

# The Twickenham Tribune

## DOES RICHMOND COUNCIL HAVE A BUSINESS PLAN FOR TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE?

This week, following requests by readers, the Twickenham Tribune made enquiries about the Council's plans for ownership of Twickenham Riverside. A Council spokesperson answered as follows:



*The Council has not yet taken decisions on the precision of the lease arrangements for the scheme, or exactly how the scheme is delivered and by whom (the two will interrelate). This will be given further detailed consideration in the next design stage. We can however say that it is focusing on options that retain significant elements of control over the way in which the scheme is both implemented and managed.*

Is this similar to the situation we saw with the Community Arts Centre when it was built as part of the S106 Agreement for the former Post Office site? Once built the Council did not have anyone to administer the "Community Arts Centre" until finally it was leased to St Mary's University.

With a site so important as Twickenham Riverside how can residents be sure that the development will not be led by the developer rather than the Council? Surely a Business Plan must be in place at this stage and, if so, it should be shown to residents as an essential part of the Council's current consultation?

However, the Council continues to spend money on their plans for Twickenham's Riverside and important financial decisions were made on Thursday 22 June. Details of the request to Cabinet can be read on the Council's website:

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/documents/s67888/Twickenham%20Rediscovered.pdf>

Of particular note is the heading Finance and Efficiency Implications:

### 4.2

The request for resource of £1.166 million as outlined in this report is expected to be financed from the Area Uplift capital programme. Following this investment, if the scheme progresses beyond this point, then the Council will incur further costs and these are as yet to be identified. If the proposals outlined in this report are approved, the total funds drawn from Area Uplift resources will be £8.3 million with further unquantified costs to follow. Cabinet



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EDITORS:  
Teresa Read  
Berkley Driscoll

## Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com  
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com  
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



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will be asked to further agree the future costs associated with delivery of the scheme, once they are determined.

#### 4.5

The January Cabinet report envisaged that the resources currently being requested for approval by this report were estimated to be £480,000. These have now increased to the requested £1.166 million approval. These costs are anticipated to be chargeable to the capital programme, but should the scheme not proceed, then the costs being incurred would need to be financed by revenue resources. Area Uplift revenue reserves are currently £0.861 million and so would be insufficient to meet the cost in this event.

#### ON TWITTER ON TUESDAY:

*Estimated cost of £466k has risen to £1.166k since Jan! Lost control? That's in addition to £6.84million for the purchase of King Street.*

*Here's the Cabinet report with the wildly inaccurate cost estimate at bottom. That's a 150% INCREASE in 5 months! #TwickenhamRiverside*

## CONSULTATION ON TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

The Francis Terry design shows an entrance to an underground car park on The Embankment under the two blocks of luxury apartments. This positioning clearly shows that no one associated with these plans lives in the area or has had to wade through the Thames during a very high tide to get on and off the bridge to Eel Pie Island.



It is time to step back from the Twickenham Riverside decision - the only hurry seems to be Council elections looming on 3 May 2018. Don't let this Council railroad Twickenham into a decision

One proposal, which has been aired on Twitter, is to use the existing underground parking under the Civic Centre, or even expand under the York House car park; considering their Green Travel policy, the Civic Centre should be released for use by existing local residents, reducing car parking on Twickenham Embankment. Of course 40 flats and 40+ cars is not an acceptable solution for the use of the relatively small piece of land on Twickenham Riverside; the plan of a property developer, in this case LBRuT and the current administration.

Save Twickenham Riverside from Richmond Council, make your views known to LBRuT

[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham\\_rediscovered\\_summer\\_2017\\_indicative\\_views.pdf](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham_rediscovered_summer_2017_indicative_views.pdf)

#### CLARENDON HALL, YORK HOUSE

- o Thursday 29 June, 5 to 8pm - landscaping consultants will attend
- o Thursday 6 July, 5 to 8pm
- o Saturday 8 July, 10am to 5pm

#### ONLINE CONSULTATION

[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/my\\_richmond/all\\_in\\_one/my\\_richmond\\_villages/all\\_twickenham\\_villages/twickenham\\_rediscovered/twickenham\\_rediscovered\\_background.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/my_richmond/all_in_one/my_richmond_villages/all_twickenham_villages/twickenham_rediscovered/twickenham_rediscovered_background.htm)

# THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE

## PART 28 – HOME FARM IN EAST TWICKENHAM

By Alan Winter

Just before the First World War (1914-1918), and 20 years before Twickenham became a borough in 1926, the town and its surrounds was still a rural area with market gardening and farming as main occupations along with the building trades.



Our postcard was sent in 1906 and shows a herd of Jersey Cows at Home Farm which was operated as a dairy farm by J. Clarke and Sons. Josiah Clarke established the farm in the 1890's and by the time of this postcard it covered all of the land between Park Road and the river and was situated behind Richmond Road on the left as you go towards the bridge. The Clarke family lived in Park Lodge and opened their dairy shop in Cambridge Parade in 1901. A real family affair as the premises was jointly used as a Post Office managed by Josiah's daughters. Shops were also opened at Kew, Richmond, East Sheen and Chiswick.



Josiah died in 1917 and the business was merged with the Hornby dairy farm in Petersham to become Hornby and Clarke. The second late 50's postcard shows their shop on the corner of Amyand Park Road and Crown Road opposite St Margarets station. In 1960 the business was taken over by Express

Dairies. After a period of poor profitability this business was also sold on in 2003.

If you have any postcards to dispose of, any comments on this subject, or ideas for future articles, please drop me a line at [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

### **POSTCARDS WANTED**

**Cash paid for Old Postcards**

**& postally franked envelopes.**

**Required by local collector / dealer.**

**Please ring Alan to discuss on**

**07875 578398**

# TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal found some documents on a bench on Twickenham Riverside, allegedly accidentally left by a Francis Terry employee. These documents seem to show some sketches of the proposed underground parking and relevant signage.



TwickerSeal visited the approach to the underground parking (shown below)



# Twickers Foodie

## A splash of Australian Italy – Fiano

By Mike Matthews

As I've mentioned before, I like weird! I like things that, well, that just shouldn't be there. So, you can imagine my delight at finding another Italian grape doing well in Australia.

Fiano hasn't been given the same amount of attention as, say, Pinot Grigio from Venezia. Walk into any major wine vendor and you will no doubt find rows of the stuff sitting on supermarket shelves. But Fiano?

Fiano is a grape that follows the trait of the more classic Italian style white wines; cool, fresh, light, soft citrus fruit flavours, a touch of spritz around the edges. Now! Move this grape to the southern hemisphere and you have a wine that hits the marks mentioned above but with a bit more added weight behind it, culminating in a wonderful summer wine!

Admittedly, the Italian Fiano's that I've had haven't really blown me away, but the guys at Hancock & Hancock, McLaren Vale, Australia, have helped change my perception of this humble grape. They like to be a wee bit mischievous with their wines. They like to find fruit from foreign shores and give it a new home, very similar to the chaps at Some Young Punks, another phenomenal Aussie producer, and Fox Gordon.

Hancock & Hancock Fiano is an interesting alternative for those looking for something different, whilst maintaining a light and fresh, sitting in the back garden sipping under a Twickenham sun, style of wine.

- Hancock & Hancock Fiano, McLaren Vale, Australia - £11.49 or 2 for £20
- Hancock & Hancock Cabernet Sauvignon – Touriga, McLaren Vale, Australia - £11.49 or 2 for £20

Wine Tasting - Join me and Hancock & Hancock UK wine supplier, James Wilson – Hatch Mansfield, in trying these wines at Warren Wines on 30/6/17 from 5pm-8pm.



Available from Warren Wines, 56 Church St, Twickenham – 0208 744 2541

Prices correct at publication. Subject to change and availability. No further discounts apply.

# Offers and Competitions

## Win a bottle of Fiano

from Warren Wines, 56 Church St, Twickenham



Just email [win@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:win@TwickenhamTribune.com) giving your name and postcode, with “Warren Wines” in the subject line.

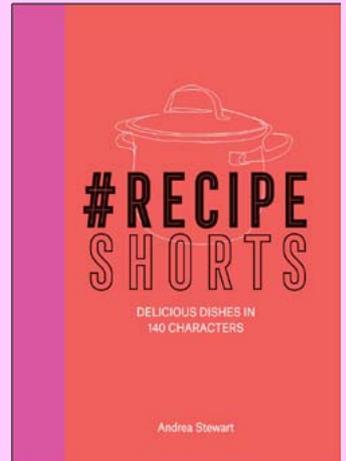
The draw will take place at noon on Friday 30th June.

## Win a copy of the great book

### #RECIPE SHORTS

To enter email [win@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:win@TwickenhamTribune.com) with “Recipe” in the subject and giving your name and postcode

Closing date 30th June.



## Monthly Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club  
With a glass of wine or beer at the bar afterwards



Email your photo to [win@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:win@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
(include your name and postcode) All 4 players must play the same round.

**Photos of pets or wildlife, or any scenes taken within the local villages, ie Twickenham, St Margaret's, East Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Whitton/Heathfield**

This competition is run in conjunction with [Strawberry Hill Golf Club www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)

### STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB



## ADULT GOLF ACADEMY

for returning/new/  
novice golfers

The Academy leads to full membership and includes:

- Instruction based package
- Individual and group lessons
- Rules and etiquette
- Social membership
- Access to golf course

For further information:

- Club Manager: Jon Wright 020 8894 0165
- Professional: Peter Buchan 07795 973926



Strawberry Hill Golf Club  
Wellcley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD  
Tel: Club Manager 020 8894 0165  
Email: [secretary@shgc.net](mailto:secretary@shgc.net)  
To find out more visit: [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)



# Arts and Entertainment

by Erica White



## *Key to Abbreviations at end*

### KINDRED SPIRIT BAND concert at the Twickenham Green Baptist Church

on Saturday 24th June. Address, 50 - 52 Twickenham Green, TW2 5AB.

The Kindred Spirit Band will be performing in this beautiful church for only £5 entry (payable on the door) which includes food! Doors open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm

Website: [www.kindredspiritband.co.uk](http://www.kindredspiritband.co.uk)

Saturday, 24 June at 7.45 at the [MARY WALLACE THEATRE](#) on Twickenham Embankment the [RSS JUNIOR YOUTH THEATRE](#) will present [THE DEATH OF MISS GLORIA STARR](#), a play of their own devising. A second performance will take place on Sunday, 25 June at 3.00pm. Tickets: 87844 0547, [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk), from £8. These young actors are the seed corn of the society and it will be interesting to observe how they develop their theatre skills over the next few seasons.

At HHT in Hampton High Street TTC's next production will be performed in the Studio theatre upstairs. [BREADCRUMBS](#) by Jennifer Haley is a bittersweet stale of memories lost and friendships gained. Performance dates are Sunday 18 June at 6.00pm, then Monday 19 June-Saturday 24 June at 7.45pm. Tickets: 0845 838 7529, [teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk)

[RAS's SUMMER EXHIBITION](#) runs from Friday 23-Sunday 25 June. Friday, 2pm-6pm. Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sunday, 10am-2.30pm at the LAC Ferry Road, TW11. Artists from across the borough will be exhibiting their work in a wide variety of media, as well as demonstrating various techniques throughout the show. Guest artists from twinned-town, Fontainebleau, will also be exhibiting.

For more fine art, remember that [ART HOUSE OPEN STUDIOS](#) runs for two weekends right across the borough when individual or collectives open their studios for the public to come in and browse and buy. Friday 23-Sunday 25 June, and Friday 30 June- Sunday 2 July. More than 100 venues, admission free. Brochures show venues and maps available in Public Libraries. Info: [www.arthouseopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.arthouseopenstudios.co.uk)

[ALL HALLOW'S MUSIC FESTIVAL](#) from Friday, 23 June-Sunday, 25 June. A variety of music in several concerts will be performed. Artistes include the All Hallows Festival Chorus and Orchestra. Festival ends with a Promenade Concert in conjunction with the Summer Fete. Box Office: 8241 2345, [www.goldengiving.com/event/mfest](http://www.goldengiving.com/event/mfest) for times and prices. All Hallows Parish Church, Chertsey Road.

COLLIS CHORAL SINGERS present SONGS FOR THE STAGE: from Purcell to Sondheim, Sunday 18 June, St Mark's Church, Teddington, TW11. Tickets on door; [www.collischoralsingers.org/](http://www.collischoralsingers.org/)

THE HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY glve a concert at St Mary's University Chapel, Strawberry Hill on Saturday 17 June at 7.30. Programme: Rossini's Messe Solenelle, with professional soloists. Tickets: £15 89441 5394, [bidwell.di@gmail.com](mailto:bidwell.di@gmail.com).

As usual FOLK, JAZZ AND ROCK enthusiasts can head to The Cabbage Patch Pub, Twickenham TW1 on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. [Twickfolk.co.uk](http://Twickfolk.co.uk), [eelpieclub.com](http://eelpieclub.com), [twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk](http://twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk).

MRBB's next gig is on Friday, 30 June at [Strawberry Hill Golf Club](#), TW2 5SD For times and info: Tel: 07764 273 173 Shortly after MRBB will be entertaining fete goers on Sunday 2 July on Twickenham Green at 1pm. playing a mix of Blues, Rock'n'Roll, rock and blues classics and original material. They've come a long way since they started on the Thames Estuary! Right across London, in fact.

TEDDINGTON VILLAGE FAIR takes place in [UDNEY HALL GARDENS](#) on Sunday, 25 June, noon-5pm. Stilt-walking, sword fighting, Sharklegs Theatre, and Juggling Jam's Circus Workshop are just some of the delights to look forward to, to say nothing of live music, food and drink, and lots of stalls.

Abbreviations:

RSS: Richmond Shakespeare Society

HHT: Hampton Hill Theatre

TTC: Teddington Theatre Club

LAC: Landmark Arts Centre

MRBB: Midnight River Blues Band



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse  
25 King Edwards Grove  
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
Telephone 020 8274 0107  
Mobile 07960 123580  
Fax 020 8274 0119  
[info@thetreeagency.co.uk](mailto:info@thetreeagency.co.uk)  
[www.thetreeagency.co.uk](http://www.thetreeagency.co.uk)

# LOOKING FOR OUR LOST LIDOS

Lidos Alive is currently researching eight lidos in our borough – past and present.



Twickenham lido on Twickenham Riverside was definitely the jewel in the crown, and documents found show that a lido on Twickenham Riverside was discussed 130 years ago – and is still in the news. Mereway Bathing Place, also in Twickenham, was where many children learned to swim at the turn of the twentieth century.

See the project so far at [www.lidosalive.com](http://www.lidosalive.com)



TWICKENHAM, CORPORATION BATHS.

V6385



# Truth, Reality and Need

## Breadcrumbs

by Jennifer Haley



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Teddington Theatre Club at The Coward Room, Hampton Hill Theatre until 24th June

Review by Thomas Forsythe

There are illness that take away the strength of the body; there are illness that take away the strength of the mind; and then there is dementia, and that takes away the soul. This is what makes dementia, in all its forms, so terrifying to contemplate and so destroying for the victim and those around the victim.

However, we all die and we are all born. It's the bit in the middle that matters. The skill of acclaimed Texan writer, Jennifer Haley, in her sensitively-handled play *Breadcrumbs* is to examine the value of the bit in the middle from a dementia ravaged viewpoint. Nevertheless, this is not a maudlin examination of personal disintegration. The effects of dementia are the springboard for a much wider exploration of relationships, trust, worth, truth, reality and need.



There is a complexity in Haley's script and, in the wrong hands, it could go uncomfortably awry in production. Co-directors, Andy Smith and Jane Marcus, are both well-known as being amongst the best of local actors, but, for both, *Breadcrumbs* represents their directorial débuts, so here is a hard call. However, they have created a memorable theatrical moment; absorbing, reflective, artistically immaculate.

Alida is a writer who is undergoing medical investigations for a rapidly progressing form of dementia. Her self-imposed therapy is to try to write a story in her own style (think folksy but dark fairy tale) that is strongly autobiographical. The breadcrumbs in the title allude to the Hansel and Gretel tale, in which their wayfinding trail of breadcrumbs is eaten by birds and they are lost in a dark wood. Alida's breadcrumbs are her own memories and she is constantly saying that she wants to be "out of the woods".

Set designer, Fiona Auty, has created a sinuously claustrophobic set, into which audience winds its way thought overgrown woodland into a mysterious forest, to discover the interior of Alida's flat in New York. Already we are symbolical probing the interior of Alida's mind, the woods that she wants to be out of.

Into Alida's disintegrating world comes Beth, an auxiliary at the hospital. Beth takes a proprietorial interest in Alida, and becomes engrossed in the biography that Alida is trying to write. Both are lonely, both are adrift emotionally and both have "a past", and within the conceit of the poetic writing of the play, the characters gradually mirror each other. The intricate involutions of this play demands acting of the highest standard, and TTC's company delivers it.

Joolz Connery is simply outstanding as Alida. She precisely pictures the stubbornness that can be ingrained in the self-reliant, the tetchiness that can follow the failing elderly, and the anxiety that always torments those with dementia. Connery has obviously studied the mannerisms of dementia sufferers and has these to a tee. The Alida of now and the child Alida in her mind is accurately and clearly differentiated. The pervasive urgency of Alida's quest is palpable, a quest to race against her failing memory, before she becomes lost in "an infinite indifferent darkness."

Beth is a rootless young woman seeking roots. Lara Parker portrays Beth as a directionless drifter, all at sea but wanting to put down an anchor. She cannot make lasting relationships and has had a string of loveless encounters with different men. Parker skilfully depicts this shrugging aimlessness with a measured empathy, and she also clearly differentiates the real Beth and the Beth as a personification of Alida's mother.

The bit in the middle is still real for Beth, but for Alida the bit in the middle has itself bits missing, such is the nature of dementia. However, another trick of dementia, rather than to hide, is to reveal. Layers of the past can be peeled away to uncover more layers, like the bulb of an onion, releasing forgotten flavours.

But, as Alida says, "we create dreams, but they can never be true".

Read the full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/19/crums](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/19/crums) Photos by Sarah Carter

# England Batsman Hits Eel Pie for Six.

## The Boom Band

The Eel Pie Club, The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham 15th June  
Review by Cliff Tapstand.



It's very rare to find a renowned performer in one form of entertainment playing a leading role in another totally different and unrelated pursuit. But, there we were, at The Eel Pie Club greeting The Boom Band, who were making their first appearance at the venue with former Surrey and England Cricketer, Mark Butcher playing lead guitar. But the surprise didn't stop there. Most groups have one lead guitarist, some will have two and very infrequently there may be three, but, The Boom Band have four, and every one of them highly talented musicians. To complete the front line of the stage there was a stand-in bass player. But, this was no ordinary stand-in, his name is Malcolm Bruce, son of the late, great Jack Bruce of "supergroup", Cream. The full line up was completed by Paddy Milner on keyboards and Wayne Proctor on drums.



It's easy to think that four guitarists on stage at the same time could get a bit competitive, or even confusing, but nothing could be further from the truth. It's obvious from the moment they walk on stage that they enjoy playing together and are having just as good a time as their audience. Their play list for the gig was drawn almost entirely from their excellent album, *The Moon Goes Boom: Live in London*, which is a well balanced mix of their own compositions and blues standards.

A little more about the band: Matt Taylor played in The Snowy White Blues Project, and the late Long John Baldry said he was the best guitarist he ever shared a stage with!

The four lead guitarists.



Marcus Bonfanti

Jon Amor



Matt Taylor

Mark Butcher

Jon Amor was a founder member of The Hoax, one of the top rhythm 'n' blues bands in the country. Marcus Bonfanti, toured with and opened shows for Robert Cray, Chuck Berry, Jack Bruce, Beth Hart and many others. Paddy Milner, founder member of Ronnie Scott's Blues explosion, played for years with Jack Bruce and is Sir Tom Jones' piano player of choice.



Mark Butcher hit 8 centuries playing for England, the highest being 173 not out against Australia at Leeds in 2001. Then he hit just the one 6, but he and the band hit us all for 6 at this gig.

Read full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/17/boom-band](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/17/boom-band)

Photos by Pat Stancliffe



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# Twickenham Green Music and Fun Day

Sunday 2nd July

12pm to 8pm

**Free Live Music**

## FOOD & DRINK

A range of national and international cuisines, soft drinks and alcohol.

## FOR CHILDREN

Funfair, Bouncy Castle and Balloons

## SPORT

Watch Twickenham Cricket Club play on The Green

## PLUS

A variety of stalls and games: commercial, therapy, drama, local schools and charities

## BANDS

12pm Scarlet Kite

1pm Midnight River Blues Band

2pm Stomping Nomads

3pm Richmond Music Trust Soul Band

4pm Buddy Flame and The Rockets

5pm Raffle draw

5.30 pm The Secret

6.30 pm Infinity



Organised by the Friends of Twickenham Green

# Cllr True announces retirement from Council

Cllr Nicholas True, Leader of Richmond Council since 2010, announced at the Cabinet meeting last night (22nd June) that he will not be seeking re-election to the Council in 2018. As a result, he will be stepping down as Leader of Richmond Council on 4th July to enable a successor to be elected to lead the administration forward up to and beyond next May.

Lord True said:

“This will leave a big hole in my life. The greatest honour I have ever had was to be trusted by local people and my colleagues to lead this special community for over seven years.

“My aim has never been self-promotion, simply to give the best, most dispassionate public service in my power day by day. While never belittling the need for challenge and counter-challenge in a democracy, I sought to look beyond party interest to take the best decisions in the public interest. Many of them have been popular, some unpopular, but all were based in solid principle: never promising what we could not achieve, honouring every promise given and trying each day to rise above the negative and follow the creative path, respecting the wonderful inheritance of our borough, but working innovatively for the future.

“At an age when many others think of full retirement I find myself with the privilege of a seat in Parliament at a critical time for our country. I will continue to be active there. We need a more generous-spirited, less angry, more understanding political discourse at every level, less quick to promote division, less prone to instant judgment and more respectful of the ideas and good intent of almost all. I hope to play my part in that. But I will never forget what I owe my borough and will always work to advance its interests at that level.

“It is hard for me to speak of my own record, but I am particularly proud of stabilising the Council finances as Deputy Leader and delivering 6 years without a Council Tax rise as Leader. At the same time I maintained and, I believe, improved local services; and of created over 5,000 new primary school places, setting up the pioneering Achieving for Children, delivering post-16 choice to young people via 6th forms and working for eight new schools, including keeping my word on a secondary school for Roman Catholic pupils.

“I am pleased we have been able to support our high streets, by scrapping taxes on car ownership, introducing fair parking policies and pioneering 30-minute free parking and the Richmond Card to help small shops. I am glad we revised planning policies to block high rise and protect back gardens from infill and backfill; invested hugely in parks and open spaces, saving and improving playgrounds; and with Uplift and Village Planning empowered local people, enriching our unique small communities like Whitton, Barnes and Hampton.

“I am glad we kept our libraries open and kept weekly refuse collections as we promised; made ours an award-winning, flowered borough; made it a zero-tolerance area for graffiti vandals; and invested millions in repairing long neglected pavements and residential roads.

“I am pleased we have supported business, post-16 and adult education. I am delighted we became one of the first dementia-friendly boroughs, sustained help with fuel poverty and introduced the Community Awards to recognise unsung heroes who give so much to others.

“I am glad we were able to save Twickenham Riverside from the concrete mixers and create the award winning Diamond Jubilee Gardens. And I look forward to seeing the delivery of a new heart for Twickenham and new homes in Ham, based on deep consultation with local people.

“Only by working together and by making compromise can communities go forward. That will become ever more necessary as public debt continues to soar and politicians of all parties duck the duty to explain that you cannot forever borrow to spend revenue for yourself today at the expense of the generations of tomorrow. That is why I have sought to protect front-line services by generating economies, saving millions on back-office costs in ground-breaking initiatives like the Shared Staffing arrangement with Wandsworth.

“Whoever is my successor – and that is not a choice for me – will, like me, be a hired hand with a task to do for local people. But they will have the privilege of the best job in the world in the best borough I know. They will never be short of a challenge, but they will have my unstinting support, just as I have been extraordinarily grateful for the support, hard work, ideas and encouragement of my colleagues in my Group on the Council.

“The next Leader will also have the support of that miraculous band of people who work for Richmond Council. Public servants in local government do not often get the thanks they deserve. They have mine. Not the least privilege of nearly 20 years on the front bench in the Council Chamber has been to know and work with such an outstanding, skilled and dedicated set of men and women in public service. I was proud to be Leader of Richmond Council, but it was an honour to lead Richmond Council’s staff. I thank them. I thank my Councillor colleagues. And I thank all those local people who gave me their trust.”

Cllr. Lord True was first elected to Richmond Council as a Councillor for East Sheen Ward in 1986. He was Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1998-2002, Deputy Leader of the Council from 2002-2006, Leader of the Opposition from 2006-2010 and has led Richmond Council since 2010. He became a member of the House of Lords in 2010. He and his wife, Anne-Marie, a local nursery school principal, have lived in East Sheen for over 35 years.



# Too hot and want a cooling swim - check before you visit your outdoor pool



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

As a result of the warm weather and high demand for a cooling dip, residents are encouraged to check the

Council's website or social media before visiting Pools on the Park to ensure that the outdoor pool has not reached its bather capacity level.

To ensure the comfort, enjoyment and most importantly safety of everyone that uses the facilities, the Council has to maintain a safe capacity limit. With the hot weather, the outdoor and indoor swimming pools at Pools on the Park have been very busy.

There is also currently a high demand for the ongoing term-time programme of swimming lessons, school swimming lessons, fitness classes and gym use.

Therefore, if the capacity is reached, the Pool facilities may close to additional customers at short notice.

To avoid disappointment, the Council encourages anyone looking for an outdoor swim to double check online before arriving at the centre.

Cllr Meena Bond, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Sports, said:

“The safety of all our customers is of paramount importance. Therefore, we must ensure that our sporting facilities, including the outdoor pools adopt safer operating practices, including capacity limits. To do otherwise would be irresponsible.

“Therefore, to avoid disappointment, remember to check online or follow @poolsinthepark on Twitter.”

The outdoor grounds are scheduled to open on 26 June as advertised.

For more information, go to: [www.richmond.gov.uk/pools\\_on\\_the\\_park](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/pools_on_the_park)

## TWITTER AND POOLS ON THE PARK ON TUESDAY

Pools in the Park Tweeted:

*For safety reasons sunbathing and sitting around the outdoor pool is not permitted around the outdoor pool @LBRUT #outdoorswimming*

One of many unimpressed replies:

*Only queuing and swimming are allowed at certain times of day. The grounds are still closed so relaxing is not permitted. #somuchfun*

# 3-33 KING STREET, TWICKENHAM



3-33 King Street, which runs from Boots to Iceland, was recently bought by the Evergreen Retail Investment Company Ltd, a long term investor.

The new owners have instructed GL Hearn as community engagement advisers and we have prepared this leaflet to provide you with some background and our contact details whilst the Council is consulting on its developing plans for the sites next door, known as Twickenham Riverside.

## THE SITE

3-33 King Street plays an important role in the area, however it has not always necessarily been looked after as well as it might have been. The new owner is looking to take a much longer term and more responsible approach to the site. This includes the cleaning up of the frontages on King Street as well as the rear area which is the subject of fly tipping and which is now being regularly cleared.

There are also likely to be opportunities over time to enhance the shopping offer on King Street and to improve the site's overall contribution to Twickenham.

Evergreen has a long term investment approach and, wherever possible, looks to work in partnership with neighbouring landowners, tenants, councils and other stakeholders, including local communities, wherever it operates.

Evergreen welcomes the prospect of investment on neighbouring sites and conversations are already taking place with the Council on the Twickenham Riverside project.

We will be in contact with you again when there are some thoughts on what might be done to improve 3-33 King Street. In the meantime if you have any questions or would like to let us know what you think of the area, please contact us:



**By emailing us**  
3-33kingstreet@glhearn.com



**By calling us**  
0344 225 0003



**Or writing to us**  
Freepost RTHZ – AKZT – SABG  
GL Hearn  
280 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 7EE

## TOWER BLOCKS - Questions from Vince Cable & John Coombs

Vince Cable and Councillor John Coombs, who is a ward councillor for Heathfield ward, have made the following inquiries to Richmond Council, regarding the large tower blocks on Edgar Road.

Given the tragic events in Kensington we have a number of questions regarding the two blocks at Edgar Road: Jameson and Slade.

- When was the last time a fire risk assessment was carried out on the two high rise blocks?
- What fire instructions have been given to residents?
- Has any consideration been given to have a fire drill practise?
- What specifications were given for the external cladding of the buildings?
- What consideration has been given to installing sprinklers in the common areas?
- What communication is RHP undertaking with all residents on the estate?

## Richmond Council meet Richmond Housing Partnership amid concerns over the borough's tower blocks

Lead members and senior council officers from Richmond Council met with the largest social housing provider in Richmond to seek reassurances that all possible measures are being taken to ensure their housing stock is safe from fire.

Richmond Council does not own any social housing stock. All previously owned Council housing was sold to Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) and transferred into their ownership and management in July 2000. Following the Grenfell Tower fire, Council officers and the Cabinet Member responsible for housing met with RHP.

At the meeting, RHP reassured the Council that they own and manage only two fifteen-storey blocks in Richmond upon Thames (Slade House and Jamieson House in Heathfield) that have recently been refurbished and over clad. RHP identified that both have a Rockwool cladding, a product that has been tested and is highly fire resistant.

The other tall building in their ownership, a nine-storey block (Peldon Court) in Sheen Road, Richmond is not clad.

RHP has also assured the Council that all their blocks have up to date fire risk assessments. RHP has communicated this, along with a reminder of fire safety procedures, to their tenants. Council officers also confirmed that RHP would be writing to tenants as appropriate to provide additional reassurance and will be making checks of their blocks to ensure that fire procedures and exit ways are clear.

Richmond Council can also confirm that emergency planning arrangements have also recently been reviewed. Whilst any major or significant incident may require a response that involves agencies and other councils, as has been the case with the Grenfell Tower fire, the up to date plans in place will provide reassurance to Richmond residents.

# Over £2000 Raised at Charity Art Auction

On Friday 9th June, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) was the venue for a special charity auction featuring the hidden work of the late artist, Desmond Jones.



Desmond Jones studied at RuTC when it was known as Twickenham Art School in the 1940s.

The auction, which was hosted by BBC Auctioneer Charlie Ross, raised £2575 and benefitted over 30 charities with a local or personal connection to the artist. Each charity chose a painting from which to receive funds raised at auction and over £1400 was raised in total which included a donation from the BBC Auctioneer Charlie Ross.

## Former Richmond Chief Executive awarded OBE

The former Chief Executive of Richmond Council, Gillian Norton, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of her services to Richmond upon Thames and local government.

Gillian Norton was Chief Executive of Richmond Council for 17 years (since August 1999). Before that she was Chief Executive of Wokingham District Council for six years.

She retired from Richmond at the end of September 2016, whereupon she took up an honorary position as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Richmond upon Thames. In addition, in February this year, Gillian was announced the new Chair of St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## CONSULTATIONS

### Hampton Congestion

Congestion improvements in Hampton: Have your say online now by the 14th July at: [consultation.richmond.gov.uk/highways-transport/hanworth-uxbridge](http://consultation.richmond.gov.uk/highways-transport/hanworth-uxbridge)

All the information gathered through the consultation, has now been incorporated into draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs).

Drop-in session for Strawberry Hill

### Drop In

The Council is hosting a drop-in session to provide residents with an opportunity to view and discuss the documents with Council officers:

### Strawberry Hill

Saturday 24 June 2017, 1.30 to 5.30 pm, Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Wellesley Road TW2 5SD  
All the information gathered through the consultation, has now been incorporated into draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs).

THE local business group SporTedd, which was set up to support community sports projects, has launched a new scheme to offer small grants to individuals, clubs or teams.

SporTedd was set by a group of local business people in Teddington, Twickenham and Hampton with a professional connection or interest in sport.



Applications are welcome from any group, whether it is individual subscription fees, club kit for an individual or team, specialist equipment or competition fees.

Each application will be judged on its merit by a special panel of members of SporTedd. Chairman, Julian Pike said: "We are delighted that we are now in a position to invite applications for modest financial support for local worthwhile sport-related causes. We welcome any application and each will be carefully considered."

The deadline for the first round of applications is July 31st this year and decisions will be made by 13th September 2017.

Please go to [www.sportedd.co.uk](http://www.sportedd.co.uk) and email form to [applications@sportedd.co.uk](mailto:applications@sportedd.co.uk). SporTedd's main objective is to raise funds and support local sport-related good causes, which can make a difference in our community.

## HAMPTON HILL CRICKET CLUB REFURBISHMENT

Hampton Hill cricketers have been bowled over with a new refurbished artificial match pitch. Thanks to £5,000 from the Council's Civic Pride Fund, Hampton Hill Cricket club have been able to refurbish their facilities and resurface the artificial match pitch.

This is part of a larger project where the practice pitch will also be re-surfaced at a later date.

The project has enabled the club to continue its expansion of junior cricket support – which includes All Stars Cricket for children aged 5-8 years old and the launch of a new girls-team.

The club has now also sponsored four Level 2 coaches and the refurbished facility will enable them to coach the age group teams in a safe environment.



# TWICKENHAM FESTIVAL

9 June to 25 June

# 2017

TWICKENHAM  
TOWN

BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATION

[twickenhamthetown.org.uk](http://twickenhamthetown.org.uk)

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Party Store

WHITE RABBIT  
DRAMA & ORLEANS  
GALLERY

what are u  
bringing?

# Big Picnic

25 June 12 till 5pm

The street will be grassed for the occasion so bring a Picnic or buy your Picnic in Church Street from Corto or Snax, or eat Al Fresco at the restaurants. Take-away real pizza Napolitana from Masaniello. Buy a raffle ticket for the Great Church Street Picnic hamper, watch Punch and Judy, workshops with White Rabbit Drama & Orleans Gallery. Play garden games plus activities, a competition with Harlequins, a children's carousel, face painting, fun photo booth, free balloons donated by Fiesta Party Store, live music & other entertainment!

*Treasures on Your Doorstep: Join Octagon Club and Transitions Art Group in creating a collaborative artwork about stories, memories and the history of Twickenham. The groups will be collecting the local communities' memories of the area and creating an artwork from them. Bring along a photograph or object that tells your story! This project will result in a summer exhibition at St Mary's Church. Octagon Club and Transitions Art Group are artists with Special Educational Needs aged 13 upwards.*

 LONDON BOROUGH OF  
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's Awarded Silver in Teaching Excellence Framework



St Mary's has continued its drive for academic excellence, achieving Silver in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), published on 22nd June.

Introduced as part of the Higher Education Bill, TEF recognises and rewards excellent learning and teaching to ensure that prospective students can make informed choices about the quality of their lecturers and programmes.

One of 12 universities in London to have been awarded Silver status, the TEF Panel judged that St Mary's delivers high-quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It also found that the University consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.

In its summation of the evidence submitted, the TEF panel highlighted St Mary's strategic commitment to developing excellence in learning and teaching, high-quality physical learning resources, student-staff ratio, course design, and an excellent comprehensive and embedded approach to student engagement with some elements of exemplary good practice.

Of particular note, the TEF panel found that, "Most students achieve excellent outcomes. Very high proportions of students continue with their studies and progress to employment or further study, with highly skilled employment being particularly notable."

Speaking of the award St Mary's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Campbell said, "I am delighted that we have achieved the Silver Award in the Teaching Excellence Framework. One of our core values is excellence, and it is a testament to the diligence and dedication of staff across the University that we have received the Silver award. Since 1850, we have consistently placed a strong focus on teaching, and student outcomes and this award recognises the value and quality of our work."

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Academic Strategy Prof John Charmley added, "This was a tremendous team effort. Our dedicated Learning & Teaching team, working across St Mary's with our Programme and Academic Directors and their colleagues, can rightly feel that their tremendous achievements have been recognised nationally; but St Mary's will not be settling for Silver - our eyes are on Gold for the future."

Underlining the importance of TEF to students, St Mary's Students' Union President Zander Lavall said, "Making informed decisions about the quality of teaching at a university is vital to students considering a university education. I am really proud that St Mary's has achieved Silver and that future, current and past students, and the wider community, know just how great St Mary's is at educating its students."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

## 'NINE IS FINE!'

To make the most of the time and money you spend on golf, call our manager Jon Wright on **0208 894 0165**



### Strawberry Hill Golf Club

Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD

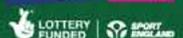
**Call our manager Jon Wright on 0208 894 0165**

**Email: [secretary@shgc.net](mailto:secretary@shgc.net)**

**To find out more visit [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)**



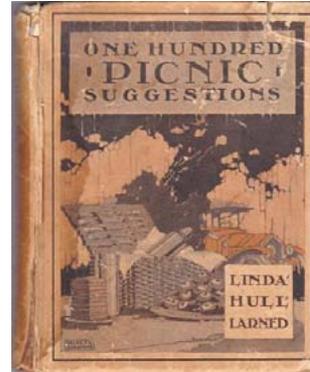
Places People Play



# Church Street's Big Picnic

By Shona Lyons

For the Twickenham Festival this year, we decided to add a new event in Church Street's calendar called the Big Picnic. We were inspired by the old Victorian style picnics, where a long time ago it was a status symbol to design elaborate picnics where the ladies of the house would be up at the crack of dawn preparing all kinds of treats for the day. They were very elaborate affairs and people would even take furniture with them and play garden games.



welcome and Church Street will be grassed for the occasion. We are hoping that people will bring a picnic or buy a picnic at Snax Sandwich Bar or Corto Deli, Church Street, Twickenham to eat on the grass or they can also eat Al Fresco at the many restaurants in the street or buy real Pizza Napolitana from Masaniello. We are also selling raffle tickets for the Great Church Street Picnic Hamper which is being created by Corto deli,

There will be lots of treats children, with our favourite and most violent Punch and Judy shows, or they can take part in craft workshops with White Rabbit Drama Club. They can also try their rugby skills in a goal competition with prizes from Harlequins Rugby Union, ride on a children's carousel, enjoy having their faces painted with a really accomplished face painter and they can take away free balloons from Fiesta Party Shop which we will give out at the Punch and Judy shows.

Everyone can play giant garden games which we will dot around the street & we are also having a fun photo booth from a local business called FUN Photos where people can have fun photos taken as souvenirs at a specially themed booth designed for the event.

Of course no event would be worth its salt without live music and we have this with our much loved local bands from The Richmond Music Trust and St Margaret's Elastic band, you can also enjoy a FREE Swing Dancing District lessons outside the Fox and Jim Sole another talented local musician will be playing from 3 till 5pm outside the Eel Pie.

Orleans House Gallery are also making an appearance with "Treasures on Your Doorstep" where you can join Octagon Club and Transitions Art Group in creating a collaborative artwork about stories, memories and the history of Twickenham. The groups will be collecting the local communities' memories of the area and creating an artwork from them. Bring along a photograph or object that tells your story!

[www.twickenhamthetown.org.uk](http://www.twickenhamthetown.org.uk)



# Vince Cable to Stand as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

Today I am announcing that I will be a candidate in the forthcoming Liberal Democrat leadership election. I wanted to do so on Lib Dem Voice, the leading forum for discussion amongst our membership.



With 20 years on the national political stage I am passionate as ever about our liberal values. I am ready to commit my energy, enthusiasm and experience to the task of leading the Liberal Democrats through what will be a period of chronic uncertainty.

With the prospect of another election looming large, we must be ready for the fight.

Brexit negotiations have begun. The government is split and weakened; Labour is equivocal about Europe. The Liberal Democrats alone have a consistent and principled, outward looking, and approach to the issue. We must fight for the British public to have a final say on the government's deal with a chance to stay in the EU if the deal is not good enough. To achieve this, we will need to work with like-minded people in other parties.

As Shadow Chancellor I secured a hard-won hearing for the party on the economy, warning of the 2008 financial crisis which has been a source of economic weakness, great inequality and political anger ever since. In government for five years as Secretary of State for Business I created a distinctive Lib Dem vision for the economy with a long-term industrial strategy, promotion of science and innovation, banking reform, investment in young people via apprenticeships and the promotion of socially responsible capitalism. With the economy approaching the Brexit iceberg, Liberal Democrats need more than ever to warn of the dangers ahead and the need for a new course.

As a socially progressive party we must build on our good policies in support of public services. The NHS, especially mental health, and social care and schools are now under severe financial pressure. Our campaigning on these issues, and others, like the environment, must be national and at community level, building on a long tradition which created the party's local government base. With a clear voice and a clear message on these issues, we can rebuild our vote share and representation nationally, in local government, the Scottish parliament and the Welsh and London assemblies. There are big opportunities ahead. The Conservatives are in disarray and in retreat. The Labour Party outperformed expectations but complacently believes that 'one more heave' will see it into office. But an economic policy based on offering lots of free things lacks economic credibility and will be found out. Investing in infrastructure, rather than borrowing for everyday running costs is credible. There is a big space in British politics which I am determined that we should occupy.

The contest will take place with the largest membership electorate in our party's history. We should be ambitious about increasing our number still further and in particular attracting young people to our cause. I welcome the more diverse party and parliamentary party we now have and will give priority to promoting diversity, an issue I championed as a minister and with some success in business leadership.

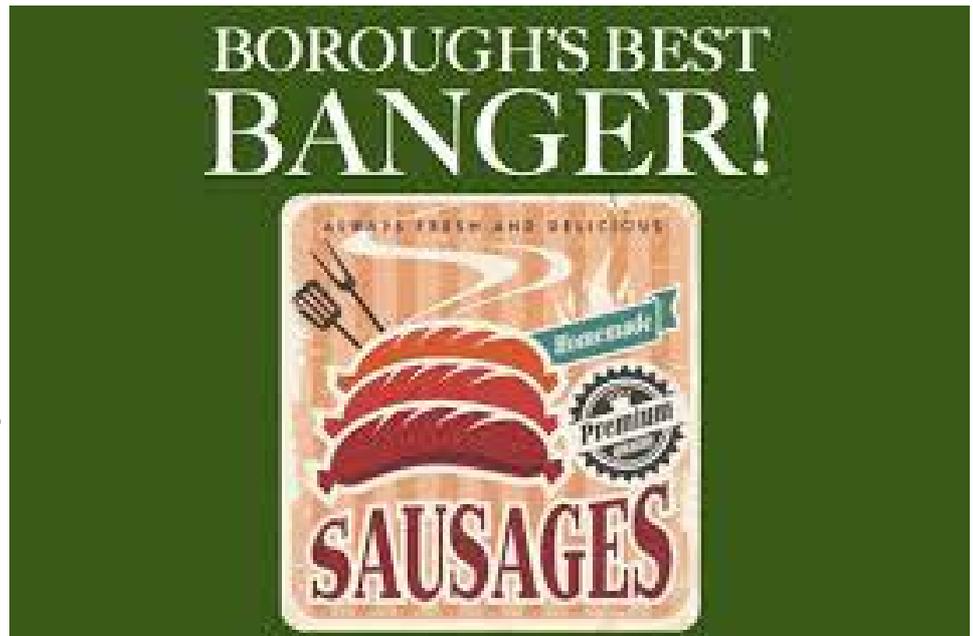
The party has survived five difficult years of Coalition government and the disadvantage of the current unreformed voting system. We are now growing again and the political winds are moving in our favour. I believe I can, as leader, offer the energy, dedication and drive, as well as experience, to help – with you – to make our party a credible contender for power.

# The Borough's Best Banger

Once again the competition is on to find the borough's best banger.

Pop down to the Diamond Jubilee Gardens

Sunday 25th June  
12 - 3pm.



Sample the offerings and vote for you favourite.



**Enter a team of 16 (plus drummer)**

**Food stalls, crafts, water zorbers, climbing wall, live music**

**[www.TwickenhamAlive.com](http://www.TwickenhamAlive.com) Sponsored by Tech21**



### by Georges Bizet, libretto Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Grange Festival at The Grange, Hampshire until 8th July

Review by Mark Aspen

Spitting and stabbings and incendiary sex-drives were not the sort of thing that one could entertain one's proverbial maiden aunts with in 1875, even in Paris, and the first Parisian audiences had to at least pretend that they didn't like it. So poor Georges Bizet may have died thinking that Carmen had flopped and that it was the least popular of his works, but history has shown it to be the world's most popular and most performed opera.



With its hummable tunes and bold colourful characters, Carmen has also become a popular opera in the sniffy sense of "pop op". However, that mould of the pastiche is well and truly smashed with The Grange Festival's current production of Bizet's Andalusian sizzler. Here is a production that has depth, that has sinew and that has veracity. This is the only production of Carmen that has moved me to really feel for the characters and genuinely to care about their plight.

The plot of Carmen is driven by two themes: jealousy, which here doesn't just bubble under the surface, but rushes along in an overwhelming torrent; and of course, that sex-drive, which in this production motors at full revs with twin turbos. However, what is firmly established is that it is the women who take the driving seat. The opening scene in the square in Seville has the soldiers harassing the innocent Micaëla in a darkly menacing way. She is only rescued from the threatening "gang-bang", by the changing of the guard and the subsequent shift-change at the nearby tobacco factory, when the tobacco girls show them who really call the shots. The softened soldiers sing "les paroles d'amour", but the girls tell them "peut-être demain". Then they call for Carmen. "L'amour est un oiseau rebelle ...", the famous habanera, establishes Carmen, for whom it would be an understatement to say that she is her own woman.

The Grange Festival has created the world of Carmen (at the only just finished the theatre building) at The Grange as a beautifully simple visual metaphor, initially seen as an empty stage backed by an immense cyclorama of quilted silk, reminiscent of birds' wings, onto which projected images of various birds emerge and dissolve in the different moods of "l'oiseau rebelle".

Carmen's fire is sparked by its eponymous free-spirited anti-heroine. Carmen flits through the interstices of society with a vixen-like agility, sharp, sensual, seductive, but skilful, shrewd and perceptive. Israeli mezzo-soprano Na'ama Goldman excels as Carmen, her luscious velvety voice speaking in fiery song for the character, and inhabiting Carmen's restless soul. Carmen sings "toujours l'amour", but her conflicting impulsive instinct, "je veux être libree" is the cause of the downfall of the hapless Don José, who becomes obsessively infatuated with Carmen. American-Italian tenor Leonardo Capalbo is totally convincing in this role, a man hopelessly smitten in spite of his own better council, and that of Micaëla his child-hood sweetheart. Carmen dances her habanera, which presciently finishes "prends garde à toi", throws the flower and José is irredeemably snared. Capalbo's rendering of José's response, "la fleur que tu m'avais jetée" is reflective and lyrical. But as José slides down a spiral of total enthrallment, Capalbo shifts his tone into the realm of the dramatic tenor, exploring José's anguish and conflicting emotions.

This is a Carmen that is truly exceptional. It puts aside the superficial of a rollicking good story to probe its darker depths, and examine the powerful human emotions, the irresistible strength of the animal sensuality that is Carmen, and her allure, an allure that gathers all around in her thrall. This is an allure that leaves Don José pitifully consumed and helplessly deluded, a fatal delusion that leads the opera to its climactic conclusion.



Read full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/16/carmen](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/16/carmen)

Photographs by Bob Workman

# Dangerous Liaisons in The English Heart

by Matthew Campling

Etcetera Theatre, Camden, until 2nd July

Review by Eleanor Lewis

Actors are great. When most people think of actors they tend not to focus on the thankless work in fringe theatre that underpins the wide and varied performing arts scene in this city. No-one pays great attention to the particular skills required to bring new work convincingly to life in a tiny theatre over a Camden pub on one of the hottest days of the year and after the fourth major national tragedy in three months. The fact that actors, playwrights and producers continue to produce and perform with only the most basic facilities, is something greatly to be valued in these trying times.



Trying times, specifically Brexit, being the subject of Matthew Campling's latest play, *The English Heart*. Shortly after the 2016 Referendum, in Lincolnshire, married couple Marie and Jake sell the family farm to Andre, a mildly mysterious character back from South Africa, nursing a broken heart and developing an aversion to close relationships of any kind. Marie and Jake don't like talking about Brexit to the point of fingers in ears and tuneless singing whenever the subject is mentioned, but they do want to enjoy themselves ... separately ... with Andre. Both begin secret sexual relationships with him and these proceed splendidly – in fact Marie hasn't had sex this great for quite some time - until Andre begins to resent their neediness, and ultimately their liaisons are revealed. At which point a small apocalypse occurs and husband Jake attempts to shoot himself.

The analogy is clear if you want it: Britain throws in its lot with the EU and enjoys the bounty therefrom for quite a while until things begin to get a little less simple and demands and responsibilities seem to overtake the advantages. However, this work is more than an animated metaphor though and classier than a dramatized illustration of the state we're all now in. The three characters and their interactions are believable and well played by the actors, and their creator ultimately treats them with kindness. They are weak and funny, but dignified. Once humiliated by their failings, their strengths bring them together to rescue the situation.

*The English Heart* is funny, but there is a comforting feeling of vindication about it too. You feel for its creator and his characters the kind of private sympathy you felt for the teacher when you were ten and your class was told off for collective misbehaviour that you were involved in, and quite enjoyed, but knew would end in tears.

Read full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/english-heart](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/english-heart)

Photographs by Matthew House



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# Greetings from Gibraltar

TwickerSeal is on holiday in Gibraltar, but our intrepid reporter is still on the case. Gibraltar is a safe, welcoming destination with a great deal to offer visitors; history, culture, relaxation, entertainment ... you've got it!



The Moorish Castle



Barbary macaques in Gibraltar



The Moorish Castle



TwickerTerrapin's cousins



Ready to repel Spain



Lots of night life



Tribune's temporary office



A Lido with a view



The Rock

It doesn't take long for conversation to turn to Brexit and what it means to Gibraltar; it is obviously a subject of great concern, which is probably not fully appreciated by us back in the UK. Recent developments do not necessarily augur well. David Davis' deputy at the Brussels talks is Olly Robbins, who is credited with removing Gibraltar from Theresa May's Article 50 letter. That act enabled Spain to sneak in its power of veto and suggests that the only UK/EU border under discussion is Northern Ireland.

While Scotland has all the benefits of UK membership, but wants to leave, perhaps Gibraltar could join the UK as a fully devolved institution, and enjoy full sovereignty and protection from Spain thereafter?

# TWICKENHAM ALIVE FILM FESTIVAL 2017

## Film of the week

### TWICKENHAM JAZZ CLUB SKETCHBOOK



#### Filmmaker: Alban Low

*Running time 2' 35"*

*Artist Alban Low has spent the past two years sketching at the world class Twickenham Jazz Club. Here he opens up his sketchbook revealing 30 living and exciting drawings that reflect the music and the club itself.*

The first Twickenham Alive Film Festival, was launched in 2012, and the awards ceremony took place in 2013. The original theme "Where We Live" has been widened to allow a more varied entry criteria, although films are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

## Film Festival 2017 is now open for entries

To submit an entry contact: [film@twickenhamalive.com](mailto:film@twickenhamalive.com) or [www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com](http://www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com)

Thanks to Try Twickenham for their sponsorship



# Improvisation of Genius

## Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria

by Claudio Monteverdi, libretto  
Giacomo Badoaro



Grange Festival at The Grange, Hampshire until 2nd July  
Review by Mark Aspen

The Modern Greek poet Constantine Cavafy says in his poem, Ithaca, “Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage / Without her you would never have taken the road...”

Odysseus' road to home may have been two decades long, but certainly the most touching human episode described by Homer in The Odyssey is his homecoming and his reuniting with his wife Penelope. Ulisse's (Odysseus') landfall on a deserted Ithacan beach is the starting point for Monteverdi's majestic opera, Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria.

Claudio Monteverdi was 74 years old when he composed this remarkable work. That was in 1641, four years after opening, in Venice, of the world's first opera house. This year marks the 450th anniversary of Monteverdi's birth, and the Grange Festival's production of Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria is a fitting celebration of this “improvisation of genius”, as a contemporary described the opera.

The journey to Cavafy's Ithaca “... is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge”. Homer certainly ascribes a series of human weaknesses to Odysseus' protracted return journey, a point that Monteverdi clearly remind us in the Prologue, in which L'umana fragilità (Human Frailty) is mocked by Tempo, Fortuna and Amore (the gods of Time, Fortune and Love). Man is slave to their every whim.

In this production, L'umana fragilità is (ostensibly) a hapless member of the audience, a latecomer, who is pulled onto the stage to be stripped of his dinner suit and subjected to all sorts of indignities. The vocal tormenting by Tempo, Fortuna and Amore comes from three singers (Paul Whelan, Donna Bateman and Lorneza Paz Nieto), whereas their “physicalisations” are by a stilt-walking grim reaper, a pretty young girl riding a bicycle, and a blindfolded cupid mounted on sprung powerbocks. These gods remind us that every human is assaulted by Time, is Fortune's toy, and that Love is a god that even hurts gods. Countertenor, Robin Blaze, creates a picture of L'umana fragilità helpless against the ravages of these forces of life and, when he is exposed spread-eagled on circular table, an analysed and proportioned human, referencing Leonardo da Vinci's L'Uomo Vitruviano, we feel his plaintive cry “misero sono mio!”

This outré setting characterises a presentation of imaginative invention. And so the quirky gods continue with Nettuno (Neptune) jetting up through a stage-trap in a wetsuit with flak-jacket, harpoon gun and oversize harpoons, all jet-black; whereas Giove (Jupiter) is a rigger from an industrial plant, atop an hydraulic “cherry-picker” platform and carrying an angle-grinder (which subsumes the role of thunder-bolt). Minerva first appears disguised as a shepherd boy, gathering a flock of sheep made from bicycle saddles and coiled springs all painted white. When she resumes her own identity, it is as the Owl of Minerva with blue silky wings and huge myopic spectacles.

Fertile minds imbue this production and director, Tim Supple, former artistic director of the Young Vic, has a wide-ranging vision that encompasses all this idiosyncratic symbolism, and more. Although this blend of post-modernistic design and early Baroque music could seem self-indulgent, it works brilliantly ... and, maybe surprisingly, unobtrusively.

Michael Chance, The Grange Festival's artistic director, is internationally renowned as a foremost counter-tenor. One feels that The Grange Festival's production of Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria is Chance's brainchild, and he has personally adopted the role of musical director. The opera is in good hands, for Chance clearly understands Monteverdi, with its fluid and lively scoring, its descriptive purity and its emotional intensity. Chance, lucky man, gets two groups of musicians, two sets of instruments for the Baroque period, each with its own pit: The Division Lobby, which provides the continuo; and The Academy of Ancient, which plays the ritornello.

As Ulisse, Paul Nilon portrays a man who is heroic but astute, noble but patient, the man to be shipwrecked with if you wish to survive. His strong lyrical tenor voice encapsulates Ulisse's anguish at being at his goal, but not quite. (And how can he hold that bent pose for so long in his disguise as the decrepit down-and-out?) Italian mezzo-soprano Anna Bonitatibus is outstanding as a regal, resolute and contained Penelope, her fine voice interpreting the baroque score with an expressive simplicity. Her opening, “di misera regina” captures the emotion of the piece in a moving and dignified manner. The final duet when the torments of Ulisse and Penelope have ceased and the reunion is complete, “O delle mie fatiche meta dolce e soave”, the sweet and gentle ending, was extremely touching.

With the help of Minerva, all three suitors fail in their quest of seducing the faithful Penelope, but when the beggar is revealed as the disguised Ulisse, this is the cue for the suitors' massacre. The dramatic tension at this point is as tight as Ulisse's bowstring, and it is an accolade to the acting that a lady, one of the staid members of the black-tie Grange audience, sitting behind your reviewer, involuntarily called out, through clenched teeth, a loud “Yesssss!” ... ..

Read full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/18/ulisse](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/06/18/ulisse)

Photos by Bob Workman



Mark Aspen

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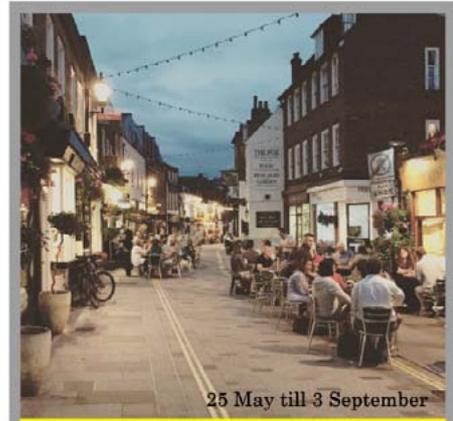


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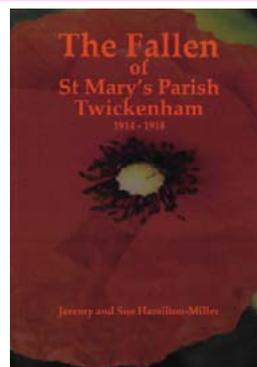
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