

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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## Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



11<sup>th</sup> December 2020



# TickerTape - News in Brief

## **New fund launched to get Richmond active**

A new £65,000 Active Richmond fund has been launched to help local community organisations and small businesses offer activities which boost health and wellbeing in the borough.

Organisations who provide activities such as art classes, gardening, cooking, physical activity like dance classes, volunteering or singing are now able to apply for a grant of up to £5,000. For more information, go to [Active Richmond Fund](#).

## **Invitation for beneficiary charities for 2021 Richmond Voluntary Fund**

Local voluntary and community organisations which provide support for children and young people's mental health, are invited to apply to be the beneficiary charities for the 2021 Richmond Voluntary Fund Appeal.

Looking forward to 2021, the Trustees for the Fund have agreed that due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, children and young people's mental health will continue to be the focus of the appeal. The Fund are therefore inviting expressions of interest from charities already supporting children and young people in the borough to be considered as a potential beneficiary. Apply online [HERE](#)

## **Donations needed for Twickenham Green Defibrillator**

The Friends of Twickenham Green are seeking donations towards the cost of a life saving Public Access Defibrillator to be housed Sainsburys on The Green. Details [HERE](#)

## **Help Park Lane Stables**

Park Lane Stables are seeking help with feed and supplies for their small family-run riding school based in Teddington, following difficulties of the 'lockdown'. In a further devastating blow, the Tribune also understands that their lease, which expires on 30th May 2021, is not going to be renewed. For contact details and more information visit their website [HERE](#)

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

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It has been announced that the delayed Twickenham Riverside ‘consultation’ will start on 6th January 2021. But this is not really a consultation, but rather a presentation of “the

‘final’ proposals for the Riverside site”.

TwickerSeal was intrigued to see an article in this edition of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune about “Arnstein’s Ladder”, a model of democratic public participation.

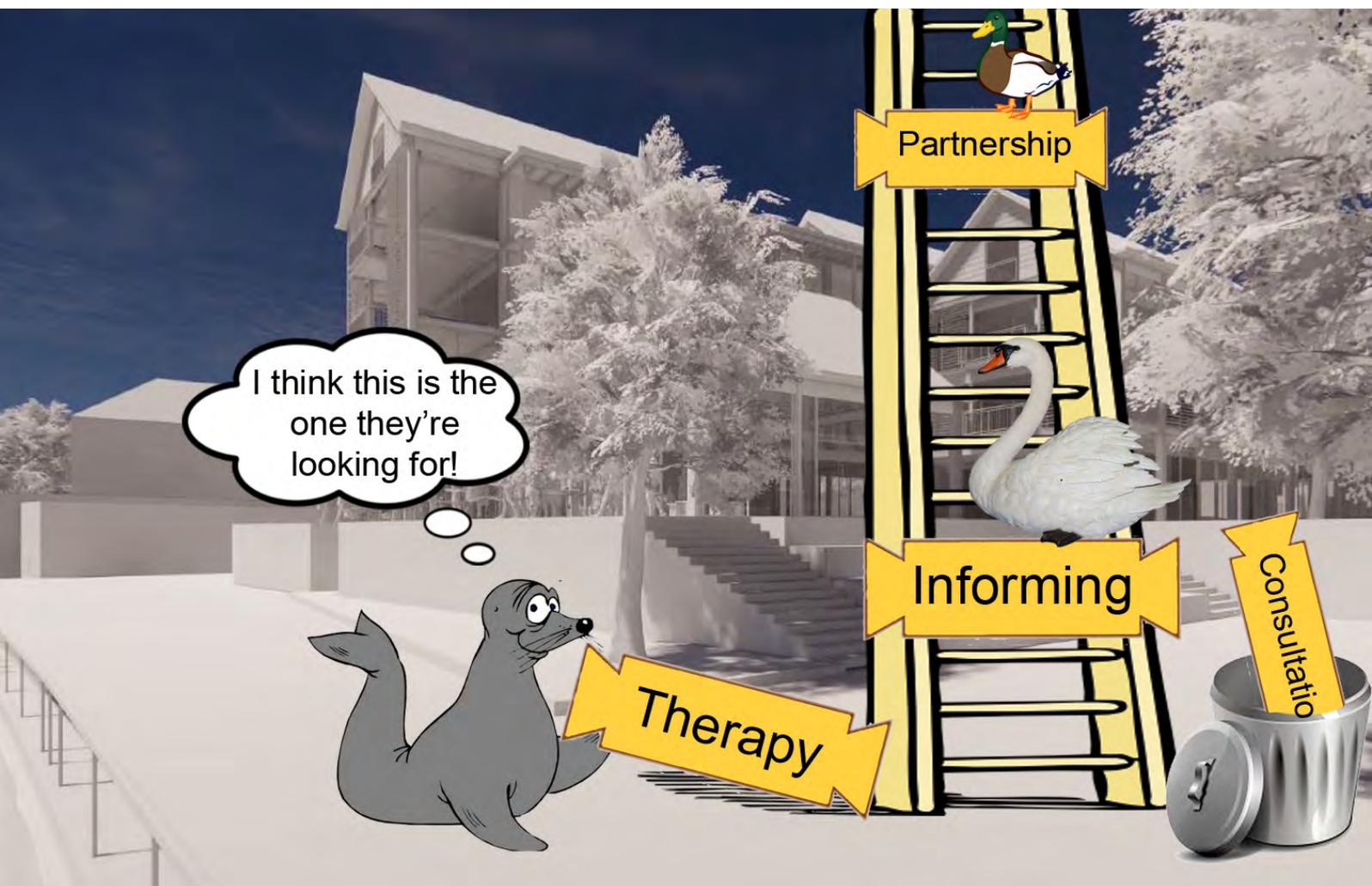
TwickerSeal wondered where the council’s consultative efforts fitted in with this framework.

TwickerDuck hoped that the ‘Partnership’ rung could be reached, but that was plainly ludicrous!

TwickerSwan thought a more likely level was the ‘Informing’ rung, but TwickerSeal felt that the ‘Therapy’ rung was the most fitting.

Whatever you think, the ‘Consultation’ rung was binned long ago!

*(For details and an explanation of Arnstein’s Ladder, see the informative article on page 9 in this edition)*



# As vaccination programme launches – Richmond Council reminds people to #KeepRichmondSafe

Whilst the COVID-19 vaccine is rolled out in hospital hubs across London - Richmond Council urges people to remember Hands, Face and Space - as London is at risk of being moved to Tier Three.

Patients aged 80 and above who are already attending hospital as an outpatient, and those who are being discharged home after a hospital stay, are among the first to receive the life-saving jab. Hospitals are also beginning to invite over 80s in Richmond upon Thames in for a jab and work with care home providers to book their staff in to vaccination clinics.



Any appointments not used for these groups will be used for healthcare workers who are at highest risk of serious illness from COVID-19. All those vaccinated will need to return for a second dose 21 days later.

GPs and other primary care staff are also being put on standby to start delivering the jab. A small number of GP-led primary care networks will begin doing so during the following week (week beginning 14 December) with more practices in more parts of the country joining in on a phased basis during December and in the coming months.

The vaccine roll-out is in line with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance and a complex task, it will take time, so Richmond Council is asking residents to be patient and keep focused on observing the COVID-19 guidance so we can keep ourselves and families safe. As London is at risk of being moved to Tier Three restrictions, the Leader of the Council urges people to remember to current restrictions and keep Richmond safe.

For more information about COVID-19, go to [Coronavirus information](#).

## COVID-19

Avoid places where the three Cs come together  
**Crowds, Closed spaces, Close contact**

Follow strict personal hygiene advice, wear a mask  
and keep indoor areas well ventilated

**DO IT ALL**

[www.twickenhamtribune.com](http://www.twickenhamtribune.com)

# Borough View By Graeme Stoten

## 'Sunrise over St.Margarets'

An iridescent sunrise breaks through a dramatic cloud base bring a joyful, lucent start to the weekend. Leafless Planes silhouette, revealing their pollarded skeletons and the scaffolded St. Margarets railway station footbridge, provides further elevation to view the new dawn.



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## Public Health England statement on London highest rates in England:

Professor Kevin Fenton, London regional director for Public Health England, said: "London now has the highest case rates of any region across the country and infections are increasing by the day. This is now a real test of our resilience as a city.

"We know that as cases go up, hospitalisations and deaths follow. The current trajectory is a worrying one, but we can change its course if every one of us does our bit.

"The message is simple – stick to the rules. We know that more contact leads to more cases and around one in three people with the virus are transmitting it without realising.

"Let's wash our hands diligently, wear our masks proudly and keep our distance from others respectfully. Our actions today will directly affect the health and wellbeing of ourselves and those close to us throughout the holidays, as well as influencing the burdens placed on our NHS over the festive period and New Year. It is up to us what impact we choose to have."

**Today's News:** AstraZeneca has announced that it is recruiting people for trials combining the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine with Russia's Sputnik V. AstraZeneca said that it is important to try combinations of vaccines. "Being able to combine different COVID-19 vaccines may be helpful to improved protection and/or to improve vaccine accessibility."

## Cases of COVID-19

Total cases to 11 December 2020

3,191 Richmond-upon-Thames 3,832 Kingston-upon-Thames 5,141 Hounslow

## Countries with High Numbers of Deaths Recorded by the World Health Organization

Deaths Worldwide 1,570,304

USA 287,384

Brazil 178,995

India 142,186

Mexico 111,655

The United Kingdom 62,566

Italy 61,739

France 56,280

Iran 51,496

Spain 47,019

Russian Federation 41,607

Argentina 40,222

Colombia 38,308

Peru 36,455

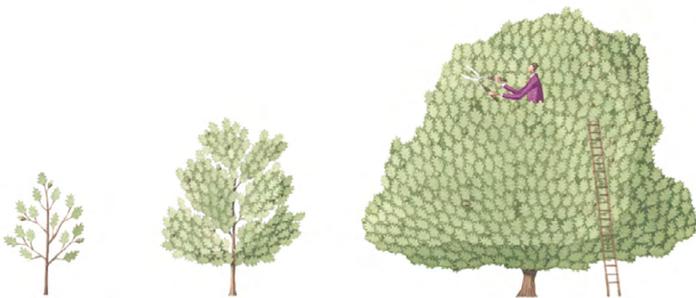
South Africa 22,574

Poland 21,160

Germany 20,372

Indonesia 18,336

Belgium 17,603



### The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
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info@thetreeagency.co.uk  
www.thetreeagency.co.uk



*The Tree Agency*

# In the wrong place

By Simon Fowler

It's well known that tens of thousands of men and women were transported to Australia during the early nineteenth century for minor offences, which today might result in just a warning by the magistrates. The legal system of the period – the Bloody Code as it was known to its detractors – was especially designed to severely punish theft and offences against property.

The case of nineteen-year old William Eckott, from Teddington, shows just how harsh the law was. On 1 November 1826, he appeared at the Old Bailey charged with stealing eight silver spoons worth thirty shillings from the house of Sarah Stone. The court heard from Miss Stone's servant, Jane Williams, that she had surprised an intruder. She saw him running away and getting on a cart 'drawn by a grey horse'. The cart was driven by Eckott, who was selling lemons from it. The



parish constable, Richard Cooke, saw the cart 'galloping very fast towards Richmond'. He gave chase and cornered the men in Hill Street, Richmond. One man escaped, throwing the spoons away, but Eckott was still on the cart. One witness William Simmonds said: 'I saw my son find a tea-spoon under the cart, just as the horse's heels: I think the [prisoner] must have dropped it as he jumped out.' Eckott's defence was that: 'The young man asked if I was going through Richmond, and asked me to give him a ride, as he was going to a doctor, and wished to make haste, his wife being dangerously ill.'

For aiding and abetting the burglary, William Eckott was sentenced to death. While waiting his fate in Newgate prison, a petition calling for mercy was presented to the Home Secretary, signed by 52 local residents. The petitioners stressed that the 'prisoner took no part in the crime; young and naïve; duped by a practised thief; [Eckott was] honest and sober; alleged to have used inappropriate language which was denied by prisoner.'

Few people sentenced to death at this time were actually executed. Most prisoners were transported for life to Australia. This was Eckott's fate. He arrived in Tasmania in late 1827, where he spent the rest of his life. Surviving records show that Eckott was pardoned in 1843 at Launceston having never reoffended. The following year he married Annie Rose – another former convict. William seems to have died twenty years later.

William Eckott must have often reflected what might have been had the stranger not leapt upon his cart in the early autumn of 1826.



# MUSEUM *of* RICHMOND

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[www.museumofrichmond.com](http://www.museumofrichmond.com)

Visit your local museum and explore the rich stories of the historic borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Explore our diverse collections and enjoy our temporary displays, including the 'Lockdown Richmond' commemorative quilt on display from 15th December 2020!

We want to continue to keep the Museum safe for all, so it is now necessary to pre-book your visit. You can do this by booking your 45 minute slot on the Museum website or by calling us directly on 020 8332 1141.

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Whittaker Avenue  
Richmond  
TW9 1TP  
[info@museumofrichmond.com](mailto:info@museumofrichmond.com)



# Satisfaction with Public Consultation – “Arnstein’s Ladder”

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

Local councils have a statutory duty to consult residents before taking certain decisions, especially concerning many aspects of planning and development. However, it can be difficult to assess accurately how much notice of public opinion has been taken in such processes.

In order to approach this problem in a more quantitative as opposed to a purely qualitative way, Arnstein (an American civil servant) devised in 1969 a scale by which the interactions between the public (the consultees) and the authority (the consulting body) can be measured more graphically. Her system uses the analogy of various rungs of a ladder to gauge the amount of “citizen power” in a particular instance (the figure is taken from Wikipedia).

The Ladder is seen to consist of eight rungs representing differing levels of citizen power. The spaces between the rungs are arbitrary and not necessarily identical, and in practice one level may merge into the next. The bottom rung, level 1, describes a situation where the citizen has no say in decision-making, and the Ladder goes up with gradual increments of increasing citizen influence as the numerical values increase.

Some practical examples may serve to clarify this at first somewhat confusing scenario.

The top two rungs show a situation where residents are completely (or almost) in control; one can visualize that this occurs, in a democratic process, during elections, where the authority (in this case, the Council) can be replaced entirely by the votes of residents. But note that “authority” will still exist, albeit in a different form; citizens do not have complete power, only a temporary one (and that for a short time).

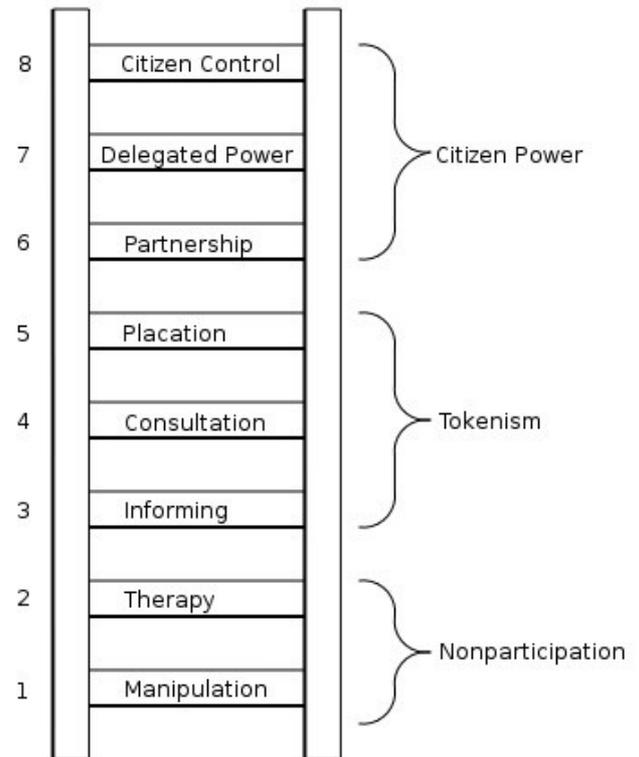
The next two rungs represent diminishing citizen power, and probably are those that would be reached by an authority hoping to satisfy residents, while actually retaining overall control. Thus, promise to consult (placation) followed by ignoring or concealing the results. Another example of placation is when a token number of residents are placed on an advisory panel. Residents will feel at first they will be listened to, but become disillusioned when they find out that is not the case.

This leads directly to mere informing (rung 3). Residents are told what the authority has decided, with no possibility of their expressed opinions (as per previous consultation) altering the decision .

Residents’ power disappears completely as the lowest two rungs are reached. They are told, for example, that the decision was actually what they wanted in the first place, and was necessary (therapy). As a last resort, when there is still considerable disquiet among residents, the authority may resort to a “nuclear option” in order to override dissent and push the decision through (manipulation).

A detailed analysis of Arnstein’s Ladder can be found in BS8900, in the form of a “sustainable development maturity matrix”.

The above discussion is, obviously, a theoretical one. However, one does not have to look far to see a practical example of progression down the ladder.



## A brief history of Rosemary

By Kas Krasenberg

Last week, I was assigned the task of cutting back the lavender and rosemary plants of the Kitchen Garden in Marble Hill Park. The herbs have received an unfortunate position in the garden, as their small bed is situated in the shade of a large beech tree. The tree – underneath which the volunteers often gather – sadly steals most of the light. Whilst the cutting of a herb might appear an easy task, the process itself took me several hours. It was during this time that one of the gardeners told me about the philosophies that exist for the cutting of a rosemary plant's wood.

The *salvia rosmarinus* – or the common rosemary – has also been called the dew of the sea, and has been considered to be a native of the Mediterranean region. This perennial herb belongs to the Lamiaceae family, to which we also owe varieties such as the winter savory and the Russian sage. Many of the species grow a pale blue blossom following the winter months, and it is said that the bees produce a fragrant honey from their flowers. Some believe the herb to be nourished by white frost and snowfall - but if the flakes are too heavy, then they might break their little twigs.



I have read that the *salvia rosmarinus* has historically been associated with acts of remembrance. The bones of the dead have been washed with wine and milk, and some were sprinkled with holy dew or plants from their garden. Many mourners have carried the sprigs of rosemary during the rites of a funeral and the herb has often been placed on the hands of the dead. It is said that the archaeobotanical remains of the rosemary plant have been found in the sepulchres of the pharaohs. Some still place sprigs under a pillow to protect themselves from witnessing terrible apparitions during the hours of the night.

One of the most beautiful accounts of gardening has been written by Masanobu Fukuoka. I recall reading of a visit to a Japanese temple, in which farmers of a bygone era had composed a Haiku during their three months of winter rest. Today, or so Fukuoka wrote, there is no time to write poetry. Farmers no longer have days of leisure. The pace of living has increased.

Perhaps the cutting of this rosemary plant has thus been a good reminder. I had to be guided by its form and could not impose my own pace on this herb. A certain slowness is but one of the pleasures that are afforded by winter-gardening. Another might be the prospect of drinking a cup of tea from one of its sprigs, which are left to dry in the shed.

# Petitions

## Stop the introduction of parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park

The Royal Parks intend to introduce car parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park. This is an indefensible proposal, particularly at a time when the link between poverty, obesity and poor health has been so clearly highlighted by the impact of Covid 19.

Spending time in the park is one of the very few free and healthy options for families and individuals. It is essential for people's mental and physical well being that access to the parks is encouraged rather than restricted. If, as a society, we really want to fight obesity we must continue to provide spaces for free and healthy exercise.

During lockdown, a much more diverse and geographically widespread group of people discovered the joys of Bushy and Richmond Park; this is a cause for celebration and should be viewed as a positive and healthy development and encouraged as much as possible.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

## Accept the proposal to reinstate a Lido on Twickenham Riverside

During consultations with local stakeholders it has become clear that there is a wish to bring back a Lido on Twickenham Riverside.

A Lido on Twickenham Riverside would provide a leisure and sport facility for the people of Twickenham and surrounding areas.

More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

Such a facility on Twickenham Riverside would act as a Magnet and contribute to the rejuvenation of the town. The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

## Return the borough to 30mph

### Petition the Council to restore the 30mph speed limit

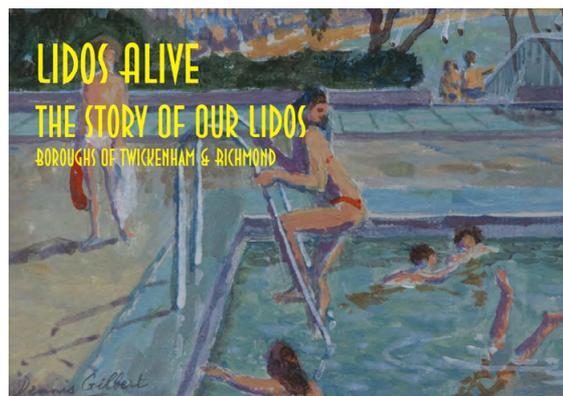
There has been an increase in dangerous and aggressive driving since the introduction of the 20mph speed limit.

The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

## An Ideal Present for just £6

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

To purchase a book contact [info@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:info@TwickenhamTribune.com)



# HRH The Countess of Wessex visits Shooting Star Children's Hospices' Hampton Hill shop

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex joined staff today (Wednesday 9th December) to help Shooting Star Children's Hospices' Hampton Hill charity shop prepare for Christmas.

The Countess, who is Royal Patron of the charity visited the shop after its reopening last week. Shooting Star Children's Hospices cares for babies, children, and young people with life-limiting conditions, living across London and Surrey and the shops play a vital part in helping the local charity fund their care service.

The Countess spoke to staff about their experiences of the pandemic and the impact on the shop, as well as helping to sort donations and create a festive window display.

Karen Sugarman MBE, Executive Vice-President of Shooting Star Children's Hospices, said, "It was so wonderful to welcome The Countess of Wessex to our Hampton Hill shop and for her to generously give some of her time to help the team prepare the shop ahead of the busy festive period. Retail has been one of many areas hit very hard this year, so we are really pleased we've been able to open some of our shops and offer amazing pre-loved items to the local community whilst they support their local children's hospice charity."



In February this year, The Countess visited Shooting Star House, the charity's Hampton based hospice to meet some of the supported children and their families. Despite the hospice being temporarily closed from a care perspective, families who live in one of the 15 boroughs of London that the charity works across, have continued to receive care and support at the charity's Surrey based hospice, Christopher's, as well as practical and emotional support virtually and online.

[www.shootingstar.org.uk](http://www.shootingstar.org.uk)



# Latest designs for Twickenham Riverside to be published

The latest proposals for the redevelopment of Twickenham Riverside will be published for public feedback on 6 January 2021.

Over the past twelve months, Hopkins Architects and their team, with help from the Council, have been working hard to develop the design for the Twickenham Riverside site. This follows a public design competition held in 2019.

The development of the proposal includes responding to feedback received from last public consultation, working through detail with key stakeholders such as Eel Pie Island and the Twickenham Riverside Trust, but also important flood modelling work with organisations such as the Environment Agency – to make sure that the scheme meets the flooding requirements and will continue to do so in a world impacted by climate change.

As a riverside site which needs to accommodate flood waters, whilst also delivering housing, office space, shops and plenty of open space, this has been the greatest challenge for the design team. But one which has now we believe been met after extensive discussions with the Environment Agency in particular.

Whilst it was hoped that the proposals could be published for public engagement earlier in the year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and a decision not to consult over the Christmas period, these have been delayed. However, from 6 January for four weeks, the plans will be published and the Council urges residents to have a look at the designs and give their feedback. There will be online boards explaining the designs – hosted on the Council website - as well as two public presentations from the Design Team, with an opportunity for the public to ask questions. These presentations will be held on 6 January and 23 January. Both presentations will be recorded and put onto the Council website for the public to see, so that the public have as much information as possible.



- [Register](#) for the virtual event (on Zoom) on **6 January - 6.30pm to 8pm**
- [Register](#) for the virtual event (on Zoom) on **23 January - 11am to 12.30pm**

All those registered will be emailed a link with the Zoom log in 24 hours AND 20 minutes before the events begin. By signing up to the event, attendees are agreeing to the event etiquette. Registration will close one hour before each event.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

*“We are hopefully nearing the end of this tumultuous journey – and we are almost ready to present the ‘final’ proposals for the Riverside site. We have listened and engaged more so than ever before. And, I hope that when residents see the plans, they will see that everyone’s hard work has paid off.*”

*“Twickenham Riverside has long been a run-down part of our borough. And now, more than ever, we need to be investing in our town centres so they can become thriving hubs for future generations to enjoy.”*

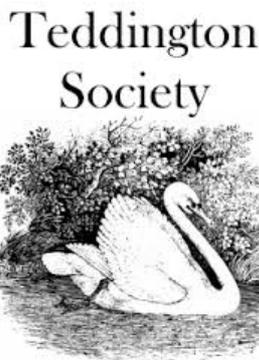
The proposal includes the current Diamond Jubilee Gardens site – relocating the gardens into a larger space in the centre of the proposed development, with suggestions for event space, an exciting children’s play area and pétanque pitches as well as terraced lawns, more planting and additional trees. The proposal also includes public open space along the Embankment with market space, seating and views from the gardens down to the river.

The Council is working closely with the Twickenham Riverside Trust who manage the site to agree the design of the replacement gardens. And all parties are working towards delivering a better and more open riverside gardens for the public.

# Teddington Society Plays Santa!

We all know Christmas will be different and even difficult this year, but for some of us it will be a very lonely time so the Teddington Society asked the Teddington & Twickenham Health & Social Care Team if they would like us to supply them with some Christmas Food Parcels for some vulnerable people in the Teddington Area.

Dee Gallagher, Assistant Service Manager, replied asking for 20 parcels. Sally and Geoff Howland, Santa's Elves from the Teddington Society did all the shopping then packed the goodies into some lovely carrier bags which were donated by M & S in Teddington High Street. Our good friends at the Hampton Wick United Charity generously donated the money to pay for them. Sally and Geoff then handed them over to the Team who are based in Queens Road, Teddington. The group photo shows Dee Gallagher, Vandrea Daniel, Szymon Zagorski, Alexander Brayley and David Browne who will distribute the Christmas goodies in the coming days. We wish them all a very Happy & Healthy Christmas.



## Roger McGough Annual Poetry Prize 2020: Identity

There's still time to enter the 2020 Roger McGough Annual Poetry Prize

The Roger McGough poetry prize is a national poetry competition welcoming submissions inspired by this year's theme of identity.

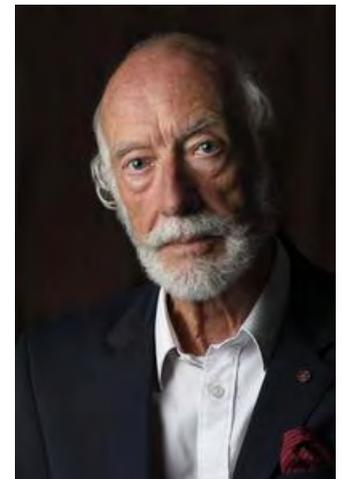
First prize is £150, second prize is £75, and third prize is £50.

Winning and shortlisted poems will be published in an anthology, with featured poets receiving a free copy. There will also be a winners' ceremony in Spring 2021 (details to be confirmed).

The closing date is **Friday 18th December 12.30pm.**

A panel appointed by Arts Richmond will shortlist the top 40 poems, which will then be judged by Roger McGough. The judges' decision is final.

For more information and to enter click [HERE](#)





## *Bend in the River*

Beautiful sunny Sunday walk along the Sanctuary route from Kneller Gardens towards the Shot Tower. The Café in the Gardens is a Community enterprise project offering training and work experience to the under twenty-fives and it is good value with scrumptious home-made cakes and hot/cold food. Please support this worthwhile cause before or after your walk.

We noticed that our Egyptian Geese, Toot and Carmen, had moved house to this spot although it may be another pair choosing the secluded lawn to socially

distance from the more crowded river bank by the recreation park!

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

Wild areas, with self-seeded trees and large fruiting ivies, are an essential habitat for many insects and creatures. It takes years to establish patterns of foraging and lines of navigation which are not easily replaced by hacking down 'overgrown' hedgerows and stating that 'they will recover'. The height of these trees, whether native or not, cannot be replicated with saplings for many years and we are already in a crisis for insect and species survival. Add to this the use of unprofessional but cheap contractors and we have another environmental impact that could be avoided with proper inspections



and enforcement. Unfortunately, we seem to have tree officers who can only look at trees and not habitat in making decisions and we are told that we are ahead of the law as it stands at present asking for these considerations to be taken into account and especially if it is on private land. It is vital we stop further builds in nature sensitive spots for these reasons alone. Churchview Garages site object here: [Appeal Objections due by 22nd December 2020](#)

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*On the second night of Chanuka*



*Crusader Travel*  
*wishes you all a very*

*Happy Christmuka*

## FOODIE STOCKING FILLERS

I don't know about you, but I think it's fun to indulge a fellow foodie with some different and rather special foodie things in their Christmas stocking – just little luxuries to spoil them. And, of course, you might be given the chance to share them – a double whammy! Here are some suggestions that I've researched for you.

### For a Busy Bee

I'm a great fan of beeswax food wraps, and now, thanks to **Tala Cooking**, you can refresh those ones you love or even make your own! 100% natural and sustainable, you can get busy – just £6.99 – and full instructions are included talacooking.com and a vegan option is also available



### Bake Off Calendar

One of the most watched programmes of the year, and you can keep the fun going with a **Great British Bake Off Official Slim 2021 Calendar** for your Bake Off fan. With each month having a different recipe for you to make, there is an opportunity to write your notes and appointments for each day in this slim version. Great value at just £5.99 for a slim version that will slip into that stocking nicely from Danilo.com

### A Wine Box – no, this one's a game!

**The Wine Game:** a card game for wine lovers by wine expert Zeren Wilson, features two decks of cards – one for reds, one for whites – covering all the major wine-producing regions and some unexpected gems, A fun way to dip in to the world of wine. With beautiful artwork by Cassandre Montoriol, it includes descriptions of regions, and tips on labels to look out for. Fun for all wine lovers, and game connoisseurs, this is one to add to your collection. £19.99 from laurenceking.com



### Bags of Cool Deliciousness

Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy restaurant quality, fresh, chilled chocolates, but at supermarket prices? Well now you can, thanks to **Russell & Atwell** who recently launched three varieties of the most superb fresh chocolates, Outrageously Creamy Milk, (Fino de Aroma Milk Centre); Extra Dark (Premium Solomon Islands Cocoa Centre) and Ridiculously Smooth Dark (Fino de Aroma Dark Centre). Worth stocking up, filling the fridge for some serious Christmas indulgence and of course stocking fillers but don't put them in the stocking too early!

From russellandatwell.com, £6.00 per 90g bag.

### A Saucy One

Instead of that ubiquitous chocolate orange, try a jar of **Joe & Seph's** Orange Chocolate Caramel Sauce! Gourmets (and gourmands!)



will love this truly scrumptious handmade orange chocolate caramel sauce, made with fresh double cream, zesty orange and rich chocolate. It's so moreish! Pour over ice cream, spread on croissants, pancakes – or just eat from the jar! Around £4 from Ocado, Holland & Barrett and other stockists



### For the Cocktail Fan

Produced by three foodie scientists-turned-distillers in Cambridge, who identified the individual flavour molecules that make lemons smell zesty and limes tangy, these clever **Cocktail Elements** sprays from Linden Leaf are fab! These handy cocktail atomisers harness the flavours of organic, freshly picked, peak-of-season fruit into one convenient spray to add an expert finish to your G&T or martini. Using only a few lemons to produce a spray that can garnish over 80 drinks, it's super sustainable and will save you money on fresh produce and wastage. In three flavours at £9.95 each from The Whisky Exchange

### A Christmas in a Bottle!

Weigh down that stocking with some really delicious gin that tastes like Christmas. **Warners** created this uniquely distilled **Christmas Cake Gin** with real dark chocolate, ginger, juniper, and festive spices, then blended with cherry juice, handpicked sloe gin macerate & pure treacle – it's so clever. Best enjoyed neat over ice (with a mince pie or that Christmas cake!) £38 a bottle from Ocado or Marks & Spencer



### A Generous Gift for Santa

Forget leaving just a tot of whisky for Santa – how about giving your own special Santa a whole bottle of Irish whiskey to enjoy! Located on the beautiful coast of County Antrim, a stone's throw from the Giant's Causeway, **Bushmills®** is the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery. This gentle, smooth-tasting **Bushmills 10 Year Old Single Malt** is matured in bourbon and oloroso sherry casks for notes of honey, vanilla and ripe fruit and it's delicious. £35 from specialist online whisky suppliers, Amazon and also Tesco and Sainsbury)



### An Easy Option

Suddenly find you're having an extra houseguest this Christmas and don't want them to feel left out? Well here's a great solution: **Munchy Seeds** has its own Christmas stocking filled with 12 delicious snack packs of Munchy Seeds. Containing all six flavours in the



range: Warm Cinnamon, Mild Chilli, Salted Caramel, Mega Omega, Honey Roasted and Sweet Chilli, this stocking is great for those who love to snack healthily. £10 from [munchyseeds.co.uk](http://munchyseeds.co.uk)

And if you're really short on inspiration and/or time, just head online as good old Amazon has a whole selection of ready filled Christmas stockings for all ages and pets as well! But also if you are going out and about, please check out some other fun foodie items in your local gift shops or delicatessens. We must support our great independent businesses too – they need our help.

Locally we are blessed with some great shops: Ralph's in Whitton; Twickenham has Corto in Church Street plus Sandys and Brown's have lovely sauces and pickles; there's The Alberts Deli in Richmond; Zoran and Armstrong's in St Margaret's and Teddington has Robson's, Girasole Deli and Teddington Cheese ...just a few names to give you food for thought!

# GIBRALTAR IT IS!!

By Bruce Lyons

British from head-to-toe Gibraltar seems to be the “last man standing” so to speak. Yesterday The Rt Hon Grant Shapps withdrew the corridor to the Canary Islands, though extraordinarily the FCO advice still doesn’t advise you not to go – so your insurance is not invalidated – just means you have to quarantine on your return and you need a PCR (negative) test on arrival and you can also go to quite a few Greek Destinations, though you need be aware that most of the amenities are closed, though you won’t have to quarantine.

But Gibraltar is different – you don’t need any test before you fly , you won’t have to quarantine on your return and you are only asked to wear a mask where distancing is not obvious, but expect to wear them in shops etc

So there is something very English about Gibraltar being almost the last close destination you can go without too much fuss. It is a “place in the Sun, though perhaps not to be described as scorching.



The Island has marvellous History, Culture and some really nice little visits to make (Attractions), and loads of personality too. It is also a duty free port.

There is a wide choice of hotels too, down by the beach, in the Harbour or in and above the Town. The Rock is famous for its views, and beautiful gardens and a wonderful location to discover the Island.

As the weeks and months have slipped by Grant has knocked all the places off, sometimes he has put them back but on the whole they’ve gone!! Some Caribbean destinations are fine and there are some far east (but they are not letting anyone in YET!) and three in Africa are OK Uganda, Botswana and Namibia, not destination you can just pack your bags and go, even though they are great for wildlife – need planning.

So for a quick “getaway” Gibraltar is the place. You could even go for Christmas ; 24th for three nights in a nice double room with Sea View and breakfast at the Rock would set you back around £520 per person. There are plenty of flights too.

[www.crusadertravel.com](http://www.crusadertravel.com)

# Six young artists chosen to create Mayor's and Council Leader's Christmas card

Six budding young artists have been selected from over 400 entries this festive season to design the annual Christmas cards for the Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Geoff Acton and Leader of the Council, Cllr Gareth Roberts.

After a tough judging session, the below young people were picked to design three Christmas cards for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council Leader.

The winners are:

- Arthur Sharp (Age 6) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School (Leader's Card)
- Luke Ellisdon (Age 6) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School (Leader's Card)
- Noelia Ramsay (Age 6) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School (Leader's Card)
- Benji Baker (Age 10) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School (Mayor's Cards)
- Deniz Ergin (Age 6) Barnes Primary School (Mayor's Cards)
- Amelie Cherry (Age 9) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School (Mayor's Cards)



Runners up:

- Ellen Bunn (Age 6) St Mary's & St Peter's Primary School
- Erik Eggers (Age 6) Kew College
- Gabriella Grech (Age 10) St Mary Magdalen's
- Bella Read (Age 11) St Marys & St Peters Primary School
- Sehar Mirza (Age 10) Russell School
- Fynn Thaly-Fischer (Age 5) Collis School

The Christmas cards will be sent to many organisations, businesses and charities that the Council and Mayor have worked with throughout the year.

Cllr Acton, said:

*"The standard of the entries for my card competition was amazing! Thank you to all the children who took part. I could see that you worked really hard on your designs. For me, Benji's, Deniz and Amelie's creations really stood out. These three young artists showed off their talent and the designs will look fantastic on my Christmas cards."*

Cllr Gareth Roberts, added:

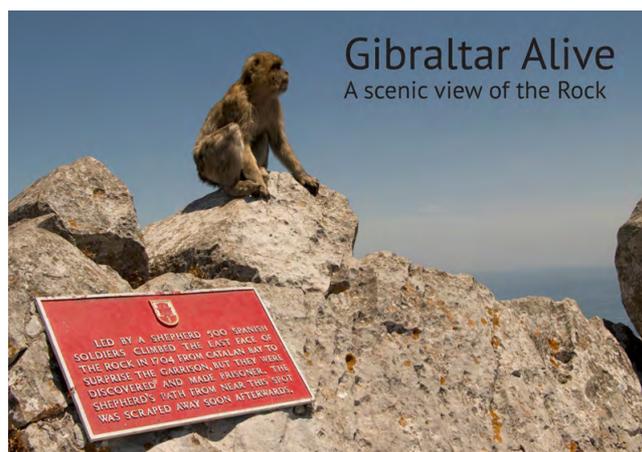
*"We asked for top notch drawings and by Rudolph our local children didn't disappoint. And with over 400 festive favourites to choose from the job of judging was incredibly difficult. It's safe to say every single entry made it onto my Nice List but the designs by Arthur, Luke and Noelia, really caught my eye."*

*"Well done to all who took part."*

## 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

Available to collect from Crusader Travel  
or [contact@TwickenhamAlive.com](mailto:contact@TwickenhamAlive.com)



Gibraltar Alive  
A scenic view of the Rock

# Church Street

Your One stop Gateway to Twickenham's Fine Dining. A Cornucopia of choice

By Bruce Lyons

Lockdowns, safe distancing, temporary pedestrianisation – it all tests the Ingenuity of our traders – and it did! In fact under the circumstances the street has rallied and now we are in Tier 2 and all the shops are open.



Our excellent gift shops; Mojo, Allissias Attic and Miss Pretty London- and the Bloomery for Xmas decorations and Trees, Kiss n Makeup, Sheer Laser for cosmetics including Mint, Piper Violet & Jimmy Marums for hair and more. Fashion at Rocc, Deli and fantastic authentic Italian products at Corto and Lebanese cuisine and delicacies at Rosie Chai. We have a Vape shop too & even a working Travel Agent!

Our Hospitality selection has adapted to the new protocols and with the earlier experience in the Summer with Al Fresco and takeaway we now have an eclectic choice to offer. Dining-in, Takeaway or even “winter Style “Al Fresco.

We tried out Pulcinella's New Menu last week as a family (bubble) & the meal was delicious, as always – Family Italian food with a focus on Tuscan Dishes.



Especially the Friturra di Mare – Baby Squid, king Prawns and crispy Parsnips with aioli, The Moscardini (sautéed baby Octopus, diced potatoes and Olives) and the Bruschetta for the Veggie. The Vegan had Ravioli to follow – but the best, for me, was the Roasted Leg of Lamb – rolled & served with Apricots, rosemary and infused lamb jus- all accompanied by excellent Italian House wine. Pulcinella is open inside for small parties up to 6 in a bubble or Al Fresco (wear something warm) outside by the Heaters – they do takeaway as well – tel 02088925854.

The Twickenham Tandoori (Indian) for takeaway, dine in and Al Fresco – no heaters. They have been in the street over 25 years <https://www.twickenham-tandoori.com/>

Sorrento

Originally from Teddington Carmelo came to Church Street some 6 years ago

Dine in – Take Away and Al Fresco (no heater) <https://www.sorrentotwickenham.com/>



Masaniello by Maria and Livio – Neapolitan.  
 Excellent menu on Website  
 Dine in, Al Fresco – under cover –  
 Takeaway and probably the best Pizza`s in  
 Twickenham. <http://www.masaniello.org/>

Naz Balti  
 Dine in and Takeaway. Evenings only  
[www.nazbalti.com](http://www.nazbalti.com)

Both our Pubs have Covid Style offerings- see  
 website – all have outside arrangements and  
 in house with Covid disciplines

[https://www.theelpie.co.uk/?utm\\_source=local&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_content=gmb](https://www.theelpie.co.uk/?utm_source=local&utm_medium=organic&utm_content=gmb)  
<https://www.craft-pubs.co.uk/the-fox-twickenham>

and the Brewery has their own Covid style offerings <https://brewerymarket.co.uk/>

and lastly in the Square Tsaretta Spice has fine dining, with Take Away, Dining in and newly  
 warm Al Fresco under the heated enclosed awning  
 A relaxed Covid safe experience with fine dining – Indian Style  
<http://www.tsarettaspice.com/>

So you don't have to stray far to have a truly enjoyable Christmas Experience.

# WIZ Tales - USAID in Africa

Teresa Read



USAID is an international development agency working in a number of countries  
 in Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, Latin America and the Middle East.

The World InfoZone project benefited from photographs taken by people working in various  
 African countries. World InfoZone country information includes photographs taken by USAID  
 personnel in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan.



[Sudan](#)



[Liberia](#)



[Sierra Leone](#)



[Rwanda](#)



[Eritrea](#)



[Ethiopia](#)



[Malawi](#)



[Mozambique](#)



## Virtual Third

Poetry Performance, On-Line, 6<sup>th</sup> December

The contributors to Poetry Performance, that wonderfully enthusiastic potpourri of purveyors of poetry, do exactly what it says on the tin, but this year the predations of microbiological marauders have driven their monthly readings from the fuggy conviviality of the Adelaide pub to the crackly cosiness of the Zoom room.

Pat Cammish's seasonal gift was *Winter Solstice*, which neatly pointed out that in mid-December "Apollo's daily course" is all too short, but the solstice brings a time of hope. Ann Vaughan-Williams, a verbal French Impressionist, took us into the *Cave at Les Eyzies* and its desiccated art-world of prehistoric cave painters.



Poetry Performance is not parochial: [published poet](#) Tim Waller Zoomed in from Chicago. His touching poem *Protection* describes his childish delight at feeding sparrows in the snow, then recoiling on discovering that one was dead. "Why does God do that?" he asks with the innocence of a child.

Gentle nostalgia also opens Keith Wait's *Forward from Dunkirk*. Weaving together literary allusions and family histories, its rhyme that conjures interwar years on a boat moored near Teddington Lock ebbs to re-emerge in a martial mood, using alliteration to express resolve in the face of mortal danger. Heather Moulson is a past-master of nostalgia tempered with humour, as in *The Longest Journey*.

In 1978 she went by train to Filey to take up entertaining in a holiday camp, but a cold caravan convinced her that glamorous it wasn't.

Palace of Varieties, yes! On to the animated verse of songs of the music hall, a mood-lightening entr'acte from Nelly Power, who wowed Edward VII, in the form of her alto ego, Lottie Walker. Oh, what muted joy Zoom gives to join in singing *The Boy (Girl) I Love Is Sitting in the Gallery*, without offending anyone.

It was disappointing not to hear on this occasion from celebrity contributor, the Olivier Award winning actress Jane Horrocks. It would be intriguing to hear her versatility that has encompassed *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *Chicken Run* and *Teletubbies*.

Former *Mastermind* Connaire Kensit masterminded the Parthian shot for the evening, delightful haikus on the theme of Christmas to close Poetry Performance's end of year party ... pity that the best wine was saved for so late in the gathering.



Read [Quentin Weiver's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/12/11/virtual-3rd](http://www.markaspen.com/2020/12/11/virtual-3rd)

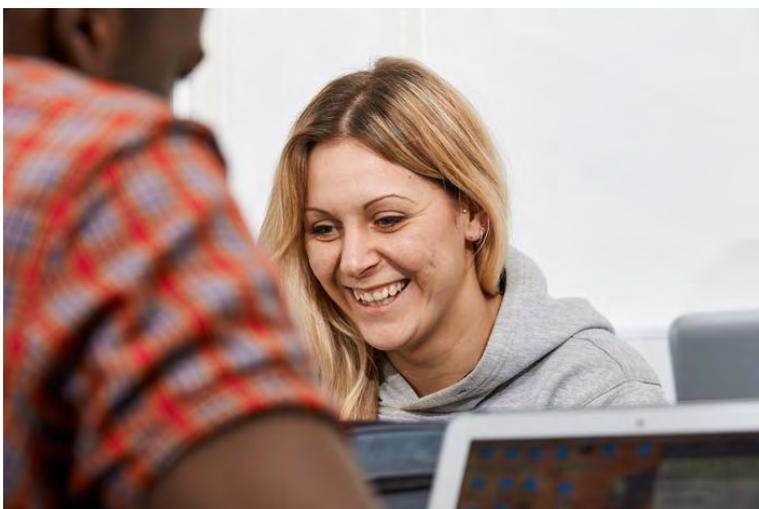
Photography by Philip Broadbent, Didier Planchanet and Dave Benett

# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's and Santander Universities Renew 3-year Partnership Agreement

On Tuesday 24th November, Director of Santander Universities Matt Hutnell and Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's University, Twickenham Anthony McClaran, signed a new three-year partnership agreement to support initiatives at the University.

Santander, through Santander Universities, works in partnership with its university network, with the aim of supporting initiatives in the areas of Education, Entrepreneurship and Employability to support students, particularly those from under-represented groups, in achieving their goals.



The University hosted a Zoom meeting to mark the occasion, which provided an opportunity to discuss common priorities, and upcoming initiatives to support Black students across their university network. This echoes the St Mary's core value of Inclusiveness and opens the door to exciting collaborations ahead.

In the meeting, participants including Jenny Willott, St Mary's Director of Enterprise and Innovation, Yasmina Mallam-Hassam, Head of Employability Services, and Santander Relationship Manager, Holly Price, were able to hear first-hand from recipients about their experiences and how they had benefited from Santander's support.

Santander Universities have supported Start Up St Mary's, providing training and support for students interested in running their own business. Students with a business are eligible to win an investment prize to help grow their business. Santander Universities have also supported paid internships and scholarships, supporting a number of students across St Mary's, creating opportunities and helping prepare

them for the world of work.

It was inspiring to hear how the winners of Start Up St Mary's are using their prize funding to tackle global issues from Claudio Owusu, founder of Gusto snacks which fights food waste, to Avril Cassell, founder of Avril Cassell Health & Nutrition which tackles health inequalities in the BAME population, and Cristianah Oyekan, founder of Databyte which looks at issues around data ownership and monetisation.

Claudio Owusu was also a participant in the 2020 Santander Universities Emerging Entrepreneurs programme, a programme of dedicated entrepreneurship support for student and graduate start-ups across their university network.

Internship participants Carl Orza and Cerys Dean talked about the difference they were making to small businesses, designing social media campaigns and PR strategies.

It was clear that the students had benefited from a range of employability support throughout their studies, both those supported by Santander Universities and those run separately by St Mary's University, as they had undertaken workplace learning modules, work placements, internships and the ground-breaking Be SMART professional development programme for BAME students.

As part of the new agreement, Santander Universities will continue to support internships and Start Up St Mary's and will provide support for the new Employability Confident programme for students with disabilities.

Participants on the call discussed the difference these programmes had made to their confidence and self-belief, their sense of belonging and their relationship with St Mary's, enabling them to grow in confidence through training, experience and support.

St Mary's is looking forward to the next exciting chapter, working with Santander Universities to expand opportunities for our students, preparing them for the world of work and inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs.



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London



# RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 38

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## THE COMMUNE

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 COMMUNE** was 758th film screened by RFS on 1st November 2016. **The Commune** was the equal third ranked film of Season 54, it got an approval mark of 89% from those attending; from season 54 we will feature its equal third place film **Slow West**, as **Issue 41**, and have already featured the top two ranked films **Tehran Taxi**, and **Mystery Road**, as **Issues 29 & 35** respectively). **The Commune** can be streamed from Amazon Prime and Curzon Home Cinema plus the discs are available from Amazon and others.

### THE COMMUNE

Country: Denmark, 2016  
Director: Thomas Vinterberg  
Screenplay: Tobias Lindholm & Thomas Vinterberg  
Language: Danish  
Editing: Janus Billeskov Jansen  
Music: Fons Merkies  
Cinematography: Jesper Tøffner  
Running Time: 111 min., colour

### Leading Players:

Fares Fares	(Allon)
Ulrich Thomsen	(Erik)
Trine Dyrholm	(Anna)
Helene Reingaard Neumann	(Emma)
Julie Agnete Vang	(Mona)
Lars Ranthe	(Ole)



**The Commune** is directed by Thomas Vinterberg - a co-founder (along with Lars Von Trier) of the Dogma 95 film manifesto and 'vow of chastity' which sought to make films based on the traditional values of story, acting, and theme, and excluding the use of elaborate special effects or technology. It was seen as an attempt to take back power for the director as artist, as opposed to the studio. Although not officially a Dogma 95 film, **The Commune** can be viewed in this context, in particular comparisons with a key Dogma 95 film **Festen** (1998). Adapting his own stage play, Vinterberg plunders his childhood of living in a commune for this soap opera-

like, but emotionally rewarding film.

The setting is a commune in bohemian 1970s Copenhagen. Anna, a local television newsreader, is married to a university lecturer Erik. When Erik inherits his father's large family home, Anna suggests they invite various friends and professional acquaintances to move in with them, and so stave off middle-aged, middle-class tedium with an experiment in collective living. What follows is a clash between their personal desires and the dream of communal solidarity, as their ideal of tolerant socialist living is shattered by a love affair that puts their relationship, their community and the commune to their greatest test.

The strengths of the film can be seen as its attention to period detail, in particular the clothes and décor, and the powerful portrayal of Anna by Trine Dyrholm who won the Silver Bear award for Best Actress at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival. It is the subplots, in particular of the character of the young boy in the house, that are undeveloped and the film's weakness point.

**Sara Steinke**

## Shop safe this weekend to save lives and Richmond's businesses

As the rates of COVID-19 are rising in the capital, the possibility of more severe COVID-19 restrictions looms over London's residents and businesses.

Richmond Council is calling on all residents to be extra safe and vigilant this weekend to save lives and jobs.

This weekend is critical, with many shoppers, retailers and those in the hospitality sector experiencing high numbers of interactions in the busy but essential period of Christmas shopping. This has been a challenging year for local businesses and they need to keep trading. Without support from shoppers, these businesses will not survive.



While it is vital we all do our bit to support our local businesses, the latest data shows that rates of coronavirus infection are on the rise in most London boroughs, including in people aged 60 and over who are most at risk of serious illness or death. Whilst the case rate in Richmond upon Thames is lower than most of London, across the capital if cases continue to rise, the whole city will be moved into Tier 3 with greater restrictions to protect residents from the virus.

Tier 3 restrictions include the closing of all hospitality settings such as bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants except for takeaway, delivery and click and collect.

View coronavirus pages [fHERE](#) or further information on COVID-19.



## BRENTFORD FC

### Bees denied late on by 10 ten Rovers

#### Brentford 2 – 2 Blackburn Rovers

A late goal from Jacob Davenport denied Brentford all three points in the first ever match played in front of fans at the Brentford Community Stadium. The Bees had initially fallen behind to a Joe Rothwell goal but a red card for Darragh Lenihan allowed Ivan Toney to equalise via the penalty spot.



It took until just over the hour mark for Brentford to capitalise on their man advantage when Sergi Canos curled a fine individual strike into the top corner. However, Brentford couldn't hold out and were pegged back with three minutes to play when substitute Davenport scrambled the ball past David Raya.

The earliest opportunity of the game fell to Blackburn when Adam Armstrong fired an enticing ball over the top towards Sam Gallagher, with the Blackburn player winning the physical battle against Rico Henry. Gallagher flicked the ball inside to Harvey Elliot but Elliot's powerfully struck half volley was blocked well by Ethan Pinnock and the follow up from Joe Rothwell was deflected past the post.

With his next effort however, he didn't make a mistake as the visitors opened the scoring. Picking the ball up in the inside right channel the midfielder skipped past a number of Brentford challenges before smashing the ball past Raya from just inside box.

The Brentford response was good and Josh Dasilva managed to force a corner off Daniel Ayala. From the resulting set piece Mathias Jensen worked a move off the training ground as he swung a low delivery to the onrushing Marcus Forss. Forss however couldn't pick out the bottom corner and his shot went wide.

The crucial moment of the first half came when Brentford were awarded a penalty by referee Oliver Langford. Some patient build-up play in the final third saw the ball cycled between Henrik Dalsgaard and Vitaly Janelt before the latter picked out Jensen. Jensen cleverly backheeled the ball onto Toney who under pressure from Lenihan went to ground. With the red card shown to Lenihan for denying a goal scoring opportunity Blackburn faced the double jeopardy situation as Toney sent Thomas Kaminski the wrong way to equalise.

Despite the extra player it took until the second half for the Bees to really dominate. Emiliano Marcondes, on as a substitute, had a dipping strike from 25 yards that had Kaminski moving across his goal.

The game was lit up by a magical strike from Canos after a weaving run into the area. The move initiated after a good pass from Dasilva to find Canos on the left wing. With Henry coming in on the overlap the Spaniard feinted to pass before dropping his shoulder and dribbling past a number of Blackburn challenges. He then smashed the ball into the top corner with his right foot for an unstoppable goal.

Brentford looked to put the game to bed and had a couple of promising shots. The first was through Dasilva after he had received the ball in space from Jensen but he could only curl wide. Similarly, Bryan Mbeumo did well to dribble past Amari'i Bell but when it came to the final part his shot also went off target.

In the end it wasn't to be for Brentford as the Championship's top scorers came up with one last goal late on to ensure the spoils were shared. Dominic Thompson couldn't clear his lines and Bradley Johnson sent the ball back into the box. Tyrhys Dolan rose highest to flick the ball on and on the swivel Davenport poked the ball past Raya and into the back of the net to secure a point late on for the visitors.

## Bees draw a blank in stalemate with Rams

### Brentford 0 – 0 Derby County

Brentford made it ten games unbeaten in the league but once again had to settle for a point after failing to score against Derby. In a game marked by precious few chances the closest either side went was when Bryan Mbeumo was denied by the woodwork after Ivan Toney had headed the ball down inside the area.

Vitaly Janelt had a couple of chances early on for the Bees. After Josh Dasilva was unable to get a shot away inside the area the ball was cleared into the path of Janelt but he curled a left footed shot over David Marshall's crossbar. Then after intercepting the ball close to the halfway line the German broke forward but once again his shot was off target.

Ahead of kick off Derby were inside the relegation zone and away from home it was no surprise to see their more defensive approach. Brentford had a good sight of goal when Sergi Canos drove towards the by-line and pulled the ball back for Mathias Jensen, who's first time shot was brilliantly blocked by Matthew Clarke at the near post.

The Bees had one fan chance of note before half-time when a long throw in from Mads Bech Sørensen came to Mbeumo at the back post with some space. On the half volley the Frenchman couldn't direct his effort on target and his shot went just past the post.

After the interval Brentford continued to push for an elusive goal but were frustrated by their own lack of cutting edge. Canos forced Marshall into punching the ball out after a free-kick close to the corner flag and the Spaniard also had a shot from distance that didn't trouble the visitors' Scottish keeper.

A short corner nearly paid dividends when Janelt flicked the ball round the corner for Canos, who initially scooped the ball up and his deflected volley came to Toney. Surrounded by white shirts Toney was able to get a backheel away but once again the Bees were thwarted by a defensive block, this time from Krystian Bielik.

The golden chance of the game came when a delivery from out wide by Henrik Dalsgaard accurately found Toney in the box. Up against Marshall Toney rose highest to knock the ball down into the path of Mbeumo. With just Derby central defender Curtis Davies on the line to beat the Frenchman lent over the ball too much and his shot cleared the crossbar.

Derby in a rare attack had a chance of their own when Kamil Józwiak escaped in behind the Brentford defence on the right flank. Bech Sørensen did well though to recover and forced Józwiak into a cross that flashed across the face of goal.

The Rams then hit the woodwork after a corner from Tom Lawrence dropped to Józwiak who shot left footed against the base of the post and then following in from his corner Lawrence struck a shot wide.

At the death Brentford manufactured a good chance to take all three points when a backheel from Toney set Canos into space. Canos in turn found Josh Dasilva but from the edge of the six yard area he blazed over as both sides finished the match without a shot on target.

## UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

### Game 1

Opponent: Nottingham Forest (A) Saturday 12th December 15:00 City Ground

Nickname: Forest

Competition: Championship – Matchday 18

Manager: Chris Hughton

Opponent record: P17 W3 D4 L10 GF10 GA21 (21st in Championship)

Interesting fact: Nottingham Forest were the first ever football team to sign a player for £1 million pounds when they signed Trevor Francis from Birmingham City in 1979.

## Game 2

Opponent: Watford (H) Tuesday 15th December 20:00 Vicarage Road

Nickname: The Rams

Competition: Championship – Matchday 19

Manager: Vladimir Ivić

Opponent record: P17 W8 D6 L4 GF21 GA12 (3rd in Championship)

Interesting fact: Watford are just one of three sides along with Southampton and Norwich City to have recorded back to back promotions into the top division of English football when they did so under Graham Taylor between 1997 and 1999.

***Come on you Bees!***

# Hampton & Richmond Borough

## Beavers beaten by the Saints

### Hampton & Richmond 0 – 2 St Albans City

Hampton & Richmond Borough couldn't welcome their fans back for the first time since March with the perfect gift as goals from Mitchell Weiss and Solomon Nwabuokeyi ensured it was the visitors who gained the three points.



The Beavers created their first chance in the opening few minutes when Ruaridh Donaldson combined well down the left with Nathan Minhas. Donaldson then crossed the ball into the box where it came to Ryan Gondoh at the back post. A heavy touch forced Gondoh into having to recover the ball but he did so and played the ball onto Tyrel Miller-Rodney. Miller-Rodney in turn crossed the ball first time into the box towards Minhas but the Hampton was well marshalled and he couldn't get a head to the ball.

Kyron Farrell had a free-kick which Miller-Rodney rose highest to in the box but the midfielder was leaning back as he went for the header and his attempt was easily gathered by St Albans keeper Michael Johnson.

Hampton then had the ball in the net only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. Wilson Carvalho showed his trademark pace to drive into the heart of the St Albans defence and fed Donaldson in down the left wing who converted from close range but the Scotsman's celebrations were cut short by the linesman's flag.

The visitors took the lead on the stroke of halftime after a corner was worked to Zane Banton on the edge of the area. Banton clipped the ball perfectly into the path of Weiss who volleyed the ball past Alan Julian for the opener.

After the restart Julian was forced into a save with his leg to deny Weiss, who had once again combined well with Banton, as the visitors showed why they had gone unbeaten in the league this season.

Donaldson had a shot that went wide and Gondoh drove once more at the St Albans defence, but his shot was well saved by Johnson at his near post.

Former Hampton player Shaun Jeffers nearly returned to haunt his former side when a long ball forward on a counterattack broke nicely for the striker and after cutting inside Myles Anderson he forced Julian into a save.

Hampton press for a goal but were unable to force Johnson into any saves of notes as shots from Miller-Rodney, Donaldson and Gray all drifted wide of the target.

All three points were secured for the visitors deep into injury time as they broke up field down the left

hand side and substitute Luke Warner-Eley pulled the ball back to the edge of the area. Waiting there was Nwabukei who scored the goal to seal the game as his left footed shot clip the right post and went past Julian.

## **Deadfield commits to Beavers**

Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced the signing of midfielder Sam Deadfield to an 18 month contract that will see him stay at the Beveree until at least the end of the 2021/22 season.

The midfielder has caught the eye this season and scored twice against League Two Oldham Athletic live on the BBC in the FA Cup First Round in November.

Speaking to club media manager Gary McCann said, "He's been a catalyst to our success the last 12 months, he's a person I enjoy working with and he's a player who is very much part of what we do going forward. His performances have excelled and he's a player I want around me.

A lot of respect to the board and the football club for seeing the vision I see; it would be easy to say 'no' and that it's time to take stock of the pandemic and the situation we are dealing with. Players like Sam are players that this football club need to be looking after and making sure they are part of the long-term. It's a football club moving in the right direction, we do have ambitions as a changing room and we need the players to have that same perspective. If you look at Sam he's a winner, he's not only a talented footballer he wants to be successful."

Deadfield also spoke to club media after signing the paperwork, "On the pitch and off the pitch me and the Gaffer get on really well, the relationship is really strong so it made the decision really easy. The club is going in the right direction, and I want to be part of that. It's nice to get the recognition that I've had of late, I work hard off the pitch as well. I just want to keep it going and I keep that consistency up because that's what keeps you going onto the next level."

## **Hampton postpone Slough due to Covid**

Hampton & Richmond Borough have been forced into postponing their National League South game against Slough Town scheduled for Saturday 12th December due to a coronavirus case.

The person who has tested positive for the virus is a member of the management staff and the incident comes after the respective member of staff received an alert from the NHS track and trace after leaving training on Tuesday evening. The club has been in consultation with the chief medical officer of the National League and have postponed the game in light of the fact that a large number of players and management will no have to go into a 2 week period of self-isolation.

The game is yet to be rescheduled for another date.

## **Hampton forced to pull out of the FA Trophy**

Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced that they are to pull out of the FA Trophy in light of its current coronavirus case. The club was due to play Frome Town in the Second Round Proper this coming Tuesday but due to the isolation period required, would have been unable to complete the fixture in time for the deadline before Christmas.

Frome Town have therefore received a bye into the next round and Hampton's next scheduled game, should there be no more coronavirus cases, is away to Dorking Wanderers on Boxing Day.

***Come on you Beavers!***

# England to play Australia and South Africa in 2021 Autumn Internationals

England will play three Test matches at Twickenham Stadium in autumn 2021.

Eddie Jones and the squad will begin their campaign on 6 November next year against an emerging nation in rugby, with the exact opponent to be confirmed at a later date.

The following weekend Australia head to south west London in a repeat of last year's Rugby World Cup quarter-final which England won 40-16. It will be the eighth time England have faced Australia under head coach Eddie Jones and the fourth time on home soil.

In the final match of the series, England will play South Africa on 20 November in what will be the first meeting between the sides since the Rugby World Cup 2019 final. This also sees the Springboks back at Twickenham Stadium for the first time since 2018, England edging that game 12-11.

England head coach Eddie Jones said: "These will be some good games of rugby and tough tests for us as we work to improve ourselves as a team.

"South Africa are world champions and we'll be looking to benchmark ourselves against them.

"Australia are rapidly improving, have a lot of new talent coming through and good coaches like Dave Rennie and Scott Wisemantel, who we know well.

"We've not had the chance to play southern hemisphere teams this year, so it will be a good chance to see where we are up to and hopefully some great rugby for our supporters to enjoy."

Kick off times and broadcast details will be confirmed in due course.

Hospitality packages are available to purchase now via [www.englandrugby.com/hospitality](http://www.englandrugby.com/hospitality). As we await Government guidance we would hope to be in a position to release ticket information early 2021. In order to receive all the latest ticket news join The England Rugby Club at [www.englandrugby.com/tickets](http://www.englandrugby.com/tickets).

*Three autumn matches scheduled next year, including against an emerging nation to be confirmed*

## England 2021 Autumn Internationals at Twickenham Stadium

- Saturday 6 November\* – England v TBC Emerging Nation
- Saturday 13 November\* – England v Australia
- Saturday 20 November\* – England v South Africa

\*date subject to confirmation



# The government's approach to test and trace in England - interim report

Today's interim report from the National Audit Office (NAO) finds that the government has rapidly scaled up COVID-19 testing and tracing from a low base. It is not yet achieving all its objectives, with too few test results delivered within 24 hours, and too few contacts of infected people being reached and told to self-isolate.

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) rapidly increased testing capacity in England from April and launched the NHS Test and Trace Service (NHST&T) at the end of May to lead the overall test and trace programme. As a result of NHST&T's work millions of people have discovered whether they have COVID-19 and whether they should self-isolate.

NHST&T's budget for 2020-21 has grown over time and now stands at £22 billion. Of the £15 billion of funding confirmed before the November Spending Review, around £12.8 billion (85%) is assigned to testing and £1.3 billion to tracing. DHSC has identified much of the additional £7 billion budget allocated in the Spending Review as being needed for mass testing, which was formerly referred to as Operation Moonshot. Up to the end of October, NHST&T had spent £4 billion, around £2 billion less than forecast, due to underspending on laboratories, machines and mass testing.

Contracts worth £7 billion have been signed with 217 public and private organisations to provide supplies, services and infrastructure, including test laboratories and call handlers for tracing. NHST&T has plans to sign a further 154 contracts, worth £16.2 billion, by March 2021. In total, 70% of early contracts by value were directly awarded without competition under emergency measures that were in use across government.



International comparisons show that outsourcing is a part of many testing systems but is unusual for tracing. A range of stakeholders have queried why the government did not involve local authorities more in its initial approach to tracing, given their previous experience in this area. The government did not document with a business case the basis for the delivery model it initially chose until September. NHST&T told us that, in the time available, the only feasible approach was to focus first on building up tracing capacity centrally. Local authorities have become more involved in tracing over time. For example, from July, some local authorities started to set up their own contact tracing schemes, in conjunction with NHST&T, for cases that the national service could not reach. By the end of October, 40% (60) had one in place with a further 46% (69) planning to set one up.

NHST&T's testing capacity increased five-fold between May and October, setting up hundreds of new testing sites and expanding its network of laboratories, but the number of tests being processed daily is below reported capacity. It reached its public target of having capacity for 500,000 tests per day on 31 October and is working to reach 800,000 by the end of January 2021. However, on average the number of tests carried out was only 68% of the published maximum between May and October. NHST&T recommends that laboratories use a maximum of 85% of their published capacity in normal times.

A target to provide results within 24 hours of in-person testing in the community has not been met. Turnaround within 24 hours peaked in June at 93% but subsequently deteriorated to reach a low of 14% in mid-October before rising to 38% in early November. Turnaround times for tests conducted in hospitals and care homes are faster, with around 90% of results returned within 24 hours, though this is calculated on a different basis to in-

person tests in the community.

NHST&T did not plan for the sharp rise in testing demand in September when schools and universities reopened. Laboratories processing community swab tests were unable to keep pace with the volume of tests and experienced large backlogs, which meant NHST&T had to limit the number of tests available and commission extra help from other laboratories. Rationing of tests meant some people were told to visit test sites hundreds of miles away.

DHSC quickly set up a new national tracing system from the end of May to reach people who had tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts. Since it began, NHST&T has reached over 630,000 people testing positive for COVID-19 online or by phone to ask them for details of their contacts. It has also reached over 1.4 million of their close contacts, to advise them to self-isolate. The proportion of people who tested positive and were reached increased from 73% at the end of May to 85% at the end of October. The proportion of close contacts reached dropped from 91% in the last week of May to 60% in the last week of October. This partly reflects a change in the types of cases, with a smaller proportion being linked to outbreaks where it can be easier to reach a large number of contacts (for instance, all residents and staff in a care home).

It is important to get hold of people with COVID-19 or who might have been exposed to it quickly so they can self-isolate, but the service saw increases in the time taken to reach people between May and mid-October, before improvements in the last two weeks of October. For example, the proportion of contacts reached by the national service within 48 hours stood at 87% at the end of May, before dropping to 64% in the middle of October, and rising to 81% by the end of that month.

There has been no shortage of central tracers. At times, parts of the national tracing service have barely been used. In May, DHSC signed contracts for the provision of 3,000 health professionals and 18,000 call handlers. The call handler contracts were worth up to £720 million. By 17 June, the utilisation rate (the proportion of time that someone actively worked during their paid hours) was low for both health professional (4%) and call handler staff (1%), indicating that they had little work to do. DHSC had no flexibility to reduce the number of call handlers under the original contracts, which ran for three months. It negotiated new terms in August and reduced the number of these staff to 12,000, but utilisation rates remained well below a target of 50% throughout September and for much of October. This means substantial public resources have been spent on staff who provided minimal services in return.

National and local government have tried to increase public engagement with tracing, but surveys suggest that the proportion of contacts fully complying with requests to self-isolate might range from 10% to 59%. NHST&T acknowledges that non-compliance poses a key risk to its success and has taken steps to increase levels of self-isolation, for example by making follow-up calls to people while they are self-isolating. For as long as compliance is low, the cost-effectiveness of NHST&T's activities will inevitably be in doubt.

As NHST&T rolls out further changes in COVID-19 testing, it needs to learn lessons from its experience so far to ensure it can make a larger contribution to suppressing the infection. This includes planning against a range of outcomes to ensure it is prepared for spikes in demand, increasing its focus on compliance with self-isolation, and setting out a clear strategy for how national and local tracing teams will work together.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

*"The government has rapidly increased testing and tracing activity, building significant new infrastructure and capacity from scratch. However, it has struggled to test and trace as many people as it has capacity to, or to reach the contacts of people testing positive quickly enough.*

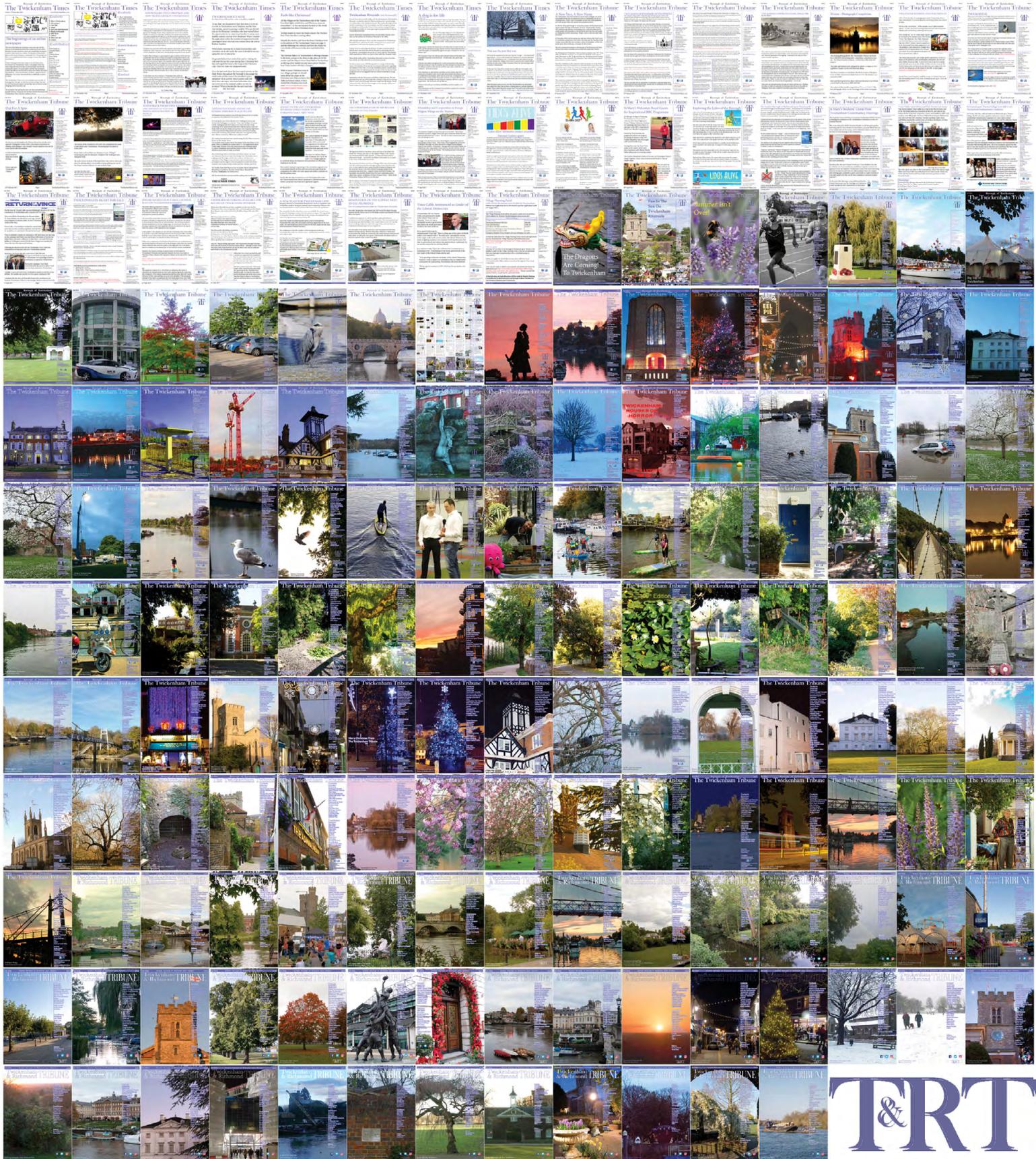
*"Test and Trace is core to the UK's pandemic response. It must improve its performance with a focus on effective engagement with the public and integration with local efforts to improve tracing. We will explore these issues further when we assess the value for money of Test and Trace in spring 2021."*

View full report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

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