

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Teresa Read



22nd January 2021

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

More secure cycle storage installed

Secure Bikehangars are being installed in six streets with more streets to follow. The locations were selected following requests and consultation with residents. Bikehangars are designed to provide secure on-street cycle parking. Each hangar can safely and securely store up to six bikes and are only accessed by people who have signed up to the scheme and paid for a space. The six locations are: **Cambridge Road**, Teddington - **Edwin Road**, South Twickenham - **Fulwell Road**, Fulwell and Hampton Hill - **Hartington Road**, St Margarets and North Twickenham - **St Margarets Road**, Twickenham Riverside - **Walpole Road**, Teddington

Have your say on a new vision for arts, parks, sports and libraries in Richmond upon Thames

Help the Council develop a ten-year vision and set of priorities for its cultural services - including arts, parks, sports and libraries. The value of arts, parks, sports and libraries in improving the lives of residents has never been so recognised as during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new ten-year vision for culture will help the borough come back stronger with an innovative and diverse cultural offering to empower and inspire all residents.

You can [fill out the survey online](#). You can request a paper copy of the survey by emailing consultation@richmond.gov.uk.

Council urge Royal Parks to extend movement trial

The Royal Parks Movement Strategy trial in Richmond and Bushy parks, should be extended says Richmond Council. In August 2020, Royal Parks launched a trial to create new car-free spaces in Richmond and Bushy parks and reduce the volume of through-traffic. Whilst Richmond Council is generally supportive of the wider ambition of protecting the environmental and scientific status of the parks, concerns have been raised locally about the impact of the changes on the wider local areas. Impact that is potentially being masked by the change in people's movement due to the pandemic.

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Well, social media has been inundated with chatter about the Twickenham Riverside design proposals, particularly about Heavy Goods Vehicle access along the Embankment. Many are very unhappy

that the council has broken its promise to provide a vehicle free riverside as part of the new development. But what's one more broken promise?

A key part of what residents wanted, and the council promised, was a new town square that would provide a vibrant and viable location for events, markets etc (the brief said "*The schemes must provide a focal point for the town that allows for activities and events*"). Instead, we have an afterthought of dead space on the Embankment flood zone, created not with imagination, but as a by-product of accommodating the Environment Agency's flood defence wall; and it is hemmed in by a roadway to accommodate HGV deliveries.

As for the boathouses, they too have disappeared and have been replaced by 'possible boat storage', which probably won't even feature in the finished development.

Twickenham Alive, a member of the Stakeholder Representative Group, probably have more experience of holding events on Twickenham Riverside than anyone. But will the council listen to them or the other SRG members? No, because this council's dogmatic mantra is '*To get it done, not get it right*'.

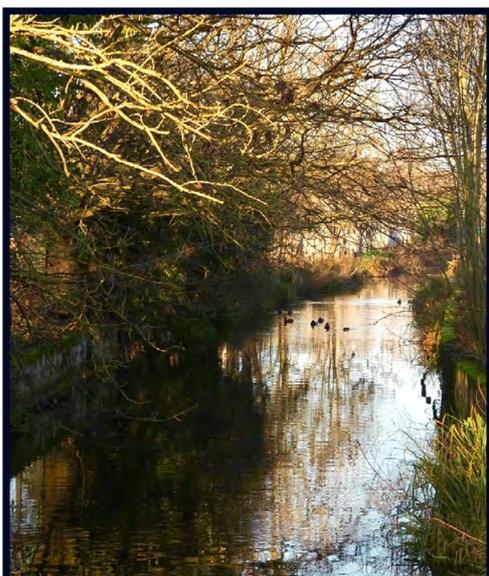
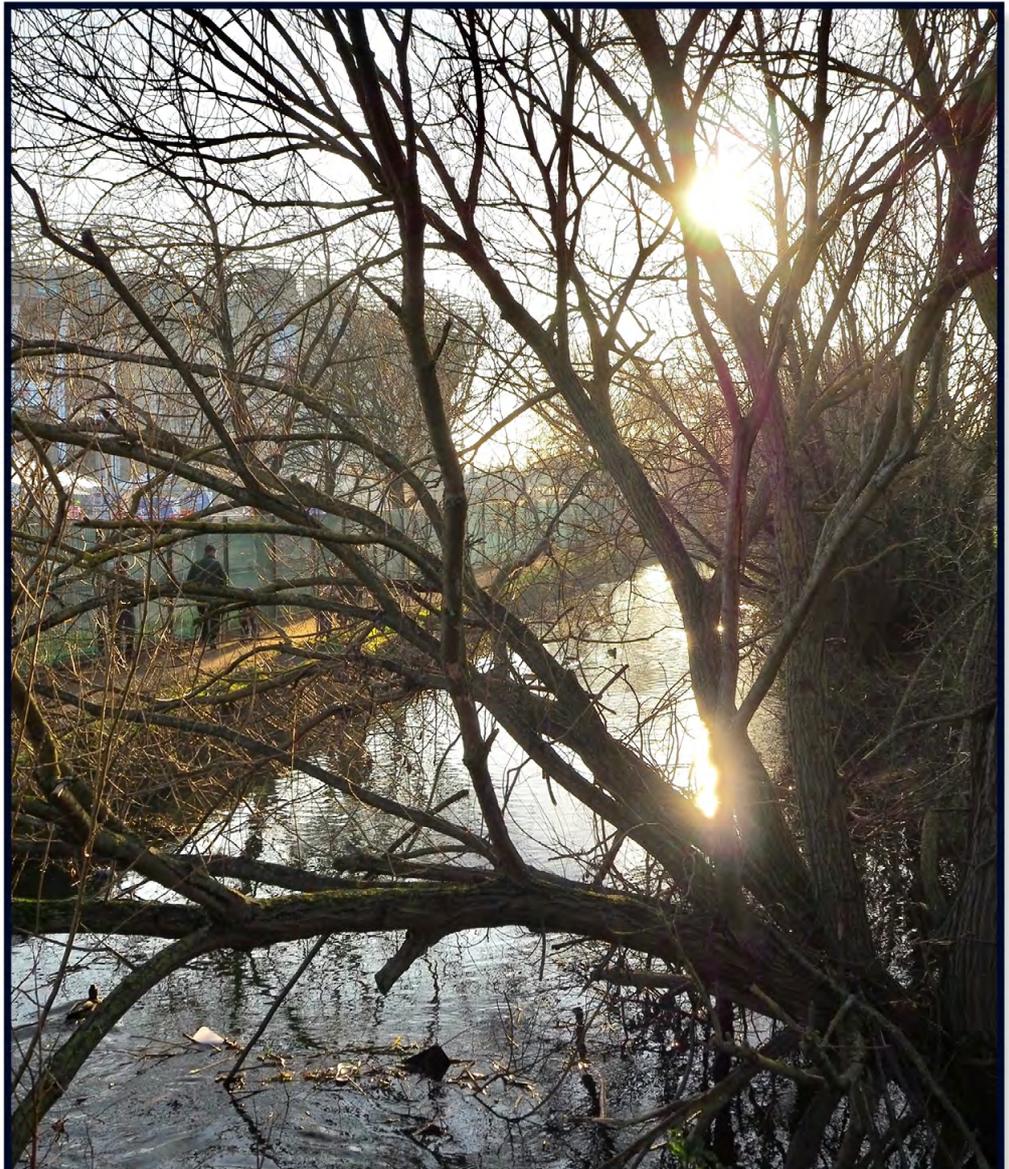
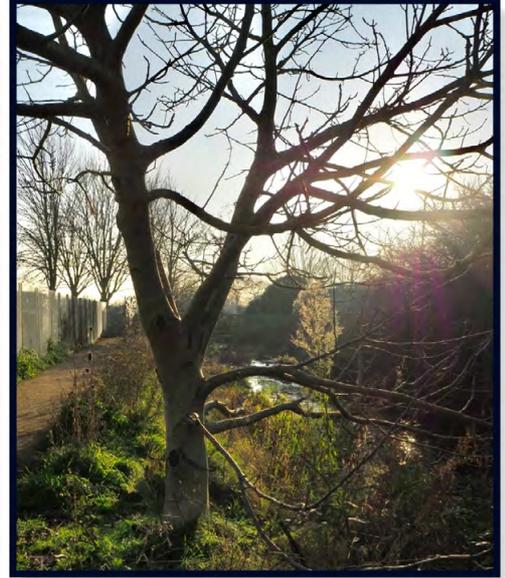
You can see some of Twickenham Alive's events [here](#)



Borough View By Graeme Stoten

'The Duke's River Walk'

During 2019 the Duke of Northumberland's river path was revitalised with widened and resurfaced paths, in so doing creating a seamless 3 miles of river path from Isleworth through to Kneller gardens in Twickenham. This section runs from outside Mogden and along the back of the RFU Stadium up to the Chertsey road. The improved access is now very popular with walkers, cyclists and young families enjoying the river flora and fauna.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

From the Director-General, the World Health Organization (WHO)

Globally, 4.7 million new cases were reported in the past week, a decline of 6% from last week, and the number of new deaths has climbed to a record high at 93,000, a 9% increase from last week. This brings the cumulative numbers to over 93 million reported cases and over 2 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic. (20th January 2021)

COVAX Announces new agreement, plans for first deliveries

- COVAX announced the signing of an advance purchase agreement for up to 40 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; rollout to commence with successful execution of supply agreements.
-
- Additionally, COVAX announced that, pending WHO emergency use listings, nearly 150 million doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford candidate are anticipated to be available in Q1 2021, via existing agreements with the Serum Institute of India (SII) and AstraZeneca.
-
- COVAX is therefore on track to deliver at least 2 billion doses by the end of the year, including at least 1.3 billion doses to 92 lower income economies in the Gavi COVAX AMC.

Note: COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

METROPOLITAN POLICE: Local police commander calls on community to stay at home to save lives.

Elisabeth Chapple, the police commander for the South West BCU which covers Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth and Merton has called on everyone in the community to play their part in driving down Covid rates by following the rules and minimising contact with others.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Chief Superintendent Chapple said: *“Everyone will understand the critical situation London, and especially the NHS is under, due to the high levels of Covid in our communities.*

“We’ve seen the doctors and nurses of our local hospitals; Kingston, St Helier Hospital and St Georges under strain due to the number of people they are caring for and would like to add our thanks to that of the community for the personal sacrifices being made by NHS staff.

“In the last week the Met has started supporting the London Ambulance Service with 75 officers who will be driving some of its ambulances to emergency calls around our (out) city in the week ahead. This will support the London Ambulance Service to get to calls more quickly.”

“We know most people are doing the right things - staying home as much as they can, wearing masks when they should, and avoiding gatherings of all kinds. We thank them for that. However, a small, minority continue to bend, break and in some cases completely ignore these rules and in doing so endanger us all.”

“Your local officers are out in our streets and although they will engage with people, explain the rules and encourage people to do the right thing first, they will quickly issue fines or even arrest people who fail to respond. The Met has issued more fines in recent weeks than in the whole of the rest of the pandemic – not because we want to but because the situation now is so critical.”

“Since Christmas we’ve have issued a number of fines including to a group who met in a car park in Earlsfield on 21st January, all from various addresses across London. When approached the excuse given was

they'd stopped for a smoke and they had been out in Richmond - one of them even worked booking in Covid vaccines for a hospital. All were issued fines."

"You'll realise that every time officers have to tackle people for Covid breaches, or indeed other crime and anti-social behaviour, they put themselves, and their families at increased risk from this deadly disease. I know you'll join me in thanking them for their professionalism, dedication and commitment."

"Lastly, many of you will have seen that Covid case figures in London have started to fall in recent days and like me are hopeful the vaccine roll-out will reduce these further but please remember rates are still dangerously high - many, many times what they were only a few weeks ago. More than 10,000 Londoners have died of Covid and every day last week more than 10,000 were diagnosed with Covid. Tragically, this will mean more people will die."

"That's why we must stay at home but if you do need to go out for one of the allowed reasons be assured your local police will be playing their part in keeping you, and everyone else, safe."

Cases of COVID-19

Total cases to 22 January 2021

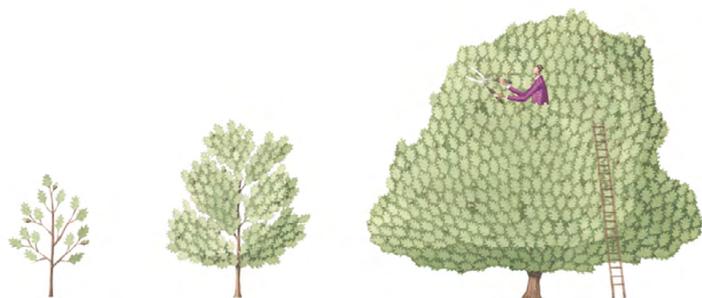
8,888 Richmond-upon-Thames 10,114 Kingston-upon Thames 19,544 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 2,082,745

USA 402,803
Brazil 212,831
India 153,032
Mexico 144,371
The United Kingdom 93,290
Italy 83,681
France 71,261
Russian Federation 67,832
Iran 57,150
Spain 54,637
Colombia 49,792
Germany 49,783
Argentina 46,216

Peru 39,157
South Africa 38,854
Poland 34,561
Indonesia 27,203
Turkey 24,487
Ukraine 21,499
Belgium 20,572
Canada 18,462
Chile 17,702
Romania 17,485
Czechia 14,973
Ecuador 14,526
Netherlands 13,248



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The Tree Agency

Nellie Ionides

By Simon Fowler

One of the greatest residents of Twickenham was Nellie Ionides, who saved much of the riverside from destruction and bequeathed her important collection of paintings of the area to the council on her death.

Nellie Samuel (1883-1962) was the eldest daughter of Marcus Samuel, 1st Viscount Bearsted, and grew up in Hampton.

In 1930 Nellie married Basil Ionides, a member of the Greek shipping family, who, like her own, were great patrons and philanthropists. Basil Ionides is remembered today as the Art Deco designer of the Savoy Theatre and Claridge's.

In 1926 she gave £2500 towards a fund to purchase she bought part of the west wing and the summerhouse of Orleans House in order save the buildings and grounds from demolition by developers who wished to dig gravel in the grounds and subsequently purchased neighbouring Riverside House.

The artist Adrian Bury visiting Riverside House in the mid 1950s found a private and rather personal museum. And at the opening of the Orleans House Gallery in 1972, her granddaughter Camilla Panufnik remembered visiting Riverside House when she was a child:

...every inch of the walls...being covered by her large and ever-increasing collection of local pictures. I remember her tremendous enthusiasm and excitement each time she managed to track down yet another local picture.

Nellie Ionides had strong links with Twickenham where she had spent her childhood. Toby Jessel wrote that:

The story is a good one to tell. It's of a woman who loved her home at Twickenham; cared deeply about the environment; had a passionate enthusiasm for collecting, and brilliant skills, flair and discernment in doing so; had the resources to do so and built up a remarkable collection of topographical paintings and prints – Thames-side pictures of Twickenham and Richmond; and left on her death arrangements so that people in Twickenham could enjoy a permanent display in the historic building of Orleans House.

The collection of 463 pictures and drawings of the Thames was given to Twickenham council on her death and items from it are still regularly displayed at the Gallery. It has been described as being 'probably the finest Council-owned art collection in London.'

In her later years she became increasingly interested in horses and showed them at the Richmond Royal Horse Show and other shows across England. One of her last triumphs was winning the hackney pony championship at the Richmond in May 1961.

Nellie Ionides died on 24 November 1962. *The Times* appreciation said that 'her keen brain, outstanding ability and grasp of affairs remained with her to the end of her life.'



Nellie Ionides & Cliquot

Council expresses disappointment as Secretary of State clears the way for the Homebase redevelopment to go-ahead

Richmond Council has expressed extreme disappointment that the Secretary of State for Housing, Robert Jenrick MP, has decided not to 'call in' the Planning Application for the redevelopment of the Homebase site on Manor Road, Richmond.

Richmond Council's Planning Committee resolved to refuse the original application, a mixed-use development including 385 homes in a four to nine storey redevelopment on the Manor Road site, in July 2019.

The decision was made on several grounds, including failure to deliver the maximum reasonable amount of affordable homes; the design and scale being visually intrusive, dominant and overwhelming; the quality of the proposed accommodation and the impact on surrounding properties.

On 29 July 2020 the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, used his powers under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to become the local planning authority for the application, taking it over from the Council. The scheme was subsequently amended to a four to eleven storey development, with an uplift in the number of new residential units to 453.

Following a Public Hearing in October 2020, the Mayor resolved to grant planning permission for the revised scheme, subject to the completion of a Section 106 Legal Agreement securing the affordable homes and other contributions to make the development acceptable in planning terms and the holding direction being lifted.

Sarah Olney, MP for Richmond Park, wrote to Mr Jenrick in September 2020 requesting he call in the application and the Government take over the role of planning authority from the Mayor on the grounds that the proposal is of regional significance



and the detrimental impact the scheme would have on the site and surrounding area. The Secretary of State subsequently issued a holding direction to allow him time to consider the request.

On 14 January 2021, the Secretary of State confirmed, following careful consideration against the call in policy, the application should not be called in. In his letter he highlighted the Government's commitment to giving more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee for Richmond Council said:

"The Council is extremely disappointed that, in declining to call in the Homebase application, the Secretary of State is clearing the way for the scheme to go-ahead. This decision has given the Greater London Authority the power to approve the redevelopment plans, which are now even more overbearing than the original application turned down by Richmond's Planning Committee. In this case, contrary to the Government's commitment to giving more power to local Councils to make their own decisions, this decision is being made by the Mayor of London and against what this Council would have wanted in refusing the original application. The Mayor believes that this development would have a significant impact on the implementation of the London Plan policies on housing and affordable housing. This Council stands by our original decision that the development will have a detrimental effect on the site and surrounding area and is in conflict with Richmond's Local Plan. As this Council set out in its response to the Government's proposals for planning reform, we need to ensure that we have a planning system in place that allows us to respond to the unique qualities, needs, opportunities as well as challenges of different local places. The right outcomes can only be achieved through a system that allows you to respond flexibly to local issues. This is not the right outcome for our area."

Richmond Council is currently negotiating the Section 106 Legal Agreement with the Greater London Authority and the applicants and wishes to ensure that the affordable housing within the scheme is maximised.

Getting to know your soil

By Kas Rasenberg

The plots of earth in the Kitchen Garden may seem to be particularly bare, but the milder days of January are being spent on their preparation for the following seasons. Several of these days have been spent on observing the microclimate of the plot. There are several elements to keep in mind when you are trying to grow vegetables. One of the most important aspects of which is a familiarity with the soil.

The surface layers of the earth are diverse in their composition. A soil is composed out of several minerals – such as clay or silt or sand – and many microscopic organisms inhabit its layers. Such minerals often derive from older rocks, which have altered with the passage of time. Particles of clay are smaller than those of sand, and have the ability to retain water. A grain of sand, by contrast, may warm easily during the months of spring, but their presence in large quantities does not improve the fertility of the soil.

An understanding of the individual texture of a soil is essential for the cultivation of vegetables. The tubers of Jerusalem artichokes can grow in sandy-earth, but Daikon radishes prefer the more compact granules of clay. The orb of the sun and the exposure to wind will also have an impact on the vegetables. Some plants – such as the mammoth red rock cabbage and the common sage – have a natural symbiosis. It is important, too, to note what has been planted beforehand. Crop rotation helps to restore the nutrients of the soil.



An understanding of the individual texture of a soil is essential for the cultivation of vegetables



A healthy crop of potatoes at Marble Hill's Kitchen garden

The Kitchen Garden of Marble Hill Park is currently under construction. The volunteers have been measuring the garden and are building some new beds. These days of winter will also be spent on choosing particular varieties for the coming seasons. This year, most of our produce will be used in the cafe, which may be opening in the early spring and sold on our little market stall to park visitors.

Home-grown vegetables are but one of the many joys that are offered by a garden. Masanobu Fukuoka has captured the essence beautifully in his One-Straw Revolution, in which he also described his somewhat unorthodox techniques. To be here, or so he wrote, caring for a small field, in full possession of freedom and the plenitude of each day, every day.

Park Lane Stables awarded 'Asset of Community Value' status

The Teddington Society

The Teddington Society, founded in 1973 “to preserve and enhance the quality of life for everyone living and working in Teddington”, has again lived up to its objective by playing a leading role in helping the Park Lane Stables remain in their premises. It did this by applying to Richmond Council to list the Stables site as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) – an application that was approved by the Council last week. The ACV, which lasts for five years, gives added legal protection to the site.

The application was in response to the news that the landowner had informed the Stables that after 12 years, their lease would not be renewed when it expires on May 31st.

The application was prepared by Society members Keith Atkinson, Philip Barnes and Mark Jopling, following a suggestion by Councillor Martin Elengorn, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, Planning and Sustainability. At our request, two of our Corporate Members – Kagan Moss and Richard Steer of Stone Rowe Brewer – have provided legal advice to Natalie O'Rourke of Park Lane Stables in this matter, on a pro-bono basis.



Park Lane Stables-Teddington Society cheque presentation



Natalie O'Rourke (standing) with trainee Hannah on Prodny

On the Society's Twitter feed, **Munira Wilson MP** is among more than 100 people who have reacted with messages of congratulation and support. “Excellent news!” she wrote.

The Stables also received backing from broadcaster and author **Clare Balding**, who tweeted, “The most important thing is that they are saved for the children and adults who benefit from regular contact with their wonderful horses and ponies”.

Park Lane Stables' ponies are a familiar sight in Teddington, particularly during the two Lockdown periods. The stables are a registered charity who do a huge amount of work with disabled or underprivileged children, and people with special needs. They are active members of the Riding for the Disabled Association, and in 2016 they were visited by the group's president, **The Princess Royal**, who spoke warmly of their work.

The ACV process provides a six-month moratorium in which a community interest group may make an offer to the owner to buy the premises. The owner cannot sell the premises to anyone other than such a group during this period. Meanwhile, the landlord of the stables has told the BBC that he is “acutely

aware of the sensitivity of the situation and the importance of the work done here” and that he is discussing options to find a resolution for the benefit of everyone involved.

Organising and applying for ACV status has been a real community project, and the Teddington Society is pleased to have assisted Park Lane Stables with their negotiations over these important and historic local premises.

Trust launch new website for Twickenham Riverside

The Twickenham Riverside Trust is proud to introduce its new website, where it aims to provide information about its latest work and views, as well as about what's going on in the area.

The site includes sections relating to the nature and environment to be found along the river path from Twickenham and Richmond, information on the history of the local area, including Eel Pie Island and the local boatyards and will regularly feature blogs and interviews with the people and organisations who make the area the unique place it is.



The site will also ensure that the Trust's involvement in the ongoing work by Richmond Council to redevelop the riverside and its obligations as a charity and a leaseholder of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, is clear.

On this issue, the Trust will soon launch a local online consultation to fulfil its obligations to the Charity Commission, which requires it to consult the public before it can issue an Order to enable it to make material changes to its lease, as would be required to facilitate the Twickenham Riverside redevelopment.

This site will be updated regularly and if you have any thoughts and views or ideas, or you'd like to contribute an article or an image, please do email us on twickenhamriverside@gmail.com

The Trust is grateful for the many people who have allowed us to use their images across the site including Jim Pickard, Trevor Percy, Charlotte Meggitt, Ambrose Fotiadis-Negreponitis, Bob Hinks and Marisa Lazaro.

www.twickenhamriversidetrust.org.uk



£750K boost for the Royal Parks charity to protect wildlife in heart of London

A conservation project to protect and increase biodiversity across 5,000 acres of London parkland has received a £750k boost, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery. The new award enables The Royal Parks' *Mission: Invertebrate* project to continue for a fifth year, protecting and promoting wildlife in London's green spaces at a crucial time for climate and biodiversity.

4,720 different species of invertebrates (and counting!) have been found in the Royal Parks. Launched in 2017, *Mission: Invertebrate* supports a diversity of wildlife across the Royal Parks by helping these 'bugs' such as bees, butterflies, beetles, worms, slugs and snails to thrive. These tiny creatures are the cornerstone of biodiversity, playing key roles in the ecosystems of our green spaces.

With the current climate crisis, and alarming rates of biodiversity decline across the world, there has never been a more important time to prioritise the conservation value of our green spaces. The project carries out expert research to investigate populations of insects and other invertebrates across London's eight Royal Parks, as well as transforming habitats and providing opportunities for people to learn about the vital roles these tiny creatures play and the environmental pressures they face. Since the project began, habitats have been created and enhanced throughout the parks including wildflower meadows, orchards, reedbeds, hedgerows, trees, ponds, pollinator-friendly planting and bee and bug hotels. More than 10,000 London school children and 19,000 members of the public have also discovered park wildlife through *Mission: Invertebrate's* free or low-cost activities.



Families discover invertebrates in The Green Park
© The Royal Parks_Penny Dixie



Invertebrate woodcarvings in Hyde Park
© The Royal Parks_Chris O'Donovan

The Royal Parks already receive a combined 77 million visitors a year. The Covid crisis over the last year has demonstrated the vital importance of local parks to the wellbeing and mental health of 9 million Londoners: A 2020 YouGov poll showed that 79% of Britons polled agreed the Coronavirus outbreak has highlighted the need for more accessible nature-rich green

space near to peoples' households¹. *Mission: Invertebrate* is enabling The Royal Parks to enrich the biodiversity of the parks, protect precious habitats and to provide new opportunities for Londoners to engage with nature on their doorsteps.

This year we're creating new ways for park visitors to connect with invertebrates and the range of biodiversity benefits they provide through a range of self-led walking trails, exhibitions and online resources, as well as increased interpretation about our invertebrate habitats. Schools, families and adult learners will be able to engage with the *Mission: Invertebrate* team and with the invertebrates of the Royal Parks through a new virtual learning environment.

In 2021 we will also be unearthing the secrets of the ground beneath visitors' feet in some of London's busiest parkland, shining a spotlight on the importance of soil health in improving urban green spaces. This often-overlooked habitat not only supports a wealth of invertebrates, but is also vital to the growth of the city's trees and plants, to help prevent flooding, to protect parks and gardens from heatwaves and drought and to help keep our waterways clean.

Far from being wastelands for wildlife, towns and cities support a huge diversity of invertebrate life and many of our urban green spaces – including the Royal Parks - are sanctuaries for rare and notable species. The variety of gardens, allotments, urban nature reserves and parkland provide a unique mix of food and shelter for pollinators and other invertebrates. The Royal Parks are uniquely positioned in the heart of London to act as central green corridors within this network, offering an anchor for wildlife in one of the world's busiest cities.



Richmond Park Pollinator Garden
© The Royal Parks_Penny Dixie

Andrew Scattergood, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks, said:

“The support of players of People’s Postcode Lottery has enabled Mission: Invertebrate to catalyse a step-change in wildlife habitat creation across the Royal Parks, enriching the experience of millions of visitors each year and enabling them to connect with nature. The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how vital a resource parks are for everyone, and the value of immersion in nature to people’s health and wellbeing. This generous funding will enable The Royal Parks to conserve and enhance the wealth of biodiversity found in some of London’s best-loved parks, ensuring that they remain places that wildlife can thrive in years to come.”

For more information on *Mission: Invertebrate*, including details of volunteering opportunities, outdoor learning and free family activities, visit:

www.royalparks.org.uk/missioninvertebrate.



Shocking video emerges of a dog attacking a deer

Footage has emerged of a dog attacking a red female deer (hind) in Richmond Park. In the video, brave cyclists can be seen acting as human shields to protect the deer from further attack from the dog. Despite their heroic efforts, the hind collapsed with extensive injuries and sadly had to be put down.

In addition to the injuries caused by the Red Setter biting the deer, the dog giving chase meant the hind ran into the road and was sadly hit by a car. There is no evidence to suggest the car was speeding.

The incident took place in October 2020 and the owner of the Irish Red Setter, a 44-year-old from Kingston, appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday 15 January 2021 and was fined £602.

The owner told police he only let his dog run free in areas of Richmond Park he assessed as being clear of deer, but during his walk, he and his dog stumbled across a lone deer sitting in long grass.



Click image to view video

Speaking of the incident, the man said: "I was genuinely shocked and sorry for what had happened to the deer. Since the incident, I have refrained completely from letting the dog off the leash in any park."

Simon Richards, Park Manager for Richmond Park said: "Sadly, this was the fourth deer that died over the last year as a result of dog chases in Bushy and Richmond Parks. We've had 58 incidents of dogs chasing deer reported to us since March 2020, and it's completely unacceptable. It's imperative that owners ensure their dogs are under control at all times.

"It's illegal for a dog to chase deer in Richmond and Bushy Parks, and owners may face prosecution if caught."

Pete Sturgess, a Sergeant at the Royal Parks Operational Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police said: "This incident highlights that even the most careful of dog owners may not see a deer until it is too late. Your dog may never have chased the deer before, but once is too many, and this deer paid with her life.

"If you do not know how your dog will react around the deer, or you know they will chase them, then please respect the wildlife by keeping them under control on a lead, or choose an outside space other than Richmond or Bushy Parks to walk off lead."

The incident comes only two weeks after a 69-year-old man, also from Kingston, pleaded guilty after his dog chased and fatally injured a deer in Richmond Park.



Shona's Gallery

TEXT 07776202047 FOR DETAILS & TO ORDER

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Valentine's Day Cards

HAND – MADE



CAN BE CUSTOM MADE

Dear Editors,

Response to letter in Tribune re EPI

While the Eel Pie Island residents and the boatyard owners maintain a dignified silence in the face of constant abuse on social media, I should like to try and set the record straight. I am writing as a Twickenham resident, not as Secretary of the Twickenham Society, though I'd like to point out that only 9% of the Society's membership live on Eel Pie Island, not 99% as claimed in a letter in the Tribune last week!

The residents of Eel Pie Island are not asking for parking for their cars, in fact barely half of them own cars, and this residents' parking issue has apparently already been dealt with by the Council. Don't forget that people who live on the Embankment, in Bell Lane, Water Lane and Church Lane as well as in flats at the back of King Street also rely on this area for parking. It's not just for the Island. The impact on the town centre of the removal of all the pay and display parking from Wharf Lane along the Embankment and up to the White Swan remains to be seen.

However, I should like to draw your attention to statements that were included in the Council's Brief to the Architects entering the RIBA competition.

"Any proposal will need to ensure that the Island's unusual access and servicing arrangements are fully understood and appropriately accommodated". And later "Particular attention must be given to retain access and service requirements of Eel Pie Island and the thriving economy of the Island should not be disadvantaged". I'm sure it will surprise many people to know that there are 30 companies on the Island, employing nearly 300 people. The sports clubs have over 650 members. (see Council Brief).

The concerns of the boatyards are a separate matter. Let me tell you about the biggest boatyard you can see across the river from the Barmy Arms. It is one of the only four remaining boatyards now left on the Thames from Caversham all the way to Medway that is large enough to accommodate commercial craft and substantial residential boats. This is crucial to London and its river boats used by both tourists and commuters. The boatyard can hold two 120ft long craft of over 100 tonnes each and they are fully booked for at least six months in advance. To service this demand each month they need about 25 deliveries of steel, timber and other materials which arrive on articulated lorries or flatbed trucks. They don't have an adjacent slipway. There are also three more boatyards on the Island.

Apart from the boatyards, the other big riparian activities on the island are the rowing club and the yacht club. These last two need to let out their function rooms for

weddings, parties, discos etc. in order to balance their books. We're not talking about just quick Tesco delivery drop offs but some major deliveries that can take all day to accomplish. The catering, bands, flowers etc. all have to offload by the bridge along with the steel girders, building material, residents' white goods, furniture, baths, kitchens, house removals etc etc – all going over to the Island via the bridge! Two refuse lorries take four hours to clear the island every week. The bridge itself, never built to take cars, was designed by structural engineers who were tasked to accommodate the particular needs of the boatyards.

The Council has now included five "loading bays" in the current design to cover this.

The other point is the issue of "parked-up servicing" as opposed to "loading". Specialist sub-contractors (marine surveyors, electricians, plumbers) also service the boatyards; in particular each boat needs to be surveyed by a qualified marine surveyor who usually travels some distance and needs his own heavy and bulky equipment. The residents and some of the businesses, just like us landlubbers, also need plumbers, electricians, carpenters etc, who often have need to go backwards and forwards to their vans throughout the day; and let's not forget people like district nurses and doctors. Suggesting they use the Waitrose car park is just not practical. While not being allowed parking permits, the residents of the 49 flats will still need deliveries and servicing in the same way as the residents of the Island and the Embankment roads, as will the pub/restaurants/retail/business units in the proposed new development. The Council has not yet resolved the problem of where they will park up.

And my final point. The Council has, right from the very beginning, recognised the importance of keeping a connecting road open between Water Lane and Wharf Lane. This is mentioned in three separate places in the Architects' Brief (see below). The time for protesting against it was 18 months ago when the Brief first appeared.

"Vehicular access from Water Lane to Wharf Lane (in that direction) is essential". "There must be a road link that runs between Water Lane and Wharf Lane" and "Traffic flows in the area are sufficient to require a through route somewhere between Water and Wharf Lane". As a route through the Service Road has proved too difficult to implement, this obviously has to be The Embankment and not King Street as some are suggesting. The Council is proposing to put loading bays on King Street to service both the shops there and maybe those down Water Lane. A new supermarket currently seeking planning permission in King Street say that they would use the largest articulated lorries for deliveries. These loading bays and the possibility of lorries slowing up to turn left into the narrow two way Wharf Lane will bring their own traffic problems to the centre of Twickenham.

Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Sir,

Twickenham Riverside

I am very concerned by the changes taking place regarding to our TRAFFIC FREE Riverside redevelopment.

Lbrut seem determined to reintroduce a road supposedly needed & suitable for artic lorries along the Riverside, despite years of promises to make it car/truck free.

In the updated Hopkins proposal Water Lane will be widened & Wharf Lane, both now 2 ways, will be linked via a “new” road along the Riverside; the service road access from Water Lane to Wharf Lane has now been discarded.

This is supposedly to allow a very few artic lorries to deliver to EPI.

No feasibility study/survey has been produced to back this up.

The bottom of Water Lane is perfectly adequate for such lorries to turn around (see how they do it at our local Waitrose) and exit via Water Lane without having to build a specific new (wide) road. Also traffic disruption from large vehicles exiting the narrow Wharf Lane end into King Street at the junction/traffic lights with Cross Deep & Heath Road is far greater than exiting from the wider Water Lane end. The new corner at the bottom of Wharf Lane would also need to be enlarged to accommodate turning from the Riverside blind corner!

Exit via Water Lane would therefore be easier, quicker, safer and will not disrupt pedestrian & cyclists’ movements on the Riverside.

I fail to understand why such a prime public space should be permanently compromised for the use of a few trucks.

Furthermore I fear that any re-elected or subsequent administration could be open to allow more traffic to eventually re-open again the road to motor vehicles, especially as the bollards considered to regulate the traffic will be monitored by EPI users, local businesses & Riverside Trust and could easily be opened to abuse.

Why no consultation either & published report backing up this new found “need”?

I can only conclude that there is a hidden agenda from the very administration that claims to be transparent!

So no road, no traffic, no temptation....

Name and Address supplied (Twickenham)

Dear Sir,

No Traffic along Twickenham Riverside

All servicing requirements to Eel Pie Island (including the boatyards) and to the King Street commercial premises can be provided without vehicle access along the Embankment. Allowing such access (other than for emergency vehicles) would override a cardinal principle in the brief and competition.

Core to this requirement is that Water Lane and Wharf Lane be fully two-way. This has been accepted in the latest design proposals. It is also easily possible to turn a 16.5 metre articulated truck at the lower end of Water Lane, as hammer head tracking diagrams done by the Hopkins Architects traffic consultants, WSP, have proved.

The difficulty and danger lie in large vehicles, such as 16.5 metre articulated trucks, turning out of Wharf Lane and Water Lane into King Street:

- The close proximity of the existing buildings and width of pavement at the junction of Wharf Lane and King Street restricts the turning of vehicles in excess of 12 metres in length. Vehicles of this size have to do a two or three-point turn blocking both lanes of traffic (*refer to the photograph*);
- The distance between the Wharf Lane and Cross Deep junctions is insufficient to allow a large vehicle, such as a 16.5 metre articulated truck, to ‘straighten up’ in their lane before crossing the junction. This is dangerous, particularly when the traffic lights are against them.



The solution lies in the Council restricting Wharf Lane to smaller vehicles. 10 metre fixed body trucks could easily enter and exit Wharf Lane without blocking traffic. Wharf Lane would thus primarily become a service road capable of providing all servicing needs to the King Street commercial properties (including Iceland) using smaller trucks.

A further provision that the Council should impose is that all servicing to these properties (and indeed to the Church Street premises) be carried out in an early morning time slot, managed by raising bollards. These areas would thus remain vehicle free for most of the day and night.

Water Lane does not have the physical restrictions at the junction with King Street that Wharf Lane has. With the demolition of the Santander building and creation of a new public space at this junction, it is possible to allow for safe turning requirements into and out of Water Lane for all vehicles.



HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS

STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

The new Covid-19 variant is spreading fast. Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on, putting people at risk and a renewed pressure on our NHS.

Everyone must stay home. If it's essential to go out, remember wash your hands, cover your face and make space.

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Dear Editor,

Help Keep Park Lane Stables in Teddington

In your first edition of 2021, you highlighted the campaign to keep Park Lane Stables RDA (Riding for the Disabled) in Teddington. Their landlord will not be renewing their lease which ends on 31st May 2021 as he wants to sell the property. They need to raise £1M through crowdfunding by 25th February so they can buy Park Lane Stables on behalf of the community and continue their valued work with children and adults with and without disabilities.

Your item encouraged me to visit their crowdfunding site and to donate. Since then, I have revisited the site several times to see their progress and it is impressive, but there is still a long way to go in just 4 weeks. At the time of writing on 20th January, over 2500 people have donated a total of £147,000 plus almost £30,000 in gift aid. Those who donate can also leave a comment and almost 1200 people have done so. They are an eloquent testimony to how much the stables are valued by so many people for such different reasons.

I encourage readers to visit the crowdfunding site [Save Our Stables! - a Community crowdfunding project in Teddington by Natalie O'Rourke \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](#) to read some of these heart-warming comments and consider donating.

Christine Craik, Teddington

Dear Sir,

Saving the stables

I am not sure whether you have seen the news regarding the closing of Park Lane Stables in Teddington.

They organise many horse lessons for all but a large part of their work is with disabled and disadvantaged children. For more information see the attachment at the bottom. They are under threat of closure and need to raise enough money to buy their site. The following link will take you some information and their crowdfunding site for donations if you feel you would like to support them.

It would be sad to lose such an asset to the community.

Hampton Hill Association

View more information (PDF) [HERE](#)

Visit Crowdfunder site [HERE](#)

Dear Sir,

In Reply to the Digital Divide

Did anyone notice that the Council spokesperson’s reply in the article on page 11 of Edition 215 "Is the Digital Divide Impacting on Residents in LBRUT Who Do Not Have Access to the Internet" did not ring true.

How can residents who do not have access to the internet send requests for consultation information by email? How would they see the telephone number on the Council website?

Recently one of our most famous residents said: "I’m so old that I can’t get used to all these new media"

The advocacy of those without the internet or facility with using it is very important and should be addressed by the Council.

Name and Address Supplied, Hampton

Ed’s note: This is an addendum to Mr Holder’s letter last week.

Dear Sir,

New fence creates considerable loss of public space

Local residents want this section of fence to be removed to allow families to access this lovely corner of the sports field once again. This open area near Coleshill gate has been in public use for more than half a century, and its enclosure completely spoils the appearance of this important part of Bushy Park

The horse picture shows the fence-free field adjacent to the area published last week which showed deer grazing.

Kind Regards,

Brian Holder, Teddington



Dear Sir,

A faultless experience

Following the letter last week from Cllr. Samuel about his experience of the Covid vaccination Doug Goodman adds his own comments.



It was an extremely well organised and a smooth operation. A phone call gave a week's notice of the time set for the vaccination, parking spaces were available if required in Oak Lane and three officials were in the road with a welcome smile. With no queue entry was instant to be signed in by staff at the desk in St John's Medical Centre. The jab was given immediately in one of the many bays followed by 15 minutes rest. Volunteers toured the room checking on everyone and answered any questions.

My thanks to the staff at the medical centre and to the NHS.

Doug Goodman, Twickenham

Air ambulance lands on Twickenham Green

On Thursday 21st January, residents were concerned when a London Air Ambulance helicopter landed on Twickenham Green.

Residents also reported numerous emergency response vehicles on Hampton Road, near Third Cross Road.

Richmond police later reported that *"We were called by LAS at 12:41 yesterday to a woman who had become unwell at an address on Hampton Road. Officers attended and found a 29-year-old woman unresponsive. Despite the best efforts of paramedics, she died a shortly after."*

Police are treating the death as unexplained and do not believe it to be suspicious.

Twickenham Green has previously been used as a landing site by the London Air Ambulance helicopter. You can see a previous LAS helicopter on the Green [HERE](#).



Photos by Nick Roberts



Farewell Pat, an inspiration to us all

By Bruce & Shona Lyons



Sadly Pat Schooling, Founder and Chair of Richmond in Bloom left us this week.

We, in Church Street, met Pat a long time back mid 90's – we had already been spending time making our little street more welcoming with help from other traders (especially Peter Pearce from Wild Goose) who with Bruce used a watering cart to reach high half mangers and window boxes and by the time we met Pat and the Richmond Borough in Bloom. We had street planters and many shops had frontage displays and around this time Sandra and Gillian from Stone Rowe Brewer were

taking on the Car Park in Flood Lane as well as SRB's Courtyard.

Most shops entered the annual Borough in Bloom competition and we joined the RBIB committee as well. Our little street also won Gold in one of the Floral Business Parade competitions that Pat organised with Lord True, the winners being escorted by Lord True himself around the House of Lords.



Through Pat's introduction Church Street entered all the London in Bloom competitions.

Pat was always behind the scenes encouraging us to do more and though she has left us now, her legacy will remain! And we will not drop our standards, lest she sees us slipping – she wouldn't like that!



Pat was behind many of the initiatives in the Borough on the Bloom front and we thank her from the bottom of our hearts for the encouragement, advice and help over all those years, Pat was a real star. God Bless you Pat, The Borough (and especially Church Street) will be thinking of you, you really made a difference



Twickenham Riverside: Council's latest 'consultation' until 3rd February

Richmond council's latest consultation continues until Wednesday 3rd February. Until that date you can view the latest design proposal from Hopkins Architects and provide your feedback in an online questionnaire.

View design boards of the latest Hopkins proposal at:

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

Complete the questionnaire at:

<https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/richmondce/riverside-21/>

Public presentation

There is a second, and final, public Zoom meeting on **Saturday 23rd January at 11.00am to 12.30pm**, which will feature a presentation by Hopkins Architects and the council, and which will give you the opportunity to ask questions. Registration for the event closes one hour before the session.

You can register for the Zoom meeting at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-twickenham-riverside-event-2-tickets-131442105877>

We are disappointed that the design offers nothing to create a magnet to attract residents and visitors to the riverside, such as a Lido or other attraction. There are no boathouses and there is no proper town square, other than a designated event space on the Embankment, which is in the flood zone and shares the Embankment with a road access for large lorries connecting Water Lane and Wharf Lane. Whatever happened to the promise of a vehicle free riverside?



The Diamond Jubilee Gardens has lost its identity and has become a loosely linked collection of terraced landscaping. It is understood that the Twickenham Riverside Trust are unhappy with the council's proposal, which could prompt the council to follow through with its threat to take back the Trust's lease via a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Stakeholder Representative Group (appointed by the council) has repeatedly raised concerns about the council's proposed design, but these have been ignored.

Please ensure that your voice is heard and complete the questionnaire.

The latest Twickenham Alive concept for Twickenham Riverside can be seen at the below link. A lido is one of the facilities wanted by thousands of local people who have signed the petition and left comments.

<https://twickenhamlido.com/index.html>

White House future secured for local community

The future of the White House in Hampton is secured, now that a potential new partner has been identified to operate the community centre, members of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee heard last night (Monday 18 January 2021).

Last year, Richmond Council stepped in to support the partial reopening of the White House in Hampton following the announcement that Hampton on Thames Community Association (HoTCA) needed emergency support as a result of the pandemic.

The Council worked with HoTCA to understand their situation and also provided emergency monthly funding to enable the centre to remain partially open. However, following the initial lockdown, HoTCA surrendered their lease to the Council in order to secure the long-term future.

Since then, the Council has worked with The Hampton Fund and other stakeholders, to identify a new partner to help run the centre. To ensure that several vital community services can continue to run from the White House, the YMCA St Paul's Group, who previously held the contract with HoTCA until November 2019, have agreed to provide short-term staffing and centre management until the summer and then, subject to contract a wider 25-year lease, from September.

As part of any new contract, the YMCA St Paul's Group would like to work with other local organisations and community centres in the area, to provide an exciting, wider complement of services and activities, that will keep the White House at the heart of the community once more.



Cllr Michael Wilson, Lead Member for Equality, Communities and the Voluntary Sector for Richmond Council, said:

"I would like to thank the Hampton upon Thames Community Association for all they have done to keep the White House open during the pandemic to date. They are also working with us to enable the smooth transition to a new partner running the centre. The Council has provided additional funding to ensure that the pre-school, foodbank, and other local organisations could continue to operate from the building during the pandemic.

"But longer term that is not enough. We want to build upon the community offer from the White House to keep it thriving. A facility that provides 21st century services – working in close partnership with local people to develop the activities they would like see held there and engaging with valued organisations in the area to make that happen.

"Therefore, we are pleased that the YMCA St Paul's Group have agreed to return and not only help in the short term, but then, when COVID-19 restrictions disappear we expect on a longer-term basis.

"We know how much the White House is valued by the communities it serves in the local and surrounding areas and by the Council. We want to ensure that the Centre continues to play such an important role."

Richard James, CEO of YMCA St Paul's Group, added:

"The YMCA has worked with young people and communities around Hampton for many years. Over the next few months and beyond we look forward to working with the Council, Hampton Fund, Richmond Foodbank and other key community partners to address how we can create a thriving centre at the heart of the community that helps bring people together as we eventually come out of this pandemic."

VEGANUARY: EMBRACING ‘PLANT POWER’

I’m trying to be healthier this month, especially after the excess over the festive season. While I didn’t want to try to embrace Veganuary fully, I’m eating less meat and dairy, and I’ve checked out various products for you. It’s interesting to note that lots of products we tend to use anyway – and some of my favourite recipes – are often already vegan, but I wasn’t really aware of it! Take ready-made pastry for example (apart from those with butter of course), and loads of different breads, cereals, chocolate, biscuits - even wines! If you start checking labels carefully, you’ll be surprised at how much already qualifies as vegan. While the retail community (especially the larger supermarkets) has gone ‘whole hog’ (if you’ll pardon the expression!) for plant based foods and Veganuary this year, it is rather sad that our meat and dairy farmers are feeling the pinch as a result.

According to research just released by Merchant Gourmet, plant based meals cost some 40 per cent less than meals containing meat and dairy. But if that’s the case, I don’t really understand why vegan products are so often premium priced! Merchant Gourmet also states **that eating plant-based meals saves 78% carbon emissions** on average in comparison to their meat alternatives.

Here are some of the products I recommend if you want to eat more plant-based foods:

If you’re a fan of granola for breakfast, check out a range called **Rollagranola**. With the exception of one variety – Pecan Maple – which has butter, they are all vegan and seriously delicious. They’re also great to munch on as a snack. Flavours include Absolutely Chocolate, Keto Caveman and the new Organic & Nutty. Available online from rollagranola.com or selected independent retailers and health food shops at around £4.99



Now, I’ve always been a fan of fermented foods, and make my own sauerkraut regularly. But to be honest, now I’ve discovered **The Cultured Collective Kimchi** I’m not sure I can be bothered! This is so tasty and there are four varieties – my favourite’s the turmeric and ginger. It’s delicious in a wrap with some falafels, and a drizzle of tahini. Unpasteurised and with no artificial preservatives, each jar is loaded with healthy, live, good bacteria - or probiotics. Available from Ocado and Wholefoods, at around £5.45 a jar.

Many vegetable curries are already vegan, but if you are looking for one with the mouth feel and taste of a chicken curry, try **Shicken** – a new range of frozen, vegan, ready meals developed by chefs, using their unique vegan ‘chicken’ pieces (marinated and char grilled) in authentic, traditional, Indian curry recipes. Available for home delivery across the UK, there is a great range of delicious curries (all packed in plastic-free packaging, much of it compostable) £6.99 for a meal for two. From plantalternative.com



If you prefer to cook your own vegan curries, or perhaps are looking for a gift for a vegan friend, check out **Spice Pots**, which produces a lovely vegan spice gift set containing four different spice blends and a recipe booklet. £14.99 from spicepots.com and the website has a host of other lovely products.



When it comes to plant based desserts, with the exception of sorbets or fruit, it can be a more difficult vegan choice. **Fancy Plants** has launched seriously good vegan desserts with an excellent, rich, mouth feel I've rarely found in other plant based desserts. There's **Silky Pot™**, (£2 for 2 x 80g pots) indulgent puddings available in Chocolate or Chocolate Salted Caramel flavour. And there's **Chia Parfait**, (£1.80 each)



cultured coconut milk and fruity chia compote, in Red Berry or Mango & Passion Fruit. Available at selected Tesco stores.



What about cheese? Well, you can enjoy an interesting and tasty alternative courtesy of **Fermé**. With just fermented cashews, water and a pinch of salt, you can enjoy a slice of a semi-aged cheese alternative with a black pepper topping. There are six varieties in the range – available from WholeFoods at around £7

And of course cheese needs biscuits – for my money it has to be an oatcake. **Nairns** has a great range of oatcakes and sweet biscuits, many of them vegan, so again check the label. Nairns new Peri Peri oatcakes are vegan and scrumptious – either with real cheese, vegan cheese or a whole range of different toppings. Around £1 a pack from most supermarkets.



Rubies in the Rubble hates good food being wasted, so works with hummus manufacturers collecting the usually discarded aquafaba - protein-rich water left from cooking chickpeas. Its smooth, creamy mayonnaise, with this as a substitute for eggs, is great for vegans. The company makes a range of products including three types of mayo – the new garlic one is delicious – plus ketchups and relishes. From £2.99 rubiesintherubble.com and Amazon.

And last, but by no means least on the food side of my vegan choice, is **Nudie Snacks**. These are a truly scrumptious range of vegan snacks. Made from a range of pulses and vegetables (the wonky ones, usually discarded by supermarkets), this great brand produces healthy snacks, suitable for vegans, vegetarians, gluten or dairy free diets but to be honest anyone, as they are fabulous and very tasty. The new cauliflower crisps are delicious and only 115 calories per pack. Check out the full range at nudiesnacks.co.uk and some are stocked by Asda, Holland & Barrett and, of course, Amazon.



So, that's my vegan food selection, but what about wines? Yep, believe it or not, many wines are not suitable for vegans due to the production method, but luckily there are lots that are. So if you want a vegan wine, do check the labels carefully. Most supermarkets have a few vegan wines, but I recently tried a couple of excellent vegan wines from **The Wine Society**, which has some 200 vegan options on its list! The Society's Barbera d'Asti Superiore 2018 was a stonkingly good red, and at £7.95 a bottle, is a snip. So, if you're not already a member, you can join for just a £40 one off fee (and get £20 off your first order).

St Mary's University News

St Mary's Theologians Publish New Books on Catholic Social Teaching

Academics from the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts at St Mary's University, Twickenham have published two new books in recent months exploring Catholic social teaching.

Dr Theo Hawksley, who teaches on the [Catholic Social Teaching masters](#) at St Mary's, published her book [Peacebuilding and Catholic Social Teaching](#) last autumn with the University of Notre Dame Press. The book aims to make the tradition of Catholic social teaching better known and understood, and to encourage its continued development in light of the lived experience of Catholics engaged in peacebuilding and conflict transformation worldwide.



The first part of the book analyses the development of Catholic social teaching on peace from the time of the early Church fathers to the present, drawing attention to points of tension and areas in need of development. The second part engages in constructive theological work, exploring how the existing tradition might develop in order to support the efforts of Catholic peacebuilders and respond to the distinctive challenges of contemporary conflict.

Fellow St Mary's Catholic social teaching academic Edward Hadas's new book [Counsels of Imperfection: Thinking through Catholic Social Teaching](#) was also published in December. The book argues that for more than a century, the teaching authority of the Catholic Church has attempted to walk along with the modern world, criticizing what is bad and praising what is good, and describes the current state of that fairly bumpy journey.

Through its eleven chapters, the book explores a broad range of topics including politics, economics, and sociological debates, through to Pope Francis's teachings. For each topic, the book provides biblical, historical and a broad philosophical background drawing on Thomas Aquinas and G. W. F Hegel often. The book aims to explain what the Church really says, but also how it got to its current position and who it is arguing with, pointing out both strong-points and imperfections in the teaching.

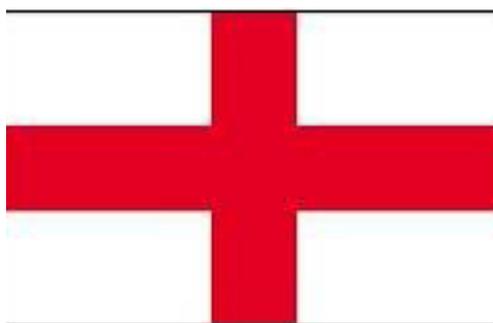
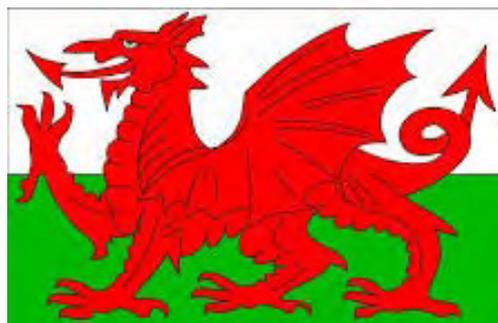
Speaking of the books, Programme Director for Catholic Social Teaching MA Revd Dr Ashley Beck said, "These two new volumes are important additions to the discourse around Catholic social teaching. They serve as detailed introductions and explorations of debates surrounding Catholic social teaching, which will be of interest to people exploring the subject for the first time as well as academics in the field. We are proud that both authors teach at St Mary's and students on our Catholic Social Teaching MA are lucky to be taught by scholars of such calibre."



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

A HOLIDAY LIKE NO OTHER

By Bruce Lyons



Ok now you'll have no excuse
 – By Easter you will know every
 nook and cranny, every castle
 – Wildlife Park, river, mountain
 and beach in these Splendid
 Isles. Our gratitude goes out
 to Michael Portillo, Rick Stein,
 Robson Green, Tony Robinson,
 Julia Bradbury and so many more, on Television.



Till now you would never have believed how many faces Britain has to show and another thing the Pandemic has brought is a more creative UK Travel Industry, Once Coach tours were just, well often dull, but now there are so many creative tours in different styles of hotels, with special interest trips. Even a selection of “backroad” tours – off the beaten track.

Yes there has been a real renaissance with so many new products coming to the market, at every level of preference. We can find houses, lodges, farms, many with different options for activities to enjoy that suit most families and most house rentals these days allow pets !!!- Take the Budgie – Chris Packham!

There are Rail tours, Self-Drive (in your own car) Pony Trekking- Learn to Dive. Here are a few that mirrored this week's TV programs. Walking and Cycling Holidays can be adapted to levels to suit most; be it extreme sports or easy-going; Luggage transportation is included on Cycling and Walking itineraries.

Cycling:	Windermere	6 days from	£435 (comfort)
	Scottish Locks and Glens	8 “ “	£650
	Sea to Sea – Lake District	3/5 “ “	£580
Walking:	Classic Cornwall	7 days “	£565
	Cotswold Way	8/12 “	£375
Self Drive:	St Mawes (Cornwall)	4/5 “	£125
Your car:	Keswick	4/5 “	£114
	Weymouth Jurassic Coast	5 “	£144

All include “Travel and destination notes. So now is the time to get out and explore our Amazing Heritage, everything booked in advance is ring-fenced from Covid and lockdowns.

So what are you waiting for?-book now with confidence! www.crusadertravel.com

WIZ Tales - Malta

Teresa Read

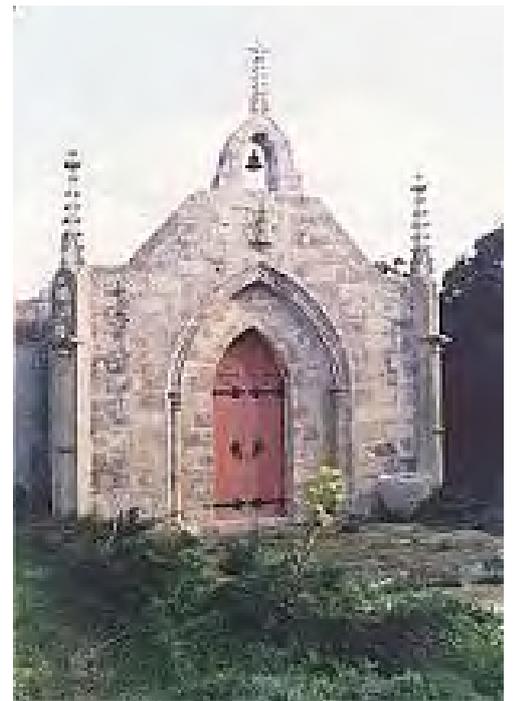
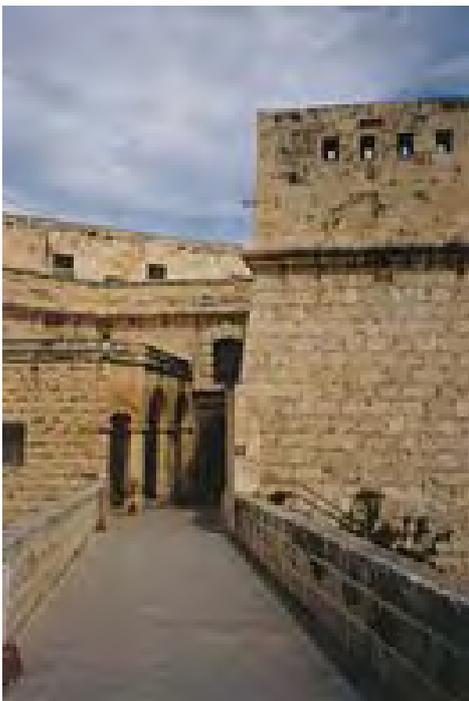
This week's photographs are of Malta.

The City of Valetta, Malta's capital, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It has over three hundred ancient monuments including the Palace of the Grand Masters, the Cathedral of St John and churches built by the Knights of Malta (the Order of St John).



Mdina and Rabat date back to the Bronze Age. Built on one of Malta's highest points, Mdina has a number of medieval buildings: palaces, houses and a Baroque cathedral.

Early monuments in Malta include the Neolithic and Bronze Age structures of Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, an enormous underground burial chamber dated around 3600 BC, and seven Megalithic Temples.



More photographs of Malta:

<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Malta>

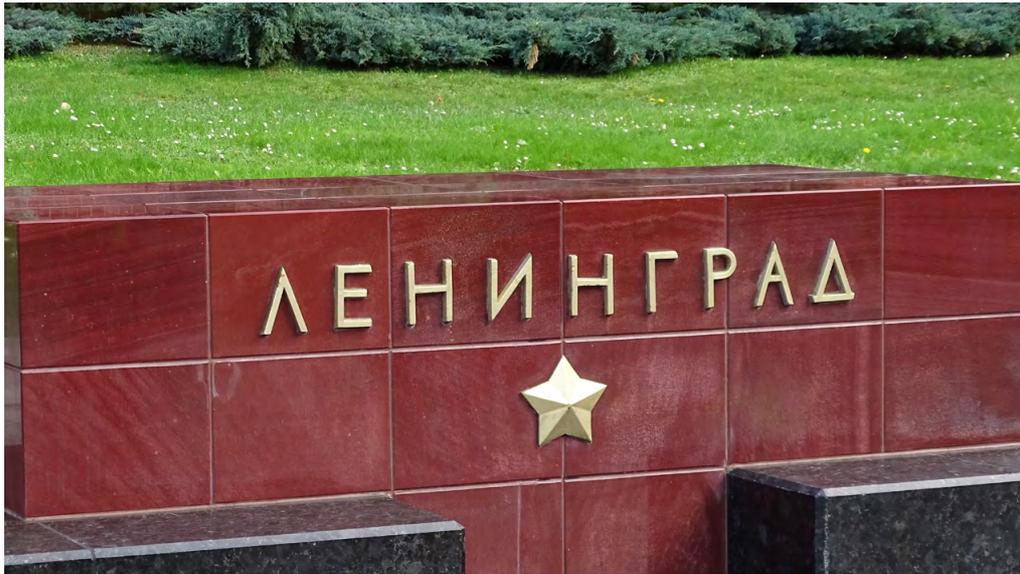
Photographs are from MaltaVista and the Malta Tourist Office (2002)



REMEMBER! THE GREATEST SIEGE OF WORLD WAR TWO

By Doug Goodman

Next week the 77th anniversary of the ending of the greatest siege during WW2 will be commemorated in Russia. On January 27 1944 the 872 day siege of Leningrad, (now St. Petersburg), by German and Finnish forces, was lifted. The attack on the city began on September 8 1941 as part of the Nazi plan to overrun and destroy the Soviet Union. Hitler ordered Leningrad to be shelled and bombed into surrender and then totally destroyed. The siege, often known as the most disastrous in history, cost the lives of over 1.5 million civilians and military personnel while 1.4 million were evacuated to safety.



Above: Hero City



Right: Soviet Military Might



Soviet Artillery



Warning Sign

My interest was drawn to the siege when I spent some time in Leningrad studying Russian language and literature in the mid 1960s. At that time the city was drab, buildings retained signs of war damage and food queues were long. During a recent visit to a bright, modern St. Petersburg I had a preview of the new Siege Museum and went to the Piskarevskoe Cemetery where vast communal graves testify to the huge death toll during the siege; amongst them is the body of President Putin's older brother. People starved to death as food was so scarce:

the official ration was 125 grams of bread per day – part sawdust. Domestic pets were eaten, grass and leather boiled for soup. Everything combustible was used for heating when public transport ceased and water, gas and electricity failed. Citizens starved or froze to death and cannibalism was noted. During the intense cold of winters, roads built across the frozen Lake Lagoda provided a lifeline. Although the city became near to collapse public morale was maintained by the Soviet authorities. The composition by Shostakovich of his symphony and its performance in the midst of air raids boosted the public's spirit.



Daily Food Ration



City Cemetery



Above: Military Awards
Right: Hero Zhukov



The Siege Museum tells the story of the attacks on the city by over half a million enemy troops, of fierce combat in the suburbs and shows military items along with a reconstructed apartment and a portion of bread. Initially Marshall Voroshilov commanded the Leningrad front but Soviet Hero Georgi Zhukov succeeded in lifting the siege. Hitler was so confident of conquering the city that you can see the invitations he had printed for celebrations at the splendid Hotel Astoria. Although few tourists to Russia's second city seem interested in the events of 'The Great Patriot War', it makes you realise what terrible hardships the country and its people suffered.

More information from www.blokadamus.ru

THE FENCER (MIEKKAILIJA)

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 FENCER** was 792nd film screened by RFS on 15th November 2016. **The Fencer** was one of the four equal top ranked films of Season 56, it got an approval mark of 95% from those attending. In future issues we will be featuring two of its equal top ranked films: **Truman** and **Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years**. Sadly, the editor of these reviews was unable to find, at present, **The Fencer** on any streaming service but the discs are available from Amazon and others.

THE FENCER

Country:	Estonia/Finnish, 2015
Director:	Klaus Härö
Screenplay:	Anna Heinämaa
Editing:	Ueli Christen, Tambet Tasuja
Cinematography:	Tuomo Hutri
Running Time:	98 min., colour
Language:	Estonian/Russian
Music:	Gert Wilden Jr

Leading Players:

Märt Avandi –	Endel
Ursula Ratasepp –	Kadri
Hendrik Toompere –	school principal
Liisa Koppel –	MartaJoonas
Koff –	Jaan
Lembit Ulfsak –	Jaan's grandfather
Egert Kadastu –	Toomas
Ann-Lisett Rebane –	Lea
Elbe Reiter –	Tiiu
Jaak Prints –	assistant to the principal
Kirill Käro –	Aleksei



The Fencer is an Estonian/Finnish/German production which was short-listed for the Academy awards for Best Foreign Film 2016.

Initially Klaus Haro was reluctant to direct the film...a language not his own, another culture

and working with all those children!... but agreed to read the script and was captivated!

A brief synopsis: In 1953 a man fleeing from the Soviet authorities who just happens to be a champion fencer (incognito) takes up the post of PT teacher in a remote rural poor village school and despite hostility from the Principal teaches the children to fence sufficiently well to lead a team to victory in a fencing competition in Leningrad. As a wanted man he goes to Russia at a considerable personal risk having been drafted into the Estonian contingent of the Nazi army.

The script is based on the life of Endels Nelis who died in 1993 but the film's plot takes liberties with his story in that there is no evidence he was wanted by the KGB even though Estonians paid dearly for being dragooned into Hitler's killing machine.

This is Klaus Haro's fifth film: his others including **Letters to Father Jacob** deal loosely with the same subject, that of transformation in unlikely circumstances as a film director he sees himself 'telling stories in pictures'.

The Fencer sits comfortably with **The Dark Horse** (New Zealand) another troubled man transforming the lives of disadvantaged children as he teaches them chess, and **Monsieur Lazar** (Canada) a teacher transcending his own loss to support his pupils dealing with loss and grieving.

'Inspirational teachers are not limited to any one time or space'.

The Fencer is in many ways an old fashioned film ; elegiac in its delivery , a predictable romance, haunting music to heighten the dramatic effect, long shots of landscape, quiet , understated , to quote **The Times** 'a pleasure to watch'.

Mart Avandi stars as Endels Nelis, in reality a leading Finnish comedian (is that a contradiction in terms?) he also organises rubber duck races for charity.

Annie Cartland

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

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.

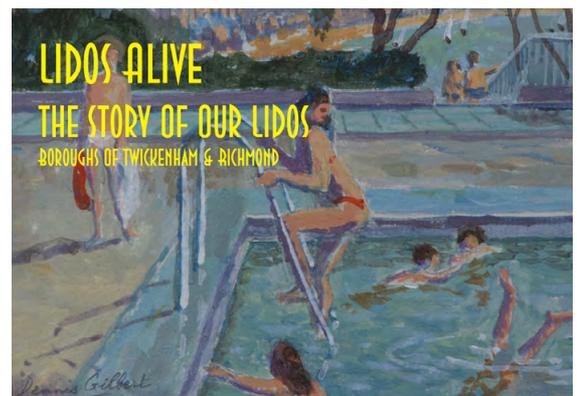
More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

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](#)

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





BRENTFORD FC



Early goal from Ghoddos gives Bees hard-fought victory Brentford 1 – 0 Luton Town

Saman Ghoddos scored for the second game in succession as Brentford continued their impressive run that has seen them avoid defeat in the league since October.

The Iranian headed in a cross from Ivan Toney inside the opening quarter of an hour which proved to be the only goal of the night.

Deep into injury time both sides were reduced to ten men when Toney and Tom Lockyer were sent off for an incident on the half-way with Brentford claiming all three points in their first Championship match in three weeks due to an enforced coronavirus-related break.

The Bees created the first chance of the game and visiting goalkeeper Simon Sluga has to be alert to keep out Sergi Canós from distance. Toney had drifted over to the left wing to pick the ball up and he fed a short inside pass to Canós. The Spaniard picked his head up and unleashed a dipping strike from the edge of the area that Sluga did well to tip over the crossbar.

Ghoddos continued his personal week of success, having made his loan move to the club permanent and opened his account for the club in the FA Cup. Toney was once again at the heart of it as this time the Brentford striker found himself of the right wing, having received a pass from Ethan Pinnock. Toney then played a nice ball down the line which Bryan Mbeumo latched onto and then backheeled it into the path of Toney. Toney crossed first time into the six yard box where Ghoddos found space between Lockyer and Sonny Bradley to head the ball into the bottom corner.

Toney then flashed a shot wide after Canós had chipped a delicate through ball over the top and at the other end David Raya had to be aware of his surroundings as a Luke Berry header from a George Moncur cross looped goalwards but ultimately Brentford headed into the break with the advantage.

Toney could have doubled the Bees' advantage after the break when he was released into space by Canós but having shifted the ball onto his left foot the striker shot strike at Sluga and the Luton goalkeeper was able to get down to block the shot.

Raya was a lot more involved in the second-half as the Hatters pressed for an equaliser. The goalkeeper held onto a header from Harry Cornick and then after an audacious backheel attempt from substitute Ryan Tunnicliffe Raya got back to claw the ball away from goal.

The home side nearly doubled their lead when Mathias Jensen dribbled into the box and appear to be taken down by Sulga after the Dane had dribbled past but the referee Stephen Martin did not point to the spot.

In the final minutes of injury time both side were reduced to ten men after Toney and Lockyer were dismissed. The incident occurred on the halfway line after Toney went to ground following a challenge with Lockyer and after the Luton defender was seen shouting in the face of Toney he was shown a straight red card and. Toney was then booked after the altercation and having been booked earlier in

the game, he too followed Lockyer down the tunnel as Brentford hung on for the victory.

Ivan Toney receives racial abuse on social media

Brentford have reported an incident of racial abuse to the police following comments made on social media regarding striker Ivan Toney.

Toney posted screenshots on his Instagram story of a user who used the N-word in response to a post by Toney.

In a statement released the club said, "Player Welfare staff made contact with Ivan Toney last night. We will work with him and give him any support he needs. Any steps that Ivan wants to take against the perpetrator will have our full support and we will work with Instagram and the police to try and identify the individual involved, taking action against them if possible."

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Leicester City (H) Saturday 24th January 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Foxes

Competition: FA Cup – Fourth Round

Manager: Brendan Rodgers

Interesting fact: The Foxes hold the record for the most FA Cup final appearances without winning the competition, having reached the final four times in their history.

Game 2

Opponent: Swansea City (A) Wednesday 27th January 19:00 Liberty Stadium

Nickname: The Swans, The Jacks

Competition: Championship - Matchday 24

Head Coach: Steve Cooper

Opponent record: P24 W13 D7 L4 GF 29 GA13 (2nd in Championship)

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

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough



Last minute Fisher winner seals the deal for the Beavers

Hampton & Richmond 2 – 1 Ebbsfleet United

A last minute winner from David Fisher ensured Hampton & Richmond Borough claimed all three points against fellow promotion chasers Ebbsfleet United.

New signing Mauro Vilhete had initially put the Beavers ahead in the second-half but Michael West equalised for the visitors with seven minutes to play. However, it was Hampton who came up trumps and Fisher turned in a cross from Jake Gray to spark late Hampton joy.

With heavy rainfall having occurred heading into the fixture there were concerns that the game

may be called off but the Hampton ground staff worked to ensure the game could take place. It was Hampton who settled the better of the two sides on their natural turf and early on Niko Muir slipped a ball through to debutant Vilhete but Ebbsfleet goalkeeper Jordan Holmes was alert to come off his line and slide in at the feet of Vilhete to claim the ball.

Muir then nearly scored himself as received a pass to his feet from Kyron Farrell and held off defender Ben Chapman, before firing a shot on the turn that Holmes got down quickly to save.

Muir was then denied by Holmes for a second time in the game from a promising position. He initiated the move himself as he flick a long ball on with his head to Vilhete. Vilhete returned the favour as he poked the ball through to Muir and the Hampton striker broke into the box but couldn't apply at the finish as his shot went straight at Holmes.

In the second-half Ebbsfleet had to scramble away a couple of Hampton attacks when Muir showed his pace and power to outmuscle Bobby-Joe Taylor and break into the box. He pulled the ball back across goal where it eventually came to Sam Deadfield who's shot was blocked and then Vilhete had a chance but was denied by a diving save from Holmes.

However, Vilhete was soon turning away to celebrate as he scored with a perfectly weighted chip for a debut goal. Wilson Carvalho played a ball through the eye of a need to release him and once found himself alone one-on-one with Holmes the Hampton forward dinked the ball over the onrushing keeper for the opener.

Ebbsfleet levelled up the scores with seven minutes to play as Rakish Bingham broke with pace down the right wing for the visitors and with Alan Julian coming out to close the space he got a shot away that looped high into the air where Mike West finished from virtually on the goal line.

Hamptons perseverance was rewarded though late on as Fisher scored his first ever goal for the club with less than a minute to play. A quick throw in from Sam Cox landed at the feet of Vilhete who played the ball out wide to Gray. Gray then delivered a magnificent cross with pace to the back post where Fisher was arriving to sweep the ball past Holmes for the latest of winners.

National League South season postponed for two weeks

Hampton & Richmond Borough will once again not be able to play football for sometime after the National League South confirmed that all fixtures for the next two weeks have been postponed.

This comes after the review of feedback from clubs at a National League board meeting and its related to the decision of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to alter the funding arrangements for clubs from January 2021.

Hampton & Richmond Borough's next fixtures against Tonbridge Angels, Slough Town, Welling United and Maidstone United have all therefore been postponed indefinitely.

Come on you Beavers!

England squad announcement: 2021 Guinness Six Nations

Eddie Jones has named his 28-man England squad for the 2021 Guinness Six Nations.

Paolo Odogwu and Harry Randall receive their first call-ups to the senior team, both having played for England at U20 level. Owen Farrell will captain England for the tournament and there is a return from injury for Courtney Lawes. Elsewhere, Elliot Daly and Anthony Watson could reach their 50-cap milestones during the championship and Beno Obano may be in line to get his first cap.

England will retain a 28-player squad throughout the tournament, following an agreement with Premiership Rugby, The RPA and The RFU in recognition of the challenges presented by COVID-19.

The squad will meet up at St. George's Park, England football's training base, on Wednesday 27 January. They will then move to their base, The Lensbury in Teddington, ahead of their first game against Scotland at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 6 February (4.45pm KO).

Jones said: *"This has been a really tough squad to pick and I know there are a lot of disappointed players who haven't been selected. We're really excited by the players we have got, it's a very vibrant squad and we are looking forward to getting started next week. We're very grateful to Premiership Rugby, the clubs and the RPA for allowing us to have 28 players throughout the tournament, we're very happy with the number and it's testament to the growing relationships between all parties. Ultimately our goal is to win the Six Nations and to do that we'll need to work hard, prepare well each day and take it as it comes."*

Jones has also named a 12-player shadow squad, who will be part of the same testing protocols as the tournament squad.

Mako Vunipola will join with the squad to undertake rehab during the tournament.

Following their opening match, the Calcutta Cup, England will then host Italy on Saturday 13 February (2.15pm KO) before playing Wales away on Saturday 27 February (4.45pm KO).

Jones' side will return to Twickenham to face France on Saturday 13 March (4.45pm KO) before travelling to Dublin for their final game, against Ireland, on Saturday 20 March (4.45pm KO).

England's home matches, along with Ireland v England, are live on ITV. Wales v England is live on the BBC.

Forwards

Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 26 caps)
Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 28 caps)
Ben Earl (Bristol Bears, 8 caps)
Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 23 caps)
Jamie George (Saracens, 54 caps)
Jonny Hill (Exeter Chiefs, 4 caps)
Maro Itoje (Saracens, 43 caps)
Joe Launchbury (Wasps, 69 caps)
Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 85 caps)
Joe Marler (Harlequins, 72 caps)
Beno Obano (Bath Rugby, uncapped)
Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 8 caps)
Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 22 caps)
Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 56 caps)
Harry Williams (Exeter Chiefs, 18 caps)
Mark Wilson (Newcastle Falcons, 19 caps)

Backs

Elliot Daly (Saracens, 47 caps)
Owen Farrell (Saracens, 88 caps)
George Ford (Leicester Tigers, 72 caps)
Ollie Lawrence (Worcester Warriors, 3 caps)
Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 3 caps)
Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 61 caps)
Paolo Odogwu (Wasps, uncapped)
Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, uncapped)
Dan Robson (Wasps, 7 caps)
Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 34 caps)
Anthony Watson (Bath Rugby, 46 caps)
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 104 caps)



RFU to mark 150th Anniversary

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is gearing up to mark the 150th year of English rugby throughout 2021.

On 26 January 1871 at the Pall Mall Restaurant on London's Regent Street, a meeting took place between representatives from 21 clubs, many of which are still in existence today. The representatives were young men, the average age being 23, many were club captains and together they created the world's first governing body for rugby football.

At the meeting 20 players were also selected to represent England in the first ever international contest on 27 March 1871 following a challenge of an international fixture issued by Scotland.

Activity to mark the anniversary includes:

- The creation of a heritage rose with artwork by renowned artist Chris Wormell taking inspiration from the very first rose featured on the caps of the 1871 team and which still features on players' caps today.
- A social media campaign on 26 January inspired by the World Rugby Museum's RFU at 150 exhibition, charting the evolution of the game in England over a century and a half. A physical version of the exhibition will be available in the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham Stadium at a later date.
- A commemorative 150th anniversary book celebrating a century and a half of England Rugby. This coffee table hardback will be available to purchase from 21 January at www.englandrugbystore.com priced £30.
- In partnership with Harkness roses, England Rugby will launch a commemorative rose on 1 February.
- A limited-edition heritage kit, created by official technical kit partner Umbro and England Rugby, that will launch tomorrow.
- Official timing partner, Bremont, are also planning something extremely limited, exciting and fitting to tie into the 150th anniversary celebrations, available 150 years on from that illustrious day when it all started.
- There will be lots of other exciting anniversary products launching throughout the year. The RFU will also look to celebrate its momentous milestone further with the community game and with supporters back at Twickenham when it is safe to do so.

RFU President, His Honour Jeff Blackett said: *"I am immensely proud to be the President of the Rugby Football Union in our 150th anniversary season. The RFU and rugby in England has such a rich history and it is thanks to the vast amount of work put in by people within the rugby community all over the country. These are extraordinary times but we are lucky to have such dedicated volunteers. I would like to pay tribute to all who give so much of their time and expend so much emotional energy so that our young men and women can continue to play the game that we all love. We look forward to marking this special anniversary this year in honour of them."*

RFU Chief Executive Bill Sweeney added: *"One hundred and fifty years of rugby union in England is a momentous landmark and is taking place during one of the most challenging times in our history. I do not think anybody could have predicted that the RFU would see out its 150th anniversary in the midst of a global pandemic. The recent challenges have shone a light on the spirit and strength of rugby union but the community game is more than a game, it's a network, it's a family, a way of life and it will continue to thrive across England for the next 150 years and beyond. I look forward to celebrating with the grassroots game and fans at a later date."*

Over the 150 years that followed the formation of the RFU rugby has seen key events occur: the purchase and development of Twickenham Stadium; the 'great schism' which ultimately led to the breakaway of some northern clubs to form rugby league; two World Wars in which thousands of community game players made the ultimate sacrifice, alongside the 41 full England internationals who were lost to the two conflicts. There was also the formation of the Women's Rugby Football Union, the elite game turning professional in 1995, England hosting the second and eighth Rugby World Cup tournaments in 1991 and 2015; England's senior men winning the Webb Ellis Cup in Australia in 2003 and the Red Roses becoming World Champions in Scotland in 1994 and France in 2014, as well as Great Britain's men winning silver in Rio as rugby sevens made its Olympic debut.



Umbro unveils anniversary kit to celebrate 150 years of English rugby

Umbro, Official Technical Kit Partner to England Rugby, has today revealed a special anniversary shirt that will be worn by the England senior men's team during their opening Guinness Six Nations match against Scotland next month (Saturday 6 February, KO 4.45pm).

The 2021 Calcutta Cup match will be played at Twickenham Stadium 150 years after the two sides met in the first ever international rugby Test match, at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh in 1871.

England will commemorate this historic milestone by wearing a one-off jersey created by Umbro which is inspired by the one worn a century and a half ago.

The traditional and clean design features England's heritage rose, and a gold embroidered 1871-2021 sign off. Paying homage to the original kit from 1871, the shirt was created in consultation with England Rugby's Principal partner O2, whose mark moves to the sleeve to support the heritage aesthetic.



With its pioneering approach to developing kit and a rigorous testing programme, Umbro has ensured that the traditional shirt is fit for purpose. Constructed with high stretch elastane, and finished with plastisol grip zones, to provide optimum grip, the heritage shirt is ready to meet the demands of the modern game.

A limited-edition range of heritage shirts has been produced for fans to purchase and are available now through www.englishrugbystore.com

Anthony Little, Managing Director, Umbro commented: *"We are hugely excited to unveil England's anniversary kit for the 2021 Calcutta Cup match. For the last 150 years, players and fans have worn the English rose with immense pride. We are extremely proud to have played a part in English rugby's history and we look forward to building on our past experience in creating elite performance products to shape our future in rugby."*

Bill Sweeney, CEO, England Rugby said: *"We are extremely proud to be celebrating 150 years of rugby union in England and the iconic red rose. Umbro has created a terrific anniversary kit and I look forward to seeing Eddie Jones' side wearing this when they take to the pitch against Scotland in February. We'd also like to extend our thanks to O2 for agreeing to give up their front of shirt position on this special one-off heritage jersey."*

Gareth Griffiths, Head of Sponsorship, O2, said; *"We're delighted to support the RFU and Umbro with this one-off jersey inspired by the kit worn 150 years ago. The heritage of rugby is showcased in this special design and we look forward to seeing the players and fans continue to Wear the Rose when England take on Scotland next month."*

Following the match with Scotland, England will return to their regular Umbro home kit for the remainder of the 2021 Guinness Six Nations Championship.



Robinson to join England coaching team

Ed Robinson will join the England coaching team for their upcoming Guinness Six Nations campaign.

Robinson, who is assistant coach at Greene King IPA Championship side Jersey Reds, will be part of Eddie Jones' staff for the tournament. He will support on skills coaching following Jason Ryles' decision to stay in Australia for the spring due to the challenges caused by COVID-19.

England meet up next week at St. George's Park as they begin their preparations for the championship.

They will then move to their base, The Lensbury in Teddington, ahead of their first game against Scotland at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 6 February (4.45pm KO).

Jones will name his 28-player tournament squad on Friday [22 January].

Jones said: *"We're looking forward to welcoming Ed to our coaching staff for the tournament and we'd like to thank Jersey Reds for their cooperation and support in making it happen."*

"He's a talented young coach and will work to help the players improve."

"We understand and support Jason's decision and are expecting that he will be back with us this summer."

Harvey Biljon, director of rugby at Jersey Reds, said: *"First and foremost we are really excited for Ed. It's a fantastic experience for a young coach and he deserves this opportunity."*

"At Jersey we're very proud of our record of producing players that have gone on to play at the highest levels and it is very encouraging that one of our coaches is getting a chance to work at that level too."

England coaching update



England coach Matt Proudfoot has tested positive for COVID-19 and is self-isolating. The test was carried out as part of England's tournament testing regime for the upcoming Guinness Six Nations. He is not displaying any symptoms.

Head coach Eddie Jones and Simon Amor have been identified as contacts and will also isolate for a 10-day period, in accordance with government guidelines.

England players will meet at St. George's Park on Wednesday 27 January. Following further negative tests, Jones and Amor will join up with the group on Thursday 28 January, in line with government regulation.

The BBC's strategic financial management

The BBC has made substantial savings in recent years, but it is yet to tackle the most difficult aspects of its savings programme and faces significant challenges to its main source of income, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

There is some uncertainty over the BBC's financial future. It generates some income from commercial activities, such as creating and selling television programmes, but remains heavily reliant on the licence fee.

In 2019-20, the BBC received £3.52 billion from the licence fee, a fall of 8% since 2017-18 due to the gradual withdrawal of government funding for free licences for over-75s. In August 2020, the BBC began charging some over-75s for their licences. The BBC estimates that, in the medium term, this policy could provide it with more than £500 million annually, less than the £745 million it would have received if government had continued to fund free licences for all over-75s.



In November 2020, the BBC began negotiations with government about the future funding it will receive from the licence fee and will be subject to a mid-term review of its Charter between 2022 and 2024. Government is also consulting on decriminalising licence fee evasion, which the BBC estimates could reduce its income by over £1 billion by 2027.

A falling audience share poses a risk to the BBC's licence fee income. Viewing habits have shifted dramatically in recent years, particularly among younger audiences. Although broadcast television remains the most common form of on-screen viewing, there has been a marked move away from watching television to streaming and online viewing on demand. Between 2017-18 and 2019-20 almost 450,000 fewer non-over-75 households bought TV licences due to these changes in viewing habits as well as increasing numbers of households qualifying for a free over-75 licence.

The BBC's financial flexibility is constrained by a range of factors. It is regulated more closely than other public service broadcasters which means there is a broad range of programming that the BBC must make that its competitors do not. Some funding is ring-fenced, such as for S4C, the Welsh language channel. The spending power of competitors has also increased the costs of producing some genres of programmes, such as high-end drama.

For three of the past five years, the BBC's costs have outstripped its income, with it making a loss of £119 million in 2019-20. The BBC budgeted for these losses and made use of its cash reserves, which fell by 23% between 2017-18 and 2019-20, to £401 million. Pre-COVID-19, it had budgeted for these reserves to fall further to £93 million by the end of 2020-21, and in April 2020 announced that it would need to make savings of up to £125 million due to the

impact of the pandemic. The BBC has experienced some uncertainty over its income as a result of COVID-19, but it has performed better financially than it expected to at the start of the pandemic. Despite this, the BBC still plans to deliver savings of £125 million as there remains a risk the pandemic could adversely affect its finances.

In 2016-17, the BBC introduced a programme to deliver £800 million savings a year by 2021-22 to meet an expected shortfall in its finances. By 2019-20, it had delivered annual savings of £618 million, meaning it was broadly on track to meet its schedule. In 2020 it increased its annual savings target to £1 billion by 2021-22 due to the impact of COVID-19 and the decision to continue to offer free licences to some over-75s. It has delayed making major redundancies, which are the most challenging aspect of its saving programme. It also believes the areas in which it could make further savings without significant audience impact are limited.

The BBC has not always accurately estimated its project costs. For example, in 2018, the NAO reported that the BBC's construction project to renew the EastEnders set was due to be delivered 31 months late and more than £25 million over budget. In 2020, the BBC has sought to strengthen the governance of its critical projects to ensure that lessons are learned going forward. However, it is too early to assess how effective this has been.

In September 2020, a new Director-General took charge of the BBC. He has been clear that the BBC's four main priorities are: a renewed commitment to impartiality; a focus on unique, high-impact content; extracting more from online; and increasing commercial income. The BBC is yet to set out how its new strategic priorities will be funded but intends to do so by February 2021. It has also not analysed the impact of potential changes to the licence fee, such as an end to increases in line with inflation or the introduction of alternative funding models. According to the BBC, it had been too early to undertake such analysis.

The BBC considers that it delivers significant wider value to British and global society, but it has not conducted an economic analysis of this in almost 10 years. In November 2020, the BBC commissioned an assessment of the BBC's wider economic value to the UK in preparation for its negotiations with the government over the new licence fee settlement.

The NAO recommends that the BBC produces a long-term financial plan as soon as possible that sets out the next stage of its savings programme, and how it will fund its new strategic priorities. It should establish how it will monitor its wider economic value on a more regular basis and assess, a year from now, the effectiveness of its efforts to learn from its experiences of managing projects and reducing their costs.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

"The BBC faces significant financial challenges as it embarks upon licence fee negotiations and its mid-term charter review. It has made significant cost savings and has identified the need for more with licence fee income under pressure.

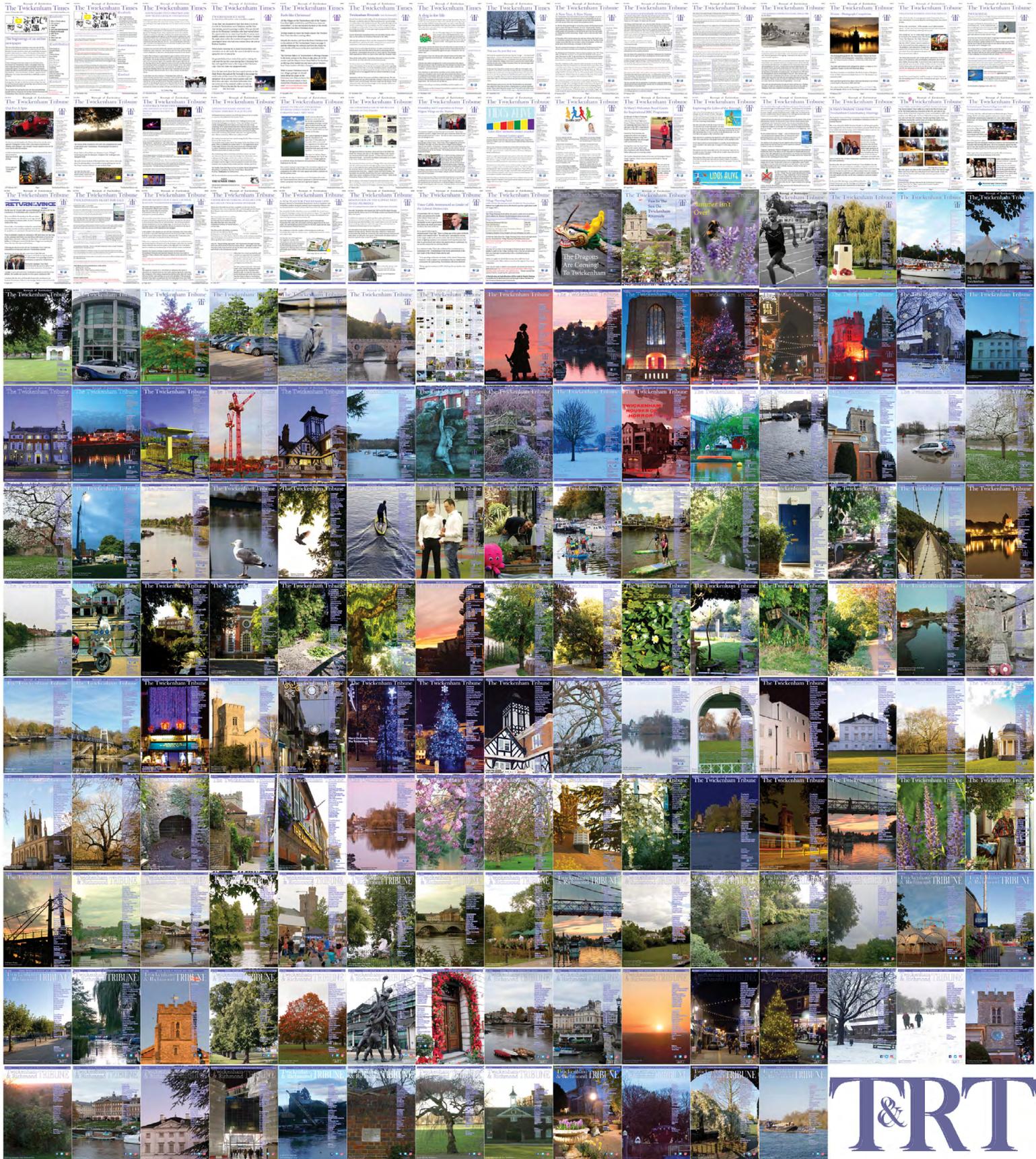
"As decisions about the licence fee are made, the BBC needs to develop a clear financial plan for the future setting out where it will invest and how it will continue to make savings. Without such a plan, it will be difficult for the BBC to effectively implement its new strategic priorities."

View the full report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

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