

The Twickenham Tribune

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EDITORS

- Teresa Read
- Berkley Driscoll



Pope's Villa, Twickenham
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

Contact

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



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TREVOR BAYLIS, CBE - Interview with students from Richmond upon Thames College

Last week (Edition 75) the Tribune published an interview with Trevor, conducted by Teresa Read . This week we came across an interview with Trevor by Daniel, a media student from Richmond upon Thames College. This interview was part of an HLF project run by the Richmond Environmental Information Centre. www.memoriesoftwickenhamriverside.com

“My name is Trevor Baylis and I call myself an inventor. Well I used to come here when I was a boy and when I say a boy I mean 15 or 16. We used to come here because there was a fantastic jazz club, the Eel Pie Hotel, and the dance floor was like a trampoline and when you went in there if you could not dance when you came out you could.

There was a chain ferry in those days so when we used to come over a little old lady used to stamp you on your wrist and that was your identity card but we had some really really wild times there. I did my national service and when I came out as a physical training instructor I thought it would be cool to get myself accommodation with mates of mine so there were three or four of us. We had a special relationship shall we say with the local hospital, you know the nurses. We had some really, really groovy wild times you know and of course I was coming to the jazz club but of course there were traditional jazz clubs all over the place.

The riverside pool was one of the places that I used to train but there were many swimming pools around here and swimming was more important to me in a way, not just simply because I love swimming but because of the friends that I built, you know, we had a swimming club as it were and we used to swim in the Thames.”

After meeting and interviewing Trevor Baylis, Daniel, 17, a student from Richmond upon Thames College – Media Department, said “I’d never met an inventor before, Trevor was an amazing guy, he had so much to talk about, he showed us the first wind up radio he ever made. The man is a legend!”

Click image to view video





I'm pretty sure I parked here somewhere!!

Quackers!

TwickerTape - News in Brief

St George's Day

Saturday 21st April - St George's Day Parade is being held in Whitton. The Parade starts at 11:00 with events going on until about 18:00

<http://lovewhitton.co.uk/st-georges-day-parade-and-family-fun-day-stages>

Bank Closure

Lloyds Bank is closing its branch in Teddington as part of the closure of 49 branches across the country.

Teddington Shop Proposal

architecture:wk has put forward a proposal for the former Bed City shop on the junction of Broad Street and The Causeway

See more at www.architecturewk.com/projects/broad-street and twitter.com/ArchitectureWK/status/987072421457952770

Marble Hill Tree Tours

Saturday 21st April, 11am - 12pm. Find out about the trees and how English Heritage would like to manage them.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill-house/marble-hill-revived/>

Free Water Refill

The Cabbage Patch has joined Refill London and joined the campaign with the Mayor of London in reducing plastic waste. Download the app to refill for free across loads of different businesses - easy, convenient and cheap!

Get the app at <http://www.refill.org.uk/get-the-refill-app/>

Refill London

Refill is a national, practical tap water campaign that aims to make refilling your bottle as easy, convenient and cheap as possible by introducing refill points on every street.

Participating cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses simply put a sticker in their window – alerting passers-by to the fact they're welcome to come on in and fill up their bottle – for free! Download the free Refill rewards app to see where you can Refill on the go, or add new places to Refill yourself!



PART 71 GREETINGS FROM TWICKENHAM FERRY

Great excitement this week as I discovered a postcard of Twickenham Ferry that I hadn't seen before. Anorak! I hear you say. I managed to acquire it so can share it with you along with what I hope you will agree is an interesting background story.

The first postcard is my new one and is a glossy real photographic colour image of Twickenham Ferry which was one of the four ferries that operated in Twickenham prior to the commencement of the First World War in July 1914. The reverse of

the card states that it was printed in Saxony and so this tells us straightaway that it preceded the war.

From the late 1890s to 1914 most British postcards were published by British companies but were actually printed in Germany which had the most advanced printing industry in the world at that time. Of course, this came to an immediate halt as soon as war was declared.



Many photographic images that were initially used as basic postcards had a secondary existence if they were selected as greetings postcards, multiview cards or were overprinted with Birthday, Easter or Christmas greetings.

Our second postcard shows Twickenham Ferry about the same time with the same signage as a straightforward photographic postcard. This is the ferry that was based at the foot of Lebanon Park Road near the White Swan. It went over to the Ham bank opposite. If you wander down there today you can still see the base of the lamp post shown on the postcards and some of the wooden ticket office on the right was still there recently.

Originally known as Dysart's Ferry, the first documentary reference to its existence is dated 19th August 1652. The owners of Ham House, notably the Dysart family, had always claimed the rights to license ferrymen.

Twickenham Ferry also makes an appearance in Charles Dickens's novel 'Little Dorrit' and is further commemorated in a song of 1878 written and composed by Theo Marzials. You can find it on YouTube – honest!



When ownership of Ham House was transferred to the National Trust in 1948, ownership of the Twickenham Ferry was transferred to a private operator. After further changes in ownership, a decline in traffic, and a long dispute about the right of way down the slipway on the Twickenham side it finally closed in about 1970.

There was also a ferry operating from Charlie Shore's boathouse which was on the riverside near the bottom of Water Lane. This took people across to Eel Pie Island. Subsequently it was replaced by a chain ferry that operated well into the 1960s carrying goods across to the island even after the footbridge was built in 1957.

Today, Twickenham's remaining ferry and one with an interesting history is Hammerton's Ferry which sits on the towpath known as 'the Warren' opposite Marble Hill Park. This and the other ferries will feature in this column in due course as you could write a book about the ferries of the old Borough of Twickenham. In fact another of our still working ferries at Hampton opposite the Bell Inn is believed to be the oldest ferry on the Thames, commencing life in 1514. I am very pleased that they have all featured on postcards since 1894 and so we can work our way through them in due course.

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com. I would like to see them and I pay cash!

POSTCARDS WANTED

Cash paid for Old Postcards

& postally franked envelopes.

Required by local collector / dealer.

Please ring Alan to discuss on

07875 578398

Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



THE 39 STEPS John Buchan's spy thriller, adapted for the stage by Patrick Barlow, entertainingly brought to life by a minimal cast of 2+2, is at MWT, TW1 3DU, April, Saturday 21-Saturday 28 at 7.45 eves, Sunday matinee at 3.00pm, NO performance Wed, 26 April. A RSS production.

Info: richmondshakespeare.org.uk

THE BAKEWELL BAKE-OFF: a new musical presented by Hinchley Manor Operatic Society. Book, music and lyrics by The Baking Committee at HHT on Tuesday 24-Friday 27 April at 7.45 and Saturday, 28 April at 2.30 and 7.45.

Info: HMOS.org.uk

TTC's studio theatre production of **STONES IN HIS POCKETS** by Marie Jones at HHT runs from Sunday 29 April - Saturday 5 May. Sunday, 6pm, all others at 7.45.

Limited seating.

Info: TTC-box office.org.uk

RCS concert on Tuesday, 17 April at 7.45pm at St Margaret's Church, East Twickenham, features **THE BUSCH TRIO** who will play Schubert's Piano Trio No 2 and Dvorak's Piano No 3.

Info: richmondconcerts.co.uk

20 April at 7.00pm and 21 April at 6.30 pm, Instant Opera, back by popular demand, presents **DON GIOVANNI** in Italian with English surtitles at Normansfield Theatre, TW11 9PS.

Info: langdondowncentre.org.uk

Poetry Performance at the Adelaide pub, TW11 0AU, Sunday 6 May (and 1st Sunday monthly) open to all who like to write, listen to or read poetry.

Info: warringa@blueyonder.co.uk

LAC is the venue for RICHMOND ART SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION
Saturday 5 - Monday 7 May, 10am-6pm, Monday-5pm. Private view Friday
4 May 6-8pm.

Info: landmarkartscentre.co.uk

Twickenham Jazz Club, Tuesday 1 May at Patchworks bar at Cabbage Patch
pub: KELVIN CHRISTIANE 'ALLSTARS' BIG BAND.

Info: twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk

Eel Pie Club at the Cabbage Patch on Thursday 3 May features the
STEPHEN DALE PETIT BAND.

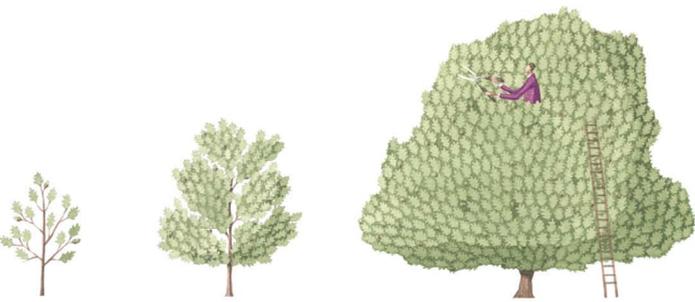
Info: eelpieclub.com

Twickfolk at the Cabbage Patch on Sunday 6 May closed due to rugby at
RFU stadium.

Info: twickfolk.co.uk

Arts Richmond's AFFORDABLE ART TENT will be at Richmond May Fair,
10-4.30, 13 May followed by Arts Richmond 's BOOK PICNIC featuring
guest author, Barbara Hosking, in conversation with Lynne Faulds Wood
about her recent revealing memoir of her life in parliament, Independent
Broadcasting Authority and elsewhere, The Disobedient Civil Servant.

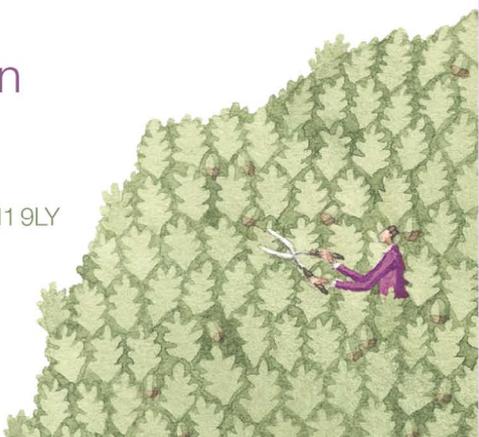
Info: info@artsrichmond.co.uk



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk



The Tree Agency



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free lido history booklets

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Richmond Baths (Pools on the Park)

Mereway Bathing Place - Bushy Bathing Place (Children's Nook)

Bushy Bathing Pool (Upper Lodge)

Hampton Pool - Richmond Bridge Lido

And More



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richmond environmental
information centre

ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Record Number of St Mary's Athletes and Alumni win three Commonwealth Games Medals



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

The record 15 athletes and alumni from St Mary's University, Twickenham, won three medals at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Hosted in Gold Coast, Australia, the Games brought together the leading athletics talent from across the Commonwealth to compete in a range of sports. Amongst the athletes and alumni from St Mary's were Gold medallist Joe Townsend and Bronze medallists Jake Wightman and Simon Amor.

A Strength and Conditioning Science student, Joe won his Gold medal in the Paratriathlon, completing the 750m swim, 20km hand bike and 5km wheelchair race in a time of 01:02:39, 49 seconds ahead of second place.

Joe, a former Royal Marine commando, lost both of his legs in Afghanistan. He previously competed at Rio 2016 in the Paratriathlon and carried the Paralympic flame into the London 2012 Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony.

Jake's Bronze medal came in the Men's 1500m race, where he finished one place ahead of fellow EPACC athlete Charlie Grice in the final. Jake and Charlie's heat in the Men's 1500m was one of the highlights of the Games for St Mary's as four of the nine starters were EPACC athletes as they were joined by Rowan Axe and Elliot Dorey.

Alumnus Simon Amor meanwhile won the Bronze Medal in the Men's Rugby Sevens as coach. The team won all of their games in the pools, defeating South Africa 21-14, having lost to New Zealand in the semi-finals.

Speaking of the athlete's success, Director of

Sport Andrew Reid-Smith said, "It's fantastic to see St Mary's athletes competing against some of the best sporting talent in the world and winning medals. The medal winners produced special performances and it was wonderful to see Simon coaching the Men's Rugby Sevens side to a bronze, adding to the Commonwealth



Silver he won as a player."

Team St Mary's Athletes at the Games:

- Simon Amor (England) - Men's Rugby 7s Coach (Rio 2016)
- Rowan Axe (Wales) – Men's 1500m
- Elliott Dorey (Jersey) – Men's 800m and 1500m
- Elliot Giles (England) – Men's 800m (Rio 2016, London 2017)
- Charlie Grice (England) – Men's 1500m (Rio 2016)
- Jade Lally (England) – Women's Discus (Rio 2016, London 2017)
- Andrew Osagie (England) – Men's 800m
- Paul Pollock (Northern Ireland) – Men's Marathon (Rio 2016)
- Beth Potter (Scotland) – Women's 10000m, Triathlon, and Team Triathlon (Rio 2016, London 2017)
- Joe Townsend (England) Para-Triathlon (Rio 2016)
- Adelle Tracey (England) – Women's 800m (London 2017)
- Steph Twell (Scotland) – Women's 1500m and 5000m (Rio 2016, London 2017)
- Lennie Waite (Scotland) – Women's 3000m Steeplechase (Rio 2016, London 2017)
- Jake Wightman (Scotland) – Men's 800m and 1500m (London 2017)

River Crane Sanctuary



It is a joy to look and listen to the sights and sounds along the Sanctuary walk which we value so much on our doorstep. Every time we go out there is something of interest or sheer beauty and birdsong is a treat. We have heard an owl and woodpecker recently and follow this link to hear the Blackbird singing lead in the Dawn chorus:

www.flickr.com/photos/18554479@N05/40722559161/in/lbum-72157680139604143



There are still dark spaces here along the River Crane Corridor which are of real value to wildlife such as Bats/Moths but we were aware on a recent walk of the increase in light pollution from all the new extensions and bi-fold large glass doors which have sprung up as we need more space for our families. Please consider if you can put up blinds or shutters to help limit light pollution especially if you border this important habitat or sometimes turn off the lights and enjoy looking out at the stars and maybe even catch a glimpse of the bats feeding in the darkness and swooping towards the windows! More Photos and Videos of Bats are on our site



The Flowers and Tree Blossoms are filling the air with glorious scent: Mahonia, Buddleia, Lavenders; all of which helps the night pollinators in their work. Plant a natural bulb or two this weekend now that the sun has got his hat on.

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat

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

Well, and here was I, thinking that Jamie Oliver's Five Ingredients book was pretty damned good, but look what I have found now – Three Ingredient Baking! Yep, this clever book is full of unusual and really easy recipes, including some savouries. They say that 'three is a magic number' and looking at this book, it certainly seems to be proof.

Three Ingredient Baking is by Sarah Rainey and is the ideal book for busy people and people who don't have massive store cupboards full of ingredients. While some are low sugar or gluten-free, quite a few are unapologetically indulgent, bordering on hedonistic! Sarah is a journalist who lists her foodie achievements to date to include baking a sticky ginger sponge for Mary Berry, cooking in the Masterchef kitchen and making 229 traybakes in a single weekend. This is a great book and what's more, you could win a copy. (see below). This lovely book has just been published by Michael Joseph, at £12.99 for a large, smart 'coffee table' paperback.

To whet your appetite, here are a couple of recipes from the book, both of which will be great for teas in the garden now summer seems to be here, or for baking for those school fairs that will be upon us very soon.

Coconut Macaroons

Makes 14 large macaroons

Crisp and golden on the outside, slightly chewy in the centre – there's a knack to getting these little beauties right. But I guarantee there'll be no complaints if you have to try them again and again, just to be completely sure...

3 egg whites
115g icing sugar
250g desiccated coconut

Ice cream scoop

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C fan.

In a large bowl, whisk the egg whites with the icing sugar for around 8 minutes until very pale and thick. The consistency should be slightly gloopier than double cream. (If you have an electric or stand mixer, use this rather than a hand whisk – it'll make the job a lot easier, and less messy.)

Stir in the desiccated coconut, and mix thoroughly. Test the consistency of the macaroon mix by picking up a teaspoon and rolling it into a ball in your hands. These quantities should work, but whisking egg whites is a very imprecise science and you want to get it right.



If it's too dry, add one more egg white. If it's too wet, add more coconut. Do this a little at a time and mix between each addition. Once it all sticks together, it's ready to go. Use the ice cream scoop (or a pair of dessert spoons) to pick up blobs of macaroon mix and drop them on to a baking sheet lined with greaseproof paper, around 3cm apart. Bake for around 25 minutes, or until the tops are just starting to brown. You may need to rotate the tray halfway through cooking to even out the heat. Transfer to a cooling rack to crisp up, then serve.

Honey Cake

Serves 8-10

This simple, one-layer cake is dense, moist and syrupy. It uses almonds instead of flour, which gives it a rich, toasty texture, and whisked egg whites to give it height.

4 eggs
5 tablespoons runny honey
150g flaked almonds

Small round cake tin (20cm across)

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C fan, and grease and line the cake tin.

Separate the eggs, and whisk the whites to stiff peaks.

Beat the yolks with 4 tablespoons of the honey, mixing well.

Blitz 125g of flaked almonds in a food processor to grind them. Put the remaining 25g on a baking sheet and, as the oven gets hot, pop them in for 5 to 10 minutes to toast them. Keep an eye on them; they'll colour very quickly.

Mix the ground almonds with the egg yolks and honey, and gradually fold in the egg whites using a metal spoon, being careful not to over-mix and beat out all the air.

Transfer the mixture to the cake tin and bake for 25 minutes, lowering the temperature for the final 10 minutes to 180C/160C fan.

Allow the cake to cool completely in the tin before turning it out on to a wire rack.

Drizzle the final tablespoon of honey over the top, before sprinkling over the toasted almonds.

The cake will keep for 1 to 2 days in an airtight tin – if it lasts that long...



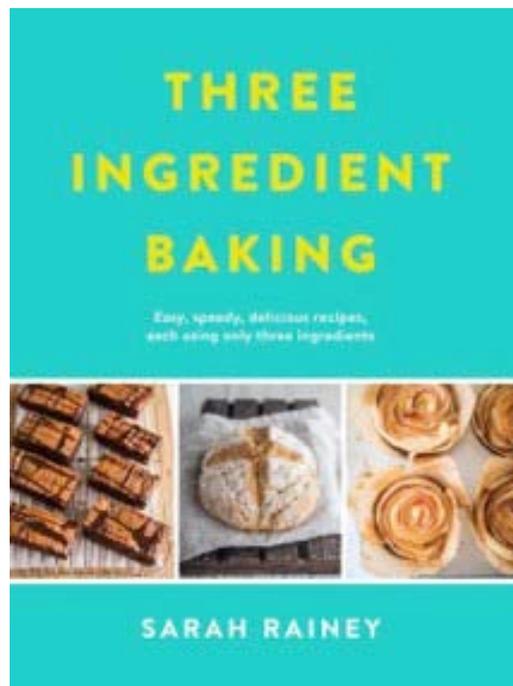
Offers and Competitions

Win a copy of Three Ingredient Baking

Those lovely people at Michael Joseph are offering one TT reader a copy of Three Ingredient Baking by Sarah Rainey.

To enter, email win@twickenhamtribune.com with your contact details and put Three Ingredients in the subject header. And name any three of the ingredients that are usually included when making a crème caramel.

Closing date noon on Friday 27 April 2018. Prize is as stated and no cash alternative is available. Entry deems permission to publish winner's details in the paper.



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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Strawberry Hill Golf Club
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Tel: Club Manager 020 8894 0165
Email: secretary@shgc.net
To find out more visit: www.shgc.net



Weight, diet and activity important factors to consider this Diabetes Prevention Week

Today (16th April) marks the start of Diabetes Prevention Week and Richmond residents are being encouraged to lose weight, eat healthily, and lead a more active lifestyle to reduce their risk of Type 2 diabetes.

An estimated 15,000 people in Richmond are at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, which can be prevented by making healthy lifestyle choices. It represents a real threat to health and left untreated, it can lead to stroke, blindness, heart disease, kidney failure and lower limb amputation.

You can find out your risk of developing type 2 diabetes by completing a quick and easy questionnaire online. All you need is an accurate measurement of your height, weight and waist size.

If you are at risk, finding out early can help you can make appropriate changes to your lifestyle and prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. You can do this by visiting your GP for a blood test.

Richmond's Director of Public Health, Houda Al-Sharifi said:

“It's important to know that even if you are at high risk of developing Type 2 diabetes it can still be prevented through losing weight, eating healthily, and being more active.

“Richmond residents can access the Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme which provides free, personalised help to reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes. The help available includes education on healthy eating and lifestyle, help to lose weight and bespoke exercise programmes. Ask your GP if you are eligible for the programme.

“If you are aged 40 to 74, you can also take up the offer of a free NHS Health Check which will assess your risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension and ask your GP or practice nurse for a blood test to check your blood sugar levels.”

Visit <https://riskscore.diabetes.org.uk/start> to find out your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Find out more about what's on in the borough to help you improve your lifestyle.

DiABETES UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

TRIBUNE BOOKS

Lidos Alive FREE download

<http://lidosalive.com/PDF/LA%20Booklet.pdf>



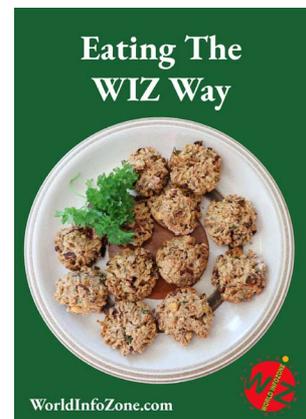
Eating the WIZ Way

With a background of research on food around the world - World InfoZone.com - this book looks at foods which come under the heading of "Healthy Eating". Easy and economical recipes are provided which have resulted in weight loss and associated health benefits.

The book costs £7.95 plus £1.90 p+p

Contact Contact@TwickenhamTribune.com

Review: <http://www.worldinfozone.com/>

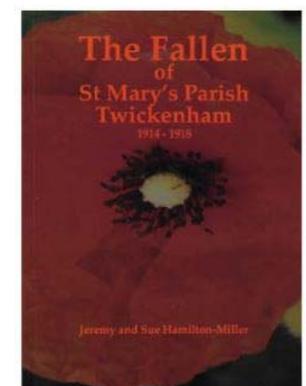


The Fallen of St Mary's Parish Twickenham 1914-1918

By Sue & Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

The book costs £8 plus £1 p+p and is available from the Local History Society's website at

www.botlhs.co.uk



Age UK London Safer Services

The Age UK London Business Directory is an online directory that was developed to help protect older people from rogue traders by putting them in contact with businesses that have all been checked and vetted by our staff. We have a great selection of different businesses from the typical traders like plumbers and electricians to hairdressers and solicitors.

You can go on-line to www.saferservices.london and search for the particular service you are after or you can also call FREE on 0800 334 5056 where a dedicated member of staff will be happy to take your call.



A Message From Katie Mansfield

Katie Mansfield and Michael Butlin are running in South Twickenham ward for the Liberal Democrats. Here, Katie explains her motivations and ambitions for the Council:

“Like most people, fairness, justice and equality have always been important to me. Quite outspoken from a young age, I found myself arguing, writing letters and emails on everything from feminism and the environment to traffic flows and appropriate road crossings. I also spent time doing aid work in post-genocide Rwanda, monitoring elections for the EU and mentoring women for the Aspire Foundation. While interested in politics, I never thought of myself as political – I was (and am!) a mum and a marketing professional.

But that changed with the rhetoric surrounding Brexit and my fears that the liberal, tolerant voice is being drowned out. So, I joined the Libdems.

I'm running for South Twickenham to help make the borough a better, fairer place by making sure we

- listen and are transparent on proposed developments such as Twickenham Riverside, Greggs and St Mary's University
- focus our money and efforts on things that matter such as mental health support, special education needs and elderly care – not on vanity projects such as the Gloriana
- get rid of the unjust charges the Tories have brought in - such as additional storage costs for those made homeless and the removal of uniform allowances for the 6000 children under the poverty line in our borough
- get back our status as a green borough, which we have lost under the Tory administration
- bring in 20mph limits, improve road markings and add pedestrian crossings near bus stops to make our roads safer

I'd love to represent you and make a difference.”



Steam, Steel and Shells – 5

By Helen Baker

Late September 1914. Brussels had now fallen and the German invaders had followed the retreating Belgian Army and the fleeing refugees. In England regular army units from across the British Empire had been massing on White Moor outside Lyndhurst, Hampshire, to form the “Immortal Seventh” Division of the British Army. Before the troops could reach Antwerp to defend it though, in early October, the German invaders came within reach of the “impregnable” Antwerp forts.

The forts didn't live up to their promise. Soon the heavy German bombardment – not seen before in any previous war - had broken through the fortifications. The onslaught had made work impossible across Antwerp and it was only a matter of time before the city would fall. Charles Pelabon's munitions factory in Merxem fell silent.

Charles left Antwerp with his men on 7th October, just before it fell. It's colourful to imagine them pressing through the massed throng of refugees on Antwerp harbourside to take one of the last ships out of port. However the Pelabon family say he took the long straight road out of Merxem, the Bredabaan, which was the main Antwerp route to Holland. Most of the refugees had to walk, but Charles almost certainly drove himself by car. He must then have found a boat quickly because by 10th October he had arrived in England.

© ETCG (HLF-funded) and Hollycombe Steam Museum



German destruction of the Antwerp forts. [belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be) (official information and services website), <http://www.be14-18.be/fr/defense/anvers>



Flying the bombardment of Antwerp Royal Military Museum-War Heritage Institute, Brussels (the image cannot be used without their prior consent)

MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER

By Bruce Lyons

Did you know that Twickenham & the Borough of Richmond is the epicentre of River Thames Tourism? We are host to the Great River Race and since its inception over 30 years ago it has been an inspiration to others to make better use of our amazing resource, The Thames is one of the world's best loved rivers. Why not invite your friends and family to stay for a weekend and enjoy the Race and the Royal Park and all the other events in the Thames Festival. It runs from September 1st to the 30th.

<http://totallythames.org/news/article/get-down-to-the-river-totally-thames-2018-open-call>

The Great River Race 1988-2018



Who would have thought at the first Race back in 1988 that, come 2018, not only would it have survived but grown to become the biggest event of its kind in Europe? And, especially as that original event started at Ham and finished at Tower Bridge, where contestants were left very much to their own devices as to how they recovered their boats and made their way, if inclined, to the BBQ in Docklands. Not

surprisingly very few of the 72 did but, nonetheless, come back they did in greater numbers the following year when the Finish was at the Poplar and District Rowing Club, next to Island Gardens, where boats could be easily recovered and a crew party was held at the Calders Wharf Community Centre next door.

The Great River Race concept was originally inspired by the immense interest generated by a 1987 charity event in which the famous Doggett's Coat & Badge winners from The Company of Watermen & Lightermen rowed its Shallop, or passenger barge, from Hampton Court to The Tower of London. The idea that emerged was to find the UK Traditional Boat Champions by issuing

an all-comers challenge to beat the Doggett's men - racing on a handicap basis. Entries were restricted to traditional-style, fixed-seat, coxed craft powered by a minimum of four oars or paddles. And, in keeping with the Company's historic responsibility to apprentice and licence Watermen to carry passengers on the tidal Thames, each boat had to carry a passenger.

To give all crews an equal chance, entrants were handicapped according to the calculated potential performance of their boats. This was done on a scientific basis, using naval architects' calculations and a sophisticated computer programme. And, to add spice to the contest, it was to be run on a 'slowest away first, fastest last' pursuit basis, with every boat individually timed over the course. Despite a start line handicap period of well over an hour, some close racing was expected - and achieved.



The winners on handicap would hold, for one year, the handsome Challenge Trophy of The Company of Watermen & Lightermen - featuring a mounted original Watermen's badge - issued to William Savage of Gravesend in 1803. Today, this has been augmented by 32 more trophies for gender, age and boat-related classes.

Over the years, the Race has always attracted both the true racer and the leisure rower, with boats propelled by a bunch of enthusiasts ranging from barely teenage Sea Scouts to hardened offshore rowing veterans more used to racing anywhere from the south coast to the south seas and entered by such diverse outfits as museums, rowing clubs, pubs, youth organisations, police, fire brigades, the armed services, boating societies and groups just out to take part and beat the course. Over the years, racers have come not only from every part of the UK, but from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Jersey, Kuwait, Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. And this year a crew from Massachusetts is entering and others are expected from Romania and Finland.



While more than quadrupling in size, a trend which accelerated when, in 2009, we turned the Race around to finish at Ham, it has attracted such fascinating entries as a magnificent replica 54' bronze age Greek Galley; canvas and tar Irish Naomhogs of the type reputed to have crossed the Atlantic in the eighth century; a new Shallop and Thames Wherry (both constructed along traditional lines especially for the Race)



and the world's oldest racing rowing boat, the 'Royal Oak' built in Co. Down, Northern Ireland, at the beginning of 1800s. Not to mention gigs, skiffs, naval whalers, Chinese dragon boats, Hawaiian war canoes, longboats, and many, many more, not to mention the Race's own Thames Watermen Cutters, the Great River Race Jolly Boats, and now the Skerry, all built for the Race by Mark Edwards at Richmond Bridge Boathouses.

Along the way, it has attracted a stellar cast of celebrity cannon firers, including Sting, Jerry Hall, Sir Steven Redgrave, June Brown (EastEnders' Dot Cotton), Sir Trevor MacDonald, Jane Horrocks, Virginia Bottomley MP, William Franklin, Tony Banks MP, Dame Tanni Grey Thompson and many more.

The 2009 turnaround, reversing the Race's direction to run upriver and finish below Ham House, came after much soul searching, careful calculations and protracted consultations. But it proved to be immediately so popular with competitors and spectators that it has been adopted as the regular format.

All The Fun At The Finish now attracts thousands to Ham, with a free ferry from Richmond, where they will find a games area, circus tricks training, Punch & Judy, face painting and music, all totally free to enjoy alongside the spectacle of 330 or more boats racing across the Finish line. Not to mention, of course, the eve-popular Ham Street Food Market and bar.

This year's Race is on September 8, with activities under way at Ham from noon, ferry from 11.45, commentary starting at 12.30 and a winner expected at around 13.15. You can see the Race from Richmond Quayside, and the Ham House finishing enclosure on the Riverside or take the Spectator Boat from the start on the Isle of Dogs to Richmond; accommodation for the race is also available.

See www.destinationrichmond.com for details.

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Nasty spring guests getting the boot from borough's trees

Specialist tree contractors will once again be treating oak trees in the borough which are being affected by the hatching of the Oak Processionary Moth this spring.

During spring oak leaves sprout around the borough, bringing them rather nasty guests – toxic caterpillars!

The Moth is a risk to the health of oak trees, people and animals. It feeds on the leaves of oak trees and creates nests in branches and tree trunks. The tiny hairs from the pests can cause nasty rashes, conjunctivitis type symptoms and breathing difficulties for anyone who comes into contact.



Residents are being warned not to handle the creatures or remove or disturb the nests but leave it to the Council's specialist pest control contractors who are already on the case. Oak Trees from across Richmond are being examined sprayed in an effort to destroy the moths' larvae.

Craig Ruddick, Arboriculture Manager said:

“Whilst we know our parks and open spaces draw in visitors great and small some are less welcome than others. Our specialist contractors are busy treating the recently hatched oak processionary moth caterpillars and we ask residents to be cautious when they see these creatures in their own gardens as they are a danger to your health.”

Find out more about Oak Processionary Moths and how to treat a private infestation.

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Places People Play



Ofo to provide dockless bike service in Richmond upon Thames

Ofo will launch the dockless bike share pilot in Richmond upon Thames.

People will be able to ride for just 50p per half hour, with a maximum daily cap of £5. Simply collect and leave ofo bikes anywhere on the public highway but you must not block the pavement. Using wider areas of pavement or places with traditional bike parking is best.



Users of the new system will register on an app and use this to locate the closest bike, to release it using a given code and to pay for the hire. The bikes can then be left and re-locked, ending the hire period, anywhere in the area of operation. As a result cycling becomes possible even if you don't have a bike of your own and can easily be combined with other transport options.

Bicycles will start appearing shortly and be phased in over a number of months, starting with roughly 200 bikes and growing to meet demand for the service over time. Ofo has committed to redistribute the bikes as necessary and to manage the bikes in a way that does not create an obstruction to other road users, particularly pedestrians. The Council will be monitoring the pilot very closely and we also welcome feedback.

The confirmation of Ofo follows an announcement of the Pilot in March. The new programme is made possible by advancements in technology which mean bicycle hire schemes no longer require docking stations, as provided with the current Santander London cycle hire scheme, with the technology instead built directly into the bikes themselves.

Teddington Based Portrait Artist Dennis Gilbert



Annals 21 x 31 cm (oil)



Harry 36 x 24 cm (oil)



Father Christmas 20 x 25 cm (oil)

DENNIS GILBERT
NEAC

Exhibited: Royal Academy, Paris Salon, Royal Society of Portrait Painters, and in many commercial galleries in England and abroad.

Member of the New English Art Club, past President of the Contemporary Portrait Society and past President of the Small Paintings Group.

Enquiries

dennis@dennisgilbert.net
www.dennisgilbert.net

DENNIS GILBERT



Annals 21 x 31 cm (oil)

*Portrait
Painter*



Breakfast on the balcony 24 x 36 cm (oil)



Polly and her fish coffee 20 x 30 cm (oil)



Leticia 14 x 20 cm (pastel)



Arthur 8 x 6 cm (oil)



Christie playing Kodolentz 20 x 30 cm (oil and watercolour)



Gab 14 x 10 cm (oil)



Conversation 17 x 24 cm (pastel)



Neil composing at Easter 1941 24 x 21 cm (watercolour)

Coming to the auditorium in Hampton Hill Theatre is an uproarious satirical comedy with a sting in the tail

THE RULING CLASS

By Peter Barnes

Directed by Barry Evans

“First thing an Englishman does, straight from his mother’s womb, is touch his forelock.”

A blue-blood with a Messiah complex, the 14th Earl of Gurney is besieged by his ruthless family scheming to strip him of his title. Bubbling with acerbic wit and feverish energy, Olivier Award-winning and Oscar-nominated-writer, Peter Barnes’s razor-sharp satire mercilessly exposes the absurdity of unearned privilege. It became a successful feature film starring Peter O’Toole.

Dates: Sat 12 May - Fri 18 May 2018

Performance Times: Sunday, 6pm, weekdays 7.45pm

Ticket prices: Members £12.00 & £16.00

Box Office: Telephone: 0845 838 7528
(10am - 8pm)

Online: ttc-boxoffice.org.uk

Website link

<http://www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk/production/the-ruling-class>



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TICKETS FROM £12



Voices from America

by William Forsythe, Jerome Robbins and Aszure Barton

English National Ballet at Sadler's Wells until 21st April

Review by Suzanne Frost



Wow. Who knew that the 68-year-old William Forsyth in his first creation ever for ENB would show us the future of ballet? His new work called *Playlist (Track 1,2)* ends this mixed bill named *Voices from America* on such a high, that the evening goes down as one of the major successes of the season, although it is, in terms of quality, not just a mixed bill but a mixed bag.

Showcasing three North American choreographers, the evening is a celebration of the neo-classical style that originated with Georg Balanchine and Jerome Robbins in New York.



Opening the evening is *Fantastic Beings* by the Canadian choreographer Aszure Barton. Barton is a female choreographer (yes, that elusive species) and her dancers are also animalistic creatures but they are completely beautiful. Dressed in shimmery scaled bodysuits they look like some kind of amphibian species, while a steady stream of glitter in the back of the pitch black stage and the atmospheric music by Mason Bates suggest a sort of nocturnal rainforest living ground. The mysterious

specimen grow up to be long haired ape-like creatures and I know that might sound like a ridiculous image but the dancers look absolutely beautiful, the long shiny ape coats swirling around them when they jump and turn. The final image of the apes dancing under a rain storm of glitter is spectacular.

Playlist had me open mouthed all the way through. It also had me grooving in my seat and I can report woops and cheers from the balcony. The (let me repeat that) 68-year-old choreographer is clearly still as tuned in to popular culture as in the 80s, when he discovered the insanely perfect marriage of electronic music and classical ballet in benchmark works such as *In the middle, somewhat elevated*. Now, the master has discovered dance music and hip hop. Some classical companies occasionally experiment with setting their morning class not to a piano but to pop music and the burst of energy you can get from that, a new ease of movement and sense of fun, really breathes new life into classical steps. Forsyth puts his twelve men in stylised baseball uniforms, their names proudly emblazoned on the backs of their jerseys, as if anyone needed reminding that these dancers are absolute athletes

Read Suzanne Frost's full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/04/14/voices-america

Photography by Laurent Liotardo





Much Ado about Nothing

by William Shakespeare

RTK, Granville & Parham and Antic Face co-production

at The Rose Theatre, Kingston until 6th May

Review by Mark Aspen



“Man is a giddy thing”, says Benedick at the conclusion of *Much Ado about Nothing*, Shakespeare’s incisive comedy about the “merry wars” between men and women, and the Rose Theatre’s special production to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary is a wonderfully giddy thing.

Although the production is somewhat tongue in cheek, the knock-about humour is well balanced with an appreciation of the play’s less palatable messages. Certainly the first night audience, with its many seasoned “theatre people”, received it with much deserved enthusiastic applause. Another balance, which director Simon Dormandy succeeds in pulling off, is that between the main plot, which revolves around the pitfalls of an arranged marriage between Claudio and Hero, and the contrasting sub-plot, the “merry war” between the reluctant couple, Beatrice and Benedick.



However, what makes this production exciting and enjoyable to watch is its sheer energy. It is a modern dress production, with Shakespeare’s Sicilian setting notched up for the modern audience by placing it under the hegemony of the Mafia. Messina becomes the Hotel Messina, full of super-luxurious five-star pampering for the wealthy, and complete, as the Hotel’s own advertising soundtrack tells us, with a spa where treatments included “organic sand” (*sic*) and massages with donkey’s milk!

Designer Naomi Dawson’s ambitious set is a versatile but realistic view of the marble terraces and interiors that comprise the swish purlieus of the Hotel Messina, plate glass partitions, exotic plants and all the whistles and flutes for a € 1,000 per night stay. The bedrooms are seen on the first floor level, the terrace extends the Rose’s thrust across the pit, and in fact the pit cushions are now part of the set, in handsome white “leather”. This set looks superb. It is into this hedonistic setting that Don Pedro and his clan, protected by bodyguards with automatic rifles, loudly burst to visit the local Mafia of Leonato.

Read Mark Aspen’s full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/04/19/much-ado

Photography by Mark Douet



20th April 2018



Young Writers' Festival 2018

Art Richmond at The Exchange, Twickenham, 15th April 2018

Review by Eleanor Lewis

Arts Richmond, as must be well known to readers of these pages, is about promoting the arts in and around the borough, but promoting the arts becomes a niche activity unless you include the younger generation from the start. Happily, we will all be OK, because Arts Richmond has this sewn up if the evidence of Sunday's *Young Writer's Festival* is anything to go by. *The Young Writers' Festival* is, unsurprisingly, a celebration of young people's writing, specifically young people between the ages of six and sixteen from a mixture of state and independent schools. Their work is assessed by three judges and then prizes, which include the titles of Young and Senior Poets Laureate, are awarded for outstanding writing.



Keith Wait has been directing this event for five years. He has the services of three professional actors – this year Catherine Forrester, Janna Fox and AJ MacGillivray, all three enthusiastic and skilled - and presents the children's work as a rehearsed reading. This is inspired: the children see their work professionally executed which increases their confidence, and everything that's in the work is brought out to entertain an appreciative audience.

The Festival itself is a straightforward event. Arts Richmond Chair Hilary Dodman introduced the children and explained the arrangement of year groups, and then seventeen pieces of work were performed straight through by the actors. Prizes were awarded by Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr Lisa Blakemore, at the end of the proceedings.



Poetry and creative writing is challenging for some children because unless it flows naturally, which it might not, it's a thing you have to do with very few instructions and no manual, and that's frightening. The children whose work was on show on Sunday however, had all risen to the challenge of expressing feelings, creating images and communicating effectively, a tribute to the children themselves and to those teachers and parents who encouraged and supported them

Read Eleanor Lewis' full review at www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/04/18/ywf

Photography by Christina Bulford

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

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.



8th May - Hotel Salvation (India) - Directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani

Convinced that his end is near, 77-year-old Daya resolves to spend his last days in the holy city of Varanasi and insists upon his dutiful son, Rajiv (an overworked accountant), accompanying him to a hostel on the banks of the Ganges where elderly believers go to die and find salvation. In the event, the atmosphere has a restorative effect and the scene is set for a beguiling, tender and humorous tale of self discovery, tradition and modernity, family ties and reconciliation.

22nd May - Le Havre (Finland) - Directed by Aki Kaurismäki

When a young African stowaway arrives by cargo ship in the port city of Le Havre, Marcel, an ageing shoe shiner takes pity on the child and, with the assistance of friendly neighbours, hides him from the police.

Like 'The Other Side of Hope' - which proved hugely popular when screened earlier this Season by RFS - 'Le Havre' is another instalment in Kaurismäki's proposed trilogy about life in port cities. Once again, it deals with immigration and attitudes to refugees but it does so with all of Kaurismäki's trademark lightness of touch, drollery and deadpan humour. The result is an offbeat, warmhearted and charming film, which garnered fifteen awards worldwide, including at the 2011 Cannes, Chicago and Munich Film Festivals.



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

Comment from Twickenham Riverside Park Team on the Local Council Elections.

By the Twickenham Riverside Park Team

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team has always made a point of being avowedly non-political in its approach to the issue of the development of Twickenham Riverside. We are a broad church, open to involvement from people from all parties or none. We are entirely independent from any of the parties standing in the local elections taking place on May 3rd.

However, we have reflected on this and feel that on the single issue of preventing the plans for the riverside going ahead we should make a recommendation about the elections to the many people who share this viewpoint.

Clearly the current Conservative administration has not listened to us or the many who expressed views opposing their scheme and planning application. The party has been determined to whip in its members behind the scheme although we know that there is not unanimity within the party that this is the right way forward.

We have worked actively with the local opposition parties to get them to the point where they have taken a clear and unequivocal position against the current proposals and to agree that, if elected, they will call an immediate halt to any further work on those proposals.

The Greens and the Liberal Democrats in particular have stated that they will use the material available from the previous consultations to commission a fresh brief for the rapid production of new proposals. These will be based on the whole site including The Embankment and commercial property on the side of King Street bordering it, will deliver a town square and other open public space, remove parking from the riverside and ensure that any development is of a scale and quality suitable for this precious and important site and will include a reasonable level of affordable housing.

We are aware that the Green Party and Liberal Democrats have arrived at an agreement not to compete against one another in this election whilst remaining independent from one another. In 6 wards the Lib Dems are only fielding two candidates. In these wards the Greens will stand one candidate and no candidates in the other wards. This allows people who wish to vote Lib Dem or Green to do so without the risk of damaging the election prospects of either party. It is clear to us that the only way of stopping the Conservative proposals for the riverside is by removing the party from office at this election. It is our view that to achieve this voters should use their 3 votes to vote Liberal Democrat where they are standing 3 candidates and 2 Liberal Democrat and 1 Green in the wards where their agreement applies.

We are grateful that the Labour Party has opposed the riverside plans. However we aren't convinced that their candidates have realistic prospects of being elected in any ward. Voting for them could undermine the Lib Dem and Green vote and let in the Conservative candidates "by the back door". We would therefore urge Labour voters to vote tactically and support the Lib Dem and Green Candidates.

We hope for a positive outcome on the 3rd May that will prevent these plans going ahead. We will then concentrate on holding the new Council to account in whatever form it takes and in advising and helping it follow a proper and purposeful process to get the riverside development Twickenham deserves.

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Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

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