

The Twickenham Tribune

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*Merry Christmas
 From
 The Twickenham Tribune*

Photograph © World InfoZone
 Graphics by Berkley Driscoll

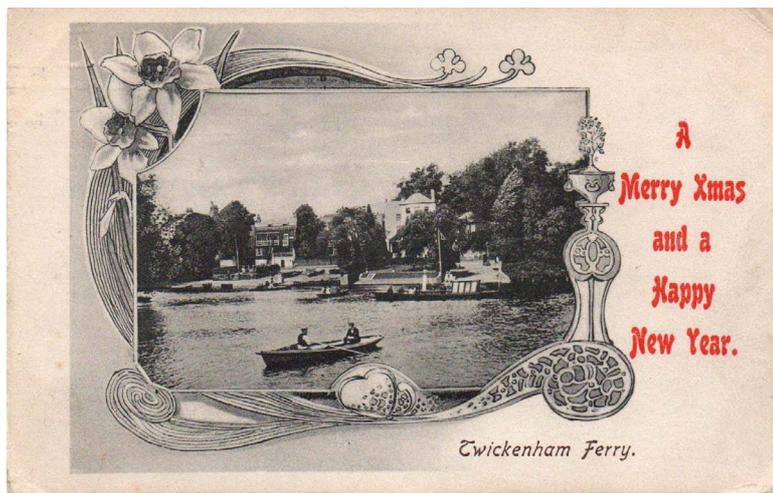
THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE

PART 54 - POSTCARDS ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

By Alan Winter

Imagine waking up on Christmas Day in Edwardian England. The year could be anywhere between 1901 and the beginning of World War I which began in 1914. The postal service was far superior to its current day counterpart and households in the UK could look forward to several postal deliveries a day including weekends, bank holidays and even Christmas Day! With no telephones or computers in those days the only method of communication was by post. The letterbox would rattle and quantities of Christmas postcards (Christmas cards came later) would land on the mat. If the postman got up early enough he would get home in time for his own Christmas lunch.

The Christmas message on the postcard shown was overprinted on a standard Twickenham Ferry card for the festive season. This was very common practice for local publishers and stationers to sell extra stocks of postcards at Christmas, New Year and Easter.



If you can find a bit of time next Thursday 28th, you may like to pop over to Tolworth where a large postcard and ephemera fair is taking place. Ideal for those with an interest in the past to wade through piles of ration books, old illustrated invoices, cigarette cards, maps and postcards from all over the world. I shall be there with my stock of local postcards so do come and say hello.

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WITH THIS COUPON - HALF PRICE ENTRY - AT A FUTURE FAIR

Last week's column gave the earliest known recorded dates of postmarks on picture postcards sent from Twickenham, Teddington and Hampton. Hampton was the earliest with a recorded date of April 2nd 1898. We came up trumps when the owner of this card contacted me to say that it was in his possession and he has given me permission to use the postcard and its researched history in a future column. I'll do that early next year. Meanwhile – Merry Christmas!

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

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Twickers Foodie

'TWIXTMAS TREATS'

By Alison Jee

Not long now till the big day! The shops are heaving as we rush to fill our homes with every conceivable thing people might want to eat over this festive period. No doubt we will all be eating lots of big meals in the next week or two, and perhaps, for those lovely lazy days in between Christmas and New Year, we might actually have time to relax and enjoy a cooked breakfast or brunch together 'en famille'.

I'm rather partial to Prosciutto di San Daniele, which was first introduced to me by NifeisLife – an excellent Italian online food delivery company. It's traditionally processed with no additives or preservatives.

The recipe I'm going to suggest for a festive brunch also uses one of my favourite cheeses – Grana Padano – that's hard, slightly sweet, and deliciously salty. Apparently invented by Benedictine Monks as a clever way of preserving surplus milk, it is made today in the same way as for centuries. This recipe combines many of my favourite ingredients and should be enough to set you up for the day, especially if you pop a thick slice of toasted sourdough underneath the Prosciutto.

POACHED EGG, PROSCIUTTO, GRANA PADANO & ROCKET WITH TRUFFLE DRESSING

Recipe by Dan Doherty

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2 free range eggs
- 6 slices of Prosciutto di San Daniele
- 50g Grana Padano, shaved
- Handful of rocket
- 2 tbsp sherry vinegar
- 2 tbsp truffle oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- 50ml white wine vinegar



Method

1. To make the dressing, whisk the sherry vinegar and the truffle oil together
2. In a medium pot, bring some water to the boil with the vinegar. Poach the eggs until soft and then strain on a paper towel
3. Dress the rocket in some of the dressing and season
4. On a plate, build up a nest of the rocket, Prosciutto and cheese shavings
5. Place the egg on top, and finish with a good twist of black pepper on top and a pinch of sea salt

And here's a great and - really simple - idea for a pre-Christmas lunch snack, or for a party at New Year.

CHEESE PASTRY STRAWS, WRAPPED IN PROSCIUTTO

Makes enough for 4

Ingredients

- 1 sheet of puff pastry 30cm x 20cm
- 100g Grana Padano, finely grated
- 8 slices of Prosciutto di San Daniele
- 2 egg yolks (you can make meringues with the whites, don't forget)
- Black pepper



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees C
2. Using a pastry brush, coat the whole sheet of puff pastry in egg yolk
3. Evenly scatter the cheese over the entire sheet, then place in the freezer for 30 minutes
4. When firm, cut across width ways at 1cm intervals
5. Twist each one and place onto another tray keeping a 3-4 cm between each one
6. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden and crisp
7. Allow to cool on a wire rack then wrap each one in fresh slices of the Prosciutto, covering 2/3 of the stick

Offers and Competitions

Win a lovely prize in the New Year of a pack of Prosciutto di San Daniele and a chunk of Grana Padano.

To enter, just tell us what animal plays a major part in the production of Prosciutto and send your answer to win@twickenhamtribune.com together with your name and postcode, with **Prosciutto** in the subject.

Closing date is 12 noon Sunday 7 January 2018. The winner will be notified the following week.

RICHMOND FILM SOCIETY COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets for any film of your choice in the second half of Richmond Film Society's 55th Season, which runs from 16 January to 24 April 2018

Competition Question

Which country has had the most nominations for the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award without ever winning? (a) Poland or (b) Israel?



Please send your answers to win@twickenhamtribune.com, giving your name and postcode with **RFS** in the email subject line.

Correct answers will be drawn to determine the winning entry on 12 January 2018.

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

(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)

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MAKING IT WORK FOR THE WINE

Michael Gatehouse

Premier Wine

Over the years there have been hundreds of articles written about which wine goes best with turkey at Christmas, and which ones to avoid like the plague. I've just read a couple that have denounced the evils of tannins and crisp acidity, so it's Pinot Noir or Beaujolais or nothing, and Chardonnay or nothing. Well, that's all very fine, but if you persevere, and read enough articles, you will find just about every wine type trumpeted as a match for the turkey dinner. Even Chateaufeuf du Pape, sparkling red shiraz and Prosecco.



The reason, of course, is that it's not just turkey or goose. Sausages wrapped in bacon, cranberry jelly, stuffing, gravy, vegetables of all kinds. You have got a kaleidoscope of tastes and flavours available, depending how you do it. So don't be told! The new rule (in my house anyway) is drink your favourite wines on Christmas Day. Do it the other way round and make the food match the wine; if you love light, gentle reds like Pinot Noir from the Loire or young juicy Beaujolais, or crisp, delicate whites such as Orvieto or Soave, then go easy with the black pepper and Parmesan roasties. Likewise, if you have to drink that bottle of big Italian Amarone you've been promising yourself, pop another couple of sausages onto your plate and pep up the stuffing with a bit of Chorizo. Food and wine, the age-old partnership.



There are plenty of traditional suggestions for trimmings that you can tweak the recipe with to work best with the wine of your choice: like hazlenut & mustard carrots, charred Brussel sprouts with Marmite butter, or Persian cranberry sauce. I have no idea what these taste like, but I'm reading pomegranite molasses and orange zest for the sauce. That's one for the big Aussie shiraz lovers.

I think if you are going to have a selection, it might be wise to begin the meal with a light wine, then move up in volume and intensity as you add more accompaniments to the turkey. I'll probably begin with an Albarino, a lovely delicate yet tasty Spanish white, then power up to either a mature Bordeaux or Chianti Classico, adding trimmings as I go. I'll stick with the reds through the cheeses, then a bottle of Leffe Brune for the Christmas pudding.

Enjoy your Christmas meal! Eat what you like, drink what you like.



Arts and Entertainment

by Erica White



Ever popular EDMUNDIAN PLAYERS are first off into the pants season with SLEEPING BEAUTY, 19-27 January, matinees and evenings at St Edmunds Church Hall, Nelson Road TW2 7BB.
info: edmundianplayers.com.

Now returned from their Railway Children journey, RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY venture into Hollywood with the entertaining comedy, BETTE AND JOAN by Anton Burge, showing these grande dames at close quarters in their adjacent dressing rooms. Performances at The Mary Wallace Theatre, Saturday, 20-Saturday, 27 January, at 7.45, Sunday, 21 at 3.00pm, (no perf on Wed 24 Jan).
Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk.

A VILEW FROM THE BRIDGE by Arthur Miller will be performed at HAMPTON HILL THEATRE from Sundy, 28 January-Saturday, 3 February at 7.45, Sunday at 4.00pm. Book early as this play is on the schools' syllabus so heavy booking is anticipated.
nfo. ttc-boxoffice.org.uk.

TEDDINGTON & HAMPTON MUSIC FESTIVAL presents A NEW YEAR ENTERTAINMENT at NORMANSFIELD THEATRE, Langdon Down Centre, TW11 9PS. This concert is in aid of local charities and welcomes talented young performers from the borough, plus Jonathan Cohen, fresh from his Albert Hall Christmas concerts. Friday, 5 January at 7.00pm Tickets £20.
email: hilarydodman@hotmail.com.

The following evening, at the same venue, a fundraising concert will be presenting NEW YEAR IN OLD VIENNA, featuring Mozart, Schubert, Sullivan, J. Strausss, Lehar, Stolz, Kreisler, Noel Coward and Ivor Novello. Saturday, 6 January at 7.30pm.
info: langdondowncentre.org.uk.

Also on Saturday, 6 January at 7.30pm THE THAMES YOUTH ORCHESTRA present a programme of classical music including Dukas, Ravel, Kodaly and Stravinsky under the baton of Simon Ferris. at THE LANDMARK ARTS CENTRE.

info: landmarkartscentre.org.uk.

TWICKFOLK are at the Cabbage Patch, TW1 3SZ from 8.00-11.30 on Sunday, 7 January at 7.45.

info. www.twickfolk.co.uk.

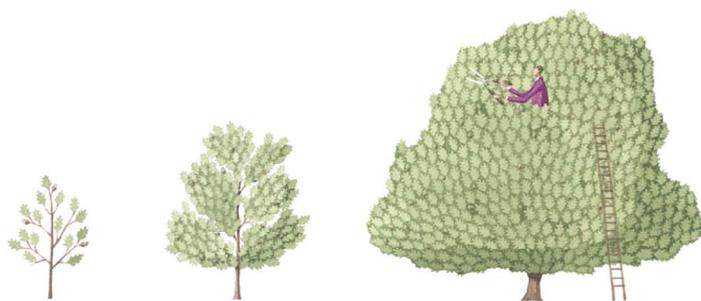
EEL PIE CLUB, also at the Cabbage Patch on Thursday, 11 January, Bluesclub. info. eel.pieclub.com.

TWICKENHAM JAZZ CLUB resume residence of THE PATCHWORKS BAR at The cabbage Patch on Tuesday, 23 January from 8.-11pm, featuring KELVIN CHRISTIANE ALL-STARS BIG BAND.

info. twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk.

Please note that the Richmond Film Society has relocated to THE EXCHANGE, opposite Twickenham Rail Station from the Pete Postlethwaite room at St Mary's College. Also there will be more about continuing gallery exhibitions in our next edition.

Best wishes for a very good and enjoyable festive season to all performing, visual and creative artists who display such talent throughout the borough, and to all of you who support them.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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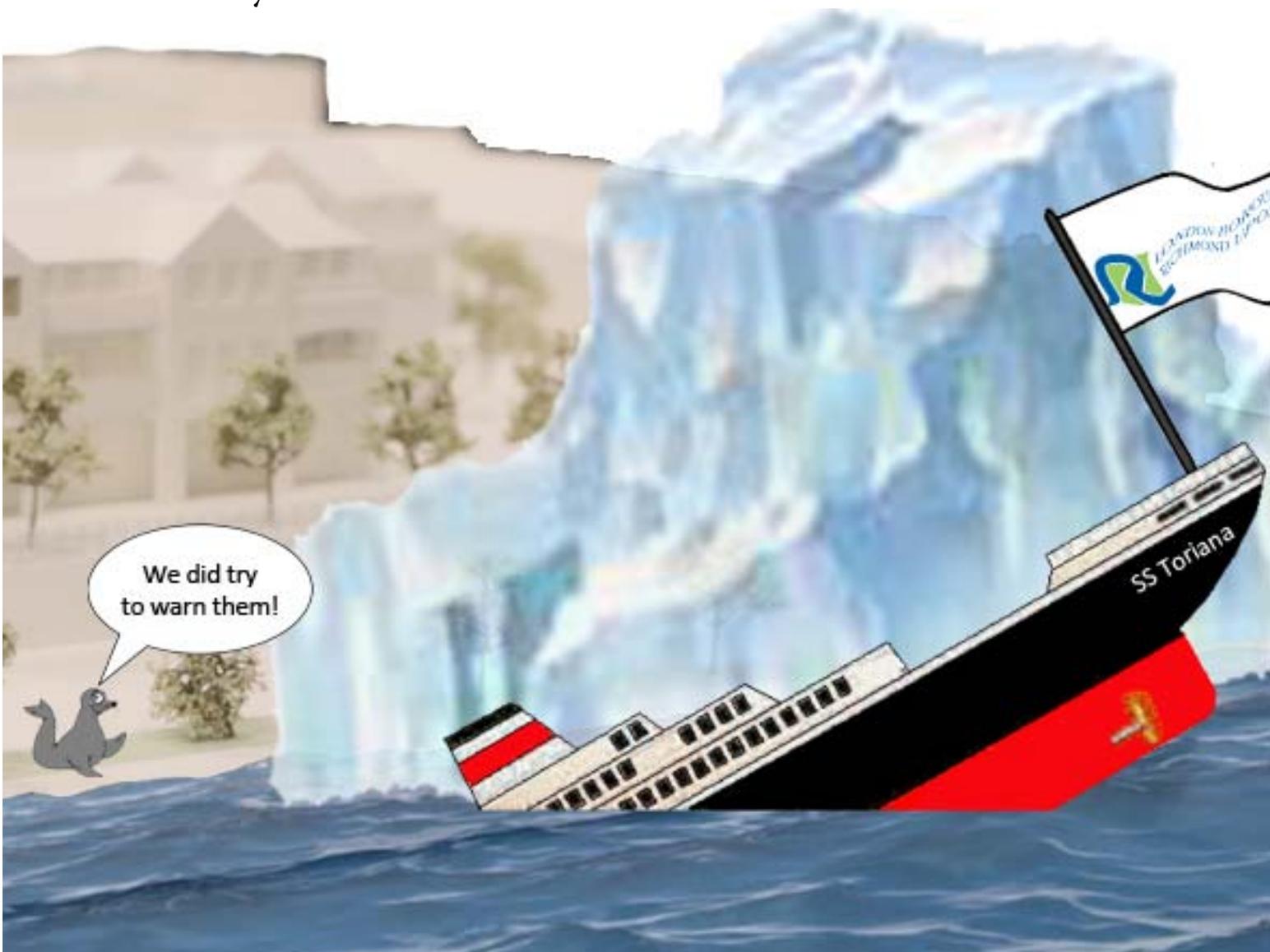
TwickerSeal

The council has pushed on with its plans to develop Twickenham Riverside into a 'Tesco' architecture housing estate with attached riverside car park.

On Tuesday there was a meeting of the Twickenham Rediscovered Scrutiny Panel. This was able to be viewed on webcast (along with poor video, audio and many moments when microphones weren't on), although some discussions were held 'in camera' for topics too sensitive for the public's ears.

Cllrs Gareth Roberts and John Coombs asked a number of questions, which for the most part did not get adequate responses.

Cllrs Grant Healy (Whitton) and Martin Seymour (Hampton North) defeated a motion to delay spending a further £700,000 before the planning committee decision, obviously blissfully unaware of residents' views and the upcoming elections in May 2018.



TwickerTape - News in Brief

RG. I., PR. A. AJ. SS. I., ST. SF. I., PR.
200.81 $\frac{1}{2}$ 66.92 $\frac{3}{4}$ 20.99 161 $\frac{5}{8}$ 76

Police and Council encourage vigilance this holiday season

Neighbourhood watch groups around Richmond are being encouraged to be vigilant about the risk of moped theft in the borough. The Metropolitan Police have written to groups advising owners of mopeds and other residents to be alert to the high risk of theft of mopeds, as well as crime committed using mopeds.

Borough schools at the top of national results tables

Pupils attending primary schools in Richmond upon Thames are at the top of the national league tables yet again following publication of the 2017 Key Stage 2 (SATs) results last Thursday. The results show that the borough has scored the highest in London in nearly all areas with 86% of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, 84% in writing, 87% in mathematics, whilst 76% did so in reading, writing and mathematics combined, all considering above the national averages.

Gambling: At the LBRuT Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday it was revealed that by the time the Council's planning application reaches the Planning Committee Cllr Fleming will have spent £2m progressing the application. We know about being economical with the truth but what about being economical with the money?



Historic England has said that LBRuT did not notify them of the historic nature of Twickenham Riverside and a Condition has been imposed on the Council planning proposal which could delay building if anything of archaeological note is discovered.

Could the Santander car park compete with the car park in Leicester which covered the remains of Richard III for centuries after the Battle of Bosworth?

View more information on Richmond House at

www.MemoriesOfTwickenhamRiverside.com



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Dr. Chris L. Murphy



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Twickenham



CHRIS MURPHY PRACTICE

St Mary's University Update

Sir Mo Farah Wins Sports Personality of the Year at St Mary's

Alumnus of St Mary's University, Twickenham Sir Mo Farah celebrated winning the annual BBC Sports Personality of the Year award from a live feed hosted at the University.



Sir Mo, who this year was knighted, won a Gold and Silver Medal in the London 2017 World Championships, and

returned to St Mary's as the athletics track was named in his honour, won the title in a public vote, featuring 11 other leading British athletes.

He was joined at St Mary's by fellow nominee and tennis star Johanna Konta who reached the semi-final of Wimbledon earlier in 2017. Sir Mo received over 83,000 votes to win, with Jonathan Rea in second and Jonnie Peacock in third.



Despite some technical issues with the BBC's satellite truck, Sir Mo was able to share his delight at winning the award when the video link came back up, telling the stadium, "It is pretty amazing and hard to think about...I didn't imagine I was ever going to win this but anything can happen. If you work hard you can achieve your dreams."

St Mary's Director of Sport Andrew Reid-Smith said, "I am delighted for Mo, it's a fantastic recognition of everything he has achieved so far, and we're looking forward to his new road running career."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

NPL unveils the world's smallest Christmas card

- Each page of the card is 15 micrometres wide, and 20 micrometres tall (one micrometre is a millionth of a metre)
- You could fit over 200 million cards in a single postage stamp
- In a cubic metre, similar to the size of a post box, you could fit 7 quadrillion (7,000,000,000,000,000) of these cards – roughly 900,000 for every person on Earth
- The previous record-holder was 200x290 micrometres – ours is over 10x smaller



Click image for video

18 December 2017 - It's the little things that make Christmas special, and with this in mind, National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's National Measurement Institute, has created the world's smallest Christmas card. Measuring in at 15x20 micrometres in size, you could fit over 200 million cards in a single postage stamp. The card requires a powerful microscope just to see it, let alone read the festive message inside. To make the card 10cm in height, you would have to magnify it 5000x; equivalent to blowing up a postage stamp to the size of a football field.

The card is made from platinum-coated silicon nitride, usually used in electronics, and both the design on the front and the message inside were carved out by a focused ion beam – a jet of charged particles. The tools used to make the card are being used to develop cutting-edge techniques for understanding materials on a tiny scale, helping to further the miniaturisation of electronics, and the development of new battery materials.

NPL has world-leading materials characterisation capabilities, spanning everything from micrometre-scale analysis, all the way up to the monitoring of large-scale infrastructure from space. NPL helps industry to better understand the most exciting materials, from graphene to high-performance composites, and apply them to new applications.

Dr David Cox, Research Fellow at NPL, who created the card with his colleague Dr Ken Mingard, said: “While the card is a fun way to mark the festive season, it also showcases the progress being made in materials research on this scale. We are using the tools that created the card to accurately measure the thickness of extremely small features in materials, helping to unlock new battery and semiconductor technologies. It's a genuinely exciting development that could help to make new technologies and techniques a reality.”

Beware the Jabberwock!

Alice in Winterland



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

by Ciaran McConville adapted from the stories and poems of Lewis Carroll
RTK Productions at The Rose Theatre, Kingston until 7th January

Mark Aspen writes:

Taking our vorpal swords in hand,
my seven-year old companion and I
wended our way through the mimsy
borogoves to The Rose Theatre,
Kingston. On the way home my
young expert and I discussed Alice in
Winterland. She writes:



Review by Evie Schaapveld (aged 7)

I loved the parts where they showed the Jabberwock and the Bandersnatch,
because how they made them was very creative.



The Bandersnatch was very kind even though he looked very ferocious, and he looked like a half skeleton, half the Jabberwock, and half cat. I was terrified by the Jabberwock and he looked like an enormous pterodactyl skeleton.

The blue caterpillar was very good, and very funny, and they made him very long. I liked the stairs on the stage and I liked how they had two Alices. One was in her own house, the other was the one who went to wonderland.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/12/17/alice
Photographs by Mark Douet



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*Arragon Road Car Park is not in the Try Twickenham offer, due to free parking available via shopping at Waitrose.
This offer will continue after January 6th but with reduced availability, between 10am and 2.59pm.

All information correct at time of print.

A Cornucopia of Panto Aladdin



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

by Jonathan Kiley and Alan McHugh

Qdos Entertainment at Richmond Theatre until 14th January

Mark Aspen writes:

“Everything you could wish for in a panto”. So says the advertising for Richmond Theatre’s production of Aladdin. And this is a pretty accurate description of what you get, for nothing is spared to stage a sparkling spectacle. There is no danger of being under-the-top. Pyrotechnics come almost as fast as the quick-fire jokes. Add in glitter balls, flutter drops, bubbles and smoke and it adds up to quite a spectacle.

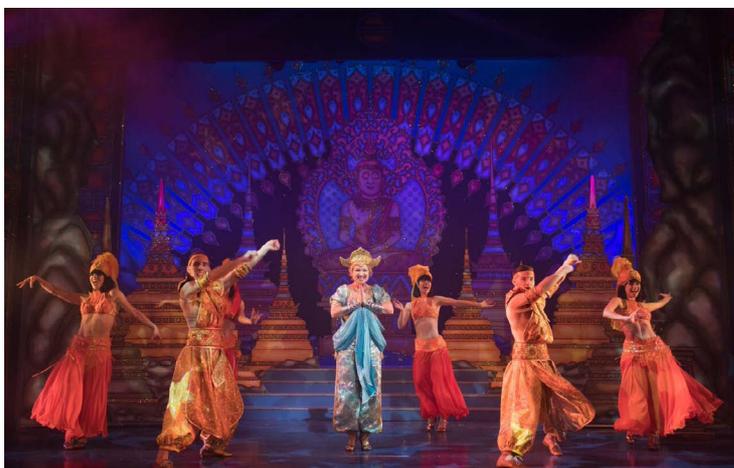


Plus an incredible flying carpet that swoops right over the audience. Then to all this lavishness, there are mind-bendingly inventive speciality costumes. (These include washing machines, teapots, prison cages and talking coolies; and that’s just a start!)

But who better could there be to fill these costumes, than the humourist and raconteur Christopher Biggins?

Read the Mark Aspen’s review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/12/15/aladdin

Photographs by Craig Sugden



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Jewish Prague wide range of dates available

30 March 3 nights departing from Heathrow. From £825 p.p

Vince backs Gibraltar

Vince Cable (@vincecable) tweeted at 10:07 pm on Sat, Dec 16, 2017:

Thanks @Hugodixon for reminding us about #Gibraltar. Hard or soft border? If #Spain plays hardball do we send gunboats? #ExitFromBrexit

<https://twitter.com/vincecable/status/942154176234172417>



Photo by Berkley Driscoll

Spare a Thought at Christmas

Christmas is the season of goodwill and sharing time with friends and family.

This year it is also the time for making a Comment on the Twickenham Riverside Planning Application.

Planning consultation ignores public holidays so Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day are all planning consultation days. Of course, it would be possible to adjust the consultation period but the Council is keen to push on with the planning.

Bah Humbug! - And the ghosts of Twickenham Riverside Past, Present and Future!!

If you can spare a thought for Twickenham Riverside over the festive season this is the place to go.

http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=17/4213/FUL

Comments will be shown on the planning website after the holiday period as Council officers are not available during this period.



River Crane Sanctuary



This Week's Photos
from the River
Crane Sanctuary



A Poem for
Christmas

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell
Berry

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/poems/peace-wild-things>

The River Crane Sanctuary Under
Threat

<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

Twickenham MP Vince Cable joins calls for Greg Clarke to back offshore wind after meeting with local Greenpeace supporter

Vince Cable, MP for Twickenham and Leader of the Liberal Democrats, has joined calls for Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to back offshore wind and push government to be more ambitious with their 2018 Industrial Strategy after a meeting with Peter Dombi, a Greenpeace supporter from Twickenham.

Peter is one of more than 80 Greenpeace supporters, representing constituencies across the UK, who are urging their MP's to contact Greg Clark directly about raising his, and the government's, ambition for offshore wind in the 2018 Industrial Strategy. Offshore wind energy has halved in price since 2015, from £117.7/MWh to £57.50/MWh, making it cheaper than the price of new nuclear, such as Hinkley Point C (£92.50/MWh).

Being ambitious with targets for offshore wind energy in the Industrial Strategy could transform the UK energy landscape, create thousands of new jobs and help tackle climate change. The offshore wind sector has stated that it can provide 30% of UK power by 2030, and 50% by 2040, but the current government's ambition for offshore wind is only 20% of UK power by 2030.

Peter Dombi, who met with Vince Cable on the 15th December 2017 at the Twickenham constituency office, said:

“I wanted to meet Vince in person because I am proud of the steps the UK has taken towards a low carbon future, but don't want us to rest on our laurels. Offshore wind is clean, economically viable, and can create thousands of jobs if it is given enough support. There is still so much to be done, and I hope Greg Clark will listen to the concerns of UK citizens and be as ambitious as he should be with his strategy for offshore wind.”

Vince Cable commented:

“When in government I sought to promote offshore wind through the post-2011 Industrial Strategy and the Green Investment Bank. It has proved a viable, competitive, renewable source of energy and the level of ambition should be raised. Offshore wind is now cheaper than nuclear and competitive with gas. It can create thousands of new, skilled jobs across the UK, without harming our planet. It's logical for government to be ambitious in their plans, instead of disregarding the offshore wind sector's capacity to provide 50% of the UK's energy by 2040. Britain should be leading the way in clean energy, and setting these targets for renewables would be a good start.”

Vince Cable agreed to write to Greg Clark on the issue following the meeting, and bring the concerns of Twickenham's residents to the heart of Westminster.



A Pat on the Back for a Ballet Dancing Cow

Jack and the Beanstalk

by Lizzie and Tim Iredale, and Marcia Kelson with music by Simon Herd

PTC at Putney Arts Theatre until 22nd of December.

Review by Melissa Syversen

Pantomimes are upon us in all their sparkling glory and this time I was off to Putney Arts Theatre for Putney Theatre Company's production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

As the audience enters, we are welcomed by the inhabitants of Comfart Farm and other villagers. Originally known as Comfort Farm, the farm is run by Mama Trott, her son Jack and their farmhand Pat who take care of their prized cow Buttercup and the rest of the livestock. Due to his profession and name, Pat is, quite understandingly, affectionately nicknamed Cowpat. Times on Comfort Farm are hard. Mama Trott is crippled by debts and cannot afford to grow anything other than beans, which in return barely generates any profits. Having nothing else to eat but beans, their cow Buttercup can hardly produce any milk. Caught in this vicious circle, what meagre income the farm can scrape together is quickly taken by the evil debt collector Lord Wonga (a running gag throughout the show is his increasingly lavish clothing and accessories) and his sidekick Quik Quid, claiming to work on behalf of the evil giant who lives above the clouds.



Jack and the Beanstalk, though popular, it is done less than many pantos. Given that the story involves both a literal giant, a castle in the sky and the growing of a gigantic beanstalk, it is understandable that many theatres might take pause when choosing to stage it. Putney Theatre Company, however, is undaunted by these challenges and meets them head-on. And we the audiences are very lucky that they did. The new writing team of PTC has created a witty script with many funny jokes and references. Together with an original score, they have been particularly successful in finding the balance between comedy set pieces, storytelling and music. Often the larger, professional pantomimes can be a bit too much spectacle with little if any, story or character along the way. (Palladium, I am looking at you.) Jack and the Beanstalk at Putney Arts Theatre prove that you don't need a huge budget, former X-factor winners or Qdos Entertainment to create a great piece of pantomime.

In the capable hands of director Jeff Graves and the creative team, the whole piece is staged in a very clever way with many satisfying tricks and surprises along the way. A definite scene stealer and crowd favourite though was undoubtedly Buttercup the cow, impressively played by Ellen Fife and Emma Fleming. Anyone who can do synchronised jazz pas de bourrees while wearing a pantomime cow costume are heroes in my book.

Read Melissa Syversen's full review at: www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/12/18/jack-bean

Photographs by Rich Evans Photography



Mark Aspen

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Places People Play



Hammersmith Bridge closed to vehicular traffic

Richmond Council is giving residents and businesses advance warning of the disruption planned maintenance and investigation work on Hammersmith Bridge will cause to roads in Richmond between Christmas and New Year.

The work is being carried out by Hammersmith and Fulham Council and Transport for London (TfL) and is scheduled to run from 8am to 6pm on Thursday 28th December 2017 and 8am to 6pm on Friday 29th December 2017.

Hammersmith Bridge is currently operating under severe weight restrictions with one bus permitted to travel in either direction at any one time. Hammersmith and Fulham Council and TfL are still finalising plans for major repairs to the bridge later in 2018. The current work is essential to ensure the bridge can continue to operate effectively and better inform the design of the final upgrade works.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council and TfL have apologised in advance for the noise and congestion this may cause to surrounding roads.

Motorists will be diverted via Chiswick Bridge and Putney Bridge. One footway will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists, who will have to dismount to cross. Please take care when crossing as it may be busier than usual.

The following bus services will terminate before the bridge: 33, 209, 283, 419, 485. Passengers can walk across the bridge to resume their journeys. For those less mobile, the 72 bus service will be diverted via Chiswick.

You can get the latest bus information from TfL at www.tfl.gov.uk/buses, or follow @TfLBusAlerts on Twitter.

The works are an interim measure to keep the bridge in use ahead of major repairs that are scheduled for 2018 - you can find out more about this project at www.lbhf.gov.uk/hammersmithbridge



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The second half of Richmond Film Society's Season comprises the following eight films at The Exchange:

16th January 2018 – Paterson (USA) - Directed by Jim Jarmusch

Paterson is a bus driver-cum-poet named after the New Jersey town in which he lives and works. Thinking while he drives, he writes snatches of verse on his lunch break, taking inspiration from his passengers' conversations, before going home to his wife Laura.



30th January -Embrace of the Serpent (Colombia) - Directed by Ciro Guerra

The story of the relationship between Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people, and two scientists who work together over the course of 40 years to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant. Short-listed for the Foreign Language Oscar.

13th February – Graduation (Romania) - Directed by Cristian Mungiu

Cristian Mungiu examines the corrupt underbelly of Romanian society through the travails and moral conflicts facing a respected doctor. When his daughter suffers a debilitating assault the day before her critical final examinations, his moral world view is put to the test: just how many strings is he prepared to pull to ensure that she makes the grade ?

27th February – Men and Chicken (Denmark) - Directed by Anders Thomas Jensen

A Danish comedy of an unusual and dysfunctional family reunion and the revelation of more than just one skeleton in the closet. When two brothers return to their family home after their father's death they meet their estranged siblings, with funny and bizarre consequences.

13th March – Outside the Law (France) - Directed by Rachid Bouchareb

An Algerian family are scattered across the globe. Messaoud joins the French army; Abdelkader becomes a leader of the Algerian independence movement; Saïd moves to Paris to make his fortune in the shady clubs and boxing halls. Their interconnecting destinies reunite them in Paris.... Award winning Gangster-Drama movie.

27th March – Marshland (Spain) - Directed by Alberto Rodríguez

Set in the early years of a post-Franco Spain, two detectives with things to hide are assigned to a remote part of Andalusia to investigate the murder of two sisters. Clues are scarce, the locals are unwelcoming and the ghosts of the past are everywhere.

10th April – Toni Erdmann (Germany) - Directed by Maren Ade

A father, concerned about his career-obsessed and apparently joyless daughter, deploys his dishevelled prankster alter ego, Toni Erdmann, to make mischief, travelling to her workplace and posing as an executive 'life coach'. A startlingly original and uproarious comedy, suffused with pathos and tenderness. Oscar-shortlisted and winner of 73 awards worldwide.

24th April – A Man Called Ove (Sweden) - Directed by Hannes Holm

Short-listed for the 2017 Foreign Language Oscar, Ove is the archetypal angry old man who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave. After reaching a life changing decision, an unlikely friendship develops and life takes a new path. A funny, tragic and heart-warming transformation of an angry, solitary and regimented old man.

Royal Parks Under Pressure To Halt Wildlife Culls

London, UK - More than 75,000 people have signed a petition, calling on The Royal Parks to stop culling healthy animals.

Freedom of Information Act requests by national animal rights organisation, Animal Aid, revealed that more than 11,000 animals have been culled in the Royal Parks between January 2013 and January 2017 (inclusive).

A total of 8,400 mammals and 3,240 birds have been culled in Bushy Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park, Richmond Park and St. James's Park.

These figures include 3,679 squirrels, 330 foxes, 2,657 rabbits and 1,734 red and fallow deer. They also include 1,221 crows, 268 geese, 382 magpies, 46 jays, 1,025 pigeons, and 298 parakeets.

Total figures per Park: Mammals

Park	Total
Bushy Park	4,108
Greenwich Park	79 (deer figures included with Richmond Park figures, maximum of 6 animals per year.)
Hyde Park	452
Kensington Gardens	490
Richmond Park	2,998
St James's Park	190

The petition was started by Natalia Doran, who runs a squirrel rescue and rehabilitation organisation called Urban Squirrels. Natalia says:

'The public are largely unaware of the culling of animals in London's Royal Parks. More precisely, they think that when the animals are culled, it is in small numbers and for their own good, because they are old, ill or injured. Nothing could be further from truth: the numbers are very high, and the decisions to cull seem to be made not on scientific grounds, but on a whim.

'The petition calls for a professional assessment of the Parks' carrying capacity and the use of non-lethal methods of deterrence.

'The Parks are under new management now, so it would be an excellent opportunity to pull together the efforts of life scientists, animal protection and animal rescue organisations, volunteers and paid staff in order to make the parks the sort of spaces that the increasingly animal-aware public can properly enjoy.'

Says Animal Aid Director, Isobel Hutchinson:

'The Royal Parks urgently need to change their brutal and callous approach to wildlife. These animals play a vital role in allowing park visitors to re-connect with nature and take a break from city life. Yet these innocent wild animals, who bring so much joy to people, often find themselves at risk of being killed''

Turkey, Turkey and Turkey – No sage and onion stuffing

By Billur Owen of Crusader Travel

I was born and raised in Istanbul and unusually for the 70's, I with my parents toured the Turkish coast at every opportunity and I clearly caught the travel bug from them. Fast forward 30 years, I'm still doing it now, with my children and Welsh hubby. There may be some unashamed bias creeping in, but for me you simply can't beat the Turkish coast. – both Aegean and Mediterranean. Literally every year, we've returned again and again trying a completely different area. To date, we haven't grown tired of the country because each resort, each region is so refreshingly different, like the food.

I must mention Istanbul first, for a city break 4-5 days it's simply breath-taking, the skyline, the history, the food and James Bond seems to like riding his motorbike over the grand bazaar's roof! Anyhow, fasten your seat belt, we're off to find Turquoise Sea.

On the Aegean there's Izmir, Kusadasi and Bodrum with endless beautiful bays all the way in between. This last summer we tried a beautiful little village called Foca, (named after the Mediterranean seal) very traditional with its multi coloured fishing boats bobbing in the harbour and equally dazzling houses on the quayside. This area of the Aegean is a little cooler, with a lovely coastal breeze. There's a great range of Greek style guest houses and you can literally step out onto one of numerous wooden jetties and you're having your first swim before breakfast.



I know it's Christmas looming, but calorie alert – the food is seriously addictive.

There is boyoz bread – like croissants but tastier, there's the village breakfast (koy kahvalti) you probably could feed a village with the servings. Now my top tips / secrets for a perfect holiday taster to Turkish cuisine,

- 1) Lahmacun - thin pizza rolled up like a pancake with salad
- 2) Cig borek – special cheese or meat pastry – sublime for lunch
- 3) Kumru – big toasted meat sandwich (sounded like Cymru/Wales so hubby was ecstatic)
- 4) Fish and salad as below!

Fresh calamari and mussels in abundance, beautiful quay side bars and more bakeries and patisseries than you could dream about. We also found a stunning hotel, set in its own bay – featuring all the water sports you could want. It's just been taken over by Mark Warner. At the end of a hard day's sailing, kick back in the balmy evening with a wine or go local and have an ice cold Raki with cheese and melon as you watch the stunning Aegean sunset – perfect.

Tip for 2018 from Bruce Lyons. Forget the stuffing, Turkey's the place; after a difficult 4 years the country is returning to popularity but with a twist – it is bouncing back with the highest standards at fantastic prices, not cheap like the last two decades, but value for money; superb food, amazing Villas, beautiful beaches, Water Sports and above all that amazing Turkish Welcome. Go now for the best in the Med!!

Tis The Season To Be Stressed Out Warns Health Charity

PEOPLE are being urged to acknowledge they may be unwrapping a whole pile of stress along with their presents this Christmas and should plan to ensure they don't carry it through to the New Year with them.

The International Federation of Aromatherapists (IFA), a UK-based charity, is warning the public that as fun as the festive season can be, it also brings with it a whole host of expectations and stress around meeting them.

Working longer hours in the build up to Christmas, the pressure of shopping deadlines and delivery and simply affording presents and all the Christmas trimmings can cause worry and stress for many people.

There are also physical reasons why people may feel stress over the holidays according to the IFA, the original and oldest federation of aromatherapists, which has its headquarters in London.

IFA Chairman Colleen O'Flaherty-Hilder explains: "There are lots of reasons why the festive season can be psychologically tough for people; increased pressure to spend, spending time away from home, high expectations of the perfect Christmas Day, and keeping different relations happy over the whole period can all lead to intense feeling of stress.

This all adds strain to our closest relationships and is likely to be one of the reasons why more couples consider divorce in the New Year. However, what people often forget is there may be physical reasons why they experience stress over Christmas and New Year. Being aware of these can help people to deal with them better and make for a more positive holiday period."

Over indulging with food and drink over the festive period can cause fluctuations in blood sugar levels. This can affect mood and with the shortest day of the year falling just before Christmas, restricted day light can also people to suffer with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Stress itself can have a physical affect on the body, as high levels of cortisol (the stress hormone) lowers people's immunity* and can leave them at greater risk of developing illnesses including things like the common cold.

Now the IFA is urging people to consider the use of alternative therapies to help reduce stress in the New Year to avoid finding themselves dealing with bigger issues later in the year.

Colleen said: "As a nation we are generally big on the stiff upper lip which means we often try to ignore stress until it builds up to levels that are difficult to deal with. Stress is not just unpleasant - can contribute or be a trigger to a number of serious health conditions."

We are bound to encounter some levels of stress in life - by considering using tools such as aromatherapy on a regular basis it's possible to deal with these problems and prevent their escalation. The new year is a perfect time to plan to manage stress and finding a qualified aromatherapist is an excellent start."

To contact the IFA please email info@ifaroma.org or visit www.ifaroma.org



The International Federation
of Aromatherapists

A POSTCARD FROM EILAT

By Craig and Dafna Budden

Christmas 2017

As I write this, the last Hanukkah candle has been lit and the countdown to Christmas begins:



We are blessed with clear blue skies, 27 degrees C., and a light breeze on the Aqua-Sport Beach, next to the 50 Bar. The visibility in the sea is 12 meters and the après -dive beer is cold. We are definitely in the holiday mood.

Most of the immediate family is gathering (the eldest has gone AWOL, deciding to surf the cyclonic waves at Apocalypse beach in the Philippines)

and we expect our usual eclectic mix of Ex-Pat's and Sabra's to our Christmas Eve bash at the old homestead. This year, following the addition of a lovely 10 M. pool to the "Estate", rather than our customary Moose-milk (the Canadian equivalent of egg nog – yes, I originally hail from the colonies) and a BBQ, we have decided on Sushi and G&T's by the pool! Shock, Horror not very traditional but a nice twist (pun intended) nonetheless. Of course, the "tree" remains pride of place and Santa need not be concerned as his milk and cookies will be there, as always, with his snifter of brandy to stiffen his resolve through his long travels.



We all reckon it's the perfect primer for opening presents the following morning, a Christmas day dive to build an appetite for a Turkey dinner with lashings of stuffing and plenty of spirited discussion on the results of the eagerly

awaited Quin's v Saints game at Twickenham.

Merry Christmas

Craig & Dafna Budden
"Come on you Quins!"

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Minister urged to withdraw Heathrow Noise Claim

Councils opposed to expansion at Heathrow have challenged Transport Secretary Chris Grayling to withdraw his claim, made in October 2016, that an expanded Heathrow will be quieter in 2030 than today.

The Department for Transport's revised draft consultation on the airports national policy statement includes evidence showing that 92,700 additional people in the area around Heathrow will be exposed to noise by 2030 as a consequence of the third runway.

The total number of residents affected within the 54dB contour where people are significantly annoyed by noise would go up to 678,000 in this period.

While producing this assessment for 2030 the consultation contains no forecasts for earlier years even though the additional runway is now predicted to be open in 2026.

The local authorities also urged the Government to publish details of flight paths so that residents can be aware of how they will be affected before they respond to the government consultation. Currently only 'indicative' routeings are shown.

In their detailed response to the revised consultation the councils say that the evidence demonstrates that an expanded airport cannot be delivered without unacceptable air pollution and noise.

The councils conclude that the revised NPS fails to show how an expanded airport could meet air quality limits in an area where pollution levels are deteriorating. This makes a third Heathrow runway unbuildable while expansion at Gatwick could go ahead without this risk.

The councils' response to the NPS consultation has been compiled by Hillingdon, Richmond, Wandsworth and Windsor and Maidenhead councils and is published on the local authority websites.

Stay safe and connected whilst celebrating these holidays

Richmond Council is encouraging people to download a new personal safety app which enables users to stay connected to friends and family, if they find themselves in a difficult or vulnerable situation. 'Circle', is aimed at women aged 18-30 in London and was created in consultation with a group of women's charities. It helps to make it easy to stay safe and connected when out socialising. Users simply tap to check-in with friends, letting them know they are okay or if they need help.

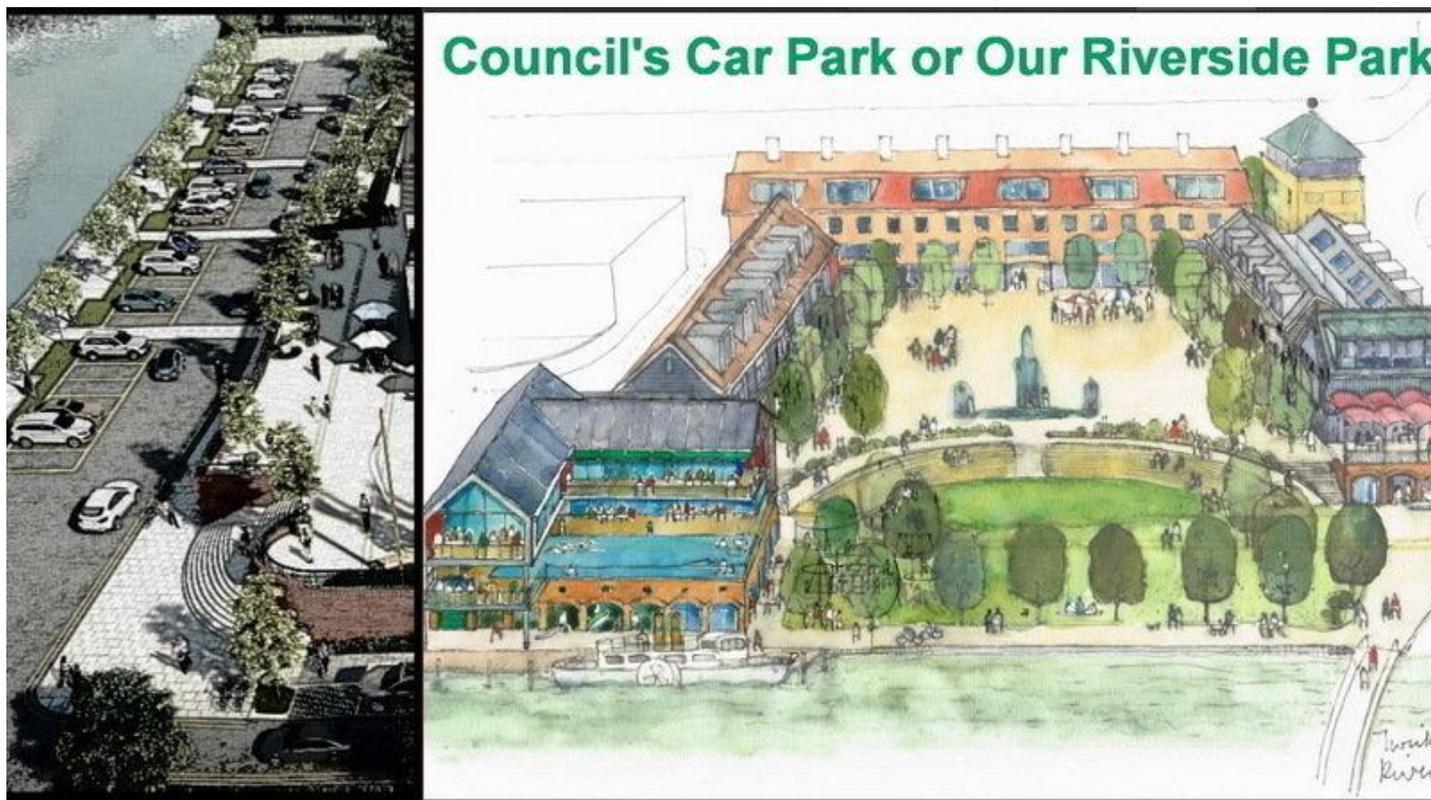
The app is packed with useful resources, including directions to 'Safety Spots' - public locations certified by police and local councils with staff trained to help. It also has a 'location' request - for users to see where friends are on a map, an 'Interrupt Me' button, so people can messages their friends at the touch of a button and a 'Collect Me' function enabling users to send their location to friends automatically with one click.

Remember to always call 999 in an emergency.

The free app is available to download on [Android](#) and [Apple](#).



A Car Park or a Riverside Park for the New Year?



Just a quick update before Christmas.

A simple question. What do you want in 2018?

a) The Council's Riverside car park with two large uninspiring 4 storey blocks of retail and residential, a tiny square, additional parking for the flats, and more traffic along the Embankment

or

b) A Riverside Park and a large Town Square with underground parking plus sympathetic architecture, cafes/restaurants, boathouses, an improved playground, markets, a seasonal ice rink, and possibly a lido.

If you'd like b), can you please OBJECT to a) as soon as possible.

If you can't find a little time to do it over the festive holiday period, you can always object in January. Please see our previous update for details about objecting.

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team would like to wish all our wonderful supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Enjoy the holidays one and all.

ps Please share this update with your friends, family and contacts, because not everyone who signed our petition registered to receive email updates.

Half Page

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Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

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