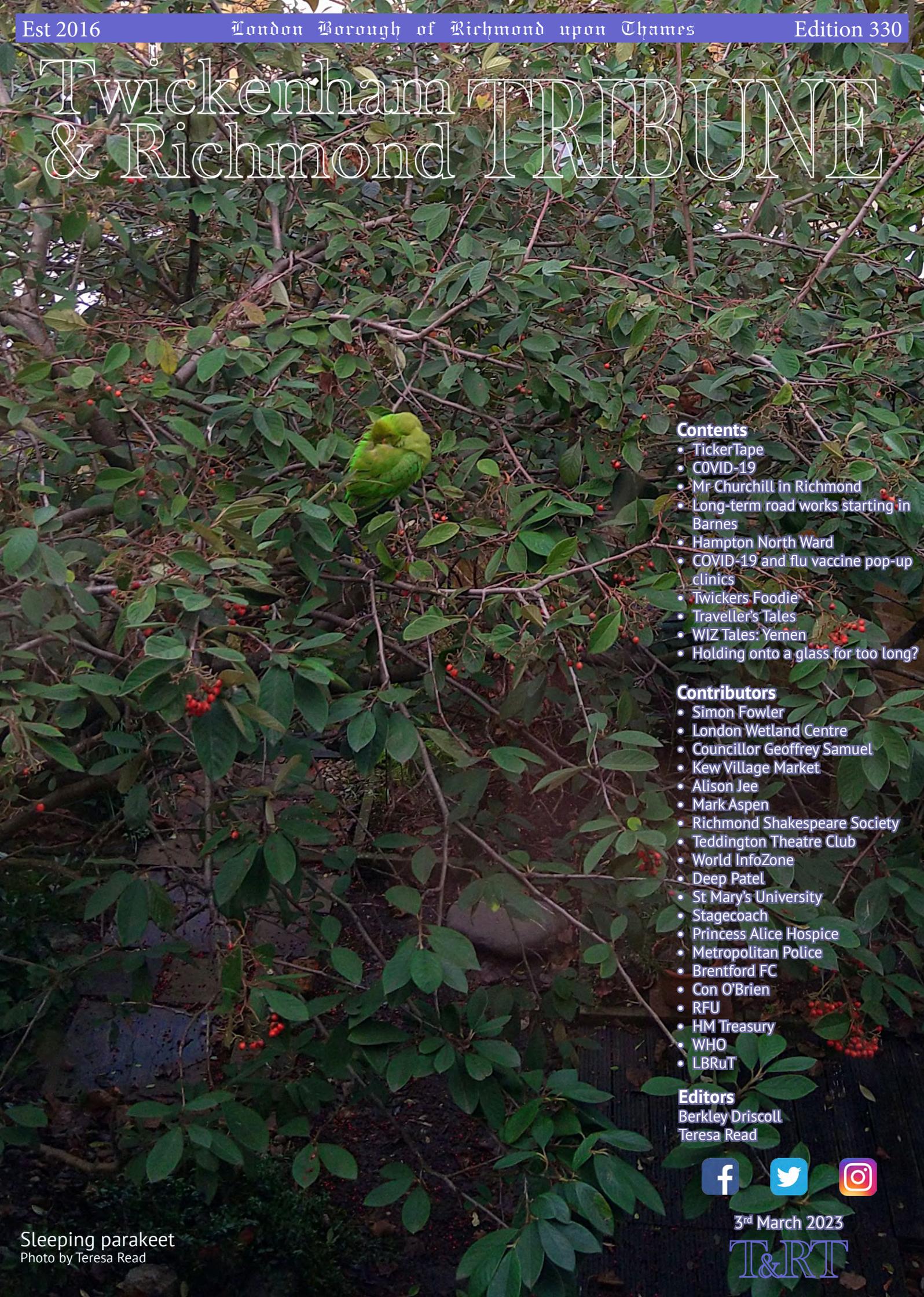


# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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- LBRuT

### Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023



Sleeping parakeet  
Photo by Teresa Read

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Rugby at Twickenham Stadium BIG GAME 14 - Saturday 4th March

Attendance: 60,000  
Harlequins Women vs Exeter Chiefs – KO 14:30  
Harlequins Men vs Exeter Chiefs – KO 17:15  
Whitton, Rugby & London Roads to close 15:15 – 17:15 & 18:45 – 21:00  
CPZ in operation 11:00 – 23:00

## BIG GAME – Free tickets

Free tickets for readers of the Tribune to the Big Game at Twickenham Stadium, Harlequins against Exeter on Saturday 4th March.  
Just email Con at [conobrien68@gmail.com](mailto:conobrien68@gmail.com) with “Big Game – Twickenham Tribune” in the subject. Hurry, tickets are limited!

## West Twickenham Police Liaison Group Meeting

Police Liaison Group Meeting 19:30 on Wednesday 8th March 2023, Waldergrave School, Room 3. A great opportunity to find out what is going on in the Ward and provide feedback to councillors and police, everyone is welcome!

## Twickenham Riverside Police contact number

Good afternoon Twickenham Riverside residents! The Ward phone number has changed to 020 7175 9470. Do get in touch if you have any concerns! Please still report emergencies on 999

## Twickenham Museum opening hours

We are delighted to announce that the Twickenham Museum will now additionally be open between 11am and 3pm on a Saturday! So the hours of opening are: Friday 11-3pm, Sat 11-3pm & Sun 2-4pm. Free entry! See you there!



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**020 8894 1799**  
[info@skyelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@skyelectrical.co.uk)

# Covid-19

By Teresa Read

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

**THE GUARDIAN:** Covid's inquiry chair rejects journalist's fear of "colossal whitewash".

**The Jakarta Post:** Privacy concerns arise as COVID-19 app repurposed.

**ALJAZEERA:** FBI director says China laboratory leak was likely COVID source: FBI Director Christopher Wray accuses China of thwarting efforts to identify the origin of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Reuters:** From condoms to cosmetics, China sales grow as lockdowns end.

**Reuters:** Future of Pfizer/BioNTech seeks U.S. nod for updated COVID vaccine as booster in kids under 5.

**WHO:** Countries urged to safeguard the health of refugees and migrants.

## World Health Organization

COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

published 1 March 2023

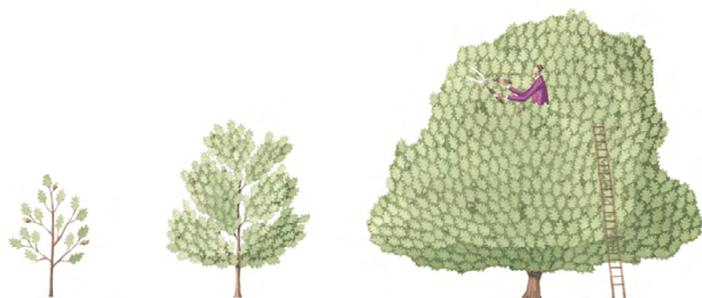
At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the United States of America (1,085,170), Japan (752,935), China (537,561), Germany (376,450), and the Republic of Korea (349,277).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (12,111 new deaths) China (5,915 new deaths), Japan (4,818), Brazil (2,186) and the United Kingdom (2,027).

## European Region

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (376,450), the Russian Federation (314,716), and Austria (124,999).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the United Kingdom (2,027), Italy (1,190), and the Russian Federation (1,051).



**The Tree Agency**

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*The Tree Agency*

# Mr Churchill in Richmond

By Simon Fowler

After VE-Day in May 1945, the wartime coalition came to end. A general election was called.

On the eve of the election, 2 July, Winston Churchill paid a whistle-stop visit to Richmond. As part of the Conservative General Election campaign Churchill had made a triumphant procession through south west London. The event had been well publicised and tens of thousands turned out to cheer the Prime Minister. At 5.45pm he was due to arrive on Richmond Green, where he was to speak on behalf of the Conservative candidate Brigadier George Harvie-Watt, who had been Churchill's Principal Parliamentary Secretary during the War.

He arrived in Richmond along the Lower Mortlake Road. *The Times* reporter wrote that the Prime Minister was smiling as 'he smoked his cigar and alternatively gave the V sign or waved his hat.'

A local diarist Marie Lawrence noted: 'People were thronging everywhere to see Winnie. I ... met Mrs Humphreys who was waiting for Churchill. Just at that moment came the outriders, then the mounted police, then a long open car and standing in the middle making the V sign was Churchill. The crowd went wild and shouted and cheered.'



The Prime Minister slowly drove to Richmond Green, which was full of thousands of his supporters, as well as American, French and Belgian soldiers swept up in the excitement. The *Richmond Herald* thought that: 'Many glittering cavalcades have rode into Richmond, but never have any received a welcome which compared to that greeted Mr Churchill.' The crowd on the Green kept cheering and had to be asked to be quiet to allow the Prime Minister to speak.

There is a short clip of film showing the PM's arrival. Churchill is waving his hat. Standing on the running board of the car are two Special Branch officers looking for all the world like American gangsters.

*The Times* reported:

Churchill's car stopped under some trees and here he made a long speech... Mr Churchill's voice amplified by loud speakers was resonant and was clearly heard. 'Can you hear me?' he asked at the beginning. Then 'Are we downhearted?' When the cheers in response died away he said amid laughter 'I only do this to test the microphone.' He then spoke in support of Harvie-Watt outlining his policies to rebuild post-war Britain.

As Mr Churchill drove away, 'the people ran across the Green to give him a parting cheer.' The Times reporter concluded: 'In a short time only a few people were left to listen to an address in an obscure corner of the cricket field on behalf of the Liberal candidate.'

Harvie-Watt held Richmond comfortably, although his majority was much reduced. But despite Churchill's rapturous reception the Conservatives badly lost the election.

# Long-term road works starting in Barnes

Cadent Gas will begin a year long programme of works, starting at the junction of Station Road / Rocks Lane, close to Barnes Station, moving in increments onto Castelnau and up to Hammersmith Bridge.

Cadent Gas will be installing a new gas pipe, which will allow them to divert gas from the two pipes that currently run along Hammersmith Bridge, ensuring properties will not lose gas supply once major works begin on the bridge.

There should be no disruption to gas supply as part of these works.

## Project details summary

- **Start Date:** Monday 6 March 2023
- **Duration:** 12 to 14 months
- **Working hours:** 8am to 6pm
- **Route:** Laying the new gas pipe starts at Station Road/Rocks Lane before moving up to Castelnau
- **Phased works:** Working in 100m sections (non-residential areas) and 50m sections (residential areas)
- **Traffic management:** Various methods will be used from one lane closure, two-way traffic lights or multi-way traffic lights at junctions.

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

Cadent Gas can be contact at [customercarelondon@cadentgas.com](mailto:customercarelondon@cadentgas.com) or on 0800 085 4478



# London Wetland Centre launches “Urban Wetland Photographer of the Year” competition

Nature, wildlife and photography lovers are invited to enter the Urban Wetland Photographer of the Year competition, open from 1 March 2023 and run by the London Wetland Centre. The competition champions the wonder of blue spaces in an urban setting and is the only photography competition to focus entirely on this.

As Spring and Summer bring with them longer days and renewed activity and life, the London Wetland Centre provides

ample opportunities for taking breath-taking animal and nature shots, with its 105 acres of nature reserve acting as home to remarkable and rare wildlife found nowhere else in London such as butterflies, dragonflies, bees, moths, beetles, bats, frogs, fish, birds, plant life, fungi and more.



The categories are:

- **Wetland Landscape:** Capture the dramatic atmosphere of the urban wetland
- **Wildlife Behaviour:** Portraying a memorable moment with your subjects - can be playful, serious, inquisitive or unusual
- **Rare/Unique Wetland Moment:** A moment unique to an urban wetland
- **Smartphone:** Capture a meaningful image on your phone
- **International:** For those of you unable to make it to London this is the category for you! Urban wetlands from around the world

The competition is free to enter, open to all and closes at 23:59 GMT on 31st August 2023. All entries should be submitted via email to [londoncompetition@wwt.org.uk](mailto:londoncompetition@wwt.org.uk). Winners will be announced in October.

For more details on the competition and the T&Cs for further details on submissions criteria, visit <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london/whats-on/urban-wetland-photographer-of-the-year>

All category winners will be given free individual WWT membership (existing members will be given free renewal for the following year). The overall winner will be awarded the title of Urban Wetland Photographer of the Year 2023, have their winning photo displayed on site at London Wetland Centre for a year and receive WWT joint or family membership.

For those interested in getting tips and inspiration and learning invaluable techniques from a professional photographer on how to take amazing pictures, The London Wetland Centre also runs a number of photography workshops throughout the year. These include:

- [Wildlife Photography: Back to Basics](#) – on Saturday 25 March
- [Birds in movement, birds in flight](#) – on Thursday 27 April
- Photographing in intense summer light – on Saturday 17 June

Visit the website for info on workshop topics, date and prices.

The London Wetland Centre is open from 9.30am to 5:00pm. Last admission is one hour before closing. For more information, visit

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london>



# Join or renew your garden bin recycling subscription

Garden waste contracts are due to end on **31 March 2023**. To continue receiving collections, you will need to make a payment.

We offer a fortnightly garden bin collection service to subscribed users.

If you only produce garden waste occasionally, you can buy our [garden sacks](#) which can be used without subscribing to the bin collections service.

LBRuT are now accepting subscriptions for 2023/24.

You can make a quick and easy payment online for a [garden bin recycling subscription](#).

If you are a direct debit customer and wish to renew you do not need to do anything. This will be automatically paid on 28 March 2023.

The charges below are for collection during the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 inclusive:

- Under 75 years old: £77.00
- 75 years and over: £58.00



If payment is not received by 15 May 2023, we will not empty any bin with a yellow sticker.

When you renew, you will be sent a blue sticker in the post to attach to your green garden recycling bin. You must write your door number on the sticker and attach it to your bin.

If you have lost or damaged the sticker that came with your subscription you can [order a replacement sticker](#).

If your request is authorised, we will send your sticker within five working days.

[Renew your garden waste contract](#)

# Come along and enjoy Kew's first EcoFair

St Luke's Church will host its very first Kew EcoFair on Saturday 11 March from 10.30am to 2pm. The free event will inspire local residents to action on climate change and make changes in our everyday lives to help protect the Earth.

Taking place at Kew Community Centre, Main Hall, The Avenue, Kew, TW9 2AJ, the [Kew EcoFair](#) will be officially opened by broadcaster and active travel advocate Jeremy Vine, as well as the Mayor of Richmond.

Come along and take part in a variety of activities and stalls that encourage us to be environmentally conscious.

The event will feature:

- 'Good As New' Clothes Swap – bring your old clothes and swap them for new ones!
- Repair Cafe – bring your appliances, furniture, clothes and more in need of mending, and see if our repairers can help!
- Active Travel Festival – local shops and groups will help you get your bike health checked, shop for second-hand bike bits and check out different cargo and folding bikes, and engage with the work of a local pedestrian advocacy group.
- Eco Shopping – sustainable retail, rentable party gear, and a 'Regifted' present stall.
- Wishing Tree – enter for your chance to win one of our fantastic 'mystery prizes' donated by generous local businesses!

Guests can also enjoy entertainment with singing from Kew Community Choir, music from The Motleys and nature-themed activities for the whole family provided by local charity Dose of Nature.

Refreshments will include a delicious vegetarian lunch as well as tea and coffee courtesy of St Luke's Social Committee.



A few more items are still needed for the home produce and 'Regifted' stalls – please get in touch if you can help!

For any enquiries, please email [kewecofair@gmail.com](mailto:kewecofair@gmail.com).

# Nominate your Community Heroes for the BBC Make a Difference Awards

The BBC is running a London-wide Make a Difference Awards programme, which is very similar to Richmond Upon Thames' Community Heroes Awards and a chance to say a further 'thank you' and show recognition to people who go above and beyond to make others' lives better.

The nomination period for this year's Community Heroes Awards ended on Wednesday 1 March, and we have received a fantastic collection of submissions recognising those who have tirelessly gone the extra mile to make our borough a better place to live and be.

LBRuT will be announcing our shortlisted nominees on Monday 3 April, and an awards event will be held on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

The BBC are offering a further opportunity to show appreciation for our borough's unsung heroes through their London-wide Make a Difference Awards, which has eight categories, many of which overlap with our categories for the Community Heroes Awards, including their Green Award, Together Award, Volunteer Award and Community Group Award.

Nominations for these awards close this Sunday 5 March at 11pm. You can read the award rules [here](#). Winners will be selected by a panel of judges and awards will be given in each category.

If you submitted a Community Heroes Award nomination (or even if you didn't get the chance!) this is a great further opportunity to give our local heroes the recognition they deserve.

Find more details, information and clips from previous winners on the [BBC website](#).



# Hampton North Ward

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

## LIME BICYCLES

Several residents have complained to me about these bicycles which all too often block the footpath. Owned by Uber these bicycles are popular with some people as they can be 'hired' from wherever they can be found and can be left wherever the user wishes after finishing the journey. Unfortunately this can mean that they are discarded on pavements causing a real hazard to the elderly, the disabled and anyone with a wheelchair or a pram. The Council has agreed an "experimental trial" with Uber. At the last Council meeting a resident asked why this was allowed when there are severe restrictions on street traders and shops who are prohibited from blocking the pathway. In reply the Council stated that the contract does not permit pavement obstructions and Uber removes all 'reported' cases. However this relies on all cases being reported – which does not often happen – and Uber actually removing them. In the last couple of days I have sent officers eleven photos of recent transgressions and urge you not only to report pavement obstructions but send them to me by e-mail or post immediately. Residents also point out that it is unfair to treat our own shops and traders differently from Uber.

## BURTONS ROAD

I now have the figures for the revenue which the Council has obtained from the Burtons Road camera. From the original scheme £846,603 whilst the current revised scheme has produced £563,881 as of this week making a total of **£1,410,484**

## ULEZ

This was debated at the last Council meeting. As the debate was necessarily 'political' I will not be reporting it as such in this non-political Newsletter but will respond to any resident who would like a report of the debate. I am still receiving countless complaints from residents especially the elderly and the less well-off with non-compliant vehicles who simply cannot afford an up-to-date model. Those who purchased diesel cars at a time when they were heavily promoted by the Government are understandably angry. With one recent minor exception our Borough meets its air quality targets.

## 6 MORLAND CLOSE

Many months ago this pleasant house in a local cul-de-sac was acquired by Empower which used the premises to house teen-age children who were required to live in a controlled environment. The Council allowed this although a quiet road far from shops or any form of recreation was hardly suitable for teenagers. I supported local residents in the ensuing public Meeting. I was therefore pleased to be advised that Empower were now vacating the premises which will now be up for sale.

## BUDGET MEETING

The next full meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and devoted almost entirely to the Budget in which an increase of 5.92% is proposed. I will send further details to any resident who contacts me. My 'local' question at the meeting will be to ask how many electric charge points the Council proposes to install in Hampton North this year. Although the price of electric cars is far too high for most people the sale of new petrol and diesel cars will be banned in seven years and it will not be long before car drivers will need to think about the future. I also regret that the Council is not making it easy to instal charge points for those residents who have their own driveways.

## YOUTH CENTRE – HAMPTON SQUARE

I enjoyed a further visit to this centre with its excellent facilities and huge Sports Hall. The new Management will be spending further money on improvements and I hope it will attract sufficient young people to keep it open throughout the week,

### Shorter Items

- I regret that I am receiving more complaints from **RHP tenants**. Most of these concern failure with repairs: faulty boilers really do need speedy action in the Winter. In one case RHP has failed to provide secure doors for a local house. I hope the new RHP Contractors will enable it to do a better job. I follow up all complaints.
- Lambeth Council has recently paid over £100,000 in compensation to over 1000 drivers who received penalty notices for incidents where it is now helped that a careful driver could have missed the sign. If you have had a similar experience, let me know.
- The bridle footpath leading from the **RFC Ground** off **South Road** has been blocked by flood water since November. I have asked the council to press Thames Water to remedy this.
- Some residents in **Fearnley Crescent** report that buses are being obstructed by parked vehicles. Have you noticed this?
- Some residents in **Morland Close** are concerned that the erection of six –foot fences is spoiling the open appearance of their street. I would welcome any further comments.
- The future of the former Clarendon School site in **Hanworth Road** is of key concern not just to local residents for its wider traffic implications. I am still trying to discover the Council's intentions for its future.

*I will continue to follow up every case reported to me on [gjshn@btinternet.com](mailto:gjshn@btinternet.com) and will forward your exact message unless you instruct me to the contrary. Please use this e-mail address.*

# COVID-19 and flu vaccine pop-up clinics schedule for March

Eligible residents who would like to get a COVID-19 or flu jab can do so at a series of regular pop-up clinics being held in the borough.

Having a flu and/or COVID-19 jab can help make sure you and those you care for are well protected during the winter months and beyond. This new schedule of community pop-ups aims to provide a regularity to this service that allows for greater availability and opportunity to plan ahead.

Throughout March, the pop-up clinic will be available at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College (RHACC) (opposite Richmond Station, TW9 2RE) from 11am to 5pm.



## Pop-up clinic schedule

RHACC:

- Tuesday 7 March - From 11am to 5pm
- Tuesday 14 March - From 11am to 5pm
- Tuesday 21 March - From 11am to 5pm
- Tuesday 28 March - From 11am to 5pm

## Who is eligible for a free jab?

Anyone aged 12+ who would like to get a first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be able to do so at these clinics. Flu jabs will be available at all clinics for those aged 50+ or anyone typically eligible for a free flu jab.

Doses of the COVID-19 jab for children aged 5 to 11 will be available at all pop-ups. Please note that booster vaccines are no longer being offered at local pop-up clinics as a result of the change to the national vaccine offer.

Find out [who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine](#) and the [flu jab](#). All other services are open for all ages.

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

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

# Join us for *Meno-fest!* Sundays in March

A unique opportunity to learn more about the menopause in a friendly and fun environment

The Exchange (Twickenham) will be the hub of inspiring talks, yoga, wellbeing and nutrition workshops, and singing sessions in an uplifting Meno-fest! with lots of opportunities for tea and chat.

The menopause has been the focus of a lot of media attention recently. As part of its vibrant International Women's Day month [The Exchange](#) is hosting a one of a kind festival to explore all things menopause. There are free and ticketed talks from experts and there will be time for creative exercises for mind and body each Sunday – with a range of events from mini massages to meno-cocktails and cake, meditation, manifesto writing and mengo (you've guessed it, prize winning Meno-pause bingo!).

**SUNDAYS IN MARCH 2023**

**5TH, 12TH, 19TH, 26TH**

Together we will bust some myths and address the challenges in a positive way.

The festival will open with the founder of [Menopause Support](#) and campaigner, [Diane Danzebrink](#), who will define aspects and stages of menopause and highlight the support available and how we can improve it.

**When:** Sundays in March - 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

**Time:** 10am - 6pm

**Where:** [The Exchange](#), opposite Twickenham mainline station, South West London

Meno-fest! goers can book onto Meno-fest! talks and paid events:

- Morning yoga/Menopause yoga workshops with Nina McKellar and Tiffy Treanor-George
- X-Change Singaglong with Shelle Luscombe of Vocal Tonix®
- 10 foods for menopause: nutrition and food bites/MindFOODness with Laura Ercolani, Nutriwell
- Keynote talk: Diane Danzebrink, Menopause Support (charity donation)
- Screening of the life-affirming French film *I Got Life!*

Spaces can also be booked on the free events and activities:

- Let's talk menopause with Melina Healy
- Mengo! (yes, it's menopause prize bingo);
- Let's talk aromatherapy for menopause – mind/body/skincare with Mandy Pitcher
- Meditative vocal workshop with Dominique Levack;
- Fani-festo! A reviving writing workshop with Judith Watts
- Mini-massage with Becky Pickering
- Individual counselling/coaching sessions with Glennis Pye
- Yoga Nidra - guided meditation/rest sessions with Tiffy George;
- The Meno-café in the Conservatory/meno-cocktails in the bar;
- Find out more – pop-up bookstall with Books on the Rise, Richmond;
- Get the facts - Menopause Support information hub.



# KEW VILLAGE MARKET



This Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm

## Spring forth

With blue skies and daffodils now dancing on the green, it's beginning to feel like spring already. This Sunday's Kew Village Market will be full of the joys, with **45 colourful stalls** of the finest food and handmade crafts, sold direct to you by those who produce and make them (for the full list see [here](#)).

With Mother's Day on its way the market is a fine place to forage for the perfect present. How about an exclusive limited-edition gin-and-candle combo from **Distillers of Surrey** – their Love Edition gin has a mysterious touch of magic too, turning from soft blue to rosy pink when it meets a splash of tonic... Or maybe a box of chocolate heaven, filled with Brazilian *brigadeiros* from **Truff'd Handcrafted Delicacies**... A dainty paper present, a notebook or jewellery box, from **connyz Japan**, or a fab foodie teatowel from **Kate Guy Prints**...? Whatever her tastes, here's where to find just the gift to make mother's day.



At this month's free charity pitch you'll find **Kew Rotary** and in our sunshine-yellow music marquee there'll be two very different acts: the sassy swing of **Richmond Youth Jazz Band** followed by the Americana, roots, blues and bluegrass of singing, strumming, picking **Mandolin Jack**.

**Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 5th March, from 10am to 2pm**

**PS** While it's always lovely to hear how much KVM is appreciated, it's a hard fact that we really do need more volunteers to go on helping to make the market happen. It is fun and rewarding to be part of the team – so if you can spare just a couple of hours on market Sundays or a few days a month on the planning and organisation, do please come to see us at the KVM stall for an informal chat or email [volunteering@kewvillagemarket.org](mailto:volunteering@kewvillagemarket.org). Thank you!

**All the profits the Market makes are ploughed back into the community.**

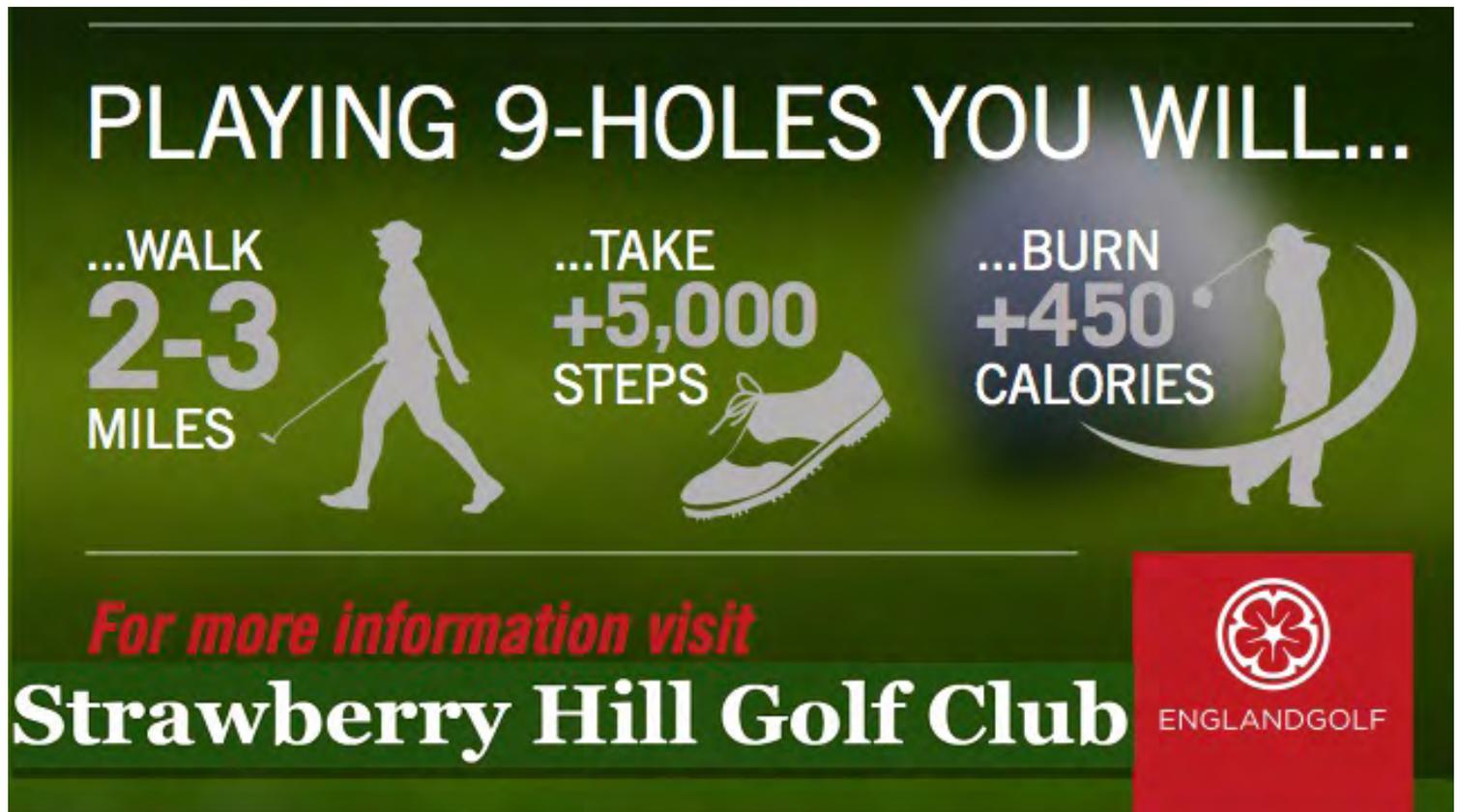
Since our first market back in October 2011 we have raised over £85,000 for local charities.

If you'd like to know more, please visit the [charity page](#) on our website.

# Strawberry Hill Golf Club

Want to play golf but no time for 18 holes? Nine is fine at Strawberry Hill Golf Club in Twickenham on our challenging 9 hole golf course in West London.

Non-members very welcome! Free parking, golf shop and bar available. Book online [HERE](#)



**PLAYING 9-HOLES YOU WILL...**

- ...WALK **2-3 MILES** 
- ...TAKE **+5,000 STEPS** 
- ...BURN **+450 CALORIES** 

*For more information visit*  
**Strawberry Hill Golf Club**



ENGLANDGOLF

## Arts Richmond announce Photographic Exhibition 2023: 'Turning Point'

Arts Richmond is offering photographers from across London the chance to exhibit their work in Twickenham as part of a new exhibition, in conjunction with our Roger McGough Poetry Competition.

Submissions are invited from photographers aged 16 and over, answering an open call on the theme 'Turning Point', which entrants for the poetry competition have also responded to.

All styles of photography are welcome and the deadline to submit is Friday 21 April.

Submissions will only be accepted via email to [info@artsrichmond.org.uk](mailto:info@artsrichmond.org.uk).



## DRINKS TO SPOIL HER WITH FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

I don't know about you, but every company I've ever bought anything from online seems to be sending me emails asking if I'd rather opt out of Mothers' Day notifications. This seems to be a rather new phenomenon, but I suppose we'd better brace ourselves for the same onslaught prior to Fathers' Day!! However, it does remind those who are lucky enough still to have a mother, that they'd better start thinking about how to celebrate Mothering Sunday! So let's start with a few suggestions that should appeal to any discerning mum who enjoys a tipples or two:

The perfect gift for cocktail-loving mums is the **Whitebox Cocktails Classic Cocktail Gift Box**. Recipients can enjoy a cocktail-tasting session with a selection of ready-to-serve classics created by some of the world's best bartenders. Simply chill, then pour the convenient 100ml single serve into a glass with ice, garnish, and enjoy bar-quality cocktails. Each pack contains single serves of Whitebox Cocktails' six best-selling classics: Pocket Negroni, Prêt à Boire Boulevardier, Classic Cosmo, Freezer Martini, Chipper's Old Fashioned and Squeezy's Margarita. To order direct, visit [whiteboxcocktails.com](http://whiteboxcocktails.com)



**The Oxford Artisan Distillery Oxford Rye Gin** is a really delicious juniper-forward rye gin using a classic combination of botanicals to give bold notes of juniper, pine and citrus, and a hint of aromatic spice. The gin base is distilled from their heritage grains grown through a new approach to grain farming known as Restorative Continuous Grain Cropping (R-CGC). With this there are no fallow years, no tillage and no chemical inputs, leading to greater biodiversity in the field. It's Oxford's first ever distillery, and produces spirits with total provenance from grain to glass. You can buy online [The Oxford Artisan Distillery Oxford Rye Dry Gin](http://The Oxford Artisan Distillery Oxford Rye Dry Gin) or at Waitrose rrp £39.50

If a light drink is more to her taste, then I'd recommend [Italicus Rosolio di Bergamotto](http://Italicus Rosolio di Bergamotto), an Italian liqueur based around the brilliance of bergamot! By combining Italian bergamot alongside a selection of other tasty botanicals including chamomile, lavender, Melissa balm and more, the producers of **Italicus** have made a tipples excellent for enjoying on toasty evenings in the summer. Enjoy over ice or splashed in a glass of Prosecco or top up with soda for a delightfully different, and very refreshing spritz. 70cl - 20% ABV / rrp: £29.94 / Available from [Amazon](http://Amazon)



Maybe she's more partial to roses and vodka? You could give her rose vodka! **Whitley Rose Vodka** fuses artisanal vodka with vibrant fruity flavours of rich strawberries and tasty red berries. This vodka can be used to make a refreshing English Rose Spritz. All you need is 40ml Rose Vodka, 20ml Lanique, 25ml lemon juice, and a grapefruit soda top-up. £15 a bottle from [Sainsburys](http://Sainsburys) or £14 from [Asda](http://Asda)

English sparkling wine has really come into its own, and a bottle of **Bolney Bubbly** (from £31) will be most acceptable. This delicate and well-balanced sparkling wine from the [Bolney Wine Estate](http://Bolney Wine Estate) in Sussex has delightful floral and brioche notes, combining with zesty citrus fruits, honeysuckle & elderflower. Better still, buy her a voucher and take her there for a tour and tasting too!



# Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

## GIFTS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Here are some different gifts, across various price brackets, but any of them will make a very welcome Mother's Day gift. Don't forget that many of the online companies will also allow you to include your own personal message or card:

**Lindor**, from Lindt, must be one of the UK's favourite mid range chocolate brands, and we're the first market to try the newest flavour: **Lindor Blood Orange** truffles...and they're great! Milk chocolate with a smooth melting blood orange filling. Priced from around £5.50 a box (Tesco) they will even be affordable from a pocket money budget. Hopefully, they'll soon be available in dark chocolate too, to make them even more irresistible!



Still on the subject of truffles, these new ones are seriously fabulous. Popcorn company **Joe & Seph's** take its award-winning salted caramel sauce, encase it in a smooth Belgian chocolate shell and lightly dust with cocoa powder. Available in two flavours: Milk Chocolate Salted Caramel Truffles and Dark Chocolate Caramel Truffles, Priced at £12.99 and available online [here](#)

If she enjoys good quality fresh coffee, **Chimney Fire Coffee**, the responsible coffee roaster offers a subscription to its **Discovery Coffee** (from £9.45) Each month she'll be sent a brand new coffee, in a grind of her preference, from a unique place, blend, process or origin. It's such an interesting, delicious and different gift for a coffee loving mum. Chimney Fire Coffee also has a wide range of other gifts you can find [here](#).



Talking of coffee, how about a personalised cake to enjoy with it? This **Photo Cake** from **Sponge.co.uk** is the ideal sentimental token to give this Mother's Day. You can customise by uploading a photo, and adding some text, or you can choose a pre-designed topper. Made from either chocolate cake or traditional Victoria sponge, whichever you choose, it's sure to put a smile on your Mum's face. And trust me, the cake tastes fabulous too! From £22.50

One of my philosophies about present giving is that you should give something that the person would like, but possibly not justify buying for themselves. This certainly applies to something like top quality extra virgin olive oil. Italian food specialist **Sacla** has a really impressive range of products such as this one from the **Lamantea** family, who've turned their olives into some of Italy's finest olive oil for over fifty years. This lovely Mosaic sleeve, carefully handcrafted by Puglian artisans, makes sure the olive oil appeals to the eyes, as well as the stomach. £18 for 500ml. You can even create your own hamper at the Sacla [website](#)





## California Suite

by Neil Simon

OnBook Theatricals at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes

The glamorous Beverly Hills Hotel is the go-to for well-heeled visitors from all over the world. A suite there is the recurring background for four vignettes of hotel guests sharing their lives and their traumas at different times in that same eponymous *California Suite*.

Director Jason Moore kept up the comic timing nicely and OSO's set had a bright campiness. The lighting matched moods and human situations beautifully, and costumes were truly authentic, keeping us fittingly in the seventies and heightening the expectation of poignant and zippy humour from Neil Simon, master of wit.



The guest from New York had invited her former husband to the suite to talk frankly. Their power game was well choreographed and Emily Outred and Marcello Walton clearly put over the couple's pain of their daughter's turmoil, but the wordy text slowed the anticipation of what this would tell us.



With ease and humour Issy van Randwyck came up trumps as an actress visiting from London. Her glamour and its trappings, and basic perverseness, was used against her handsome husband (Dominic McChesney), also with a dark side. With their tangible chemistry, the two were highly watchable.

Marvin Michaels, a middle-aged businessman from Philadelphia, had a moral dilemma. Although Daniel Emilio Baldock was fiery and convincing, he was outshone by Elisabeth Yorke-Bolognini, as Millie, his (soon-to-be traumatised) wife, whose great stage presence brought empathy. I was sorry to see the girl Bunny went uncredited, having lain in bed in a drunken coma for the entire playlet.

Four friends vacationing from Chicago, brought a verbal minefield. Rosie Edwards' natural body language gave a convincing performance as Beth, who had a tennis injury to her foot. Luke Mazzamuto, as the at-boiling-point Mort, held his frustration tautly, as Stu and his ditzy wife Gert (Eoin Lynch and Emily Outred) exhibited an irritating lack of self-awareness that led to confrontations, revelations and accusations.

Then blows ... in an explosive end to a great production of the four mini sit-coms that comprise the *California Suite*.

Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/02/23/california-suite](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/02/23/california-suite)

Photography courtesy of The Dorchester Collection



## The Rhinegold

by Richard Wagner

English National Opera at the London Coliseum until 10<sup>th</sup> March

Richard Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, although monumental, is not without subtlety and wit, both in its music and its narrative. However, director Richard Jones' delicious new production of *The Rhinegold*, the prelude within the *Ring* tetralogy, lightens it further with frippery and, dare one say ... fun (try capturing a splenic toad in a Bierstein!).



The Nibelungs, who have become slaves to the dwarf Alberich, toil at a huge conveyer belt, shining up gold bars. There is plenty of gold about in this production (unlike last year's Bayreuth production, which had none). It is on trolleys, trucks and in great piles.



Leigh Melrose's powerful plosive baritone fills the bad, bald and brutal Alberich with psychopathic energy. He terrifies his slaves and his brother, Mime, whose vicious beating is sickeningly realistic. Even the gods are not beyond cupidity for the gold. Wotan sees the opportunity when Loge, the god of fire and Wotan's Mr.Fixit, brings news of the theft of the gold. As Loge, Frederick Ballentine steals the show. His quicksilver movements lend an energetic ubiquity to his scenes and his light tenor precision highlights the wit of the character.

His interaction with the shape-shifting Alberich is like a fast fencing match, as he outmanoeuvres him, even as Alberich transmogrifies into a fearsome dragon and then, incautiously, into the aforementioned toad.

Martyn Brabbins conducts an augmented ninety-strong ENO orchestra, with an assurance that grows as the opera develops over nearly three unbroken hours of superb music. However, the future of ENO's *Ring* hangs in the balance, due largely to the box-ticking mentality of the Arts Council England. So hunker down ... as do the gods as they retreat into their new Valhalla, a harsh concrete bunker, where they contemplate the evil that is now wrought in the world.



Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/02/24/rhinegold](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/02/24/rhinegold)

Photography by Marc Brenner

## A Doll's House

by Tanika Gupta after Henrik Ibsen

Questors Studio, Ealing until 4<sup>th</sup> March

Tanika Gupta's reimagining of Ibsen's play, *A Doll's House*, is set in 1879 Calcutta, the capital of British India. It is an engaging production that reinterprets the classic text for a contemporary audience. At the height of empire, British presence in the region was significant and deeply ingrained in its social, economic and political structures.

Directed by Meneka Das, the play retains Ibsen's themes, but introduces a political context that creates a powerful dilemma for the central character, Niru (Nora in Ibsen's original script). She struggles to reconcile her Indian identity with her role as the wife of a British man, Tom Helmer (Ibsen's Torvald), who runs the city's tax office. Against this background, a layer of complexity is added to the story, creating intricacies and miniature details highly apt for the analogy of the doll's house in which Niru's struggle for self takes place.



The minimal set is evocative of a traditional Victorian doll's house. It creates a claustrophobic nature to the play, symbolic for the feeling of the walls closing in around Niru's world.

Rushma Thapa's performance as Niru is outstanding, bringing a delicate balance of emotions and reactions which capture her inner turmoil and conflicts, as she navigates her place in the changing city in which she exists. Her performance is nuanced and subtle, balancing exaggerated joy and the celebration with deep introspection and self-doubt. Tom Hilton's performance as her husband is suitably patronizing, highlighting the power dynamics of the era, both patriarchal and colonial.

The small cast has big reach and impact. Premi Tamang's performance as Krishna (Ibsen's Mrs. Linde) and Anoop Jagan's as tax clerk Das (Krogstad) are strong, developing their characters beyond mere vehicles to move the plot forward. Charlie McRoberts' take on Dr. Rank provides genuine comic relief, in spite of the tragic circumstances of his illness.

Although Ibsen denied that his play was an outspoken work of feminism, it is hard not to see Gupta's version as such. *A Doll's House* is a thought-provoking production, a compelling reminder of the struggles faced in the search for belonging.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/02/26/dolls-hse-gupta](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/02/26/dolls-hse-gupta)

Photography courtesy of Questors



## Giulio Cesare

by George Frederick Handel, libretto by Nicola Haym

English Touring Opera at the Hackney Empire, then on tour until 25<sup>th</sup> May

Some of the most musically intense arias Handel ever wrote are brought to life in a range of which are superbly delivered in ETO's *Giulio Cesare*. It depicts how Julius Caesar's plans to subjugate Egypt - where Cleopatra and her brother Ptolemy fight over which one of them should take the throne - are violently disrupted by erotic attraction between Cleopatra and Caesar.



Director James Conway's turning of Egypt into Louis XV's France is imaginative and almost successful. The Roman prejudices against the barbarous Egyptians – treacherous, pleasure-loving, unscrupulous, unfairly glamorous, and in need of discipline and civilisation – are projected onto a version of Versailles in a way that defuses their political incorrectness. The costumes of Handel's own period work pretty well once you overlook the fact that Britain didn't actually take over France and install its own satellite monarch.



Susanna Hurrell's Cleopatra, despite being shorn of a couple of arias, is highly captivating and well equal to the huge demands of this part. Her coloratura is the equal of many a more famous singer. She could perhaps be a dash more flirtatious, but, in many ways, less is more here.

Francis Gush's Caesar is a hugely talented countertenor, even if he is still finding his way on stage. He lacks the swagger that the part needs, but delivers the goods vocally, even if he seems intimidated by his coloratura rather than brandishing it like a weapon.

Alexander Chance is an even more talented singer. Ptolemy is a much easier role vocally but he provides the best diction of the night and doesn't only sing with accomplishment, but uses the music to make a dramatic point

Sergey Rybin sets a pace that is neither too deliberate nor over-driven and has an impressive set of musicians to direct in The Old Street Band. Jonathan Peter Kenny is credited with the vocal ornamentation rather than the singers, but it is both lavish and appropriate, which suggests he has done his job well, along with everyone else in this production.



Read Patrick Shorrocks's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/02/26/giulio-cesare](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/02/26/giulio-cesare)

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith

# TERRY PRATCHETT'S WYRD SISTERS

## "Macbeth meets Hamlet meets Granny Weatherwax"

All is not well in the kingdom of Lancre - the King has been assassinated by his cousin Duke Felmet, both the infant heir to the throne *and* the crown are missing, and the realm itself is not happy. It seems that Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick will need to sort it all out - using a heady dose of headology.



Join us at the Mary Wallace Theatre in March and escape into the magical realm of Discworld, balanced on the backs of four elephants standing atop a turtle. A gloriously surreal adventure packed with drama, humour and romance.

**Terry Pratchett's Wyrd Sisters** runs from Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Mary Wallace Theatre, situated on Twickenham's Embankment, between St Mary's Church and the Barmy Arms.

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

Photo credit - PETE MESSUM



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

## Teddington Theatre Club

### Time & Leisure's March 2023 What's on Diary

**Date:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Event Title:** **The Madness of George III** by Alan Bennett

Aging King George III is exhibiting signs of madness, a problem little understood in 1788. His hapless doctors attempt the cruel and ineffectual cures of the day.

**Time:** 7.45pm **Prices:** Tickets from £14

**Address:** Auditorium, Hampton Hill Theatre, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

**Website:** [www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk](http://www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk)



**Date:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Event Title:** **Bull** by Mike Bartlett

A razor-sharp play about the fine line between office politics and playground bullying, *Bull* offers ringside seats as three employees fight to keep their jobs.

**Time:** 7.45pm **Prices:** Tickets from £12

**Address:** Coward Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

**Website:** [www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk](http://www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk)



# WIZ TALES: YEMEN – UN Request for Humanitarian Aid

Teresa Read

Yemen is the poorest country and the most water-scarce country in the Arab world.

It has been reported that two-thirds of the population will need humanitarian assistance this year after years of civil war; there are many displaced people and food shortages. Following the United Nations-brokered truce the UN has requested humanitarian aid. This week the United Nations and its partners appealed for \$4.3 billion for aid operations in Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen, in the Middle East, is bordered by the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

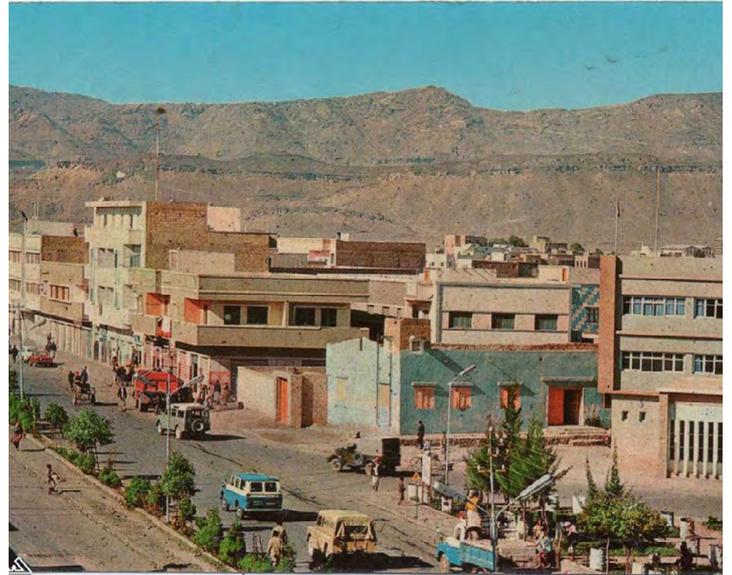
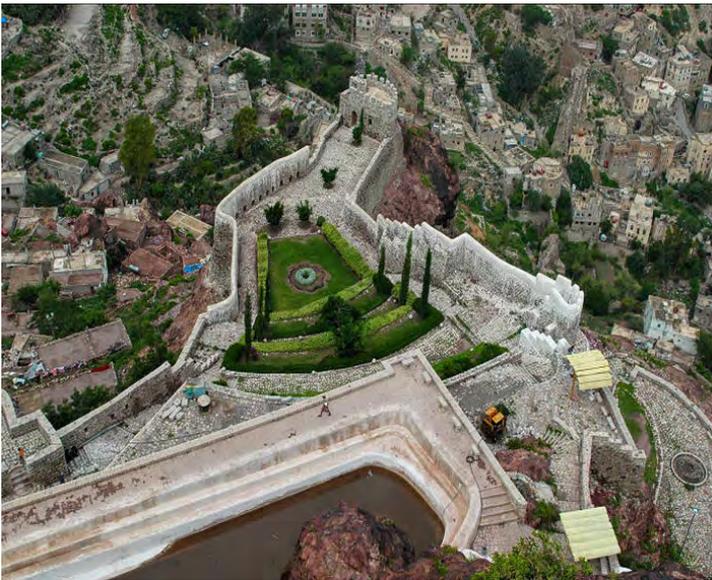
The Old City of Sanaa, situated in a mountain valley, has been inhabited for over two and a half thousand years when present-day Yemen was an important region trading in spices and frankincense.

The Ottomans controlled North Yemen between the middle of the nineteenth century until the end of the First World War (1914-1918); in 1839 the port of Aden and the surrounding area came under British control with Britain withdrawing from Yemen in November 1967.

In 1990 the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen united to form the Republic of Yemen.



Queen Elizabeth II, Aden 1954



# Celebrate the Young Writers Festival finalists on 26 March

Following a record number of entries, the finalists for Arts Richmond's Young Writers Festival have been chosen.

The festival was open to all young people who either live or attend school or clubs in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.

It was a chance to demonstrate writing skills of any form: stories, descriptive writing, poems, playlets and lyrics for songs.

A vast number of entries were received from all age groups across the borough. A total of 901 were sifted and a final 50 for each of the age groups were sent to a panel of judges.

You can celebrate the finalists on Sunday 26 March from 2 to 4pm at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE.

You will be able to see the writer's work come to life and enjoy performances from a group of local actors.

[Book your tickets](#)



# Holding onto a glass for too long?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

This week many customers have been coming into my newsagent shop telling me about “little things” that have irritated them (no, I don’t mean me). Some customers find this to be a problem to the extent that these “little things” have ruined their entire day...I mean things like the bus driver being rude to them in the morning, or a negative comment from a work associate, not being able to find any cucumbers or tomatoes in the supermarket...but are these things worth holding onto? Are they serving any purpose aside from robbing you of any joy that may otherwise come into your life?



Customers tell me that when something upsets their day, if they keep thinking about it, their day gets progressively worse...for example, if they make a mistake in the morning and choose to carry it with them as their day progresses, they are much more likely to make a subsequent mistake due to their lack of focusing on the present moment, resulting in further frustration and resentment, which in turn are feelings that are perfect prerequisites for making further mistakes...and so your day continues to get worse!

So what is the solution I hear you ask? Well I am a shop keeper, not a psychiatrist would be my answer to that, although the two are rather indifferent in actual fact, both of us spend time helping others to have a better understanding of their worlds – the only difference being that a psychiatrist would prescribe pills alongside their advice to correct chemical imbalances in the brain, whereas I provide chocolate bars, fizzy drinks and sweets alongside my advice also... so not much different at all really, in fact I would argue that my products still lift the mood and make people feel better and they taste better than pills not to mention they have less side effects. I am digressing. Sorry. Back to the point of this article (no not the good karma creature kindness, although yes, that will always come in at the end of my articles), the point being, from conversations with customers in my shop this week, I wanted to explore the question (and hopefully answer it) that how long is too long to hold on to an initial mistake or something that may have upset you during your day?

Well think about having a cup of water in front of you on a table. Now imagine picking it up in one hand and holding it out straight in front of you. You can even try this whilst we are talking about it right now as you read (unless you are on a busy train or something as the passengers standing in front of you may not appreciate having a glass of water shoved in their face) ... now...how long can you hold it until it starts to hurt? A minute, 5 minutes? Half an hour? (if you can hold it that long then there is something seriously wrong with you or you have a bionic arm, either way...that’s not normal). My point being, the longer you hold onto the full glass of water, the more pain you begin to feel (now are you getting it?)

Reading this, you may have started to think that I am just a bumbling, mad Twickenham shopkeeper, but now you see my logic...or maybe now you definitely think I am bumbling, mad shop keeper who should not be writing articles). So back to my point...the longer you hold onto that glass of water, the more your arm will feel the strain and you will feel the pain (I am a poet and I didn't even know it!). Things that upset us during our days are much the same...the longer we hold onto them, the more we hurt...so learn to let go...it's done. So it's done. Once a moment has passed, let it go (no I am not about to break into a song from the film Frozen, don't worry). Focus on the present moment or you will end up unintentionally ruining that due to a moment in the past which has gone anyway. How long is too long to hold on to something that has upset you then? Any amount of time is too long as life is simply too short. So next time, instead choose to allow yourself peace, not because you don't care, but because you deserve it. So there we have it, the end of another article with me Deep Patel, through the eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper.

Those who follow my articles will know, what I am about to say about kindness towards little lives...but just in case you are a first-time reader, I always like to share these little good-karma gems, helping each other and all the life forms on this beautiful planet we call home. We are not the only inhabitants of this beautiful planet and there is a kind way for everything... If you have rodent issues, consider live capture traps where you can catch the rodents alive and release them in woodland or parkland areas far from homes. Try electronic high-frequency sound deterrents (check online for ones with good reviews and ones that are safe for your pets if you have any). Put empty jam jar lids filled with white vinegar all around areas where you don't want them to stop them without harming them (they HATE the smell of white vinegar). This also works for foxes, squirrels, mice and rabbits. Just picking up a slug 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. Avoid sweeping/washing the garden patio too often to help 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). As I always say, the true key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of other life forms...until the next time...have a lovely week ahead and look after the smaller life forms and the universe will look after you. For further tips, check out my Facebook page "Kind World". As always...Peace, love and good karma to all xx

***Remember...***

***“choose peace...because you deserve it”***

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's planning to offer honorary Bachelors of Education

Following a meeting of its Honorary Awards Committee St Mary's University is planning to offer honorary Bachelors of Education to former students of the University who received a Certificate of Education up until 1983.

The Certificate of Education was a three year teacher training course. In the early 1980s it was no longer a requirement for teachers to hold a certificate and was instead replaced with a requirement for all trainees to complete a graduate or postgraduate course.

The University will be announcing in due course the arrangements by which alumni who hold a Certificate of Education can apply for an honorary degree.



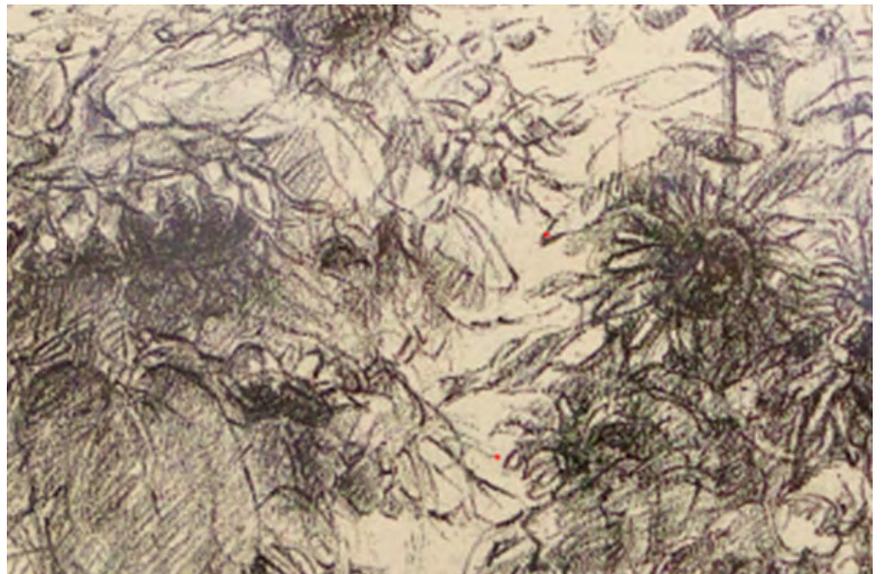
St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

## Arts Richmond announce Diana Armfield Prize for drawing from observation

Arts Richmond is delighted to announce the 2023 Diana Armfield Prize for drawing from observation, awarded by Diana Armfield RA NEAC.

Given in memory of Diana's late husband, Bernard Dunstan RA, the prize is for original drawings in pencil, charcoal, pen or ink.

We received 107 entries of very high quality drawings for this annual competition.



There will be a free exhibition of all works entered at The Exchange, Twickenham, TW1 1BE from Monday 13 to Sunday 26 March 2023.

The private view will be held on Thursday 23 March at 6pm.

# Talented Performing Arts teacher & students join stellar cast of hit musical 'The King and I'

Two talented students from Stagecoach Performing Arts [Shirley](#) and [Richmond](#), and a teacher from [Stagecoach Performing Arts Loughton](#), have joined the 2023 company of the critically acclaimed musical of ['The King And I'](#) which is currently on a smash hit tour across the UK.

Jason Yang-Westland, who teaches at Stagecoach Loughton, will be a part of the ensemble, while Stagecoach Performing Arts Students Caitlin Lau, aged 10 and eight-year-old Cody Concha, will feature as Royal Children in The Tony Award-winning production, which is lighting up theatres nationwide across the UK and Ireland. The young talented stars will feature in a world-class cast led by Television and Broadway stars Helen George (from the hit BBC television series 'Call the Midwife') and Darren Lee (US actor most famous for roles in 'Chicago' and 'Hackers').

This gloriously lavish production has been brought to the stage by an internationally renowned creative team under Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher (*South Pacific/My Fair Lady/To Kill a Mockingbird*), and will feature a world-class company of talented performers and a full-scale orchestra.

*THE KING AND I* is a sumptuous, timeless romance from the golden age of musicals, adored by the public and critics alike – and boasting one of the finest scores ever written, including Whistle a Happy Tune, Getting to Know You, and Shall We Dance. Set in 1860s Bangkok, *THE KING AND I* tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British schoolteacher whom the modernist King, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children.

The performing arts students, Caitlin Lau and Cody Concha let their skills and confidence shine through their learning at Stagecoach, giving them both the platform to go after their dreams and tread the boards in this nationwide spectacle. Having attended Stagecoach Shirley since January 2022, Cody's family are very much excited and proud of the eight-year-old being a part of a multi-award-winning production.

Young student Caitlin, aged 10, who has attended Stagecoach Richmond for five years, made the most of the nerve-racking yet fun experience during auditions and rehearsals, as she was given the task of learning songs and short dance pieces to practise and see how quickly she could pick things up.

Alongside them, Jason brings his wealth of experience and love for the arts to his own role as an educator to the next generation of stars. No stranger to the stage, Jason has been a part in a variety of worldwide, Australian and New Zealand based productions, from classic musical hits such as 'West Side Story', 'Mary Poppins' and 'Grease'. Getting his start from the Melbourne City Ballet, Jason has also trained and performed in world-famous showings of 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', to name a few.

**Stagecoach Loughton Teacher, Jason Wang-Westland, said:**

"I am so excited to be a part of this beautiful production of The King & I. The score & choreography are a joy & honour to perform every night."

**Speaking on Cody's involvement, Stagecoach Shirley Principal, Kim Findlay, said:**

"We are very proud of Cody and so pleased he is having such a wonderful opportunity to experience what life is like as a professional performer working as part of a touring company."

**Caitlin's Principal at Stagecoach Richmond, Jo van der Westhuysen, also added:**

"We are so proud of Catlin's achievement and were absolutely thrilled when she got the part in The King and I. Caitlin has an acute understanding of her craft and recognises the importance of developing her singing technique in order to make the most of her natural gift. She works so hard in her Stagecoach classes and her commitment has paid off in spades!"



# Talking the Walk for Princess Alice Hospice

Come and walk shoulder to shoulder and help raise awareness of the bereavement services of Princess Alice Hospice at their second Talk The Walk event on Saturday 1 April.

The event, which starts at Esher Rugby Club, is for anyone over the age of 11 but is mainly targeting men, although women and girls are most welcome, too! The Hospice hopes to smash the stereotype that men don't talk about their grief and won't access any bereavement support, even if they need it and it's available.



Walk with mates, colleagues, your dad, uncle, brother or other family members. There are two routes, one 10 miles and one four miles.

Your registration fee includes a Rugby Match Day Ticket (Esher v Bishop's Stortford, the match will take place after the walk at Esher Rugby Club), a soft drink for under 18s or beer for entrants aged 18+, a delicious burger (vegan, vegetarian and other dietary options available), a Talk The Walk t-shirt, and a medal (for people and dogs!).

Claire Woodward, Community Partnerships and Events Lead at the Hospice, said:

*"We know that grief is not easy for anyone, but many people, mainly men, won't seek support. We want to raise awareness of our bereavement services while raising funds for the Hospice. Last year's event was great fun - 75 walkers took part, and this year we're hoping to double the number of walkers."*



Leader of Surrey County Council, Tim Oliver, whose daughter, Emily, died at the Hospice in 2019, took part in last year's event and said:

*"Talk The Walk is about raising the profile of Princess Alice Hospice and its bereavement services and encouraging men to speak about their feelings. One in three men don't access any bereavement support, but it's so important to talk about grief and know that help is available when things are tough."*

*"The Hospice is a fantastic charity which must raise more than £10 million each year to fund its vital work. I attended the event last year with my son, and we thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was great to speak with other men and young people about their experience of grief and loss."*

For more information and to sign up go to [www.pah.org.uk/talkthewalk](http://www.pah.org.uk/talkthewalk)



# Young south Londoners with big ambitions encouraged to choose a career in construction

With over 4,000 new vacancies a year in London, the construction industry is one of the capital's best employers for young people looking to start a career where they can get paid, while learning, growing and moving-up the ladder.

The South London Partnership, including Richmond Council, is working alongside South London colleges and construction businesses to give young people an insight into all the opportunities available to them if they choose a construction apprenticeship.

A survey of 1,000 people conducted by UK Construction Week last year, found there are several reasons young people are put off pursuing a career in the construction. This included it being seen as a 'dirty job' (23 per cent), a lack of careers advice (19 per cent), and the sector being seen as male-dominated (15 per cent).

Shakir Kikomeko, 21-years-old, is an apprentice site manager working on one of South London's biggest projects, while studying one day a week at college. *"Most of my friends have gone to university, but I felt it wasn't for me as I was keen to earn money and get started in a career. Sometimes you can feel unsure about asking questions, but you soon learn that there's no such thing as a stupid question. When doing an apprenticeship you are surrounded by people that have been in the construction business for 20 or 30 years and there isn't anything they don't know.*

*"I would say to anyone thinking of doing an apprenticeship – keep your options open. I didn't realise how great a career in construction was going to be and there are so many opportunities in this industry, so don't limit yourself, just go for it."*



The South London Partnership is a sub-regional collaboration of five London boroughs: Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Sutton.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council and Chair of the South London Partnership said: *"South London is a great place to live, but like other parts of London, provision of good quality, affordable and sustainable homes is a priority. Whether this is building new homes or retrofitting existing housing stock, we are predicting an even greater demand on the construction workforce. There is a wide range of apprenticeships on offer locally, which give young people a pathway to good quality careers in the industry. There are construction roles all over London, but for many it will give them the chance to work locally and contribute to building a great future for their local community."*

[Hear more from apprentices](#)  
[Find out more and apply](#)

# BARNES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

## Crime Update March 2023

Attached are the recent crime statistics for Barnes, SW13. Also a friendly reminder the Barnes Police Liaison Group will be taking place this coming Monday March 6th 19:45 at the Castlenau Centre on Stillingfleet Road, SW13 all are welcome to attend.

We continue to look for any volunteers who would like to be a co-ordinator for their area or who would like to be a part of the neighbourhood watch list. If you know anyone that may be interested please don't hesitate to contact us.

### *For the past four weeks, where has it happened?*

#### **Burglary X15**

- Attempted burglary, business/commercial, 01/02/23, 05:30 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 31/01/23 – 01/02/23, 16:00 – 11:25 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Business/commercial burglary, 03/02/23, 14:00-14:30 hours, Kitson Road, SW13.
- Attempted burglary, residential, 04.02.23, 03:00 – 03.50 hours, Barnes Avenue, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 03/02/23 – 04/02/23, 23:00 – 07:00 hours, Rectory Road, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 06/02/23 – 07/02/23, 19:00 – 08:00 hours, Church Road. SW13.
- Attempted burglary, commercial, 08/02/23 – 09/02/23, 18:30 – 09:30 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 14/02/23, 04:45 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 13/02/23 – 14/02/23, 19:40 – 07:00 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 14/02/23, 04:30 – 05:00 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 14/02/23, 00:00 – 06:00 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 15/02/23 – 16/02/23, 18:00 – 09:30, Barnes High Street, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 14/02/23 – 15/02/23, 12:30 - 18:00 hours, Walsingham Lodge, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 14/02/23 – 16/02/23, 10:00 – 12:30, Walsingham Lodge, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 19/02/23 – 03:40 – 03:45 hours, Rocks Lane, SW13.

#### **Vehicle Crime X11**

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 02/02/23, 08:00-09:40 hours, Washington Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 14/02/23, 12:55 hours, Melrose Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 14/02/23, 03:00 – 03:50 hours, Barnes Avenue, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 09/02/23 – 10/02/23, 19:00 – 07:25 hours, Baronsmead Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 10/02/23, 20:00 hours, Rocks Lane, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 15/02/23 – 16/02/23, 20:00 – 06:00 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 19/02/23, 00:00 – 12:30 hours, Madrid Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 20/02/23 – 21/02/23, 20:00 – 06:30 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 20/02/23 – 21/02/23, 22:00 – 07:25 hours, Kitson Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 21/02/23 – 23/02/23, 20:00 – 10:00, Clavering Avenue, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 25/02/23 – 26/02/23, 18:00 – 11:00 hours, Madrid Road, SW13.

#### **Criminal Damage X3**

- Under £500, 01/02/23, 08:00 hours, Washington Road, SW13.
- Under £500, 11/02/23, 06:15 – 10:30 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Over £499, 19/02/23, 08:35 - 08:42 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.

### **Robbery X1**

- Robbery Persons, 10/02/23, 10:00 - 10:20 hours, Kilmington Road, SW13.

### **Violent Offences X5**

- Common Assault, 01/02/23, 08:00 hours, Elm Grove, SW13.
- Grievous Bodily Harm, 05/02/23, 06:19 hours, Verdun Road, SW13.
- Grievous Bodily Harm, 07/02/23, 00:00 hours, Lyric Road, SW13.
- Actual Bodily Harm, 09/02/23, 19:13 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Common assault, 23/02/23, Castelnau, SW13.

### **Drugs X0**

(While possession of drugs recorded is zero for this month this doesn't necessarily reflect the real number).

### **Crime Prevention**

#### Introducing Street Safe

Street Safe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused.

(<https://www.police.uk/streetsafe>)

Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.

If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces online) you can call us on 101 or find out what online report services are available following this web address <https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/>

Officers covering Mortlake  
 PS Kate Whitaker  
 PC Darren Meakins  
 PCSO Matthew Morbey

Or for enquires you can call; 07843291089 Or you can send us an email to;  
[Barnes@met.police.uk](mailto:Barnes@met.police.uk)



# Match Preview: Fulham

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Fulham

Written by [Brentford Football Club](#)

## **Brentford host a top-flight game against Fulham for the first time on Monday.**

Both sides are enjoying fine starts to 2023 with sixth-placed Fulham unbeaten in seven, while the Bees haven't tasted defeat in 11 Premier League games stretching back to October. Get all the west London derby build-up below.

### **The Opposition**

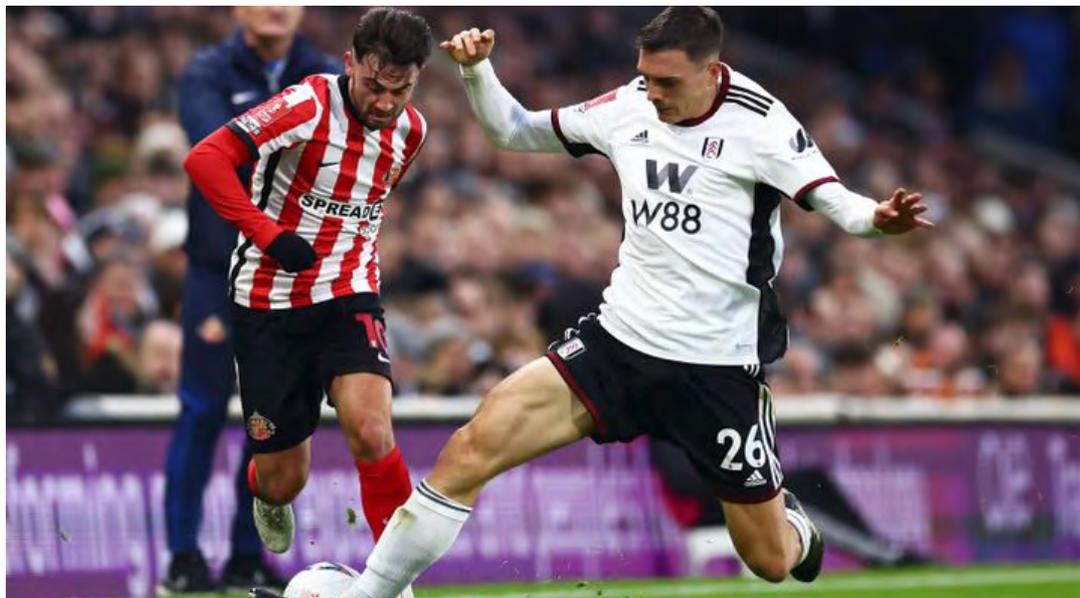
#### **Fulham flying high following top-flight return**

As they had been two years earlier, Fulham were promoted to the Premier League at the first time of asking last season.

This time, though, they won the Championship in devastating style.

Marco Silva's men absolutely breezed their way through the division. On three occasions they scored seven, in two games they hit six and there were two five-haul hauls, just for good measure.

With talismanic frontman Aleksandar Mitrovic setting a new, seemingly unassailable, second-tier scoring record of 43, promotion never once looked in doubt.



As they geared up for their return, outside talk centred on whether they could learn from costly mistakes made in years gone by.

In 2018/19, Fulham spent freely but came up short, while in 2020/21, they employed a more conservative approach and racked up just five wins all season.

Though they came back into the Premier League on cloud nine, it felt as though the success of the Cottagers' season would hinge largely on whether they could harness the powers of Mitrovic in the top flight once and for all.

The Serb had proved himself in the Championship numerous times but had hit an unremarkable tally of 14 goals in 64 appearances across his last two seasons in the top division and, as a result, had doubters to win over.

As it transpired, there was no need to worry, even though Silva had said his team were “not ready” for the season days before it began.

Nor was there any reason to tar Mitrovic with the ‘too good for the Championship; not good enough for the Premier League’ brush.

Mitrovic scored a brace as Liverpool twice came from behind to earn a point at Craven Cottage on the opening day and had hit six goals in six games by the start of September, when Fulham were sat 10th after two wins, two draws and two defeats.

The striker had netted nine goals in 12 appearances before the break for the World Cup, despite struggling with an ankle injury in the lead-up to the tournament in Qatar.

And if you thought Fulham had been impressive before the World Cup, they have, arguably, been even better since domestic football returned on Boxing Day.

They got back underway with four straight league wins and battled against Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, before coming out on the wrong side of two successive narrow 1-0 defeats.

In February, they took eight points from the 12 on offer and progressed to the fifth round of the FA Cup for only the second time since 2016/17 after overcoming Sunderland in a thrilling fourth-round replay.

Sitting sixth at the time of writing, with 39 points – the most of any newly promoted team after 25 points since Wigan Athletic in 2005/06 – Fulham are now not only in a prime position for a first top-10 finish since 2011/12, but candidates for a place in Europe, particularly with usual suspects Chelsea and Liverpool stumbling.

With the initial aim of survival pretty much already in the bag, it’s easy to see why Whites fans are now dreaming of more.

## **Team News**

Brentford duo in contention, while Fulham’s Palhinha will miss out due to suspension.

Frank Onyeka and Pontus Jansson are both in contention for Monday’s match.

The pair haven’t featured in 2023 due to respective hamstringing injuries but could return for the visit of Fulham. Thomas Strakosha (ankle) is not yet back to fitness.

Influential midfielder Palhinha will be suspended for Fulham, joining the injured Layvin Kurzawa, Tom Cairney and Neeskens Kebano on the absentee list.

In positive news for Fulham, Aleksandar Mitrovic came through 70 minutes on Tuesday in their FA Cup win over Leeds United after recovering from a hamstring injury.



# What's on at Twickenham Stadium

By Con O'Brien

4th March 2023

## [Big Game 14](#)

Still the biggest annual club rugby match in the world, Harlequins will once again be heading to Twickenham Stadium for Big Game 14. Join us on Saturday 4 March as Harlequins take on Exeter Chiefs. What's more this will be a double header, with the women again joining the men on the famous Twickenham turf. A rare opportunity to see club sides play inside Twickenham Stadium. Over 1,000 tickets available for this game in 6 days time!

11th March 2023

## [England v France - Guinness Six Nations 2023](#)

England will play their penultimate game in the Guinness Six Nations on Saturday 11 March 2023 (4.45pm KO), at Twickenham Stadium. Having been beaten by Les Bleus in the 2022 Championship, expect to see a determined England in a high energy encounter, guaranteeing to deliver an impressive atmosphere. Tickets cost £1,250 per person to watch this game including a meal and drinks!

18th March 2023

## [Guinness Six Nations Super Saturday Screening](#)

Want to catch all of the action at the final day of the Guinness Six Nations 2023 at Twickenham Stadium? You can watch Scotland v Italy, France v Wales and Ireland v England from the comfort of one of our East Stand hospitality facilities. Tickets are just £32 for adults and £20 for juniors (under 12s), and include a main meal from a set menu.

25th March 2023

## [Jefferies presents The Varsity matches 2023](#)

Oxford University and Cambridge University will play their annual Varsity Rugby Matches at Twickenham on Saturday 25 March, 2023. Tickets start at £10.00 for Schools & Minis, £12.50 for students, and £25.00 for Adults, which covers both the women's (12:00 kick off) and men's (15:00 kick off) matches. With two historic fixtures on the same weekend as the boat race, this is bound to be a weekend of electric rugby and rivalry.

22nd April 2023

## [Big Summer Kick-Off](#)

Harlequins will be at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 22 April as they take on Bath Rugby for the second Big Summer Kick-Off. In what could potentially be a crucial match in the penultimate round of the Gallagher Premiership, join us for summer vibes, brilliant rugby, music and entertainment.

29th April 2023

## [TikTok Women's Six Nations 2023](#)

The Red Roses will be playing France in their final round match of the TikTok Women's Six Nations, home at Twickenham Stadium. Tickets and hospitality packages are on sale now.

13th May 2023

## [Army v Navy - The Babcock Trophy 2023](#)

The Army v Navy match is the final fixture on the Senior XV Rugby Union calendars of the Royal Navy & the Army and the last of three matches that together construct the Inter-Services Championship. The fixture returns in 2023 with both the men and women's fixtures.

20th - 21st May 2023

### [HSBC London 7s 2023](#)

The HSBC London 7s returns again for 2023! Kick-off your summer with friends and family at Twickenham Stadium as we bring high-octane rugby, great music acts and a great day out to the capital! With chart-topping Sigala and Capital Radio DJ Mistajam headlining last year's event, as well as a range of awesome street-food, it won't only be the rugby you'll want to head down for.

27th May 2023

### [Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final 2023](#)

The Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final is the showcase of the domestic season. It will come down to one final game at Twickenham Stadium to decide the Gallagher Premiership Rugby 2023 Champions. Hospitality packages in the British Airways Rose Garden and The Gate are on sale now and general sale will go on sale in February 2023.

28th May 2023

### [The Killik Cup - Barbarians v World 15](#)

The Killik Cup will be on the line on Sunday 28 May (kick-off 3pm), as Eddie Jones goes head-to-head with former New Zealand head coach Steve Hansen – who leads a World XV in what is set to be an unmissable clash in London - Twickenham Stadium. Both teams will include World Rugby Stars! Tickets cost £25 for adults and £15 for children.

17th June 2023

### [Depeche Mode](#)

Depeche Mode are bringing their Memento Mori Tour to Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 17 June 2023. This will be Depeche Mode's 19th tour and their first in over five years. Having sold more than 100 million records and played to more than 35 million fans worldwide, Depeche Mode remains an ever-evolving and singularly influential musical force. Tickets and hospitality packages are on sale now.

25th August 2023

### [All Blacks v Springboks](#)

The heavyweights of world rugby go toe-to-toe in an historic fixture at Twickenham Stadium on Friday, 25 August (KO 7.30pm). The hotly anticipated match will form part of their final preparations for Rugby World Cup 2023, which kicks off just two weeks later in France. This is a very rare game at Twickenham Stadium and is likely to sell out.

12th - 26th August 2023

### [Summer Series 2023](#)

England will play two warm up matches against Wales and Fiji at Twickenham Stadium. They will first host Wales on Saturday 12 August, then Fiji two weeks' later on Saturday 26 August. This will be the last chance to see England play before they head to France for the Rugby World Cup 2023.

Click here to buy your tickets [Twickenhamstadium.com/whats-on](https://www.twickenhamstadium.com/whats-on)



# AS THE HOUSING MARKET CONTINUES TO HOLD FIRM PROPERTY EXPERT SETS OUTS TRENDS WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE IN 2023

THE PROPERTY market continues to hold firm - despite fears voiced by many that 2023 would herald a crash in prices.

In fact, one recent report indicates a large proportion of the anticipated declines in the housing market may already be well behind us.

According to analysis by Strutt & Parker, the last quarter of 2022 bore the brunt and is maintaining its previous house price forecasts of between -5% and 0% growth for the UK and -3% to 3% for prime central London for 2023.

[Jonathan Rolande](#) from the National Association of Property Buyers agrees that all the signs point towards continued resilience in the second quarter of 2023.

He said: "The first quarter of 2023 has shown that the property market in the UK is built on strong foundations. "The crash many predicted hasn't materialised and some areas of the country are even seeing a rise in prices. As such, we'll likely witness increased stability and certainty in the market encouraging transactions through the second quarter of the year."

But although the housing market is showing its usual consistent signs of strength Mr Rolande says lots of things are changing.

He adds: "The type of property people want to own is really shifting post Covid. Trends have been turned on their head and everything looks a lot different now compared to where we were before the pandemic."

Here Jonathan shares the main trend shifts we are witnessing in the property market that he believes will form a key part of the next quarter...

- BTL sales will go up: More BTL coming to market, mostly landlords with fixed rate loans near an end.
- Landlords will continue to exit: Many landlords are quitting due to fears about forthcoming legislation and many simply because they're calling the top of the market. This will continue.
- Homes close to stations are back in demand: Return to commuting has seen railway/well connected property back in demand. Flats are back on the shopping list and city centres have seen a resurgence.
- Oil's out: Oil heating isn't an attraction for buyers. The pressure is easing but throughout the winter, owners have seen the cost of off-grid heating go through the roof.
- Race for space is over: More country and seaside property is back on market. Staycations (remember those) are not what they were as people travel further afield for holidays. Rental rates have dropped and many councils have increased the levy on second homes meaning many aren't financially viable now.
- Home gym and office space less in demand: This is linked to the fact so many spaces re-opened. Garden bars, hot tubs and home gyms are not what they were, with public spaces open and many yearning for a return to 'proper socialising', staying at home for a night out is no longer an option.
- EPC: The EPC rating matters more than ever to buyers: Until recently generally ignored, now a good EPC rating saves a lot of money year after year.
- Cladding: There's been a gradual softening in the avoidance to buy in larger blocks with potential cladding issues. With ideas to solve the crisis finally on the table, buyers are once again looking at them.
- Fewer new builds: As Help2Buy ends and builders slow construction we will see developers build fewer houses that aren't guaranteed to sell. Many non-prime sites will be mothballed.
- Buyers are less tolerant of minor defects: These were often ignored when prices were rising. But surveyors are scrutinising and suggesting additional reports to investigate issues and down valuing when in doubt, buyers can no longer accept defects believing the price will simply go up if they don't.
- Mortgages: They will remain less affordable but it is still the intention of many people to buy regardless. Long term fixed-rates are about as low now as they will be for a while.
- Some estate agents will shut: Poorly performing branches will close and estate agents not willing to work much harder to make a sale will find themselves jobless before too long.
- The Bank of Mum and Dad to tighten lending: When parents see the value of property dropping they are less inclined to lend a deposit to their offspring. Many who look to using equity release or a new mortgage to fund their kids will be put off by higher rates and tighter lending criteria.



# Chancellor attends his first G20 Finance Meeting in India

Jeremy Hunt has concluded his first international visit as Chancellor to Bengaluru, India, for the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting held under India's 2023 Presidency.

The Chancellor, alongside Andrew Bailey, the Governor of the Bank of England, attended a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on Thursday 23 February. They were joined virtually by Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko. Their statement sent a strong message of condemnation for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, announced an increase of financial support for the Ukrainian government to a total of US\$39 billion in 2023 and committed to continue supporting vulnerable countries hardest hit by the economic impact of the war.

On Friday, the UK announced a fresh wave of internationally co-ordinated sanctions and trade measures, to further restrict Russia's capability to wage war in Ukraine both now and in the future.

The Chancellor also attended the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the Indian Presidency. He condemned Russia's brutal acts in the strongest terms, emphasising – like many other Ministers present – that securing peace was the most important action for global growth. He also underscored the need for bilateral official creditors and private sector to urgently help address low and middle-income country debt vulnerabilities in developing countries; the importance of multilateral development banks boosting lending from their existing balance sheets; and called on the G20 to fulfil its pledge to channel \$100 billion of IMF Special Drawing Rights in support of developing countries.

The Indian Presidency issued a Chair's statement at the end of the meeting. It highlighted, among other things, the continued need to fight inflation, and the importance of supply-side policies, especially those that increase labour supply, boost growth and alleviate price pressures. There was also G20 consensus, including China, on the need for swift resolution of existing debt restructuring cases and to work on the impacts of food and energy insecurity on the global economy.

While in Bengaluru, the Chancellor had productive bilateral meetings with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, French Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire and Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. He also met with Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers.

At a meeting with Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, both sides agreed to make further progress on the UK-India Free Trade Agreement and deepen bilateral economic and financial ties. They agreed to make swift progress on setting up the next UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue.

The Chancellor took the opportunity whilst in Bengaluru to meet with business leaders, home to India's fast-growing tech hub. He visited the offices of Indian consultancy and tech multinational Wipro, which employs over 4,000 people in the UK.

## **Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said:**

*"Meeting fellow Finance Ministers face to face is an excellent opportunity to make real progress on the key global economic issues of our time.*

*"I first visited India 38 years ago, and it's been fascinating to see how much the country has changed in this time – there are positive lessons to be learnt from their successful rapid development.*

*"It's been great to hear from Indian technology business leaders here in Bengaluru how they are pushing the country's economy forward, and I look forward to further collaboration between India and the UK as we continue to trade and create jobs – delivering on the government's plan to grow the economy"*

While speaking at the meetings, the Chancellor set out the UK government's intention to protect the most vulnerable from cost-of-living pressures, whilst maintaining fiscal sustainability with debt falling and not adding to inflationary pressure.

He added that the upcoming Spring Budget on 15 March will drive economic growth, focusing on skills, business and infrastructure investment and research and innovation, as well as reviewing regulations of the UK's key growth industries.



**HM Treasury**

# Countries begin negotiations on global agreement to protect world from future pandemic emergencies

Countries of the World Health Organization have begun negotiations on a global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, using the [“zero draft”](#) as a basis for negotiating an agreement to protect nations and communities from future pandemic emergencies.

Ending Friday, discussions on the draft pandemic accord took place during the weeklong fourth meeting of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\)](#), which includes WHO’s 194 countries. Negotiations on the draft will continue over the next year according to a timetable laid out by the World Health Assembly.

Mr Roland Driee, Co-Chair of the INB Bureau, from the Netherlands, said: “The start of discussions of concrete language for the WHO pandemic accord sends a clear signal that countries of the world want to work together for a safer, healthier future where we are better prepared for, and able to prevent future pandemic threats, and respond to them effectively and equitably.”

Fellow INB Bureau Co-Chair, Ms Precious Matsoso of South Africa, said: “The efforts this week, by countries from around the world, was a critical step in ensuring we do not repeat the mistakes of the COVID-19 pandemic response, including in sharing life-saving vaccines, provision of information and development of local capacities.”

Ms Matsoso added: “That we have been able to move forward so decisively is testimony to the global consensus that exists on the need to work together and to strengthen WHO’s and the international community’s ability to protect the world from pandemic threats.”

WHO Member States will continue negotiations of the zero draft of the pandemic accord at the INB’s next meeting, to be held over 3-6 April, with a view to collecting all inputs necessary to develop the first draft.

According to the process agreed by governments at a special session of the World Health Assembly in late 2021, negotiations on the draft pandemic accord will aim to produce a final draft for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 2024.

During the week, the senior diplomats from Israel and Morocco, who are serving as co-facilitators of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response, briefed the INB on their preparations for the 20 September meeting, in order to ensure collaboration between the processes.

In parallel with the pandemic accord negotiations, [governments are also discussing](#) more than 300 amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) in an effort to make the world safer from communicable diseases and ensuring greater equity in the global response to public health emergencies.

Governments have been working to ensure consistency and alignment across the INB and IHR processes. The proposed IHR amendments will also be presented to the World Health Assembly in 2024, and would together, with a future pandemic accord, provide a comprehensive, complementary, and synergistic set of global health agreements.



# Disease Outbreak News

## Avian Influenza A (H5N1) – Cambodia

### Situation at a glance

On 23 February 2023, the Cambodia International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point (NFP) reported one confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus to WHO. A second case, a family contact of the first case, was reported on 24 February 2023. An outbreak investigation is ongoing including determining the exposure of these two reported cases to the virus.

These are the first two cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) reported from Cambodia since 2014. In December 2003, Cambodia reported an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 for the first time affecting wild birds. Since then, and until 2014, human cases due to poultry-to-human transmission have been sporadically reported in Cambodia.

H5N1 infection in humans can cause severe disease, has a high mortality rate, and is notifiable under IHR (2005).

### Description of the cases

On 23 February 2023, the IHR NFP of Cambodia notified WHO of a confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. The case was an 11-year-old girl from Prey Veng province, in the south of Cambodia. On 16 February 2023, the case developed symptoms and received treatment at a local hospital. On 21 February 2023, the case was admitted to the National Pediatric Hospital with severe pneumonia. A sample was collected the same day through the severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) sentinel system and tested positive for avian influenza A (H5N1) virus by the reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at the National Institute of Public Health on the same day. The sample was also sent to Institute Pasteur Cambodia, the National Influenza Center, which confirmed the finding. The patient died on 22 February 2023. Cambodia shared the genetic sequence data of the virus from the index case through the publicly accessible database GISAID. Virus sequencing shows the H5N1 virus belongs to clade 2.3.2.1c, and similar to the 2.3.2.1c clade viruses circulating in poultry in southeast Asia since 2014.

A total of twelve close contacts (eight asymptomatic close contacts and four symptomatic who met the suspected case definition) of the index case were identified and samples were collected and tested. Laboratory investigations confirmed the second case on 23 February 2023, the father of the index child. The father, who is asymptomatic, is in isolation at the referral hospital. The eleven other samples tested negative for A (H5N1) and SARS-CoV-2.

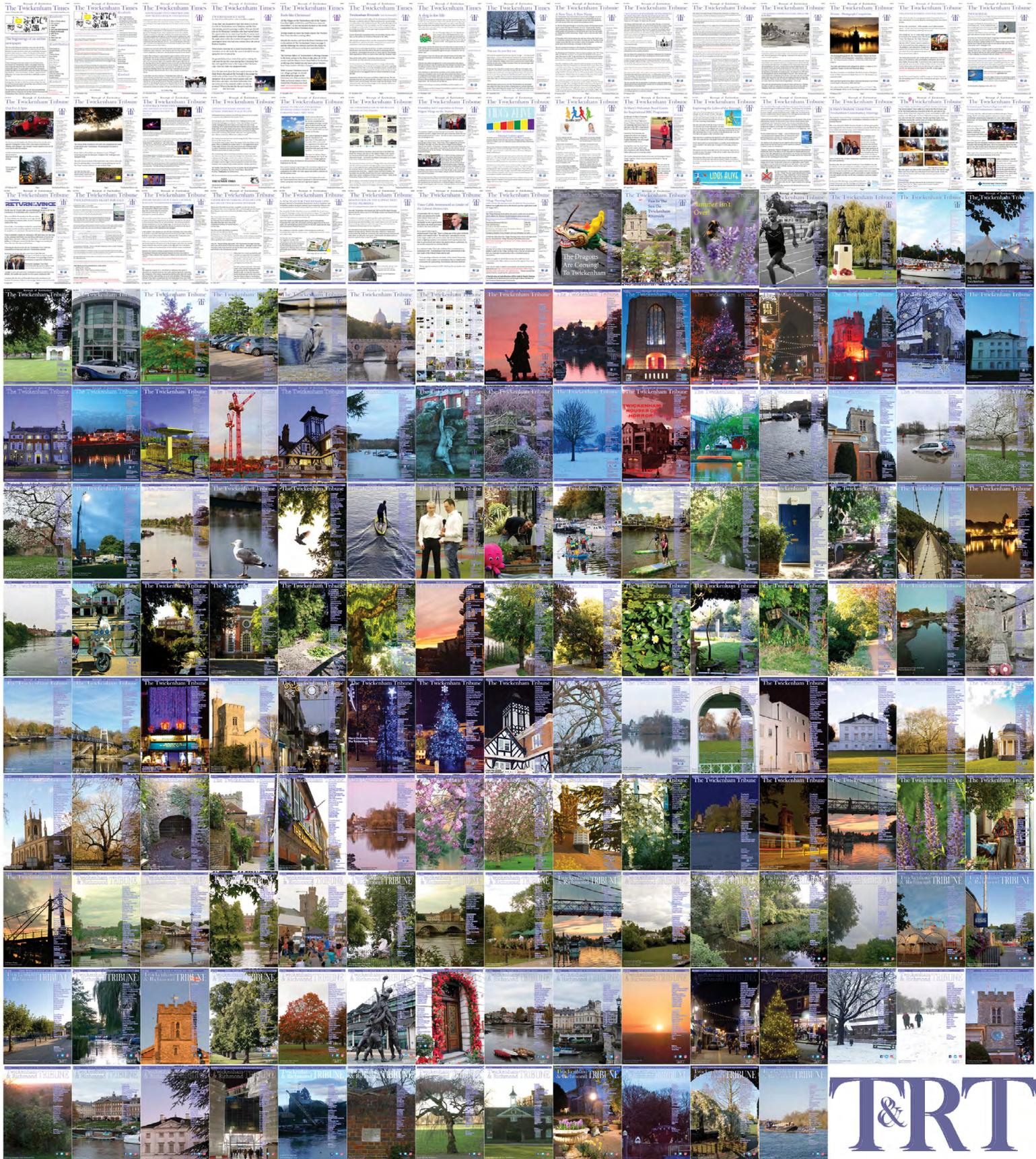
As of 25 February 2023, a total of 58 cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus have been reported in Cambodia since 2003, including 38 deaths (CFR 66%); nine cases and seven deaths between 2003 to 2009 and 47 cases and 30 deaths between 2010 to 2014 were reported.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON445>



**World Health  
Organization**

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