

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Help improve playgrounds in Twickenham and North Sheen

Residents are being invited to share their views on suggested playground upgrades for Grimwood Road Recreation Ground and Tangier Green.

• Tangier Green, North Sheen

Residents near Tangier Green in North Sheen are set to improve their balance and coordination with the proposal of a new trim trail on a currently underused stretch of grass in the playground. See the [trim trail proposal and share your thoughts](#).

• Grimwood Road Recreation Ground, Twickenham

The proposal for Grimwood Road Recreation Ground in Twickenham suggests replacing three or four existing springers in the playground with new equipment for young people to enjoy. Equipment includes a ground trampoline, a spinning carousel, a seesaw and a play jeep.

View [images of the new equipment, further details of the consultation and have your say](#).

Richmond residents' top readers in London

Richmond libraries have come out top in London in the UK's annual library survey, showing the local people are some of the most avid readers in the capital.

The survey, conducted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA) aims to understand library service usership and investment across the country.

For the most recent annual figures (2018/19), Richmond upon Thames libraries have come out top in London for several categories including:

- Number of book issues per 1,000 population - First in London
- Number of reservations supplied within seven days - First in London
- Number of requests for specific items - First in London
- Number of online requests - First in London
- Number of requests per 1,000 population - First in London

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This week TwickerSeal has been mostly ... listening to chatter about the proposed development at Twickenham's Old Station Forecourt (aka Station Yard), opposite the Albany Pub.

There is much consternation about the development being six stories high, lack of affordable housing and issues about parking.

And yes, the development is brought to you by Solum, the lovely chaps behind the ongoing (and ongoing, and ongoing, and ...) Twickenham Station development

You can view the planning application [HERE](#).



For those of us growing up in the two or three decades after the Second World War, the local bobby was a very familiar site. Policemen, teachers, vicars, postmen, milkmen and local shopkeepers were the adults that managed the local neighbourhoods. They were the grown-ups that shaped and taught us kids the rules of childhood.

Society and village suburbia has changed in many ways since then, the folk referred to above spent their lifetimes in the same area, doing the same jobs and as a result there was a stability within local communities that appears to be sadly slipping away today.

Of course, change is constant and evolution within all local areas continues.

I can't help thinking that if policemen were as visible and responsive on the streets today as they were in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, then life might just be a little bit better.



And so to this week's images. Our first postcard shows Twickenham Police Station as it was in the 1960's. Situated in London Road, the same building remains in use but with narrower pavements and less traffic there was room for vehicles to pull in right outside the steps of the police station. Regal House at 70, London Road had just been built on the site of the Regal Cinema that closed in 1960 and the nice house next to it was a doctor's surgery, I think. Today it is part of the Waitrose supermarket site.

Our second image conjures up the 1960's perfectly I think. A policeman, an early triumph herald panda car and loads of snow! This photo was taken in London Road on the corner of Arragon Road on 9th January 1968. The Cabbage Patch pub is on the left, Regal House on the right and a double decker 33 bus has just come over the railway bridge in the background.

Snow in January? – What-ever next!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! - WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

The fair takes place at Teddington Baptist Church, Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF on Saturday 8th February. Plenty of dealers from around the UK selling postcards, stamps and other ephemera. Refreshments too! 10.00 – 4.00. Admission only £1.00



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

Help shape the future of Ellera Hall

Users of Ellera Hall and local residents are invited to come and meet Council officers and the architect who was commissioned to undertake the feasibility study, to discuss the latest plans for new social centre facilities in Teddington.

Last year the Council announced it was taking a fresh look at providing a fit for purpose building for Ellera Hall Social Centre. Ellera Hall in Teddington is a popular daytime social centre for residents across the borough. It is especially well used by older people for whom it is something of a social lifeline. In 2018, Richmond Council held a consultation on proposals for a possible new community hub in the area. This previous consultation and engagement showed that a new or rebuilt facility was needed, but a Community Hub proposal was neither popular with stakeholders nor the community.

Since then, the Council has been taking a renewed approach at providing a new, fit-for-purpose building for Ellera Hall. This has included commissioning a feasibility study to look at the North Lane (East) Car Park and former depot site in Teddington and considering options for a rebuild of the Centre. The current building is now reaching the end of its useful life and is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain.

The feasibility study has shown that a new purpose-built building on the Car Park site is possible. To fund this, the Council is considering a small affordable housing development on the current Social Centre site. The Council is not expecting to make any profit at all from this development.

The Council is keen to update residents on the latest plans and discuss their ideas for the future site. Information will be published on the Council website on Wednesday 29 January. In addition, a series of drop-in engagement sessions are being held on:

Tuesday 4 February from 3.30 to 7pm at RHP offices, 8 Waldegrave Road, TW11 8GT
Thursday 6 February from 3.30 to 7pm at RHP offices, 8 Waldegrave Road, TW11 8GT
Saturday 15 February from 10am to 12.30pm at Ellera Hall

Additional engagement sessions will be held for the current users of Ellera Hall.

There will be further opportunities for local people to have their say on the design of Ellera Hall, as well as the residential development and parking later in 2020. Future proposals would be subject to the normal planning process and full statutory consultation.

View [Ellera Hall reprovision](#) information and let us know your views by attending one of our drop-in sessions in February 2020. Deadline for feedback Friday 28 February 2020.



Holocaust Memorial Day programme of events

The borough is running a programme of events throughout January and early February to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place each year on 27 January. HMD 2020 is particularly poignant as it is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the borough's programme of events will be a moving tribute to the millions who died.

Events include:

- From Wednesday 15 January until Sunday 2 February the Landmark Arts Centre will feature an exhibition entitled '75 Memorials – A Community Remembers'. The artwork, poetry and prose has been created by schools, community groups and individuals from across the borough.
- The Orange Tree Youth Theatre group have been exploring the theme of standing together for HMD in their weekly sessions. On Sunday 26 January at 3pm they will perform two pieces of theatre created from scratch by members of the group.
- On Monday 27 January at 2pm the Langdon Down Museum is holding a talk and film screening about the Aktion T4 Nazi Euthanasia programme that was responsible for the murder of approximately 275,000 people with learning disabilities. The talk tells the story of Ivy, a 10-year-old victim, followed by a screening of the documentary film Aktion T4 that sees Berge Kanikianian, who has Down's Syndrome, travel to Poland and Germany to visit the sites of these euthanasia centres.
- Singers are invited to take part in a special choral workshop focusing on Yiddish and Hebrew music at the Landmark Arts Centre on Sunday 2 February from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Run by world renowned Jewish choir director Polina Shepherd participants will then perform that evening in a concert to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

See the [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) webpage for details on dates, timings and how to book.

Cllr Jo Humphreys, a Jewish ward councillor for Whitton, who is leading on the event, said:

“The programme of events for HMD offer the opportunity for us to come together and honour the experiences of people affected by the Holocaust and genocide. It is a chance for everyone to learn about the past and create a safer future where we challenge prejudice and hatred.

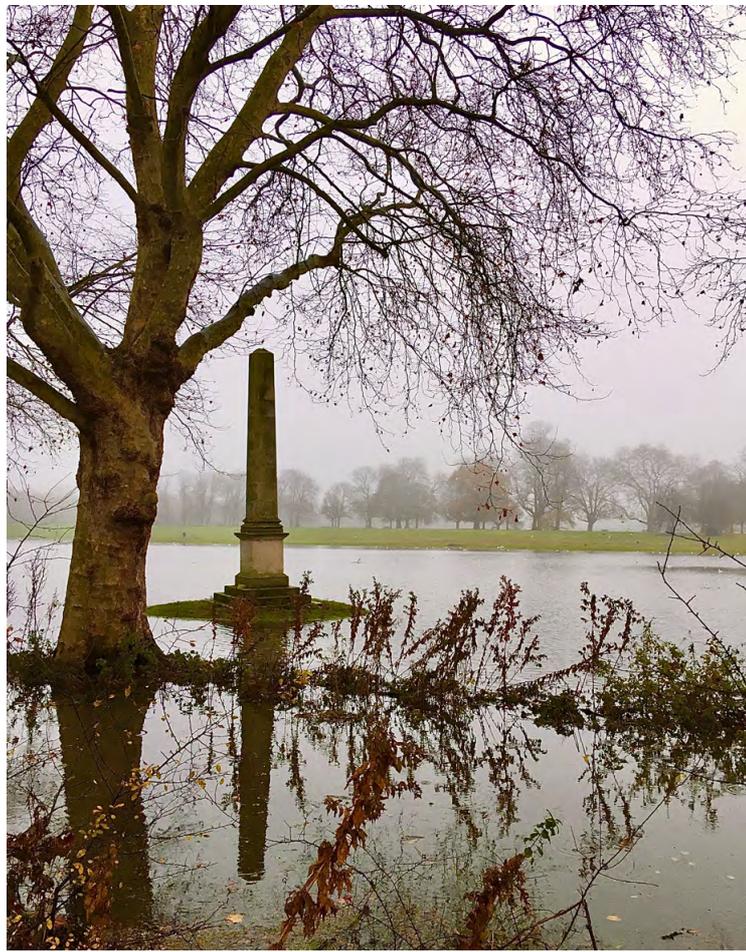
“From schools to libraries, theatre performances to documentary screenings, the borough's HMD activities will not only educate people about the past but will also inspire action against discrimination and persecution in today's world.”



#STANDTOGETHER
this Holocaust Memorial Day

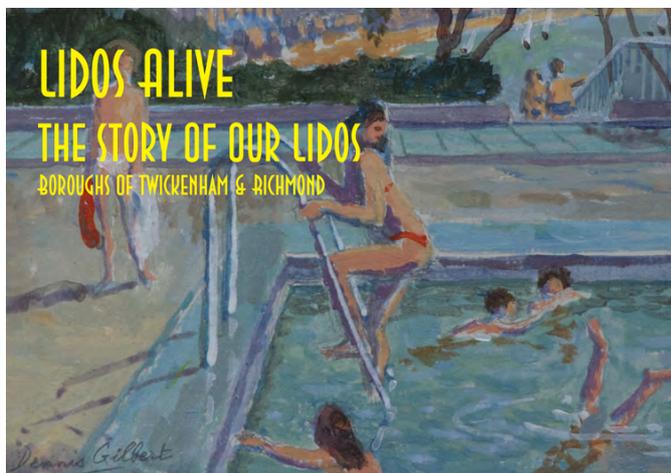
Borough Views

Tribune reader **Graeme Stoten** has sent in these two wonderful photos, one of Twickenham and the other of Richmond; no doubt our clever readers can identify their locations.



An Ideal Present for just £6

Lidos Alive – the Story of Our Lidos - is a 63-page A5 book with colour photos and illustrations full of interesting information about the history of outdoor swimming in the Borough and the rise of the lido. Contents include Mereway Bathing Place, pools in Bushy Park, Hampton Pool, Teddington Pool, Hampton Wick, Tagg's Island, Marble Hill, Twickenham Baths, Pools on the Park and other interesting stories.



Books can be purchased at Crusader Travel in Church Street, Twickenham and Premier Wines next to Strawberry Hill Station.

Ombudsman finds multiple failures with Richmond children's services provider

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has strongly criticised Richmond council's children's service provider, Achieving for Children, for not effectively supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Ombudsman has uncovered evidence of children missing out on support and education in three separate cases it has recently investigated, giving cause for concern about systemic failures between the council and its provider.

In one case, a sixth former with mental health issues was repeatedly let down and missed out on her education because the council took too long to make the appropriate provision.

In another case, a primary school child with disabilities missed out on the support he needed because the council took nearly a year to complete his Education, Health and Care Plan.

In the third case, a teenager with SEN who was about to sit her GCSEs, missed out on a year's education at a private special school, because the council failed to tell her parents it had agreed to fund it.

When the Ombudsman's investigators visited the council to inspect case files, they found documents often named or filed incorrectly. Additionally, the investigation found the council had three separate IT systems for managing information, one of which could only be accessed by a single member of staff. And in one of the cases, the Ombudsman's investigation was only able to discover what had happened because the family had kept thorough records.

Michael King, Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, said:

"The three cases highlighted in my report give rise to serious concerns that there may be systemic failures within the processes operated by the London Borough of Richmond and Achieving for Children. I have published this report in part because other families may very well be affected by issues similar to those I have raised. I have now asked the council to undertake a full audit of its education provision and report back to me about what it finds. If the council finds other children have been affected, it should take steps to ensure they do not miss out on the services they are entitled to receive by law."

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's role is to remedy injustice and share learning from investigations to help improve public, and adult social care, services. In this case the council has agreed to apologise to all three families. It will also pay the parents of the first child £1,500 for the delay and lost education provision, along with £500 for distress and a further £250 for their time and trouble in bringing the complaint.

In the second case, the council has already apologised and offered the family £4,400 to reimburse the cost of a psychology report the family had commissioned. It has also agreed to pay them a further £1,500 for the loss of SEN provision and £250 for their time and trouble.

The council has agreed to pay the third family £8,600 to make up for the loss of education provision and for distress, along with a further £500 for the time and trouble caused. The Ombudsman has the power to make recommendations to improve processes for the wider public. In this case the council has agreed to carry out an audit of all the children for whom Achieving for Children is responsible, to identify if others have been affected in the same way. If it finds similar issues with delay, children out of education, or inadequate record-keeping, it should put in place action plans to address these.

View the report [HERE](#)

Local Government &
Social Care
OMBUDSMAN



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www.richmondconcerts.co.uk



Theatre

Saturday 25 January matinee and evening at St Edmund's Church Hall, Nelson Road, Whitton: Jack and the Beanstalk.
Saturday 25 January to Friday 31 January at Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre, Main Auditorium: Amadeus by Peter Shaffer. Music, power, jealousy and the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Poetry

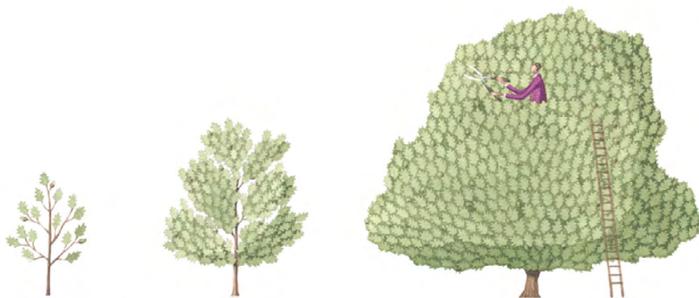
Poetry Performance at the Adelaide pub, Park Road, Teddington. Open mic spots on the first Sunday of every month from 6 to 8pm.

Music

18 January 7.30 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre, The Songs of Leonard Cohen (Keith James).

Jazz, rock, and blues music enthusiasts who head to the bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit Twickfolk, Twickenham Jazz Club and Eel Pie Club websites to check what's on.

If you are interested in advertising an Arts & Entertainment event write to advertise@twickenhamtribune.com for further information.



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darryl parkin

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18th to 25th JANUARY 2020

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THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
by John Webster
21st to 28th March 2020

SUMMERLAND
by Arlitia Jones
2nd to 9th May 2020



Bushy Park receives one of Newton's eight space saplings

A celestial tree with roots that intertwine with Isaac Newton's discovery of gravity, is to be planted in one of London's eight Royal Parks.

Bushy Park, a Site of Special Scientific Interest that receives over two million visits a year has been chosen to be the home of one of eight 'space saplings.' The tree is derived from the pips of Isaac Newton's apple tree, that were blasted into space with British astronaut Tim Peake in 2015.

The project is a collaboration between the UK Space Agency, National Trust and Kew Gardens, to inspire the next generation of scientists.

The Royal Parks, in partnership with the National Physical Laboratory and The Friends of Bushy Park successfully bid for one of the eight saplings, that originates from the pips of the 400-year-old Flower of Kent tree in Woolsthorpe Manor, that prompted Isaac Newton to think about gravity.

The apple tree will be protected by a domed metal cage that will double up as a 'daytime planetarium.' The structure will provide physical protection from animals such as rabbits and parakeets as it grows and will accommodate educational activities both inside and outside of it. It will approximately measure 5 metres by 3.5 metres and will be designed by the local community to incorporate astronomy, physics, Isaac Newton and horticulture. The sapling will be taken to the state-of-the-art Hyde Park Super Nursery where it will be nurtured by horticultural experts until it is resilient enough to cope with the outdoor conditions in the Woodland Gardens in Bushy Park.



Tim Peake with Assistant park Manger Bill Swan

Over the next two years the project will engage with young people to help design the daytime planetarium and once built, the National Physical Laboratory will use it as a base to deliver some of their outreach projects, such as giving young people the opportunity to meet scientists and engineers and The Royal Parks will use the tree as a training tool to teach apprentices about propagation and arboriculture. The Friends of Bushy Park will be delivering walks and talks on the Sapling story and will also launch a fundraising appeal to cover some of the project's cost.

Bill Swan, Assistant Park Manager for Bushy Park said:

"It is of immense pride to be chosen to look after one of the eight space saplings. Trees are important in their own right because of their benefits to the environment but this particular one is special because it provides both a gateway to the past and to the future. Isaac Newton himself said that "if I have seen further, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants," and we wish to inspire the next generation by giving them access to a range of experts such as scientists, engineers and horticulturalists, and providing a wide range of educational opportunities."

Colin Muid, Chair of the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks said:

"The Friends are proud to have helped Bushy Park be selected to be custodian of one of the Space Saplings. Our joint project with NPL which we call Fruits of Genius, will be a wonderful addition to the historic rural space of Bushy Park, which we love and help conserve."

Dr Pete Thompson FEng, CEO of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), said:

"NPL is delighted to be working in partnership with our friends and neighbours, Bushy Park and the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks to share the heritage and story of this unique tree. We look forward to working together to continue our work to engage future generations with science and nature."



Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By:TwickWatch

Now you see it, now you don't. Most people look around at their environment but don't see what is there, rarely raising their heads to look above ground level. Even on buses offering a better vantage point, most heads are lowered, people rarely even glancing out of the window, tapping away on their mobile devices which they feel demand their ongoing attention, even when idle.

The social landscape in the last hundred years has changed quickly and evolved. Had street photographers not documented the people and buildings on the streets - people in the future may never have even known they existed. We are indebted to street photography and how it preserved the history as shown by one of Twickenham's little-known gems for example. How it has changed over time, mainly through neglect. Maybe the New Year is a chance for a new look around for you to make new discoveries. There are two excellent Facebook sites covering the history of the Borough full of pictures and local knowledge, one for the [Twickenham](#) area and one for the [Richmond](#) area.



*Lyric Palace
(courtesy of 'Cinema Theatre Association
Archive')*

Lyric Picture Palaces Limited was registered on 7 May 1912 to erect and carry on a picture palace at Twickenham, on a site in Richmond Road Twickenham (abutting York Street).

The commercial hotel/dining rooms on the site in 1911 Bishop Edward Charles "Twickenham Dining Rooms, was demolished to make way for the Lyric. It had previously been the dwelling house



*Commercial hotel/dining
rooms pre-Lyric. Courtesy
(© 'Richmond Illustrated')*

attached to the Corben Brothers carriage works with an additional triangle of land purchased by the Corben Brothers from the Council in 1899.

The cinema was to be called the Twickenham Lyric Picture Palace, being built for cine-variety, a mixture of silent films and live Vaudeville acts, opening in 1913. Seating for 624 people was provided on a single sloping floor. A building that would have been worthy of Listed status today.



*Lyric Picture Palace Charter Day 1926
© "BFI Player"*

The inside decoration of the original cinema interior is still preserved A photograph of the original interior, taken in 2017, shows the internal ceiling and proscenium arch of the original Lyric.

In August 1926 the building was badly scorched by a huge fire which completely destroyed the adjacent garage belonging to A W Bradbury & Company Limited.

Would that a local millionaire stepped forward for a massive restoration project!



*Lyric Picture Palace Original ceiling
© Roger Wyer*

The 22 October 1920 saw an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of Lyric Picture Palaces Limited - "That it is advisable to wind up this Company, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily". On 13 July 1921 a General Meeting of the Company convened to receive the Report of the Liquidator showing how "the winding-up of the Company had been conducted and its property disposed of".



Lyric Cinema Advert
(courtesy of 'Cinema Theatre Association Archive')

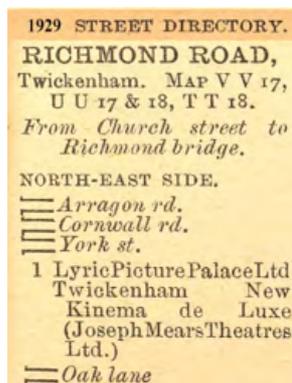
"The Times" 4 January 1923 carried an advert for the sale of a Freehold Property - Lyric Picture Palace, "to close a partnership".



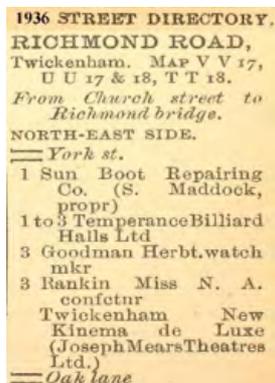
Aerial view c1925 of Lyric Palace and environs
-Courtesy of 'Cinema Theatre Association Archive' (c)

It seems that Joseph Theophilus Mears at this time, bought and added the Lyric to his portfolio. Mears was a local entrepreneur, cinema and theatre owner and one-time Mayor of Richmond.

Due to the far better facilities on offer at the newly built Kinema De Luxe also known as "the Twickenham", designed and built by Mears himself on the adjacent plot of a burnt-out garage, the Lyric became redundant as a cinema. and closed in February 1930 due to the far better facilities on offer at the newly built Kinema De Luxe next door built by Joseph Mears Theatres Limited who also owned the Lyric by now.



The Lyric and Kinema de Luxe ran alongside each other for a while.



By 1936 the Twickenham New Kinema stood alone

Following its closure as a cinema, by 6 March 1931 the Temperance Billiard Halls converted the picture house to a billiard hall. It is not certain at which point the building was stripped of its original external grandeur.



Temperance Billiard Hall is shown on the 1959 map - Courtesy of 'Twickenham Park Residents Association'



Lyric building stripped of its external grandeur and used as a temperance billiard hall -
Courtesy of 'Kenneth Lea'

On the 25 April 1939 there was a "bomb incident" at the billiard hall. Twickenham police officers took charge of a "bomb" which was found in the entrance hall of the hall. The manager of the hall Mr Esson, found a cardboard box. Inside it was an alarm clock from which a wire led to an electric torch battery and some white powder Mr Esson plunged the box into a bucket of water!

A planning application to build an office block on the site, which was starting to look run down, was refused in 1962. In 1963 Pickfords applied for planning permission as a warehouse storage facility which was refused. In 1964 Messrs Penningtons applied for planning permission as a youth entertainment club and was also refused.

Mecca Limited bought the premises in 1965 and made several attempts to add garish signage to the façade, most of which were turned down by the Council. Their request for planning permission to build a four-storey office block was also turned down in 1973. At this point it seems the site was sold again and opened as a sauna. In 1975 the Council appear to have purchased the property and applied for a change of use to convert from the sauna to offices themselves which was granted. The site became a major print works for the Council.

In early 2013, there was consideration being put forward to rehabilitating the building as a community cinema but this never transpired. By 2018 it had been partially converted to accommodate the Eel Pie Museum who joined the Chamber of Commerce on the site.



*Aerial view of site 2019
Courtesy of 'Twickenham Park Residents Association' (c)*



In 2019 building in use by the Chamber of Commerce, the Eel Pie Museum and Council stores - Courtesy of 'Twickenham Park Residents Association' (c)

L E T T E R S

Dear Sir

...As a new subscriber to the Tribune, I'm enjoying the depth and detail of your articles, so informative with a keen pulse on topical matters and local history.

Thank you and well done.

Name and address supplied

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH OPENS TURNER AND THE THAMES: FIVE PAINTINGS AT THE ARTIST'S HOUSE IN TWICKENHAM

Sir David Attenborough opened the first exhibition of J.M.W. Turner's original work in the great landscape artist's house in Twickenham on January 10th.

Sir David, who was born in Isleworth and has lived in Richmond for nearly 70 years, declared the exhibition open with the words,

"I would say to local people come here, because this is a joy. I thank you all as a local resident. I can imagine Turner now walking to Richmond Park, there is a lot of Turner still around here, but you won't find it as vividly and as movingly as you do in this most beautifully and lovingly restored house. I congratulate all those who have been responsible and am privileged to declare it open."



Sir David Attenborough admiring the view JMW Turner would have had from his bedroom window. Copyright Turner's House Trust



Sunset on the River, 1805, Turner and the Thames exh. at Turner's House, Twickenham. copyright Tate.

Thanks to a generous loan from the Tate, the exhibition *Turner and the Thames: Five Paintings*, features rare oil sketches at Sandycombe Lodge, 40 Sandycombe Road, St Margarets, Twickenham TW1 2LR.

Sir David was given a private tour by the House Director Ricky Pound and trustee and curator of the exhibition, Andrew Loukes who explained that before its award-winning restoration two years ago, the house had looked very different to the house which JMW Turner had designed for himself.

"Of course, I knew that Turner was around here, but I never dreamt that there was a hidden gem like this. And it was hidden, of course, because it was rendered on the surface and had accretions of one sort or another; you could have walked up and down Sandycombe Road all your life and never known that this was the place of the greatest 19th century painters,"

Sir David remarked. *"The scholarship, the insight and the care of local people who rescued and revealed it is really astonishing."*

Sir David enjoyed meeting "Old Dad", a feature in the kitchen, where the shadow of Turner's father, who lived with his son in Twickenham, speaks to visitors, *"...downstairs there is an extraordinary stroke of genius. Really, really remarkable and only achievable, I imagine, in a little place like this, where you can walk in and see a silhouette of an old, toothless chap sitting in a chair smoking a pipe - Turner's father. I've never seen a device like this before, its original and I congratulate whoever did this."*

He was also impressed with the restoration of the original brickwork and the hand blocked wallpaper hung in the large bedroom, recreated from a tiny old scrap of original wallpaper. Sir David congratulated *"all the local people and art historians who have given such care and imagination and love in bringing this house back. Removing the render, taking such care in getting the right sort of contemporary wallpaper, reconstructing the wallpaper upstairs from a little fragment. It's an extraordinary journey of imagination that you can make... this is a time machine."*



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Dates, Venues, Adjudicators 2020

Vocal Section - Adjudicator: **Belinda Mikhail**, BMus(Hons),PgDipRCM, ARCM

February 28th at YMCA White House, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN (mainly choirs and ensembles)

February 29th & March 1st at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ (Solos)

Piano section: - Adjudicator: **Li Lin Teo**, ARAM,LRAM,ARCM(Hons), LRSM

March 6th, 7th, 8th, 14th at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ

Instrumental:

March 15th (Wind/Brass & Percussion) - Adjudicator: **Paul Harris**, FRAM, HonTCL, GRSM, LRAM, ARCM ARAM, MTC, FRSA

March 21st, 22nd (other orchestral instruments) - Adjudicator: **Fiona McLean Buechel**, BA (RSAMD) Cert RAM. All **Instrumental** sections at Kew Community Centre

Speech & Drama March 28th & 29th - Adjudicators: **Tish Nicoll** LGSM, DipCE, FESB, MSTSD

& **Ann Bauer**, MEd, BA (Hons),LRAM, LGSM, PGCE, DipSpLD at YMCA White House. Hampton TW12 3RN

Section Secretaries (to whom entries should be made)

Instrumental: Pamela Frazer, pam@fra3zer.demon.co.uk

Piano: Sue Thornton, suethornton101@virginmedia.com Assistant Piano Secretary: Kay Aldridge

Vocal: Judy Hildesley judyhildesley@btinternet.com

Speech & Drama: Emma-Louise Tinniswood richmonddramafestival@gmail.com

Closing dates for Receipt of Entries

Piano - January 19th 2020

Vocal & Speech & Drama - January 31st 2020

Instrumental - February 8th 2020



General enquiries - info@richmondfestival.org.uk



VEGANUARY... AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Well now, are you doing ‘Veganuary’? Apparently, the most popular New Year’s resolution in the UK was to eat more healthily, with some 9 per cent of those declaring their ambition to become vegan or vegetarian.

With more and more people embracing this lifestyle option, food producers and restaurants are consequently getting on the bandwagon to offer vegan alternatives and options.

And as we all know, there has been lots of hype about vegan sausage rolls. A company called OnBuy.com found that ‘KFC Vegan’ receives an astonishing 6,600 online queries every month. Thereafter, ‘McDonald’s Vegan’ is searched 5,400 times every month. ‘Pizza Hut Vegan’, ‘Subway Vegan’ and ‘Domino’s Vegan’ are each gaining 4,400 monthly Google searches. And, amazingly 23% of all new UK food product launches were labelled vegan in 2019!

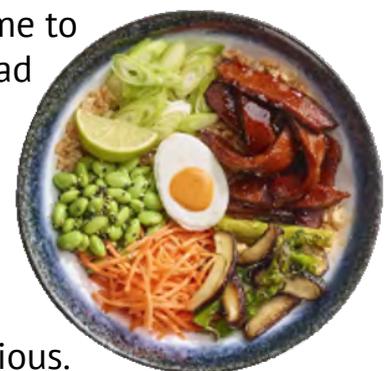
Greggs, in particular, is proving to be a forerunner in the vegan fast food trend. Last January saw the release of the wonderfully controversial vegan sausage roll. After its January launch, it became one of Greggs’ top 10 bestselling products, which helped the company’s sales soar by 13.4 per cent over the year. With the recent release of the vegan steak bake this January, we’re already seeing a similar phenomenon as vegans across the country are getting access to cheap, quick ‘on the go’ vegan meals. The fact that you can now stick to a vegan diet, while still being able occasionally to indulge in fast food, has made this dietary option far more appealing to the masses.

What I don’t really understand though, is why there is need at all to create anything that mirrors something like a steak, when people have opted not to eat meat in the first place! There is already a myriad of options open to vegans: Indian and Asian dishes in particular are often vegan, without the need to promote the fact. Some of my favourite recipes and dishes to order when eating out are already, in fact, vegan, and many fine dining restaurants offer vegan dishes. But don’t assume that just because a restaurant menu offers good vegetarian options, it can instantly make them vegan. Serina Drake, owner of Michelin-starred The Clock House in Ripley, which has wonderful vegetarian menus, says: “We are always very happy to accommodate special diets – especially vegan. But do allow us some time to ensure that we are able to tweak recipes, so advise us a day or two ahead if you can.”

Many of the larger restaurant chains like Wagamama have excellent vegan options on their menus the whole year round. We popped in to the Richmond branch this week and found ourselves ordering vegan dishes because they sounded delicious – this ‘avant gard’n’ went down a storm (the ‘egg’ isn’t a real egg). And the Bang Bang cauliflower is delicious.

And of course, the fashion industry is also embracing veganism – apparently you can now buy vegan trainers (a company called Gola if you were wondering). I wonder if vegan trainers will smell any better? That’s no mean feat! (pardon the pun).

Follow Alison on insta: [@theseasonedgastronome](https://www.instagram.com/theseasonedgastronome)



Mission Easter Bonnet

By Shona Lyons

A fortnight ago we had the first Church Street Association meeting of the new decade and it was unanimously agreed that our events are very good for all of us, bringing much needed extra footfall fusing us together with our local community upon whom we depend for our lively hood. I diligently wrote it down in my pad as I take the minutes, not sure whether I should be happy or sad! It was just a few weeks away after our Christmas events and to be honest it was a great relief to have it behind us as it is a lot of hard work for me and Bruce (the old git☺) But now a few weeks later and having had some blissful sleep I have in fact unbelievably started to miss the planning and

Church Street does look like it needs a little more sparkle, music, pizazz, stalls, & Easter Bonnets!

So I am now on mission Easter Bonnet and hopefully by April our little street will be heaving with all kinds of stalls and Easter merchandise, and of course for the very first time since I can remember (I was born in this street and have quite a good memory) an Easter Bonnet Parade and an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt. I am really looking forward to the parade! ☺ So watch this space for more news and plans coming up in the next few weeks.

EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL

Easter Craft Fair 11am - 5pm

CHURCH STREET TWICKENHAM



Easter Bonnet Parade 12.00

Come and take part in the fantastical Easter Bonnet Parade in Church Street Twickenham on Easter Sunday 12 April. The parade will start outside Mint Hair and Spa 53-54 Church Street TW1 3NR at 12 midday. 8 lucky winners in adult and children categories will win special chocolate Easter Eggs!



Easter Egg Treasure Hunt 2-4pm

www.twickenhamthetown.org.uk

Take Part in the Easter Egg Treasure Hunt. Clues in the shop windows & the street. Pick up forms from Crusader Travel from 2-4pm





A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens adapted by Emma Louise Tinniswood

Step on Stage Productions at Hampton Hill Theatre until 11th January

Step On Stage's production of *A Christmas Carol* performed by its Youth Theatre was extremely engaging with scenes ranging from festivity and laughter through to death and poverty.

I really loved all the singing and the Christmas carols were very tuneful and even though it was a short time after Christmas, it still put me in a Christmassy mood, looking forward to next year's Christmas.

Narration was very strong and engaging. All the actors managed to project their voices exceptionally well and there wasn't a word that I couldn't hear. The set and costume were outstanding and creative.

The scene based at the Cratchits' house was one of my favourites, as it was realistic and had very good dialogue and atmosphere that made me feel included into a real family's Christmas lunch. At the feast with the Fezziwigs as there was joy and dancing all the time, and when the cast sang *Five Gold Rings*, the audience sang along.



At the start of the play you see Scrooge, played by Scarlett Gladstone, who is a talented young actor, being glum and miserable even though there is so much Christmas merriment, especially at this time of year.

Then Marley, dead for the past seven years, comes to visit Scrooge to give him a warning. Daisy Diamond played Marley extremely well, captivating the audience and leaving them on the edge of their seats. The creative use of haze, clanging chains and echoing microphone heightened the tension.

Then came the three Ghosts of Christmas

Milly Stephens is one of our younger critics at 14 years old, and you can read her review at www.markaspen.com/2020/01/11/ch-carol-sos

Photography courtesy of Step on Stage Academy

Once

by Enda Walsh, music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, based the film by John Carney

Spiegel, Bartner, New Wolsey and Queen's Theatres at Ashcroft Playhouse, Croydon until 11th January, then on tour until 25th July

Restraint is a word used much more than once in the wonderfully romantic piece of folk whimsy, *Once*. If restraint seems inapt a word for an Oscar-winning musical, especially one that starts pre-show with full-on foot tapping folk rock band, then think again. Think *Riverdance* meets *Brief Encounter*. *Once* is a gentle love story, it is about taking courage and believing in oneself, it is about the power of music.



If music is the driving force of the plot of *Once*, it certainly gets a turbo-charged start. Cast and audience immediately enjoy the craic at a pre-show party that extend from stage to stalls, as sixteen musicians burst a lively fire-cracker of Irish folk music, the fidgeting fiddles set against soothing squeeze-boxes, pounding feet against honeyed harmonies, humming and keening against whoops and shouts, joyous and jolly. Remarkably, though, these talented musicians are also the talented actors who will tell us the story of *Once*.

The lights fade down, but the party continues; then house lights out, the fiddles become violins, the music lyrical and the soft story starts. The basis of the plot is fairly simple: boy meets girl; they fall in love ... boy and girl part, their love unconsummated. In fact the audience falls in love with these characters before they realise that they are falling for each other. What make this simple plot special is the gentleness; that the two never lose their place in their own cultures, and they remain bound together by a common love of music. To paraphrase, they make music, not love



Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/01/10/once

Photography by Mark Senior



Dial M for Murder

by Frederick Knott

Simon Friend, Gavin Kalinat at Richmond Theatre until 18th January, then on tour until 18th July

It's a stormy night in Richmond, perfect for an evening of blackmail, deception, and murder. Frederick Knott's *Dial M for Murder*, made internationally famous by Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film adaptation plays out almost like an episode of *Columbo*. The audience knows the truth behind a murder from the outset, and the play



becomes a suspenseful psychological thriller as the question becomes how, or even *if*, the true culprit might be unmasked.

With a naturalistic set, stylish period costumes, and brutally realistic fight sequences courtesy of Alison de Burgh, this new production is a slick, taut, thriller. The play's setting is updated slightly from the 1950s to 1963, and this is mostly reflected in the stylised décor of the spacious set that depicts Tony and Margot Wendice's comfortable flat, as well as in the stylish and well-cut costumes, both designed by David Woodhead.

Dial M for Murder is the story of Tony Wendice's scheme to have his wife murdered in order to inherit her money, a scheme that goes very wrong. Wendice himself is played by Tom Chambers in a wide-ranging performance that is

charismatic enough that you can never truly hate the character, despite his ruthless scheming. Sally Bretton shines as Margot Wendice despite her character often being more of a plot device than a real person. Michael Salami provides real energy as TV writer and Margot's love interest Max Halliday. The cast is rounded out by Christopher Harper, highly engaging in his dual roles as Captain Lesgate, a petty criminal in an audaciously fake moustache, and Inspector Hubbard, a deceptively placid detective who unravels the deadly plot



Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/01/16/dial-m-2

Photography by Manuel Harlan

TRAVELLER'S TALES 63

TAMIL NADU

Doug Goodman discovers the treasures of India's historic state



On arriving in Chennai from Bangalore the rain was intense so the umbrellas given to us by our driver from the Ministry of Tourism were much appreciated. India's monsoon rains are somewhat heavier than a rain storm in Twickenham! Our tour began in Chennai, once known as Madras, the former trading port for the British East India Company and capital of Tamil Nadu. The imposing St. George's Fort, preserved colonial-style mansions and public gardens brought forth images of the British rulers as they colonised India from the 17th century.



Beach at
Mamallapuram



Ancient carvings at
Mamallapuram



Krishna's Butter Ball



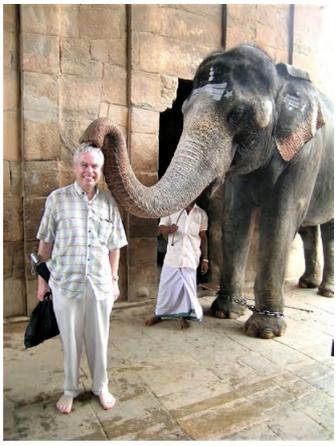
Tourist Group

Tamil Nadu is famous for its temples, the Chola Empire, its music and culture. The State is in South East India with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to the north and the holiday destinations of Kerala to the west. The first stop was at Mamallapuram about 35 miles south of Chennai. Here the first signs of the terrible Tsunami, which had struck Indonesia and crossed the Indian Ocean to the country's east coast a few months before our visit, were apparent. Villages and fishing communities had been swept away, wreckage of boats littered the beaches and the loss of life had been significant.

We were to visit two of the Eco-resorts created by visionary Steve Borgia: Indeco Hotels in Tamil Nadu restores heritage sites and preserves local art and culture. The resorts bring employment to the communities, provide education and schools for local children and encourage the people to interact with visitors. The Swamimali in Mamallapuram was built on the site of a British camp of the 1800's and furnished with antiques. Plants and flowers were everywhere. We were welcomed with cold towels, a hot oil foot massage and a glass of lime juice. In the town we visited the site of Arjuna's Penance - the world's largest bas-relief with carvings of gods, man, beasts and birds and a claim to represent the creation. The richly carved Five Rathas, the Shore Temple and Krishna's Butter Ball were exquisite. Visitors pose by this gigantic 250 ton boulder, which along with the 7th century temples forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Before heading south there was time to take my favourite, rather worn shirt to a tailor's shop to get two copies made. It took 12 hours and cost £10,

CHOLA EMPIRE

Thanjavur was the capital of the Chola Empire over 1000 years ago and became a centre of learning, culture and carving. The Brihadeshwarar Temple must count as one of the most beautiful in Tamil Nadu and its architecture shows the final evolution of the Dravidian culture. The grounds were always full of barefoot worshippers in brightly coloured clothing carrying



food offering into the temples. Custom requires you to remove shoes before entering any temple area but after heavy rain the sites' deep puddles can often conceal cow droppings. While taking a step back to photograph the towering edifice there was a sudden unpleasant squelch! Remember cows are sacred and allowed to wander where they like so be warned and carry spare socks! Much loved and respected are elephants who will greet visitors to the temples with an outstretched trunk into which you place a cash offering. In return you receive a blessing from the gentle creatures. Their upkeep is controlled and

Writer gets an elephant blessing

Fresco in Brihadeshwarar

expensive so your donation might just contribute to a better life. Tea with the local Maharaja was an enjoyable experience and a chance to learn how the country was once ruled. His long-relinquished status and his palace, now state-owned and in disrepair, told a sad story. Stone and bronze sculptures in the Raja Raja Chola art gallery dating from the 9th century portrayed a skill that was forgotten and now being revived.

We stayed at the second Swamimali eco resort at Kumbakonam near Tanjore. The estate was built in 1906 for a rich family. Ninety years later its conversion from home to hotel was completed and the heritage, culture, traditions and local lifestyle have been maintained. And what a wonderful green, flower-filled, and relaxing place it was. Home-grown produce was served, music and dance performances took place and domestic animals wandered freely around the gardens. Breakfast was delivered in saddle bags to our villa by a very friendly goat. Four-legged staff naturally received a reward for their excellent service.



Sea Front at Pondicherry



Nice Police



Brihadeshwarar Temple



Bus station at Thanjavur

FRENCH CONNECTION

In the older parts of the city of Pondicherry you could have imagined being in a French town. Street signs were identical to those in Paris, the police wore kepis, the restaurant served French specialities and the bread and croissants were next best to France's own. The French influence dates from 1674 when the French East India Company established a trading post to rival that of the British. During the Anglo-French wars of the mid-18th century the place changed hands many times, but on gaining control of India in the late 1850's the British allowed France to keep her territory. And so Pondicherry, or Puducherry as it's now known, remained a little piece of France until 1954 when it was incorporated into the Indian Union.

Our 600 mile tour had shown us a tiny part of Tamil Nadu but provided the opportunity to learn about its history and culture, enjoy its cuisine and hospitality and relax in India's 11th largest state.

Messing about on the River

By Bruce Lyons

***When the weather is fine you know it's the time
For messin' about on the river
If you take my advice there's nothing so nice
As messin' about on the river
There's big boats and wee boats and all kinds of craft
Puffers and keel boats and some with no raft
With the wind in your face there's no finer place
Than messin' about on the river***

As a bit of light relief – we travel agents (that's right there are still a few of us around – the internet hasn't killed us all off) are working the PEAKS, that the silly season when everyone trots in and tries to match their budget (too little) to their preferences (too much) and our job is to make the best of all that, which we do, by the way. It is also the time when all those tricky little jobs emerge that have been inspired by Messrs Michael Portillo on his trains, and Michael West & Prunella Scales on the Canals and my favourite Monty Don with his Gardens – so I'm going instead to tell you about the GREAT RIVER RACE, as I say, as light relief.

Every year I arrange for my friends Stuart and Rose the land arrangements for the competitors and this year will be the same – with a big difference. The race is on Saturday 5th September but it is called The Mayflower Great River Race as this is the 400th Anniversary when the Pilgrim Fathers set sail on the Mayflower and the Race has adopted the Anniversary in honour of the occasion. Already we have teams booked from New England and of course the Dutch, they sailed on the same sailing, did you know? As well as French Crews and a couple of boats from Tasmania.



As always the Race falls in the Thames Festival month so there will be a huge amount of Thames events including a River Pageant on the 4th, it promises to be a big fleet and I understand the Replica Mayflower will sail with the fleet. Rotherhithe has events as well as the Mayflower sailed from there to Portsmouth where the transatlantic sail really started, but not before the Dutch joined as their ship sprang a leak. They say the Mayflower was filled to the gunnels, and was a might cramped.

Every year I book loads of rooms at the Lensbury and the Travelodge in Teddington and last year we had over 300 sleeping in the hotels as well as the campers at Thames Mariners. It might surprise you to know that over 3000 rowers come for the race and it attracts some 30,000 spectators along the route from the Isle of Dogs to Ham House. This year we have already added The Alexander Pope and have a planned weekend for visitors from elsewhere in the UK, with cycle rides in Richmond Park, visits to the Eel Pie Museum and more.

We have a spectator boat too which you can book to follow the race, she's over a 100 yrs old!!

Most years I race (well row) in my 115yr old Robyn but last year as I was grounded as Hedda had broken her shoulder in a boating accident (not messing about !!) and they didn't reckon it would be good if yours truly had a mishap @ 85 yes (younger than Robyn though)

But this year I have set my heart on it.



The race is much nicer now as “in the old days” we used to start on High Tide at Ham and row down to Poplar, by which time it was low tide and you finished in the mud at Poplar Rowing Club and before they allowed to walk up the slipway you were hosed down to get the mud off. Now you row up from the Isle of Dogs on the incoming tide and finish in the grassy meadows of Ham – of course by

then I am knackered and they threaten to tow me in “screaming and protesting” and I usually tell the Marshalls I can't hear them and they let me finish. So if you have friends planning to visit you – this is the weekend to aim for – loads of fun for all.

A Bad Day on the River always beats a Good Day at the Office ...

Next week we will putting up on our website the offers, so tell your friends to look; www.crusadertravel.com (offers) – The Great River Race



BRENTFORD FC

Bees secure bragging rights in the derby

Brentford 3 – Stoke City 1

A destructive first half from Brentford inspired by a goal each from their front three of Said Benrahma, Bryan Mbeumo and Ollie Watkins swept aside their rivals from TW5, as Brentford cut the gap to six points from the automatic promotion spots.

The Bees were unlucky to be denied a penalty early on when a mistimed challenge from Geoff Cameron caught Watkins inside the penalty area when clean through.



Watkins then fired another warning shot and the QPR defence. Picking the ball up with his back to goal on the six-yard line, he spun away from his marker, but his left footed effort drifted wide.

A well-worked free kick routine then got Brentford up and running for their seventh home win in a row.

Thibaud Verlinden picked up a headed clearance from Brentford and turned away from Pontus Jansson but he too could not find the quality to finish, as his effort drifted wide. Standing over the ball in the far-right hand touch line, Josh Dasilva ran dummied running over the ball as Mathias Jensen drove the ball low into the area. Peeling off from the back post was Benrahma who curled the ball home first time.

Just four minutes later a weak clearance from R's keeper Liam Kelly was picked off in midfield by Christian Norgaard. Taking the ball on his chest with his first touch, the Dane then clipped the ball towards Mbeumo on the right-hand side. A misjudged header from Cameron looped backwards and Mbeumo hooked the ball in for the hosts second of the afternoon.

And just ten minutes later Brentford had a third. A free kick from Jensen drifted out towards Ethan Pinnock who comfortably won his header in the air. Pinnock's header flew into the box where Watkins was on hand to finish from close range for the Championship top scorer's eighteenth goal of the season.

Just before the interval Luke Amos slipped the ball into the path of Ilias Chair but a superb recovery from Dalsgaard prevented an attempt on goal from the Hoops.

Benrahma whipped a free kick into the side netting early into the second half but the Bees eased up and were made to pay in the sixty second minute after Nahki Wells tapped home from a Bright Osayi-Samuel delivery, following some neat passing football.

Late on David Raya produced a brilliant one handed save at point blank range to deny Eberechi Eze, whilst up the other end Watkins headed onto the roof of the net following a Benrahma cross.

Frank pens new Bees contract

Brentford's head coach Thomas Frank has signed a new contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2023.

Frank has been at Griffin Park since 2016 when he joined as part of former coach Mark Warburton's team and was promoted into the role of head coach in October 2018.

The extension comes at a very exciting time for the Bees with the club set to move into their new ground for the 2020/21 season and currently lying third in the Championship table with twenty-seven games played and are in with a great chance of gaining promotion.

Speaking following the signing of the extension Frank said, "There is a unique togetherness at Brentford and a unique focus on wanting to get better every day. We have a clear plan; a clear strategy and good people and we are going in the right direction. We are in a really good place and not just because of our current form on the pitch and our position in the league but because of how we are run on and off the pitch. Everybody can see the players are getting better every day and we are going into a new stadium, which is a massive boost."

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Brentford face an away trip to Huddersfield Town with a 3.00pm kick off in the north. The hosts find themselves languishing down in 20th position in the table and so the Bees should find themselves starting as strong favourites, with Brentford having lost just once in their past five games. However, the Bees will need to keep their eye on Karlaan Grant with the forward having scored twelve and assisted four so far this campaign.

Come on you Bees!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Beavers bow out of the Trophy

Yeovil Town 4 – 0 Hampton

Hampton's dreams of a Wembley day out in the sunshine ended as a ruthless Yeovil side, inspired by a hattrick from Rees Murphy, put four past the Hampton backline.

Coming into the game Yeovil were riding high in the National League, a division above Hampton, and had been playing League Two football the previous season.

Cheered on by a vociferous travelling away support the Beavers made a composed start in Somerset. Their first chance fell to Dean Inman who was just unable to divert the ball goalwards, following a free kick from Ryan Hill

The clinical edge of Yeovil proved crucial as just before the interval as Glovers midfielder Albi Skendi played in Rhys Murphy, who clipped the ball over Beavers keeper Dan Lincoln.

Barely a minute into the second half Yeovil had doubled their lead through Murphy who tap home from a left-hand side cross as the Glovers punished Hampton from a quick free kick.



Murphy then completed his hat-trick midway through the second half. Some sloppy defending from Hampton, failing to clear the ball on numerous occasions, resulted in Sam Cox fouling outside the area. Murphy then promptly showed his class to unleashing a dipping strike into the goal.

Loose play from Lincoln from a Glovers corner gave Yeovil their fourth of the afternoon, as he flapped at a delivery, to give Tom Bradbury a simple finish at the back post.

Late on Hampton veteran Shaun McAuley, on as a substitute cracked a shot off the cross bar, and Cole Brown was denied by an excellent save from Ted Cann denied what would have been a special moment for the Hampton fans.

Transfer Update

Gary McCann has shaken up his squad with the announcement of a couple of departures from the Beveree. Matt Young and Louie Soares have been released whilst Shaun McAuley has been placed on the transfer list.

This news comes after the re-signing of midfielder Jake Gray last week prior to the Yeovil match.

Speaking about the changes Gary commented “We’re running a tight ship, where if we add to the group with quality like we did last week with Jake Gray, there have to be some sacrifices. At the same time, we are also thinking of next season, and at the longevity of the players we already have, all to create the backbone of next year’s team. Even though we are obviously in the heat of the battle now, we have to look further ahead.”

Middlesex Senior Cup

Hampton went out of a second cup competition in four days as they were defeated in the Middlesex Senior Cup at home by lower league side Broadfields United.

The Beavers fielded a very youthful side with eight players from the academy in the matchday squad. One of these, Jamie Hope, scored inside six minutes to give Hampton the lead inside six minutes, but Broadfields hit back before half time to level the scores through Shawn Richards.

In the second half Hampton missed a penalty and this proved decisive as Radu Stefanoaica scored for the visitors on seventy-two minutes to consign the Beavers to a disappointing loss

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Hampton return to league action this week as they face an away trip to Kent to face Tonbridge Angels. The Angels were fighting relegation just a few weeks ago but a run on just one defeat in their past five has lifted them to 17th. Hampton themselves are on an equally good run of form themselves and have also lost just once in their past five league games.

Hampton have already played the Angels three times this season, having beaten them in both the league and FA Trophy. However, the league encounter was settled by a last-minute winner and the Trophy tie went to a replay, so a tight game looks to be in store.

Come on you Beavers!

Government's support to business

Government could be doing more to ensure that its activities to support businesses are aligned and well-coordinated, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

The NAO has published two reports today. The first, *Business support schemes*, looks at the management of the support government, particularly the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), provides to businesses. The second, *British Business Bank*, examines the impact of the British Business Bank on small-medium enterprises' (SMEs) access to finance and its preparedness to respond to future challenges.

The NAO's work has found that the support government provides to business is fragmented between different departments and often lacks overall co-ordination and prioritisation, which both BEIS and HM Treasury recognise needs to be improved. The British Business Bank was set up by BEIS to help make access to finance interventions more coherent and it has had some success in this area. However, while it has an objective to act as a centre of expertise for providing advice and support to public bodies, it is not "the default" operator of government interventions. The report on the Bank says BEIS and HM Treasury should consider whether their statement in 2014 that the Bank would operate all national SME access to finance schemes across government still holds.

The NAO's analysis of 10 schemes run by BEIS found that not enough was being done to understand which schemes are most helpful to businesses. Six out of the 10 schemes lacked measurable objectives and only one had a thorough evaluation of the scheme's impact, making it difficult for BEIS to know which to continue with and which to stop. The report finds there are signs that BEIS is improving the set up and management of new schemes, but it is too soon to tell whether they have had an impact. The British Business Bank, on the other hand, had clear performance metrics and carried out evaluation of its impact on SMEs. Overall, it has been performing well and SMEs have been growing as a result of its activities. However, the NAO says that this analysis will need to be ongoing as the value of many of the Bank's interventions will only be known in the long-term and there is currently limited information on the cost-effectiveness of its activities.

Changes in the external environment could have an impact on the role and work of business support schemes and the British Business Bank in the future. With the UK leaving the EU, government may want to replace the support that businesses receive from the EU with its own initiatives – a task that will be made harder if central co-ordination of schemes is not improved. Several EU institutions also provide access to finance for SMEs in the UK, and the Bank may be best placed to take on some of these roles. The Bank has considered how it might help SMEs in an economic downturn through increasing the availability of its products. However, while it could make some products available within weeks, it might be more than a year before businesses could access others. It is also unclear how the Bank's contribution would fit within BEIS's wider response to a downturn.

In the *Business support schemes* report, the NAO recommends that BEIS coordinate a review of its schemes to determine their strategic fit with the Industrial Strategy and changes required as a result. In *British Business Bank*, the NAO calls for government to set out more clearly what it wants the Bank to achieve as part of government's wider support to business.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said today:

"Government understands the importance of better co-ordination and coherence across the schemes it provides to business, but it still has some way to go before all the dots are joined up. More thorough evaluation of which schemes work best will help government plan and prioritise its support going forward. The British Business Bank has performed well against its objectives. Government now needs to think carefully about the role it wants the Bank to play in the future, particularly after the UK leaves the European Union."

View the full reports below:

[British Business Bank report.pdf](#)

[Business support schemes report.pdf](#)



National Audit Office

Police leaders in London to start bidding for more Taser from 13th January

London forces can start bidding from Monday 13 January to equip more of their officers with Taser as part of a Home Office drive to give police more powers and tools to tackle crime.

This follows the Home Secretary's commitment to put more officers carrying Taser on our streets through a £10 million ringfenced fund, allowing them to better protect themselves and others from harm.

Bidding will open on a new online platform launched by the Home Office, where forces will decide how much funding they apply for based on the threat and risk in their local area.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

"Our brave police officers put themselves in harm's way to protect us and I am committed to giving them the tools they need keep themselves and the public safe. The rise in assaults on officers is appalling which is why I am providing funding to equip up to 10,000 more officers with Taser - an important tactical option when facing potentially physically violent situations."

The Mayor for London, who is responsible for setting policing and crime priorities for the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Corporation, which provides policing governance for the City of London Police, will need to outline how many additional officers they plan to train to use Taser. The final funding allocations for forces, which cover 2019/20 and 2020/21, will be announced as soon as February.

This comes after a series of announcements supporting the police, including a commitment to boost their ranks with 20,000 new officers over the next three years and increased stop and search powers. The Government also plans to consult on increasing the maximum sentence for assaulting police officers and other emergency service workers, to ensure jail terms truly fit the crime.

A new Police Powers and Protection Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech which will provide the police with additional powers to protect the public and establish a Police Covenant, ensuring officers and their families get the right emotional and physical support.



Home Office

Big Garden Bird Watch: How to capture the moment with your smartphone

Experts at [Mobiles.co.uk](https://www.mobiles.co.uk) offer their tips on how to take great wildlife photographs on your smartphone

The Big Garden Birdwatch is back for 2020. From 25th - 27th January, wildlife lovers everywhere will be out in force to take part in the world's largest wildlife survey, and document birds and wildlife spotted domestically.

With recent advancements in smartphone camera capabilities, it's possible to capture excellent wildlife photography with just your handset. Modern smartphone cameras are regularly packed with features, and often showcase multi-lens set-ups which can rival a DSLR camera.

Experts at online smartphone retailer, [Mobiles.co.uk](https://www.mobiles.co.uk), share their advice to help you take professional quality wildlife photographs on your smartphone ahead of the Big Garden Birdwatch:

Rule of thirds

The rule of thirds states that an image is more appealing to the eye if it is taken so the focal point is placed along lines which divide a photograph both horizontally and vertically into thirds. Alastair Hilton, Professional Photographer at [London Guided Walks](https://www.londonguidedwalks.com) says "The rule of thirds will always make a more interesting photo compared to when the main focus is in the middle of the photo."

On most smartphones, applying the rule of thirds is as simple as changing your camera settings to show gridlines. However, if this setting isn't available to you, there are plenty of apps you can download to help.

Take your time

When you see birds flocking to your feeders in the garden, it can be tempting to pull out your smartphone and take the picture as quickly as possible. However, before taking the picture, you need to make sure that your camera is focusing on your subject. Remember to simply tap on the screen where your subject is, and your camera will do the rest. The box that appears will show you where your camera has focused.

Get your lighting right

Birds are most active during the half-light of sunrise and sunset. Luckily for us, this time is also perfect to capture great photos as colour saturation is high. Look for angles where the sun isn't directly spotlighting your subject, to get more natural highlighting effects and try to avoid photographing in complete shade.

Alastair Hilton adds, “Unless you’re shooting at night, the flash on your phone will be useless, so turn it off. The colours surrounding you and your subject are what you want to capture.”

If you’re shooting in low light, take advantage of your smartphone’s automatic ‘night mode’ capabilities. If your phone has this feature, it can enhance photos taken under extremely low light by shooting a series of images under different exposure levels then merging the images to create an enhanced final image.

Take advantage of live photos

Most smartphones have an element called ‘live photos’ which captures the sound and movement 1.5 seconds before (and after) a photo is taken. This feature also gives you multiple shots of the same image so you can choose your favourite picture.

If you’re lucky enough to capture a bird taking off for flight using live photos, you can upload your live photo to your social channels. Alternatively, you can choose which image from the 3 seconds of capture you would like to use.

Don’t be afraid to edit

While there is a range of editing apps available on your smartphone, don’t forget your smartphones editing capabilities. Find the image you want to change and click edit. Multiple icons will appear at the bottom of your screen where you can change the picture’s brightness, exposure, sharpness and many more. You can also add filters and crop your images.

If you don’t feel confident enough to make these changes yourself (although you can always discard the changes made), there is a magic wand tool that automatically makes adjustments.

Karl Middleton, the Mobile Expert at [Mobiles.co.uk](https://www.mobiles.co.uk), says: “The Big Garden Bird Watch is an amazing opportunity to get out in nature and be a part of the biggest wildlife survey in the world.

“If you want to capture the wildlife roaming around your garden this January, the advancements in mobile camera technology allow more people than ever to try their hand at photography. Remember to have fun, and we hope these tips give you the results you’re looking for.”

For more information, please see: <https://www.mobiles.co.uk/blog/which-smartphone-has-the-best-camera/>

Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

21st January 2020, 8.00pm

'Capernaum' (Lebanon)

In Nadine Labaki's endearing and heart-wrenching drama, a young Lebanese boy runs away from his negligent parents and is befriended by an Ethiopian immigrant; he then, in turn, looks after her infant. Ultimately imprisoned for a violent crime, he sues his parents for giving birth to him and seeks justice in a courtroom.

Winner of 33 awards worldwide and shortlisted for the 2019 Foreign Language Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA awards.

www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office (subject to a cap of 70) - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/.

A further 50 or so tickets will be available to purchase on the door on the night of screenings (cash only) on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp on alternate Tuesdays (no trailers and no ads) and are screened at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available. Film notes are provided for each screening and audience feedback is obtained via response slips.



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

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