

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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24th July 2020



TickerTape - News in Brief

ASK No More?

It is understood that the ASK Italian restaurants at Twickenham Green and Kew Green will not be reopening and are permanently closed. While there are notices stating they are 'Temporarily Closed' neither venue is included in the list of restaurants opening at the end of July, as shown on ASK's website.

Teddington Lock Anti-Social Behaviour

There are reports of continued anti-social behaviour at Teddington Lock, which includes people jumping off the bridge and damage caused at Teddington Harbour.

Amyand Park Road Robbery

On Sunday 19th July a 17-year-old boy was assaulted and his £400 Armani watch stolen. Later that evening police were called to Knellar Hall, School of Music, where three males were found on the premises.

A 16-year-old matched a description of one of the Amyand Park suspects and was found in possession of an Armani watch; he was subsequently arrested for robbery.

Book Now To Visit Townmead Road Waste And Recycling Centre!

Online booking is now in place at Townmead Road, Household Waste and Recycling Centre operational from today (20 July), with allocated appointments being fully booked through until 26 July. Drivers are asked not to come to the centre without an appointment as they will be turned away.

Appointments are available up to two weeks in advance.

Find out more about the [new booking system](#).

[Visit the News page for more stories](#)



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TwickerSeal wandered into King Street, Twickenham on his way to get some treats from Sandy's Fishmongers and he was startled to be faced with an enormous splash of colour stretching across the road.

It was one of the two 'Rainbow Crossings' installed by the council, the other being located opposite Richmond Station.

TwickerSeal found that the vibrant colours lifted his spirits, something we all need in these difficult times.

TwickerSeal noticed that no white paint had been used, but that made sense; it would be needed to whitewash the decisions being made behind closed doors about the final designs for Twickenham Riverside.



Borough View

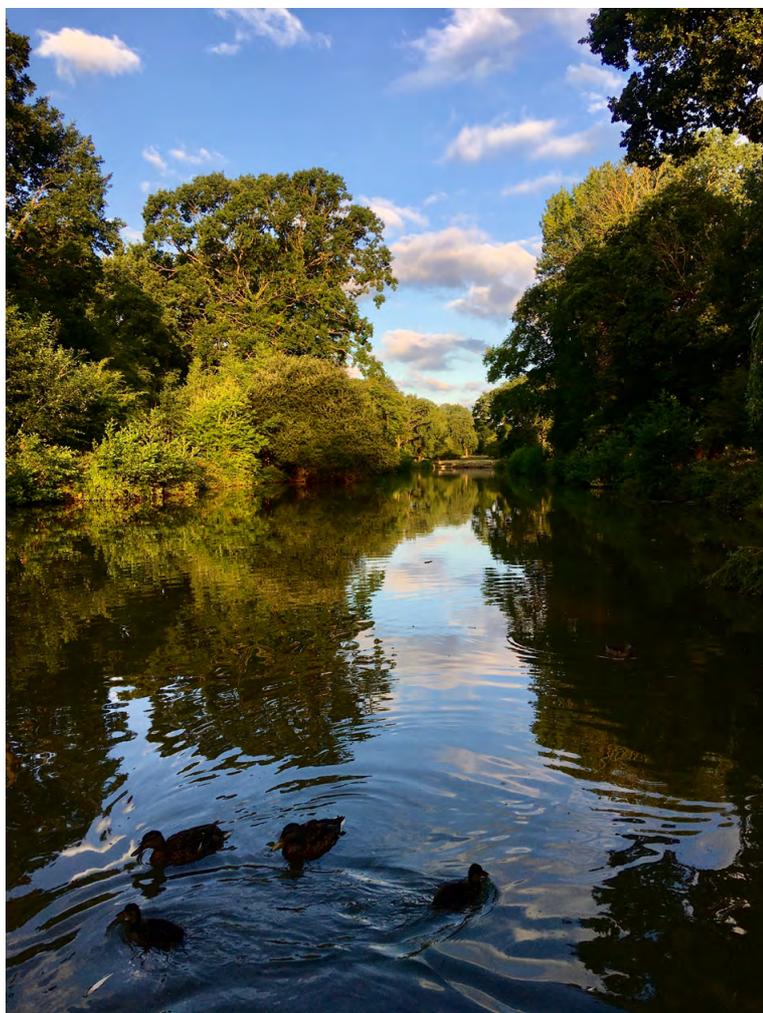
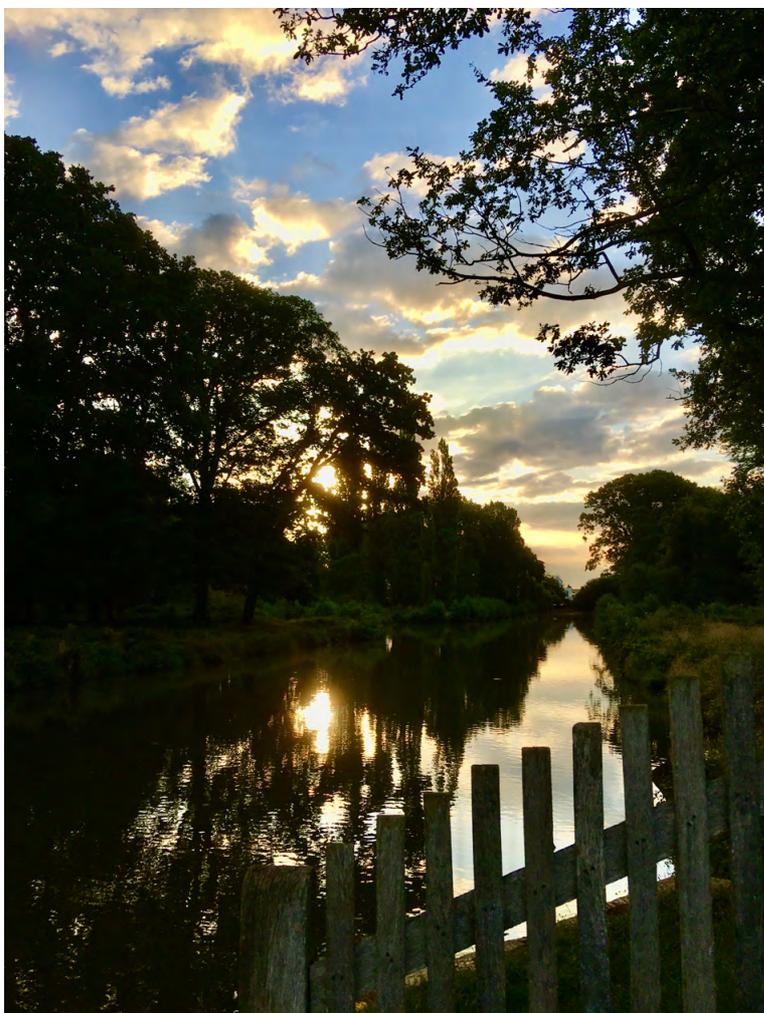
By Graeme Stoten

'Canal Plantation'

Paths from the four gates in the north-west area of Bushy Park converge at C18 Upper Lodge (Listed grade II).

Elaborate water gardens only partly surviving today, were landscaped into the site by the second Earl Halifax, by taking water from the Longford River to pools and canals to the east and west, where we now find the Canal Plantation.

With the sun climbing shortly after 6am, the canal creates a blade of light breaking through the sprawling parkland.



COVID-19

By Teresa Read

It must now be obvious to most of us that we will be living with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General:

“We will not be going back to the “old normal”. The pandemic has already changed the way we live our lives. Part of adjusting to the “new normal” is finding ways to live our lives safely.

It’s all about making good choices.

We’re asking everyone to treat the decisions about where they go, what they do and who they meet with as life-and-death decisions – because they are.

It may not be your life, but your choices could be the difference between life and death for someone you love, or for a complete stranger.”

However, research continues and we will gradually learn more about the COVID-19 virus. Last week it was announced that research, led by scientists from King’s College London, have identified six distinct types of COVID-19, each with a specific collection of symptoms. This is said to be a breakthrough that will determine the type of medical care for patients.

Local Statistics

The In Your Area website gave the following statistics for COVID-19 on Friday 24 July 2020: 543 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 746 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,091 in Hounslow. Updates are also available from the BBC on their Coronavirus UK Map.

Number of Deaths from WHO Situation Reports:

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Friday 24 July 2020 gave the following details for countries with the highest death rates: 142,553 in the USA, 82,771 in Brazil, 45,554 in the UK.

South Africa has the highest number or recorded deaths in Africa: 6,093

Mexico is in third place for a high death rate in the Americas: 41,190

Iran has the highest number of recorded deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean: 15,074

Italy has the second highest number of recorded deaths in Europe: 35,092

India has the highest number of recorded deaths in South-East Asia: 30,601

China remains the country with the highest number of recorded deaths in the Western Pacific: 4,656

The total number of recorded deaths worldwide is 628,903.

Our local area has been and remains the home of many members of rock, sporting and literary royalty.

Today we look at a real life King who made Twickenham his home and was an active member of our community for a number of years.



Manoel II was the last king of the Portuguese monarchy reigning for two and a half years during 1908 – 1910. Born in Lisbon in 1889, Manoel ascended to the throne following the assassination of his father, King Carlos I. His reign ended with the dissolution of the monarchy in October 1910 when the republic was declared. His palace was shelled and he escaped with his

family to England where he settled and remained in Twickenham for the rest of his life.

In exile in Twickenham, Manoel resided in Fulwell Park. He acquired the estate and lived at Fulwell Lodge from after his marriage in 1913 until his death in 1932. There were several attempts to restore him to the throne which all failed.

Our first postcard shows the front of Fulwell Lodge in 1903 while the second was published during Manoel's residence.

Manoel was active in the local community, attended services at the Catholic Church of St. James and became godfather to several children. In 1932 he donated a window to St James Church bearing the Braganza crest. A keen gardener, he was a member of the Hampton Garden Society and also became president of the Twickenham Piscatorial Society



which held fishing competitions along the river and used the Barmy Arms as their headquarters. The Barmy Arms was known as the Queens Head in those days. He was also a keen tennis player, regularly going to the Wimbledon tournaments and inviting friends to play at Fulwell Park where he built several tennis courts.

On July 1st 1932 he played tennis and seemed quite fit and well but the next day he died unexpectedly at Fulwell Lodge suffocated by an abnormal swelling in the vocal folds. Manoel was 43 years of age. The Portuguese government, at that time, authorized his burial in Lisbon. After a state funeral the body of the former King was interred in the Royal Pantheon of the House of Braganza in Lisbon.

Fulwell lodge was subsequently purchased by Wates the builders, demolished and the surrounding land between the Staines Road and River Crane redeveloped for housing. The Portuguese connection was marked in road names such as Manoel Road, Lisbon Avenue, Augusta Road and Portugal Gardens.

If this column has awakened your interest in local history, you can read up on many areas of the old Twickenham Borough. Have a look at the many publications available through the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society website on www.botlhs.co.uk

All previous articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting www.twickenhamtribune.com Just go the archive editions which start in 2016.

With many of us spending more time at home at present it may be that you are using the time to tidy a few drawers or have a bit of a clear-out. If you trip over any old postcards, old envelopes with stamps on, or photograph albums that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at: alanwinter192@hotmail.com I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first! Thanks, stay safe and well.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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MAN ON WIRE

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

RFS Context: **MAN ON WIRE** was 662nd film screened by RFS on 20th April 2010. **Man On Wire** was the second to top ranked film of Season 47, it got an approval mark of 90% from those attending (The top ranked film from season 47 is **I've Loved You so Long**, which has already featured in our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings as **Issue 14**; The third most popular film from season 47 **The Wave** is planned to feature in a future issue of our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings). **Man On Wire** can be streamed from the BFI (BFI Player) and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

MAN ON WIRE

Country: UK & USA, 2008
 Director: James Marsh
 Screenplay: Philippe Petit
 Music: J. Ralph
 Editor: Jinx Godfrey
 Cinematography: Igor Martinovic
 Running Time: 94 min., colour
 Languages: English/French

Leading Players:

Philippe Petit (Himself)
 Jean François Heckel (Himself)
 Jean-Louis Blondeau (Himself)
 Annie Allix (Herself)
 David Forman (Himself)
 Alan Welner (Himself)

James Marsh's dazzling, invigorating documentary **Man On Wire** tells the story of a truly inspiring figure. In the early 1970s, a fiery young Frenchman named Philippe Petit wanted to shake up the world. When he saw the World Trade Center being built in New York City, he found his mission. Petit was a trained high wire walker, and his goal was to set up a wire between the two towers and give the world a show it could never have expected.



As is often the case with these endeavors, the actual high-wire walking was the easiest part of the plan. For nearly seven years, Petit worked on the project, recruiting associates who supported him every step of the way.

Finally, after eight months in New York, the day came when Petit and his cronies jumped into action. This wasn't easy. They had to find a way to sneak past security and make their way to the top of the towers with heavy equipment, at which point they had to battle the elements to install the wire. After many close scares, the time came for Petit to realize his dream--and the rest, as they say, is history. Marsh crafts **Man On Wire** like a heist film, presenting rare and fascinating footage of the actual event alongside flawless reenactments and modern-day interviews with the participants. The result is an immersive, emotionally gratifying motion picture, made all the more stimulating by Michael Nyman's electrifying score (much of it cribbed from score to the RFS favourite **The Draughtsman's Contract**).

The film's producer Simon Chinn first encountered Philippe Petit in April 2005 on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs, after which he decided to pursue him for the film rights to his book, *To Reach the Clouds*. After months of discussion, Petit agreed, with the condition that he would play an active, collaborative part in the making of the film.

In an interview conducted during *Man On Wire*'s run at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival, director James Marsh explained that he was drawn to the story in part because it immediately struck him as "a heist movie."

Marsh also commented that as a New Yorker himself, he saw the film as something to give back to the city. He said he hopes to hear people say that they will now always think of Petit and his performance when recalling the World Trade Center's twin towers.

Responding to questioning as to why the towers' destruction 27 years later was not mentioned in the film, Marsh explained that Philippe Petit's act was "incredibly beautiful" and that it "would be unfair and wrong to infect his story with any mention, discussion or imagery of the Towers being destroyed."

Thanks to Wikipedia, Rotten Tomatoes and IMDb

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To book or for enquiries contact: coach@epicsup.org



Rumours of Council Spending

Twickenham Riverside

At a full Council meeting this month Cllr Paul Hodgins asked the Leader of the Council how much would be borrowed and how much spent on the current Twickenham Riverside plan. Apparently, Cllr Gareth Roberts could not give an answer as it was too early; the earliest he would know would be in the Spring or Summer of 2021.

However, speculation is rife and figures of between £25 million and £35 million have been mentioned in various quarters; it is understood that the money would be borrowed by the Council.

The Tribune would be happy to amend the figure if the Council can provide an estimate for residents of how much they are likely to borrow. Surely officers at LBRUT must have assessed the financial plan before signing contracts?



Why Not Give the Proposed Twickenham Riverside Parking Plan a Trial Run?

It seems that there is uncertainty amongst some residents about the viability of the proposed plan to move parking away from the riverside. Why not see how it works for a specified period rather than make a mistake later on in the development.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham_riverside_is_going_to_be_car_free_have_your_say_on_how_can_improve_traffic

The Cost of the Proposal for a Cycling/Pedestrian Bridge from Ham Lands to Radnor Gardens

This is one cost which will certainly be enormous if it goes ahead. It is understood that the Deputy Leader of the Council submitted a bid for a grant of around £20 million towards the cost of what is known as the “Radnor Bridge”. The cost of this project is unknown and rumour has it that the Deputy Leader did not inform all the LBRUT Transport Committee of the bid until it had been prepared; it was said that when he did tell them, he did not initially mention the £20 million figure in the application.

The Tribune would be happy to amend this figure if the amount can be provided for readers.

And so to Toilets on Twickenham and Richmond Green

Over the last year or so we have had some very good weather during summer weekends and people have made the most of this by joining friends in our public spaces.

Twickenham and Richmond Greens have had their fair share of visitors but last year the problem of finding a toilet reared its head. This year with COVID-19 the situation has become much worse with no public toilets available coupled with large quantities of alcohol being sold locally. People have solved the toilet problem by urinating (and defecating) in the streets, private gardens and driveways, even the churches have not been exempted.

A portable toilet with hand sanitizer can be hired for £50. An on-site attendant costs around £300 a day to clean the toilets re COVID-19. Is the cost too high to ask to keep our streets safe from anti-social behaviour?

We are told that the Council is considering installing permanent self-cleaning toilets in the future on Twickenham and Richmond Greens.

It is understood that the Green Party and the Conservatives are in favour of providing temporary toilets this summer but the current administration says the cost is too high.

With regard to alcohol sales Sainsbury's are trialling cutting off the sale of alcohol at 9pm and the Council hopes that other retail outlets will follow: their licences may be at risk if they do not reduce their hours. Of course, this does not help on sunny afternoons when people are drinking and consequently need to find a toilet.

The Tribune would like to be able to publish a good news article on this story next week!



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coronavirus_information](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/coronavirus_information)

nhs.uk/coronavirus

**Protect your
friends and family**

Sainsbury's respond to the Council's calls to limit the sale of alcohol in the borough's antisocial behaviour hotspots

From Wednesday 22 July the Local Sainsbury's at Richmond Station and Twickenham Green temporarily stopped selling alcohol after 9pm.

This is in response to calls from the Council for supermarkets to do more to help tackle the recent increase in antisocial behaviour in the borough, particularly in areas such as Richmond Green and Twickenham Green. The measure will remain in place until the end of August 2020 and the situation will be monitored throughout this period.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"This is a very welcome step from Sainsbury's. Alcohol has been a major contributory factor to late night anti-social behaviour in the borough; limiting the availability of supply close to hot spots should have a positive effect on discouraging late night gatherings and the associated problems of public urination, littering and noise."

"Residents have told us that they think stopping the sale of alcohol at 9pm will have a positive effect and I am pleased that Sainsbury's has been the first retailer to step up to the plate and offer this change, albeit on a time limited basis."



"I want to thank Sainsbury's for this public-spirited move. I know it may cause slight inconvenience for some, but I hope it will make a real difference to tackling anti-social behaviour on our greens. I now want Tesco to follow suit and do the same. Particularly the Tesco Express located near to Twickenham Green and the Tesco Metro in Richmond Town Centre."

A spokesperson from Sainsbury's said:

"We are committed to supporting the communities that we serve and will keep this temporary measure under review in partnership with the council."

After the public meetings in June and to help tackle the issue of public urination, the Council increased the payment to those businesses who join the Community Toilet Scheme for three months – which means they agree to open their toilet facilities for non-paying customers.

Additionally, all cafes, pubs and restaurants have been reminded that if they are currently open for business and have customer toilets, then these should also be open.

Officers are also investigating the possibility of opening new public toilets in both Town Centres.

The Council is eager to work with businesses to ensure that sales of alcohol are carried out responsibly. However, we will not hesitate to take proportionate action against any retailer selling alcohol in breach of their licence or where it causes antisocial behaviour or public nuisance.

“We will tackle reckless riverside behaviour”, says Council Leader

Cllr Gareth Roberts has met with ward councillors, the local Police and representatives from the Environment Agency to discuss what more can be done to clamp down on dangerous riverside behaviour along the Thames.

At the meeting, all agreed that more action was needed to tackle the problem of those who risk their lives, and put additional pressure on emergency services and the NHS, by jumping from structures such as bridges into the river.

Cllr Roberts, said:

“Jumping into the river from bridges and other structures may look like harmless fun but it could be deadly.

“Even the strongest swimmers get into trouble; currents prove too strong, cold-water shock can weaken muscles and send the heart into abnormal rhythms and hidden dangers are lurking just below the surface. Jumping in is not worth the risk.

“In recent weeks we have had reports of up to 200 people jumping into the river and this puts a stress on the police services and the RNLI. When the NHS is stretched to breaking point they don’t need this as well.

“This needs to stop. We are committed to tackling this problem in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Police. And we need parents to tell their children about the risks they are taking. We all have a role to play in putting a stop to this reckless behaviour.”



Together with the Police and the Environment Agency, they have agreed to:

- Have consideration for improved signage on the bridges and towpaths
- Have a greater clarity on the law – to determine whether a bylaw can be used to enforce this behaviour
- Investigate the possibility of installing CCTV

Inspector Robinson, Neighbourhood Ward inspector from Richmond Police, added:

“Our officers and the RNLI are no stranger to responding to emergencies in the river Thames. We urge all parents and guardians to impress on young people the hidden dangers of the Thames. Whilst the water may look inviting in warm weather, people of any age can get into difficulty due to the undercurrents.

“In addition to water safety, we are also asking for people to think twice before spending a hot day by the river. Last weekend we received numerous reports of overcrowding and antisocial behaviour. We are still in a pandemic and appropriate social distancing measures should be taken. We also do not tolerate antisocial behaviour and will enforce a dispersal zone if proportionate and necessary. Therefore, please be sensible. Don’t enter the water and be respectful of others”.

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Dear Sir,

Kew Cycle Lane

The Kew Society is unhappy with a cycle lane being put in place without proper consultation and are suggesting that Kew Gardens will lose money because of them. It also appears that Kew might be railroaded into having new CPZs to cope with the number of visitors' cars being diverted from Kew Road. The Kew Society's website has a long piece about this so might be worth putting a link to it in The Tribune?

Please read both the [Newsletter](#) piece on the cycle lane being put in place without consultation, and also the [webpage](#) which has a more detailed assessment of the proposal and its opportunistic installation under the cover of COVID19 emergency arrangements.

The cycle lane does not join up with anything, and it looks as if the loss of parking and coach pickup and drop off facilities will be costly for Kew Gardens, which only today has sent out an appeal for donations to save the Gardens.

It also looks as if Cllr Ehmann and CPZ Officer Mick Potter are setting the scene for installation of extra CPZs whether Kew residents want them or not. A bit like their CPZ plans for Strawberry Hill and Teddington which have not been the subject of proper consultation under the new arrangements recently announced by Cllr Michael Wilson.

Yours faithfully,
From Teddington
(Name and Address supplied)

Dear Tribune,

Kew Cycle Lane

The cycle route on the road outside Kew Gardens has been cordoned off, so that coaches can no longer park there. This could have a disastrous effect on attendance at the Gardens. I wonder what discussions they have had with Kew? How long is it going to continue (presumably, as a "temporary measure" it has not been consulted on - yet).

Regards,
From Twickenham
(Name and Address supplied)

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Have your say on order renewal to protect our parks and open spaces

Residents are invited to have their say on the proposed renewal of local Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which aim to address antisocial activities in public spaces.

The PSPO includes a limit on the number of dogs that can be walked by one person, consumption of alcohol, public urination, defecation, or damage to land. Dropping or depositing litter on any land open to the air is already an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In Spring 2017, as a result of persistent and unreasonable problems in many of our public spaces, the Council consulted with residents, landowners and the Police on the introduction of two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) on Dog Control and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB). These orders were introduced in October 2017. The current PSPOs expire in October and the Council is now consulting on extensions.

The orders set out a number of controls to cover unreasonable behaviour such as consumption of alcohol where it may cause a nuisance to others, use of BBQs, unauthorised entrance into parks, number of dogs that can be walked, dog fouling, public urination or defecation and the use of drones.

Since the introduction of the PSPO, the borough's Park Enforcement Team have issued over 700 advisories or warnings and issued 44 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).



Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, said:

“Our aim is to keep our parks and open spaces as welcoming as possible for all residents to enjoy.

“Most people are conscientious; however, a small minority are not, and this can spoil the enjoyment of our open spaces and parks for everyone else.

“Public Space Protection Orders act as a deterrent to anyone tempted to misbehave. Our hardworking Park Guard team have found the PSPO invaluable over the past few months in educating the small minority who flout the rules. The PSPO also gives powers to issue those who don't heed their advice with a fine.”

[Have your say](#)

The deadline for feedback is **19 August 2020**.



Nature Tweet for Nature Lovers

“Unto those who Love, Ungenerous Time bestows a Thousand Summers”

Time does stand still in moments of absorption into beauty wherever we find it in our lives. Artists have been inspired by nature for millennia and through their vision we may see something deeper and more meaningful than we had discovered before. Supporting the Arts is not frivolous but an asset to our humanity and especially in times such as now when many are desperate for some hope and inspiration.

The Hayward Gallery presents ‘**Among the Trees**’ which celebrates works of art that are inspired by Trees and Forests. Take a look at these two videos from the exhibition which give a virtual



tour of some of the exhibits and provide narratives which are thought provoking on current issues facing us all as well as giving an enticing look at the beauty of the artwork. The first Link is to [Ralph Rugoff, Director of the Gallery](#), who highlights how many of us stop analysing when walking in a forest and “just enjoy the act of looking”.

The second video, below, is by: **Marie-Charlotte Carrier, Assistant Curator**, and she is engagingly genuine in her presentation of the value of trees and how they make us realise how short

lived we are as a species compared to some of these giants which have been on the planet for thousands of years. Enjoy these virtual offerings and then maybe explore nature itself and hug a tree! Our photograph above shows **Kneller Gardens** Play Area behind the Trees from which you can walk, cycle, jog all the way to the **Shot Tower** or further according to your own situation and needs. It is accessible for wheelchairs/ mobility scooters too.



River Crane Sanctuary [Website](#) [Instagram](#)

Sports Centres to have phased reopening – advance booking is a must

Sports centres and swimming pools across the borough will start to re-open in phases, with reduced capacity, from next month. Those wanting to use the facilities will now have to book a timed session in advance.

Over the past few weeks, the Council has been working hard to make sure that all Council-run sports centres and swimming pools are safe and have measures in place that are in line with Government and industry guidance, to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

Some of the operational changes required include a significant restriction on the number of participants and users of facilities, hence why an advanced booking arrangement is required. To ensure measures are as robust and safe as they can be, centres will be re-opened on a phased basis. As a number of the centres are based on school sites, some of these facilities will not be able to fully re-open until the Autumn.

Schedule for reopening:

- **Monday 3 August**
Outdoor Pool - Pools on the Park
- **Monday 10 August**
Gym, Studio and Indoor Pools – Pools on the Park
Gym, Studio and Indoor Pools – Teddington Pools and Fitness Centre
- **Monday 17 August**
Astro Pitch Only – Lincoln Fields
Astro Pitch, Tennis and Beach Volleyball only – Teddington Sports Centre
Gym, Studios and Astro Pitch (NOT the sports hall) – Sheen Sports and Fitness Centre)
- **Monday 7 September**
Hampton Sports and Fitness Centre
Whitton Sports and Fitness Centre
Remaining facilities at: Teddington Sports Centre and Sheen Sports and Fitness Centre



Bookings can be made from Monday 27 July via the LBRUT app and by phone on 020 3772 2999.

CLlr J-F Burford, Sports Champion, said:

“Sports centres across the country have been closed for four months to help stop the spread of the coronavirus and although necessary, this has come at a great cost to our physical and mental health. We are so pleased that people can now take part in a range of activities that boost health and wellbeing and whilst we can’t go back to the way things were just yet, we’ll do everything we can to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable visit.”

To ensure social distancing our facilities will have a significantly reduced capacity and all activity will be in timed sessions which ALL customers will be required to book onto in advance.

All centres have undergone a rigorous deep clean. Equipment in gyms have been moved to make it easier for customers to practise social distancing and signage has been installed throughout in order to remind customers of the current requirements.

New cleaning stations have been installed and customers are asked to clean equipment before and after use. There will be limited access to changing rooms and lockers for customers wishing to swim. The gym changing rooms, lockers and water fountains will not be in use. Customers will be asked to bring their own pre-filled water bottles. The reception areas have been reworked to include Perspex dividers, in order to protect both staff and customers. In order to ensure social distancing, time for increased cleaning, and to support Test and Trace, ALL customers will be required to book onto all activities in advance.

All current Feel Good Fitness memberships are on hold and no further payments will be taken. Members will be given advance written notice of any planned reactivation dates and this will include when the next direct debit will be taken (if on a monthly membership). The closure period will be added on to existing annual membership.

As part of our phased reopening, existing members are able to temporarily book and pay for admission on a Pay As You Go basis. We hope this option allows the comfort and flexibility to book on to a session whilst we all learn to live with Covid-19.

For more information please visit our [sports section](#) or call us on 020 3772 2999.

MOVE OVER GIN...THERE'S A NEW DRINK IN TOWN

It has just three letters, can be drunk neat or in cocktails, is gaining very rapidly in popularity and a new, premium 'artisan' segment of the market is fast developing. No, it isn't gin; it's rum!

Widely predicted to be the 'next gin', in 2006 there were just some 50 brands of rum available to the British public – compare that with nearly 200 in 2019. At the 2019 International Wine & Spirits Competition five rums were awarded Gold medals – three more than the previous year – demonstrating not just the growth of the market but also the growth of quality of the rums themselves.

Like gin, rum has a rich history and cultural heritage. The exact origin of the spirit is an area of contention, but it's thought to date back to the 17th Century colonial era, when Caribbean plantation workers began fermenting molasses - a by-product of sugar refining - into alcohol. From the Caribbean, its popularity spread to North America and at the heyday of the American colonies, it was estimated that the average person of drinking age consumed a staggering (literally, probably!) three gallons of rum every year!

Indeed our very own navy consumed a fair amount over the years. Travellers on the river between Teddington and Kingston can spot a barrel by the water labelled 'Pusser's Rum'. The drink was called Pusser's because the ship's purser (slang is 'pusser') had the responsibility of issuing each of the crew on a Royal Navy ship with a daily tot of rum; an eighth of an imperial pint (71ml) at 95.5 per cent proof (54.6% ABV). Amazingly, this practice only ceased in 1970.

So, of course in the interests of research for you, I've been checking out a few rums recently.

There are lots of flavoured rums on the market now, and one of the premium brands is **ARLU**. Produced in three flavours: Original Spiced; Blood Orange and Passionfruit & Mango. Available from [Masters of Malt](#) at around £23 for a 50cl bottle, they are very smooth indeed. The company distils the rum in Guyana, before blending in Manchester and adding various spices and fruits. The Original Spiced is lovely neat





or on the rocks, and is great with the classic pairing of ginger beer and a slice of lime. The Blood Orange variety has a nice kick of tart citrus and can be used in all manner of cocktails, including a rather good Negroni. The Passionfruit & Mango makes a fabulous fruity Daiquiri without fruit juice or slush.

If spiced rum sounds like your tipples and you want to try a budget-priced one, then I recommend the award-winning **Sea Dog from Aldi** at just £14.99 for 70cl. This premium, black, spiced rum based spirit drink has notes of sweet vanilla, warming spices, coffee and a citrus lime kick, finished with a deep rum aftertaste. I rather like it on the rocks as a digestif.

And last, but by no means least, is **Mad City Botanical Rum**, premium white rum enhanced and invigorated with a recipe of 25 botanicals from **Foxhole Spirits**, creators of **Foxhole** and **HYKE gins**. Mad City was launched just this week and I was privileged to be able to have an advance tasting. Neither flavoured, nor spiced, rum, this lovely drink is a sort of 'rum meets gin' and takes rum to new heights with its depth and complexity. You can drink it with tonic, or soda (and a strip of citrus zest, gently muddled to extract the flavour) or you can enjoy it in cocktails in all the classic rum based drinks. It is currently only available [online](#) at £29 a 70cl bottle, and there are a selection of cocktail recipes too, on the company website [here](#). But here below is an easy recipe for a delicious long cocktail that I enjoyed as part of the interactive tasting on Instagram this week...

THE MAD CITY SOLSTICE

Ingredients:

- 40ml Mad City Botanical Rum
- 10ml Rosso Vermouth
- Ginger Ale
- Lime Wheel/Wedge

Method:

- Add 10ml Rosso Vermouth to glass.
- Fill glass with ice.
- Pour 40ml Mad City Rum over the ice.
- Top with Ginger Ale.
- Garnish with a Lime wheel or wedge.



Follow Alison on Instagram: [@theseasonedgastronome](#)

A Mecca of all delights, Church Street of Twickenham

By Shona Lyons.

People are now beating a well-trodden path to the mecca of all delights, AKA Church Street of Twickenham. Many people who come to have a drink or eat in the street tell us how nice it is to see the restaurants and bars open as where they are coming from, a lot is still closed.

So we do have the council to thank for that by helping us re-open here by creating a pedestrianised street, where it is a safe space for all and we can still all open and have social-distancing.



The restaurants and bars in particular are breathing a deep sigh of relief as they are making up for the many months of lock down and now all the staff are back in employment and everyone in our little community seems a lot happier with things.

Obviously, it is not brilliant for everyone with some businesses in the street still reeling from the problems caused by Covid, but at least everyone is open now and working really hard trying to do the best they can.



The street is looking really nice now with all our 55 huge hanging baskets now in full bloom. All the flowers in the street make a big difference and many people notice it and tell us how nice & uplifting it is to have a pretty space to visit with lots of baskets, window boxes, planters and pots.

The news is that the Eel Pie Pub plans to open next week and even bigger news is that after a twitter conversation about some Church Street tote bags we made for the Valentine Fair in 2017, we decided to make some more for another shop local campaign. So far it is going really well with lots of the shops, cafes and restaurants in the street signing up. We are going to produce 5,000! Watch this space.



First rainbow crossings unveiled

Two rainbow crossings have been unveiled in the borough, as the Council shows its support for the borough's LGBTQ+ community.

The new Rainbow crossings were installed on Tuesday (21 July) and Wednesday nights (22 July) in two high profile locations: outside Richmond Station and on King Street in Twickenham.

The crossings feature the colours of the internationally recognised Pride Flag which has come to symbolise diversity and pride of the LGBTQ+ community worldwide.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee, at Richmond Council, said:

"Here in Richmond we are hugely proud to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community."

"Our borough has a long history of supporting diversity and equality, so I'm delighted to be able to announce our first rainbow crossings."

"We want all our residents and communities to know that we are here with them, we support them, and we are working hard to make sure our borough is a place where people feel safe, free from discrimination and proud to be themselves."



Sophie Robbins, Chair of the South-West London LGBT+ Support Group, said:

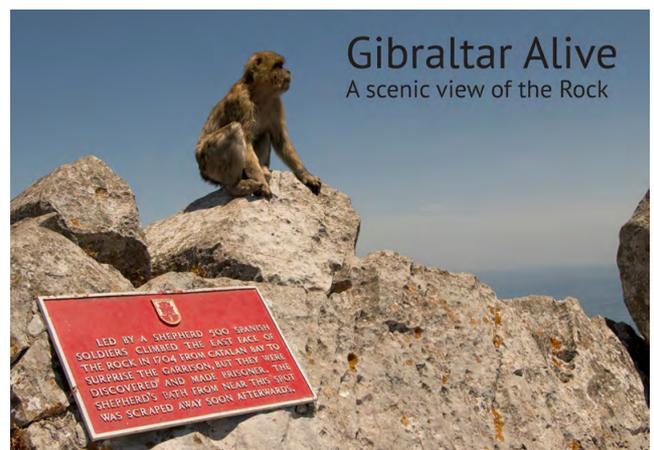
"The rainbow crossings couldn't have come at a better time for the LGBTQ+ community in the borough and beyond. Unfortunately, we're seeing big rises in homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate."

"They're a beautiful, bright public statement of the tolerant society of friendship and mutual respect we all want to see. I would encourage other councils in south-west London and elsewhere to follow Richmond's example."

Gibraltar Alive: A scenic view of the Rock

92 pages of full colour photos of Gibraltar. See the Rock as you've never seen it before! Only £10

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or contact@TwickenhamAlive.com





A Florentine Tragedy

by Oscar Wilde

Teddington Theatre Club, on-line on YouTube

When Oscar Wilde was preoccupied with the gathering storm clouds of criminal charges, his writing was directed away for his trademark acerbity towards more reflective subject-matter. A few months in 1894 saw the creation of [La Sainte Courtisane](#), his masterpiece [Salome](#) and the start of a blank verse drama, *A Florentine Tragedy*, whose style smacks of Shakespeare but whose plot is scarily Jacobean.



Teddington Theatre Club's marathon *Wilde Weekend* is a continuous reading of Wilde's full canon. Inevitably in such an epic undertaking, works that are considered minor are relegated to the middle of the night. This is a huge shame, as this is a piece with insight into Wilde's state of mind at the time. Moreover, director Clare Cooper and her indefatigable team have rescued Wilde's orphan and put some colour back in its cheeks with an engaging presentation that turns a cameo into pearl.

Wilde's fragment opens with the return of Simone, Bianca's husband. Simone at first takes Guido as "some friend, some kinsman doubtless", but then discovers his unexpected visitor is not only a noble, but "the son of that great Lord of Florence", a Prince. At first he assumes merchant mode, expecting a lucrative sale, but his suspicions are roused by the Prince's extravagant praises of Simone's wife. Bianca is far from unintelligent, but perhaps over-truthful and, in truth, Simone's reference to "my honest wife, most honest if uncomely to the eye" does little to help things, but he begins to smell a rat. When it becomes clearer what Guido's proffered lavish over-payments are to pay for, Simone hints, "I have heard also of husbands that wear horns, and wear them bravely". Guido's more explicit insistence, and Bianca's ambiguous manoeuvring pushes Simone too far, and things take a very nasty turn indeed ...



Read Quentin Weiver's review at

www.markaspen.com/2020/07/04/florentine-tgdy with a link to the on-line production.

Photography by Bobbie Turtur and Ghirlandaio Bigordi

UK Theatres Grants Scheme

The UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme is a capital fund that awards up to £5,000 to theatres across the UK run by charities and not-for-profit groups that can clearly demonstrate the value capital improvements to their theatres would make to their work in local communities.

In response to the coronavirus crisis, the scheme will now be able to support theatres to cover the additional costs of reopening after several months' closure, including making adaptations for increased hygiene and social distancing measures.

See how the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme has helped the [Players Theatre](#) in Thame and the [Robin Hood Theatre](#) in Newark.

With thanks

The UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme was launched with funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Judy Craymer MBE.

With continued support from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Charles Michael Holloway Trust the scheme has been extended to 2020.



Who can apply

Applications for awards up to £5,000 can be made from theatres across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

To be eligible you must:

- own or manage theatres with titles or signed leases of more than 5 years on buildings in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- demonstrate that they run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work presenting no less than 30 performances a year
- have a bona fide UK charitable or not-for-profit legal structure and be able to provide certified or audited accounts for at least two years

How to apply

Please send your application to us as soon as possible, but no later than Monday 5 October 2020 at noon. Depending on demand and government guidelines, we may award grants before the October deadline, so please apply as soon as you know relevant costs.

Contact advice@theatretrust.org.uk for more information and to discuss your project before applying.



St Mary's University Update

St Mary's University visiting professor and Head Coach of England's winning Rugby World Cup 2003 squad, Sir Clive Woodward OBE, took part in a webinar with St Mary's last week

Hosted by Richard Prescott, the PR, Communications and Marketing Director at St Mary's, it was the latest in a series

of webinars provided by the University across its two faculties: Education, Humanities and Social Sciences (EHSS) and Sport, Health and Applied Science (SHAS).

Sir Clive spent over an hour answering questions about the 'Rugby Union Landscape' and the challenges the game is facing on and off the field.

Sir Clive also answered questions on his playing and coaching career and gave his advice and insight into resolving some of the game's issues and what a coach needs to produce a successful team.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Travel Agents Gossip – A Miscellany of fun!!!

By Bruce Lyons

The Bad News I suppose is Stay Cation with the Pandemic driving many to have a Summer Holiday in the UK and not even all of that as Nicola Sturgeon is threatening to quarantine us English if we don't watch out – That wouldn't be much fun for the people that switched their Luxury Wedding from the Maldives (next week) to a Scottish Castle -sounds a bit like out of the frying pan into the fire.



What I really want to say is if you haven't booked your English Cottage by the sea or in the country – then whilst we are still finding options in August they don't always look like a "match perfect" so you'll get away if you are a bit flexible in the brief – of course if you have a dog, then it will have to be dog friendly but thereafter its best to have an open mind on budget, location and possibly a lot more things – best to make a fun blind date! We can offer hotels, B & B's, barges and more. There are Luxury Barge Hotels for a really peaceful meander through England, Scotland and Ireland, what could be better? Still looking? Then please send an email with your needs, dates and as much information as possible to info@crusadertravel.com and we'll be back to you – with our mystery offer!! Might be a blind date and you'll discover the England you never knew.

Looking for something more active? -there are wonderful self-guided Cycling & Walking Tours all over the country and as always we can arrange Rowing (a la "Three Men in a Boat" on the Thames, a speciality of the House – we organise the hire of a Camping Skiff (you don't have to camp – we can organise B & B's or hotels) the tow and all the other requirements.



Now there is new information from the Foreign and Commonwealth both Sri Lanka and Cuba have been given the Green Light – you can visit and not expect quarantining there or back here from Tuesday next.

And the Government have added from the same day the following countries with an "All Clear" tag for Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia and St Vincent and The Grenadines. The last opens up the option to visit our favourite



Island Bequia either to a Beach Hotel or one of the wonderful Villas, however travellers may find things a bit different travelling as there are new disciplines to observe and we can offer a guide to the New Look travel with all the details of current needs whilst travelling and any forms to complete as you travel or for your return. Flights are all working, but often with less frequency than before, so please be patient with us.

As to Europe; Greece is open, as is France, Italy (including Sicily) Croatia, Spain and the Canary Islands but Portugal – but you need our guide to help you on your way- and there are good value prices too.

And as I said last week the Government did a U-turn on the directive no Cruising and now made it clear that it meant International Sea Going Liners, not small ships, so Island Hopping in Croatia, Greek Islands or Gulets in Turkey – and Round Britain Cruising is also OK as are the Small Ships in the Scottish Isles, but beware of Nicola with the Quarantining

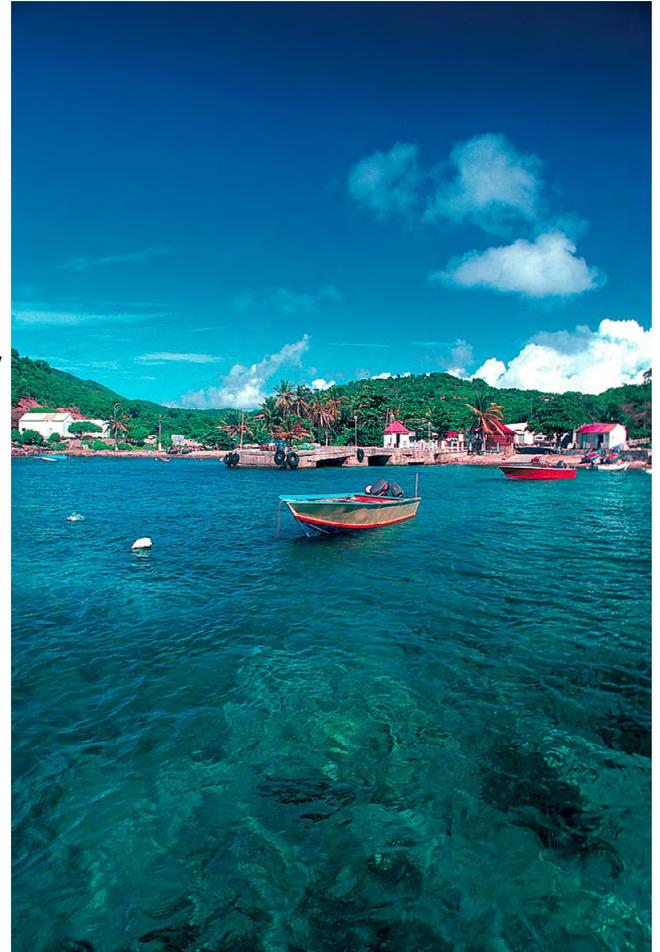


Guadeloupe

This week I have been looking at some of the islands in the Caribbean. Guadeloupe is one of the islands colonized by France.

The photographs of Guadeloupe were kindly donated to the World InfoZone project by the Guadeloupe Islands Tourist Board.

French colonization of the Caribbean can be explored through the links in the country information text of Guadeloupe.



More photographs of Guadeloupe

<http://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Guadeloupe>



BRENTFORD FC

Bees blow opportunity to go second in frustrating defeat Stoke City 1 – 0 Brentford

Brentford's run of eight consecutive wins game to a frustrating end in the potteries as a disciplined performance from Stoke saw the visitors miss out on a golden opportunity to move to within a point of promotion to the Premier League following West Bromwich Albion's defeat the previous night.



Stoke came into the game with safety all but secured whilst the Bees knew that a win would see them put their destiny into the own hands heading into the final round of fixtures.

The first notable chance arrived when Said Benrahma picked up the ball midway inside the opposition half and exchanged passes with Ollie Watkins. The Algerian then delivered a teasing cross towards the back post where Bryan Mbeumo escaped his marker but the ball bounced awkwardly off the turf as he went to connect with his head and Adam Davies in goal was able to block the ball.

As the half time approached Sam Clucas lined up a shot from outside the area and fired a left footed effort towards the goal. Unfortunately for the Bees David Raya couldn't keep hold of the strike and his save fell invitingly into the path of Lee Gregory who converted from close range.

In the second half the Potters defended deeper and counterattacked when they could. Sam Vokes found space between Rico Henry in the penalty area when a cross was delivered from James McClean down the left-hand touchline but the forward couldn't direct a promising chance on target.

Josh Dasilva then had an excellent chance to restore parity between the two sides. Mbeumo and Watkins had combined well in the penalty area and Watkins reached the by-line before cutting the ball back to Dasilva but he shot wide.

Brentford continued to attack and produce chances with Sergi Canos on the pitch for the first time since October they continued to threaten. The Spaniard curled an inviting ball along the goalmouth with just evaded a sliding Benrahma at the back post.

Right at the death Pinnock struck a powerful follow a ricochet in the box that looked like it would give Brentford a share of the points but a superb save from Davies down to his left consigned the Bees to defeat.

Speaking after the victory Thomas Frank said, "Of course we would have loved to go into the final game with everything in our hands," the Dane, 46, said.

"That is the roller coaster of football. What happened out there on the pitch is the past. We can only look forward, do everything we can to settle our emotions and be ready to go again Wednesday.

"I am very proud of them (his players). I think they gave everything out there today. We have been on an unbelievable run and if anybody had said to us before the start of the season that before the last game you would be one point off the top two...

"Also, I am 100% sure I am going to be even more proud of them at the end of the season. If it takes one or four games (due to the play-offs) I don't know."

Heartbreak for Bees as automatic dream dies Brentford 1 – 2 Barnsley

Brentford missed out on automatic promotion to the Premier League by the barest of margins following an injury time defeat at Griffin Park. With fellow promotion chasers West Bromwich Albion only able to secure a draw with West London rivals QPR a win would have secured Premier League football but now the Bees know they must navigate the play offs in the are to reach the top flight.

The first key opening of the game fell to Said Benrahma who after exchanging passes on the left-hand wing with Ollie Watkins drew a save from Sam Walton. Emiliano Marcondes was then unable to react quick enough to the rebound and the Tykes cleared their lines.

However, it was Barnsley that were clearly the better side in the opening half and when they took the lead it was fully deserved. A cross came into the box that Pontus Jansson could only head upwards and Callum Styles struck a lovely left footed attempt on the half volley that went through the legs of Henrik Dalsgaard and past David Raya.

Brentford should have equalised soon thereafter when Rico Henry cut the ball back along the edge of the six-yard box. Latching onto the ball was Bryan Mbeumo who curled a powerful strike that Walton somehow managed to save onto the post to miraculously keep the visitors slender lead.

In the opening of the second half the Tykes could have put the game beyond Brentford when an attacking break saw a three against two in the Bees' defensive third. The ball eventually found its way to Jacob Brown but Ethan Pinnock slid in to avert danger.

With just under twenty minutes to go Josh Dasilva curled home a stunning strike to keep the dream alive. Some valiant defending saw substitute Tariqe Fosu's shot blocked but when the ball found its way to Dasilva the Bees' man made no mistake and arrowed the ball beyond the reach of Walton.

With the West Brom match level Brentford knew that they were just one goal away from

claiming the final automatic promotion spot. Top scorer Watkins went closest when he was picked out by Benrahma but he mistimed his strike and the ball sailed past his foot.

As the clock ticked into injury time Brentford hearts were broken as Barnsley scored a last-minute winner to secure themselves safety, pending the outcome of the investigation into Wigan Athletics' administration. Patrick Schmidt crossed along the goalmouth and Clarke Odour tapped in from less than a yard out to provide the climax to an incredible game and Championship season.

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said speaking after the game, "Football is 80% suffering and 10% joy. When you have that opportunity to go direct to the Premier League, that is the emotional part of it - but Barnsley did a good job.

"Right now, everything is tough but this is football and this is life. This was not straightforward.

"We can't sit down and cry too long because that will never help anything. We need to go again and pick ourselves up. We will have a sleep and then be ready to fight again."

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: Swansea City (A) Sunday 26th July 18:30 Liberty Stadium

Opponent: Swansea City (H) Wednesday 29th July 19:45 Griffin Park

Nickname: The Swans

Competition: Championship play off semi-final

Opponent record: P46 W18 D16 L12 GF62 GA53 (6th in the Championship)

Top scorer: André Ayew (17)

Head coach: Steve Cooper

Previous game: Brentford moved into third in the Championship table after a fifth home victory in a row at Griffin Park courtesy of a brace from Ollie Watkins and a goal from Bryan Mbeumo. The Frenchman opened the scoring in the 20th minute with a header from an Ethan Pinnock knock down and the Bees further extended their advantage just five minutes later when Watkins diverted a cross past Swans' keeper Freddy Woodman. The visitors got one back in the second half through André Ayew to give them hope but Watkins sealed it late on with Watkins racing free to claim his second of the afternoon.

Interesting fact: Swansea City's mascot Cyril the Swan was banned for two matches in 1999 after clashing with then Norwich City Director of Football, Bryan Hamilton, during a League Cup tie.

Come on you Bees!

Tackling the tax gap

Today the National Audit Office (NAO) reports that HM Revenue & Customs' (HMRC's) work to improve taxpayers' compliance with the tax system has achieved high rates of return.

HMRC estimates the tax gap – the difference between the amount of tax the government is owed and the amount HMRC collects – has reduced from its recent peak level of 7.2% of theoretical tax owed¹ in 2013-14 to 4.7% in 2018-19 (£31 billion), though there is scope to bear down further on non-compliant taxpayers. The tax gap is affected by a number of factors, including HMRC's activity, economic conditions and changes in tax policy.

The size of the tax gap is difficult to estimate and can be revised in later years. In 2019 HMRC reported that the tax gap had increased to £35 billion or 5.6% of tax owed in 2017-18. It now estimates the tax gap reduced to £31 billion or 5.0% of tax owed in 2017-18. In other years revisions have significantly increased the tax gap from the estimate reported at the time.

HMRC faces a continual challenge to prevent the tax gap from growing because taxpayers and their advisors change their behaviour. For example, tax avoidance schemes now target more people on middle incomes than in the past.

HMRC's latest estimates indicate most elements of the tax gap reduced between 2015-16 and 2018-19. Notable examples include reductions in the tax gap from VAT, excise duties and criminal attacks, each by at least £0.5 billion. Tax avoidance fell by an estimated 26% between 2013-14 and 2018-19 (from £2.3 billion to £1.7 billion) due to success in tackling large business tax avoidance and marketed tax avoidance schemes. Non-payment of tax liabilities, where a taxpayer is in debt to HMRC, was the only significant area to have increased (by £1 billion or 32%) between 2015-16 and 2018-19.

Each year since 2011-12, HMRC has met its targets for generating additional tax by improving taxpayers' compliance with the system. The amount of money HMRC generated through its compliance activities increased from £23.9 billion in 2013-14 to £34.1 billion in 2018-19. However, increases to the additional tax generated through this will not necessarily reduce the tax gap, which is also affected by factors outside HMRC's control such as economic conditions and changes in tax policy.

HMRC reports large rates of return from its compliance activities. Rates of return ranged from £7 in revenue for every £1 spent on compliance activity on individual taxpayers, to



44:1 on large business taxpayers in 2018-19. However, HMRC's overriding consideration when allocating resources in recent years has been to maintain a sufficient level of compliance activity across all the various taxpayer groups, particularly in light of budgetary pressures. While this is important, the NAO highlights the risk that reducing resources for compliance activity in areas with high returns could disproportionately affect the tax gap.

HMRC has shifted towards earlier interventions to prevent non-compliance happening in the first place. The estimated revenue generated from this work increased from £3.2 billion in 2016-17 to £7.8 billion in 2018-19. In contrast, HMRC has reduced by

£31bn	4.7%	1.1%
HM Revenue & Customs' (HMRC's) estimate of the size of the tax gap in 2018-19. The tax gap is the difference between the amount of tax theoretically owed and the amount collected	HMRC's estimate of the size of the tax gap as a percentage of total tax due in 2018-19	reported percentage point decrease in the annual tax gap between 2015-16 and 2018-19
£34.1 billion	yield from HMRC's tax compliance activities in 2018-19 (increase of £7.5 billion since 2015-16)	
7:1	the estimated amount of additional tax revenue from each pound HMRC spent making sure individual taxpayers complied with tax rules 2018-19	
44:1	the estimated amount of additional tax revenue from each pound HMRC spent making sure large businesses complied with tax rules in 2018-19	
£4.6 billion	estimated additional tax yield arising from HMRC initiatives to promote compliance and prevent non-compliance before a taxpayer submits a tax return between 2016-17 and 2018-19	
33%	reduction in the number of HMRC compliance enquiries and audits between 2016-17 and 2018-19	

a third the number of traditional enquiries and audits investigating non-complying taxpayers over the past three years. The proportion of revenue from enquiries and audits has not kept pace with increases in tax revenue overall. HMRC is considering a range of options that could help to reduce the tax gap by modernising tax administration systems and making services simpler for taxpayers. It has developed strategies to tackle non-compliance for each taxpayer group but not for all the different types of behaviour, such as where taxpayers bend the rules or

do not take reasonable care to get their tax returns right.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“HMRC’s activity to ensure that taxpayers are paying the right amount of tax secures significant revenue for the public purse. However, reducing the tax gap is challenging because taxpayers and their advisors change their behaviour.

“HMRC should consider applying the lessons it has learned in tackling tax avoidance to challenge other types of non-compliant behaviour and support taxpayers to pay the right tax.”



National Audit Office

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