnosis is that its data are hard to access and share, it has gaps in critical skills, its core technology needs updating, and its processes are out of date. Defence Digital estimated it will spend £11.7 billion over 10 years updating or replacing legacy systems, and upgrading to modern replacements will be complex.

The nature of the MoD's business adds additional challenges to implementing the strategy. The MoD has three security classifications - Official, Secret, and Above Secret - which sometimes require separate digital systems. Its technology is used in hostile environments with limited connectivity, such as at sea. The MoD also shares data with international partners and must be able to work with their technology and security policies. This adds to the challenge of modernising and integrating technology.

There is no complete plan to implement the strategy, or a clear way of measuring whether it's on track. Although the MoD has individual plans for individual workstreams and programmes, it has not brought these together to provide a complete picture of progress. A comprehensive plan would also allow the MoD to prioritise its activity effectively when challenges emerge.

Defence Digital's project delivery has historically suffered from a lack of skilled and experienced personnel, insufficient reporting and assurance, and a culture focused on approvals rather than outcomes. This has undermined trust in its delivery of the strategy. In 2019-20, Defence Digital completed 76% of its most important delivery milestones - this fell to 57% in 2020-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic, before recovering to 78% in 2021-22. The MoD's goal is for this to reach 90%. Defence Digital has recognised the weaknesses in its project delivery and is making improvements.

Defence Digital is on track to exceed its efficiency targets in this spending review period (until 2024-25), but it aims to identify up to £790 million more by 2032-33. Its formal target is to achieve £1,370 million of efficiencies by 2032-33, but its ambition is to achieve £2 billion. Defence Digital's performance in making these efficiencies will affect the funding available for the MoD to invest in its priorities, including the strategy.

The MoD does not have enough people with the right digital skills, which is affecting delivery of the strategy. It finds it hard to recruit and retain talent because it cannot match private sector pay, and because the pay scales available to digital specialists in government vary. Technologists see the MoD as bureaucratic and the hiring process - including getting security clearance - as too lengthy. The shortfall of technical skills is affecting the delivery of both individual programmes and the strategy. Defence Digital is trying several approaches to fix its skills gap, but its progress has taken longer than planned, and it requires a different approach to getting what it needs.

To implement the strategy by the target date of 2025, the NAO recommends that the MoD should immediately create a clear delivery plan for the strategy which:

- makes clear how the strategy integrates with its wider objectives;
- identifies and prioritises all the activities needed to achieve the strategy's outcomes;
- identifies what people, skills and funding will be needed; and
- sets clear performance indicators for the strategy's progress.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

*"The Digital Strategy for Defence aims to transform capabilities through people, technology and data. If implemented successfully, it should support the seamless sharing of data and coordinated decision making needed for modern warfare.*

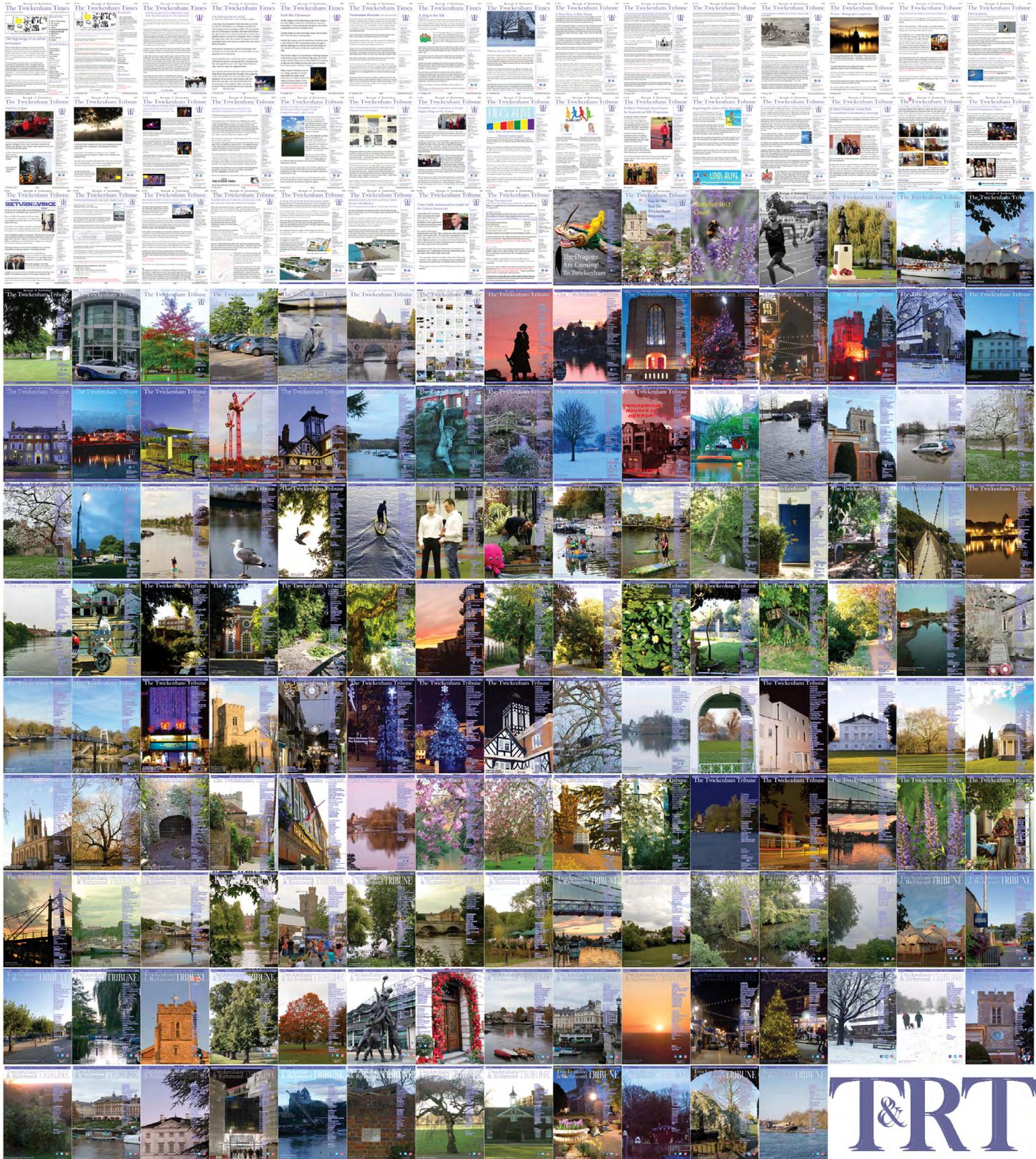
*"However, the MoD faces ongoing challenges with its implementation of major technology programmes and acquiring scarce digital skills. The MoD needs a clear plan for prioritising resources to where they are needed most urgently if it is to deliver its ambitions for digital transformation."*

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



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