

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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21st May 2021

TRT

Wisteria

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Road closure on Hospital Bridge Road Twickenham

A temporary road closure and two-way traffic signals will be in place on Hospital Bridge Road from Saturday 22 May to Sunday 30 May 2021. Development works are currently ongoing to complete Turing House School, a new secondary school on Hospital Bridge Road, at the junction with Montrose Avenue in Twickenham (TW2 6LH). The new school will provide additional school places in the borough. As part of these works, J Murphy & Sons Ltd will be working with Thames Water Utilities Ltd to install a new gas main, a high voltage electric cable and clean water mains connection from Saturday 22 May to Sunday 30 May.

Richmond upon Thames Mayor to serve for second year

Cllr Geoff Acton has been formally sworn in as Mayor of Richmond upon Thames for a second year, at last night's Annual Council meeting.

Cllr Acton, originally from Manchester, represents St Margaret's and North Twickenham for the Liberal Democrats and has lived in the Borough since 1998. Cllr Acton has been a Councillor since 2006, he was Deputy Mayor in 2008-2009, Business and Economics Lead from 2018 to 2020 and became Mayor of the Borough in 2020.

Cllr Acton is serving as Richmond Mayor for a second year, after the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the opportunities for him to raise money for his chosen charities - Habitats and Heritage (previously the South West London Environment Network) and Dose of Nature. This is the first time a Mayor has served a second term since the Borough was formed in 1965.

parkrun to delay restart of 5k events in England

parkrun UK has announced that it has been forced to delay the planned reopening of 5k events in England on Saturday 5 June.

Although more than 250 events do have landowner permission to return, this falls far short of the critical mass needed to prevent overwhelming those that have been given the go ahead.

With more than three million registered parkrunners across England, and around 300,000 people taking part on a typical weekend, opening a small subset of parkruns is not viable.

With a number of landowners responding positively, parkrun UK will now target Saturday 26 June to resume all 5k events across England. A decision will be made regarding the go ahead for this new date on Friday 11 June. A full list of events that currently have permission can be found [here](#)

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



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TwickerSeal has been enjoying his (and everyone else's) favourite community newspaper, the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

He's been especially fascinated recently with all the letters about the council's proposed development of Twickenham Riverside; he finds it interesting seeing the contrasting views of the various groups and local residents.

There are lots of different views and even those who support each other don't agree on everything, but a consistent theme seems to be that the council is not delivering what it promised or what is wanted.

Some of the basic elements have been lost – there is no town square, there is no discernible Diamond Jubilee Gardens, there are no boathouses, the vehicle-free riverfront will have large lorry traffic and there is nothing that could be seen as a 'magnet' to make Twickenham Riverside a destination (unless you like looking at other people's flats in an enviable location on the riverside).

It is interesting that the floodable boathouses can't be put in place because of, er ... flooding, but the location is suitable for events and markets. Presumably someone has created an Aqua Market and the events will be based around scuba diving?



Acer or 'Maple' trees

A very firm favourite of ornamental tree in the borough, Acer trees have a distinctive leaf shape and vibrant foliage. Regularly found in purple and red they can also take the form of a shrub coming in a variety of shapes and sizes. Known primarily for their foliage, some varieties also produce flowers and fruits known as samaras. The Japanese custom 'mornijigari' is observing the Acer leaf change colour.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director for Public Health England, said:

“As we start to socialise more with family and friends this week, whether that is outdoors or inside with up to six people or two households, we must all be mindful that the virus, including variant cases, are still present in London.

“Lots of people have not yet had the vaccine and a spike in cases, particularly of the variant of concern first identified in India which appears to be more transmissible, could quickly set us back.

“So, it is vital we all continue to get tested regularly, including getting involved in any surge testing taking place in our local area, and take up the vaccine when it is offered.

“We can reduce our risks by thinking carefully about who and how many people we are meeting, as well as remembering the basics of Hands, Face, Space and Fresh Air.”

Congregating Indoors and the Importance of Ventilation

A study, led by Cambridge University with Imperial College London researchers, found that “in poorly ventilated spaces the virus can spread further than two metres in seconds, and is far more likely to spread through prolonged talking than through coughing.”

An article in Nature pointed out:

“Even in a seemingly spacious, high-ceilinged room there could be poor ventilation.”

On 14 May 2021 the Queensland University of Technology reported: “Researchers are calling for a ‘paradigm shift’ in combating airborne pathogens such as COVID-19, demanding universal recognition that infections can be prevented by improving indoor ventilation systems.”

Latest figures for Richmond upon Thames

IN THE LAST 7 DAYS...

10.1

per 100,000 or 20 new cases, compared to 31 the previous week

2

deaths directly related to COVID-19 between 1 and 7 May

0.1%

of tests showing a positive result of COVID-19

105,098

people in the borough have now received their first dose of the COVID Vaccine, up from 100,900 the previous week. 52,777 have had their second dose.

Total cases to 21 May 2021

10,953 Richmond upon Thames

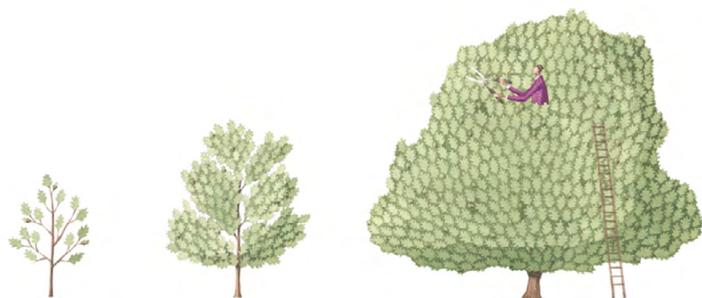
12,404 Kingston upon Thames

25,322 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,422,907

USA	582,346	Ukraine	48,899
Brazil	441,691	Indonesia	48,887
India	291,331	Turkey	45,419
Mexico	220,850	Czechia	29,967
The United Kingdom	127,694	Romania	29,716
Italy	124,646	Hungary	29,380
Russian Federation	117,361	Chile	28,169
France	107,403	Canada	25,066
Germany	86,902	Belgium	24,768
Colombia	82,743	Ecuador	20,022
Spain	79,502	Pakistan	19,987
Iran	77,994	Philippines	19,641
Poland	72,500	Netherlands	17,488
Argentina	72,265	Bulgaria	17,416
Peru	67,034	Portugal	17,013
South Africa	55,507	Iraq	16,102



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

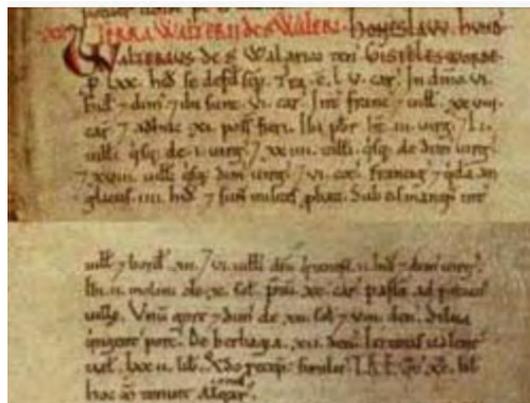
Where did Twickenham come from?

By Simon Fowler

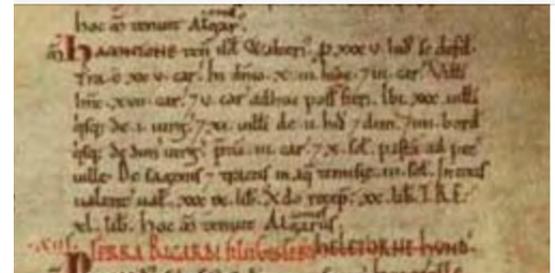
We know surprisingly little about Twickenham's very early history. Relatively little has been uncovered about any Romans, Anglo-Saxons Normans settlements locally. The reason probably lies in the landscape. The area was largely marshy mainly occupied by fishermen and their families, living in reed huts which have long since decayed. The major settlements locally were in the ridge of land where the Great West Road runs through Brentford.

A hint of the original landscape might possibly be found in the town's unusual name. There is a Saxon word 'wic' which was derived from a Roman word 'vicus' for a small settlement. Another word 'hamm', is possibly of English origin, meaning variously 'land in a river bend or promontory, dry ground in a marsh, river meadow', which is a likely description of the settlement: Twickenham lies between two rivers, the Thames, and the Crane which used to run through marshy land.

The earliest written charters just record the ownership of land. The first written record of the existence of Twickenham is in a charter of AD 704, which is now in the British Museum. In the charter Ethelrede, king of the East Saxons, grants Bishop Waldhere an estate in the area:



The heavily abbreviated entries for Isleworth and Hampton in the Domesday Book (credit The National Archives/Museum of Twickenham)



'Now this land is marked off by the following local boundaries; on the east and south it is terminated by the river Thames, on the north by a flooded plain, the name of which is Fishbourne. And we have over the possessions of this land as above said, with available fields, pastures, meadows, marshes, fishpond, rivers, enclosures and all appertaining to it...'

Fishbourne refers to the origins of the River Crane, which roughly flows west to east from near Heathrow airport into the Thames close to Isleworth.

Local historians have suggested that the charter showed: 'that Twickenham was a cultivated settlement of some age and standing at that time and of established area with defined boundaries.' But the archaeological and landscape evidence suggests this may not be the case.

There are entries for Isleworth (including Twickenham) and Hampton (and Teddington) in the Domesday Book, which was compiled on the orders of William the Conqueror in 1086 in order to discover the taxable value of his realm. Both settlements seem to have been reasonably prosperous, although neither was worth as much as they had been before the Norman Conquest. Isleworth was valued as being £72, although in the Reign of Edward the Confessor the parish was worth £80. Hampton was now worth £39, which included three shillings for 'seines and dragnets in the Thames' having been assessed at £40 in 1065.

This article is based on material found on the excellent Museum of Twickenham website www.twickenham-museum.org.uk.

The Orchard quarter

By Kate Slack

The restoration works of the gardens at Marble Hill are well under way and if you wander through the park and around the house you will notice a big change. The four quarters around the house have been restored and as we are working in the woodlands we are getting to know the character of each quarter.

The quarters are being named after the defining feature in each woodland, the Orchard quarter, the Ice House quarter, the Flower garden quarter and the Nine pin bowling quarter. Each quarter has a very different feel to it. Having worked in horticulture for a long time I have come to realise that you must patiently develop a relationship with a garden as you become familiar with it. You begin to understand which plants will thrive in which areas, where the weeds are most prolific, which areas become dry quickly and which areas need more attention and patience.

As this is a new garden we are gently beginning to develop our relationship with the gardens, as they gradually reveal their secrets and begin to establish and flourish. The Orchard quarter is coming into its own now that the fruit trees are planted, the meadow is blossoming and the borders are beginning to establish. It is the sunniest of the garden quarters and as it runs east to west the light of the setting sun catches and illuminates the fruit trees and meadow flowers in the evening.



This will be a lovely quarter for people to visit, the paths will be mown through the meadow and once the fruit trees are mature it will give the experience of wandering through a traditional orchard. Traditional orchards generally have longer grass sward with a rich mix of flowers which creates an attractive habitat for insects that will naturally predate on fruit pests.

Beehives were traditionally kept in orchards in order to pollinate the fruit blossom which in turn would provide delicious honey. An orchard that is sympathetically managed for wildlife and diversity becomes its own self-sustaining ecosystem which is fantastic for our threatened wildlife whilst producing fruit and honey for people. What could be better?

Appeal after man dies following Richmond stabbing

A murder investigation has been launched after a man died in hospital following a stabbing in Richmond.

Police were called shortly before 16:00hrs on Monday, 17 May following a report of a stabbing in the vicinity of Kings Road.

Officers attended and found a 39-year-old man who had been stabbed and was being treated by London Ambulance Service paramedics.

He was taken to hospital where he died on the morning of Thursday, 20 May.

The victim has been named as Tim Hipperson. His next of kin have been informed and they are being supported by specially trained officers.

Officers conducted an area search but no suspects were located.

It is believed that while the victim was found in Kings Road, he may have been stabbed in nearby Peldon Passage.

The investigation is being led by **Acting Detective Chief Inspector Maria Green of the Met's Specialist Crime Command (Homicide).**

DCI Green, said: "This is a tragic development in this case and my thoughts are with Tim's family and friends at this incredibly sad time.

"I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the local community for help in finding the person or people responsible for Tim's death. I would ask local residents to check their doorbell footage and dashcams to see if they captured any footage of this incident. I would ask anyone who witnessed this incident or saw something out of the ordinary to get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity."

Anyone who witnessed the incident, or who has information about what took place, is urged to call 101 providing the reference CAD4524/17MAY. You can also report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Hard calls save lives. Are you close to someone on the fringes of knife crime? Do the right thing, please give information, 100 per cent anonymously, through the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#).

No piece of information about knife crime is insignificant or too small. Any information you give to [Crimestoppers](#) can make a difference in reducing knife crime and the harm it causes to families.

[Crimestoppers](#) never ask your name and they cannot trace your call, your IP address or the device you use. Fill in their quick online form or call 0800 555 111. It could save a life.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

To the Editor, Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

“They Paved Paradise and put up a Parking Lot” - and then re-paved it...

Shona Lyons, in her letter to the Tribune (7th May), argues for a redeveloped Twickenham Riverside with ‘accessible space’ where ‘the local community and visitors would come to enjoy the scenery’ at ‘a beautiful riverside’ - instead of *paving Paradise* (quoting the Joni Mitchell song).

She is right. An attractive open space must be the goal – with as much green, unpaved space as possible without the parking.

In that respect, how - we ask ourselves - is the Council’s plan for the redevelopment shaping up? What are we residents being offered, currently?

The space as proposed would be overshadowed by a tall, new building on Wharf Lane, five storeys high - six if viewed from the front on the embankment - because of the flood-wall plinth on which the building sits. There would be a new four-storey building on Water Lane, with extensions also planned by the new owners to the back of the existing buildings on King Street (height expected to be four storeys too). Taken together, the effect of these would be to create an area narrowly enclosed on three sides, with a very constricted entrance at the top of Wharf Lane.

How that is likely to feel – both from the riverfront and from within the space where the Diamond Jubilee Gardens now sit – can be sensed by a visit to the site with architect’s plan in hand and comparing footprints and heights, actually in situ, with the surrounding buildings and property lines on King St and Water Lane. This can be downloaded and printed from the Council website [here](#). The stated objective is for the Gardens to be ‘re-provisioned’, but the design as currently proposed would seem to entail an overall loss of public space as well as the loss of a ‘feel’ of the park/green space provided by the existing DJG, owing primarily to the impact of the proposed Wharf Lane building.

On this and other aspects, the Council and Councillors have not adequately engaged in discussion with local residents. They seem intent on rushing ahead, regardless.

All local people who have followed the saga of Twickenham riverside are agreed that the derelict area has been there for far too long and many of us (including RAG, which has been an independent observer of the proposals for more than six years) welcomed the style of the Hopkins proposal as per their outline for the architects’ competition. That said, the detail of the redevelopment needs to be right, to ensure the future practicality and attractiveness of this important site. Not only will we be judging the development when it is first opened to the public, but every time we visit it in the following years. The chosen design will have to stand the test of time, over the next century and more. In that context, an extra month or two to achieve a better result pales into insignificance.

Joni Mitchell said it in the same song: “*Don’t it always seem to go that you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone...*” – to a planning application drawn up largely behind closed doors.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Newborne - on behalf of the Riverside Action Group (RAG) Steering Group

Dear Sir,

Twickenham Riverside – What does the majority want?

The present scheme promoted by Richmond Council has attracted many elaborate claims. Richmond Council are delivering what the majority of Twickenham residents have requested, the majority of Twickenham residents are very happy with this really excellent scheme and the Council deserve our congratulations and support. But what is fact and what is opinion?

Are the Council's proposals what the majority of residents really want?

Take the claim in a letter from Ben Makins last week that, after the Liberal Democrats were elected in 2018, this Council had the strongest mandate in 40 years to take this project forward. That cannot be taken literally. The project proposed by the Council was not in any defined form until 2021.

True, the Council did make promises on what they would deliver, promises you can find in the project requirements set out in the design brief. This was produced in 2019 by the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Council's Design Panel.

The design brief is really important because it is the 'job spec' for the architects in designing this development. Helpfully, the Council prioritised the requirements in the design brief, including certain 'must have' features. Not just 'could' or 'should', but 'must'.

An important point mentioned by the letter's author is the petition with approaching 3,000 signatories, under the title 'A Town Square and Riverside Park for Twickenham'. A town square has indeed been called for by residents in consultations and workshops going back at least ten years – a place for every-day community activities, where people can meet and socialise, a place for occasional open air events and exhibitions.

The town square's importance is also recognised in the design brief. It is a 'must have' feature as (quote) 'a focal point for the town' and so, presumably, in a prominent location. But where is it?

The council's officers 'suggested' it might be the amphitheatre with tiered seating for occasional performance events in a corner of the site, but they weren't sure. That is a very sad reflection on our town square, a focal point for Twickenham, a 'must have' feature that will help draw people into the town and boost the local economy.

The Council have not delivered the town square or many of the other 'must have' elements they promised to deliver in the Twickenham Riverside development. The Twickenham Coalition puts the spotlight on the flaws in their proposals so that the people of Twickenham can see for themselves where the proposals fall short and make up their own minds whether they support the Council's plans.

People don't need someone else to tell them what they want.

Yours sincerely

The Twickenham Coalition

'Love our town'

<https://thetwickenhamcoalition.org>

Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside

As a Twickenham resident I should like to set straight some of the misleading comments about the Twickenham Riverside plans that Ben Makins made in his letter to the Tribune last week, though it is interesting to read that The Twickenham Riverside Park Team is, and has been since before the local elections, fully behind the Liberal Democratic/Green Parties.

As the LibDems didn't mention the removal of parking on Twickenham Riverside in their election manifesto, I'm not sure that it was given a ringing endorsement to do so by the electorate. The "3000 or so" TRPT petition was signed by people from the four corners of the UK as well as from all around the world (Elena Davidova from Moscow being my own personal favourite). More relevant to the current situation are the results of the Council's own consultation on the plans (Jan 2021) which showed that the people who responded were overwhelmingly local (97% from the Borough of Richmond). Only 17% said that they liked the car free riverside in the plans. It would be interesting to know what percentage of the TRPT petition signatories lived in the Borough.

Mr Makins refers to the "interim" Diamond Jubilee Gardens. A lease of 125 years is hardly "interim".

It is to be noted that rather than "close to 100 leading architects" expressing interest in the RIBA competition, as Mr Makins claims, RIBA Competitions is on record as saying that the actual number expressing interest was 54 firms.

The detailed design brief had some input from the Stakeholder Group representative on the Design Panel, though the 3 independent members on the panel were outnumbered by the 4 LibDem Councillors. Attention was drawn, by the Stakeholders, to several documents that the Council MUST take into account when analysing the designs. The subsequent alterations to the original scheme presented (Sept-Oct 2019), resulting in a final plan (Feb 2021), are very much due the fact that the contents of many of these documents were not taken sufficiently seriously. In fact, so many changes have now been made that the 3 independent members of the Design Panel consider that this final plan would not have passed the criteria set out in the original Brief.

"Let's Get Riverside Done" should not be the reason for continuing with a scheme when there are so many glaring faults in it. The Twickenham Coalition call for Richmond Council to pause, prepare proposals that will deliver what they said they would deliver and put them on the table for public consultation. Surely this is something everybody would support.

Sue Hamilton-Miller

Twickenham

Dear Tribune,

E scooter Trial.

Last night's documentary by ITV about electric scooters said it all. (see below)

Unfortunately, Richmond's Liberal and Democratic Council is not listening.

I have almost lost count of the number of times I have been crashed into, abused, and threatened by cyclists illegally on our footways, including one serious threat to run me over by a female which made me dial 999 for the police.

Now, we all have to contend with electric scooters also on the footways.

There can be very few people who have not experienced this menace.

On June 7, Richmond begins a trial of these machines with a view to making them legal to hire.

Firstly, I must say that I have no objection to people doing anything that is within the law.

But there is now enough evidence to show that many of these machines will be operated outside the law. They already are.

As a British Airways pilot, I can assure readers that airlines take safety extremely seriously and for many years have had a system in which any safety issue is promulgated throughout the industry so that we all learn from the experiences of others.

But Richmond Council's arrogance means that they clearly do NOT learn from the experience of others.

I, and others, have sent numerous news reports to our Council on the dangers and experiences of other cities. I even had a personal meeting with their so-called Borough Safety Officer. All to no avail.

Cllr Alex Ehmann, the Chair of the Transport Committee, actually replied to me as follows:

'The trial will be the way that the council will "decide". I would be grateful if you could refrain from sending me articles. If I wish to read the Daily Mail or any other media output, I am able to buy or access their materials quite independently.'

'The decision to proceed with the London-wide trial has already been taken, so your continued correspondence on this matter is moot.'

I was under the misapprehension that councillors were elected to listen to residents' concerns

and help them – not tell them to shut up.

At least 11 deaths have been linked to the scooters in cities including Paris, Brussels, Barcelona, Stockholm and London and hundreds of people have been injured in road traffic incidents involving these vehicles (BBC News, 6 Aug 2019 & The Times 20.5.2021).

Chief Superintendent Simon Ovens of London's Metropolitan Police says: «*They're dangerous, they're illegal... retailers are not stepping up to the mark to make that absolutely clear.*»

Forces across the country are seeing huge rises in police incidents relating to e-scooters.

The Tonight programme found that in 2019 there were more than 1,055. In 2020 it was nearly five times that number, at 5,011.

Clearly, there is money to be made by scooter manufacturers, sellers, and rental companies and, one assumes, by local councils who will receive some kind of tax from their rental. They are not the 'green' solution as many claim because the mining of their metals by African child labour is a cause for serious concern and the scooters have only a short life before they are scrapped. More poisonous waste to get rid of.

A few councillors are sympathetic to safety concerns but assurances by others that safeguards will be in place are naïve and carry no weight whatsoever. And with no police around, the law is already blatantly ignored.

With proper training, lawful E scooters can play a useful role in factories, airports, and the like and, yes, I know that car drivers also misuse their vehicles.

But why add to the chaos?

I suggest that anyone who sees one of these vehicles being used on the footways should inform both the police and the council, because if they don't know, they cannot act.

Richmond Park rightly bans these machines.

It is not only elderly people, the blind, the deaf, and the disabled, who are in danger. We ALL are.

E scooter riders are not required to wear helmets.

But, from June 7, it's the pedestrians who are going to need one.

Michael Jay

Richmond

ITV **Tonight** programme, 'E-scooters: Britain's New Road Rage?', 20 May 2021:

www.itv.com/news/2021-05-19/hundreds-hurt-in-englands-electric-scooter-roll-out-itv-investigation-finds

Petersham and Ham

The Petersham and Ham Sea Scouts will be moving into the new scout hut on Saturday 25 May 2021.

Construction on the new scout hut started in February 2020 prior to lockdown and following the demolition of the old hut, CCBM builders moved in at the beginning of May 2020 and continued throughout lockdowns before completing the construction on the new hut this month, May 2021.

Richmond

Plant sale for wildlife taking place this weekend in aid of Habitats & Heritage
Habitats & Heritage is a local charity in south and west London that cares for the natural and historic environment and are one of this years Mayor's charities.

This Sunday 23 May will see a plant sale taking place at Grove Gardens Chapel in Richmond. Kids go free with the sale running from 10am to 2pm. There will also be a number of other activities taking place on the day.

Proceeds from the plant sale go towards supporting local environmental charity Habitats & Heritage.

Teddington

Landmark Printingmaking Festival 2021 takes place over Bank Holiday weekend
An in-person exhibition of prints & artists' books takes place at the Landmark Arts Centre over the over Bank Holiday weekend from Friday 28 May to Monday 31 May 2021.

Join the Landmark Arts team for a chance to ease-back into visiting the Centre again and to have a great day out.

There are timed entry slots for visitors, so [book online](#) or call the Landmark on 020 8977 7558 for more info.

Fewer than 15 artists will be physically present at any one time but other artists' work will be exhibited on the walls of the Landmark Arts Centre for you to view and buy.

Social distancing measures will be in place, so attendees will be required to wear a mask unless you are exempt. The on-site Café will be open for takeaways.

How to work a scam

From Mac McInerney,
Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch

There are many, many types of scams, and all of them designed to get hold of your money.

The criminals will use every means to steal your information, to get you to reveal your personal details or urge you to willingly hand over the money.



At the beginning of the trail there may be an aggregation agency which accumulates the phone numbers of vulnerable people and has on its books predatory fraudsters who pay a fee to receive details of these people.

The fraudster makes contact with the targeted victims by an unexpected phone call or visit on the doorstep. He gains entry to the home, goes into the loft and discovers a non-existent problem, which he claims his product will solve.

He gives a price, produces a card reader from his briefcase and extracts the victim's money on the spot. In fact the product is useless and could even be dangerous. By then it is too late and the fraudster has made off with hundreds if not thousands of pounds.

This is one version of a classic insulation scam. Worse still, the card reader he produced could be storing the card details and PIN number so that the fraudster can withdraw money from the bank account almost at will.

IGNORE any unexpected phone calls, letters or emails and unknown people knocking on your door.

BE VERY WARY if a caller creates urgency to get you to make an instant decision or raises fears to try and stop you from thinking about what is really going on.

NEVER use your bank card or credit card unless you are 100 per cent sure that the transaction is genuine.

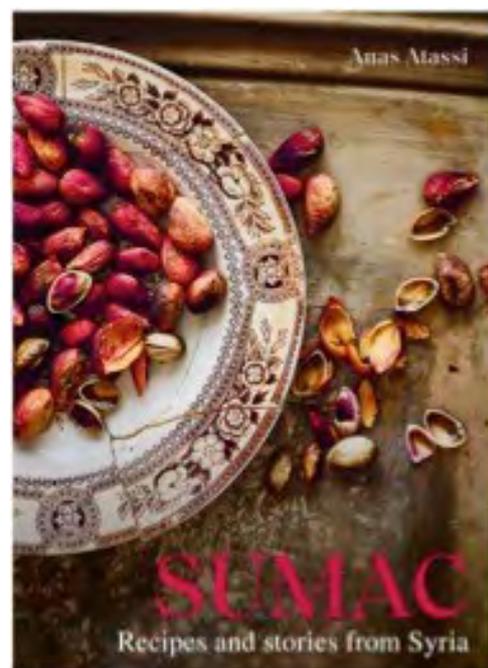
If you think you've been scammed, get in touch with your bank to stop any payment. **BUT** if you were contacted on the phone, don't use the same phone to call your bank - The fraudster may be hanging on to intercept your call.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

MORE THAN A SPICE: SUMAC, RECIPES AND STORIES FROM SYRIA

I adore Middle Eastern food, and am pleased to see that we now have access to lots of takeaways, as well as supermarket foods, that embrace this wonderful cuisine. Even Waitrose now has a dedicated Levantine range. So when I heard that there was an exciting new cookbook out that would teach me more about the region's food, I jumped at the chance to read it! It's called **Sumac** - after the delicious deep-red spice - and the author is **Anas Atassi**, who was born in Homs but now lives in Amsterdam. Sumac the spice is the 'red thread' that connects every dish and is the red thread that will guide you through this fabulous book.

Bordering six countries, Syria is home to a vast array of ethnicities and religions, including Syrian Arabs, Kurds, Tuerkemens, Assyrians, Armenians and Greeks and Sunnis, Christians, Alawites and Yazidis. Such a focused area of diversity has brought with it countless influences through the centuries, leaving their mark. Modern-day Syria's dishes vary immensely, from those that seem Mediterranean (in Tartus), that have Turkish or Armenian flavours (in Aleppo), or that are kept simple and subtle (in Damascus). One shared ingredient through all of these cultures and influences is Sumac.



Atassi fondly remembers his childhood and has often longed for familiar cuisine. In response to this yearning, and as a way to pay tribute to his homeland, he's created this exquisitely photographed cookbook of over 80 recipes from both traditional and contemporary Syrian cuisine. They're inspired by his family dishes, featuring everything from the wonderful Friday breakfasts Anas often ate in his grandmother's garden and his mother's sfeeha (small savoury pies) to za'atar flatbread, batata harra (spicy potatoes), sayadiyah (spicy fish pilaf with caramelised onions) and Zahra (spicy roasted cauliflower) which he enjoys making for his friends.

Below are some recipes from the book to whet your appetite – it will make a fabulous gift (you'll be tempted to browse through it before wrapping it!) and a great Father's Day gift for one who's a dab hand in front of the stove.

Sumac: Recipes and stories by Anas Atassi (£25, Murdoch Books). Photography by Anas Atassi. The author photographer is Jeroen van der Spek.

Mufarakeh - Eggs with Beef and Zucchini (SERVES 4)

"This dish reminds me of long days out and about with my family when we lived in Saudi Arabia – hours of shopping at Ikea, for example (yes, Ikea is everywhere). When we got back home, my mother would make something simple and tasty with whatever we had in our home pantry. We always ate it with flatbread – something I still do to this day."

2 tablespoons of olive oil

1 onion (chopped)

1 zucchini (courgette) (cut into large pieces)

250 g (9 oz) of minced beef

Salt and pepper

4 eggs

1 bunch of flat-leaf parsley (coarsely chopped)



Heat the oil in a large pan. Add the onion and the zucchini and stir-fry until golden brown. Add the minced beef and break it up into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Brown it for 5 minutes, until it is completely cooked. Salt and pepper to taste. Turn the heat to low and make four little wells in the beef mixture. Crack an egg into each well. Cover and cook the eggs for 3–5 minutes, or until the yolks are thoroughly cooked. Serve in the pan, generously sprinkled with parsley.

Sayadiyah – Spicy Fish Pilaf with Caramelised Onions (SERVES 6)

“To make traditional fish pilaf, you usually prepare the rice and fish separately, and serve the fish on top of a mountain of rice. In my version, I prepare the rice and fish at the same time. This gives the flavours a chance to meld together. The juices from the cooking fish lend creaminess to the rice. Choose a firm white fish that won’t fall apart too easily while cooking.”

6 tablespoons of olive oil
5 onions (halved and sliced into thin rings)
700 ml (24 fl oz) of fish or vegetable stock
½ teaspoon of ground cardamom
½ teaspoon of ground cumin
½ teaspoon of ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon of ground cloves
½ teaspoon of ground turmeric
Salt and pepper
500 g (1 lb 2 oz) of cod fillet (with scales and bones removed)
400 g (2 cups) of long-grain rice (rinsed and soaked for 10 minutes)
15 g (¼ cup) of blanched almonds (toasted)
15 g (¼ cup) of pine nuts (toasted)
Blender or food processor



In a large saucepan, heat 4 tablespoons of olive oil on medium heat. Add the onion rings to the hot oil and cook for 15 minutes. Do not have the heat set too high because onions burn easily. Spoon the caramelised onions out of the pan and drain them on paper towel. Reserve half to garnish. Pulse the other half of the caramelised onions in a blender into a thick, dark-brown paste. Add the stock, ground cardamom, ground cumin, cinnamon, clove and turmeric. Blend everything on the pulse setting. Salt and pepper the stock to taste. Set aside – it will be used to cook the rice. In a deep pan, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil on medium heat and sear the fish on both sides. Add the rice to the pan with the fish. Pour the stock from the blender over the fish and rice and bring to a boil. Turn the heat down to low, cover, and simmer for 12–15 minutes until the rice has cooked and absorbed all the liquid. Take the pan off the heat, cover, and let the rice rest for 10 minutes. The rice should be fluffy in texture and will have absorbed all the flavours. Spoon the pilaf into a serving dish, sprinkle with toasted nuts and garnish with the reserved caramelised onions.

THE HAMPTON COURT PALACE ARTISAN FESTIVAL

18-20 JUNE

Life seems to be returning to a semblance of ‘normal’ and one of the first things to look forward to is the new **Hampton Court Palace Artisan Festival**. Bringing together gifting, crafts, traditional entertainment and street food, it’s in a delightful festival setting within the palace’s formal gardens.

This event complements the Hampton Court Palace Food Festival, running later in the summer, and brings together unique creators, businesses, makers and producers, alongside street food and traditional British entertainment. Hampton Court Palace admission tickets include free entry to the Artisan Festival, while Historic Royal Palaces members can also enjoy free entry.

For further information and to purchase tickets visit: <https://www.hrpfestivals.com/>



It all happens in Church Street Twickenham

By Shona Lyons

Next week this little Street is getting a good wash thanks to Discover Twickenham and the cleaning Team! They are going to do it in the middle of the night and will do 40 meters a night, so it all should be finished by Friday, in time for the bank holiday.

Also all our lovely hanging baskets will be delivered by the end of the week too, so this street is really going to start looking beautiful (more beautiful) and ready for the summer (if that ever comes) & Al Fresco Dining.

We are also getting all our bedding plants in this weekend so all the planters at the top by King Street and the square at the bottom by Church Lane will start to be planted ready for the summer as well as a few pots here and there in the rest of the street too.

Another thing that will be happening more regularly is the Perrin Jazz Quartet which is always very popular in the street and has a lot of fans, will be coming back now that outdoor music is allowed and the first date for your diary is Sunday the 30th of May at 1pm.

Two showpiece matches saw fans return to the home of English rugby for the first time in 2021. There has not been live spectators at Twickenham Stadium since the Autumn Nations Cup final last December, & this weekend they have had 10,000 on Friday and again on Saturday for the EPCR finals. But in a town that usually sees 82,000 spectators, with quite a large crowd coming to Church Street, this time it has been a very quiet affair with just a few rugby spectators in Church Street standing out because of their rarity.

So let's hope for good weather next weekend for all the community to enjoy the live music, the freshly washed street and the new hanging baskets in situ!



TRAVELLER'S TALES 97

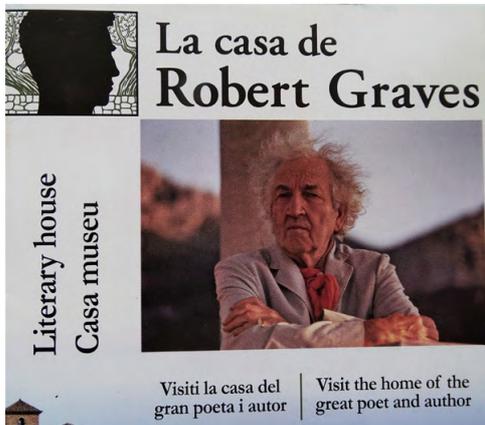
A DAY IN DEIA

Doug Goodman visits Deia in Mallorca



Mallorca is my favourite part of Spain and Palma, its capital, is my favourite city. I first visited the Balearic Island in 1971 and still remember the smell of geraniums at Palma airport and the sticky heat. Fifty years later and some 200 trips to promote the island and the Hotel Bonsol Resort and Spa to travel writers, I still get great pleasure from exploring Mallorca and finding new places. On the west coast is the village of Deia. It's less than 16 miles from Palma and within walking distance of the sea. Here I found the 'Casa de Robert Graves', the house the famous author and poet built and where he wrote many of his wonderful books and poems. His son William and William's wife Elena opened the house to visitors in 2006 and often enjoy showing visitors around the house and the lush green gardens with fruit orchards, almond, olive and carob trees. The spectacular Tramuntana Mountains dominate the region and groves of ancient olive trees line the roads and footpaths.

You almost expect the great man to be sitting at his desk as you enter the study: the house has remained almost exactly as it was, still furnished in 1940s style, when he died in 1985. There's his typewriter ready to be used, his glasses and papers arranged on the desk along with so many personal items. The display cases which hold his books, documents, WW1 memorabilia and awards are fascinating. The kitchen has just been used to prepare breakfast it seems with freshly picked fruit on the table. In the auditorium there's a 15 minute introductory film and a time-line covering the writer's life along with some evocative pictures from 1953.



The Robert Graves' Museum



Robert Graves about 1960

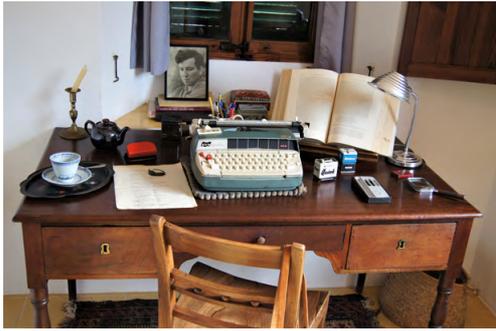


The House in Deia

A LITERARY LIFETIME

If you're fortunate William Graves may be in the house to tell you about his father's life in Deia. His father wrote over 100 books on history, religion, mythology and 1200 poems. For me, with an interest in WW1, 'Good Bye To All That,' which describes the horrors of war when he was a Captain in The Royal Welch Fusiliers, is the most gripping. He arrived in Mallorca in 1929 with his companion Laura Riding and in 1932 had Ca'n Alluny built 500 meters east of Deia. In 1936 he left the island as the Spanish Civil War began and Mallorca supported the right-wing Franco regime. Returning in 1946 to Deia, by the 50s Robert Graves was receiving international acclaim as a poet, writer, novelist and literary scholar. W.H.Auden described him as England's

greatest living poet and in 1961 he was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford. 'The White Goddess' is his poetic testament and his most famous historical novel 'I Claudius' became a major TV series. His fame lives on in Deia attracting writers and artists seeking inspiration from his work.



The Desk of Robert Graves



WW1 documents



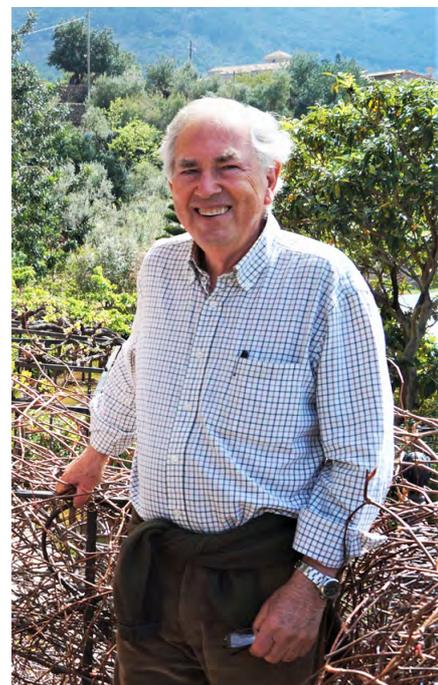
The Kitchen

PRETTY VILLAGE

Deia has become a popular tourist spot with some up-market hotels and restaurants offering typical Mallorcan dishes. Parking is very difficult so take a bus from Palma and climb the steep hill to admire the honey-coloured houses and flower-filled gardens. More than half of Deia's 700 residents are foreign. At the top of the hill you'll find the Church of Sant Joan Baptista and a small cemetery. In the far left hand corner there's a headstone inscribed 'Robert Graves Poeta. En Paz Descanse'. Linger in the cemetery and enjoy the stunning views of the mountain range: appreciate the peace and quiet, the sweet smell from the flowers and remember some of the great writing of Robert Graves. In Westminster Abbey there's a memorial to him in Poets' Corner.



Deia Cemetery



William Graves

You can easily spend a day in Deia learning about Robert Graves, exploring the village and walking to the beach for a swim. The Casa de Robert Graves is open all year round from 10.00 to 17.00 weekdays and 10.00 to 15.00 on Saturdays from April to October. Admission is 7 Euros per person with reductions for the young, old and groups. For more information visit www.lacaderobertragraves.org.

Portrait of Robert Graves which is reproduced by kind permission of the Fundacion Robert Graves

GREEN. What a lovely colour!

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



Finally, although it nearly went pear shaped overseas travel has re-started.

Can you imagine how frustrated the UEFA Finalists team must have been, to learn that their switched match from Istanbul to Oporto was not OK to go,

When the Portuguese authorities reneged on the date of the 17th and announced you could only travel from the 30th May. Not funny! What a cliff-hanger but the good luck fairy came to

the rescue and the 17th was finally OK – good for a few thousand holidaymakers as well.

As we heard on radio, tv and in the papers, it was well worth the wait, not surprising considering our wet and wild weather here and 27 degrees there!



By all accounts a bit of hassle with the protocols and the testing when you come home – but time should take care of much of that in the weeks to come.

So, for the moment the only Green is Portugal and it's dependencies – The Azores and Madeira but that gives plenty of choice; Beach, City, Walking and Cycling and one of the best Rivers, The Duoro, for river cruising and yes – they are back but book now to avoid disappointment. Yesterday I watched a Zoom on getting Cruising restarted and was surprised to learn that AMA Waterways and Arosa both ran Summer 2020 cruises (not for the British though)

And that neither has a single Covid-19 case. So we can expect, come July, those to return, though for the moment this is definitely caught up in the AMBER debacle.

You can also visit Gibraltar, Iceland and Israel – all Green too, and I know them all well – so please call!



On our Zoom I also learnt about the MSC's Virtuosa new flag ship that sailed yesterday on its inaugural cruise from Southampton with 1000 passengers (this is covid-19 style as the boat can take over 6000 passengers)

Very little jabs and testing's in force but the ship is being run to new disciplines from a health and safety perspective – the first three cruises are FULL on their reduced capacity and this morning I watched Simon Calder, the BBC's travel correspondent on Video from the Virtuosa on BBC's Rip Off Britain answering travel queries about Portugal (he went there on Monday too) and the travel issues for Green Portugal and more. He reported the ship as being superb and very spacious – well he would find that on a vessel that takes 6000+ and which only allowed 1000 Passengers on board. Maybe this is the way forward for many in summer 2021? You will definitely get excellent value from a sea-cation and we have some 18 + cruise companies sailing the most eclectic mix of boats, itineraries and styles to choose from! Just ask, I have all the details; there are some expedition itineraries as well and some special hosts on board – a very wide choice – something to suit all.

Amber

I don't want to talk about the mess with Amber just now as I feel the next week will iron out some of the issues that the Government needs to address, save to say that Spain today said they would welcome UK travellers from 2nd June without PCR tests – so we can imagine we are in for a lot of changes in the coming days.

My desk and Shona's is just about clear of 2020 refunds, deferments and other hangovers from the Pre-Covid-19 booking period – and Dear Reader you best know there were hundreds of them that had to be rescued – but hopefully that is nearly in the past.

www.crusadertravel.com



Gibraltar Alive: A scenic view of the Rock

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

Available to collect from Crusader Travel
or contact@TwickenhamAlive.com



WIZ TALES - Fiji

By Teresa Read

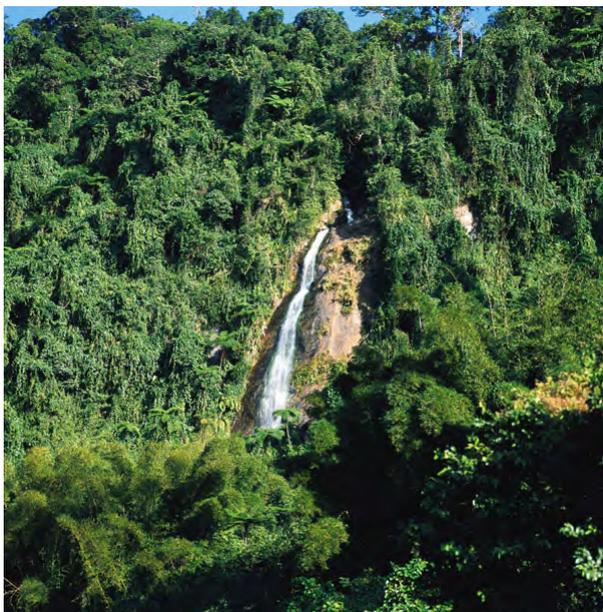
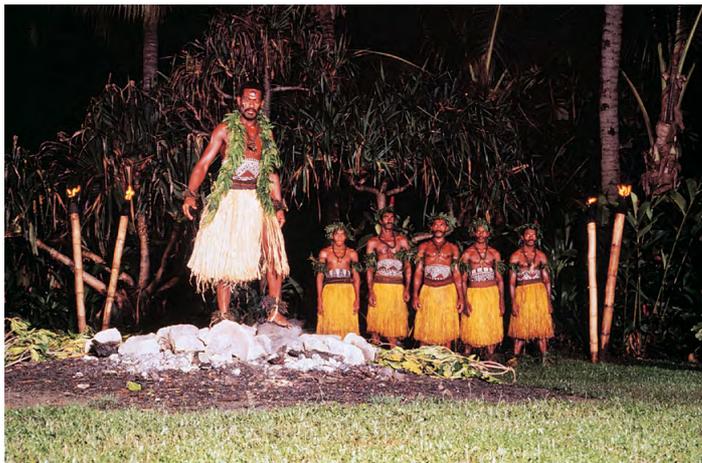
The Republic of Fiji consists of a group of islands in the South Pacific, in the region known as Melanesia. The Kingdom of Tonga is to the southeast, the Republic of Vanuatu is to the west and the Solomon Islands to the northwest.

The historic town of Levuka, on the Island of Ovalau, was the capital of Fiji before Suva. Levuka has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Fiji Museum houses a collection of archaeological material dating back over three and a half thousand years: cultural objects represent Fiji's indigenous inhabitants and other communities that have settled in the islands.

Navigators such as Abel Tasman, James Cook and William Bligh knew of the islands but Europeans and Americans did not arrive until the early nineteenth century.

In 1874 Fiji was annexed by the British; independence was not achieved until almost a century later in 1970.



More photos of Fiji

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

Richmond CVS Online Volunteer Recruitment Event

Thursday 10 June 2021, 1pm – 2.15pm

Interested in Volunteering?
Want to support your community?

Join this Richmond CVS online event for a great opportunity to hear from local charities, community groups and other organisations that are actively recruiting volunteers and could be looking for someone just like you.

You'll have the chance to hear from a range of organisations and be provided with their details to make direct contact with for more in-depth information.

It simple to register, free to attend and we'd love to see you.

If virtual access is difficult for you, or someone you know that might like our help to find a new volunteer role, you can call us on 020 843 7940.

Find out more and book your place [HERE](#).



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT EVENT

Thursday 10 June 2021
1pm - 2.15pm

Interested in volunteering?
Want to support your community?

Register now for our free online event to meet local charities that could be looking for someone just like you

For more information visit
www.richmondcv.org.uk



Cultural Reforesting Exhibition at Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham:

Oxy[re]generation

Exciting New Exhibition involving Richmond upon Thames College Art & Design Students

As part of the project work, Richmond upon Thames College's Access to Higher Education in Art & Design students have been given the amazing opportunity to get involved in the Orleans House Gallery current exhibition around Cultural Reforesting. Students were given the same artist brief as the Gallery's commissioned artists and responded to the brief with their own individual flare.



Featuring the work of 13 young artists from the Access to Higher Education, Art & Design course at Richmond Upon Thames College (RuTC), Oxy[re]Generation invites audiences to learn more about the climate crisis, biodiversity and how we can fix our broken relationship with nature.

Through fine art, graphics, sculpture and architecture, Oxy[re]generation presents the artistic and scientific research and ideas of the 13 students with brand new pieces of work. Playful, imaginative and future focused, this exhibition provides an exciting opportunity to see the debut of a fresh cohort of West London artists before they pursue their artistic careers.

Orleans House Gallery has been working with the students since January 2021 to support the development of this exhibition through a series of workshops, creative briefs, and interviews as part of the Gallery's 3 year Cultural Reforesting programme. Artists have worked directly with the students to develop creative approaches to the question 'How can we renew our relationship with nature?'

Jo Terrell, Art & Design lecturer at RuTC said, "This opportunity has been so exciting for the students; to be able to work with Richmond Arts Service and Orleans House Gallery, responding to a live brief and actually exhibiting their work to the public in such a fantastic location. With the hardships of lockdown and Covid-19, this platform showcases the students' hard work over the last few months and has created such excitement and anticipation".

RuTC's Access to Higher Education course in Art & Design is ideal for those interested in a future career within the Creative Arts industries. The course is designed specifically to meet the needs of adult learners in preparation for progression to higher education. It is a practical and studio based course, providing a thorough grounding in the fundamental principles of all art and design practice."

Opening Night: 22nd June 2021 – 5pm to 8pm

Other Dates: 23rd June until 26th July 2021 – 5pm to 8pm

General Gallery opening times are: Tuesday – Sunday – 10am to 5pm

Book Opening Night through Eventbrite [HERE](#)

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there are timed 30 minutes slots with a maximum of 22 people allowed in the gallery at one time.

Examples of the students' work in progress for the exhibition:



Sara Vannella – Shadow Sculpture



Ben de Gheselle – working on his ceramic tree installation



Cindy Kosedra – working on her wire squirrel



Finished papier-mache squirrel

St Mary's University

St Mary's Launches New Sport and Social Change Degree

St Mary's University, Twickenham is pleased to announce the launch of its new [BA Sport and Social Change](#) with a special webinar launch event.

The event will be held on 1st June at 7pm will be "exploring the wider social role for sport" with a focus upon how sport can be used as a tool to challenge inequalities.

The event will feature talks from guest speakers who will discuss what they believe are the key tools and strategies to promote positive change. Confirmed speakers include rugby player, Devin Ibanez; Sam Sawhney, Community Coordinator Laureus Sport for Good; Jonathan Reid, Project Coordinator at Chelsea Football Club Foundation; the founder and CEO of Fulham Reach Boat Club, Steve O'Connor; Jodie Whitford-Stark, Coach Development Officer at the FA High Performance Centre at St Mary's and Maisie Ward, St Mary's Student's Union Sports President.

Speaking of the event, organiser and Course Lead

Michael Hobson said "We are really excited to be organising this event. With the launch of the new programme, we are looking to create a degree which prepares graduates to use sport to tackle the social issues in modern society. The aim of this event is to provide showcase some of the fantastic work which is already being done in this area and inspire others to pick up the baton."

Our BA Sport and Social Change degree provides students with the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle discrimination and inequality, providing alternative education routes, or offering initiatives that promote health and tackle society's issues. Teaching for the first cohort of this course will begin in September.

Find out more about our BA Sport and Social Change degree and register for the webinar on the University website.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

12 year old Rohan from Twickenham crowned 'top mathlete' in UK and Global Year 8 category of World Maths Challenge

Double gold medal winner, 12 year old Rohan, from Newland House School, Twickenham, has been crowned the 'top mathlete' in the UK and Global Year 8 category of the World Maths Day challenge - a global competition in which over one million students from 17,000 schools across 200 countries participated. Rohan, along with his classmates, pitted his wits and tested his mathematical prowess against his UK and global peers while participating in engaging activities designed to highlight the wonder of numbers and most importantly make maths fun. He joins nine UK champions from nine other age group categories.

"I really enjoyed World Maths Day," said 12 year old Rohan, "and I particularly loved the challenge of competing on the harder levels against other children from around the world."

Event organiser, Graham Frickers from 3P Learning the creators of the Mathletics platform on which the global challenge is hosted said, "The response to this year's competition has been incredible - there is a global buzz about maths. Creating a worldwide arena means kids from anywhere in the UK can compete against their peers from both the UK and across the globe. It's a tough competition and I'm delighted to congratulate our 10 UK champions for their significant achievements."

Pupils progressed through 20 live maths games, of varying difficulty based on the student's age. An online Hall of Fame tracked points throughout the competition with prizes awarded to the top pupils and schools across the globe.



12 year old Rohan, Yr8 and Global Champion



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 61 21st May 2021

OUT IN THE DARK

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: **OUT IN THE DARK** was the 714th film screened by RFS on 12th November 2013. **Out In The Dark** was the fourth equal ranked film of Season 51 (equal fourth with **The Angels' Share**), The, it got an approval mark of 90% from those attending; from season 51 we have also already featured the top three films, in order: **A Hijacking**, **Untouchable**, **A Royal Affair** and its fourth place companion **The Angels' Share** as **Issues 3, 16, 6** and **9** respectively. **Out In The Dark** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others.

OUT IN THE DARK

Country: Israel/Palestine, 2012
Director: Michael Mayer
Screenplay: Yael Shafrir & Michael Mayer
Editing: Maria Gonzales
Cinematography: Ran Aviad
Running Time: 96 min., colour
Language: Hebrew & Arabic
Music: Mark Holden & Michael Lopez

Leading Players:

Nicholas Jacob (Nimr Mashrawi)
Michael Aloni (Roy Schaefer)
Jamil Khoury (Nabil Mashrawi)
Alon Pdut (Gil)
Loai Nofi (Mustafa Na'amne)
Khawlah Hag-Debsy (Hiam Mashrawi)



Director Ang Lee made **Brokeback Mountain**, despite its tragedy, into a beautiful picture: scenic, romantic and even lyrical. In directing **Out in the Dark**, his first feature film, Michael Mayer did none of this. But what he did was to make a picture far more powerful in both plot and presentation that more than compensates by its realism.

The story, written by Mayer and Yael Shafir tells of the romantic relationship between a young well-connected Israeli lawyer and a Palestinian graduate student with an Israeli study permit. The film avoids simply being a "gay-themed" one by situating their involvement within a

wider setting. In the first place each must deal with his family: families unlike in nationality, class, language, culture and religion, but alike in not accepting their son's relationship. But broader social and political situations from which the two young men come pose even more serious obstacles, for the film locates their involvement with one another against the present-day tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Territories. In a way the individuals become symbols of these two solitudes, each wanting peace and security, but both slow to recognize that their futures are inseparably bound together.

The film does not lay blame. Nor does it examine the righteousness of either cause. But neither does it pull any punches. It is commendable in its honesty in dealing with both Palestinian fanaticism and the heavy-handed apparatus of the Israeli security services. In fact, it even suggests that in the end these play into the hands of one another. Above all, it evokes the atmosphere of fear under which ordinary citizens on both sides of the concrete walls and chain link fences must live and work daily, and fear's terrible toll on their personal lives.

Although the story is gripping, it is also gritty. There is little brightness here, an obviously deliberate choice of director Mayer and cinematographer Ran Aviad. They have created a visual palette that contributes to the film's effect and to the tension that is a constant thread throughout. As the title suggests, so much of the story must take place in the darkness, both literal and figurative. There are glimpses of tenderness, certainly in scenes of the relationship between the two guys, and to some extent when their families are shown. Still, the bright dawn that all involved must surely dream of never really breaks and Mayer's ambiguous ending is the only honest one possible.

The film is splendidly cast. Michael Aloni as the young Israeli lawyer, Roy Schaefer, is able to display a wide range of emotions: caring, compassion, filial piety, and throughout everything, a hopefulness. He is credible in his naiveté also, trusting in family even when they fail to understand, and trusting far too much that the apparatus of the state will do what is right. But the performance that dominates the picture is the brilliant one given by Nicholas Jacob as the young Palestinian, Nimr Mashrawi. In his first film role, Jacob, whose parents are Arab-Italian and who grew up in Haifa and Nashville (and who is straight), is utterly convincing - and utterly captivating. He puts on the screen a character, who even in his youth, must confront demons that few will ever know. At the same time Jacob conveys the sense that, whatever the outcomes, Nimr will never let these demons overcome him. Jacob's handling of the part is so true to life as to be memorable.

But the good acting is not confined to the two leads. Alon Pduet does a fine job as an Israeli security official whose experience has made him cold and hard, and who will use any means that serve his ends. Jamil Khouri as Nimr's brother is equally effective as a man caught up in a web of terror from which he cannot free himself. And as Roy's father, Alon Olearchik comes across as a family head torn asunder by conflicting emotions. In a smaller but vital part, Loai Nofi as Mustafa, an outrageously gay Arab, does well in a role that must be both comic and tragic. Dark the picture may be, but it is intense. It is a film that could easily be overlooked, but one that will leave an indelible impression when it is seen.

After IMDB



BRENTFORD FC

Bees defeated in playoff opener AFC Bournemouth 1 - 0 Brentford



Brentford will have to come for a goal down if they are to reach a second successive Championship playoff final as they were defeat 1-0 against Bournemouth. A sole goal from Arnaut Danjuma proved to be the difference on the night after he converted a swift counterattack, with the Cherries taking the advantage to West London in just under a weeks' time.

In a cagey start to proceedings, as playoff games often are, both teams looked to settle into their passing rhythms. Ivan Toney had a promising opportunity early on when he escaped the Cherries backline and looked to latch onto an over the top through ball, but a heavy touch off the striker's chest allowed Asmir Begović to come out and close him down.

Christian Nørgaard then stepped out of his sweeper position in defence to thread a wonderfully weighted pass for Mads Roerslev to run onto from wingback and the Dane whipped in a dangerous cross that Cameron Carter-Vickers did well to stretch out and make a clearance.

Tariqe Fosu then went down in the box after a challenge with Steve Cook and Sergi Canós did well to cut out a cross at the other end with Jefferson Lerma on the follow up having a dipping effort on the volley that drifted a couple of yards over.

Philip Billing should have done better for the home side when he was presented with a promising position inside the area. The move started with David Brooks who slid the ball down the line for Adam Smith who pulled the ball back across for Billing, but under pressure from a sliding challenge from Vitaly Janelt he pulled his shot over the crossbar.

Bournemouth went the closest of either side when they hit the post with a Dominic Solanke header. Billing was once again involved in the final third and he passed out wide for Llyod Kelly to cross and Solanke saw his header come back off the post with David Raya beaten.

Brentford nearly broke on the counterattack soon after when the ball was swept forward quickly to Toney and he in turn sent played the ball up towards his striker partner Marcus Forss but a great recovery challenge from Steve Cook saved the Cherries as it looked like the Finn was set to race clear.

Right at the end of the half Bournemouth were denied twice in quick succession when a corner was powerfully headed by Cook after the defender had peeled away and on the follow up Brooks was kept out by a block from Toney as they sides headed into the break on level terms.

The deadlock was soon broken however as ten minutes into the second-half Bournemouth landed the first blow of the tie. On the counterattack the Cherries broke with Solanke fining Brooks in space. Brooks then dribbled forward and just weighted for the perfect moment to slip in Danjuma, who opened his body up to curl past Raya and give the home side the advantage.

Brentford looked to hit back immediately and Thomas Frank made a triple substitution in an effort to find a route back into the game. One of his substitutes Bryan Mbeumo nearly came off the bench to have the very desired effect as he flicked a ball on from Sergi Canós for Mathias Jensen, but the Dane could only shoot into the side netting from close range.

Fellow substitute Emiliano Marcondes went even closer but was still denied when he picked up a through ball but Begović did really well to come out and make a block.

Mbeumo should have equalised for the Bees when Jensen found Nørgaard high up the pitch and the Dane crossed to the back post but with the goal gaping Mbeumo sliding in could only put the ball agonizingly wide of the post.

At the other end Raya kept out a dangerous free-kick from Danjuma and had to deal with a tame shot from Solanke as Bournemouth pressed for a second goal in the latter stages.

There was time for one late chance and it felt the way of Bournemouth but they couldn't add to their advantage after a clearance from Raya had been charged down, but he got back to recover and keep off Billing's attempted lob as both sides will still feel they are in with a chance as they head into the second leg.

Brentford players called up for international duty

A number of Brentford players have received call ups for their respective national sides in a mixture of friendly and tournament matches.

Tariqe Fosu will link up with Ghana as they face international friendlies against fellow African nations Morocco and Ivory Coast. Fosu made his international debut for the Black Stars earlier this season and has earned a further three caps since, scoring once.

A couple of players have been called up for training squads ahead of the UEFA European Championships later this summer with Halil Dervişoğlu, who has spent part of this season on loan with Galatasaray, joining up with the Turkish national side. Marcus Forss has also been included in a Euro 2020 training squad with his call up to play for the Finnish national team.

Club captain Pontus Jansson will also be heading to the Euros after he was called up by the Swedish national side. Jansson's country will face friendly matches against Finland and Armenia, before the group stage gets underway with games against Spain, Slovakia and Poland.

At U21 level Mads Bech Sørensen and Mads Roerslev will both be heading to the tournament, which is being jointly held by Hungary and Slovenia, where they will face Germany in the quarter-final stage.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: AFC Bournemouth (H) Saturday 22nd May 12:30 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Cherries

Competition: Championship playoff semi-final second leg

Manager: Jonathan Woodgate

Opponent record: P46 W22 D11 L13 GF73 GA46 (6th in Championship)

Interesting fact: In 2013 AFC Bournemouth welcomed Real Madrid for a pre-season friendly. Los Blancos under the management of Carlo Ancelotti selected a full strength side for the encounter on the south coast in which Cristiano Ronaldo, Angel Di Maria and Mesut Özil all featured as the Spanish side ran out 6-0 winners.

Come on you Bees!

Twickenham Stadium prepares to welcome 10,000 fans back for each EPCR final

Twickenham Stadium and EPCR are delighted to be able to welcome 10,000 fans for the European Challenge Cup final on Friday 21 May (KO 20.00 BST) and again for the Heineken Champions Cup final on Saturday 22 May (KO 16.45 BST).

RFU CEO & EPCR Board member Bill Sweeney said: *“Having not had any fans at Twickenham Stadium since the Autumn Nations Cup final last December, we’re delighted to be able to welcome back up to 10,000 on Friday and again on Saturday for what should be two exciting EPCR finals. The fans really do make the game and we hope everyone is looking forward to attending live rugby again at Twickenham. The RFU and EPCR teams have been working extremely hard since it was announced Twickenham Stadium would host these matches to get everything ready for the return of fans. I’d like to thank everyone for all their efforts to put in place various measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all those attending each match.”*

EPCR CEO Vincent Gaillard said: *“Five out of 25 European champions have been crowned in this historic stadium and so many people have worked incredibly hard to make sure that it will happen once again this weekend. We are very grateful for the collaboration with the RFU and everyone at Twickenham Stadium and are delighted that so many fans will be back to bring the colour and passion that are the hallmarks of these tournaments.”*

The information below outlines arrangements in place for fans visiting Twickenham Stadium for the finals this Friday and Saturday, for which a very limited number of tickets remain available.

Tickets and seating

Spectators will be seated in the lower seating bowl and in the East middle tier in groups up to a maximum of six from a single household or support bubble.

To comply with NHS Test and Trace and to ensure safety throughout, every person attending either match will be required to have their own mobile ticket on their own device, via the Twickenham Stadium app. The only exceptions are for accompanied minors (those under 18 - where proof of age may be required) or for those people with a disability attending the match with a companion.

An aggregate of 500 National Health Service (NHS) staff members have snapped up tickets for the two matches offered by tournament organisers EPCR, in partnership with Heineken. The gesture recognises the dedication and bravery of health workers in battling against the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledging that without their work playing in front of 10,000 fans would not be possible.

Entering the stadium

Tickets will direct spectators to enter the stadium via assigned entry gates either – A, D or E - depending on which is closest to a spectator’s allocated seat.

Safety measures

The RFU has worked with Government and Richmond Council on the safety plans and procedures to allow fans to safely return, including the measures detailed below:

- Over 130 sanitiser stations to encourage good hand hygiene.
- Face coverings will be mandatory within the stadium, unless a spectator is in an assigned seat consuming food or beverages.
- Social distancing will be required at all times.
- Cleaning and waste collection regime will be increased.
- Spectators will be advised, as per government guidelines, to avoid busy times and routes on public transport, encouraging fans to cycle, walk or use private vehicles; up to 1,000 parking spaces will be available for spectators in RFU controlled car parks for each of these matches.
- All spectators are required to read and sign up to a code of conduct and watch a mandatory ‘what to expect’ video before attending the game. Video available [here](#).
- Staffing levels will be above normal for a crowd of this size to enforce social distancing and COVID measures.

Food and Beverage

- Restaurant style service will be available in both Gate restaurants and Union Ale House in the East stand for event sponsors and hospitality guests. These will be pre-booked tables with household and support bubbles being able to sit together.
- Food, alcoholic drinks, soft drinks, tea and coffee will be available on the concourse at the Union 15 and nine other concessionaire units, while all ten bars on the concourse will be open to serve drinks. These are open two hours prior to kick off and will close 15 minutes before the final whistle. All food and drinks must be consumed in a seat in the stadium bowl, in line with government guidance.
- On a typical match day at Twickenham Stadium there would be 41 food/drink concessionaire units however for these matches there will be ten.



Father and son row marathons for Princess Alice Hospice

David Hughes and his father, Darryl, are rowing a full marathon and a half marathon respectively to raise funds for Princess Alice Hospice. The event, due to take place on Friday 28 May, will consist of David and Darryl using two rowing machines situated side by side and will be live streamed so supporters can watch their progress and suggest motivational music tracks.

David's mother, Alison, Darryl's wife, received care both at home and at the Hospice in Esher over the course of a year. David says the Hospice Community Team 'played a vital role in providing care' for his mum and this enabled her to stay at home until her very last days in December 2020, when she was admitted to the Hospice.



Training for the event has been challenging for them both, having to motivate themselves to row alone due to COVID restrictions. However, David has found the time to fit in several 30km stints in preparation for the big day.

Of the care Alison received, David said: "The realities of cancer and caregiving for family members are incredibly difficult and would be even tougher without institutions like Princess Alice Hospice. Together my dad and I will row some 39.3 miles and it would be great if you can give what you can to the Hospice."

Community Partnerships and Events Lead, Claire Woodward, said: "What a challenge! Thank you to both David and Darryl for taking on such a feat. We are always in awe, or even oar, of the lengths (literally) some people go to. We hope you don't ache too much afterwards and thank you!"

If you would like to donate to David and Darryl's event for the Hospice, please click here - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RowforAlison>

The Hospice receives only 24% of its income through NHS grants and so relies heavily on the generosity of the general public. If you'd like to create a challenge for yourself or take part in one of the other Hospice events, visit www.pah.org.uk/events.



THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY: “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”

QGC Ambassadors

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is delighted to announce further details about the UK-wide tree planting initiative which invites everyone to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee” from October, when the tree planting season begins.

As we look ahead to the planting season in October, the QGC will be helping people to learn about the best way to plant trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come. We will also be celebrating our trees and green spaces and our connection to them.

We are proud to announce the following list of Ambassadors who will be working with us to help galvanise support for this special tree-planting initiative.

Although not official Ambassadors, *The Queen's Green Canopy* has the support of actress Joanna Lumley, and naturalist and documentarian, Sir David Attenborough. Sir David previously joined Her Majesty, with whom he shares the same year of birth, in the Buckingham Palace Garden as they talked about the value of trees, as featured in the renowned ITV documentary *The Queen's Green Planet*.

The Queen's Green Canopy Ambassadors

Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE

Becoming a household name through appearances in iconic children's programmes of the sixties, Baroness Benjamin is an influential voice in British culture and an advocate for the welfare of children throughout the world. In 2018, Baroness Benjamin was awarded a gold medal for her Chelsea Windrush Garden, going on to become Vice President of the RHS.

Alan Titchmarsh MBE

As one of the most recognisable voices in horticulture, Alan Titchmarsh MBE began his career studying the subject in Hertfordshire and Kew. Since then, as a presenter and writer, he has brought his gardening expertise to millions.

Dame Judi Dench DBE

One of the most celebrated actresses of her generation, Dame Judi Dench OBE has captivated audiences with spellbinding performances and is the recipient of an Oscar, multiple BAFTAs and a myriad of other awards. Dame Judi shares with *The Queen's Green Canopy*, a deep passion for trees.

Monty Don OBE

Author, journalist and broadcaster, Monty Don is a highly regarded horticulturalist. Lead presenter of the BBC's much-loved *Gardeners' World*, Monty has spent the last 30 years sharing his passion for gardening with others.

Lady Mary Peters DBE

A former Northern Irish athlete, Lady Mary Peters competed in multiple Olympic and Commonwealth games, winning Britain's only gold medal in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. Lady Mary later established The Mary Peters Trust, supporting both disabled and able-bodied athletes.

Dame Katherine Grainger DBE

Katherine Grainger is the United Kingdom's most decorated British female Olympian and is currently the Chair of UK Sports, the government organisation responsible for directing the development of elite-level sport. An iconic British athlete, Katherine is also passionate about raising awareness around mental health.

Nigel Owens MBE

Former international rugby union referee, Nigel Owens MBE is one of the most recognisable names in the sport. As well appearing as a television host and documentary presenter, Nigel Owens has previously lent patronage to LGBTQ and anti-bullying organisations.

Bertie Gregory

Bertie is a wildlife cameraman and presenter whose goal is to find stories that get people to fall in love with the natural world, and show that looking after wildlife is more than just a hobby, it is crucial to all our futures.

Peter Rabbit™

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is one of the world's best-loved children's books and was created by author and illustrator, Beatrix Potter in 1902. The QGC looks forward to working with Peter who will help children understand the importance of trees as a sanctuary for animals, in providing protection and safety and a home for them, as it does for him.

www.queensgreencanopy.org



Investigation into the Windrush Compensation Scheme

Click here for the [full report](#) and here for the [PAC Chair's comment](#).

The National Audit Office (NAO) finds that the Windrush Compensation Scheme has not yet met its objective of compensating claimants quickly. The number of people who have received payments has increased since December 2020, but operational challenges remain.

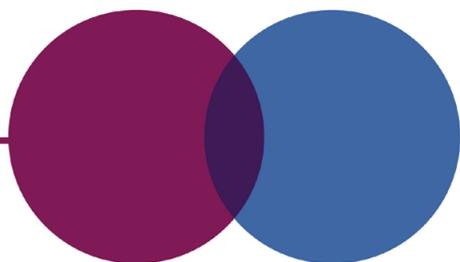
In 2018, the Home Office acknowledged serious shortcomings in its treatment of the Windrush generation, who had suffered harm due to the Department's 'hostile environment' policies. Members of the Windrush generation were required to demonstrate their lawful immigration status to access public services, housing and jobs. Some struggled to do this even though they were living in the UK legally. In 2019, the Home Office launched the Windrush Compensation Scheme (the scheme) as part of a set of measures to "right the wrongs" experienced by the Windrush generation and their families.

In December 2020, the Home Office made changes to the scheme following criticism about the complexity of the application process, the length of time it takes for claimants to receive payment, and that payments were not sufficient to reflect the suffering endured by the Windrush generation. A cross-government working group recommended that the Home Office introduce preliminary payments of £10,000 to those who could demonstrate that they had suffered harm.¹ The Home Office made this change, increased its 'impact on life' payments, and made changes to awards for loss of access to employment.



When the Home Office launched the scheme in April 2019, it estimated it might pay out compensation worth between £120 million and £310 million to 15,000 people. This was based on information from its immigration systems and the 2011 census, as the Home Office did not know how many people might be eligible for compensation. Having revised its estimates in October 2019, the Home Office subsequently expected to pay compensation worth between £60 million and £260 million to 11,500 people.

The Home Office has received 19% of the claims it estimated it might receive. By the end of March 2021, the Department had received 2,163 claims.² Of these 1,732 (80%) were from individuals, 313 (14%) were from family members, and 118 (5%) were on behalf of the estate of someone who had passed away. The Home Office's internal figures show that it has made final decisions on 38% of all claims it has received to date, although some of these are still subject to a review or have not yet resulted in a payment.



Investigation into the Windrush Compensation Scheme

Home Office

REPORT
by the Comptroller
and Auditor General

SESSION 2021-22
21 MAY 2021
HC 65

To the end of March 2021, the Home Office had paid £14.3 million to 633 people. Of the money paid out, £11.6 million (81%) has been paid to claimants after policy changes were made to the scheme in December 2020.³ The NAO estimates that since December 2020, the Home Office has paid £2.6 million in preliminary payments, and £4.24 million in increased impact on life payments.

It takes, on average, 154 staff hours to process a case through to payment approval, considerably longer than the 30 hours the Home Office estimated it would when the scheme was launched. The NAO has found that 10% of the 1,033 claims received since March 2020 have reached the payment decision stages, and it has taken an average of 177 days for claims to reach this stage. The Home Office intends to speed up its claims processing in the next few months.

By March 2021, the Home Office had spent £8.1 million of its £15.8

million budget running the scheme, with £6.3 million of this spent on staff. The Home Office stated that 125 full-time caseworkers were needed for the scheme from the outset, but when it launched in 2019, 6 full-time caseworkers were in post. The Home Office has struggled to provide the NAO with a consistent picture of its current and future staffing requirements.

The Home Office's quality assurance processes are not identifying all errors. The NAO's analysis shows that half of cases were returned to caseworkers for further work. However, some claims have proceeded to payment without errors being identified. As of March 2021, the Home Office is aware of six overpayments, totalling £38,292. The NAO also identified further errors and inconsistencies in how caseworkers have calculated compensation.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

"The Windrush Compensation Scheme was rolled out before it was ready to receive applications and two years after it was launched, people are still facing long waits to receive their final compensation payment. Since December 2020, the Home Office has made some progress, but it needs to sustain its efforts to improve the scheme to ensure it fairly compensates members of the Windrush generation in acknowledgement of the suffering it has caused them."

Initial learning from the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Click here for the [full report](#) and here for the [PAC Chair's statement](#).

Over the last year, the National Audit Office has reported on the breadth of government's response to COVID-19. Today's report draws out the initial learning from this work to help government evaluate its performance, capitalise on new ways of working and better manage potential future emergencies.

COVID-19 has stress-tested the government's ability to deal with unforeseen events and extreme shocks. Like many countries, the UK was not as prepared for the pandemic as it could have been, and government lacked detailed contingency plans to manage the unfolding situation. To deal with the crisis, government has had to streamline decision-making and coordinate efforts across multiple departments, public and private sector bodies. There are many examples of impressive national and local responses to the urgent need for healthcare and economic support on an unprecedented scale.

The response to the pandemic has provided a vast amount of new learning, both from what has worked well and what has not. It has highlighted the importance of government adopting a more systematic approach to preparing for crises, improving the resilience of key services and making better use of data. Working at pace naturally introduces greater levels of risk, but being transparent, properly documenting decisions and managing conflicts of interest is essential if government is to maintain public trust that taxpayers' money is being spent appropriately and fairly.

COVID-19 has also laid bare existing fault lines within society and has exacerbated inequalities. An unreformed adult social care system, workforce shortages, issues caused by legacy IT systems, and the financial pressure felt by central and local government all require long-term solutions.

Today's report sets out learning from the NAO's 17 published reports on COVID-19 across six themes:

- risk management
- transparency and public trust
- data and evidence
- coordination and delivery models
- supporting and protecting people
- financial and workforce pressures



National Audit Office

The NAO will continue to draw out learning from the government's response to COVID-19 in its future work on the pandemic, to provide Parliament and the public with timely reporting to support accountability.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said: *“COVID-19 has required government to respond to an exceptionally challenging and rapidly changing threat. There is much to learn from the successes and failures in government's response and this report is our initial contribution to that process. Applying these lessons is not only important for the remaining phases of the current pandemic but should also help better prepare the UK for future emergencies.”*

New international expert panel to address the emergence and spread of zoonotic disease

International organizations have come together to launch a new One Health High-Level Expert Panel to improve understanding of how diseases with the potential to trigger pandemics, emerge and spread.

The panel will advise four international organizations - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Health Organization (WHO) - on the development of a long-term global plan of action to avert outbreaks of diseases like H5N1 avian influenza; MERS; Ebola; Zika, and, possibly, COVID-19. Three quarters of all emerging infectious diseases originate in animals.

It will operate under the One Health Approach, which recognizes the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment and highlights the need for specialists in multiple sectors to address any health threats and prevent disruption to agri-food systems.

Key first steps will include systematic analyses of scientific knowledge about the factors that lead to transmission of a disease from animal to human and vice versa; development of risk assessment and surveillance frameworks; identification of capacity gaps as well as agreement on good practices to prevent and prepare for zoonotic outbreaks.

The panel will consider the impact of human activity on the environment and wildlife habitats. Critical areas will include food production and distribution; urbanization and infrastructure development; international travel and trade; activities that lead to biodiversity loss and climate change; and those that put increased pressure on the natural resource base - all of which can lead to the emergence of zoonotic diseases.

The panel will guide development of a dynamic new research agenda and draw up evidence-based recommendations for global, regional, national and local action.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said:

“Human health does not exist in a vacuum, and nor can our efforts to protect and promote it. The close links between human, animal and environmental health demand close collaboration, communication and coordination between the relevant sectors. The High-Level Expert Panel is a much-needed initiative to transform One Health from a concept to concrete policies that safeguard the health of the world’s people.”

Dr QU Dongyu, FAO Director General, told the panel:

“This panel will contribute to advancing the One Health agenda, by helping to better

understand the root causes of disease emergence and spread, and informing decision-makers to prevent long-term public health risks. I encourage it to be a shining example of silo-breaking, systems thinking and open dialogue. Expectations for collective action and the need for effective collaboration have never been higher.”

Dr Monique Éloit, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health noted: *“The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that collaboration across sectors is absolutely critical for global health. The newly established One Health High-Level Expert Panel will contribute to bringing together diverse scientific expertise. United, we will better anticipate global health threats and work to control risks at the animal source. Our Organisation is proud to provide high-level expertise, along with our partners, to develop science-based ‘One Health’ strategies and programmes.”*

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP observed: *“To end the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution that threaten our peace and prosperity, we have to understand that human, animal and planetary health go hand in hand. We must do more to promote transformative actions that target the root causes of nature’s destruction. The One Health High-Level Expert Panel is an important step in recognizing the complex, multidisciplinary issues at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health.”*

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France and Germany also joined the public launch of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel.

Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France commented: *“The COVID-19 pandemic, whose zoonotic origin is strongly suspected, underlines how closely human, animal and environmental health are linked. It demonstrates the importance of the ‘One Health’ approach. It is in this context that France, together with Germany, proposed the creation of such a Panel at the meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism organized on the occasion of the Paris Peace Forum on 12 November 2020.”*

Mr Heiko Maas, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany, said: *“COVID-19 has painfully reminded us that the health of humans, animals and the environment around the world is closely connected: Nobody is safe until everybody is safe. This is what we have to bear in mind to prevent future pandemics. The establishment of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel thus marks an important step in the right direction. Germany and France will continue to support the panel’s work.”*



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