

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Share your Community Heroes story!

This year's Community Heroes programme will recognise more people than ever before - celebrating those who voluntarily help improve the lives of residents and the wider community, as well as recognising those who have gone above and beyond to help with the borough's COVID-19 response.

You can either submit your own story, or the story of someone you know who is a COVID-19 Community Hero. Stories will be shared on our accounts.

Find more information [HERE](#)

## Don't come to Townmead Road without an appointment!

Residents are reminded not to come to Townmead Road, Household Waste and Recycling Centre without an appointment!

Those who do not have an appointment are reminded not to visit the site, as they will be turned away.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

## Making history: photos of life during COVID-19

Can you help create a visual diary of the COVID-19 pandemic for future generations to study and learn from? Richmond Library Services is looking for photographs that document life in Richmond upon Thames during the pandemic.

The Local Studies Library and Archive has already invited residents to start and to share diary entries of their experiences, which may include how daily routines have had to change, any struggles and general thoughts.

To support this, the Library is now looking for photographs of the borough during lockdown, as well as more current photos of lockdown measures easing.

Find more information [HERE](#)

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

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# TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal and his chums decided to take advantage of the warm Friday night and take a walk along Twickenham Riverside, suitably social-distanced of course.

Church Street was very busy and atmospheric, with lots of residents enjoying the al-fresco dining on the warm summer's night.

The Barmy Arms, under new management, was busy and its beer garden full.

As they ambled along the Embankment, they had to carefully weave their way past numerous rather intoxicated groups, some of which were loud and unpleasant and already discarding litter and empty bottles.

TwickerSeal, and co, ended up at the desolate and forlorn Santander car park, which the council has left to rot. TwickerFox commented that it was probably a ploy by the council, hoping that whatever they do to develop the site residents will welcome it as an improvement, however unimaginative and lacking in vision. TwickerMole popped up and quipped that the dull open space in the council's plans will make a nice new extension for the loud groups they had passed on the Embankment. At least they will be happy ...



# Borough View

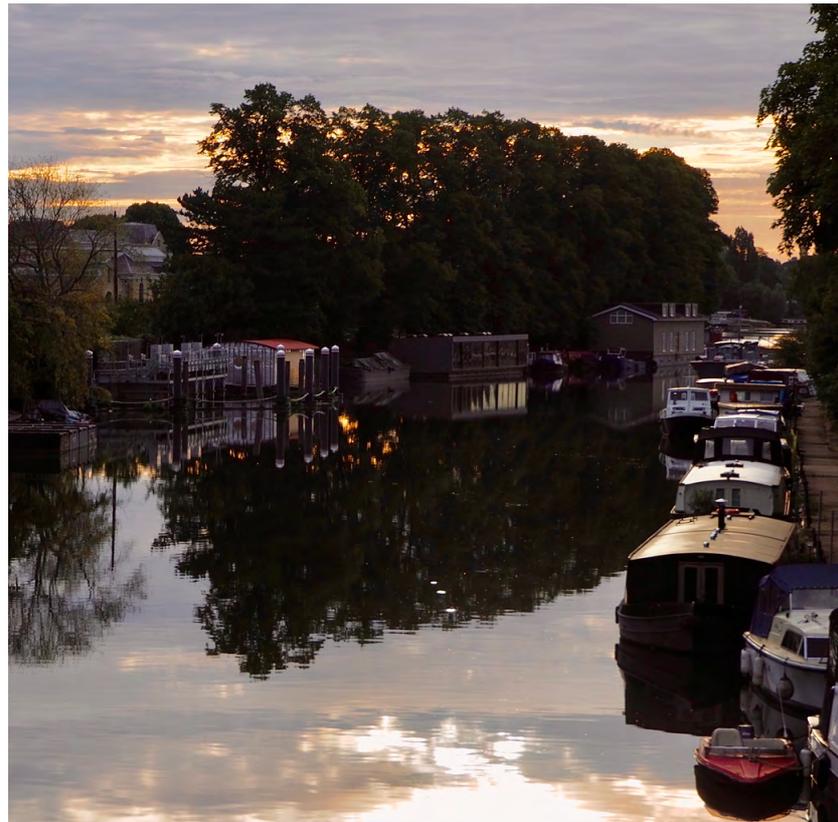
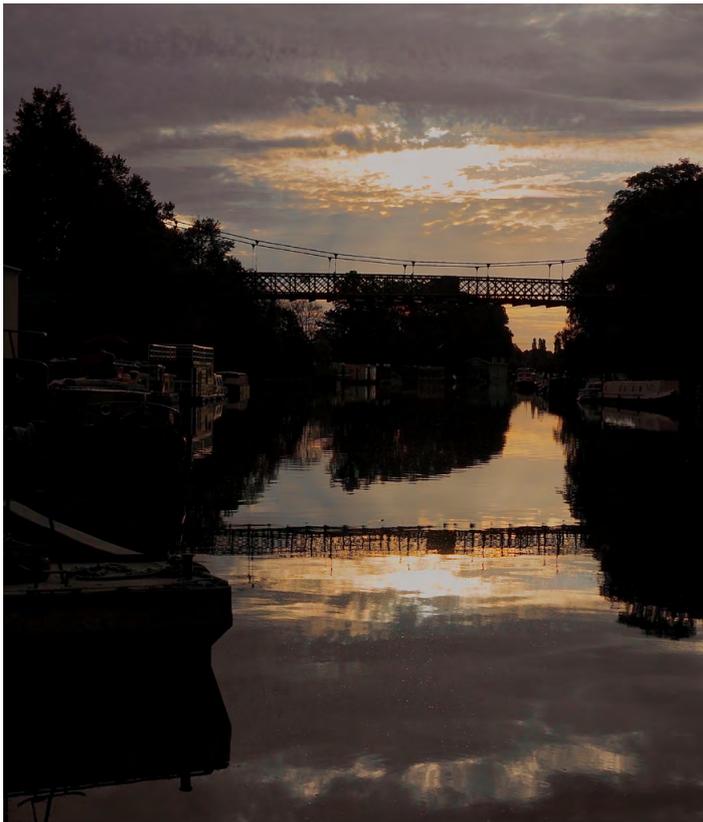
By Graeme Stoten

## 'Platts Eyot'

Recognised as one of London's largest islets, Platts Eyot sits at the westernmost edge of the borough linked to the Lower Sunbury road via a 1940's suspension footbridge. Steeped in boatbuilding history, it has been the home of both Thorneycroft boatyard, which built torpedo builds during both wars and a river police base. The islets man-made hilly topography has resulted from the excavation of soil from



Hamptons large waterworks and Stain Hill reservoirs. Once thought of as an industrial eyesore, the busy moorings and wooded backdrop now create a lovely picturesque outlook over the River Thames.



# COVID-19

By Teresa Read

## **Differences in Immune Systems**

There has been speculation by some about why there are places in the world that appear to have relatively fewer cases of COVID-19 than others. There will be many reasons, for instance, lack of accurate reporting of deaths from the new coronavirus in some countries, but there has also been interest in whether there might be some relationship to genetic makeup.

The Impact of Historic Migrations and Evolutionary Processes on Human Immunity is reviewed in the journal Cell

[https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906\(19\)30210-8](https://www.cell.com/trends/immunology/fulltext/S1471-4906(19)30210-8)

It seems that interbreeding between our ancestors and archaic humans, such as Neanderthals and Denisovans, have shaped our immune systems.

We know there were a number of migrations from Africa, for example, Neanderthals to West Asia and Europe, and Denisovans to East Asia; Homo Sapiens arrived in Eurasia at a later date.

Immune systems were affected by infections and interbreeding incorporated adaptations in the genome of descendants.

This inheritance from archaic humans may have also left some people more prone than others to developing various medical conditions or being less resistant to particular diseases.

Further information: World InfoZone [Migration Routes](#)

## **Local Statistics**

The BBC Coronavirus UK Map for COVID-19 gave the following figures for total cases on Friday 31 July 2020: 551 cases in Richmond upon Thames, 752 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,115 in Hounslow.

## **Number of Deaths from WHO Situation Reports:**

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Friday 31 July 2020 gave the following details for countries with the highest death rates: 150,054 in the USA, 90,134 in Brazil, 45,999 in the UK.

South Africa has the highest number of recorded deaths in Africa: 7,812

Mexico is in third place for a high death rate in the Americas: 45,361

Iran has the highest number of recorded deaths in the Eastern Mediterranean: 16,569

Italy has the second highest number of recorded deaths in Europe: 35,132

India has the highest number of recorded deaths in South-East Asia: 35,747

China remains the country with the highest number of recorded deaths in the Western Pacific: 4,666

The total number of recorded deaths worldwide is 668,910.

# The hottest day of the year and still no toilet or hand washing facilities for visitors to Richmond

By Pamela Fleming, Councillor South Richmond Ward

It is ridiculous for the Council Leader to say temporary toilets would encourage people to stay longer and that the needs of shoppers can be met by the Community Toilet Scheme, Marks & Spencer, the Station and "other places". There are no businesses in the centre of Richmond participating in the CTS, the Princes Head is listed but pulled out. Marks & Spencer is no longer part of the scheme because the Council is now focused on recruiting independent businesses. I've no idea what he means by "other places" but the stark fact is that visitors to Richmond have no idea where they can find a toilet.

Government regulations and hygiene requirements make it almost impossible for the hospitality sector to open their toilets to anyone other than customers, so whilst the pandemic lasts the Community Toilet Scheme will not provide the answer.

Because of corporate decisions a number of prominent shops are closing in Richmond, so now more than ever we should be welcoming visitors to explore the quirky alleyways, shop and enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Providing them with toilets and hand washing is an investment in the future of the town."

## LBRUT's ASB Problem Makes the National News

By Teresa Read

Last Saturday in the Daily Mail there was an article about "teen yobs" on Richmond Green.

On Twickenham Green, the other side of the Borough, those using local gardens and private property as toilets are usually older and should know better but perhaps the term "yob" (or lout) could be applied to some of them.

This problem is not exclusively a COVID-19 problem as the Council has received emails for over a year asking them about (lack of) toilets on Twickenham Green; residents are still waiting for an answer.

The zoom meeting with the leader of the Council about this issue is a dim memory now - is it the same for him?

I know of one occasion when LBRuT arranged cleaning of a resident's property (this time it was defecation). However, most residents, themselves, have to clean up the mess left by those who just do not care what they leave behind. And of course, we pay Council Tax but receive no reduction for the lack of service - unlike those businesses (?) whom we are told are signing up for payment from what is known as the "Community Toilet Scheme" (CTS).

The CTS brings up the thought of signage - where are they? Again, an interminable problem.

I wonder what would happen if councillors' children saw a group of men lining up outside their house to urinate - and, not forgetting groups of women squatting on the pavement - maybe there would be positive action.

We can start by going back 220 years to 1800 and to a Teddington that had a population of under 700, in 100 houses.

Although some were substantial they were not palatial. The number of houses had probably doubled by the 1860s, but the population was still only just over 1000. In 1861 the Manor of Teddington, which consisted of nearly half the parish, was sold for the development of desirable villas and to assist this development the railway arrived in 1863 with Teddington Station opening in July of that year. The population soared, and a population of 1183 in 1861 rose almost four-fold to 4063 in 1871.

Bring on the pubs! Most Teddington beer houses and pubs were originally built in this period of growth brought about by the arrival of the railway.

The Railway Hotel opposite the station on the north side of the tracks was opened in 1869 and was listed as the Railway Refreshment Rooms in the 1891 census. It became the Railway Hotel in about 1890.



Our first postcard image dates from about 1905 and shows the pub at 3, Victoria Road.

### The Railway

Victoria Road, Teddington.



Good Food - Real Ales  
Function Room

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It was a fairly common early marketing strategy for pubs to produce matchboxes and match booklets in the latter half of the 20th century. After all, the majority of folk smoked in that period. We can see two different examples from the Railway Hotel in the second and third images. Matchboxes from different pubs were quite collectable in those days but today have little if any value.



In the early 2000s the pub was re-named for a while as "The

Bloated Mallard". Regular readers will know I have an aversion to this fairly recent practice of changing pub names. It makes no sense to change the name of a pub that has stood on the same spot for hundreds of years and is part of the fabric and history of the local area it serves.

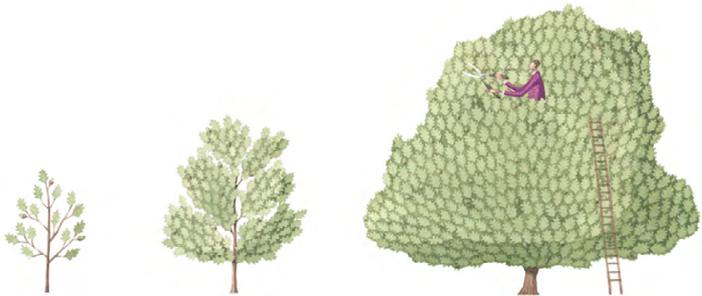


Anyway, the good news is that it is now once again operating as "The Railway" and the last of our images shows this old pub as it is today. Pubs next to Railway stations named the Railway this or the Station that have been part of the British landscape since the railway network was being established in the 19th century. With the current swing back to rail travel, long may they remain.

All previous articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting [www.twickenhamtribune.com](http://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](mailto: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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[info@thetreeagency.co.uk](mailto:info@thetreeagency.co.uk)  
[www.thetreeagency.co.uk](http://www.thetreeagency.co.uk)



# ENJOY A BEER NEXT FRIDAY

By Doug Goodman

August 7th is the day when beer is celebrated around the world. The first Friday in August has been chosen as the date when we mark International Beer Day. The event, which has been running since 2007, brings friends together to sample beers from around the world and celebrates those who brew and serve it. With more and more pubs and restaurants offering some of the finest beers from around the world there's never been a better time to discover a new drink. Doug Goodman, our travel correspondent, offers you some of his recently sampled beers.



Local Residents Doug and John  
Enjoy Worldwide Beers



Twickenham  
Resident Nick  
Enjoys Polish Beer



Nepal and Germany



Romania



Greece



Laos



France



Russia



Belgium

So enjoy beers from around the world, including the best from our own brewers, in your garden or in your local.

And remember social distancing.



Kenya

# Government needs to step up with funding for Hammersmith Bridge

The Government must step in and help fund the restoration of Hammersmith Bridge, a bridge that is vital to the future economy of the Capital, says Richmond Council.

Earlier this year, Transport for London (TfL) awarded £25 million to help kick start the restoration process of the Grade II\* listed bridge. Alongside, there was an outline commitment from central Government that further money would be forthcoming for the wide scale works needed, including the installation of a temporary footbridge.

However, with no firm commitment from the Government to provide the additional money, despite their appeals for 'shovel ready projects' and massive losses in TfL income due to the pandemic, there is currently no cash available to undertake the work.

With the future restoration works and temporary footbridge hanging in the balance, Richmond Council is urging the Government to step in with a firm commitment to fund the project.

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

“To use a favourite phrase of the Prime Minister, this is ‘Dither and Delay’ from the Government. You asked for shovel ready projects, Mr Johnson, well here’s one which is practically on your doorstep. Given your well documented enthusiasm for bridges, whether across the Thames or the Irish Sea, surely restoring Hammersmith Bridge is something which ticks all of your boxes.

“At the moment the future of both the temporary footbridge and the major repair works are hanging in the balance. With costs estimated at well over £100m – if they don’t pay – who will? I do not believe that it is fair to ask local people to put their hands in the pockets and pay the millions of pounds needed to fix a bridge that is integral to the wider London network. We need the reassurance from the Government that funding will be given – and soon.”

Hammersmith Bridge is owned and maintained by Hammersmith & Fulham Council. Due to severe structural issues, the bridge was closed in April 2019. Following a detailed investigation by a team of world-leading specialist engineers, TfL and Hammersmith & Fulham Council agreed on the future requirement of the bridge. The first stage of the restoration programme began, and TfL provided £25 million to pay for it. Early estimates indicate the wider work could cost around £140 million.





**STAY ALERT**  
**CONTROL**  
**THE VIRUS**  
**SAVE LIVES**



## COVID CORRIDORS

**COUNTRIES**

**OK TO GO!**

**Andorra**

**Austria**

**Belgium**

**the Channel Islands**

**Croatia**

**Cyprus**

**Czech Republic**

**Denmark**

**Faroe Islands**

**Finland**

**France**

**Germany**

**Gibraltar**

**Greece**

**Hungary**

**Iceland**

**Ireland**

**the Isle of Man**

**Italy**

**Liechtenstein**

**Lithuania**

**Malta**

**Monaco**

**The Netherlands**

**Norway**

**Poland**

**San Marino**

**Switzerland**

**Turkey**

**Vatican City**

# Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

## Moving Meadows

By Jack Morris

Over the past week at Marble Hill Park, we have been undertaking a historic restoration of Marble Hill's Wildflower Meadows using some unusual methods.

We have used a traditional method meadow establishment, known as the green hay technique. The basic principal of the green hay technique is transferring hay cut from an existing or donor meadow while the hay is still green. This hay is then spread thinly at a prepared site with similar attributes to the donor meadow. The seed heads from the green hay are then allowed to mature and ripen eventually dispersing their seed to the new site.



### Why the green hay method?

The green hay method is regarded to be a superior method to the alternatives of meadow establishment: planting plug plants or direct sowing of seed. It also gives a greater insight into what can be expected from the meadow once established. The time of cutting can also be coordinated to coincide with specific flowering and seed production cycles. So if you wanted to introduce mainly cowslips, the meadow should be cut earlier in the year, however flowers such as oxeye daisies can be cut at the end of the summer.

### What makes this project so unusual?

Although the green hay technique isn't the most widely used method of meadow establishment, what really makes this project unusual is the use of traditional cutting methods, the unorthodox method of transportation and also the historic context of the reestablishment of the meadows at marble hill along with once again working closely with our historic neighbours south of the river.

### The Cutting

The meadow was cut with traditional hay cutting equipment using London's last working Shire Horse company. Cutting hay this way is not just used solely for its historic value but it has many advantages compared to modern methods. Using shire horses has little impact on flora and fauna, compaction of the soil, carbon emissions and noise pollution; all of which can have a large impact on soil health, insect and animal habitats and the wider environment when heavy machinery is used.



## The Transport

The Hammertons Ferry, which has long served locals with its direct link across the river from Marble Hill to Ham House, was used to relay teams of English Heritage volunteers, along sacks full of green hay across the river from Ham House to Marble Hill at which point another team of volunteers were waiting eagerly to spread the hay over the prepared site of the new meadows.

This method of transport seemed very fitting; when Henrietta Howard resided in Marble Hill house the river would have been the primary means of transporting freight.

It seemed to be this aspect and the historical context most of all, which captured the imagination of the public and media.



## What's so special about the meadows at Ham?

The meadows at Ham House have been in existence since the 17th century, Marble Hill would have had meadows very similar to those at Ham for many years, it is unclear when they were dug over and removed. In fact this has been the same story with almost all the meadows in the UK. Tragically we have lost 97% of our wildflower meadows since the second world war. It is fantastic to be able to reintroduce something, that has not only been lost almost entirely throughout the British Isles, but is of great historical and environmental importance. The fact that the diverse, virtually unchanged meadows at Ham are so close to Marble Hill Park also means that the species and characteristics of the meadows may well be close to the meadows which have been lost from Marble Hill. There is also a good likelihood that some of the flowers and plants to be reintroduced in establishing these meadows will be identical to those that Henrietta Howard may have enjoyed during her time in residence at Marble Hill House.

It is truly wonderful to bring this aspect of the historic landscape back to life and would not



have been possible if it wasn't for the involvement and help of a veritable army of our amazing volunteers, the Ham House garden team, Hammertons ferry, The Environment Trust, and all the staff at Marble Hill.

Thank you one and all!!



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE



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# Residents are being asked to have their say on parking in Kew

A review of parking in the Kew area has been launched to ask local residents for their views and opinions on potential new and increased parking measures.

The Council does not usually express a view during consultations about how parking controls should operate. However, given that exceptional circumstances are likely to result in a higher demand for parking spaces from non-residents in this area (including those associated with the Brentford Football Club development), the Council is proposing the following:

- That parking controls be implemented across the whole of the North Kew area to provide priority parking for residents, businesses and visitors, every day, for a minimum duration of 10am to 4.30pm. [View details of the consultation and complete the online survey.](#)

This follows a number of issues across the area including petitions received by the Council from residents of Gloucester Road and Kew Green concerning the difficulties finding a parking space near to their home.

It is expected that additional pressure will be placed on parking spaces in the area due to completion of the new Brentford Football Club stadium and flats development over Kew Bridge, major events held at Kew Gardens, and the recent suspension of all parking spaces along the west side of Kew Road to support the northbound cycle lane.



- That the operational hours of KA and KB Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs), currently operating Monday to Friday 10am to noon, should be extended every day for a minimum duration of 4 hours a day. [View details of the consultation and complete the online survey for KA and the KB survey.](#)
- The Council is also conducting a separate consultation on the Niton Road / Chilton Road area to see if there is support to extend parking controls (Zone KB) after some residents in the area requested parking controls. [View details of the consultation and complete the online survey.](#)

All feedback on the consultations will be considered very carefully before a decision is made on the way forward.

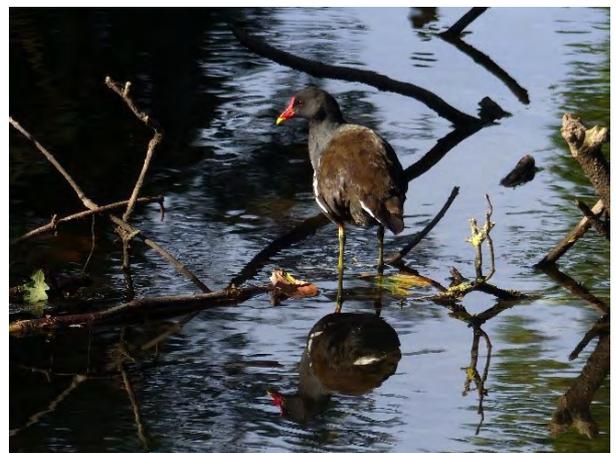
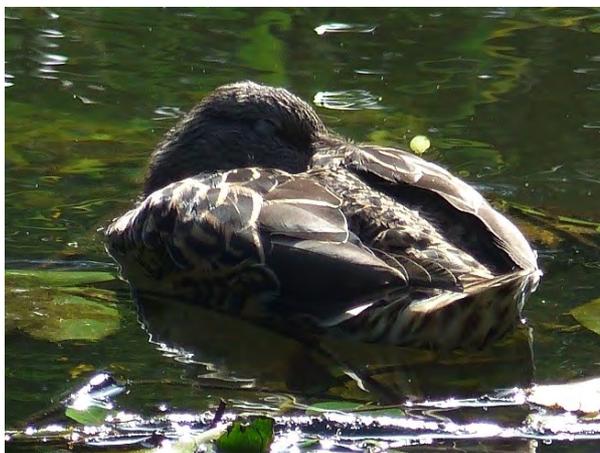
If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire, please contact 020 8891 1411 and this will be posted out to you along with a pre-paid envelope for your response.

Closing date for online or paper consultation responses and/or e-mails is **Wednesday 26 August 2020.**



Dragonflies and Damselflies are loving the warm weather and having a 'staycation' here

When twenty five percent of UK mammals are in danger of extinction it is sad to hear about the poisoning of a rare young White-Tailed Eagle in The Cairngorms National Park in Scotland in an area of Grouse Moors. Poison is an insidious way of killing animals and vegetation. The additional harm to the environment is avoidable and unacceptable and to see trees poisoned when they have root systems and pathways that connect with other trees and nature is unconscionable. It seems that the ability to enforce is the problem with many areas of concern now in our society. However, we can see how Nature responds if we do not listen and many people are now taking direct action too which is not surprising.



Take a walk along the River Crane and daydream and reflect like these two birds. The Moorhens have a chick but we kept our distance so as not to disturb the nest and signs inform us to restrain from feeding bread to the wildlife as it not only pollutes the water source but encourages vermin and is not nutritious for birds.

*Sometimes our best efforts do not go amiss, sometimes we do as we meant to. The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.*

## THE TASTE OF SPAIN – IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

We went to Spain last Friday evening. Well, not really, and we didn't need our passports or face masks! It was all courtesy of Tom Doran of Doran Vineyards, as we attended one of his virtual wine tastings. But hang on a minute, don't they produce South African wines? Yes, they do, but Tom, a trained chef, has developed, alongside his father Edwin, a loyal following for their tutored tastings of wines from across the globe, each one accompanied by a selection of delicious food from the region in question.

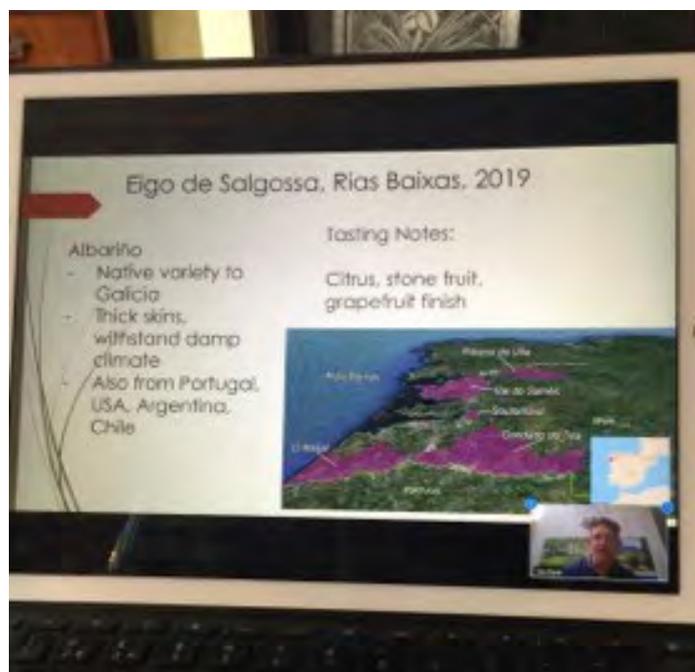


Just to give you an idea of the high regard for these tastings, one of the other 'attendees' was a wine buyer for a major supermarket chain. So how did it work? Well, Tom arranges to drop round with a selection of mini bottles (each carefully labelled) of the wines for the tasting, plus the special ISO tasting glasses, and some sheets of notes for the tasting. He also brings a fabulous selection of food that he has prepared to pair with the wines. In our case we had homemade 'tear and share' rolls (seeded, with Manchego cheese and black olives); a really

good slice of tortilla each (the proper kind, made with eggs and potatoes), a charred artichoke heart salad with broad beans and diced chorizo and last, but by no means least, a delicious 'Catalan style' lamb stew.

So, all set up and ready to go, we joined the Zoom call link sent earlier and 'met' the others. Tom asked as each various questions about which parts of Spain we liked, and what wines we enjoy while there. It was clear that we all enjoyed different parts of Spain, which was great, as Tom was going to take us all on a vinous tour.

Tom has done his research and illustrates his talks with maps and tasting notes. I won't go into great detail of each wine, suffice to say we had a good selection, including a lovely Albarino, and a couple of others produced from grapes that I have to admit I had never tried. It is worth saying that these tastings are for



everyone, whatever their depth of wine knowledge and Tom is keen to introduce even the most unknowledgeable to the world of wine. One of the highlights for me was a fabulous new white wine made from the Palomino grape (as in Manzanilla) Las 30 del Cuadrado, Jerez 2017. Like many of the wines we tasted that evening, it was top-notch, and not cheap at around £20 a bottle. But we agreed that in the current situation, many people are spending a bit more on their wines, especially as they haven't been able



to enjoy them in restaurants, thus saving the mark-up. We moved to the reds and again Tom had selected a brilliant range of varietals for us.

Our personal favourite – by a long chalk – was a Petit Pittacum Bierzo, 2018 produced entirely from the Mencia grape. It was fabulous! Fresh and vibrant, but with plenty about it: intense colour, elegant nose, and red fruits. It was fluid and juicy in the mouth with great length and hidden woody notes.

We finished with a blind tasting of three other wines, all very different and the preferences among us differed too.

It was a great evening, and we can see how Tom has built up such a loyal following. With the food, it is a complete evening out and at £50 a head, provides a really fun, delicious and educational event.

Tom is currently only delivering in the SW/KT/TW postcodes, but by arrangement (and for a lesser price) people further afield can enjoy his tastings with delivery by courier. They will of course be without him providing the food and the glasses, but he is happy to advise on foods to pair with the wines, as long as there is space on the tasting and he has enough time to arrange delivery of the tasting samples.

Doran Vineyards can organise tastings for private parties and groups by arrangement, and they will make a great socially distanced excuse for a celebration! He can even provide souvenir tasting glasses for guests.

For further information contact Tom Doran at [tom@doranfamilyvintners.co.uk](mailto:tom@doranfamilyvintners.co.uk)





## Wilde Weekend

Teddington Theatre Club on-line on YouTube

Only the very few see the sad sight of an empty auditorium in our locked-down theatres, thousands of theatre-makers itch to put a show on stage, while hundreds of theatre junkies yearn for their fix of real theatre. Many though have detoxed by watching their favourite theatres boiled down to the small world of on-line entertainment.

Our larger non-commercial theatre companies have also refused to go cold turkey. Questors had run its [Scenes in Solitude](#) programme of short plays for several weeks, modestly short pieces of new writing. Then Teddington Theatre Club jumped firmly in with its first public offering on-line, but modest it was not. This was its [Wilde Weekend](#), ambitiously performing all of Oscar Wilde's known oeuvre, the complete canon, 48 pieces in a continuous run.

Mark Aspen Reviews did not feel it was able to dedicate one non-eating, non-sleeping reviewer for 25 hours, so a small team of eight critics chose their own highlights. Most of these were around midnight and into the wee small-hours. You see they largely stayed away from the well-known favourites, the crowd-pullers that went up in God's good daylight.

One of the top favourites with our critics was [Salome](#), which leaves behind the Wilde wisecracking cynicism for a deeper and spiritual look at the world with a retelling of the well-known New Testament passage. Nick Swyft found Mia Skytte-Jensen "very alluring" in the title role, using all her seductive wiles to coerce Peter Hill's credibly foppish Herod into giving her the head of St John the Baptist.

In the early hours of Sunday morning ventured two intrepid critics, looking forward to nocturnal **world premieres**, fragments of previously unperformed Wilde plays. Thomas Forsythe was impressed by the "balance of spirituality and sensuality" in [La Sainte Courtisane](#), while Quentin Weiver thought [A Florentine Tragedy](#) was "scarily Jacobean", but "what a shame it should first see the light of day in the middle of the night".

Amongst nightingales we had one lark, Heather Moulson, who was up bright on Sunday morning. She squeezed some pips from *House of Pomegranates*, Wilde's fairy tales, enjoying the rich juice of [The Star Child](#). An impressive duo "breathed life" into a "deceptively grim and moral" tale ... and all before breakfast ...

Read Mark Aspen's overview at [www.markaspen.com/2020/07/17/wilde-wknd](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/07/17/wilde-wknd)

Photography by Clive Barda and Ghirlandaio Bigordi





# RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

## Issue 19, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

### THE SOURCE

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:** **THE SOURCE** was 705th film screened by RFS on 12th March 2013. **The Source** was the second to top ranked film of Season 50, it got an approval mark of 94% from those attending (The top film of season 50 is **Monsieur Lazhar**, which was the first film featured in our Best of our Recent Historic Screenings, as **Issue 1**).

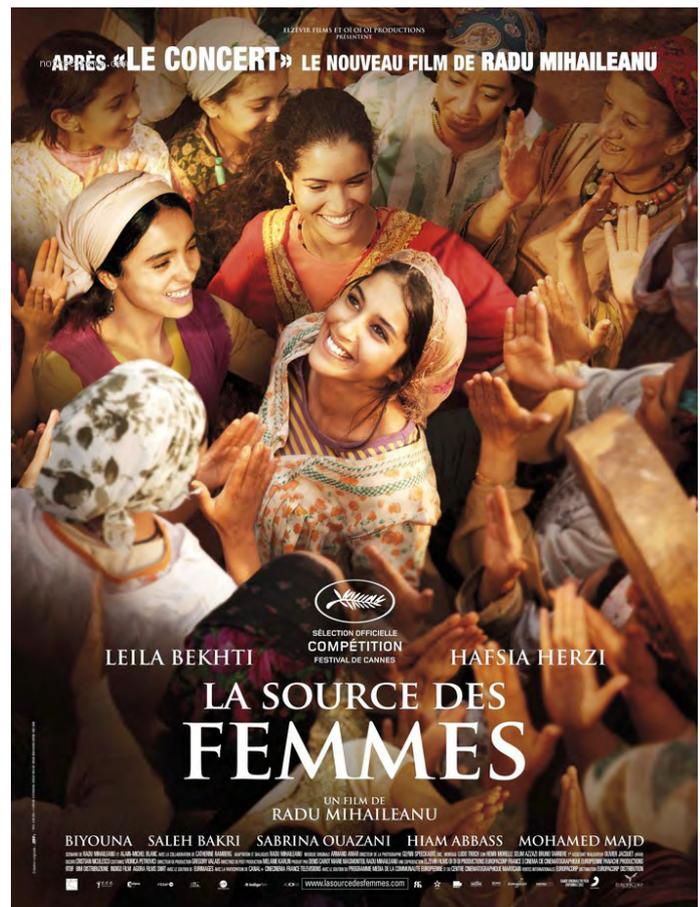
**The Source** appears not to be available to be streamed but can be purchased on eBay.

#### **THE SOURCE (La source des femmes)**

Director: Radu Milhaileanu  
Language: Arabic  
Screenplay: Alain-Michel Blanc & Radu Milhaileanu  
Cinematography: Glynn Speeckaert  
Music: Armand Amar  
Country: Belgium/Italy/France, 2011  
Running Time: 135 min., colour

#### **Leading Players:**

Lela Bekhti (Leila)  
Hafsia Herzi (Loubna/Esmeralda)  
Biyouna (Vieux Fusil)  
Saleh Bakri (Sami)  
Sabrina Ouazani (Rachida)  
Hiam Abbass (Fatima)



Radu Mihaileanu, who made a movie about an Ethiopian orphan in Israel and one about Russian musicians who perform, under false pretences, in Paris, set his new film, **The Source**, in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The dramatic comedy, which is in competition at the Cannes International Film Festival, will probably shed a little sunshine on a festival laden by dark themes.

“I’ve always had a passion for travel, and each film I’ve made has been a chance to discover another language and culture,” said Mr. Mihaileanu, 53, a Jewish Romanian who lives in Paris. “Filming this story, close up was a way of getting inside a whole world.”

**The Source** is the story of women, young and old, who fetch water far from their and mountain village, while their men sit and watch the world go by. Frustrated by this, a young bride, played by the French-Algerian actress Leila Bekhti, works on her entourage, and urges the other women to strike:

No more sex until their men go to work.

Mr. Mihaileanu noted that the release of his film coincides with the massive protests of the Arab Spring. “Revolution isn’t just about the political movement on the streets,” he said, “but how things are at home and how customs and attitudes need to be shaken up. To have real social equality, democracy has to happen in the home. This is where it starts, and this was my pleasure making the film – getting inside another world.”

This modern “Lysistrata” has strong, beautiful women singing, dancing and suffering. For they are punished for their audacity: Leila, the bride who may be sterile, risks becoming an outcast and being replaced; another woman is beaten by her husband in earshot of the entire family, punished for her disobedience. “I don’t speak Arabic, but I don’t speak Russian or Hebrew either, and that didn’t keep me from making my two earlier films.” He added: “Ever since I escaped from Ceausescu’s Romania, it has been my pleasure to do just what I choose. And this story is important to me. It’s about aridity, arid hearts, and finding the link to get the flow.”

Before filming this movie, Mr. Mihaileanu moved into a small hamlet outside Marrakesh and started to interview women in the valley. “It took me three months to prepare, from July to September 2009 and three months to shoot. The village had just gotten water themselves piped in only four years ago, so they got the drift of story.”

It was during the interviews that “I met some of these characters and cast them in the movie,” he said. “They are beautiful and I feel like saying, listen to these women, look at their beauty. They are luminous.” About a dozen of the villagers who participated in the movie will be coming to Cannes to attend the screening at the Palais on Saturday. “They are the stars. They welcomed us so beautifully. They have never left their village. It will be a magnificent evening.”

***Steve Karpel and the New York Times***

# St Mary's University Update

Two alumnae from St Mary's University and members of its Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) athletics programme were featured in the 'China Daily' earlier this week.



Team GB athletes Charlotte Purdue (Marathon) and Adelle Tracey (800m) discussed how the delay to the Tokyo Olympics, which is now taking place in 2021 has affected their training and preparation.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1dc7b3a31083481725c164.html>

The Department of Health Sciences at St Mary's University, Twickenham has launched a new BSc Physiotherapy programme, with places available for students to start this September\*.

The new programme follows the successful launch of St Mary's MSc Physiotherapy in 2018, which sits alongside the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Sports Rehabilitation. It will be accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and will allow students to study in St Mary's Performance Enhancement Centre (PEC), physiology and psychology labs, and the University's in-house physiotherapy clinic and Simulation Rooms (Intensive Care).

Students will complete 1,000 hours of clinical placement work within the NHS or the Private Sector as part of their studies and will learn in small groups from a team of dedicated lecturers with strong clinical experience. The Physiotherapy academic team are renowned for their expertise and [were asked to support the NHS during the coronavirus lockdown](#) to help upskill physiotherapists working in intensive care units.

The Department of Health Sciences at St Mary's is renowned for its academic excellence. It regularly welcomes major sports teams for students to work alongside, including the American Rugby 7s team and supporting events such as the London Marathon. Its academics are also frequently contributors to television and news programmes, providing expert opinion to programmes including BBC Food: Truth or Scare, Food Unwrapped, BBC News, and How to Lose Weight Well, amongst many others.

Speaking of the launch, St Mary's Dean of Sport, Health, and Applied Science Prof Symeon Dagkas said, "I am delighted that we are able to launch our new Physiotherapy degree this year and welcome students in September. Students on this programme will be joining one of the most active parts of the University for public engagement and will be training to go out and make a real difference in a range of clinical settings when they graduate. I can't wait to meet everyone who chooses to join us this September to study Physiotherapy and personally welcome them to St Mary's."

## Places available in Clearing

Places are available to study on the BSc Physiotherapy this September [in Clearing](#). If you'd like to find out more about studying at St Mary's you can read more on the [course page](#), [chat to a current student](#) about student life at St Mary's, and take a [360 virtual tour of campus](#) on St Mary's website.

*\*Subject to final approval from Health and Care Professional Council on 20th August*

St Mary's University series of Webinars continues at 1pm on Thursday, October 8th with an event hosted by the former Labour MP Gisela Stuart.

The joint webinar with the Institute of Economic Affairs will be discussing what we can learn in 2020 from someone who many regard as the 'father' of the Social Market Economy, Ludwig Erhard who was widely considered to be one of the key people responsible for the German economic recovery in the 1950's

Registration and further details of the webinar are available via the links below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1auYEuHwSLSnJORE\\_jdZjA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1auYEuHwSLSnJORE_jdZjA)

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2020/10/ludwig-erhard>



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Supported Learning Donate to Hounslow Community FoodBox

When the college closed for the coronavirus lockdown in March, our Supported Learning staff acted quickly and donated food and drinks from the college Supported Learning shop, Serious Snacks, to the Hounslow Community FoodBox.

Hounslow Community FoodBox is a charity which provides emergency food and support to those in need living in the London Borough of Hounslow. Caroline Read, Supported Learning Lecturer at RuTC, said, "I just couldn't bear the thought of the food and drinks from Serious Snacks going to waste and being out of date upon our return in September. My colleague, Sarah Risner, and I came in and sorted the shop, loaded the car and donated it to the Hounslow Community FoodBox."



Philip Jones, Treasurer and Secretary at Hounslow Community FoodBox, said, "On behalf of the volunteers and trustees I would like to thank you for your kind donations from the College Shop. The treats were bagged up to be added to food parcels."

"We have seen a substantial increase in referrals for food parcels during the pandemic. Since the end of March FoodBox volunteers have delivered more than 1,000 food parcels across the London Borough of Hounslow to support 1,900 adults and children (more than in the whole of 2019). That we have been able to fulfil these referrals is due to the response of our community which has been truly heart-warming."

"Without your support, and that of like-minded members of our community, we would not be able to offer support so many who through an unfortunate set of circumstances find it impossible to provide for themselves and their close family."



**Richmond upon  
Thames College**

# Put your left foot in; put your left foot out!!!

By Bruce Lyons

Sounds like a party game, but I'm afraid it isn't, just part of Covid-19 travels ever changing travel scenario. This week "corridors" were scrapped to Spain, first only to Mainland Spain, but quickly amended to the Balearics and Canary Islands too and this led to massive cancellations, and created a lot of apprehension in would be travellers.

So, now we only have (close by) France, Croatia, Italy & It's Islands, Turkey, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Gibraltar & Malta. Luxembourg has already been axed and Cyprus is making it difficult with it 72 hrs in advance PCR testing negative result, to book a protected package.



And whilst I would agree that there is a reduced appetite to travel overseas at this time Italy and Greece seem the preferred destinations and the latter has some really good offers, with some specialist operators determined to fill their properties and flights, with the result that, at short notice excellent value can be achieved. FAQ's include what happens if the GOVT suddenly imposes Quarantining – do I have to return immediately – well if you flew on a charter package their next return would be a week after you outward flight and it would be unlikely they would offer to get you back early – so as long as Quarantining is OK - not so good for many, but OK for seniors?

Other questions are around the insurance, but it seems that if it was OK to travel when you left the insurance remains intact till your return, a comforting thought! But where ever you go you have to follow the guidelines and here at home just yesterday they changed the rules in the area around Manchester and now all over UK for Weddings public Meetings- so we are all having to get used to all the changed rules both here and overseas.

In Travel the protocols are well known and we keep up to date with them and in the new normal, automatically include them in the travel documents.

So, as I said before, Italy and Greece seem safe bets, but France has some amazing offers and you can easily drive and indeed in this edition of the Tribune there is a road journey to Tuscany through France, in the time of Covid, so as long as France stays an OK place to go to, it is worth looking at the offers and in Italy there are plenty of Covid-19 compliant villas to rent.

As to the rest of the travel market, Small ships are in demand as are holidays in the UK Though beware that many hotels are not yet open, as there were too many requirements to be made in time for them to be COVID-19 Compliant. Moreover in the "school holidays" it is tricky to find good prices to suit – but please call, we would be delighted to see you. Enjoy the great weather were having and if you are in Church Street pop in! Best wishes from Bruce.

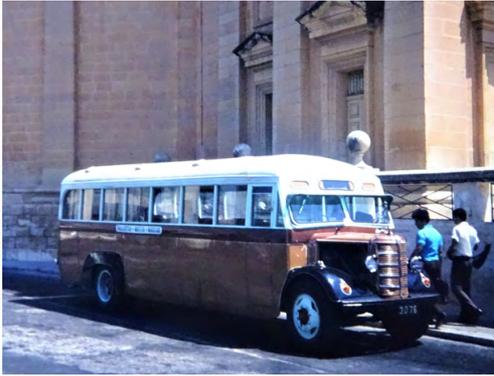
# TRAVELLER'S TALES 77

## HISTORIC MALTA

DOUG GOODMAN EXPLORES THE ISLAND OF MALTA



I checked my car hire documents as the aircraft touched down in Malta and asked the passenger next to me about motoring regulations and on which side of the road you drive on the island. 'We drive on the shady side', was the reply, 'but you might see a bus driving down the middle'. I wasn't sure if he was joking but I drove the hired Triumph Herald very carefully for the first few miles.



Take the Brown Bus



Valletta



City Walls

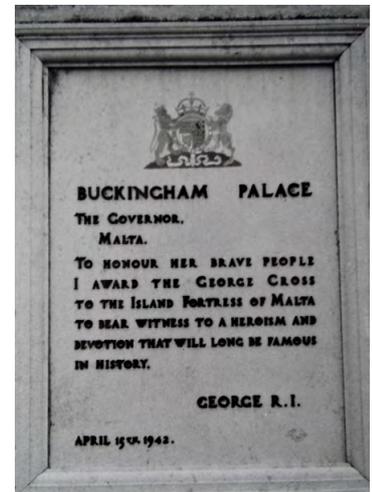
In the early 70s Malta was still developing its tourist industry. Its fleet of busses, dating from just after the war was a great attraction: the old vehicles didn't have numbers just a colour. So if you wanted to travel to Mellieha Bay you would be told to take the green bus or perhaps the brown one.



Republic Square



Moorish-style Balconies



George Cross Island

Today Malta offers visitors chic seaside resorts, sophisticated nightlife, a range of town and resort hotels of all categories and 300 sunny days a year. Best of all is its history going back to megalithic times but a more recent period – the 16th century was what fascinated me the most. I had just read 'The Great siege of Malta' by Ernle Bradford which describes how a small army of Knights survived a siege by the Ottoman Empire. The Great Siege of 1565 lasted four months with 2,000 Knights and 4,000 foot soldiers and local supporters defending the island from their fortified city against an army of 40,000 led by Sulieman the Magnificent. The Knights, commanded by Phillippe Villiers de L'Isle-Adam, had been ejected from Rhodes in

1530 when the Ottoman Empire wanted to control The Mediterranean. The strongholds of the city experienced fierce fighting during the siege with 130,000 cannon balls battering its walls. The climax of this war between Christian Alliances and the Ottomans resulted in victory for the Knights of St. John. The defeated invaders lost 30,000 soldiers while the defenders suffered 2,000 casualties. The Knights' lodges can be visited and a museum is dedicated to The Great Siege.



Fisherman



Mellieha Bay



Mdina

## GEORGE CROSS ISLAND

During WW2 Malta was a strategic spot between Gibraltar and Egypt for Great Britain and as a consequence was heavily bombed by the Italian and German Air forces. With supplies exhausted and starvation looming Malta was relieved when a convoy arrived and Spitfires and Hurricanes flew in to oppose the enemy. For their fortitude and courage the people and the Island of Malta were awarded the George Cross by the King. Malta's capital is filled with beautiful churches and baroque buildings. As well as The Grand Master's Palace there's a museum covering the British times in Malta and WW2. The National Museum of Archaeology, the Museum of Fine Arts and The Malta Experience make Valletta a fascinating city. Not to be missed is the St. John's Co-Cathedral the church of the Knights.

Malta is a dry island but with beautiful light and if you desire greenery then neighbouring Gozo is for you. The island is well worth exploring especially Mdina the Silent City in the centre. Almost traffic-free the cobbled streets are dominated by the mediaeval and baroque architecture and from the city walls splendid views over the island are obtained. The best beach is found at Mellieha Bay while Qawra and Buggiba are great spots for relaxing in the sun. You'll find some of Malta's best restaurants in the resorts of St. George's, St. Julian's and Sliema where you can see the pretty fishing boats moored.



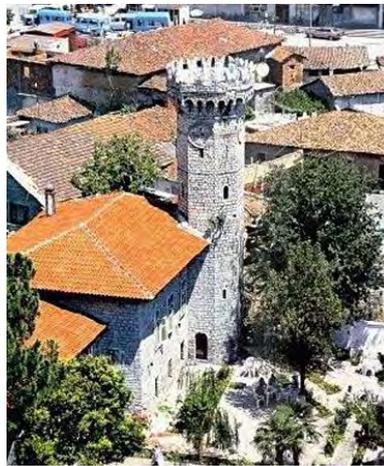
Summer temperatures can be scorching but a beer in the main square or a seat in the shade in the Barrakka Gardens provide relief. Valletta is a fortified peninsula and a walk around the island's spur will give you spectacular views of the Grand Harbour and the Marsamxett Harbour as well as the bastions across the water in Vittoriosa and Senglea. A boat ride provides an idea of what the invaders of 1565 were up against. The Maltese have been ruled by Arabs, Greeks, Romans, The Knights of St. John and the British so there's a wealth of history, culture and traditions to discover on this island.

## Albania

Albania is in the Balkan Peninsula, bordered by the Adriatic and known in ancient times as Illyria.

Albania is called Shqiperia translated as “land of the eagles”; a two-headed eagle is the emblem on Albania’s flag.

This week’s photographs were donated to the World InfoZone project by Arben Cokaj, the webmaster of Shkroder.net.



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

# European Travels in the Time of COVID-19

By Peter Sheil

Dear readers, if any of you are thinking of taking a holiday in Europe in these COVID-19 times here are our experiences from last week. These are compared to the same trip in 2019, albeit two months later than our “normal” May get-away in response to the FCO preventing all non-essential travel until early July.



Pamperd cat

Our aim is to drive from Twickenham over three days through France and northern Italy to Tuscany arriving on the fourth day. Why drive not fly you all cry? Well we are soppy and take our pet cat with us in a dog crate in the back of the car; his fifth trip to his home from home where he finds a diet change to common wall lizards and every now and then, sadly, the beautiful protected Tuscan Squirrel as opposed to the grey vermin abundant on Twickenham Green.

When in June noises were being made about air bridges to certain countries being a possibility there was nothing specific about whether the same would be true for Channel crossings. Additionally, at the time the Brits

and French were squabbling over if there would be mutual 14 day quarantine imposed on travellers arriving from either direction. Well we took a punt on a July Shuttle booking which was made even more of a no brainer because at that time the Shuttle was offering a no quibble cancellation refund or change date option depending on the European landscape. By then France’s hotels and restaurants were once more opened up but there was still a limitation on French travel internally (you needed to complete a declaration form on arrival), which was fortunately lifted. In fact we took advantage of the Shuttle offer and moved our original booking by two days to fit in with trying to avoid travelling over weekends in France in the summer, as by all accounts you do not want to be on their roads when they are on the move to their own holiday destinations.

So to the journey experience. We arrived in Folkstone for an 11ish in the morning Shuttle. All very quiet compared to last year; in fact I would say our train was little more than a third full. No COVID related screening questions at all by the border staff. On we travelled for an hour and a half or so to our favourite Relais near the Canadian First World War cemetery. The meal was novel for all as by chance it was the first day the French government dictated restaurant staff should wear face masks, and certainly the youth waiting on us was struggling. In terms of social distancing between each table there were standing height tasteful wood and Perspex screens.

Our evening stop was in Epernay at a travelling salesman functional Premier Classe hotel – all you could need for a practical overnight stop. Reception was in a hazmat booth with the receptionist in full PPE. We walked into town for evening meal to find nearly all the restaurants full and fully-booked, so we went for the first one with free tables, well-spaced, out front, and as at lunchtime staff were trying to be fully masked. Breakfast in the hotel was not the previous years help-yourself buffet but you selected what you wanted from a staff member behind a barrier made of coffee machines to whom you told what you wanted and she trayed it all up for you. You then sat in the dining area to eat it. We were quite late breakfasting so had the entire dining area to ourselves so no distancing issues here.

Lunch day two in Auxonne in a small hotel/restaurant here. Three tables were taken: one by a group of six co-workers, another couple and us. Plenty of space between the tables. Evening stop was on

outskirts of Chambery (not far from the Italian border). At this hotel the breakfast policy was that on check-in (through a not very extensive Perspex screen) you selected what you wanted for breakfast and a time and it was then delivered to outside your room at the allotted time. It was delivered on time which was great as I could see delivery being an issue if all the residents wanted the same time slot– possibly another reflection on the tardiness of our selected time slot? By the way, neither of the French hotels were interested in seeing our passports.

Crossing the border from France to Italy there was, as usual, no paperwork inspection. Next year who knows...



Rally



Piacenza pizza



Arezzo

First meal in Italy, lunch in Asti. Here distancing was much more on the population's radar, not surprising as Asti is in Piedmont. Large dining room with well-spaced tables, all waiting staff were comfortable in mask wearing. Here we encountered one COVID related behavioural change. Italian ristoranti always include bread as a cover charge (coperta) of a couple of Euros or so. Well, for each of us, our bread arrived as 3 or so slices in an individual paper bag, no longer in a basket to your table (the French restaurants still used baskets). This bread bag option it transpires is common-place – very useful if your eyes have been bigger than your stomach as you already have a doggy bag!

Evening stop in Piacenza was not in our first-choice hotel. We were suspicious when before we left Blighty since our favourite would not take our internet attempt to reserve a room. We had to drive past it on our way to our alternative and sure enough it appeared to be closed. The receptionist at our destination hotel was masked with no screen but there was a delineating tape about a metre in front of the desk, so both passport and key exchanges occurred at arm's length across this gap.

We walked into town to a pizza restaurant with tables well-spaced apart on a cobbled square. Here the tables had a QR code on a postcard. You whipped out your phone, scanned it and hey presto the menu appeared on your phone. You did though have to tell the masked waitress your order rather than transmit it to the kitchen from your phone.

The hotel breakfast next day was a bit shambolic. From a COVID point of view they had maintained the central dining room/breakfast help-yourself bar but you engaged an Italian speaking member of staff to serve you your selections from said bar (she said it was stressful as many of the guests did not have the language to express their requests to her). It was shambolic due to the fact that when we arrived there was only one waitress around who was also trying to deal with room check-outs and replenish some of the platters of cheese/salami/etc. that had run out. Fortunately help did arrive, as there were probably about six tables of guests requiring attention.

Our last in-transit meal was lunch at an AutoGrill (motorway services) on the E45 south of Cesena. The entire journey from Piacenza was through horrendous thunderstorms that were travelling south at the same speed as we were. Masks were worn to select food from the cafeteria which you then took to tables which were two square tables pushed together forming a rectangle with individuals sitting across from each other at opposite ends. There was plenty of space in the dining areas as it was obvious that many tables had been removed in order that there was at least two metres between those remaining.

We arrived at our destination close to the Tuscany/Umbria border (in the Nestore valley just up from the Niccone valley that always features in the British property pages) and we have been around about in the last few days. I talked to the local farmer who is a grape expert and who will have a bumper crop this year. However the cooperative in Arezzo which takes his crop have said they only want a little – only the best quality grapes (they usually take all they can get) this year as there is not the market to sell on the wine due to the collapse of the economy. Sadly at present our local favourite ristorante in Trestina has closed as has our similar favourite in Citta di Castello along with our first choice bar and a number of other businesses.



Piacenza Duomo (cathedral)



Cortona



Epernay

On entering all shops distance has to be maintained and masks worn. The same is true for those in gatherings outdoors, e.g. local markets. By nature, the Italians are not that compliant to central government edicts but everyone is onboard fighting COVID. The feeling is that although Giuseppe Conte (the Italian prime minister) did not lock down Lombardy quickly enough at the start, he's now doing a good job. All Italian school children have been issued necessary IT kit to do full-on Zoom classes, not as in the UK! The Italian schools are on summer holiday, but all expect will be back in mid September. You will be aware of significant fall in Italian birth rate, something that is very worrying for Italy even before COVID hit. The result of this is that over the past decade quite a number of schools closed but the buildings still exist. So come September teaching is going to resume for all, possibly socially distanced by the reuse of their dormant schools. Great on paper but does come with issues for locals as some of the resurrected schools are in obscure valleys and families will be forced to pay for school bus services they did not need before and some children of the same family may be in different places.

Local events, as in the UK, have been canned or postponed. One close to my heart (I hope you are enjoying the RFS Greatest Hits in this organ) is the Umbrian Film Festival held each year in Montone. This year it has been bumped by a month to 5th August. It's no longer turn up and grab a seat but you must pre book, which opens from 19:00 on the previous day. We wait and see if am successful in booking in time. They have also moved it from the main square to a more isolated one. Another annual event is a vintage car rally that goes past our lane. It usually takes place in the cool of March but this year it was last weekend (34 deg) that the Porsches, Subaru, BMWs, etc. throaty roars could be heard as they did their three circuits from Arezzo to Cortona and back.

Well I've rambled on enough .... Do go on hols in Europe but be cautious. My experience is that the French and Italians are taking the rules seriously which is very comforting.

# Making Church Street Great Again!

By Shona Lyons.

Well it was always great really, just a lot of people are now discovering how great it really is for themselves. It has a lovely community of artisans, crafts people, gift and furniture shops, record shop makers, boot fixers, dog groomers, make-up artists, hair cutters, beard trimmers, Specialist café owners, quirky floristas, Italian Deli extraordinaires, lovely Italian restaurants, spicy Indian restaurants, two local pubs to die for, the friendliest independent travel agency in the borough, even the Estate Agents are a cut above the rest, what is not to love about Church Street?



It is so close to the river, and now it is pedestrianised, we really do see a lot of people coming to the street all hours of the day to eat, drink, browse & be merry. I guess in its early days, when it was THE “High Street” in Twickenham it also was a pretty go to destination place with bakers, butchers, grocers etc and it is nice to see it almost returning to its origins just with a 21 Century twist.

All the pubs and shops have been able to open now due to the safe space that the council allowed and encouraged us to create. I have been charting the development of this experiment in my weekly blogs on face book, twitter and the tribune. This week the Eel Pie opened to much fanfare and filled in a much needed hole in the social make-up of the street and it is so nice to see their tables and chairs out again with people drinking as if it had never closed.

I tweeted about it's opening this week and had a lot of favourable comments and good wishes for them and a very common tweet, this time from someone in Chiswick, said:

“It is so lovely to see this street promote itself instead of prophesying gloom and doom like @w4devonshirerd appears to be, please be like them and make it a destination place @ChiswickW4”

There have been lots of encouraging responses like this from all over London all the time, by people either frustrated at their councils for not pedestrianizing streets and therefore not enabling business



and street life to resume or by councillors themselves saying how refreshing it has been to have worked with a majority of positive & proactive people in church street who have grasped this initiative that has enabled business to resume and for Church Street to be the destination place it really deserves to be and should be. If Church Street is going to continue to be Great (Not really!! Because for those in the know, it always has been) we all just need to stay positive and make the most out of things. Stay Safe & come to Church Street!



## BRENTFORD FC

### **10-men Bees lose play off semi final opener Swansea City 1 – 0 Brentford**

Brentford fell to defeat courtesy of an Andre Ayew strike 10 minutes from time in south Wales. The Bees had been forced to play for more than 25 minutes with a man less due to what appeared to be a harsh sending off for fullback Rico Henry and will seek to turn around the deficit at Griffin Park.

Brentford made a bright start and the first chance arrived to top scorer Ollie Watkins. Bryan Mbeumo cut in from the right-hand side and curled a shot that ricocheted high into the air inside the Swansea box. Watkins then shrugged off the challenge of Mike van der Hoorn to get his head to the ball and although his header lacked power in goal Erwin Mulder saw it late and did well to palm the ball away.



On loan forward Rhian Brewster was then passed the ball at the opposite end of the pitch by Conor Gallagher after escaping the challenge of Pontus Jansson and the youngster drew a fine save from David Raya down low.

Swansea should have taken the lead from a corner when Gallagher crossed for Ayew who headed the ball down into the ground. The ball then deflected against Henrik Dalsgaard and hit the post. Brewster then headed the ball on instinct but his effort lacked power and Raya was able to gather.

The brightest opening for the Bees in the first half came just before the interval when talisman Said Benrahma went on a mazy run through the Swansea defence. Picking the ball up inside the final third the Algerian drove forward and dribbled through three challenges before uncharacteristically firing over when inside the box.

15 minutes into the second half Jansson was involved in a challenge with Brewster than saw the Bees captain foul the Swansea forward inside the area and leading to a penalty. Fortunately, from a Brentford perspective Raya produced an excellent save from the subsequent spot kick to deny Jay Fulton.

The defining moment of the match then arrived just minutes later as Henry was sent off for a challenge close to the halfway line on Connor Roberts. Sliding in to compete for the ball it appeared the Brentford man had won the ball cleanly and legally but Keith Stroud saw differently and brandished the red card to put them down to 10 men.

The host had 25 minutes to capitalised on the extra men advantage but took until the 80th minute to final make it count. A neat passing move saw good combination play between Jay Fulton and Gallagher led to Ayew unleashing an unstoppable shot that arched into the top corner to give Raya no chance. It proved to be the final key moment as the Bees head into the second leg of the tie trailing by one goal.

Speaking after the defeat Thomas Frank said, "I'm very proud of my players. It showed top personality from the first second.

"We had two minor setbacks but we dominated the game and I think we were the best team.

"The red card changed the game. After that, they worked so hard and showed top togetherness. We only gave one chance away, one bit of brilliance from Ayew."

## **Bees give Griffin Park perfect finale as they book their place at Wembley Brentford 3 – 1 Swansea City**

Brentford will head to Wembley Stadium to compete in the 2019/20 Championship play off final for a chance to play in the Premier League next season after they turned around a one goal deficit in the second leg of their play off semi-final. Goals from Ollie Watkins, Emiliano Marcondes and Bryan Mbeumo meant that Brentford will leave Griffin Park after 116 years on a winning note ahead of a move to a new ground of Lionel Road next season.

Boosted by the overturning of Rico Henry's red card from the first leg the Bees set about their task quickly and had levelled the tie on aggregate within the opening 11 minutes. It came after David Raya quickly distributed the ball following a Swansea free kick to Mathias Jensen. The Dane then produced a sublime defence-splitting pass that travel from inside his own half along the ground to Watkins. The top scorer then showed excellent composure to dispatch the ball low into the corner for the opener.

Just minutes later the Bees were in dreamland as Emiliano Marcondes headed in for their second goal of the evening. Watkins drifted on to the left wing and picked up the ball before passing inside to Benrahma. The forward then produced an inch perfect cross into the box for Marcondes who found space between the Swans defence and guided the ball past Erwin Mulder and into the back of the net.

Swansea fought back though and could have restored parity on aggregate when former Brentford player Jake Bidwell played in Conor Gallagher who escaped Ethan Pinnock and Pontus Jansson but Raya saved brilliantly from close range to preserve the Bees' advantage. Brentford then counterattacked after clearing and the ball found its way to Benrahma who curled a shot against the base of the post.

Just a minute into the second half Brentford had a two-goal cushion courtesy of another free-flowing team move. Jensen waited before releasing the ball to an overlapping Henry who crossed first time from the left-hand touchline to Mbeumo who volleyed the ball in.

With their Wembley dreams fading fast the visitors attempted to get back into the game.

Conor Roberts skipped infield and found himself one on one with Raya but the Spaniard did excellently to tip the powerfully shot over the crossbar from close range.

The Swans did eventually get one back after Rhian Brewster punished an error from Jansson at the back when the Swede failed to deal with a through ball. The on loan forward lobbing the ball over Raya to give a glimmer of hope heading into the final ten minutes.

Benrahma nearly got the last ever goal at Griffin Park when the Algerian cut infield and only narrowly curled the ball wide but it proved immaterial as on an emotional night Brentford did the business to head into the Championship play off final.

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said speaking after the game, “We talked about not leaving the pitch without getting to the final. The message was we needed to start faster than we ever started before. And we did that.

“At 3-0 we should have been through to the final, but we made a mistake we shouldn’t make. But after that they weren’t really dangerous and it was nice to show the defensive side of our game.

“I am pleased and happy. It is a very nice moment and we have achieved something good. But we want to achieve something big and we are going to the final to win.”

## **UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD**

Opponent: Fulham (N) Tuesday 4th August 19:45 Wembley Stadium

Nickname: The Cottagers

Competition: Championship play off final

Opponent record: P46 W23 D12 L11 GF64 GA48 (4th in the Championship)

Brentford record: P45 W24 D9 L13 GF80 GA30 (3rd in the Championship)

Routes to play off final:

Cardiff City 0-2 Fulham

Swansea City 1-0 Brentford

Fulham 1-2 Cardiff City Brentford

Brentford 3-1 Swansea City

Fulham win 3 -2 on aggregate

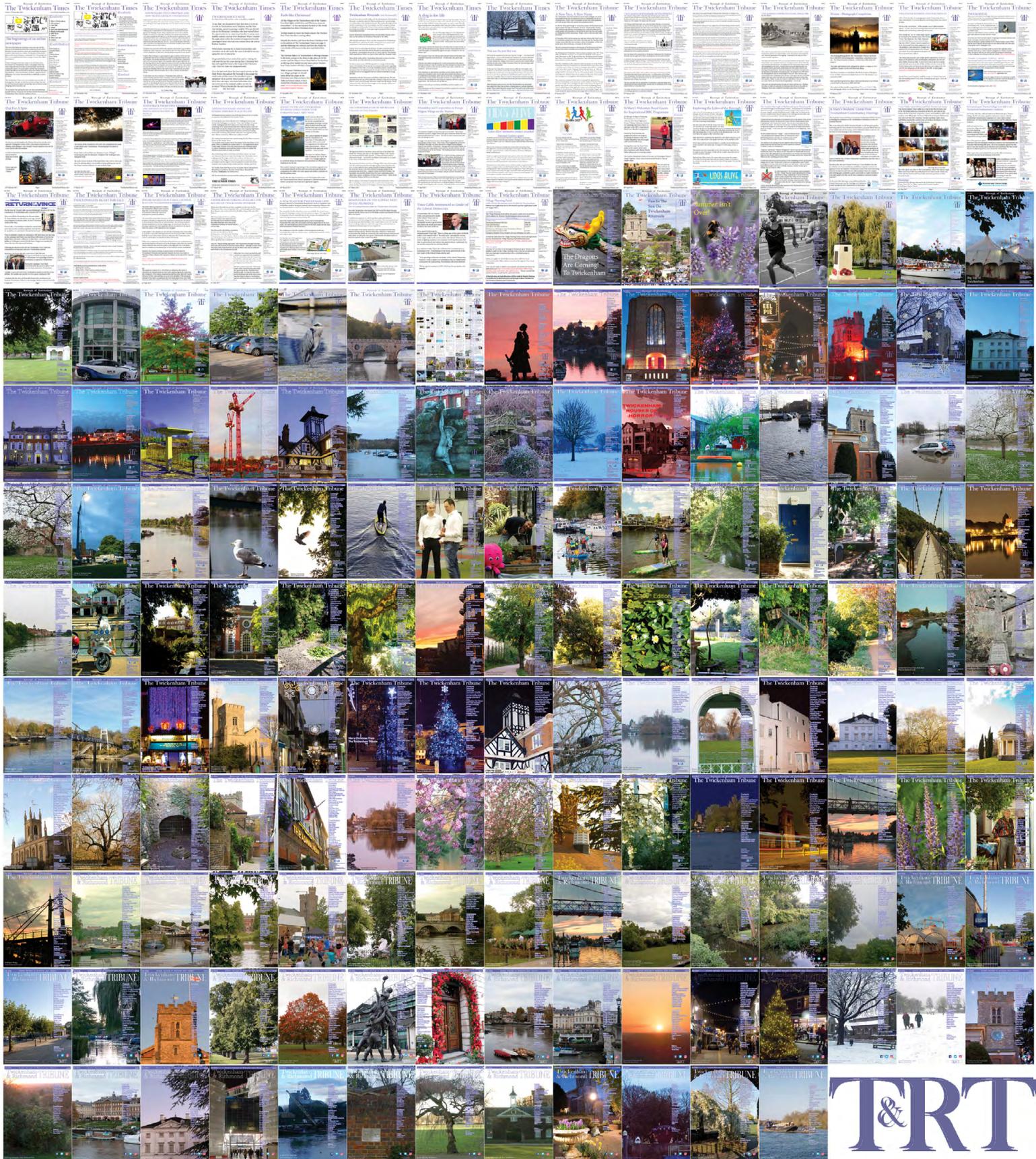
Brentford win 3-2 on aggregate

Top scorer: Aleksandar Mitrovic (26)

Head coach: Scott Parker

***Come on you Bees!***

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