

# The Twickenham Tribune



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Pope's Villa, Twickenham  
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll



# PART 60 - The Willoughby Hotel, 59 Church Road, Teddington

The golden age of postcards was between 1894 when the first picture postcard was sent and the late 1950s. During this time they were the major source of communication in the world. From the 1960s more people had access to a telephone, and the age of modern computerisation was dawning. Both these events led to the instant mass global communication we have now and relegated the Universal Postal Union and its services into a secondary but still essential place in terms of speed of delivery.

The camera developed alongside the postcard and thank goodness for that, as today

these old photographic picture postcards (RPPs) provide an often unique picture of our local borough as it looked to previous generations.

The postcard of the Willoughby Hotel illustrates this perfectly.

If we go back 78 years and wander down Church Road in Teddington we had a choice of pubs at which to quench our thirst. The Willoughby Hotel on the corner of Argyle Road was pretty much opposite the Abercorn Arms at number 59 Church Road. The Second World War had begun the year before in 1939 and by 1940 the German Luftwaffe was regularly crossing the channel and dropping its bombs on London and selected



suburbs. The Borough of Twickenham had more than its fair share of direct hits and sadly and tragically the Willoughby Hotel took a direct hit on the night of 29th November 1940. The Willoughby was totally destroyed by the bomb and a number of people were killed including the licensee, Chas E Wilkins and his two children. The pub had opened in 1869 a year after the Abercorn which this year celebrates 150 years of serving the local community.

For further reading on the bombs that fell on the Borough during the last war, I highly recommend a book by Paul Barnfield titled 'When the Bombs Fell – Twickenham, Teddington and the Hamptons under Aerial Bombardment during the Second World War.' The book is available from the Borough of Twickenham Local history Society website at [www.botlhs.co.uk](http://www.botlhs.co.uk) for little more than a fiver.

Church Road Baptist Church in Teddington is hosting the West London Postcard Fair next Saturday 10th February. Lots of postcards, books and other ephemera for the local historian as well as picture postcards from all parts of the UK and the rest of the world will be on sale. I will have a couple of tables full of postcards for sale and will also be happy to purchase any postcards that you may wish to sell. Bargain prices start from 20 pence each on a vast range of subjects and places. Come and have a cuppa and a browse!

I am always on the lookout for postcards of any age or subject matter, so if you have any to dispose of, any questions on this subject, or ideas for future articles, please drop me a line at

[alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

## **WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR**

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at

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What is Nando's? By that I mean is it a restaurant or is it a fast food outlet? It seems to me to fall into that rather strange category somewhere between the two – the sort of place you grab a quick, (but reliably good), bite to eat before or after the theatre or cinema. It's not somewhere one would want to linger for hours with a group of friends, or have a romantic meal for two, but on the other hand, the food is too good (and arguably pricey) just to be scoffed or considered 'gut-fill'.



We strolled down to the new Nando's Nino next to Marks & Sparks the other evening. The manager, Hannah, told us two pieces of information that I felt deserved to be shouted from the rooftops (or at least broadcast to the local community)...TWICKENHAM IS THE LOCATION FOR THE VERY FIRST NANDO NINO! No folks, Nino doesn't mean National Insurance Number (well not in this particular case anyway), it's a Mediterranean word used to describe a boy or child. As this is a pretty tiny branch by usual Nando's standard, it is a clever moniker.



Even more interesting though, it is apparently attracting Nando's aficionados from all over the place here to Twickers. Why? Well, our little Twickers Nando's is the **ONLY NANDO'S IN THE WORLD** with their famous 'Churrasco Burger' on the menu. This comprises two chicken thighs, with coleslaw, Cheddar cheese and churrasco Perinaise, served in a Portuguese roll. I'm told it has been taken off the main menus but for some reason it is on the Nino one. It does beg the question as to why, if it is so popular, it was taken off. Hey ho!

Anyway, what did we think of Nando's Nino? Well, we liked it. Actually we liked

the food a lot. Their chicken is British and Red Tractor assured (and not halal at the Twickenham branch if you were wondering). It is also fresh, never frozen, and freshly cooked to order. Portions are very generous, and when you order, you choose how spicy you want your food. We were impressed to see a hand basin in the middle of the restaurant for customers to wash their hands before and/or after eating. The standard cold drinks are on a 'drink as much as you like' basis, and there is an array of the famous Nando's branded sauces and dressings to take to your table.

We started with a generous portion of assorted nuts deliciously coated in spices. We also had a portion of hummous and warm pitta slices complete with its own tiny bottle of peri peri drizzle. That reminds me: I think that little bottle was about the only plastic thing we saw in the restaurant. We were pleased to be given proper glasses for our drinks, proper cutlery and crockery and there wasn't a straw to be seen. (They are currently sourcing paper ones)



The menu has a good range of salads, Peri-peri chicken, burgers, pittas and more. The Fino pitta was very tasty, if somewhat messy to eat (hence the hand basin!) and the grilled fillets were very good indeed. The mixed leaf salad was a tad boring I felt, but the coleslaw was good (not too heavy on the mayo) and the supergrain salad was great. It is ideal for vegans (hold the buttermilk dressing though).

There are many communal tables, and some have conveniently placed plugs with USB charger points. The décor is fun, reminiscent of a beach bar and the background music is great.

To summarise then, I think it will be a great success in Twickenham, particularly on event days. It seemed to be doing a roaring take-away trade too. I might also pop in just for a coffee and one of those little Portuguese tarts (nata) which seemed to be winking at us from under a glass dome on the counter (but we resisted the temptation...no actually, we were just far too full!)

# THE FORGOTTEN LAND

By Michael Gatehouse

*Premier Wine*

If you were to think of wines from the New World, exciting and vibrant, you would probably not think first of South Africa. Chile, Argentina, Australia; these are the places of innovation and experimentation. Even fledgling wine growing countries like Brazil and China are attracting attention. But not necessarily South Africa.

It's taken a long time to get where it is today in terms of international acceptance, and in a way it's really not fair, as the wines themselves can be stunningly good. There are certain things that haven't helped, such as apartheid and the language. Apartheid basically switched the lights off as far as wine exports were concerned, from around 1950 right up into the 1990's, when other New World wine countries were creating successful markets. Since then, there has been significant investment and much work has been done to promote South African wines abroad, and the development of new technologies, education, and equal opportunities.



Nieuwoudt, Diemersdal, Mulderbosch, Nitida Coronata, Boekenhoutskloof, Kaapzicht Steytler are some wonderful wine names in South Africa. It's possibly a reason why there are so many animals depicted on the labels. "Can I please have a bottle of Booken...Boken...the one with the wolf on it?" Our most popular South African red has a horse on the label, thank goodness.

The main wine growing regions are centred around the Cape: Stellenbosch, Paarl, Swartland. The climate is fantastic for wine growing, with hot summers cooled by breezes from the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, and with a variety of climates similar to the Napa Valley, Tuscany and Burgundy.



Right, down to the wines. There's a lot of Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon, with Chenin Blanc dominating the whites. Pinotage is an interesting grape, and only really found in South Africa: a blend of two French grapes (Pinot Noir and Cinsault) that tastes nothing like a French grape. Edwin Doran, an Irishman who owns a vineyard in the Paarl region, makes a wonderful Pinotage, with aromas of fresh raspberries and candyfloss, and the longest smoothest finish I can remember – 2015 Pinotage £12.99. He also makes a delicious Chenin Blanc, crisp, creamy, with flavours of baked apple and an extra fruit driven power and richness. All that for £11.99.

Since the dark days of apartheid, hundreds of small wineries have opened, and the industry has taken a quantum leap forward. Discover the Forgotten Land and be seduced by its wines!

*Photo of Doran Vineyards*

# Offers and Competitions

## Win a private tasting of Doran Vineyards multi-award winning wines.

DORAN  
VINEYARDS



Simply answer the three questions below, and tie breaker; all answers are available on the Doran Vineyards' website at

[www.doranvineyards.co.za](http://www.doranvineyards.co.za)



1. What are the three varietals in the Doran Vineyards Arya?
2. What foods go best with the Chenin grape?
3. What is the origin of the varietal Pinotage?

**Tie breaker – Can you serve Pinotage cooled?**

To enter, send your answers to [win@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:win@TwickenhamTribune.com) giving your name and postcode, with Doran Vineyards in the subject

## 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)

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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)



Places People Play





by Erica White

Last chance to see Dane Hardie's sell-out production of A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE for Teddington Theatre Club (TTC) at HAMPTON HILL THEATRE (HHT) on Saturday, 3 February at 7.45pm. A few tickets and returns may be available at Box Office.

Info: [ttc.box-office.com](http://ttc.box-office.com).

Box office is now open for TTC's next two productions at the above venue. First up, a Studio production of AFTER ELECTRA by April de Angelis, a black comedy about family and ageing. "I blame the books they learned to read with: Daddy at the office, Mummy doing the looking out of the window while she "s washing up. I should have burnt them". Sunday 4 March at 4.00pm. - Saturday 10 March at 7.45pm.

Info: [ttcbox-office.org.uk](http://ttcbox-office.org.uk).

Followed by a main auditorium production at HHT of A MONTH OF SUNDAYS by Bob Larbey, Saturday 17 March-Friday, 23 March. NB: change of first and last night performances. Sat: 4.00pm, eves at 7.45pm.

Info: [ttcbox-office.org.uk](http://ttcbox-office.org.uk).

Richmond Shakespeare's Youth Theatre present their production of ROMEO AND JULIET, interpreted and adapted by the cast and directed by Katie Abbott at THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE (MWT), TW1 3DU, Thursday 15 - Saturday 18 February.

Info: [richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmondshakespeare.org.uk).

On Sunday, 11 February at 8.00pm OUTSIDE THE BOX COMEDY presents GARY DELANEY, plus Carl Donnelly and Maff Brown in an evening of stand-up comedy at HHT.

Info: [outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk](http://outsidetheboxcomedy.co.uk).

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN and the 7 Dwarfs fill the stage on Friday 16-Saturday 17 February at 2.30 & 7.30 presented by THE STAR PANTOMIME GROUP at HHT. Info: 07436 809622.

Tuesday, 6 February, at 8.00pm TWICKENHAM JAZZ CLUB will be hosting KELVIN CHRISTIANE'S ALL STARS BIG BAND at the Cabbage Patch Pub, (CPP) 67 London Road, TW1. Sundays and Thursdays, regularly: CPP is the venue

also for TWICKFOLK and EEL PIE ISLAND Jazz.

CLASSICS IN THE AFTERNOON continue at THE LANDMARK ARTS CENTRE (LAC) on Sunday, 11 February at 2.30pm when Joseph Spooner (Piano) & Nicola Garty (violin) present a programme which includes Brahms' Sonata No.1.

Info [landmarkartscentre.org](http://landmarkartscentre.org).

Something completely different on Saturday 17 February, from 10.00am-4.00pm. You are invited to participate in a FREE event at LAC. EMBRACE TANGO is a one day dance and arts event demonstrating how tango can benefit the wellbeing of the whole community. Taster sessions, live music, demonstrations, partners unnecessary, tango clothes and shoes provided, Argentine wines and snacks.

Info: [freedomtango.co.uk](http://freedomtango.co.uk); [landmarkartscentre.org](http://landmarkartscentre.org).

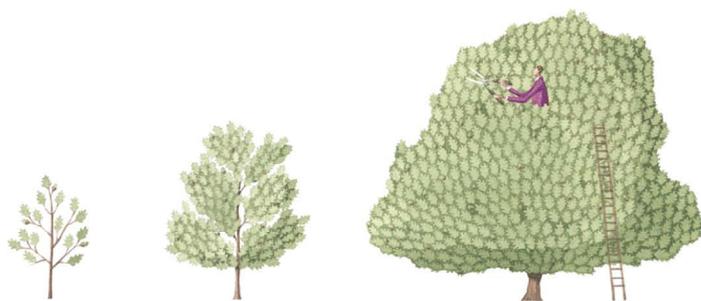
VILLA IN CANTO's ITALIAN PRODUCTION of LA BOHEME is presented at Normansfield Theatre at the Langdon Down Centre (LDC) TW11 9PS on Sunday, 25 February at 7.30pm.

Info: [langdowndowncentre.org.uk](http://langdowndowncentre.org.uk)

POPE'S GROTTTO will be open for the second time in winter on Saturday 17 February, 10.00am-12 noon. A chance to see the newly-restored South Chamber.

Info: [ticketsource.co.uk/popesgrotto](http://ticketsource.co.uk/popesgrotto).

CHANSONS of Hampton Court Village come to Normansfield Theatre at LDC on Saturday 10 February. Viewing 9.15 -12noon. Auction at noon. The venue is a fine Grade 11 listed theatre originally built in 1877. Decor is to be seen to be believed. Info: [langdowndowncentre.org.uk](http://langdowndowncentre.org.uk).



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*



There has been a lot of musical speculation this week. The RFU published details of upcoming events at Twickenham Stadium, including the Eminem concerts in July, as well as two concerts for 19th and 23rd June enigmatically titled 'RS', leading some Twitter pundits to speculate that the Rolling Stones were returning to the stadium (subject to DDA facilities being able to accommodate their mobility scooters).

Today the media has been speculating that the Spice Girls are planning a reunion and perhaps they will be performing under the new name 'R Spice...

But no, the Twickenham Tribune can exclusively reveal that the RS band in question is of course the Rockin' Seals, fresh from what Anemone magazine called "A shell out tour of Greenland".

*Please note, PoshFox is not contractually obliged to sing and any failure to do so does not entitle anyone to a refund on their tickets*

## The Rockin' Seals



# Call In submitted for the Twickenham Riverside Development

“The Twickenham Riverside Park Team has submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government asking for the Council’s planning application for the riverside to be “Called-In” by the Minister if the Council’s Planning Committee decided to approve it. This has been acknowledged and the Council will be made aware of the submission. The team wrote,

“We have made repeated attempts over the past 2 years to divert the Council away from a very poor process, suggesting positive alternative models..... in line with regulation and best practice in the development of regenerative urban schemes in sites of significant importance. However, despite high levels of local opposition, the Council is set on pushing through its own application and a particularly poor set of proposals that conflict with its own Area Development Plan, the TAAP.

Our critique includes poor practice in strategic and urban planning, procurement and commissioning of architects, application of OJEU (European purchasing) guidelines, consultation and community engagement, financial management and planning process.

Indicative of the Council’s approach, it recently submitted its detailed planning application, including over 100 documents for consideration, with just a 21 day response window. This is unusually short for a scheme of this scale and importance and included the Christmas holiday period. This was only 1 working day after reporting on its final “consultation” round, with many of the key documents submitted having been produced beforehand, thereby completely ignoring the results of its own consultation which had received an overwhelmingly negative response.



One of our areas of concern is the lack of “separation of powers” in respect of this application. The Council maintains that its own Planning Officers will consider the scheme, which relates to a site of significant importance, the development of which has been a matter of controversy for over 30 years and overseen by successive administrations of differing political hues. The Director of Environment and Community Services is both the immediate and direct line manager of the Planning Team now considering the application and the Development Team that has produced it. He has been highly visible and vocal in promoting the scheme.

Clearly the saga of the future of Twickenham Riverside had gone on too long under a variety of Administrations, and needs resolution. However the Council seems intent on driving through the poor results of a poor process with unnecessary haste.

We are concerned that what started out as a positive and creative start by this Administration will result in the adoption of a severely sub-optimal scheme that does not do justice to or meet the needs of this site (which includes a conservation area), the wider area and community and a place of Twickenham's national and international reputation and heritage importance."

To accompany this the team submitted a number of documents, including a 30 page dossier outlining the failings of the process to date, a detailed analysis of the Council's parking and traffic management proposals suggesting a practical alternative and a critique of the consultation and community engagement process, showing that the Council is not listening as it claims. These had been produced with the assistance of relevant experts in these issues. To be successful it has to be demonstrated that the site has significance beyond the local area, so the submission has stressed Twickenham's heritage, cultural, sporting and leisure legacy and that it sits in the heart of "Arcadian Thames".

The Team has also written to the Engagement Lead at the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton saying,

"We believe that it is appropriate to draw this matter to your attention....due to issues we raise in respect of procurement, financial planning and the achievement of best value with the Council's finite resources.

In summary our key concerns in respect of financial matters that we wish you to be aware of are;

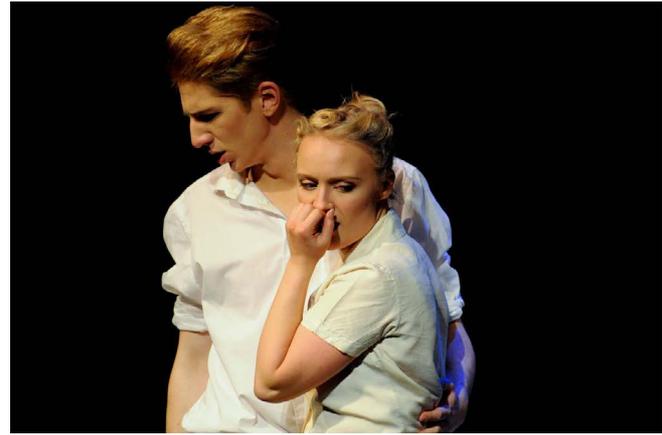
- The absence of any financial or business plan or strategic financial options appraisal at the outset of the project to guide or benchmark the program.
- The scheme has been promoted as "nil-cost" or "cost neutral" consistently through all development phases and consultation rounds, but that at a very late stage the possible need for "subsidy" is now raised.
- It appears that the Council now recognises it will not recover £6.84m capital spent on purchasing land and buildings to allow the development.
- Additionally, the viability assessment undertaken for the planning application now reveals an anticipated net loss of £6.047m (Gross Development Value less Estimated Costs) in addition to land costs.
- That £2.186m has been sunk or is committed for process and preparation costs, which the Council recognises is at risk if planning consent is not given. In our view this is a significant risk.
- The total net cost is now suddenly £15.066m.
- The Council proposes to take the "developer" role, hoping to make a saving of £4.5m (Developer Profit) towards offsetting costs, but actually appears to be procuring a Design and Build partner, a very different model. This figure is not robust and this proposal should be scrutinised.
- The Council's justification for subsidy is "the wider economic, environmental and social benefits the scheme could deliver" (Cabinet January 2018), but there is no analysis of what these will be or how they will be secured via this unpopular development."

The Twickenham Riverside Park team has submitted the same Dossier which will be made available to the public shortly.

# A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre  
until 3<sup>rd</sup> February  
Review by Melissa Syversen

In the neighbourhood of Red Hook, not far from the famous Brooklyn Bridge, we meet the Carbone, your seemingly average Italian-American family. Eddie Carbone works as a longshoreman and lives with his wife Beatrice and her 18-year-old niece Catherine who they took in when Beatrice's sister died. They are happy, loving and pride themselves on hard work. When Beatrice's cousins Marco and Rodolph, two illegal immigrants from Italy come to stay with them, tension rises as a romance develops between Catherine and Rodolpho. As one of his most famous plays, Arthur Miller's drama *A View from the Bridge* is (quite deservedly in this writer's opinion) a true modern classic. It is in equal parts



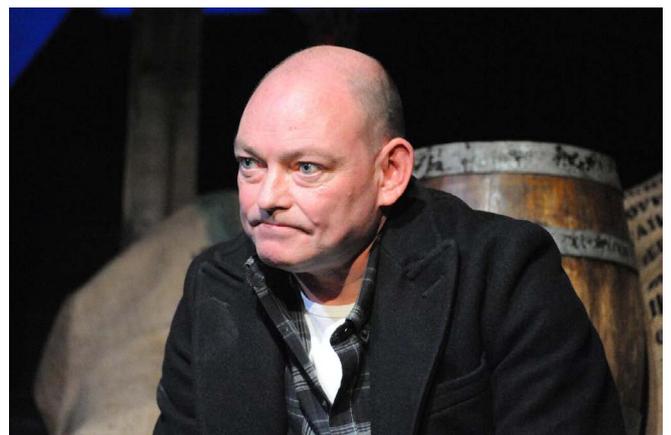
a uniquely American story and a traditional Greek tragedy. We follow a hard-working everyman, carving out his part of the American dream, only to be brought down by his own tragic human flaw and hubristic inability to acknowledge his mortal sin.



*A View from the Bridge* is a mammoth of a play. The sheer scope of themes, motifs and emotions ripe for the picking in Miller's script continue to attract the very biggest names working in theatre ever since the two-act version we know today premiered in

1956. Never to be daunted by such things, the cast and crew of TTC give it their all, and more importantly, make it their own.

In the lead role of Eddie Carbone, Daniel Wain cuts a defined and specific character, fully grounding Eddie with remarkable pain behind the bravado. He also has a likeable charm which makes Eddie's descent into more and more obsessive and toxic behaviour particularly wrenching to watch. As Marco, Paul Furlong, in particular, stands out by giving a beautifully understated performance. Here is a man who is torn, a man who sees what is happening, sees the way his brother is being treated but say nothing in fear of losing the work he desperately needs to support his wife and children starving in Italy. The role of Marco, like Beatrice, (a rock-solid and heartfelt performance by Susan Gerlach) is probably one of the trickier and underappreciated roles in Miller's canon. They are not the romantic leads of Catherine and Rodolpho ... ..



Read more of Melissa Syversen's review at

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/30/view-bridge](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/30/view-bridge)

*Photos by Sarah Carter*

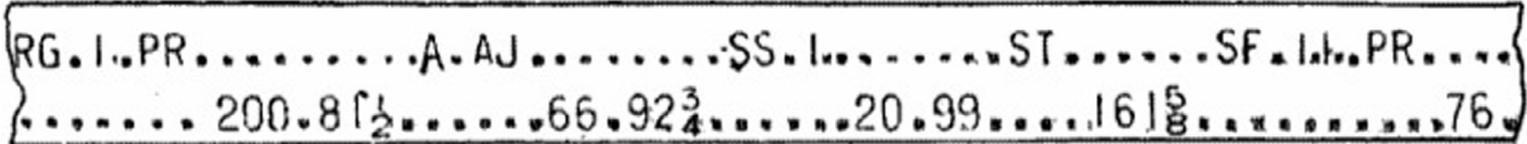


Mark Aspen

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

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

# TwickerTape - News in Brief



## LBRUT Digital Policy

**R**ichmond Council has stated that they are now ensuring digital is at the heart of everything they do by implementing a new 'Digital Impact Assessment' for all policy decisions.

"This new policy will ensure that the way we work and think about policy will take into account how digital can assist or improve the way the Council operates and engages with its businesses and residents.

## Richmond Cycling

**R**ichmond: the only council in London charging for cycle training

More information at <https://lastnotlost.wordpress.com/2018/01/28/cycletraining/>

## Eminem Concert

**T**he RFU announced that Eminem will be playing his first UK concerts in 5 years this summer at Twickenham on 14/15th July. Tickets on sale at 0900 on Fri 2nd Feb. A residents ballot will also take place.

## Orleans House Gallery

**T**he one month countdown to the unveiling of Orleans House Gallery since its £3.6m transformation has begun..

In the lead-up to the unveiling on 1 March, residents and art lovers alike will be treated to sneak previews of the improvements and some of the more unusual discoveries that have been unearthed, via the Gallery's social media accounts

## RUTC Students

**S**tudents from Richmond upon Thames College have produced a new marketing strategy for a local café staffed by people with learning disabilities. As part of a College project, 15 students who are all studying business studies, produced a series of marketing plans for Café Sunshine on Twickenham Riverside.

## Twickenham-based Psychotherapy, Counselling & Self-development



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*'Such an eye-opener! I never dreamed there was so much to me – so many different layers. I really appreciate your patient support and, at times challenge' - Advertising Executive, Richmond*



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Twickenham



CHRIS  
MURPHY  
PRACTICE



# Memorials for those who were killed at Sea in WW1

Sue and Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

A few weeks ago we told you about Sidney Barton, a Grove Road man who was seconded from the Royal Navy to work on Australia's first submarine. It was lost during WW1 and has only just been found. Sidney was one of more than 45,000 men and women who lost their lives while serving in the Royal Navy during WW1. Most have no graves, so it was decided to honour them by building three identical memorials - in Plymouth, Chatham and on the seafront in Portsmouth overlooking the Solent. The memorials are built of Portland Stone, surmounted by a copper sphere and with four lions guarding them. Sidney Barton's name is on the Plymouth Memorial, along with 3 other Twickenham men.

We visited the Portsmouth memorial (pictured below) in order to seek out Reginald Chick from Cole Park Road who was killed when his ship HMS Sarnia was sunk by a German submarine.

Since then we have discovered a further two Twickenham men from Holy Trinity's war memorial who are named there. Albert Read from Upper Grotto Road, who was on the armoured cruiser HMS Black Prince sunk at the Battle of Jutland (sadly his brother William, in the RAMC, also died during the War) and Walter Scott, a Trafalgar School boy, who was on board the battlecruiser HMS Queen Mary when her magazines exploded during the same Battle. Walter's brother Ernest, who had joined the Middlesex Regiment, was killed during the Battle of the Somme.



Many of our local boys appear on more than one memorial – Rolls of Honour that we are hardly even aware of as we go about our busy lives. For example, if you need to pick up a parcel at the Royal Mail Collecting Office near the RFU, glance at the Roll of Honour on the wall naming local postmen who lost their lives in WW1. There are named, amongst others, Charles Bailey, nicknamed “Beano”, who lived with his wife and child in Shaftesbury Avenue, and Henry Cope from Northcote Road. As you head out of Waterloo Station, maybe hurrying to work or to a concert on the South Bank, have a look at the huge Rolls of Honour on either side of the main entrance of the station; these commemorate men who worked on the railways and lost their lives in the war. There you will find Herbert Cutler, a porter living in Albert Road; Percy Moy, a dynamo examiner, from Arragon Road; and Walter Kell from Norcutt Road, whose brother James (Cambridgeshire Regt) also died in the war, having contracted tuberculosis.

If you ever visit the Houses of Parliament, look at the Recording Angel Memorial at the end of Westminster Hall, near the steps leading up to the lobby. On it you will see Garnet Norman's name. He was a bank clerk living in Haggard Road, the son of George, a Messenger at the House of Commons. There are several sightings of this Memorial in the newly released film “Darkest Hour”.

And last but not least, we found Charles Jago listed in four places. On St Mary the Virgin Twickenham War Memorial; in a grave in Palestine; on the beautiful City of London Yeomanry Memorial in St Bartholomew the Great; and on the list of inmates in Bedford Jail in 1911 where he was serving time as a bigamist! But that's another story.

This Week's Photo from the River Crane Sanctuary

Luckily the sun did come out for some of The Big Garden Birdwatch and here are two of the visitors right next to the green spaces along the River Crane Corridor which we are raising awareness about to keep free from more building encroachment onto wild spaces.



Please visit our website and join us in this venture if you are a lover of nature.

Romeo and Juliette collared doves getting ready for Valentine's day!

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat  
<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

## New Plan for Airport Railway

Advocates of a new plan to link South West London to Heathrow met Vince Cable earlier this week to explain their plans. The proposal for a Heathrow Southern Railway envisages a £1 to £1.5bn project linking Terminal 5 to Chertsey. The eight mile route would be a mixture of tunnel and surface route alongside the M25. There would be a direct link to both Waterloo (via Twickenham) or Hounslow and to Paddington. The project does not depend on a third runway, not does it need a government subsidy.

Following the meeting Vince Cable said: "The people behind this plan are serious rail specialists who have worked through the practicalities and have met the objections to the earlier Airtrack, proposal. For local people, there would be a 25 minute journey from Twickenham to T1/2/3 and 22 minutes to T5: a big improvement on the messy public transport links that exist at present, or the need for expensive taxis. We shall hear more about this idea as it rises up the agenda."

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# Council leads the way with new cycle safety technology

**R**ichmond upon Thames is the first place in the United Kingdom to install the latest cutting-edge technology to protect vulnerable road users.

Cycle Safety Shield +, developed by UK company, Safety Shield Systems will first be installed across all of Richmond Council's Heavy Goods Vehicles. It is also being trialled with Wandsworth Council.

All the Council's Heavy Goods Vehicles are being fitted with the new Cycle Safety Shield +, designed to make cyclists and other vulnerable road users safer by giving drivers warning if a collision is imminent and filtering out other objects to reduce driver distraction.

The installation of the new technology is a huge step in improving road safety for cyclists and drivers across the Boroughs.

The new fully-integrated system uses intelligent multi-vision camera fitted to the vehicles including 360 3D vision and radar, which act as a driver's third eye to monitor 360 degrees around the vehicle. The system can record up to one month of video, allowing recordings to be played back in the event of accidents or incidents on the road.

It also provides drivers with real-time visual and audible alerts as the risk of a collision increases; all events are also logged in real time which will include time, date and vehicle location, showing time and type of alert.

The cameras can also be accessed remotely in real time through any smart phone or pc through a convenient easy to use app.

Cycle Safety Shield + is the latest in intelligent vehicle technology which can be retro fitted to any vehicle. By installing the system drivers and fleets can also benefit from reduced insurance premiums, fuel savings and improved driver behaviour.



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# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's Contributes to New House of Commons Brexit Report

Evidence submitted by St Mary's University, Twickenham features prominently in a major new report released by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.

The report, entitled *The Future of UK Diplomacy in Europe*, examines how Britain will need to adapt its network of diplomatic relations with its European partners to meet the challenges of Brexit.

As well as looking at the United Kingdom's role in EU foreign and defence policy, and its bilateral relationships with the remaining 27 members of the European Union, the report pays special attention to the UK's relationship with Ireland.

This emphasis on Ireland was the focus of the submission from St Mary's University, which drew together contributions from Dr Mary McAleese (President of Ireland, 1997–2011); Prof Sir Ivor Roberts (former UK Ambassador to Ireland, Italy and Yugoslavia); Prof Noel Fahey (former Irish Ambassador to the United States and the Holy See); and Prof Francis Campbell, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor.

As the submission notes, "The relationship between the UK and Ireland will continue to be very close after Brexit. The personal ties alone between the two islands and the large number of citizens of each resident in the other jurisdiction make this inevitable. So do the ties of language, culture, geography and history. There are huge

economic and trade interests in common. And there is the joint and continuing concern with the preservation of the peace process in Northern Ireland."



However, as the report recognises, bilateral contacts will need to "be enhanced to compensate for reduced contact in Brussels."

Commenting on the report Prof Francis Campbell said, "When we launched *Vision 2025*, we made a firm commitment to contribute to debate in the public sphere. I am delighted to see our academics making such a strong intervention on a live and engaging topic, which will affect millions of people in the UK and the EU."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Hammersmith Bridge Closures

## Daytime bridge closures

- Saturday 10 February, 8am to 6pm
- Sunday 11 February, 8am to 6pm
- Monday 12 February, 8am to 6pm

## Daytime lane closures (northbound only – Richmond/Barnes towards Hammersmith)

- Tuesday 13 February, 8am to 6pm
- Wednesday 14 February, 8am to 6pm
- Thursday 15 February, 8am to 6pm
- Friday 16 February, 8am to 6pm



## Full weekend bridge closure

- From 8am Saturday 17 February to 6pm on Sunday 18 February
- Bridge to re-open on Sunday 18 February at 6pm.

*Photo by Alex.muller*

## England name side to face Italy in NatWest 6 Nations



## England team to face Italy

15 Mike Brown (Harlequins 64 caps), 14 Anthony Watson (Bath Rugby 28 caps), 13 Ben Te'o (Worcester Warriors 8 caps), 12 Owen Farrell (Saracens 53 caps), 11 Jonny May (Leicester Tigers 29 caps), 10 George Ford (Leicester Tigers 40 caps), 9 Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers 73 caps), 1 Mako Vunipola (Saracens 44 caps), 2 Dylan Hartley (Northampton Saints 89 caps), 3 Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers 77 caps), 4 Joe Launchbury (Wasps 47 caps), 5 Maro Itoje (Saracens 14 caps), 6 Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints 61 caps), 7 Chris Robshaw (Harlequins 59 caps), 8 Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs 3 caps).

## Finishers

16 Jamie George (Saracens 20 caps), 17 Alec Hepburn (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped), 18 Harry Williams (Exeter Chiefs, 5 caps), 19 George Kruis (Saracens 21 caps), 20 Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby 3 caps), 21 Danny Care (Harlequins 76 caps), 22 Jonathan Joseph (Bath Rugby 35 caps), 23 Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs 23 caps).

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Places People Play



# LONDON'S OWN FRINGE!

## THE VAULT FESTIVAL

Do you travel through Waterloo station every day? You may not be aware but some of the best new theatre is being made under your feet, right now! The Vault festival is back for another year, and it's bigger than ever. Over 300 productions will take place in and around the arches under Waterloo station, between now

and the middle of March. Over the past six years the Vault Festival has garnered a reputation for programming work that questions, that challenges, that tells us something new, that explores alternative perspectives. Strawberry Starburst fits that bill.

## Coming Unstuck - Strawberry Starburst

by Bram Davidovich

Kryptonite Theatre Company, The Vaults, Waterloo until 28th January

Review by Georgia Renwick

Shez is sixteen. From a happy childhood, she hit her teens and found her life started to unravel. As she grapples with her relationship with her Mum, her Dad, and her prickly-faced boyfriend, how can she forge an identity of her own? The answer she comes to means she can no longer enjoy her favourite strawberry Starburst in the same way.



Strawberry Starburst tells a story you may think you already know. A teenage girl growing up; girl encounters family problems, girl encounters relationship problems, girl battles demons... But for today's teenagers, the Instagram generation, the line between health and the dangers of eating disorders has never looked so thin. And this is where Shez comes unstuck. As she sits, legs swinging, on the kitchen table and begins her story, the disparity between her candid words and awkward gait, her mood swings between ecstatic and despairing and the intensity in Imogen Comrie's eyes that pleads to be understood rings painfully true.

Yes, this is a play about eating disorders and the ease with which they can creep in and turn a life and a family upside down, but through Bram Davidovich's sensitive and observant writing the emphasis is very firmly on Shez and her journey ... ..

Read Georgia Renwick's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/26/straw-star](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/26/straw-star)

Image by Kryptonite Theatre Co



Mark Aspen

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

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

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

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.

<https://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk/>



# A TIDE TAKEN AT THE FLOOD

## SLEEPERS IN THE FIELD

by Peter Whelan

World Premiere

Questors Theatre, The Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing, until 3rd February

Review by Mark Aspen

“Do you fight against those you hate, or for those you love?” is one of many questions thrown up by those caught in an all-pervading war, the characters in Peter Whelan’s play, *Sleepers in the Field*, which is being given a posthumous premiere by the Questors, a company of which the renowned playwright was a member.

Set in the north midlands during the Second World War, the characters are well-drawn recognisable people, who would have been even more recognisable to the grandparents of most of the audience. Each of the characters has a robustly expressed attitude to the war, and their differing opinions form the dramatic tension in the play.



The plot moves around the lives of the Walsh family over eighteen months from the summer of 1940, when we find them building an Anderson shelter in their garden. Left-leaning Ted is a skilled engraver, largely self-educated, especially in philosophy and socialism. He thinks the war is Churchill’s project. His wife Binnie, an anxious worrier, wishes it would end. His daughter, Marion, is a passionate patriot, fervently wishing Hitler’s demise. His son, fifteen-year-old Joe, and his pal Roy Minshall, are vicariously enjoying the adventure of war. Joe and Roy’s maths teacher, Leslie Nicholson, is a would-be pacifist. Next door neighbour, Dinty Moss, is a pragmatist, making what he can of (and from) the war, from “the tide of life”.

This is the neighbourhood into which wanders the enigmatic Mr Sand, rendered dumb by the war, lost. Meanwhile, into Marion’s life marches the sceptical Sergeant Jill Williamson, and, with the emotional devastation of an artillery shell, Captain East, ex-public school, doing his duty by the book, dashing.

It is through these ten pairs of eyes that we see the effects of war ... ..



Read the full review at

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/27/sleepers](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/01/27/sleepers)

*Photos by Peter Collins*



Mark Aspen

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

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

## The Twickenham Riverside Park Team

### The Fallacy of the Riverside Road and Other Mythleading Claims

On a number of occasions Cllr Pamela Fleming, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community, has made claims as to the apparent necessity of having a roadway along the Twickenham Riverside Embankment west of Water Lane:

“The Embankment is first and foremost a road. It is one that is vital to the traffic flow in the town centre and access to Eel Pie Island for residents and businesses.” (Cllr Fleming, November 2017), and

“Access to the riverside is important. The Embankment forms an important part of the circulatory system in Twickenham and supports the local economy. It is crucial for residents and businesses, and attracts large numbers of visitors, particularly in the summer months.” (Cllr Fleming, January 2018).

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team refute the above unsubstantiated claims for the following reasons:

1. There is no denying that access to the riverside is important for Eel Pie Island residents, visitors and service vehicles. However, access from King Street to the riverside is solely provided by Water Lane. It is entirely possible to access the riverside without recourse to the Embankment road west of Water Lane.
2. The sole purpose of this road is to provide vehicular access to the Embankment area for parking purposes, and then to permit egress along Wharf Lane for previously parked and service vehicles. It is entirely possible to meet these objectives without the need for an Embankment road west of Water Lane. Indeed, the Embankment road and parking are major obstacles to the pedestrianisation of the riverside - a core requirement of the TAAP and a key consideration in the Barefoot Consultation that informed the TAAP.
3. Contrary to the entirely unsubstantiated claims by Cllr Fleming, this road is not vital to the flow of traffic in the town centre, nor is it an important part of the circulatory system in Twickenham. The only impact on the flow or circulation of vehicles through Twickenham town centre when this road is closed would be a positive one, both for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
4. The closure of this road would, in fact, improve the flow of vehicles along King Street, as there would be a reduction in the number of vehicles, particularly larger vehicles, entering King Street from Wharf Lane. These hold up traffic due to the difficulty of their turning into King Street at the difficult junction with Wharf Lane (as is clearly evident from the photograph below) as well as presenting a danger to pedestrians and cyclists.
5. If the Embankment was an important town centre traffic route it would have been included in the Highways and Street Scene Improvements in 2012-13.



*The difficulty of a large rigid body truck (14m – 15m long) turning out of Wharf Lane into King Street. This holds up the flow of traffic in King Street, and presents a danger to pedestrians and cyclists alike.*

Vehicular movements, parking, and servicing arrangements are fundamental to the redevelopment of Twickenham Riverside and must be considered as an integral part of the development plans if they are to achieve the TAAP vision, objectives and strategy:

***Vision (3.1.3):***

*Improving the public realm and reducing the impact of traffic – creating an attractive and safe place which people will enjoy visiting.*

***Overall Objectives (3.2.1)***

*Reduce the impact of motorised traffic, improve parking and public transport arrangements including the use of the river and the pedestrian environment.*

***The Spatial Strategy (3.4.2)***

*Twickenham Riverside - making the most of the unique waterfront*

***3.4.3 Reducing the impact of through traffic on pedestrian and cycle movement and the environment and create good pedestrian connectivity between the key opportunity areas.***

The posthumous CPZ parking study for the Twickenham Riverside Zone D area, just announced nearly 2 months after the planning application was submitted, needs to be completed and the results included in a comprehensive survey of vehicle movements, parking and servicing for whole the Twickenham Riverside area. It is vital that the overall site be considered as comprehensive whole in its local context as advocated in the TAAP. This would include traffic, parking and servicing studies which should have been included in the original brief to inform the design proposals prior to a planning application having been submitted. Consequently, the Council must withdraw the planning application until this survey can inform the planning application, otherwise the plans will continue to be highly sub-optimal for all residents and visitors to Twickenham Riverside (in vehicles, on bicycles or on foot).



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