

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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- Berkley Driscoll
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7th May 2021



TickerTape - News in Brief

Bus Strike Suspended

The proposed industrial action, which was due to disrupt a number of bus routes in west and south west London, and parts of Surrey on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 May, has been suspended. Bus routes in these areas will now run as normal.

District Line Suspension

No service between Earl's Court and Richmond/Ealing Broadway on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May. Rail replacement buses will run.

London Overground Suspension

No service between South Acton and Richmond on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May. Rail replacement buses will run.

Kingston bus station closure

Cromwell Road bus station in Kingston will be closed from Monday 17 to Sunday 23 May due to utility works being undertaken by Thames Water.

Hospitality businesses – find out more about next COVID reopening milestone

As we look forward to Monday 17 May, and hopefully the reopening of indoor hospitality, Richmond Council is hosting an event for local hospitality businesses to find out more about what that means for you and your business.

Join Richmond Council's Hospitality Businesses COVID reopening webinar and hear presentations from Council officers in the Food and Safety Team and Trading Standards. They will be giving the latest guidance from the Government regarding businesses in the hospitality industry, with information on how you can reopen safely. There will also be an opportunity for you to have your say and ask any questions you might have. Register [HERE](#) If you are unable to attend the event, a recording will be placed on our [COVID-19 business webinars page](#) in the days following.

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



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TwickerSeal

On Thursday TwickerSeal swam up to Radnor Gardens to meet up with his great chum TwickerDuck.

He found TwickerDuck chatting with some of her friends who live nearby. TwickerSeal said that he had just been to vote and that while there were long queues, the volunteers were doing a sterling job and it was a painless exercise.

At the mention of voting TwickerDuck's friends had to dash off as they had completely forgotten about the elections, but they were very grateful to be reminded!

Now to wait for the results!



Bloomin' Wisteria

Whilst Japanese twine clockwise and Chinese, anti-clockwise, Wisteria can climb as high as 20 m and spread out laterally up to 10m, often finding a home against a southerly facing wall. Producing seeds in large pods similar to the Laburnum, like that genus, they are in fact poisonous. A popular symbol in Japanese culture, crests and heraldry, here they are admired for their pendulous flowers creating a waterfall of pink, purple and violet and brighten many a home facade.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization Overview

5th May 2021: For the second successive week, the number of COVID-19 cases globally remains at the highest levels since the beginning of the pandemic with over 5.7 million new weekly cases, following nine consecutive weeks of increases. New deaths continue to increase for the seventh consecutive week, with over 93 000 deaths. The South-East Asia Region continues to report marked increases in both case and death incidences.

3rd May 2021: More cases of COVID-19 have been reported globally in the past two weeks than during the first six months of the pandemic. India and Brazil account for more than half of last week's cases.

5th May 2021 WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the commitment by the United States administration to support the temporary waiver of intellectual property on COVID-19 vaccines in a bold move to end the pandemic as quickly as possible.

"I commend the United States on its historic decision for vaccine equity and prioritizing the well-being of all people everywhere at a critical time. Now let's all move together swiftly, in solidarity, building on the ingenuity and commitment of scientists who produced life-saving COVID-19 vaccines.

The United States would, the statement continued, participate in World Trade Organization negotiations to support the temporary waiving of protections, and work with the private sector and other partners to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution.

Total cases to 7 May 2021

10,909 Richmond upon Thames

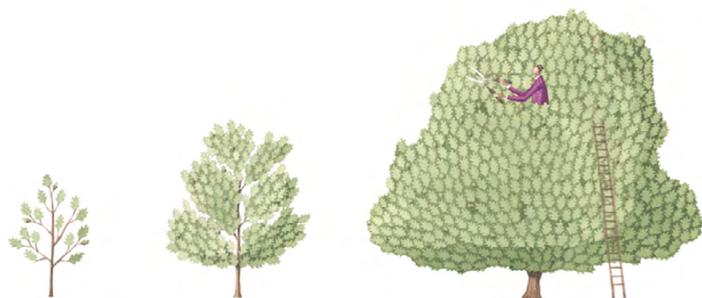
12,297 Kingston upon Thames

25,008 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,236,104

USA	572,987	Indonesia	46,349
Brazil	411,588	Ukraine	45,451
India	230,168	Turkey	41,883
Mexico	217,740	Czechia	29,521
The United Kingdom	127,570	Romania	28,616
Italy	122,005	Hungary	28,297
Russian Federation	112,246	Chile	26,726
France	104,914	Belgium	24,406
Germany	84,126	Canada	24,396
Spain	78,566	Ecuador	18,907
Colombia	75,627	Pakistan	18,429
Iran	73,568	Philippines	17,800
Poland	68,993	Netherlands	17,245
Argentina	65,202	Portugal	16,983
Peru	62,674	Bulgaria	16,773
South Africa	54,557	Iraq	15,640



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

A link to the past

By Simon Fowler

Richmond upon Thames has a dozen or almshouses, although they are well hidden. Unless you looked you would probably never recognise them. The most visible are not actually almshouses any longer. They were originally the Bootmakers' Almshouses, an attractive set of mid-Victorian cottages located next to Mortlake Station, which were built in the 1850s to house 'aged and decayed' bootmakers and their families. Unfortunately, they were sold off in 1930 and have long been private houses.

Almshouses have provided sheltered accommodation for elderly people since medieval times. Originally, they would have housed poor but respectable and, above all, god-fearing local residents.

None of our local almshouses are as venerable. Queen Elizabeth's was founded in 1600. The original buildings were badly damaged during the Second World War and new premises were built in The Vineyard on Richmond Hill in 1955. Also in The Vineyard is Bishop Duppa's Almshouses, which were founded in 1661 by Bishop Duppa



Hickey's Almshouses on Sheen Road, Richmond

of Winchester, who had been in exile in Richmond during the Commonwealth. He provides the reason why are spelt out on the entrance: 'I will pay my vows which I made to God in my troubled times.' A Latin inscription next to it reads in translation: 'In the memory of the most fortunate return of Charles II to his people, Bishop Duppa of Winchester erected this to the honour of God and relief of the poor.'

Houblon's Almshouses, which are close to the Red Cow pub on Sheen Road, were founded by two sisters Rebecca and Susannah Houblon in 1757 for nine poor women. As was not uncommon the sisters laid down strict and almost impossible to obey rules governing the behaviour and religious life of the residents.

The most attractive of Richmond's almshouses are probably Hickey's which are also on the Sheen Road. Peering through the gates it rather looks like quad from a small Oxbridge college. Hickey's is also the largest with some fifty residents. A London merchant William Hickey died in 1728 bequeathing his estate to support local charities. The property increased so much in value that the Trustees used funds in 1834 to build almshouses, lodges for the porter and nurse, and a chapel. The chapel is occasionally open to the public.

Almost all of the borough's almshouses are now run by Richmond Charities. Remarkably new ones are still being opened. In 2019 the Charities took over Manning Place, off Queen's Road in Richmond, and last year bought Wright's Almshouses in Heath Road, Twickenham. It consists of nine one-bedroom level access almshouses, a guest room and a communal room. The facilities are a far cry from the cramped, dank conditions faced by many of the original residents of Richmond's almshouses.

Amaranthus

By Kas Rasenberg.

The kitchen garden has considerably grown and the volunteers have been sowing seeds in preparation of the following seasons. One of the plants, whose seeds are yet to be sown, is the red-leaved *amaranthus*, named after the ancient civilisation of Aztlán. Its seeds are microscopic and may be no larger than a grain of sand. However, a single seed head, or so I have read, can contain nearly half a million seeds per plant.

The amaranths belong to the Amaranthaceae family, to whom we also owe the glasswort and the saltine silver orache. The amaranths are native to the temperate climates of North America, but now occur in many varying habitats around the globe. Some may grow in the margins of a field, whereas others will appear on an isolated mountain. They grow to different heights and are easily blown over by the wind.

Pliny the Elder once wrote that no work of art can compare with the unfading flowers of the *amaranthus*. Their flowers, or so the natural historian wrote, will still maintain their beauty when all others have long disappeared. They have been used in the manufacture of our garlands and as rosaries in winter. Both would have ended up in a heap of compost once the snow-filled days had yet again cleared.

Some amaranths have merely been cultivated in a garden, whereas others will be grown for the mild flavour of its tapering leaves or for the pale seeds of its seed head. Unlike the other cereals, such as wheat or corn or rice, the amaranths are not classified as grass. It is said that their cultivation has not yet been developed on a large scale. The wild seeds easily scatter and do not ripen at the same time.



Amaranthus caudatus- common name is Love lies bleeding, used in some parts of the world as a leaf crop.

The amaranths may thus easily disperse and will often be found in an abandoned margin. They grow in varying soils and can withstand a lack of rain. It is said that their seeds have also proven to be resistant to Monsanto's chemical herbicides. It might be these microscopic seeds, which were once sacred to the Aztecs, will one day be what feeds us in a time of famine.

Mayor praises emergency services for response to major fire

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames has praised the emergency services for their quick response to the devastating fire on Platt's Eyot in Hampton on Monday 3 May.



Fifteen fire engines and around 100 firefighters were called to a fire

at three disused industrial units on Platt's Eyot island. The London Fire Brigade were supported by the Ambulance Service, RNLI and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to ensure nobody was hurt in the fire and as many boats as possible were moved to safety.

The London Fire Brigade have confirmed the fire is believed to have been accidental and caused by a stray ember from rubbish which was being burned nearby, carried by high winds.

The Mayor, Councillor Geoff Acton, said:

'I am extremely grateful to the emergency services for their rapid response in tackling this fire so quickly and ensuring there was no loss of life. The high winds we saw last night made for difficult conditions, but the fire was contained as quickly as possible.

'I would also like to offer my condolences to all those who have lost property in the fire, as it spread through the island's boat yards. One of those vessels lost was the Dunkirk Little Ship, Lady Gay. It is devastating to lose such an important part of history in this way, but I am thankful for all those who helped move other boats to safety and I'm relieved everyone involved in the rescue effort remains unharmed.'

HAM YOUTH CENTRE

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR 11 TO 19 YEAR OLDS

- TRY NEW THINGS
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- CHAT TO FRIENDLY YOUTH WORKERS

EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT HAM

Fully equipped gaming lounge with Play Stations, gaming chairs and gaming PCs

New art studio run by professional artists and fashion designers



WHAT'S ON AT HAM YOUTH CENTRE?

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FOOTBALL TRAINING	HAM IN SESSION MUSIC	GIRLS TABLE TENNIS	HAM IN SESSION MUSIC	HAM IN SESSION MUSIC
3.00 to 5.00pm	3.00 to 6.00pm	4.00 to 5.00pm	3.00 to 6.00pm	3.00 to 6.00pm
THE HANDMADE CLUB	THE HANDMADE CLUB	THE HANDMADE CLUB		THE HANDMADE CLUB
3.00 to 5.00pm	3.00 to 5.00pm	3.00 to 5.00pm		3.00 to 5.00pm
	JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB	YOUTH ORCHESTRA	PARKOUR	AFTER SCHOOL DROP IN
	4.00 to 6.00pm	4.00 to 6.00pm	3.00 to 6.00pm	3.00 to 5.00pm
GOOD4GIRLS	SKATE SESSION	SENIOR YOUTH CLUB	DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARDS	TAG YOUTH CLUB
5.00 to 7.00pm	6.30 to 8.30pm	5.00 to 7.00pm	6.00 to 8.00pm	6.00 to 9.00pm

Football training: Open to all, coached by Brentford Football Club. We hope to form a team and enter inter youth club tournaments.

Ham in Session: Come and use our state of art music studio where tutor Zad can teach music production, guitar, drumming and studio recording.

Handmade Club: Work with professional artists in textiles, painting, fashion design and printing on fabric.

Youth clubs: Open access youth club where young people decide our programme of activities - art, cooking, sport, trips, games, filmmaking, drama and lots more. (Juniors: Years 6 to 8, Seniors: Years 9+)

Girls table tennis: Run by a table tennis England coach catering for young women 11 to 19 years old.

Youth orchestra: We have a selection of instruments available - come and learn with musicians Firas and Micka who are looking to form a small orchestra for performances and concerts.

Parkour: Tuition from expert coach, Jason - learn to precision jump and cat leap with our range of specialist equipment.

Good4Girls: Exciting new project for young women focusing on emotional wellbeing, trying new things and having fun.

TAG Youth Club: For young people with disabilities.

For more info contact Ben Skelton

T: 020 8288 0916

E: ben.skelton@achievingforchildren.org.uk



Dear Sir,

Trees Orleans Gardens

I am writing to object to the tree removal orders recently placed trees in Orleans Gardens.

It strikes me that little consideration has been given to the value that these community assets bring to the public. While I note that a couple of the trees on the riverfront are in poor health it is wholly unnecessary to remove them entirely. Furthermore, another large specimen adjacent to these is being proposed for the chop because it has a cavity. Said cavity provides habitat for wildlife and does not qualify the tree for removal. It is an ancient specimen and a much-loved community asset that adds to the character of the area. The tree is viable and to remove it would be reckless.

Should the council want to take action in the future, with regards to removing the tree, if its health deteriorates then that should be assessed accordingly. To take it down now as a pre-emptive measure is simply wrong.

With regards to the other trees away from the river these work to soak up floodwater and as such have a vital role. It is curious that this particular set of trees are in the exact location where a bridge is being proposed by the council to connect Twickenham and Ham. I see no need whatsoever for these healthy trees to come down.

English Heritage has recently removed hundreds of trees from Marble Hill Park, to mitigate it planted immature specimens as replacements. The impact of this and the further removal of more trees in the immediate area will be felt by the community and wildlife for years to come.

I urge the council to give due consideration to these valuable community assets and ask that it will reconsider its decision for their wholesale removal.

Kindest.

Janine Fotiadis-Negreptnis

and

Ambrose Fotiadis-Negreptnis

Twickenham

Dear Sir,

Orleans Gardens Tree Removal

Below please find a response from our MP Munira Wilson and my reply to her letter.

Kate Soutter, Twickenham

Dear Munira,

Thank you very much for your email - I am absolutely delighted that thanks to your intervention the Council will look again at the trees and, fingers crossed, find an alternative to felling them. As you can tell I do feel passionate about our green spaces and trees in this borough. Covid has made us all aware of just how important they are to our health and wellbeing. This is the first time I have been moved to write to my MP, and I am so pleased that you stepped up to the plate and have made a difference. Thank you so much.

Kind regards, **Kate Soutter**

Dear Ms Soutter

Thank you for your further email. I am sorry that you are disappointed with my reply and believe I have done absolutely nothing about this situation. I am familiar with the area your enquiry refers to, however as I have no training or expertise in trees, going to visit the site is not going to result in my being able to adequately judge the condition and health of the trees or recommend an alternative course of action.

However as someone who does believe in the importance of retaining trees wherever possible, as well as planting new ones, I have taken action and challenged the council on this. I have done this by contacting council officers to express concern about the situation and I asked them to delay the works so that the matter can be re-assessed.

As a result of action I have taken I can inform you, that this morning I received a response from the council confirming the following:

“We are to review the work that has been proposed to see if we have any lesser alternative options that allow the Council to maintain a reasonable level of risk to the public using the park.”

Please don't hesitate to contact me again should you require anything further.

Kind regards

Munira

MUNIRA WILSON MP

MP for Twickenham, Teddington, the Hamptons, Whitton & St Margarets

Dear Editor,

Twickenham Riverside Development

I refer to last week's article by the Twickenham Coalition article on Riverside Traffic and Parking plans which seemed well informed as was the letter on Council Tax social care cost increase and have the following comments.

Resident and Visitor Safety

When asked in the consultation about the increase in traffic flows for Wharf and Water lane deliveries for the apartments without car parking the leader of the council quipped that Amazon could be asked to deliver by drone. As yet no solution has yet been forthcoming so the pedestrian access to the riverside with two-way traffic plan on these roads is a major safety concern particularly for parents with young children.

Parking displacement to the Waitrose and Holly Road car parks is a significant safety concern especially for elderly, less able and women returning to their residences as there is a real risk that antisocial behaviour will increase in the summer evenings and will be amplified on event days. There will undoubtedly be an impact on policing and emergency services in Twickenham and hopefully the police will be making recommendations that will be listened to.

Council Tax

The council should clearly demonstrate to council tax payers what ongoing costs are included in their Riverside Development Proposal. i.e., ongoing retail unit and affordable home subsidies, additional policing costs, electronic car park signage cost and 24-hour ANPR car park access and security, otherwise it leaves a question as to whether they are hidden in future increased council running costs.

To date the council have been very opaque about the costs of the scheme thought to be over £6m expensed in previous years and £35m at least for the scheme as it stands. There is a council meeting decision on 28th June on a compulsory purchase order option to buy property should negotiations with owners and leaseholders not be resolved. This includes the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. If a CPO for these properties is made and the scheme goes ahead, then this together with no resolution to the objections raised, surely pays lip service to the consultation process, which itself was poorly publicised. It very much looks as if the scheme costs and council tax will have to increase again if the council do not listen and take on board the concerns of the users and residents of the riverside.

Andy Sparkes

Whitton

To the Editor, Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

Up to 20,000 Rugby Fans in Twickenham on 21st and 22nd May

The arrival of up to 20,000 visitors in Twickenham for the European rugby cup final matches this month poses major challenges for the RFU, Richmond Council and Met Police. Oh, and for the community too.

Many visitors and residents alike in Twickenham are faced by the narrow pavement across the railway bridge, opposite the station. It's 6 feet wide and much used by rugby fans making their way to and from Twickenham Stadium and local hostelrys, such as The Cabbage Patch.

Once upon a time on event days, there used to be a lane closure on this side of the bridge, with control barriers to allow crowds to walk across, safely segregated from cars, trucks and buses travelling out of town. Everything was fine until, without consulting the community, the RFU yielded to lobbying and removed the barriers to allow cyclists through.

Mathematically it is not hard to see the challenge posed in modern times by two-metre social distancing on a 6 feet wide pavement, with a bus queue as well, let alone on match days at the RFU stadium and The Stoop. Rugby fans were not noted for socially distanced niceties in their behaviour when The Stoop reopened last September with nearly 4,000 spectators.

So what's the solution this month when Twickenham plays host to up to 20,000 fans over consecutive days of exciting rugby?

Last September I had requested closure of the cycle lane in order to allow social distancing across the bridge opposite Twickenham Station and Richmond Council turned it down.

There was a glimmer of hope afterwards when Cllr Khosa went on the record to say that rugby fans, especially when they have had 'something to drink', do need proper segregation for other pedestrians. He also gave a public assurance at a Zoom meeting that the request for a lane closure will be looked at when crowds are allowed back at The Stoop and the RFU stadium.

So what's the solution now? Again do nothing perhaps? Well, that seemed to be on the cards after the Safety Advisory Group met recently with stakeholders' representatives and raised no concerns over the RFU's plans.

Maybe the people of Twickenham will rest easier in their beds knowing that nothing will be done.

I am on record as saying that measures to reduce the spread of the Covid virus are everyone's priority and I hope the upcoming matches in Twickenham will be safe for all concerned, especially as they are such important fixtures for rugby, sport generally and the roadmap to remove Covid restrictions across the nation. And of course safe for the people of Twickenham.

Everyone must be safe, on event days as on every day, and I for one believe we will be safer and more confident with the lane closure, crowd barriers, social distancing and effective stewarding than we would be without.

I hope that, with all appropriate and necessary measures taken by Richmond Council and the RFU to prevent the spread of the Covid virus, these matches days in Twickenham will be safe, a success for the fans, players and clubs and welcomed by the communities of Twickenham.

And let everyone be able to see these measures in place so that everyone is confident in their safety.

I'll drink to that!

Francis McInerny, Founder of Heatham Alliance community group

Queen Catherine comes home for the reopening of Strawberry Hill House

Strawberry Hill House & Garden will reopen from May 17, and a highlight for visitors is sure to be the return of a rare portrait of Catherine de' Medici it has acquired – 247 years after she first hung there.

A group portrait of Catherine de' Medici with her children – bought by Horace Walpole and first documents hanging in his London home in 1774 – is returning home, thanks to the Acceptance in Lieu scheme, administered by the Arts Council.

The monumental 1561 work (measuring 198 x 137.2 cm) is by the Workshop of François Clouet, a highly successful portrait painter at the French court - which has only been publicly displayed three times in the past 126 years - will go on permanent display for everyone to enjoy in The Gallery.

The significance of this imposing portrait of the family of perhaps the most powerful woman in 16th-century Europe, Catherine de' Medici (1519-89), – Queen consort to King Henry II of France (who reigned 1547-1559) - cannot be overstated. The painting is historically unique as the only surviving contemporary portrait of renowned patron of the arts Catherine, and four of her ten children. It is also artistically rare, as very probably the first full-length composition of its type, pioneering a genre that would become a standard in royal portraits.

Also, brand new for reopening at Strawberry Hill House are the Historic Garden Tours (every Tues to Thur, through Summer). Discover the fascinating history of what Horace Walpole called his “*enchanted little landscape*”, set on the banks of the River Thames in Twickenham. Our expert guides will lead you round the wooded glades and rolling lawns of Walpole's grade II listed garden and down to the riverside so you can appreciate the historic, social and geographical significance of its location.

The tour will explore how the site has evolved over the years both as nature's sanctuary and a place for high society entertaining from the 18th-century to the present day. Visitors will be transported back in time to walk across lawns where Pavlova danced, an elephant marched, and parties lasted long into the night – while at every turn experiencing a new vista of Walpole's magnificent Gothic castle.

Strawberry Hill House Garden, Shop & Cafe is also now open weekly (Sunday – Thursday), so now the sun is shining why not pop by? Enjoy a coffee & cake at the award-winning cafe located in the ambient Great Cloister, whilst taking in the views of the enchanting Grade II listed garden. After refreshments, take a stroll into the Gift Shop and browse the range of artisan products sourced from local artists & makers - new this season, you can also find a selection of garden products and plants on sale from the Strawberry Hill Garden.

Derek Purnell, Director, Strawberry Hill House & Garden, said: “We are really looking forward to welcoming back visitors, both old and new, when we finally reopen the doors at Strawberry Hill House, and delighted to be able to share this new acquisition of a rare and important group portrait by Workshop of Clouet of Catherine de Medici and her Children with them. We are grateful to the Acceptance in Lieu panel of the Arts Council for making this possible, and we look forward to sharing these stories and displaying this remarkable painting at its rightful home.”



Exhibition of original maritime watercolours and prints to open at Turner's House in Twickenham

An exhibition of J.M.W. Turner's original maritime watercolours and prints is to open in his former home in Twickenham on Saturday 22 May 2021, thanks to a generous loan from Tate.

Turner's English Coasts focuses on the artist's engagement with English marine and coastal subjects at a pivotal time in his career when he was living at Sandycombe Lodge - the house he designed and lived in between 1813 to 1826, at Sandycombe Road, St Margarets, Twickenham TW1 2LR.



Guest-curator Christine Riding has selected works that underline the close relationship between Turner's images of maritime Britain and contemporary print culture. The exhibition includes projects financed by professional engravers and publishers to those instigated by Turner himself.

Turner's English Coasts will be open to the public from Saturday 22 May until Sunday 5 September 2021, Wednesday to Sunday between 10am and 4pm.

Prebooking is essential via turnershouse.org.

Heathfield Recreation Ground re-opens following vandalism

The play area at Heathfield Recreation Ground in Twickenham was burnt down last summer.

Heathfield Recreation Ground has had a welcome addition to its grounds with the re-opening of the children's play area. The play area was burnt down last summer by vandals causing significant upset within the local community.

Following repairs to the main play area and the removal of damaged materials, the site has now been repaired and is again open for children to play on.

[Explore Heathfield Recreation Ground.](#)

If you witness antisocial behaviour in real time please call the Metropolitan Police by calling 999.



Richmond upon Thames policing update

By Rebecca Robinson

Neighbourhoods Inspector, Richmond

In the Borough of Richmond upon Thames, within the South West Basic Command Unit (SW BCU) and across London, we have been working closely with partners and the wider community to reflect upon recent events and the subsequent expressions of concern and anger.

Our Public Protection Unit leads on violence against women and girls. Working in partnership with the Local Authority, they focus upon prevention, intervention and enforcement. Since the tragic murder of Sarah Everard, we have reviewed and confirmed our strategy, while increasing activity.

For instance, we have deployed officers on high visibility patrols in open spaces and identified hotspot areas for robberies and violence against women. Other colleagues continue to arrest individuals identified as 'high harm' domestic abuse suspects. Our ward teams have been meeting with local women's and girls' groups, to listen to their concerns and to provide appropriate support and reassurance.



We have also been planning for the further ease of lockdown, which will no doubt be welcomed by us all. However, we are conscious that the joy associated with relaxation of restrictions may be accompanied by some concerns around anti-social behaviour and violence against women.

As a result, we have worked closely with specialist teams, community partners and the Local Authority to shape both our short-term patrols and long-term design plans to ensure ease of lockdown goes as smoothly as possible.

Against this background, we have maintained our commitment to proactive policing of community priorities such as drug-related violence and anti-social behaviour. For instance, our Safer Neighbourhood Teams recently located and closed down a cannabis factory and executed a further warrant.

Our teams have also been focusing heavily on thefts of catalytic converters and have been working in partnership with several supermarkets that have been identified as hotspots, to place warning signs in their car parks. There will be significant further activity in this area over the coming months.

If you have concerns about crime or ASB in your area or would like to contact your neighbourhood policing team visit [Met Police](https://www.met.police.uk).



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

A week in Church Street

By Shona Lyons

This week has been a particularly exciting one in Church Street. After a few months of work, the craftsmen who had been working on 35 Church Street which for the last 50 or so years has been a grotty ugly betting shop, took down the boards to reveal the most beautiful shop I think I have ever seen.



Maybe my wondrous amazement was because of the contrast with what had been before but really I could not believe my eyes! It looks like an old fashioned French Bakery and fits into the historic nature of the street so well. I always thought that the ugly modern utilitarian betting shop was such a blight on Church Street but I never imagined for a minute that it could be transformed as it has been to be perhaps now the most beautiful and historical looking shop of all the shops in the street. It just is a testament to the skill of all the craftsmen who have been working on this project and the amazing designers and owners of Gail's who had such a vision & saw the potential in this site.



They are giving out little postcards which have been designed by a lovely lino cutter artist Christopher Brown, on which you can write your email and subscribe to their mailing list and in return you get a free yummy Gail's loaf of their signature bread or a lovely hot drink. What is not to love?

Please don't worry about all the other independent traders in the street. There are more than 70,000 people living in Twickenham & all the hospitality traders in the street have fiercely loyal customers. There are many days when all the tables outside during Al Fresco dining are completely full. Everyone has different budgets and tastes so I am sure there is enough custom to go around. I think it is just great to see how beautiful the new shop in the street complements the others and is such a beautiful addition.



Here are some pictures from the opening. You can see that Snax is adjacent and doing as well as ever.

Pierre from Twickenham Limpopo Biltong is moving. But don't be alarmed because he is just moving a few shops up to number 41. Right now work is going on to make his new shop ready. It will be his very own space and he is super excited. The workmen when they were working on the sign discovered an old sign from the 70s. It says "Beach" which I have been told was the surname of the man who owned this shop in the 70s which I vaguely remember too. It sold all kinds of polished stones and I heard that even Prince Charles paid it a visit!



West Twickenham



Following last week's snippet, our eagle-eyed reader has sent us this photograph showing that the sign has since been corrected!

We are glad to see that our Tribune readers are making a difference!

Strawberry Hill



There has been a lot of chatter recently about the café in Radnor Gardens. We can confirm that following a tender exercise, the council has appointed the Wells Group, trading as Brew Cafés, as the new tenants to take over the café. Richmond resident Jason Wells has a number of cafés in South West London, in Clapham, Wimbledon, Wandsworth and the Antipodea cafés in Kew and Richmond. The café in Radnor Gardens is expected to open on 7th June.

Richmond

The opening hours for the temporary toilets on Richmond Green have been extended to 9pm, with effect from 1st May.

Riverside because the waste tank has reached capacity on a number of occasions and may not be able to cope with an extension.

Twickenham Green

As with Richmond, the hours of operation for the temporary toilets on Twickenham Green have been extended to 9pm.

Scams, scams, scams

Scams Blog Spot from Francis McInerney, Heatham Alliance



Tax refund? Tax to pay? Delivery charge unpaid? Or is it a scam?

Have you had an email, text message or phone call from HM Revenue & Customs saying you owe tax or are due a tax refund? But is it really from HMRC?

HMRC advise that they NEVER send notifications of a tax rebate or refund by phone, text or email and NEVER ask you to disclose personal or payment information either.

DON'T visit the website shown. This is a fraud to trick you into giving personal information online to a thief. And DON'T open any attachment either.

Also be very cautious about emails, text messages and phone calls purporting to be from Royal Mail, couriers and other delivery companies, especially when the 'parcel delivery' they want you to pay for is unexpected.

You can send a bogus email to phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk and then delete it permanently.

If it is a suspicious phone call, hang up straightaway

Scams, scams, scams

Sad to say, so-called Royal Mail scams are still occurring and people are losing more money to these fraudsters. A student lost all her savings after receiving a text message and then a phone call from a very convincing criminal requesting payment for a parcel delivery.

Another common situation is someone phoning to persuade the would-be victim to move their money to a 'safe account'.

If any caller asks you to move your money to another bank account, DON'T. Simple as that. Just don't!

Scams, scams, scams

Fraudsters are growing even more convincing and more cunning in their ways to steal money. The following is an account from someone in Whitton.

She received a text message from Royal Mail requesting payment of underpaid postage, so she paid the money owing.

Shortly after she received a phone call from Barclays Bank to say the Royal Mail text was a scam and strongly recommending that money in her account should be moved to another account where it would be safe.

This was not Barclays but the same criminal who had texted her. Very sadly, she lost most of her savings.

If any caller asks you to move money to another bank account, don't! Simply DON'T.

Online security tip: Remove Flash Player

Adobe Flash Player has long been known for security issues and is out of tune with the era of the smartphone.

Other technologies are available and Adobe are ceasing to offer any security updates from January 2021. Adobe have asked people to uninstall it for their own protection.

Adobe provide instructions on their website for uninstalling Flash from Windows and Mac computers –

<https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/uninstall-flash-player-windows.html>

<https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/uninstall-flash-player-mac-os.html>

Online recital series in aid of the Landmark Arts Centre

Presented by The Teddington Society

The Teddington Society are proud to present our third and final livestream recital, in aid of the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington, featuring pianist Simone Tavoni and tenor Alexander Jeffries and baritone John Holland-Avery.

The Landmark has struggled, like so many other institutions, over the Covid period, and we would like to do all we can to see it remains open to the community for many years to come. The recital will be live-streamed on YouTube, at **6:30pm on Wednesday May 12, 2021**, with a programme of Donizetti, Mozart, Bizet, Flotow, Debussy and Chopin, with the famous Pearl Fishers duet as excerpts from L'Elisir D'Amore and Don Giovanni. The recital will last around one hour.

Tickets can be purchased through the link below, use the codeword **LANDMARK** at checkout for a £5 discount ticket.

Please do purchase your tickets before the start time at 6:30pm, but YouTube link will be online for a month after the performances, so can be seen at your leisure after the performance.

Find more information [HERE](#)

Teddington
Society



London Chamber of Commerce comment on international travel announcement

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry has reacted to today's government [announcement](#) about foreign travel rules.

Chief Executive, Richard Burge, said:

“Clarity on the system the government will be using to recover international travel is welcome, and the ability to travel to and from some green list countries without quarantine will boost some London businesses involved in tourism and travel. But given the limited number of countries on the list we must be realistic that the boost will be somewhat minimal.

“We must also not lose sight of the role that business travel will play in the recovery of trade and our economy. Whilst it is of course understandable that the government wish to protect the vaccination programme rollout, many businesses will feel there needs to be more focus on workable systems that allow for business travel to support the UK's economic recovery.”

LONDON CHAMBER
of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

“They Paved Paradise and Put up a Parking Lot”

By Shona Lyons

Last week a letter from the “Twickenham Coalition” was published in the Twickenham Tribune. It wasn’t signed by anyone in particular as no one in this coalition actually seems prepared to reveal who they really are. But it did have comments from Helen Montgomery Smith from Eel Pie Island, who was talking about how the removal of the 82 spaces of car parking on the riverside would affect the trade in Church Street and local businesses to their detriment.



I had to comment then & now as I don’t agree with any of this argument at all. The neglect of what could be a beautiful riverside for all to enjoy not just a few residents to park their cars, has been a blight on the landscape for the last 40 years. It is a terrible waste of this land, with just the meanest narrow strip, about 2 meters width with a few benches for residents & visitors of Twickenham to enjoy the riverside.



All the rest is devoted to a main road filled with parked cars and behind it is the neglected Jubilee Gardens. It really is a joke to call it a garden as it just has a small strip of well-worn Astroturf and no plants to be seen anywhere! Next to that are again derelict buildings that used to be offices for the public pool that was on this land before and next to that again is a heap of mouldy derelict buildings that used to be public toilets

and behind that is a disused and pot holed bordered up car park. The article said it spoke for the whole of the Twickenham Community and said it was because of the love the “Twickenham Coalition” had for Twickenham it wanted this disgraceful neglected part of Twickenham to remain exactly as it is – I find it simply preposterous to think that people of sound mind in Twickenham really believe that this collection of falling down buildings, and a neglected garden is all their riverside could & should ever be.



It seems that the main agenda of this “Twickenham Coalition” is simply to keep these 82 parking spaces. It is sad & incredible that some people in Twickenham are prepared to sacrifice what could be a beautiful pedestrianized and accessible space for all to enjoy the beauty of the riverside – just to make sure that it will always be a car park. If they so need a car park so close to Eel Pie Island, why don't they use their money and energy to negotiate with the council to have a car park higher up and away from the riverside, as part of the new development, why blight the actual riverside forever more because they see this area bang on the riverside as their space for their cars? It obviously & honestly should be for everyone who comes to or lives in Twickenham to enjoy an iconic riverside area.

People say that Twickenham is all about Rugby. In fact it should also be about the beautiful riverside that we have too, but hold on a minute, it isn't about that is it, because right now we don't have a beautiful riverside do we? We just have a much neglected area where people are only able to enjoy the riverside views from a few benches that exist on a measly narrow pedestrianised strip that exists and the rest is given up to 82 parking spaces. Don't the people of Twickenham deserve more than this?

I can't believe that this “coalition” although they say they are talking for all the community really is a true reflection of the larger Twickenham community. I personally, as a Church Street Trader and person who lives on the other-side of the riverside on Eel Pie Island, feel that everyone in Twickenham should be able to share the beauty of a pedestrianised riverside paradise that I am able to enjoy in the pedestrian riverside paradise that is Eel Pie Island.

I actually think Church Street and the rest of Twickenham would benefit a great deal from a redeveloped riverside where the local community and visitors would come to enjoy the scenery & who would then visit the beautiful historical and pedestrianised riverside Church Street for refreshments at the bars and restaurants & for retail therapy in the shops. In fact the council have been careful not to flood the proposed plans with lots of shops and restaurants which would have competed with the existing businesses around it. It seems from the plans there is going to be a small strip of retail units in Water Lane to replace the retail that will be lost when it is redeveloped and there will be just one restaurant on the main site itself.

There are already a lot of car parks adjacent to Church Street, 4 in fact with car parks in Aragon Road, York House, Flood Lane, Waitrose and it could be 5 if St Georges Place became one too (IT has just been tarmacked and could easily take parked cars – all within a 5 to 10 minute walk of the street and there will also be parking available for residents in the car park the council plans to keep by the Barmy Arms and Water lane will be two ways. There is still parking available at all the roads near-by & also at Holly Road. Really people in this day and age should not be depending so much on cars anyway. We have really fantastic, reliable & convenient public transport.

It really makes me sad to see the Twickenham Riverside that is available to our local community & the public at large, in the terrible state that it is. As Joni Mitchell sang “They paved Paradise and put up a parking Lot”

A WARM EMBRACE AT THE KINGS ARMS EGHAM

We've been checking out another **Kings Arms** – this one in **Egham**. The former Loch Fyne restaurant has been lovingly converted back to a pub that opened its doors at the end of October last year, only to be closed shortly afterwards due to lockdown! Although the full restoration project isn't properly open yet, thanks to the draconian regulations currently in place, the impressive alfresco terrace – The Menagerie - is open, and what a fabulous job they've done!



Initially used as stables, the original building has apparently encountered several transformations over the years, and is on the doorstep of where the Magna Carta was sealed in 1215. The A30 was very close, but one isn't aware of it at all. It's a short walk from Egham station, but has parking, and it took about 20 minutes to drive from Twickers. The Menagerie has been cleverly designed to allow a degree of privacy and social distancing, without spoiling the atmosphere of

a buzzing, fun place to meet and enjoy some excellent food. Screening has been introduced with planted troughs, and the retractable roof allows fresh air and sunshine but there was also the backup of blankets. The whole effect is very well done, and you don't really feel as if you're eating outdoors. The restoration has been done by Grosvenor Pubs & Inns, which is also behind The Cricketers on the Green in Pirbright, Surrey. When fully open, The Kings Arms will have a cocktail area, restaurant and modern day pub and tap room as well as overnight accommodation.

On the day we visited for a late lunch (4 p.m.) it was busy, and we were given the choice of being fully outside on the terrace or inside The Menagerie. We chose the latter, and were soon comfortably ensconced, with Crystal Poodle settled beside us on her rug on the banquette



seating. While sipping an excellent Negroni (husband was driving, so on mineral water) I perused the expansive menu that also includes a selection of pizzas. The menu is excellent, well put together, and it was difficult to choose between all the scrumptious sounding sharing dishes and starters. We chose Cornish Salmon (cured with pastrami spices, with whipped curds, cucumber and a sourdough crouton) as well as a Wood Pigeon & Duck Pie (each at £8.75). The treatment of the salmon was interesting – and delicious – and the pie was very pretty indeed, with flowers in the jelly that topped it. The piccalilli chutney that accompanied it was more of a salad than a chutney, but nonetheless proclaimed excellent and it was a delicately proportioned starter.

For mains, my husband chose a 26-day aged flat iron steak (£19.95) and I opted for the Brick Lane Curried Lamb shank (£18.25). The steak was excellent, but we couldn't understand why it was served in a dish, rather than on the plate itself, as it made it awkward to cut. My curry had a first-rate sauce, with a subtle heat that built up gently; clearly someone in the kitchen knows his or her way around the spice cupboard! I felt though, that it needed some raita and/or chutney, as serving it with just rice, naan and poppadums created a rather dry and stodgy composition, that didn't do justice to the curry itself. Some spinach or a dhal would have been a preferable accompaniment.



The wine list is pretty expansive, and good value, with a superb range of 26 wines available by the glass (from £5.50 and all under £10, including champagne) and well-priced bottles from £18. There is also a strong 'Cellar Selection' for the wine buff with a deeper pocket.

To finish, we shared the Poached Rhubarb & White Chocolate Cheesecake (£6.75); not only light, fruity and delicious, but also presented on the prettiest plate I've seen in a restaurant!

The Kings Arms at Egham is a great destination for anyone wanting a temporary change of scene, and/or a good place to meet friends for a meal, near to the M25. Considering it had only been operating for just a few weeks when we visited, and still not allowed to be fully operational, there were very few - and minor - negatives. The service was relaxed and friendly, yet professional. We strongly suspect it will very soon prove itself to be one of Egham's most popular restaurants – it certainly deserves to be!

ITALY – From Top to Bottom – part 1

By Michael Gatehouse

Italy produces more wine than any other country, which is surprising when you consider its size compared to Australia, for example. But every square foot of Italy is available for wine production, whereas vast swathes of Australia are desert, and in fact the growing regions in that huge country are extremely limited. Italy makes wine from top to bottom.



Starting top right is Piedmont, home to the Nebbiolo grape from which Barolo and Barbaresco are made. Huge, rich and powerful; some made to last generations, the Barolo is the “King of Wines and the Wine of Kings”. The 2016 Fontanafredda Barolo, at £36.99 is pricy, but memorable. Other grapes are grown here; Barbera and Dolcetto, making full-bodied reds and a lovely white grape called Arnais, from which crisp delicate wines are made. The country is beautiful, with little villages sitting on top of rolling hills.

Moving east through Lombardy, known for its light fresh sparkling Franciacorta, we reach Veneto, where Valpolicella and Soave are made. Valpolicella is made in three styles: light, dessert and Amarone, which is as rich and powerful as

Barolo. The grapes are dried in the sun to give extra intensity to the wine which is called the Ripasso technique. A good example is the Aristocrato Valpolicella Ripasso at £15.99. Sweet cherry, violets and spices. Large amounts of Pinot Grigio and Prosecco are made here as well.



Travelling south, we pass through Emilia-Romagna, home of sweet sparkling red Lambrusco, then south east to le Marche, where the famous white wine Verdicchio is made in vineyards overlooking the Adriatic Sea. Bearing due west, we arrive in Tuscany, the best known wine region in all Italy, for it is here that the Sangiovese grape makes Chianti, the best known of all Italian wines. Originally light cheap reds that came to the table in squat bottles with straw baskets, Chianti has evolved into many different beasts. A top Chianti Classico Riserva can hold its head high in any company. £19.99 gets you Il Grigio Chianti Classico Riserva 2017 from the San Felice estate; black fruit, red cherry and spice; soft, smooth, rich and elegant. Tuscany has also seen the evolution of the wines known as ‘Super Tuscans’, using grapes such as Cabernet Sauvignon (not allowed in the making of Chianti) and sold at exorbitant prices.

So many wines. And we’re only half way down!

www.premierwine.co.uk

Premier Wine



Big Time

by Jonathan Holloway

Blue Fire Theatre, On-Line until 31st December

St George's Day is a day for patriotism. Symbol of valour and honour, venerated as our Patron Saint, St George died on 23rd April in 303 AD. Remarkably on the same day of the year, so have three English kings, Wihtrud (725), Æthelred I (871) and Æthelred the Unready (1016). Moreover, 23rd April seems to be a popular day for the demise of poets, William Wordsworth in 1850, and Rupert Brooke in 1915.



However, it should go without saying that the most celebrated poet who died on St George's Day is William Shakespeare. As an extra bonus, St George's Day is traditionally also recognised as the day of his birth. To die on this special day extends to other super-star writers not just those from this Sceptred Isle. Miguel de Cervantes, creator of *Don Quixote*, whom the Spanish regard as their own Shakespeare, also died on 23rd April, and in 1616, the very same year as Shakespeare.



David Garrick invented the word Bardolatry in 1749, but I am sure that Spaniards have a corresponding Cervantolatry, a word in Spanish for the same phenomenon. It may therefore seem odd that the Blue Fire Theatre Company has presented its excellent reworking of [*Big Time*](#) as part of its [*Famous People You've Never Heard Of*](#) podcast series.

The play is a rumbustious knock-about between these titans of literature, an irreverent comedy played out at an intellectual level and catalysed by Shakespeare's maid, the seventeen year old Regina. There are plenty of spot-the-literary-reference moments amongst the pseudo-Tudor bawdry.

Big Time is set in Shakespeare's house on 19th April 1616. Both have one foot in the grave, Shakespeare because he is severely weakened by his stroke, Cervantes because of diabetes or, in his own words, "the pissing evil". Shakespeare is due to die on 23rd April 1616, ditto Cervantes. However, in Spain 23rd April 1616 was six days earlier because the Catholic countries had already changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. So there is a ten days day gap through which Cervantes is trying to slip to outwit death. This is the abstruse thesis of Holloway's drama

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/04/23/big-time



Images by Benedetto Pistrucchi, Javier Sellers, Eduard von Grützne and John Heysham

RED WHITE & BLUE

Or more like

GREEN AMBER & RED

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



So today we finally have the news of the next step on The Road Map out of Lockdown! Grant Shapps announced today @ 5.00pm that from the 17th of May overseas travel was permissible to 12 “Green” countries, of which the general public are only likely to be interested in Portugal, including the Azores and Madeira; Gibraltar; Iceland, Israel (and Jerusalem) and Singapore, and Mr Shapps was clear to warn us that most of these countries had yet to confirm their own incoming policies.

Notable exclusions were Spain (and that includes the Balearics and Canary Islands), Italy, Malta, Seychelles the UAE and the Maldives they are all Amber and then added to the RED countries were Turkey (bad news for Football fans) Nepal and India.

Needless to say this is the first step and in the coming days the protocols and disciplines will be becoming clearer as well as the costs involved to undertake these trips, though operators are gearing themselves up to discount the test costs.

What goes without saying is that it is now, more than ever before, essential to check the requirements of any vacation you are currently planning and to ensure you are protected in your booking – ask your agent as many questions as possible . For us at Crusader the short list includes some favourites we have worked with for years and have intimate knowledge like Gibraltar, Iceland, Portugal and its dependants; and Israel. We could add another “GREEN” the Falkland Islands but that is a long way to visit for a Summer Holiday!

The Government says it will review the list every 3 weeks but we may see some earlier revue in the Amber to Green stakes especially as Malta, Greece, Spain, France and Turkey were all missed off the Green list, all strong contenders for the British Holiday makers, as are Croatia and Italy.

For months now we have followed the developments and will have in place PCR Test kits availability at an affordable price- the airport administrations will be gearing up to improve the procedures to cut down delays outward and inbound. All our suppliers offer full protection in the event that the Government changes the rules, but for now you need to be wary of AMBER countries, as your operator may only offer the choice to defer your holiday.

The best options are countries that have made big inroads on their vaccine agendas and have similar levels of success as the UK, though there is much talk of Herd Immunity in the EU, though the UK Government doesn’t feel comfortable with that way of thinking.

For us, at Crusader, we would encourage as many as possible to book for later in the Summer – say July onwards and to try to stick to those on the Green list. Iceland is not exactly scorching but for a bit of Sun, Gibraltar, Portugal, Madeira and the Azores and Israel have a lot to offer and we know these areas well.

Indeed I specialised in the Middle East for at least 40 years and know Israel well for its culture, history, beaches and water sports as well as it's Natural World both above ground and underwater. Eilat is often dubbed the Underwater Classroom of the World and also it is the Highways Crossroad for Migration. Then there is the Holy Land, The Kibbutzim. The Dead Sea and more.....

A lot has been written about Staycations and there is still a lot of choice available in this Country but as we get closer to the summer you will find it almost impossible to find Coastal Houses at affordable prices.



We found only last week for a client (still available as I write) a three bedroomed house close to the beach at Tintagel, Cornwall but for a week on the 21st August the cost is £2800 and if you add say 4 night previous in a beachside hotel in two rooms you reach close to £5000 – if you move quickly you may find the same for 2 weeks in Portugal's Algarve for that – or a by comparison a 4 night break at the Iconic American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem including flights was only £840 pp. – so there is choice and perhaps 2021 is the year you tried pastures new?



www.crusadertravel.com

TRAVELLER'S TALES 96

INTO ITALY

Doug Goodman visits Lake Garda and Verona

Torri Del Benaco was the perfect choice for a week's holiday and the Albergo Gardesana, by Lake Garda, was ideally located. One of the prettiest lakeside towns, Torri Del Benaco was known as Catrium Torrium during Roman times for its many towers. Opposite the comfortable and family-owned hotel, across a small marina, was the 14th century Castello Scaligero with a small natural history museum displaying Garda's flora and fauna. The view over the lake from the battlements was superb. Andre Gide had a summer holiday in the resort in 1948 and wrote in his diary about his 'wonderful stay'. Torri Del Benaco is situated at the foot of Monte Baldo where walks among the pine woods and through olive and citrus groves make it an ideal base for exploring the region. A car ferry takes you across the lake to Maderno and regular cruise boats offer trips around the 390 square kilometres of Italy's largest lake. You can hop on and off the boats as you travel around the lake but make sure you don't miss the last sailing of the evening back to your starting point. The town of Malcesine was my favourite spot with its cable car to the summit of Monte Baldo at 2200 meters above the lake and its castle rebuilt in 806.



Malcesine



Torri Del Benaco



Albergo Gardesana



Ferry to Maderno

SPECTACULAR SCENERY

To the north of Garda are high mountains while to the south are gently rolling hills. A drive around the perimeter of the lake shows off the scenery at its best. A mild year-round climate prevails and in July we enjoyed a week of unbroken sunshine with the temperature hitting 34 degrees centigrade in Verona. It's cooler by the waterside and dining under the trees or sitting watching the boats with a drink was the perfect way to relax after a day's sightseeing. I discovered the popular orange-coloured aperitif Aperol: mixed with Prosecco and soda water it was a delightful new taste. The region produces a vast range of wine with the best known being Bardolino. At a wine tasting in the hotel we tried Monte Saline and were invited to dine with the producer and his family at their villa. Extensive vineyards surrounded the house and

we sampled various types of their delicious sparkling wine.



Local Wine



Verona. Porta Borsari Gateway



Verona. Juliet's Balcony

OPERA IN VERONA

A special bus was arranged to take hotel guests to Verona for a performance of Aida at the famous Arena. From AD 30 this was the place to watch Gladiator contests: from 1913 the Arena became the venue for one of Europe's prime opera festivals. Seating 22,000 it's the third largest and best preserved ancient arena in Italy. The sets, costumes and music of Aida were magnificent and the event provided the high-light of a memorable day.



Dinner in Verona



Verona. The Arena



Lake Garda Cruise

Verona's Piazza dei Signori is a beautiful medieval and Renaissance square. Imposing buildings line the streets which pass through Roman gates: the Porta Bosari seems to be propping up the houses on either side. Open-air restaurants are plentiful in the city which attracts large numbers of tourists. The most photographed spot is Juliet's balcony. The original version of Romeo and Juliet was written by Luigi da Porto and set in Verona. Shakespeare made the couple famous in his play and the story of the lovers has remained with us ever since. The tourist authorities wanted to attract visitors to their city so they assigned a house to the fictional Juliet and then constructed a balcony in 1930: today crowds jostle for the best photo vantage point and for a fee you can pose on the balcony. The main tourist sites are all within walking distance of the pedestrianised centre and there's plenty to see. The Church of St. Anastasia is a fine example of Gothic architecture; construction began in 1290 and lasted until the 15th century. Its height is impressive and when you see the adorned aisles and frescoes it's clear that this is not simply a beautiful church but an art gallery too, containing works by the great masters including Pisanello, who painted St. George and the Princess in 1438. The Basilica di San Zeno Maggiore rebuilt after the 1117 earthquake and the Duomo di Santa Maria, with a Romanesque façade, are worth visiting for their chapels and art.

Take two or three days to explore Verona to get the most from your visit. But we had just one full day before taking the late night bus back to Torri Del Benaco and the blue waters of Lake Garda.

Hotel Information: www.gardesana.eu

WIZ Tales - Montserrat

Teresa Read



The island of Montserrat is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom in the Caribbean.

Christopher Columbus named Montserrat after a monastery near Barcelona in Spain (1493). The British colonized the island of Montserrat in 1632.

Montserrat is a mountainous volcanic island; Plymouth, the capital, was abandoned in 1997 because of volcanic activity.

The Chances Peak eruption (Soufriere Hills) in 1995 was the first time the volcano had erupted for over three hundred years.

Volcanic eruptions in Montserrat also occurred in July 2001 and July 2003.

Neighbouring islands, such as Guadeloupe, have suffered from ash clouds from eruptions and subsequent volcanic activity.

Following volcanic eruptions, the Montserrat National Trust joined with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and other UK partners, to help the people of Montserrat conserve the central hills. The project included establishing Montserrat's first National Park.



More photographs of Montserrat:

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

Kew Gardens:

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Kew>

St Mary's University

St Mary's University Hosts Annual Theology Essay Competition

The Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts at St Mary's University, Twickenham is delighted to announce the launch of its 2021 essay writing competition.

The annual competition, which is open to all Year 12 pupils at schools across England and Wales, is now in its third year and is more popular than ever. This year entrants are asked to write an essay on the subject 'The Bible is the supreme authority for Christians.' Discuss. This year's winner will receive a £250 cash prize, with five honourable mention £20 book voucher prizes available for the runners-up.



The 2020 edition of the competition saw strong competition as entrants tackled the difficult subject 'Euthanasia is wrong.' Discuss, which St Mary's Chancellor Cardinal Vincent Nichols noted in his video address at the award ceremony was particularly challenging and spoke to the nature of human suffering. Last year's winner was Imogen from The London Oratory School in Chelsea, London, who was joined by five honourable mentions

from schools across England and Wales.

Pupils who would like to enter this year's competition can do so on the [St Mary's Website](#).

Speaking of the contest, St Mary's Director the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts Dr Jacob Phillips said, "We're looking to reading this year's entries, and I'd like to wish everyone taking part the best of luck. Every year myself and my fellow panellists have the pleasure of reading the thoughtful and creative essays submitted by students from across England and Wales, and I'm sure this year will be no different."

The Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts at St Mary's is home to a number of distinguished academics who teach on its diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. The Institute is also home to several research centres, which regularly publish research and host conferences on history, theology, Catholic education, and contemporary religious life.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 59

7th May 2021

LETTERS FROM BAGHDAD

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.

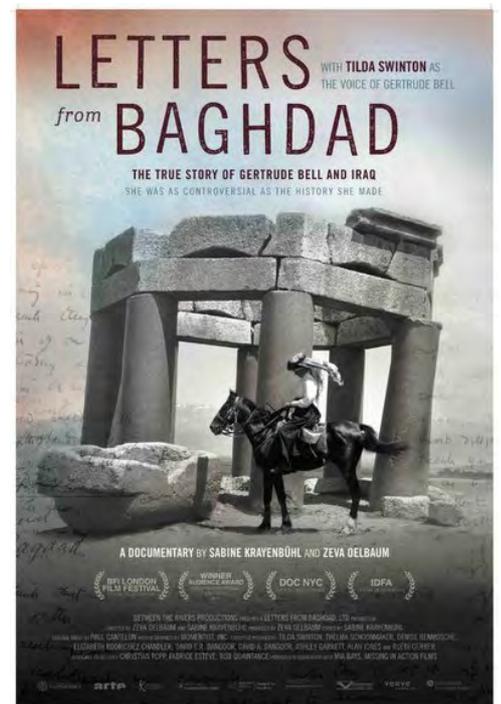
RFS Context: LETTERS FROM BAGHDAD was the 775th film screened by RFS on 28th November 2017. **Letters From Baghdad** was the fifth equal ranked film of Season 55 (equal fifth with **Outside The Law**), it got an approval mark of 89% from those attending; from season 55 we have also already featured the higher ranked films, in order: **A Man Called Ove**, **Julieta**, **Tangerines** and **The Other Side of Hope** as **Issues 42, 48, 50** and **43** respectively. **Letters From Baghdad** can be streamed from BFI Player and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

LETTERS FROM BAGHDAD

Country: UK, 2016
Directors: Sabine Krayenbühl & Zeva Oelbaum
Language: English
Editor: Sabine Krayenbühl
Running Time: 95 min., colour
Music: Paul Cantelon
Cinematography: Gary Clarke & Petr Hlinomaz

Cast/Voices:

Tilda Swinton (Gertrude Bell)
Michael Higgs (General Sir Gilbert Clayton)
Eric Loscheider (T.E. Lawrence)
Rachael Stirling (Vita Sackville-West)
Adam Astill (Sgt. Frank Stafford)
Helen Ryan (Lady Florence Bell)
Joanna David (Janet Courtney)
Elizabeth Rider (Lady Elsa Richmond)



As a young woman, Gertrude Lowthian Bell, sometimes called the “female” Lawrence of Arabia, travelled extensively throughout the Middle East from Palestine to Syria to Iraq (then Mesopotamia), producing maps and scholarly works and becoming fluent in Arabic and Persian. Her archaeological and writing talents were eventually recognised by British Military Intelligence. She became a diplomat and spy wielding significant political power in British Imperial policy across the Middle East. Bell helped draw the borders of Iraq after WWI, establishing the modern state of Iraq and reshaping the modern Middle East in ways that still reverberate today. The only woman to do so, Bell worked closely with tribal Arabs to help

soldiers move across the desert during World War 1. Her other accomplishments include the creation of the Iraq Museum to preserve the priceless cultural artefacts and antiquities of the region. This was the museum that was infamously ransacked during the American invasion in 2003. Many of the ancient sites that Bell visited and photographed, such as Palmyra, Nineveh and Nimrud, have been destroyed by ISIL. She left over 7,000 photographs, including stunning panoramas of these sites.

Voiced and executive produced by Tilda Swinton, the film chronicles Bell's journey into the uncharted Arabian desert and all-male halls of colonial power with never-seen-before archival footage of the region shot a century ago, and reconstructions of testimony from key peers including T. E. Lawrence and Vita Sackville-West. Openly critical of colonialism, Bell offered a counterpoint to typical British all-male power; and her views on the future of the Middle East takes us into a past that is eerily current and prophetic.

The film won the 2016 Beirut International Film Festival for Best Feature Film, and the 2017 FOCAL International Awards for the Best Use of Footage in a History Feature. It was nominated at the 2017 Cleveland International Film Festival for Best Documentary, and at the 2017 Munich International Documentary Film Festival for the Viktor Award.

Sara Stinke

The Roaring Twenties

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

The 1920s were a decade of both progression and backlash to the trauma experienced in World War I and the pandemic that ensued in 1918, remarkably parallel to the current coronavirus, which awakened people's intense thirst for life, as reflected in this exhibition.

The main new feature of this show is the pioneering collaboration between the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and renowned playwright and opera director Calixto Bieito, who created an exhibition design to foster an enriching dialogue between the fine arts and the performing arts.

The 1920s witnessed an explosion of creativity and freedom in all spheres of art and in lifestyles, the harbingers of changes that are still in effect today.

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents The Roaring Twenties, sponsored by BBK, a stimulating tour through the groundbreaking 1920s through more than 300 objects representing the most important artistic disciplines of the time, from painting, sculpture, and drawing to photography, film, collage, architecture, fashion and furniture design.

The exhibition will introduce visitors European cities like Berlin, Paris, Vienna, and Zurich, where major changes and progress were occurring in all spheres, many of which can still be felt today. Even though we cannot compare 1:1 our decade with the 1920s, there surprisingly a lot of parallels, dominated by the trauma of a pandemic and a major recession due to World War I. Yet at the same time it was a decade of progress, with an explosion of creativity and freedom, so this glimpse into the past offers encouraging ideas and inspiration for the future.

[COMPLETE VIRTUAL](#) tour of the exhibition 50 min.

[VIDEO IMAGES](#) from the galleries 3 min. 50 s.





BRENTFORD FC

Bees confirm third place with win against Premier League bound Hornets

Brentford 2 - 0 Watford

Brentford confirmed a second consecutive Championship third name with a 2-0 victory at the Brentford Community Stadium against already promoted Watford. Second-half strikes from Marcus Forss and Ivan Toney ensured another playoff campaign after Toney had become just the second player this century to score 30 goals in a Championship season.



The Bees very nearly found themselves a goal down minutes into the contest when a pass from Christian Nørgaard was intercepted in midfield by Will Hughes. Hughes in turn released the ball to Joseph Hungbo who broke with pace before playing the ball invitingly into the path of Dan Gosling, however the Watford player was denied from the edge of the six-yard box by an excellent save by David Raya with his legs.

At the other end from a free-kick a volley from Nørgaard grazed the top of the net after a delivery from out wide by Mathias Jensen and Toney could only head straight at Daniel Bachmann when Marcus Forss had dribbled forward and pulled a cross back from the by-line.

Brentford took the lead just a minute into the second-half as the opener came courtesy of a well worked team move finished by Forss. Mads Bidstrup picked up a loose ball in midfield and fed Tariqe Fosu on the left wing. The Ghanaian then dribbled at Hughes, before slipping a through ball towards the advancing Sergi Canós who pulled the ball back across goal for a simple finish at the back post for Forss.

Things got even better for the home side as they were then awarded a penalty on the hour mark after Toney was brought down in the box by Francisco Sierralta inside the box. The Championship's top scorer then picked himself up on the ground to send the ball into the bottom corner and past the despairing dive of Bachmann to get the crucial second goal.

Watford nearly had the chance to get a goal back and reduce the deficit when substitute Isaac Success brought a deep cross from out wide down on his chest and then volleyed goalwards, but Raya did magnificently to tip the ball onto the crossbar.

Late on Brentford themselves hit the woodwork when Canós went he intercepted a loose ball on the edge of the area and shot first time with Bachmann well beaten but the crossbar came to the Hornets' rescue and on the subsequent follow up the Spaniard drag a shot wide of the far post. In the end it didn't matter however as Brentford secured the victory against a side they will hope to join in the Premier League next season.

QPR player charged after recent game with Bees

QPR's Todd Kane has been issued with a charge from the English Football Association after an incident in the West London derby between the two side on Wednesday 17th February.

The charge relates to abusive and insulting language as well as references based on the nationality and ethnicity of the player.

The club has stated that it will not be making a comment on the issue at this stage and the QPR defender has until Monday 17th May to reply to the charge.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: Bristol City (A) Saturday 8th May 12:30 Ashton Gate

Nickname: The Robins

Competition: Championship - Matchday 46

Manager: Nigel Pearson

Opponent record: P45 W15 D6 L24 GF45 GA65 (19th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Bristol City have one of the few international club derbies in the United Kingdom with their rivalry with Cardiff City, which is known as the Severnside derby.

Come on you Bees!

Twickenham Stadium to welcome fans for European cup finals

Twickenham Stadium will host the 2021 Heineken Champions Cup and Challenge Cup finals with a limited number of fans permitted to attend both matches, in line with the UK government's roadmap to recovery.

Up to 10,000 spectators will be able to buy tickets for each game with the Challenge Cup decider scheduled for Friday 21 May at 20.00 and the Heineken Champions Cup final going ahead on Saturday 22 May at 4.45pm. Both matches are subject to licences being granted by Richmond Council.

The RFU is working closely with the Council, as well as with other key stakeholders such as the Metropolitan police and South Western Railway, to ensure the events are as safe as possible for spectators, staff and local residents. Additional measures will be in place, including increased cleaning, extra toilet provision, assigned gate entry and a revised transport plan.

Find out more about the matches and how to buy tickets [HERE](#)

For more information about the events and COVID-19 safety view [HERE](#)



May 12, Florence Nightingale Day

'Lady with the lamp' whose legacy lives on in the days of Covid

Her decision to become a nurse appalled her parents, but as we mark the 201st anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale it's clear that this remarkable Victorian trail-blazer is a heroine for today. Former primary school teacher Laura Steele of education resources experts [PlanBee](#) says why not mark the day with your children

Born into wealth

Florence Nightingale was born in 1820 into a wealthy family. She was named after the city she was born in - Florence, in Italy. Her family moved back to Britain in 1821. In the Victorian era, girls from families like the Nightingales were expected to get married and spend their days looking after the home and children, with some occasional charity work. However, Florence had other ideas...

A break with tradition

Florence decided not to get married. She was deeply religious and believed that God wanted her to do important work. In 1844, she announced she was going to become a nurse, a decision that horrified her parents. Doctors performed operations with no anaesthetic (which stopped a patient feeling pain). Most people who went to hospital died there. Nurses were rarely trained, and it was not seen as a respectable profession.

In 1853, she was asked by a friend to run a hospital in London that cared for sick 'gentlewomen'. Florence received no money for doing this, but was able to put the nursing skills she had learnt into practice, and made many useful changes to the way the hospital was run.



War in the Crimea: 1853

As Great Britain, France and Turkey were went to war with Russia, British newspapers reported appalling conditions in the hospitals in Turkey, where those wounded in battle were sent to be treated. More soldiers were dying from the diseases they caught in the hospital than in the battles they were fighting.

Minister of War Sidney Herbert, a friend of Florence, asked her to take a team of nurses to Turkey to try to improve the conditions there. In 1854, she and 38 volunteer nurses travelled to Scutari Hospital. There were not enough beds and many soldiers lay on the dirty floor. Their bandages were filthy, they had no clean water and only mouldy bread to eat. There were no proper toilets, and rats were everywhere. The soldiers were hungry, cold and in pain.

A clean sweep

Florence and her team cleaned the kitchens, and she hired a chef to cook better meals for the patients. She began a laundry to ensure that clothes and bedding were kept clean. The patients were washed, and their bandages were clean and changed regularly. She made sure that everyone washed their hands frequently.

Florence worked for up to 20 hours a day. At night, she walked around the wards with a lantern, making sure that the men were comfortable, and helping them to write letters home - hence 'the lady with the lamp'. There was a marked fall in the hospital death rate.

An enduring legacy

When the war ended in 1856, Florence returned home a national hero. She began a campaign to improve the quality of nursing in all military hospitals. She conducted research on food, death rates and doctors' training and campaigned for reform.

In 1857 she presented her research to the Sanitary Commission, which led to the establishment of the Army Medical College in Chatham. As a result of Florence's work, the army began training doctors, hospitals became cleaner, and soldiers received better food and clothes.

In 1860, with the money she received from the government for her services during the Crimean War, she helped to found the Nightingale School and Home for Nurses in London. It was one of the first places to teach nursing as a formal profession. Thanks to Florence, nursing was now seen as a respected and honourable career.

She died on 13 August 1910, aged 90. Respecting her wishes, her family held a small funeral, despite the offer of an official burial in Westminster Abbey.

Nightingale Hospitals and Covid

Florence Nightingale's devotion to nursing has inspired, and continues to inspire, nurses around the world. She is often regarded as the founder of modern nursing.

Her insistence on good hygiene and hand-washing remains relevant today. We were all told to reduce the spread of Covid 19 by washing our hands regularly.

The seven emergency NHS Nightingale hospitals that were opened in response to the pandemic were named after Florence. The improvements she made to both nursing and the running of hospitals back in the 19th century have helped us to cope with the current pandemic today.

10 Fascinating Facts about Florence Nightingale

- Florence developed an interest in helping others from an early age. As a child, she cared for sick pets and servants whenever she had the chance.
- Florence was well-educated and could speak French, German and Italian.
- Florence had an older sister called Parthenope (affectionately known as 'Pop'). At first she was opposed to Florence's decision to become a nurse, but later became supported her sister's work during the Crimean War.
- When travelling home from Turkey, Florence gave her name as 'Miss Smith' so that no one knew who she was - she didn't want a fuss.
- In 1856 she met with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, discussing with them her time in Scutari, and her ideas for improving the military hospitals in Britain.
- By the time she was 38, Florence was bedridden for most of her days due to an infection she never completely recovered from.
- In 1859 Florence published a book called *Notes on Nursing*. At 76 pages long, it was full of hints and tips on nursing, for both nurses and the 'ordinary woman'.
- In 1870, Florence supported the founding of the British Red Cross, and gave advice on nursing and running hospitals.
- In 1907, Florence was awarded the Order of Merit (a special award given by the monarch for her work in the development of nursing. She was the first woman to have received the honour.
- A famous Nightingale quote: *'I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse.'*

Check out [PlanBee's 'Florence Nightingale'](#) History scheme of work for Year 2, or the lesson focusing on [Florence Nightingale in our British History Heroes](#) scheme of work for Year 3 and Year 4. We also have a FREE ['Pictures of Florence Nightingale Display Pack'](#) for you to download.

WHO lists additional COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use and issues interim policy recommendations

Sinopharm-developed vaccine could help boost supply to underserved countries

WHO today listed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green light for this vaccine to be rolled out globally. The Sinopharm vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG).

“The addition of this vaccine has the potential to rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries seeking to protect health workers and populations at risk,” said Dr Mariângela Simão, WHO Assistant-Director General for Access to Health Products. “We urge the manufacturer to participate in the COVAX Facility and contribute to the goal of more equitable vaccine distribution.”

WHO’s Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply. It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approval to import and administer COVID-19 vaccines.

The EUL assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as risk management plans and programmatic suitability, such as cold chain requirements. The assessment is performed by the product evaluation group, composed by regulatory experts from around the world and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), in charge of performing the risk-benefit assessment for an independent recommendation on whether a vaccine can be listed for emergency use and, if so, under which conditions.

In the case of the Sinopharm vaccine, the WHO assessment included on-site inspections of the production facility.

The Sinopharm product is an inactivated vaccine called SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell). Its easy storage requirements make it highly suitable for low-resource settings. It is the also first vaccine that will carry a vaccine vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that change colour as the vaccine is exposed to heat, letting health workers know whether the vaccine can be safely used.

WHO’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) has also completed its review of the vaccine. On the basis of all available evidence, WHO recommends the vaccine for adults 18 years and older, in a two-dose schedule with a spacing of three to four weeks. Vaccine efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalized disease was estimated to be 79%, all age groups combined.

Few older adults (over 60 years) were enrolled in clinical trials, so efficacy could not be estimated in this age group. Nevertheless, WHO is not recommending an upper age limit for the vaccine because preliminary data and supportive immunogenicity data suggest the vaccine is likely to have a protective effect in older persons. There is no theoretical reason to believe that the vaccine has a different safety profile in older and younger populations. WHO therefore recommends that countries using the vaccine in older age groups conduct safety and effectiveness monitoring to make the recommendation more robust.

WHO emergency use listing

The emergency use listing (EUL) procedure assesses the suitability of novel health products during public health emergencies. The objective is to make medicines, vaccines and diagnostics available as rapidly as possible to address the emergency, while adhering to stringent criteria of safety, efficacy and quality. The assessment weighs the threat posed by the emergency as well as the benefit that would accrue from the use of the product against any potential risks.

The EUL pathway involves a rigorous assessment of late phase II and phase III clinical trial data as well as substantial additional data on safety, efficacy, quality and a risk management plan. These data are reviewed by independent experts and WHO teams who consider the current body of evidence on the vaccine under consideration, the plans for monitoring its use, and plans for further studies.

As part of the EUL process, the company producing the vaccine must commit to continue to generate data to enable full licensure and WHO prequalification of the vaccine. The WHO prequalification process will assess additional clinical data generated from vaccine trials and deployment on a rolling basis to ensure the vaccine meets the necessary standards of quality, safety and efficacy for broader availability.

WHO also listed the Pfizer/BioNTech [vaccine](#) for emergency use on 31 December 2020; two AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccines on 15 February 2021, produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India; and COVID-19 vaccine Ad26.COV2.S developed by Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) on 12 March 2021.

Listings

WHO has also listed the [Pfizer/BioNTech](#), [Astrazeneca-SK Bio](#), [Serum Institute of India](#), [Janssen](#) and [Moderna](#) vaccines for emergency use.

See [EUL listings](#)

SAGE

SAGE is the principal advisory group to WHO for vaccines and immunization. It is charged with advising WHO on overall global policies and strategies, ranging from vaccines and technology, research and development, to delivery of immunization and its linkages with other health interventions. SAGE is concerned not just with childhood vaccines and immunization, but all vaccine-preventable diseases.

SAGE has issued [recommendations](#) on Pfizer (8 January 2021), Moderna (25 January 2021), AstraZeneca (21 April 2021), and Janssen COVID (17 March 2021) vaccines, as well as issued a framework for access and population prioritization roadmap.

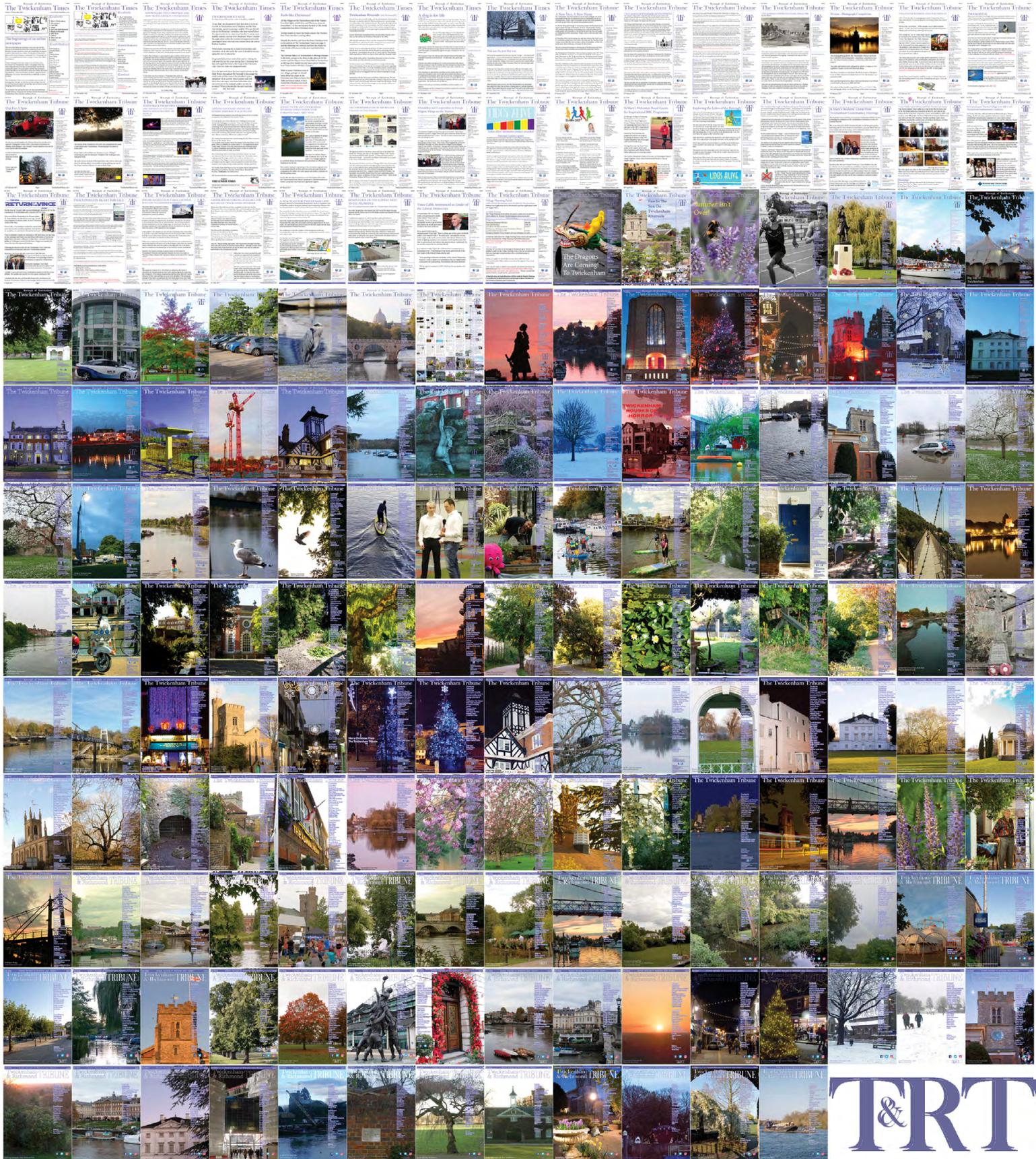
SAGE and EUL are complementary but independent processes. The EUL process is centred on determining if a manufactured product is quality-assured, safe and effective. SAGE is policy oriented. Policy recommendations for a vaccine are only of value to a vaccination campaign when the product has been listed or authorized for use.

In the context of COVID-19 and due the pressing need for vaccines, the Secretariat of SAGE and the EUL team have been working in parallel to allow WHO EUL and policy recommendations, based on the available evidence, to be issued in a synchronized manner.

The SAGE Interim Recommendations can be found at this location:
<https://www.who.int/groups/strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-immunization/covid-19-materials>



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