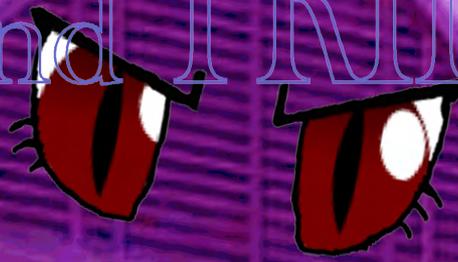


Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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- WHO
- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



18th November 2022

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Stabbing in Queens Road, Twickenham

A man was stabbed this morning in Queens Road Twickenham, and emergency services were called at approximately 10am.

An air ambulance landed at the car park opposite the Albany Pub, and he was taken to hospital. Two men were arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm.

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

ENGLAND v NEW ZEALAND

Saturday 19th November, KO 17:30.

Attendance 82,000

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

London, Rugby & Whitton Roads will close 15:30-17:30 and 19:00 -21:30.

Bus strike action

Strike action is planned by Abellio drivers over November and December, which is expected to affect 60 bus routes, mostly in west and south London.

This disruption will occur on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 22 November**
- **Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November**
- Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 December
- Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December
- Friday 16 and Saturday 17 December

During this time, please plan ahead, [check before you travel](#) and leave more time for your journey.

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Gosh, said TwickerDuck. Did you know that the council has suddenly put forward its planning hearing for the Twickenham Riverside development on Thursday 24th November!?

I've only just found out as a friend told me, said TwickerSwan. It seems that many of us who commented on the planning site haven't been informed. That's not very democratic or transparent said TwickerFox! No, said TwickerBee. It's all a bit fishy. We were supposed to have a public inquiry into the council's Compulsory Purchase Order of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on 1st November, but this was adjourned to next June at the council's request; then the council submitted its planning application!

TwickerMole said that he had noticed a lot of Twitter activity from the councillors, and even the leader of the council, promoting the planning application. In one Tweet the 'Leader' seemed to suggest that the opponents of the planning application were in the minority, even though the council's own planning site clearly showed the opposite.

In that case I hope the Leader doesn't have anything to do with our borough's finances, said TwickerBee; we should at least expect someone who can count!

Well, said TwickerFox, if you've looked at his recent Tweets he doesn't much respect his borough residents' views, so what do you expect?!



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update, Data as of 13 November 2022

Globally, the number of new weekly cases increased by 2% during the week of 7 to 13 November 2022 as compared to the previous week, with over 2.3 million new cases reported. The true number of incident cases is an underestimate due to a decline in testing globally. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 30% as compared to the previous week, with over 7,400 fatalities reported. As of 13 November 2022, over 632 million confirmed cases and over 6.5 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the regional level, the number of newly reported weekly cases decreased across three of the six WHO regions: the European Region (-21%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-12%) and the African Region (-8%); while case numbers increased in the Western Pacific Region (+18%), the South-East Asia Region (+15%) and the Region of the Americas (+12%). The number of new weekly deaths decreased across four regions: the African Region (-86%), the South-East Asia Region (-80%), the European Region (-41%) and the Region of the Americas (-10%); while the number of deaths increased in the Western Pacific Region (+14%) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+7%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (503,766 new cases; +25%), the Republic of Korea (355,990 new cases; +19%), the United States of America (281,955 new cases; +6%), Germany (184,987 new cases; -25%), and China (171,745 new cases; -22%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,323 new deaths; -6%), Japan (552 new deaths; +41%), the Russian Federation (436 new deaths; -10%), China (410 new deaths; -24%), and France (390 new deaths; -10%).

The European Region reported just under 697,000 new cases, a 21% decrease as compared to the previous week. Five (8%) of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in North Macedonia (196 vs 71 new cases; +176%), Andorra (76 vs 53 new cases; +43%) and Monaco (66 vs 50 new cases; +32%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (184,987 new cases; 222.4 new cases per 100,000; -25%), France (151,950 new cases; 233.6 new cases per 100,000; -1%), and Italy (126,180 new cases; 211.6 new cases per 100,000; -24%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the region decreased by 41% as compared to the previous week, with 2341 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (436 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -10%), France (390 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -10%), and Italy (330 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -40%)

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

NBC NEWS: BA.5 is no longer dominant in the U.S. for the first time since July, as two new subvariants take over

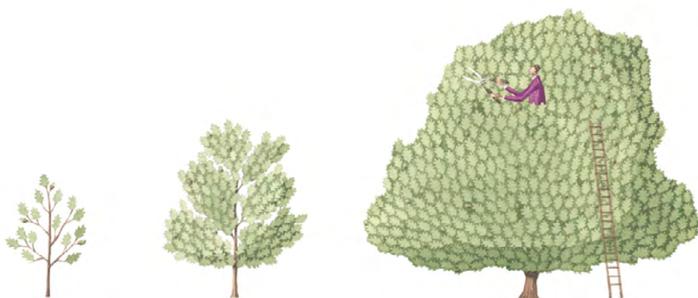
"The two coronavirus subvariants, BQ.1.1 and BQ.1, seem to be better at evading immune defenses and together make up 44% of new Covid cases."

Aljazeera: China has eased its "zero-Covid" policy restrictions, as its citizens grow restive under the strict measures.

Reliefweb: Tuvalu responds to the country's first community transmission of COVID-19

New York Times: Covid Depression Is Real. Here's What You Need to Know.

"The risk of developing symptoms of depression remains high up to a year after you've recovered."



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Virginia in Richmond

By Simon Fowler

The first full-size bronze statue of Virginia Woolf was unveiled on Wednesday, overlooking the riverside in Richmond, where the author set up Hogarth Press and lived for 10 years. The statue sits on a bench, book in hand, smiling. Passers-by are encouraged to stop for a selfie.

Her diary describes her experiences while living in the town.

She, and her husband Leonard, moved to Richmond in October 1914. They took lodgings at 17 The Green. But they soon fell in love with a Georgian house - Hogarth House - on Paradise Road; 'I have a nose for a house, and that was a perfect house.' Although the couple were worried about whether they would be affected by noise from a local school. They weren't. It was to become their home for almost ten years.

Hogarth House was very conveniently situated. It was a few minutes' walk from Richmond station. Leonard worked in London and Virginia often visited friends and other writers in town. A stroll up the Hill allowed the couple to walk their dogs in the Park. 'We walked in Richmond Park this afternoon the trees all black and the sky heavy over London but there's enough colour to make it even lovelier today than on bright days. I think the deer exactly match the bracken.'

They also enjoyed walks on the River. For a short while they owned a spaniel, Tinker who: 'was taken a long walk by the river, the Avenue and the Park. His spirit is great but almost under control. He fell into the river twice, jumped out again circled madly with a black poodle and investigated several garden gates which seem to have a fascination for him.'

They also enjoyed expeditions to Kew Gardens: 'we saw a blazing bush as red as cherry blossom but more intense - frostily red - also gulls rising and falling for pieces of meat the crowd waved aside suddenly by three very elegant light grey cranes.' Afterwards Mrs Woolf returned home: 'where I had tea in the kitchen with the Manx cat.'

But even in Richmond, the War had an impact. In December 1917 she was woken by: 'guns at one point so loud that the whistle of the shell going up followed the explosion. One window did I think rattle. Then silence. Cocoa was brewed for us. As it was after six, carts were rolling out of the stables, motorcars throbbing, and then prolonged ghostly whistling in Richmond I suppose Belgian workpeople recalled to the munitions factory.'

On 11 November 1918 the Armistice with Germany was signed: 'Twenty-five minutes ago the guns went off announcing peace. A siren hooted on the river. They are hooting still. A few people ran to look out of windows. The rooks wheeled around and for a moment they looked like creatures performing some ceremony partly of thanksgiving partly valediction over the grave. We looked out of the window saw the house painter give one look at the sky and go on with his job; the old man toddling along the street carrying a bag out of which a large loaf protruded closely followed by his mongrel dog.'

In January 1924, Virginia and Leonard moved back to London. In her diary she wrote: 'I have never complained of Richmond, 'til I shed it, like a loose skin.'

The statue can be found close to Richmond Bridge.



RADNOR GARDENS 11.00 am 13th NOVEMBER

Photos by Doug Goodman



Twickenham Riverside – Calculating the Cost

By Teresa Read

I wonder whether anyone has done a cost-benefit analysis of the attempts to develop Twickenham Riverside, currently under threat from our Council, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Since the land, previously the site of Richmond House and later Twickenham Baths, was bought by the Council in 1924 on behalf of residents there have been numerous attempts to develop this beautiful spot overlooking the Thames. Today, development seems to include the felling of around sixty-eight trees; slightly incongruous when the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has just been named a climate action leader.

Following the demise of historic Richmond House and the closure in 1980 of the popular outdoor swimming pool there have been various proposals but so far all have failed, apart from the creation of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens in 2012 and its designation as Public Open Space under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Housing on the site has been a favourite option for the Council, although the current plan proposes flats to be sold by a West End Estate Agent, involved not only in future sales but also planning advice. Of course, buying a house on this favoured spot would not be possible for the average resident but those less well-off might have a chance with cheaper housing on the former Santander car park, to the side of the site and purchased by the Council in 2014. Why can't the council focus on this 'affordable housing', which is to be built on the recently acquired Santander car park and King Street frontage, rather than building luxury private housing on the protected public open space of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens? Most residents want to see the riverside improved, and are not against development, but not at the expense of this unique riverside amenity.

So how much of our money has the Council spent in trying to develop the area? Various plans have failed including "Dawney Day" and the Countryside plan (rejected by a Referendum funded by residents) followed by the failure of various Council competitions, until we have today the Hopkins proposal.

Once again, we come to how much has been spent on all these schemes over the years, and do we really need to go ahead with the luxury housing element when so many people are happy with what we have now with the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

How much officers' time has been spent – what is the overall outlay in terms of salaries, competitions, legal fees and payments to independent organizations paid to assist the Council?

When is the time to look at the huge outlay by LBRUT on the desire to be the administration that managed to sell off our Public Land, despite the opposition of those who are charged with its protection - and the wishes of residents for whom the land was originally purchased?

Perhaps we should see a break-down of the figures, a Cost-Benefit Analysis of Selling off Twickenham Riverside. And, of course, the environmental cost of losing this unique part of the Thames Riverside.

Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside Rising Costs

I have been told by someone who worked for the Canary Wharf Group that construction costs have risen by 30% over just the last few months and are still rising. At a Finance meeting in February the Council told us that the Twickenham Riverside development would cost £32million. This means that we are now looking at a cost of £40million plus. Meanwhile house prices are dropping, making this whole scheme less viable. This development is beginning to sound like the Richmond Council's HS2 scenario!

With best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller, Twickenham

Dear Tribune,

Learn to Unlock an E-scooter!

Richmond Council's website is now promoting training courses to teach residents how to use e-scooters, saying they will:

'Give learners the opportunity to master the key skills such as how to unlock your scooter and start a journey, balancing and steering, signalling, and hazard awareness and avoidance.'

No mention is made of the numerous reports published by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers explaining the obvious dangers of these inherently unstable machines, including this one:

www.imeche.org/news/news-article/crash-test-dummies-reveal-injury-risks-of-low-speed-e-scooter-accidents

Or this by the Royal College of Surgeons: <https://publishing.rcseng.ac.uk/doi/full/10.1308/rcsann.2021.0151>

Nor is there any mention of the pedestrians who suffer the proliferation of these machines.

Only this week, I was nearly hit by a cycle at speed on a footway and twice had to avoid illegal e-scooters on footways and pedestrian crossings. I have now been crashed into three times, had near misses 15 times and been threatened with violence three times on Richmond's footways all by riders of e-scooter and e-bikes. One occasion prompted a 999 call to the police because of the abuse and serious violence threatened by the female rider – a public order offence but no action from our police, of course.

Incredibly, Sarah Olney MP has welcomed: *'Plans to improve the safety of e-scooters by developing a 'universal sound' to alert pedestrians and others.'*

Of course, if they weren't on our footways, they wouldn't need a universal sound to alert pedestrians. One Richmond Councillor to whom I spoke did not understand that the much-vaunted geo-fencing is useless because of the technical limitations of the civilian GPS system: www.gps.gov/systems/gps/performance/accuracy

Having undergone advanced driver training myself, I think it most worthwhile but it is only if people actually participate and learn. But how many do?

Westminster, and Wandsworth Councils, Paris, et al, are all taking action to curb the constant menace caused by these machines to pedestrians and riders alike.

Instead of constantly promoting and condoning them, why doesn't Richmond do the same and save us all a lot of pain?

Michael Jay, Hampton

Save Diamond Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham Riverside

STOP THE LAND GRAB !

--- Planning hearing 24 Nov. 2022 --- CPO hearing June 2023 ---



Proposed development on Wharf Lane, TW1 Image © Hopkins



Aerial view of Diamond Jubilee Gardens

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WHARF LANE BUILDING?

COUNCIL PLAN

- Dominates the Riverside
- Destroys the Gardens
- 5 storeys - 21m - on the waterfront
- Luxury residential and a pub-eatery
- Severe overshadowing
- Veteran trees and greenery chopped
- Inferior public space in size and quality
- Inferior children's play area
- Inferior event space, intersected by road and cycle path
- Public space vulnerable to flooding

WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY

- + Award-winning Gardens
- + Well-maintained thriving Community asset
- + All raised above the flood zone on one level
- + All-season, year-round usage
- + Bright, open aspect
- + Mature trees and hedges
- + 182m² of green garden canopy
- + Safe and secure children's playground
- + Open space for free play and ball games
- + Community café w/ additional needs workforce
- + Spacious, multipurpose event area



SAVE YOUR RIVERSIDE GARDENS

HISTORIC OPEN SPACE ON TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE TO BE BULLDOZED FOR PRIVATE APARTMENTS

Richmond Council has made a land grab for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on which it wants to develop a **21m high-rise building** using £35 million of public money to bulldoze a much-loved children's playground and community café and rip out 23 of 24 existing trees on the Gardens.

WE ARE BEING SHORT-CHANGED

The proposed Wharf Lane building will drastically alter the skyline and reduce the Open Space offering on the riverfront forever. It will be **greater in height and mass than any other building on the High Street** and brings almost no amenity value to the public. New Open Space will be confined between tall buildings and relegated to the flood zone.

The Twickenham Riverside Trust, a charity run by local volunteers, was granted a 125-year lease on the Gardens by the Council in 2014, so that green and open leisure space in this unique area could be protected for the public for the future.

Now, just eight years later, the Council is using **Compulsory Purchase powers** to seize the land, in order to force the building through.

JOIN US TO STOP THE GARDEN GRAB

ALL the derelict areas alongside the Gardens on Water Lane are on **Council-owned land**. They can be rejuvenated, other access and landscaping improvements made, and views of the river enhanced – without building on the Gardens. Likewise, car parking can be removed from the waterfront at any time.

Together, we can achieve genuine improvements on the Riverside for future generations to enjoy.

www.TwickenhamRiversideTrust.Org.Uk

Sign the petition [HERE](#)

TIMBER..! STOP THE MASS TREE CHOP

We were promised a greener Borough but:

- 23 out of the 24 mature trees felled
- 66 across the wider Riverside
- Trees valued today at nearly £300,000
- Endangered Black Poplar felled
- Over 100m of hedgerow lost
- Wildlife habitat lost
- Character and air quality degraded



Just some of the canopy earmarked to go

ALL OF THESE TREES ARE TO BE DESTROYED...



PROTECT YOUR UNIQUE EVENT SPACE



DJG Dog Show, 2022

- + Flood free
- + Single-level
- + Multipurpose
- + Safe



High Tide Festival, 2022

Sign this petition if you would like to:

- ✓ Preserve and improve existing open space on the Riverside
- ✓ Remove and regenerate the derelict sites - all Council-owned
- ✓ Integrate the existing Gardens WITH that regeneration
- ✓ Improve the Riverside area and Gardens, including accessibility

PETITION

Save Twickenham Riverside Public Gardens

Dear Leader of Richmond Council - Cllr Gareth Roberts,

I / We support:

Improvements to Twickenham Riverside that will see the existing footprint of Diamond Jubilee Gardens remain free from development, the withdrawal of the Wharf Lane Building proposal, and the trees retained - so as to preserve and protect the Public Open Space on the Riverside for the benefit of the Public.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-twickenham-riverside-public-gardens>:



www.TwickenhamRiversideTrust.Org.Uk

Which Hat Is He Wearing?

Residents who have been on social media for some years will know that Gareth Roberts, the present leader of the Council, has been a regular user of social media although sometimes it is often difficult to distinguish which hat he is wearing – leader of the Council, leader of the local Liberal Democrats, and private individual - and should he wear them all in the same social media account?

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Code of Conduct is clear about the use of social media and states *“Be clear about your own personal role, in particular a clear distinction should be drawn between use of an account in your personal capacity and use in your capacity as a councillor. Note that merely stating you are acting in your private capacity may not be sufficient.”*

The Code does say that councillors may use social media in both an official and personal capacity, but they must be aware that the public may perceive them as acting in either capacity when that is not their intention.

Any social media account which could be potentially linked to a councillor would need to meet the standards of the Code of Conduct.

Similarly, ‘liking’, ‘sharing’ or ‘re-tweeting’ posts could be seen as an endorsement of them and legally this can be a separate instance of publication, by the Councillor, to which all the legal and Code considerations would apply.

Councillors are expected to **Be Respectful** – set the tone for online conversations by being polite, open and respectful. Use familiar language, be cordial, honest and professional at all times.

Remember, the leader represents everyone in the Borough and not just those in his own political party.

In the case of a planning application councillors should take care not to publish their own views, particularly issues like planning applications where residents are allowed to make their own comments where people can Object, Support or make an Observation.

Presumably, if the leader makes his view clear on social media this could influence decisions, for instance by members of the planning committee.



Gareth Roberts ✓

@Gareth_Roberts_

At Thursday’s Planning Committee I hope the members will look at what’s on offer and conclude it has to be better than this.

Unfortunately a small group of unaccountable people seem intent on preserving this. Why, I can only guess.

THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER DICKENS AND JONES -

HOUSE OF FRASER STORE IN GEORGE STREET, RICHMOND

By Paul Velluet

For anyone interested in the present Council's approach to decision-making in relation to the future conservation and development of the historic heart of Richmond and its commercial town centre, viewing the recording of last Wednesday evening's meeting of the Council's Planning Committee on the Council's web-site will be most revealing.

The extraordinary lack of concern regarding the failure of a significant number of those who had submitted representations to receive notifications from the Council of the meeting and the opportunity of speaking at the meeting, and the unanimous decision by the Committee to grant Planning Permission for the highly damaging proposals for the substantial upward extension of the already oversized former Dickens and Jones - House of Fraser building, despite the significant objections of many in the local community and the manifest inadequacies of the documentation submitted in support of the applications, suggest that there is something seriously wrong with the present operation of the planning system in the Borough.

Despite the commendable effort of one of the three, South Richmond councillors to urge the Committee to defer the determination of the applications given the inadequacies of the notification process and the need to provide scope to allow discussions between the prospective developers, local residents and planning officers aimed at resolving issues of concern, and the contributions made by local speakers, highlighting the irregularities in the planning process and the substantial deficiencies of the proposals, the Committee proceeded to approve the proposals unanimously.

Such a decision seemed to be based on the questionable belief that the unwise decision of the Committee in March, 2020 to grant Planning Permission for a partly similar, earlier and un-implemented scheme for the development of the site, despite its significant deficiencies and the objections of the local community and Historic England and the change in the ownership of the site, precluded any effective challenge to the contentious aspects of the present proposals; on the view that the change in planning regulations in 2020, precluded any attempt to control or limit the broad range of proposed uses within the building; that a decision to approve the latest proposals would bring about the re-use of the building; and that the proposed range of leisure and other uses, including a 9 418 square feet restaurant at roof-level (and despite the scope to reduce or omit retail use altogether without Planning Permission), would somehow contribute to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre.



Significantly, the prospective developer has openly acknowledged that the approved scheme

has not been implemented over the last two or more years as ‘it doesn’t meet the requirements of occupiers in terms of floorspace quantum, land use and operational restrictions’ – thus confirming the scepticism expressed by many objectors back in 2019-2020. Other than for the stripping-out of the retail interiors, the property has sat empty for over two years – none of the much vaunted, potential ‘public benefits’ which persuaded the Committee to support the earlier scheme in the first place having been realised.

Few would question the desirability of the former department store being given an appropriate new life consistent with the character and function of the town centre and its setting in relation to The Green. Sadly, however, like the last scheme, the current proposals do not deliver such an objective.



In the briefing circulated to Committee members before the meeting, their attention was drawn to the serious concerns regarding the substantial inadequacies of the information submitted in support of the applications, and about another - yet to be formally submitted ‘alternative scheme for the site’ - to which specific references were made in the reports submitted in support of the current applications - but about which the officers’ report remained completely silent, and the undue reliance placed by officers on assumptions rather than tested evidence relating to the wholly inadequate, verified views submitted back in 2019-2020.

In short, it is clear that cumulatively, the present proposals, if implemented as approved, will have a seriously harmful impact on the Central Richmond Conservation Area and on the settings of the Richmond Green Conservation Area, nearby, highly graded, listed buildings, and importantly, The Green itself, rightly described by Nikolaus Pevsner in the relevant volume of the *Buildings of England*, as ‘one of the most beautiful urban greens surviving anywhere in England’. Importantly, too, it is open to question whether the suggested ‘public benefits’ either balance or outweigh the potential harm posed by the proposals.

A more enlightened and responsive Planning Committee might have welcomed the call to defer the determination of the applications pending clarification of the submitted proposals and the ‘alternative scheme for the site’ submitted as a pre-application enquiry to the Council in May, and the submission of significantly amended proposals which omit and/or resolve the contentious elements of the presently submitted scheme. However, this is Richmond in 2022.

Paul Velluet is a chartered architect and independent consultant. He lived for some twenty-six years in George Street, Richmond and has lived in St Margaret’s since 1982. In past years, he served on the Council’s Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, and as Chairman of the Richmond Society, and as London Regional Architect for English Heritage.

Saying 'thank you' to the Thames

By David Upton, Secretary, Richmond Rotary

The height of the tide at Richmond depends on water flowing from its catchment areas upstream, and the height of the sea tides downstream. These vary independently. For the last thousand years, the level has been controlled, deliberately or accidentally: the tidal Thames has been a slave to the people on its banks. At the moment, thanks to a controlled drawdown from Richmond lock, the low water levels are very low.

The tidal Thames is used and controlled by the people on its banks. Once it was a superhighway, for royalty to move from their palaces in the cities of London or Westminster to their palaces in Richmond or Hampton Court.



In 1209, just over a thousand years ago, London Bridge was built – the first luxury riverside development combining retail spaces and exclusive houses. (At one stage there were 138 premises listed, including two water mills).

Alas, it was also a bridge. It had nineteen piers, which had to be very wide to support its weight. So little space was left for water to pass through, that it effectively became a dam, cutting off the tidal Thames from the tides. For hundreds of years, the low waters seen on the Thames right now were normal.

At times, the river was scarcely navigable. Despite this, it became a highway for international trade via the Port of London. As Sir John Denman wrote in 1641:

*When he, to boast or to disperse his stores,
Full of the tributes of his grateful shores,
Visits the world...*

The Industrial Revolution increased goods traffic, as the inland canal system was able to connect to the Thames via the river Brent. Freedom from the old London Bridge led to a great age of lock building to maintain levels: from 1811 to 1815, locks were built at Teddington, Sunbury, Shepperton, Chertsey and Molesey. It took another 80 years for Parliament to agree to the lock at Richmond: by that time a large part of London's drinking water was drawn from the river.

Once the railway came to Richmond in 1846, the river became a pleasure ground for Londoners. Boat hire dominated the banks at weekends.

Today most of this has gone. The river is only lightly used for trade, pleasure or as a rich person's highway. Today, people supported by the Thames at Richmond are mostly bureaucrats, activists, committees, and those with a cause, promoting their views on the river's environment, aesthetics, navigation, drinking water extraction, local politics, and money-making possibilities. They trade in reports and position papers, and derive pleasure from discussing, coordinating and consulting.

Richmond Rotary Club visited the river this week with no views on any of these questions. We just wanted to see and listen to the river - to 'consult' it in the jargon, since it is the only key player that is never consulted. We also wanted to thank it. At a time when it is low, we wanted to offer it our love.



Photos by David Upton

VIRGINIA WOOLF - UNVEILED IN RICHMOND

The first full-size bronze statue of Virginia Woolf, by acclaimed sculptor Laury Dizengremel, was unveiled today, Wednesday 16 November 2022, in a stunning location on the Upper Terraces at Richmond Riverside by Virginia's great, great niece Sophie Partridge and Virginia's great niece Emma Woolf with her 2 year old son Ludovic Cecil Woolf (Ludo) – who got to “meet” his great, great Aunt Virginia!

The extraordinarily beautiful statue, featuring a life sized Virginia Woolf in a relaxed repose on a bench, where people can sit next to her, whilst enjoying the gentle views of Richmond.

An icon of the 20th Century, Virginia Woolf lived and worked in leafy Richmond with husband Leonard for ten years between 1914-1924. Virginia described Hogarth House as “the loveliest house in England.” There, they set up the Hogarth Press in 1915 and Richmond proved to influence Virginia's life and work.



Virginia Woolf's great great niece Sophie Partridge, Great Niece Emma Woolf and her son Ludovic Woolf

Cheryl Robson of Aurora Metro Arts and Media Charity has dedicated five years to fundraising and campaigning to raise over £60,000 to erect a statue of Virginia Woolf in Richmond to celebrate her, her literary legacy and her strong connection to Richmond. Dozens of volunteers helped with the project and the public expressed overwhelming support with literally 100s of individual donations.

The world-famous writer and champion of women's rights Virginia Woolf grew to love the tranquil life that Richmond offered her away from London. Richmond gave Virginia the freedom in her writing, freedom to grow as a person and the freedom to think for herself again. She wrote: “I ought to be grateful to Richmond and Hogarth, and indeed, whether it's my invincible optimism or not, I am grateful.”

The sculptor Laury Dizengremel said: “Being asked to create the first ever full figure statue of Virginia Woolf, and to portray her happy side was a total thrill.”

This new historical addition to Richmond has garnered great support including: Mark Haddon, Sarah Gristwood, Anne Sebba, Claire Tomalin, Philippa Gregory, Kit de Waal, Jackie Kay, AS Byatt, Frances Spalding and Sarah Waters. Online endorsements have come from many including: Margaret Attwood, Jodi Picoult, Deborah Frances-White, Elizabeth Day, Caroline Criado Perez, Phillip Pullman and Neil Gaiman.

The charity's sister company, Aurora Metro Books is a small publishing house in the heart of Richmond, poignantly similar to Hogarth Press. Here, Cheryl Robson has just opened their first independent book shop on site, Books on the Rise. During the campaign Aurora Metro published Peter Fullagar's book Virginia In Richmond, to excellent reviews.

The last words, should of course, be left to Virginia Woolf describing Richmond: “Nowhere else could we have started the Hogarth Press, whose very awkward beginning had rise in this very room, on this very green carpet.”

East Twickenham Christmas Lights

Friday 25th November 2022
from 16.30

- 16.30 - 17.00 Christmas Music
- 17.00 - 17.15 Deer Park School Choir
- 17.15 - 17.25 Christmas Tree lighting
- 17.25 - 17.45 Christmas Carols

All Welcome

*Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
Father Christmas!
Music led by Shelle Luscombe*

Deer Park School
389 Richmond Road
TW1 2EF



Richmond upon Thames named climate action leader

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has been recognised as one of 123 cities and boroughs across the globe for taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency, despite the pressures of a challenging global economic situation.

The Cities A List, pulled together by CDP, a not-for-profit global charity that monitors environmental impacts and reports on climate action, is designed to encourage and support cities and boroughs to increase their climate action and ambition. The list is based on environmental data disclosed by cities and boroughs to CDP-ICLEI Track. In 2022, just over one in ten authorities scored by CDP received an A.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

“We are very pleased to be included in CDP’s Cities A List for 2022. By reporting climate data through CDP each year, Richmond Council is being transparent about its climate action, tracking progress, monitoring risks, and benchmarking against other places facing similar challenges. “By measuring, understanding and disclosing environmental impact, cities and boroughs are able to take the urgent action needed to build a sustainable, thriving and resilient environment in which to live and work.”



To score an A, among other actions, a city or borough must disclose data publicly through CDP-ICLEI Track, have a city- or borough-wide emissions inventory and a published climate action plan. The scoring criteria for emissions reduction targets have been strengthened in line with science-based climate targets to include a long-term net-zero target (by 2050) or a mid-term target that is aligned with a fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Cities and boroughs must also complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and have a climate adaptation plan to demonstrate how they will tackle climate hazards. Like Richmond, many are also taking a variety of other leadership actions, including commitment from the political administration to tackle climate change.

A List cities and boroughs are demonstrating climate leadership through concerted and effective action, just as national governments have been asked to do at COP27. They are taking twice as many mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A Listers.

Richmond upon Thames and the other 122 cities and boroughs on this year’s A List are also showing that urgent and impactful climate action - from ambitious emissions reduction targets to building resilience against climate change - is achievable at a global level, and in places with different climate realities and priorities.

Key achievements that Richmond has delivered as part of its Climate Emergency Action Plan include:

- Purchasing renewable electricity for all Council operations, eliminating the carbon footprint for electricity purchasing
- Improving air quality monitoring to identify hotspots of air pollution and sources of emissions
- Expanding food waste and textiles collections, helping residents to recycle more
- Delivering energy efficiency retrofits for over 50 low energy efficiency and low-income homes
- Installing electric vehicle charge points, with 431 now available on the borough’s public highways
- Planting more trees, with 1247 trees planted since 2019
- Engaging with residents and communities on climate change, including Richmond Climate Week in 2021 and Clean and Green Week in 2022.

[View the full list.](#)

Bruce and Shona turn a new leaf – pardon the pun

By Shona Lyons

Since 2002 we have been spending a lot of our time bringing the Street floral scene to Church Street, our work home. Along with a lot of other community work in the street with Markets and Arts and Crafts events and Festivals and more.



But now my dad is getting on at 88 and still works everyday (he says he is my apprentice now!) in the travel business. We feel we should concentrate, as far as “street scene” closer to home and limit that to the Square (Church Street Square) as otherwise we would have no time for our Travel Clients who we love to work with & pride ourselves of second to none customer service.

So, no more tending to the planters at the top of Church Street, no Gorilla Gardening on Richmond Hill, they`ll have to manage and the Eel Pie Museum have taken on the planter we put there – so we are free to focus on our own patch – so watch this space – we getting our camelias into shape just now – big fat buds!!! And already planted around 1500 bulbs.



Unfortunately, Richmond in Bloom closed down after our chair and good friend Pat Schooling passed away but London in Bloom is still going strong and next year we are going to enter their competition!

By the way here is a press release for any “open Space” enthusiast about free Elm Tree Stock – the best antidote to cure “Global Warming”. *See next page ...*

Shona Lyons and the boy!

More Elms4London

Second year of successful environmental campaign

At the start of this year, thanks to the Elms4London campaign, 33 disease-resistant elm trees were planted in 17 boroughs spread across London. This inaugural planting event marked a significant turning point for the fortunes of an important species which was such a key feature of the city's landscape until the devastating arrival of Dutch elm disease in the 1960s.



Applications are now being invited from anyone managing a suitable public realm site within the Greater London area who would welcome a carefully selected disease-resistant cultivar to be planted next February, 2023.

Mark Lane, who chairs the group behind this campaign says: 'We were delighted by the response in our first year and expect even greater interest as this initiative gathers

momentum. We have secured a significant quantity of tree stock from a number of specialist nurseries, and are keen to find good homes for them. These are all proven disease resistant clones which have every chance of not just surviving but thriving in the centuries to come. This is an important step towards reversing the decline of this majestic species.'

Applications should be made via the email address on the Elms4London website, www.elms4london.org.uk, before the closing date of December 31 2022. An application form has



been created to speed the process and potential recipients are asked to complete and return one.

Successful applicants will be encouraged to plant their tree during London Elm Week, February 13-19.

Elms4London is supported by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association charity (MPGA). Since 1882 the MPGA has helped preserve and improve gardens, neglected sites and green open spaces across London by providing small grants to a wide variety of groups, including local councils, schools, hospitals, hospices, museums, voluntary organizations and community groups. www.mpga.org.uk



Make new friends at the Hearing Voices networking event

A Richmond Friendship group and Hearing Voices Network (HVN) are hosting an event for those who hear voices, see visions or have similar sensory experiences.

HVN focus on helping to create respectful and empowering spaces, whilst challenging the inequalities and oppressive practices that hold people back.

The network and its affiliate groups aim to:

- Raise awareness of the diversity of voices, visions and similar experiences
- Challenge negative stereotypes, stigma and discrimination
- Help create more spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds to talk freely about voice-hearing, visions and similar sensory experiences
- Raise awareness of a range of different ways to manage distressing, confusing or difficult voices
- Encourage a more positive response to voice-hearing and related experiences in healthcare settings and wider society



This event is an opportunity to network with others to encourage the sharing of information and free resources.

Event details:

Date: Thursday 24 November, 11am to 1pm

Location: Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Road, Richmond TW9 1DH

Presents needed for local care leavers

Christmas Day Dinner Richmond is a Christmas Day event for local care leavers, and they need help to fill their stockings.

Those that come to the Christmas Day Dinner are young people that have grown up within the care system.

This has proved to be the hardest year yet for the organisation, as they are struggling to fill those Christmas stockings. There are 50 adult stockings and 13 for children to fill.

There is a [wish list of gifts](#) available to browse.

Everyone at the Richmond Christmas Day Dinner would be very grateful if you would consider buying a gift, if you are able to, and spread some much needed Christmas cheer!



AGM 2022

Prince Blucher pub

27th November

8pm-9.30pm



Friends of Kneller Gardens

This has been a great year for Kneller Gardens. Join the committee members to hear about our plans and proposals for the park.

We are looking for new committee members to work with the group and contribute to looking after this popular park.

Everyone welcome.

More information

www.facebook.com/Friendsofknellergardens/

Frances.bennett@talk21.com



Friends of Kneller Gardens

THINKING AHEAD: CHRISTMAS DRINKING

I thought it timely to recommend some drinks produced in unusual places to consider buying now, with a view to giving, or even for your own consumption, over the festive season. Some are easily available in a local supermarket, but others are mail order, but that also makes them a great gift idea that can be sent directly to the recipient if you're not able to see them pre-Christmas. We're talking gin from the Scilly Isles and Africa, rum - and of course whisky - from Scotland, vodka from Wales, mead from Sussex and much more, so read on!

As wine is made from grapes, so mead is made from honey - and although it's been around since mediaeval times, it's definitely seeing a revival. One particularly delicious mead is made by **Loxwood Meadworks**. Refreshing, it has a light honey flavour and is delicious drunk chilled, just as one would enjoy white wine, but it also can be warmed, with spices added, for a delicious festive mulled mead. It's 11% ABV and available from Loxwoodmeadworks.com for £19.50 a bottle.



Give this delicious, multi-award-winning, Island Gin from the Scilly Spirit Distillery to a gin aficionado and they'll be delighted. The striking bottle, taking inspiration from the iconic Bishop Rock Lighthouse and colour of the sea sounding the isles, contains a fabulous gin. With citrus notes from kaffir lime and orange on the nose, it moves to subtle spices on the palate. The **Scilly Spirit Distillery Island Gin** is available at around £45 a 75cl bottle, from John Lewis, Master of Malt and other retailers, or [direct](#) from the distillery.

A gin from Africa might be the ideal gift for anyone who's holidayed there (or hopes to!). This unusual African craft gin from **Procera**, is distilled in Nairobi with 10 botanicals, sourced from across Africa, including Madagascan pink pepper and Moroccan orris root. A rare botanical used is a species of juniper, Juniper Procera (most gins use Juniper Communis), also known as African juniper, as it only grows in the highlands of Kenya and Ethiopia. This different variety gives the gin a nuttier, earthier note. After distillation, the gin is bottled into stunning hand-blown bottles, also produced in Nairobi.



A truly unique gin, it's 'super premium' (hence the price): **Procera Blue Dot gin** is from around £78 at Master of Malt, Harvey Nichols, Selfridges



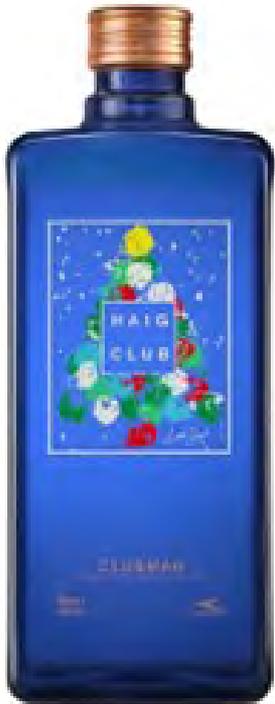
How about some Scottish rum? One that is aged in Charred American Oak, and steeped with Scottish Seaweed? **John Paul Jones Lowland Rum** certainly is very unique indeed. Prepare for a complex flavoured rum with maritime salty notes complimenting the quintessential flavours of vanilla and honey, leading into a light and smoky finish. A seriously well balanced, mellow rum, that I recommend drinking neat, not wasted in a cocktail! Available at around £35 (70 cl, 40.0% ABV) from Master of Malt or direct from [John Paul Jones](#)

Also from Scotland is a seriously good range of whiskies from **Elements of Islay**. Any seasoned whisky fan will appreciate one, or (if budgets permit), all of these superb, peaty whiskies. The three expressions, *Elements of Islay Cask Edit*, *Elements of Islay Bourbon* and *Elements of Islay Sherry* are small-batch, expertly sourced, independently bottled whiskies, natural in colour and non-chill filtered. Each expression is inspired by a different element of maturation and aimed at curious whisky drinkers who have a desire to experience, taste and explore the unique flavours of Islay. **Elements of Islay Cask**



Edit – 70 cl – 46% ABV – RRP: £44.95 **Elements of Islay Bourbon Cask** – 70 cl – 54.50% ABV – RRP: £59.95 **Elements of Islay Sherry Cask** – 70 cl – 54.50% ABV – RRP: £64.95 online from good retailers, including Master of Malt, The Whisky Exchange, Slurp, Spiritly

Still on whisky, but perhaps a more easily affordable one, football fans will love this special bottle of Haig Club, 'Footmade' by **David Beckham**. The design was created with his famous feet, by him kicking paint-covered footballs against a canvas, to create a Christmas tree. The classic Clubman bottles have been printed with this exclusive festive print to create a Christmas limited-edition bottle. Available from Tesco nationwide or Amazon and thebar.com if you want the bottle delivered straight to your door. And, just in time for Christmas, the bottle will be on promotion in Tesco until 1st January 2023 for £17



And last, but by no means least, a wonderful vodka from Wales! And a very good one too! [Eccentric Spirits](http://EccentricSpirits.com), distilled at award-winning [In The Welsh Wind](http://InTheWelshWind.com), has expanded its range with the launch of [Cardi Bay Vodka](http://CardiBayVodka.com) - its first Welsh vodka product. From the label colouring to the tasting notes, this Welsh vodka is inspired by the gorse which grows along the Ceredigion coastline, with a flavour profile infused with suitably subtle, delicious hints of coconut and vanilla. A 70cl bottle of Cardi Bay Vodka (40% vol) is priced at £32 and can be purchased through the Eccentric Spirits [website](http://EccentricSpirits.com), the In The Welsh Wind [website](http://InTheWelshWind.com).



If you're a cocktail fan (mine's a Negroni please) you need a good vermouth, and the Cocchi range of vermouths are so good (and worth that little extra price over some of the better-known, cheaper brands). I love the **Cocchi Vermouth di Torino** for my Negroni. Made to a family recipe created more than 100 years ago, Cocchi's intense, well-rounded flavour sets it apart from the competition. With notes of red fruits and orange, this is versatile vermouth that's delicious on its own with ice, but also a great base for a range of cocktails, including a Manhattan, Martinez or Negroni. And the **Cocchi Extra Dry Vermouth di Torino** is a triumph in a Martini. Around £18 for a 50cl bottle and widely available, including Waitrose, and good wine stores.



So stock up now (before that latest energy bill arrives!)

OTTOLENGHI TEST KITCHEN - EXTRA GOOD THINGS

I just love Ottolenghi recipes! With **OTK: Shelf Love** Yotam, Noor Murad and the OTK team had us all raiding our shelves and freezers, utilising and improvising. The latest volume in the OTK series is all about delicious meals that have an additional element that can be used to add extra flavour to your next meal as well. Their **Extra Good Things** can be poured out of bottles or sprinkled from jars to transform a bowl of rice, a tray of grilled veg, or a plate of scrambled eggs into an Ottolenghi Feast. These flexible, flavour-packed dishes all lend a little extra something to a future meal. For example, harissa butter on a roasted mushroom, then tossed with steamed veg or stuffed into a baked potato. Or smoky, sweet nuts spooned over oven fries then used to top some hummus the following day. Extra Good Things is rounded off with a chapter on the 'one basics' of desserts for us to perfect, then adapt with our favourite flavour combos...one basic mousse' transformed into a coffee mousse with tahini fudge sauce - yum!

So now you can cook it forward, Ottolenghi style, and fill your cupboards with lots of delicious extras: condiments, sauces, sprinkles and far more, adding that extra oomph to your mealtimes.

Published by **Ebury Press at £25**, this flexibound book will make the perfect Christmas gift for any adventurous foodie. And if they're already an Ottolenghi fan, then you're home and dry with a winning gift that you might even benefit from if they cook for you.

Here's a recipe to demonstrate the versatility of this wonderful book.



Turmeric fried eggs with tamarind dressing (Prep: 5 minute Cook time: 15 minutes) Serves 2

“These are fried eggs but with a very eccentric wardrobe, thanks to the turmeric and chilli, which make them as good to eat as they are to look at. You can serve this easy, vibrant breakfast as it is, or alongside potato rösti, as part of a brunch spread.”

- 1 shallot, peeled and sliced into thin rounds (60g)
- 2 tsp lime juice
- 3 1/2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 200g baby spinach
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric
- 4 large eggs
- 1 green chilli, finely sliced into rounds, seeds and all
- salt



Tamarind Dressing

- 30g tamarind paste
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 2 tsp light soft brown sugar 5g fresh coriander, roughly chopped

1. Put the shallot, lime juice and a pinch of salt into a small bowl and use your fingers to gently massage everything together. Set aside to pickle lightly while you continue with the rest.
2. Make the **tamarind dressing** by putting all the ingredients into a bowl and whisking to combine and dissolve the sugar. Add between 2–4 teaspoons of water, to loosen the mixture (this will vary according to different makes of tamarind paste).
3. Put 1 tablespoon of oil into a large frying pan over a medium- high heat. Once hot, add the garlic and cook for 90 seconds, stirring, until fragrant and lightly coloured, then stir in the spinach and 1/8 teaspoon of salt and cook until wilted, about 4 minutes. Transfer to a serving plate and wipe out the pan.
4. Add the remaining 2 1/2 tablespoons of oil plus the turmeric to the same pan, stirring to combine, and return it to a medium-high heat. Once hot but not smoking, crack in the eggs and quickly sprinkle the whites with the chilli slices. Season the eggs all over with a good pinch of salt and use a spatula to separate the whites so that the eggs are not joined together. Fry for 3–4 minutes, spooning some of the oil over the whites. You want the whites to be crispy around the edges and the yolk to be runny (fry them for longer if you like your eggs more cooked).
5. When ready, use a spatula to transfer the eggs to the plate of spinach, drizzling with any extra turmeric oil in the pan. Top with the pickled shallots and then drizzle with some of the tamarind dressing, serving any remaining alongside.

Tamarind dressing

Make the dressing, minus the coriander, and keep refrigerated for up to 5 days.

A little goes a long way with this dressing: drizzle on to roasted potatoes with plenty of fresh herbs, or spoon over grilled steak for a tangy addition.

Extracted from Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: Extra Good Things by Noor Murad and Yotam Ottolenghi (Ebury Press, £25) All photography by Elena Heatherwick

WIZ TALES: MAURITANIA

The Climate Change Conundrum



Teresa Read

This week it has been reported that the chief executive and other employees of BP (British Petroleum) were among delegates from Mauritania at COP27. However, it seems that not only BP had representatives at the international conference on climate change.

Aljazeera headlined with “Climate activists condemn spike in fossil fuel delegates at COP27” similar headlines followed from other news organizations.



Nonetheless, countries such as Mauritania are dependent on their deposits of fossil fuels.

With hundreds of kilometres of Atlantic coastal waters Mauritania is not only one the richest fishing areas in the world but has significant oil and gas deposits off its coast.

Oil was discovered offshore in 2001 with further exploration and appraisal taking place in 2008 and large natural gas deposits were also discovered off the coast in 2014.



More about Mauritania: <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Mauritania>

SAVE TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE PUBLIC GARDENS

Richmond Council has made a land grab for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on which it wants to develop a 21m high-rise building using £35 million of public money to bulldoze a much-loved children's playground and community café and rip out 23 of 24 existing trees on the Gardens.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WHARF LANE BUILDING?



--- Planning hearing 24 Nov. 2022 --- CPO hearing June 2023 ---

STOP THE LAND GRAB! SIGN THE PETITION [HERE](#) :



With thanks for your support,

Upcoming talks from RSPB Richmond and Twickenham

A series of interesting talks from RSPB Richmond and Twickenham will be taking place throughout December.

A number of interesting walks and talks are being hosted by RSPB Richmond and Twickenham next month, giving residents a chance to learn more about birds and the importance of Wetlands.



Learn about the birds of France with John Strachan and enjoy their Christmas Social on 7 December at 7.30pm in the Hyde Room of York House. Non-members are able to attend for a fee of £5.

Then on 13 December, learn more about birding in East and North Yorkshire via Zoom at 7.30pm.

[Find more details on both of these talks.](#)

There will also be an RSPB guided walk around the WWT London Wetland Centre in Barnes, taking place at 9.30am on 19 December. Non-members can attend this walk for a fee of £5, in addition to the Wetland Centre's £14.09 entry fee, which is applicable to all.

[Learn more about this guided walk.](#)

Join Off The Record's Christmas Carol Concert

Get your tickets for OTR's traditional Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 13 December.

OTR Twickenham will be celebrating the festive season with readings and musical performances featuring local young people.

Doors open from 6pm and the concert starts at 6.30pm, to be followed by light refreshments and a raffle.

Tickets cost £12 in advance and £15 on the door. Under 15s are free.

[Book your tickets now!](#)



Could you welcome a Ukrainian family to your home this Christmas?

Richmond Council is looking for more hosts to support Ukrainian guests in Richmond upon Thames under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, as many families prepare for their first Christmas in the UK.

New hosts are needed to help support Ukrainian guests whose original sponsor is no longer able to provide accommodation for them – for reasons such as moving away or family ill health.

The Council is particularly interested in hearing from people who want to help and have space for more than one adult or groups with children.

CLLr Nancy Baldwin, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector, said:

"In Richmond upon Thames, over 400 households have welcomed Ukrainian guests, given them a home and helped them start their lives in the UK. Unfortunately, the need has not gone away. As the war in Ukraine continues, these families are still seeking refuge and a safe home in Richmond. We have many guests wanting to stay here in our borough and needing continued support until they can find a home of their own.

"If you have thought about applying to be a host previously or are newly in a position to do so, please do get in touch to find out more."



Prospective hosts need to be able to offer accommodation for a minimum of six months, and those who are successfully matched to Ukrainian guests are offered a £350 per month 'thank you' payment once all relevant checks have been passed.

The accommodation can be anything from a spare room to an unoccupied home, as long as it's safe, heated and free from health hazards, and gives guests adequate access to bathroom and kitchen facilities. At the moment, there is a particular need for accommodation suitable for more than one adult or families with children, although offers of rooms for single adults are still very welcome.

The Council would also like to hear from people who may have already expressed an interest to offer accommodation earlier in the year but have yet to be matched with a guest.

If you think you could commit to hosting, please complete our [online form](#) and if we have a suitable match we will be in touch with you.

Find out more about the [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme, including important information and things to think about before signing up to host.

Local authorities are responsible for the wrap-around support package for Ukrainian guests. Find out more information about [support available in Richmond](#).

If you have any questions please email the Richmond Homes for Ukraine Team on homesforukraine@richmond.gov.uk.

ARE CATS USING YOUR GARDEN AS THEIR TOILET?

By Deep Patel

If you answered “yes!” to this...you are NOT alone...from time immemorial, the feline community has been picking and choosing where they want to “leave their mark” so to speak...and they spare no mercy...they really don’t mind “going” in the middle of your salad patch or on your patio, they’re not fussy...

In a way I quite admire how “free thinking” they are...they just don’t seem to give a s**t so to speak...they will do their doo-doo where they want...when they want...no rules...quite a liberating way to live...imagine we did that... just popping ourselves down and pooping on our neighbours doorsteps... ok maybe not...although perhaps some of you reading this right now would be only too happy to do so just to annoy the neighbours, although perhaps here we should remind ourselves of that golden divine advice... “love thy neighbour!”



Anyway...enough of me rambling on about pooping on your neighbours properties...what is the actual focus of this article meant to be I hear you ask?...that’s a puuuurfectly valid question...well as much as I don’t like cats doing their “business” in my vegetable patch, they are fluffy and nice to touch (the cats not the doo-doo) so we should be kind to them...I mean they probably don’t know that they are annoying us...they may even think they are doing us a favour...like leaving us a gift...or helping to fertilise our cabbages even perhaps? Maybe they only “go” in the gardens of their favourite people so it may even be a great big compliment to you...feel bad now do you?...so you should. All these possibilities aside, let’s face it...NO ONE wants the neighbourhood’s kitties using their vegetable patch as a loo...so what to do?

Get eating more oranges and lemons (just like the bells of St Clements always told us!)...YES it’s true...ok eating oranges and lemons won’t keep the cats away as such (although you will have great skin and good levels of vitamin C) but after eating the oranges and lemons, finely chop up the peels and throw them like confetti all around the areas that you don’t want the cat’s pooping on. Cats are EXTREMELY sensitive to strong scents and they hate citrus...this could help repel them. Lime and grapefruit peel finely chopped up will also help (ok you won’t be able to do the WHOLE garden...but main areas will be possible). Lavender plants also deter them...and they help the bees...so plant lavender where you don’t want them to come and poop!

Do you like banana bread? Well I jolly well hope you do as our next weapon is the glorious banana! But not the banana itself (you can eat that and you will be as “regular” as the 281 bus to Hounslow...very regular!)...but the secret is RIPE banana skins...they emit a strong scent that the dear little kitties hate! Not to mention they will add a lot of valuable potassium to your soil to give amazingly healthy plants! Chop them up finely and scatter them around!

Lastly...if all else fails...consider having an outdoor litter tray in your garden for them to use, of course it’s not your job, but it could be a smart way to stop them pooping on your favourite flowers! See it as charity towards a little kitty!

Like I always say, KINDNESS towards all living creatures is always the best way in the end...it’s good karma... and that includes the cats that keep pooping in your flower beds.

Like I say...every little life...counts...picking up a slug or worm off a pavement with a leaf and moving it over a wall counts as a good deed... choosing a kind way to stop ants (like talcum powder around where they come but not on them) counts as a good deed.

Ditching the mouse poison and using a live capture trap to release them away in a wooded area counts. Even avoiding sweeping/washing the garden patio too often helps save countless tiny almost invisible little lives that live there (particularly under large pots in the garden, hence I say gently lift the pots if you need to move them rather than dragging them to avoid crushing little lives). Avoid sweeping too close to the edges of the garden borders as that’s where lots of little lives live...for every life you save...you will accrue good karma that will unexpectedly help you when you least expect it... Check my Facebook page “KIND WORLD” for more tips on how to stop all “household pests” kindly without harming them (for good karma)



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Dracula

by Bram Stoker adapted by Liz Lochhead
YAT at Hampton Hill Theatre

Thanks to the Hammer House of Horror, we always tend to recall the blood-shot eyes and dripping fangs of Christopher Lee whenever the name 'Dracula' is mentioned. Such was the impact of these early classic horror films on their audiences that the more subtle, original stories upon which they were based are often neglected. It was, therefore, pleasing to see that YAT, in its production of this classic Gothic novel, has created a far more subtle version in this play. Under the guidance of director, Bill Compton, it remained true to the original novel, allowing the audience to find the requisite suspense and intrigue. The play told the tragic stories, often neglected, of the main characters and their descent from innocence into a world of madness and misery.



This enjoyable production was set against a highly complex and well-conceived lighting and tech design, creating a set which was fashioned almost entirely of projected images. This concept, together with the clever use of pausing the action on one side of the stage whilst bringing a second scene to life on the other, allowed the story to flow seamlessly between the many locations specified in Stoker's novel. One minute the audience find themselves in the Victorian home of the Westerman family and, the next, are transported to Dr

Goldman's harrowing lunatic asylum.

Oliver Keaton, as Dracula, gave a more subtle portrayal of this often over-exaggerated role, and was somehow more likeable and seemingly more trustworthy as he sought to draw the unsuspecting Jonathan Harker into his horrific underworld, through a combination of charm, guile and hypnotic tone.

It was wonderful to see a production of such a high standard delivered by the youth of the local community. All were all very well cast and their love of theatre was clearly evident through the energy and enthusiasm that they brought to these portrayals.

Read David Stephens' review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/12/dracula-yat

Photography by Joe Stockwell





Incident at Vichy

by Arthur Miller

Teddington Theatre Club at The Coward Studio, Hampton Hill until 19th November

Incident at Vichy is a warning from history, from a snapshot in time in Vichy in 1942. A waiting room is populated by a cross-section of French society, men waiting for their “papers” to be inspected. Some are released back to their everyday lives. Others are not. Of the rumours what might happen to them none is good. Some are truly chilling.

Director Clare Cooper has assembled an excellent cast for this difficult ensemble piece. All of them spend the entire time on stage in full view of the audience, and some of the performances of those with least to say are the most impressive. The subject matter is very sensitive and is handled as such, but glimpses of humour occasionally shine through and break the tension.



Marcus Ezekiel and Nigel Andrews play two reasonable men; both see the writing on the wall and the dialogue between them fleshes out much of Miller’s message. What a contrasting pair they are! Dr Leduc is a crumpled psychoanalyst, tragically flawed, whose feeling of hopelessness is palpable. Andrews as the Austrian Prince von Berg looks and sounds perfect as the immaculately turned out patrician.

Luke Daxon, as Professor Hoffman, plays the Nazi interrogator who picks innocent men off the street. Robin Legard’s Major, a

regular army officer, can’t quite come to terms with what he is being tasked with managing. Daxon is the cold and clinical embodiment of how atrocities can be normalised. Thrust into a nightmare by an accident of fate, the Major is no Nazi but a career soldier, traumatised by the situation in which he finds himself. He is able to see the entire situation from all its angles and he is troubled. As are the audience, for it is his words that reflect our worst fear: “if it were to happen again, what would we do?”



Read David Marks’ review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/11/17/vichy

Photography by Kim Harding



The Lavender Hill Mob

by T.E.B. Clarke, adapted for the stage by Phil Porter

Tulchin Bartner and Weird Sisters Productions at Richmond Theatre until 19th November, then on tour until 18th February

Adapted from the celebrated British film, *The Lavender Hill Mob* has large shoes to fill. And so, as self-confessed non-entity Henry Holland begins explaining to a visitor to his club in Rio how he pulled off a record-breaking bullion robbery, the witty script pulls the masterstroke of having the club's patrons enact the story. The show moves along at a brisk lick thanks to the taut direction of Jeremy Sams, and slick performances from a talented and energetic ensemble cast.



Miles Jupp leads the cast as Henry Holland, jovial and avuncular, retelling his greatest triumph on New Year's Eve 1949. Jupp holds the audience's attention throughout.

As Holland narrates his life around Clapham Junction in South London and his mundane work at the Bank of England, his friends perform their parts with enthusiasm, whether using a drinks tray as the steering wheel for a car, or loading New Year's gifts from a trolley as a substitute for the bullion itself. Justin Edwards, the Ambassador, is allowed to play Pendlebury, the artist whose foundry makes the criminal scheme possible. Edwards and Jupp have fantastic chemistry that recalls Sir Alec Guinness and Stanley Holloway without ever trying to imitate them.

Of course, a great deal of dramatic licence is employed, with effective use of Mark Henderson's lighting design to convey chase sequences, or vans full of glowing gold bullion. Similarly, various elements of Francis O'Connor's striking set are pushed around the stage, revolved, and finally slotted together as a spectacular recreation of the Eiffel Tower!

The Lavender Hill Mob is a wonderful evening's entertainment that follows its source material faithfully while providing plenty of its own top quality comedy material. The audience was quick to roar its approval within moments of the lights going down.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/15/lav-hill-mob

Photography by Hugo Glendinning





Ek/Forsythe/Quagebeur

by William Forsythe, Stina Quagebeur and Mats Ek
English National Ballet at Sadler's Wells Theatre

ENB's triple bill of new(ish) works celebrates the power and quality of ensemble.

The evening opens with William Forsythe's *Blake Works I*, created for the Paris Opera Ballet, set to contemporary pop music by James Blake. Dressed in pale blue, groups of women dancers create symmetrical poses with more than a nod to Balanchine's *Serenade*. All the tropes of a classic Forsythe are there, hinged hips, flexed hands and exaggerated epaulement ... yet the movement doesn't feel happily married to Blake's folksy loungy jazz. *Blake Works* feels more like a sketch in the master's notebook.



Framed by the works of the two great old men of ballet, Forsythe and Mats Ek, is the work of Stina Quagebeur, a soloist of ENB. Her choreography *Take Five Blues* uses equally popular music: Nigel Kennedy's gipsy jazz versions of famous classics by Bach, Brubeck and Desmond. Again, the ensemble wears shades of

blue, but this work is much more fluid, joyful, relaxed. There's more release, more swing, and it has definitely won my vote.

The final work is a world premiere by the legendary Swedish choreographer Mats Ek, created for the company. Surprisingly, Ek chose *The Rite of Spring*, that overused piece of music that is undeniably important and seminal, but also has the potential to set your teeth on edge like few others. We are in a dystopia where everybody wear pink silk pyjamas. There is an arranged marriage, a daughter drowning in a huge white wedding cloak, a shy groom on the very edges of the action ... and a stick centre stage, seemingly representing society or tradition itself. When the young bride removes that stick, rather than her becoming a sacrificial victim, all of society crumbles and dies right in front of her. When the curtain fell, I wasn't sure if I really understood it, yet in hindsight every single visual landed. He's clever like that, a true master choreographer.



Read Suzanne Frost's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/11/ek-forsythe-quagebeur/

Photography by Laurent Liotardo



& Juliet

by Max Martin, book by David West Read
Shaftesbury Theatre, West End until 24th March



The Shaftesbury has transformed itself into a venue fit for 21st Century theatre, whilst faithfully maintaining its heritage and its listed status. Iconic shows that have played there range from controversial *Hair* (running for 1,998 performances) to *Hairspray* in 2007. The West End theatre now has a fabulous and airy space, actually under the road, in the foyer basement, The 1911, named after the theatre's opening in that year. It was worth a peek before seeing the current musical & Juliet.



The show's idea stems from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and asks, in a cleverly conceived musical narrative, what might have happened if Juliet had not killed herself. So she goes to Paris (geddit!) where inevitably she falls in love again, but this time with Francois! Conspiring parents are still at work with ideas of their own about their children's love lives, but at this point the 21st C kick in. Juliet wants her independence despite Romeo returning, desperate to pick up where they left off ... his death was only a sleeping potion after all!

This is all beautifully woven together by Anne Hathaway (nicely played by Cassidy Jansen), making a bid for creativity and recognition of her own, despite her husband's protestations. It might sound rather far-fetched, but actually the story works really well. There is enough of the original reference in there for those who like their Shakespeare, but where this show really scores is that it brings to life the original play in a contemporary way.

There are some stunning musical numbers and the small chorus of versatile and athletic characters. Bessy Ewa as Juliet shows her talent with a great vocal presence but an integrity in the more intimate scenes.

& Juliet is uplifting, artistic and beautifully conceived, and shows off the full potential of the reinvented Shaftesbury Theatre.



Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/07/juliet

Photography courtesy of Davies Tanner

“FLINT STREET NATIVITY” at the Mary Wallace Theatre

Christmas, the season of good cheer and primary school nativity plays, is on the horizon and the kids at Flint Street Primary and their teachers are in a fervour of preparation for their annual Yuletide show.

Nothing unusual there then... but, in our production of THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY by Tim Firth, the youngsters (5–10-year-olds) will be played by adult actors!



Join them at the Mary Wallace Theatre (from the 10th-17th December) and experience the joys, the woes, the elation and despair of a masterpiece in the making. If you or yours have ever taken up the hem of an angel costume or sprayed glitter on a plastic halo this is an event you will surely empathise with.

Booking available at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



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



Arts Richmond President’s Series: Luke Harding

Join Arts Richmond on Wednesday 23 November for the fourth event of their Writers Talking series, as Luke Harding discusses Invasion, his first book of reportage from the front line of the Ukraine war.

This is a powerful and moving first draft of history written by the award-winning foreign correspondent for ‘The Guardian’ and #1 New York Times best-selling author of Collusion and Shadow State, who forecast Putin’s dark adventurist ambitions.

Invasion is Luke Harding’s compelling chronicle of the war that changed everything. For this breath-taking work he spent months reporting on the ground during the build up to the conflict and after the invasion.

This event will take place on Wednesday 23 November at 7.30pm (doors 7pm) at The Exchange, Twickenham. Tickets are available to buy online, or full-time students can buy tickets on the door for just £5. [Buy tickets](#)



Black Friday is here again 😊 Beat Jeremy Hunt with a bargain!

By Bruce Lyons

**BLACK
FRIDAY**

What's nice about Black Friday offers in our trade is they last a while and stay on sale – many of them till early December.

**Buy 1!
Get 1!
Free!**

The best I have seen so far are a selection of dates with either No Single Supplement or two people for the price of one.

On small Luxury Yachts – size varies from 44 persons capacity up to 100 plus cabins. On selected dates to a variety

of destinations- and all are on sale from 21st November thru December 2nd

.Destinations are to Greece – with themed cruises, Costa Rica and Panama, Red Sea, Tahiti, Malta and Italy, Cape Verde but best in my opinion is Seychelles which

has offers dates of December 10, 24, 31 , January 14 & 28 and even better perhaps April 8th . Prices start from £1892 & flights are extra – but hurry these are small ships with very limited capacity. A really rare opportunity!



Next best on sale till 27th November is to Mauritius (book by 10 December) with up to 30% off 5* and long stay offers too. And Maldives in deluxe deluxe Finolha 30% off booked by 27th November, another steal for luxury lovers!

Our Friends at French Leave Holidays have savings on Canal boats all over France with reduction of up to £450 per boat, book by 27th November.

Last, for now, is Newmarket with an incredible escorted tour on the 14th October 2023. Tuscany, Rome and the Amalfi Coast 11nts, 14 meals, 5 excursions. £1419 in doubles; £1799 in singles.

And More on Crusader Travel Facebook all next week as the best come in – be first to know.

www.crusadertravel.com

Crusader
travel

Traveller's Tales 135

Signs of the time

Signs can bring back happy memories of places, suggests Doug Goodman

Almost everywhere you look there are signs, notices, posters, memorials and banners: some providing useful information, some threatening, some advising, some prohibiting, some amusing, some difficult to comprehend. During many foreign visits I've seen and photographed hundreds of signs and each is capable of bringing back a happy memory. Twickenham has plenty of interesting signs and London is crammed full of memorials. Abroad you'll see a rich variety of signs: most trying to be helpful but other rather puzzling. Here are some of my favourites.



Wildlife Care



Memorial in St. Mary's Church



Richmond Plaque



Former Police HQ



City Sign



Early Wine Bar



Bombs Fell Here



New Tube Line



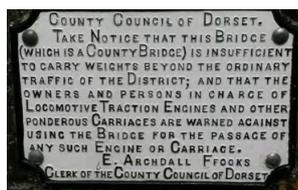
London Marathon Runner



Which Platform



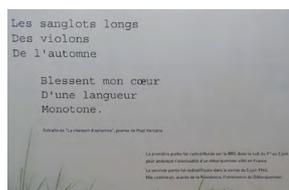
Welcoming Sign



No Heavy Weights



Paris



D-Day Message for French Resistance



Champagne Producer



Champagne Here



Workshop Commonwealth War Graves



Spanish Warning



Quick Service



High Speed



No Weapons Please

FLY TO	FLY FROM	FLY TO	FLY FROM	STATUS	TEMP
VN 810	HOCHIMINH	14:20		CANCELLED	33°C
OV 814	PAKSE	14:40			32°C
FE 503	TAIPEI	15:10	12	CHECKING IN	34°C
PG 914	BANGKOK-BKK	16:38	01-03	DELAYED 16:20	32°C
MI 725	KUNMING	16:20	13-15	CHECKING IN	31°C
KS 916	HANGZHOU	16:45		RETIRE	29°C
VN 830	LUANGPRABANG	17:10			20°C
ZA 078	XAMEN	17:35			23°C
VN 3820	HOCHIMINH	17:45			22°C
VN 838	HANOI	18:10			13°C
CZ 3066	GUANGZHOU	18:20			25°C
VN 812	HOCHIMINH	18:30			25°C
SQ 5031	SINGAPORE	18:35			27°C

Which Flight



Eat Up Or Else!



Pick Your Own

FROM		TO		CLASS	FROM	TO		CLASS
312	312	312	312	312	312	312	312	312

Which Train



Fancy a Swim



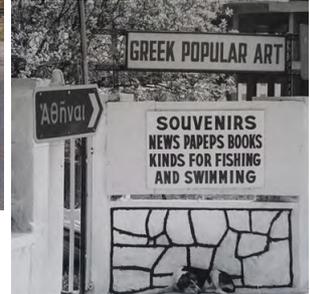
Up The Wall



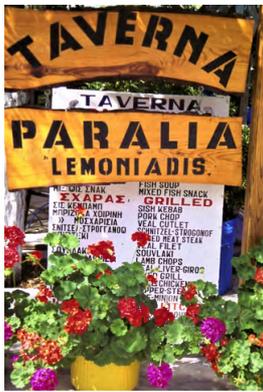
Laos. Bomb Disposal



Poland. To Auschwitz



Greek Translation



Warm Welcome



Cold War



Enter if You Dare



No Climbing



Sign in Marrakech



This Way. Not a spelling error



Keep Bangkok Clean



St. Petersburg. Wartime Bombardment Warning



Travel in Israel



California Dreaming

St Mary's University

St Mary's wins award for Outstanding Support for Students at Times Higher Education Awards

St Mary's University, Twickenham took home the Outstanding Support for Students trophy at the eighteenth annual THE Awards, with judges recognising the University's 'sincere and well-considered approach' to supporting the complex needs of its students.

St Mary's Vice-Chancellor, [Anthony McClaran](#) commented: *"We are delighted St Mary's has been recognised for its outstanding student support for those who have been in care. I'd like to extend my congratulations to our staff, who work tirelessly to ensure our students have a supportive, well-rounded and inspiring experience at this University. I would also like to thank our students, whose openness, honesty and willingness to work with us has made St Mary's the strong community it is today.*

From its founding in 1850 by the Catholic Poor Schools Committee, St Mary's has been built on a strong foundation of excellence, generosity and respect. Our teams continue this legacy by ensuring those who are in most need receive the most support; a place where all are welcomed.

This THE Award is in addition to our recent placement within the top ten for student experience and in the top five for teaching quality in the recent [Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023](#). This is further evidence that the support we provide our students – both academic and pastoral – is a catalyst for helping young people thrive."

The THE Awards – widely referred to as the 'Oscars of higher education' – are the biggest celebration in the higher education calendar, attracting hundreds of entries from individuals, teams, and institutions from UK and Ireland. St Mary's remarkable achievement this year was reaching the final shortlist in both the Widening Participation and Student Support categories.

The University won the Outstanding Support for Students Award for 'St Mary's Cares', which is a holistic package of financial, practical, and social support for students who have lived in the local authority care system. It is designed, delivered and evaluated by the University's Widening Participation and Student Services teams.

The transition to university can be difficult for any student, but for those coming from care situations or those estranged from family, the complications can be particularly acute.

In response to wide-ranging consultation, sector research and direct student feedback on this issue, St Mary's University, Twickenham launched 'St Mary's Cares', a support package with a comprehensive range of assistance for looked-after and estranged students.

A small selection of the help on offer includes the provision of support from a single 'named contact' from the summer before students' entry; links to well-being, financial and mental health services; free entry to students' union events; an accommodation welcome pack; and a

Christmas Day lunch.

There is also tacit understanding that financial support is often key for potentially vulnerable students, so the pack includes £3,000 for each year of undergraduate study, the waiving of graduation ceremony costs, a £1,000 graduation award to aid the transition to employment, long-term IT loan schemes, plus extra funding if needed for summer living and other potential times of hardship.

The judges said: *"We were impressed by 'St Mary's Cares' and its comprehensive package of support, starting with a single named contact offering help from before entry.*

"All possible support needs, from financial to pastoral, were covered in a genuine attempt to support care-experienced students and those estranged from their families.

"The scale of the scheme was especially impressive given St Mary's relatively small total student population, indicating a sincere and wellconsidered approach to supporting the complex needs of this sometimes-overlooked student group."

THE editor, John Gill, added:

"Two and a half years after the Covid crisis hit, it is easy to forget or to take for granted the exceptional challenge that it posed to universities. Not only was the world looking to our scientists and research teams to find a way out of the pandemic, universities were also being asked to continue to teach and nurture cohorts of students who, like all of us, had seen their lives and plans turned upside down.

The Times Higher Education Awards have, for almost two decades, tracked the exceptional achievements of our universities – surely these islands' greatest asset.

This year, the shortlists and winners reflect a particular moment in time, the 2020/21 academic year, when universities were coming to terms with and continuing to respond to the changed circumstances imposed by the pandemic.

As such, it is inevitable that those heroic efforts related to the Covid crisis are represented, but what is perhaps more striking is how rich and diverse the entries to this year's awards were, how focused on the core missions of universities to deliver world-changing research, life-changing teaching, and all the other ways in which they engage and support communities, regions and the country.

There is little sense in this year's submissions, and particularly among the winners, of universities struggling through such exceptional times.

Instead, the picture that is painted is of a sector that has risen to the occasion with skill and confidence, and refused to be pushed off course."

[View the full list of this year's winners, and profiles of their winning entries.](#)

You will find more on the [THE Awards website](#), at [Times Higher Education](#), and there is in-depth coverage of some of this year's finalists at [THE Campus](#).



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

St Mary's University

St Mary's Researcher Finds Female Footballers are using Unfit Technology

New research published today by Dr Katrine Okholm Kryger, Sport Rehabilitation academic at St Mary's University, Twickenham, has found that female footballers are being left behind in sports technology.

The study, published in the Sports Engineering journal ahead of the 2022 Men's Football World Cup, features input from a global team of academics, practitioners and England Women's National Team Captain Leah Williamson, express that women football players require specifically tailored products such as kit, boots, and balls to optimise their performance and safety on the pitch.



The authors conclude that, while some progress has been made in addressing the equipment requirements of female players, essential gaps in research, development, and production remain in women's football.

Although the popularity of professional women's football has increased in many countries, highlighted by England's recent win in 2022 UEFA European Women's Football Championships, technology and equipment are still largely designed for men's football. Notably, a recent review identified only 32 published scientific articles on technology in women's football.

Speaking of the study, Dr Okholm Kryger said, "With the help of an amazing group of applied and scientific experts in women's football and technology, we try to highlight the progress made so far but also the sports technology challenges we still face in women's football. We have already designed a kit tailored for women and hijabs that align with the rules of the game.

"However, we lack attention to areas such as football boots, tracking devices, pitch conditions and the fact that women do not like playing in light coloured shorts due to the fear of visible leakage when players are on their period. We are very pleased that Sport Engineering invited us to contribute with the paper and hope to firstly start a discussion about equality in football equipment but also to kindly nudge manufacturers and research towards to the need to more attention is this area."

Dr Okholm Kryger and the co-authors used the study to pose ten questions to highlight the minimal progress made in elite women's football technology, and the barriers to making bespoke equipment available to women players that still remain.

The authors discuss why tailored technology for women football players is necessary and highlight that although women have different physical needs than men, equipment such as football boots and balls continue to be designed for men rather than women. These issues can both increase the risk of injury from ill-fitting boots and reduce performance due to the proportionally greater effort required to kick the ball compared to men.

Additionally, the authors report that many women footballers feel uncomfortable while wearing football shorts (which are typically white) due to concerns about possible menstrual leaks. Professional women football players are also often obliged to wear specific sports bras supplied by kit sponsors, rather than the optimum sports bra for their physique. This can also reduce performance and lead to discomfort while running and turning.

The authors note that manufacturers are acknowledging the lack of development in women's football technology and there is a positive shift towards women-specific products. However, advances are limited by the lack of existing research, and a concerted effort is needed to address essential gaps in the understanding of the needs of women football players.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

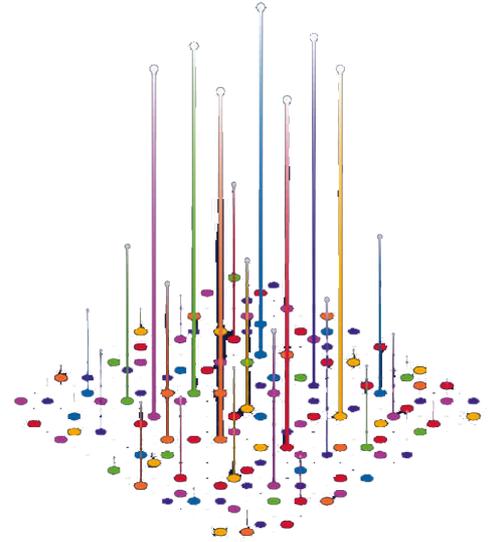
NPL leads approved expansion to the range of International System of Units (SI) prefixes

From National Physical Laboratory

First update to the SI prefixes since 1991

Measurement scientists and government representatives from around the world at the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) in Versailles, France, have today (Friday 18 November 2022) voted to expand the range of prefixes within the International System of Units (SI).

Dr Richard Brown, Head of Metrology at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's national metrology institute, led the proposal recommending the new names – ronna and quetta – as SI prefixes for 10^{27} and 10^{30} , respectively. They are joined by their microscopic counterparts, ronto for 10^{-27} , and quecto for 10^{-30} . The proposal was approved by the CGPM today, and these new prefixes have been incorporated into the SI with immediate effect, becoming the first expansion to the range of SI prefixes since 1991.



The expansion has been driven by the requirements of data science, digital storage and the exponentially growing size of the global datasphere, which is already using prefixes at the top of the existing scale. Additionally, the prefixes for very small numbers are useful for quantum science and particle physics.

The International System of Units (SI) is the only system of measurement units accepted worldwide and provides units for every type of measurement. As the UK's National Metrology Institute, NPL is responsible for maintaining and developing the UK's primary measurement standards for SI units and ensuring their comparability internationally. In collaboration with the worldwide network of NMIs this activity not only ensures global measurement remains stable and comparable, but also allows society to have confidence in measurement data. As part of this, ensuring there are globally agreed prefixes as part of the SI, to use with measurement data, is essential for the effective communication of scientific information across technical disciplines.

Dr Richard Brown, Head of Metrology at NPL, said: "Our system of SI prefixes has expanded over the years in response to advances in science and technology requiring access to an increased range of orders of magnitude relating to measurement. This most recent change is essential to meet the requirements of data science and the ever-growing global datasphere – growth that we expect to accelerate with more widespread digitalisation and the advent of new technologies, such as quantum computing. These new SI prefixes will allow clear and unambiguous communication of these measurements for many years to come."

Find out more about the SI Prefix expansion [HERE](#)

England team announcement: England v New Zealand

Eddie Jones has named the England team who will play New Zealand at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday (5.30pm KO).



Captain Owen Farrell will make his 100th appearance for England at inside centre. Farrell made his debut against Scotland in February 2012 and he becomes only the third England men's player to reach a century of caps.

Manu Tuilagi returns to the starting line-up at outside centre. Marcus Smith is at fly half and Jack van Poortvliet is at scrum half. Vice-captain Jack Nowell is at right wing, Jonny May is on the left wing and Freddie Steward is at full back.

In an unchanged front row from England's 52-13 win over Japan, props Ellis Genge (vice-captain) and Kyle Sinckler join hooker Luke Cowan-Dickie. Maro Itoje returns to lock alongside Jonny Hill. Sam Simmonds moves to flanker with Tom Curry and Billy Vunipola is at No. 8.

Will Stuart returns from injury and is named as finisher, alongside David Ribbens who could add to his first cap which he received against Japan. Jack Willis is named in the 23 and is joined by Jamie George, Mako Vunipola, Ben Youngs, Guy Porter and Henry Slade.

The match marks the first meet between the two sides since England beat the All Blacks 19-7 in the 2019 Rugby World Cup semi-final.

Eddie Jones said: *"This fixture doesn't come around too often and these are the games that players remember in their careers.*

"New Zealand have had the upper hand over the years, but it's been more balanced in recent times and the players have a chance to play their part in history.

"We've had a great week preparing for the game and the team is ready to go at them.

"We're really pleased for Owen that he is reaching such a significant and special milestone. He is an excellent player and competitor and he is deserving of every cap."

England v New Zealand is live on Amazon Prime Sport and talkSPORT.

ENGLAND XV

15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 15 caps)
14. Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 43 caps)
13. Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 48 caps)
12. Owen Farrell (Saracens, 99 caps)
11. Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 70 caps)
10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 15 caps)
9. Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 5 caps)

1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 41 caps)
2. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 39 caps)
3. Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 54 caps)
4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 60 caps)
5. Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 17 caps)
6. Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 16 caps)
7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 43 caps)
8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 66 caps)

FINISHERS

16. Jamie George (Saracens, 70 caps)
17. Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 72 caps)
18. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 23 caps)
19. David Ribbens (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)

20. Jack Willis (unattached, 5 caps)
21. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 119 caps)
22. Guy Porter (Leicester Tigers, 3 caps)
23. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 50 caps)

Bees win Performance of the Week

Thomas Frank and his Brentford team have been awarded the Utilita Performance of the Week award for our Premier League win over Manchester City

Written by [Brentford Football Club](#)

Thomas Frank and his Brentford team have been awarded the Utilita Performance of the Week award for our 2-1 win over Manchester City.

The League Managers Association's panel comprises LMA Chairman Howard Wilkinson, Sir Alex Ferguson, Chris Hughton, Rachel Yankey, Les Ferdinand, Clare Tomlinson, Dave Bassett and Barry Fry.

And they decided that our [incredible victory away at the Premier League champions](#) - our first win on the road this season - was deserving of the Performance of the Week award.

Ivan Toney slotted home Josh Dasilva's cutback in the 97th minute to secure all three points at the Etihad Stadium, ending City's 16-game winning run at home.

Toney also got Brentford's first goal on 16 minutes, flicking home Ben Mee's looping header, with Phil Foden equalising in first-half stoppage time.

After the win, Frank said: "Maybe it's the one, single biggest result in the Club's history. Not the most important one - that was others, the Play-Off final was another one.

"But a single result, against probably the best team in the world, they played their strongest line-up today, we are missing four players, the difference in budget is crazy, and then we perform and won, well-deserved, that is amazing."

This is the second time this season that Frank and Brentford have won the award, with the first coming after our 4-0 triumph over Manchester United at the Gtech Community Stadium in August.

The Bees also received the prize for their opening night win over Arsenal last term, and a 1-0 victory at AFC Bournemouth with ten men in April 2021.

An away win at Derby County in July 2020 and a 7-0 win over Luton Town in November 2019 earned similar recognition.



No Premier League? The local games to watch this weekend

The Brentford First Team don't have a game until Boxing Day, so why not support the local clubs in your area, our loan players, or our Women's teams?

Written by [Brentford Football Club](#)

Brentford FC is looking to promote lower league football during the World Cup break.

The Bees First Team don't have a game until Boxing Day, when Tottenham travel to the Gtech Community Stadium.

Until then, why don't you support some lower league clubs in the local area, our loan players in the EFL, or our Women's teams this weekend?

Brentford Women's First Team and B Team fixtures

- **Brentford Women's First Team** v Actonians Reserves: Sunday 20 November, 2pm.

Venue: Gunnersbury Park. **Tickets:** Free

- Ruislip Rangers v **Brentford Women's B Team**: Sunday 20 November, 2pm.

Venue: Kings College Playing Fields. **Tickets:** Free.

Local lower league games to watch this weekend

- [Maidenhead United](#) v Eastleigh: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Woking](#) v Altrincham: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Uxbridge](#) v Dover Athletic: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Hampton and Richmond Borough](#) v Farnborough: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Hayes and Yeading United](#) v Hartley Whitney: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Hanwell Town](#) v Slough Town: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Southall](#) v Binfield: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- [Cobham](#) v Ashford Town: Saturday 19 November, 7.45pm.

Next up we are back to FA Trophy action against National League South opponents @ [DoverAthletic](#).

🎫 Adults £10

🎫 Concessions £5

🎫 Under 16's FREE when accompanied by an adult. [#COYR](#) [#FATROPHY](#) [pic.twitter.com/BEvqk66lAc](#)

– Uxbridge Football Club (@uxfc_redarmy) [November 16, 2022](#)

Our loan players in action

- Oxford v **Forest Green** - Myles Peart-Harris: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- Barnsley v **MK Dons** - Daniel Oyegoke: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- Tranmere v **AFC Wimbledon** - Paris Maghoma: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- Swindon Town v **Crewe** - Lachlan Brook: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.
- Walsall v **Crawley Town** - Ellery Balcombe: Saturday 19 November, 3pm.

If you run a local team and wish to be included in this initiative over the coming weeks, please get in touch.



Managing NHS backlogs and waiting times in England

According to the National Audit Office (NAO), the plan to reduce long waits for NHS elective and cancer care services by 2025 is at serious risk. The funding government allocated for recovering services has not kept pace with inflation, and the NHS faces significant workforce and productivity issues.

In December 2021, the NAO reported that at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the NHS had not met its standard for elective care¹ for four years nor its full set of eight standards for cancer services for six years.² The waiting list for elective care then grew from 4.4 million in February 2020 to 5.8 million by September 2021. In February 2022, NHS England (NHSE) published a plan to recover elective and cancer care (the recovery plan) over the three years up to March 2025. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) funds the recovery plan and is responsible for holding NHSE to account.

NHSE intends that, by March 2025, elective care waits of more than one year should be eliminated, and that, by March 2023, the number of patients waiting more than 62 days from an urgent referral for cancer care should return to pre-pandemic levels. However, even if the objectives of the recovery plan are met,³ many patients will still be waiting longer than standards state - elective care patients should start their treatment within 18 weeks, and cancer patients within 62 days of an urgent referral by their GP.⁴

NHSE is aiming to increase elective care activity sharply to reach 129% of 2019-20 levels in 2024-25. This would be an historic achievement - it previously took 5 years (2013-14 to 2018-19) to increase elective activity by 18%. Even if NHSE meets this aim, it is unclear whether increasing elective activity to 129% would be sufficient to meet the other commitments in the recovery plan.

During 2022-23 so far, overall elective care activity has remained below the planned trajectory for reaching 129% of 2019-20 levels by 2024-25. By July 2022, the NHS came close to ending elective care waits of more than two years, but the waiting list has continued to increase - reaching 7.0 million patients in August 2022. This includes 387,000 patients who have already waited longer than a year for treatment, compared with just 1,600 in February 2020. 26 of the 42 NHS Integrated Care Systems⁵ have signalled in their plans that they will not reach their 2022-23 target of delivering 104% of 2019-20 levels of elective care activity.

NHSE's programme to recover elective care partly relies on initiatives which have potential but for which there is so far limited evidence of effectiveness. It wants GPs to handle many elective cases usually referred to hospital doctors. This might add to GPs' workload in the context of a 4% decrease in the fully-qualified permanent GP workforce between 2017 and 2022. Surgical hubs and community diagnostic centres can contribute to recovery, but their impact will need to be closely monitored - capacity could be reduced if their host hospital or other NHS and social care services in their local area come under pressure.

Urgent referrals for suspected cancer have increased compared with 2019-20, but the NHS is not treating all cancer patients in a timely way. Between April and August 2022, GPs urgently referred 15% more people with suspected cancer than in the same period in 2019. The welcome increase in patients coming forward has, however, highlighted the inadequacy of current diagnostic and treatment capacity. In 2022-23 up to the end of August, only 62% of patients started cancer treatment within 62 days, compared with 78% of patients in the equivalent period in 2019-20.

Inflation has eroded the value of both the £14 billion specifically allocated to the recovery plan and the wider planned increases in NHSE's budget. In the October 2021 Budget, NHSE was allocated an additional £8 billion of resource and £5.9 billion of capital funding for the recovery plan for the period 2022-23 to 2024-25. At that time, the total NHSE funding settlement provided for average annual real terms growth of 3.8% in resource funding up to 2024-25. But the NAO estimates that, as at September 2022, this settlement represented an average annual growth in funding of just 3.3% in real terms because of higher forecast inflation.

NHSE estimates that in 2021 productivity in the NHS was 16% lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of this results directly from the pandemic, such as increased sickness absence and infection prevention and control measures. An internal NHSE review identified a range of other causes including reduced willingness to work paid or unpaid overtime. NHSE believes reduced productivity has continued in 2022-23.

There are many challenges threatening to push the recovery plan further off track, including high numbers of unfilled posts and low morale among the NHS workforce. The NAO recommends that DHSC and NHSE review the progress of the recovery plan in early 2023-24, and decide whether targets and funding allocations need to be adjusted. Before April 2023, DHSC and NHSE should clearly and fully define metrics for increasing activity and reducing long waits. In 2024-25, they should publish a strategy for returning elective and cancer care services to a state where legal standards are met.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“There are significant risks to the delivery of the plan to reduce long waits for elective and cancer care services by 2025. The NHS faces workforce shortages and inflationary pressures, and it will need to be agile in responding as the results of different initiatives in the recovery programme emerge.

“DHSC has an essential role to play, holding the NHS to account for its delivery of the recovery plan and providing more challenge and support when it is needed.”

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



National Audit Office

FIFA World Cup™ players to #BringTheMoves and encourage kids to exercise

- Players challenged by fans to Bring The Moves when they score in Qatar
- Joint campaign launched with FIFA, WHO, MoPH Qatar and the SC
- WHO Goodwill Ambassadors Alisson Becker, from Brazil, and Didier Drogba support campaign

FIFA and the World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Qatar and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) launched the #BringTheMoves challenge, encouraging players at the FIFA World Cup 2022™ to meet the celebration challenges presented to them on social media by fans across the globe and encourage youngsters to #BeActive.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said: *“We know the negative impact on children’s health a lack of exercise can have, and football can use the significant platform of this FIFA World Cup to spread that message in this exciting and engaging way.*

“This challenge not only unites children with their heroes but utilises the most digital-ever World Cup to send the message that we all need to be active and drives awareness also for parents that children need 60 minutes of physical exercise a day. At the moment, that is not the case for 80% of adolescents around the world.”

In the run-up to and during FIFA World Cup 2022™, children worldwide are challenging players of participating teams to celebrate goals with fresh new moves simply by posting a video on their social media pages using the hashtag #BringTheMoves.

One former player who celebrated hundreds of goals in an illustrious career is former Côte d’Ivoire striker [Didier Drogba](#), who is now a WHO Goodwill Ambassador.

“Being active provides many benefits to everyone, especially for children while they are growing and developing physically, mentally and socially,” said Drogba. “Being active is good for your body and your mind – mental and physical health.”

Goalkeeper [Alisson Becker](#), who is also a WHO Goodwill Ambassador and will be coming to Qatar with Brazil, knows the importance of being in peak condition. He wants to use the focus on the FIFA World Cup™ to encourage youngsters to #BringTheMoves and get more active.

“I support the Bring the Moves challenge because I really believe kids have to be active,” said the Liverpool goalkeeper. “They need to be active for the good of their future as they are growing up. I [can] see that we, football players, can be an inspiration for them as well. So, if we can have fun with them and make them move their bodies a little bit, we’re going to be happy.”

The campaign also encourages children to download GenMove, a digital app that uses artificial intelligence to encourage children to be physically active daily throughout the FIFA World Cup. Season 1 of GenMove will be launched on 19 November by Her Excellency Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health for Qatar and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, at the Walk the Talk - Health for All Challenge in Qatar.

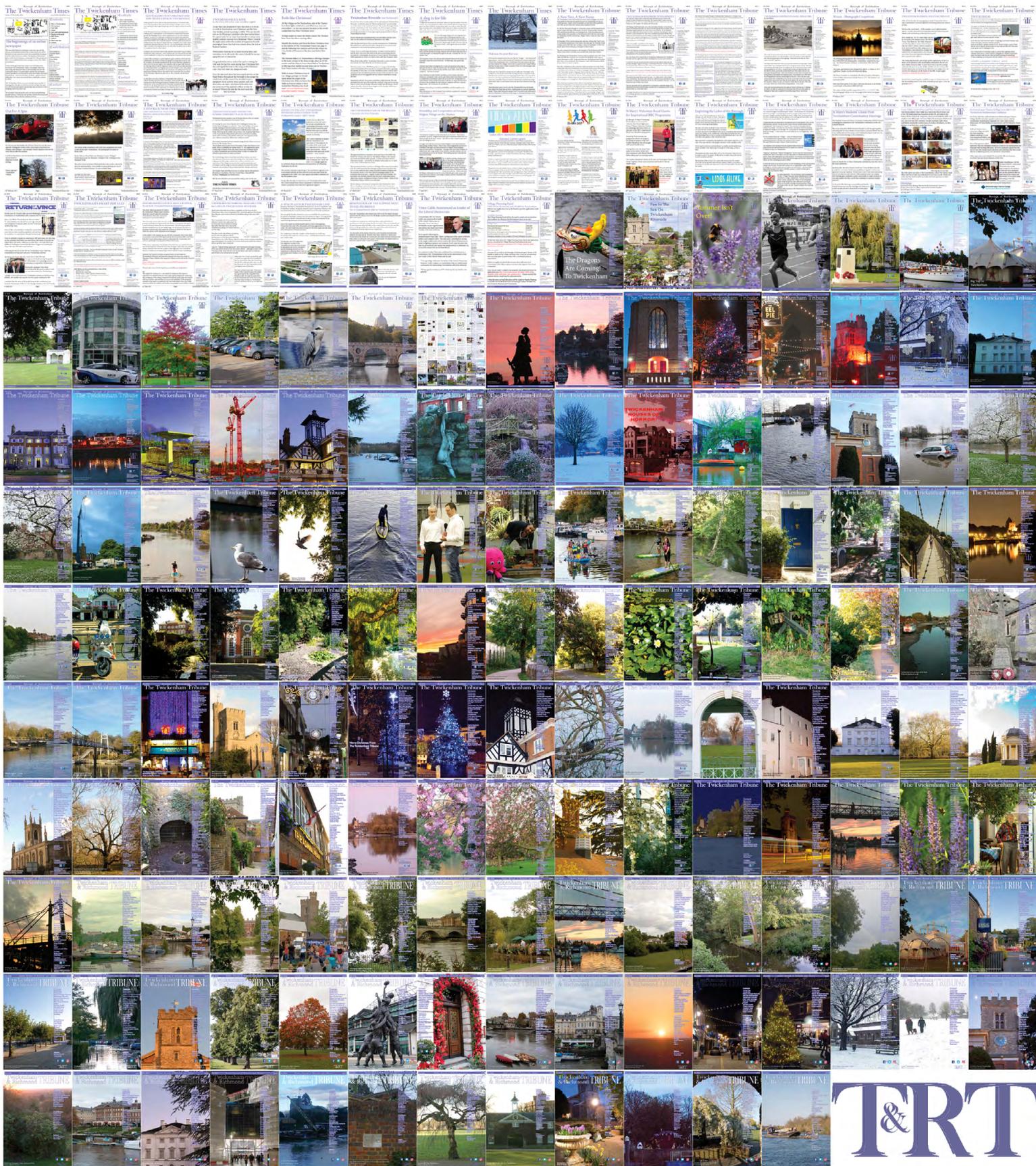
“Football, music and joy are the perfect ingredients to get people moving for health,” said Dr Tedros. “WHO’s partnership with FIFA and Qatar Ministry of Public Health on the Bring The Moves challenge is all about connecting World Cup stars with young people globally, to motivate people everywhere to be more physically active for better health.”

#BringTheMoves is part of a collaboration between FIFA, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health, Qatar designed to harness the power of football to protect and promote health for all. This, in turn, will create a blueprint for protecting and promoting health at mass gatherings which can then be shared with the IOC and other sports organisations.



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